

Check It Out! Podcast Transcript
Episode #58
“Claudia Samano-Losada loves libraries as much as she
loves her communities”
Sno-Isle Libraries, May 4, 2020



Ken Harvey:	00:00	In this episode of the Check It Out podcast, we get a chance to spend some time with an Oak Harbor resident. Who's serving on the Oak Harbor Library board, and yet is a world traveler.
Jim Hills:	00:14	And contributing in so many other way to the community around Oak Harbor, for the library, for the community, for her business, really a multifaceted woman.
Ken Harvey:	00:25	Yes, and faceted and fascinating. And so coming up in just a minute, Claudia Samano-Losada.
Speaker 3:	00:43	Welcome to season three, episode 58 of Check It Out, the Sno-Isle Libraries podcast for lifelong learners with inquiring minds.
Speaker 4:	00:51	The views and opinions expressed on this podcast may not necessarily reflect the official position of Sno-Isle Libraries.
Ken Harvey:	00:59	Hi, I'm Ken Harvey.
Jim Hills:	01:00	And I'm Jim Hills.
Ken Harvey:	01:01	And we are delighted to be back in the studio, which in our case means that we are sitting in one of our meeting rooms, here at the Sno-Isle Libraries administrative service center. And for our podcasts we turn our conference rooms, our meeting rooms into little mini podcast studios. And so we've got a big pull up banner in the background here that says, "Check it out podcast." And it makes us... when I look at it and makes me feel very official, Jim, like we're really doing something very serious here.
Jim Hills:	01:36	I agree. I really liked that addition to this thing.
Ken Harvey:	01:39	Yeah. So, just a want to just let everyone know that we're sitting here feeling very legit right this moment. So, Hey, we are really

(Continued)

honored to have with us a special guest. Claudia Samano-Losada, am I saying that right or am I-

Claudia Samano-Losada: 01:54 Correct yes.

Ken Harvey: 01:55 Okay. So I should be saying Samano?

Claudia Samano-Losada: 01:58 No, Samano.

Ken Harvey: 01:59 Samano.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 01:59 Losada.

Ken Harvey: 01:59 Losada.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 01:59 It sounds pretty anyway.

Ken Harvey: 02:02 It is beautiful. It just really rolls off the tongue. And Claudia is the founder of the bilingual integrated learning movement program, which is located in Oak Harbor, Washington. And she is a fascinating person who is... it sounds to me very busy with never a spare moment. So I'm gonna read off some of the things that she's involved in