THECENTER℠

201 Bleecker Street | Utica, New York 13501 | 315.738.1083 | TheCenterUtica.org

The Center's 45th Anniversary Celebration

An Evening with Kao Kalia Yang

Thursday, November 12, 2026 · 5:30pm · Munson, 310 Genesee Street, Utica, NY

We invite you to sponsor an evening with one of America's most celebrated refugee voices, as we celebrate 45 years of The Center welcoming newcomers to the Mohawk Valley.

About the Evening

Kao Kalia Yang was born in Ban Vinai refugee camp in Thailand after her Hmong family fled war in Laos, and arrived in Minnesota at age six. Her memoir *The Latehomecomer* was the first Hmong-authored book to reach national distribution. Her later works include *The Song Poet*, *Somewhere in the Unknown World: A Collective Refugee Memoir*, and *Where Rivers Part*, recognized by the National Book Critics Circle and the Chautauqua Prize, among others.

The evening includes a talk, audience Q&A, and a book signing. In 45 years, beginning as the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees, The Center has resettled **18,000 refugees from 37 countries** in our region. Your sponsorship brings this conversation to Utica and supports the language, employment, and community services that help newcomers thrive.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Each level is named for a stage of the resettlement journey, from first welcome to finding home.

Level	Amount	Benefits
Homecoming — *the journey's end: a place to belong*	**$15,000**	Sponsor recognition on all event materials and signage · Remarks from the podium · Logo on The Center's website and social media · Reserved seating for 10
New Roots — *building a life in a new community*	**$10,000**	Logo on event materials, signage, website, and social media · Recognition from the podium · Reserved seating for 8
Safe Haven — *finding refuge and safety*	**$5,000**	Logo on event program, signage, and website · Recognition from the podium · Reserved seating for 4
Welcome — *the first open door on arrival*	**$1,000**	Name in event program and on website · Recognition from the podium · Reserved seating for 2

Become a Sponsor

Please confirm your sponsorship by Thursday, November 5th, 2026 so your name appears on printed materials.

Contact: Jennifer VanWagoner, Director of Strategic Initiatives · 315-801-5510 · jenniferv@thecenterutica.org