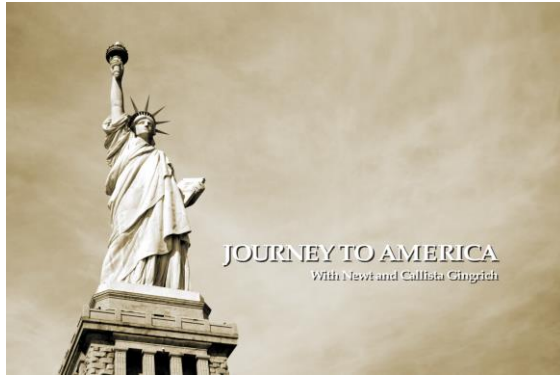


CALLISTA AND NEWT GINGRICH HIGHLIGHT THE STORIES OF IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR IMPACT ON AMERICAN LIFE IN NEW PBS DOCUMENTARY

JOURNEY TO AMERICA: WITH NEWT AND CALLISTA GINGRICH
Profiles Nine Remarkable Americans Who Emigrated to the U.S.



(Arlington, VA) November 19, 2024 – **JOURNEY TO AMERICA: WITH NEWT AND CALLISTA GINGRICH**, a new, 90-minute documentary written and directed by Kevin Knoblock (*THE FIRST AMERICAN*, *BORDER WAR*, *NINE DAYS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD*), and produced by Knoblock, Newt Gingrich, Callista L. Gingrich, and Donna E. Lusitana, will air on Tuesday, January 14 at 10:00 p.m. ET (check local listings) on PBS, [PBS.org](https://www.pbs.org) and the [PBS App](#), PBS announced today.

JOURNEY TO AMERICA: WITH NEWT AND CALLISTA GINGRICH, which has been in production since 2023, and was secured by PBS in early 2024, celebrates the achievements of nine individuals from diverse backgrounds who pursued the American dream and contributed to the fabric of our nation -- from Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, who arrived from Italy in 1889, to Maria Daume, who was adopted from a Russian orphanage in 2002 and became the first female Marine to earn a traditional infantry title. The film celebrates their achievements in a nation that, at its best, recognizes that the ideas of freedom and opportunity are still a beacon of hope for so many who come to America.

“We are and have always been a country of immigrants,” Newt Gingrich said about the series. “Immigration has become such a loaded political issue that we often lose sight of the fact that, as a country, we’ve significantly benefitted from the hard work and creativity of generations of immigrants who legally migrated to our country.”

“**JOURNEY TO AMERICA** is a celebration of our diversity and a reminder that regardless of one’s political ideology, we’re a better country when the contributions of legal immigrants are recognized,” said Callista Gingrich. “In **JOURNEY TO AMERICA**, we want to assure viewers that the American dream is alive and well in communities across our nation.”

“We’re very excited to bring this film to PBS because we hope to have this conversation with people across America, regardless of where they live, their politics, or their background,” Newt Gingrich added.

“Ambassador and Speaker Gingrich have created a personal and visual essay that asks us to pause and reflect on the journeys of immigrants who have contributed so greatly to the larger American story,” said Sylvia Bugg, PBS Chief Programming Executive & GM of General Audience Programming. “These are stories of hardship, challenges, creativity, perseverance, patriotism, and joy, American stories that help us better understand who we are as a nation.”

“It was a huge challenge to select nine individuals to profile,” Kevin Knoblock said. “We very intentionally looked at a combination of people who would be known and more obscure, from earlier periods in our past and today, to create a diverse fabric, including people from China, Afghanistan, Iran, and Russia, among other places. We know that these stories can be substituted by others that are equally enriching and hope that the film inspires people around the country to share their stories.”

JOURNEY TO AMERICA: WITH NEWT AND CALLISTA GINGRICH is narrated by Speaker Newt Gingrich and Ambassador Callista L. Gingrich and focuses on nine individuals, including interviews with the person as well as historians and others who can help us understand their accomplishments. The film subjects include:

- Dr. Henry Kissinger, a Jewish, German-American statesman who emigrated to the U.S. in 1938 and served as secretary of state and national security advisor under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford.
- Xi Van Fleet, a Chinese-American activist and author who came to the U.S. in 1986.
- Kam Ghaffarian, an Iranian-American who came to the U.S. in 1977 and became executive chairman of Axiom Space.
- Hedy Lamarr, a Jewish Austrian-American actress and inventor who emigrated to the U.S. in 1937.
- Maria Daume, a Russian-American who was adopted from an orphanage in 2002 and became the first female graduate of the United States Marine Corps School of Infantry.
- Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, an Italian-American who emigrated in 1889 and was a founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred, as well as the first U.S. citizen to be canonized as a saint.
- Albert Einstein, a German-American and renowned physicist who emigrated in 1933.
- Zalmay Khalilzad, an Afghan-American who first came to the U.S. as a student in 1966 and became a diplomat and foreign policy expert, as well as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Iraq, and Afghanistan.
- Victoria Spartz, a Ukrainian-American who came to the U.S. in 2000 and was elected as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Indiana in 2020.

On-camera commentators include author and Tulane University professor Walter Isaacson, University of Dallas history professor Susan Hanssen, political philosopher William Allen, Princeton University historian Allen C. Guelzo, California Institute of Technology professor Julia R. Greer, Deadline Hollywood writer Pete Hammond, and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Shrine Executive Director Julia Attaway.

JOURNEY TO AMERICA: WITH NEWT AND CALLISTA GINGRICH will also be available to stream on all station-branded PBS platforms including [PBS.org](https://www.pbs.org) and the [PBS App](#), available on iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO. The series will also be available to stream on [PBS Passport](#) and the “[PBS Documentaries Prime Video Channel](#).” PBS station members can view the documentary via PBS Passport. For more information about PBS Passport, visit the [PBS Passport FAQ](#) website.

JOURNEY TO AMERICA: WITH NEWT AND CALLISTA GINGRICH was written and directed by Kevin Knoblock, executive produced by Newt Gingrich and Callista L. Gingrich, and produced by Kevin Knoblock and Donna E. Lusitana. Kevin O’Brien was the Director of Photography. The film was edited by John Moore, narrated by Newt Gingrich and Callista L. Gingrich, and produced by Gingrich 360 and Peace River Company LLC.

ABOUT GINGRICH 360

Gingrich 360 is a multimedia production company based in Arlington, Virginia, featuring the work of Speaker Newt Gingrich and Ambassador Callista L. Gingrich. Together, Newt and Callista host and produce historical and public policy documentary films and podcasts, write books and newsletters, give speeches, record audiobooks, and make television and radio appearances.

ABOUT PEACE RIVER COMPANY LLC

Established in 1995 by producer, writer, and director Kevin Knoblock, Peace River Company is an award-winning digital video production company based in Los Angeles. Its clientele includes major networks and studios such as Paramount Television, CBS, ABC, Discovery, History, A&E, Tribune, and TLC

About PBS

[PBS](#), with more than 330 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and digital content. Each month, PBS reaches over 36 million adults on linear primetime television, more than 16 million users on PBS-owned streaming platforms, 53 million viewers on YouTube, and 60 million people view PBS content on social media, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature, and public affairs and to take front-row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS’s broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry’s most coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through 12th grade turn to [PBS LearningMedia](#) for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. As the number one educational media brand, [PBS KIDS](#) helps children 2-8 build critical skills, enabling them to find success in school and life. Delivered through member stations, PBS KIDS offers high-quality content on TV — including a PBS KIDS channel — and streaming free on pbskids.org and the [PBS KIDS Video app](#), games on the [PBS KIDS Games app](#), and in communities across America. More information about PBS is available at [PBS.org](https://www.pbs.org), one of the leading dot-org websites on the internet, [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or through our [apps for mobile and connected devices](#). Specific

program information and updates for press are available at pbs.org/pressroom or by following [PBS Communications on X](#).

MEDIA CONTACT: DKCJourneytoAmerica@dkcnews.com

For images and additional up-to-date information on this and other PBS programs, visit PBS PressRoom at pbs.org/pressroom.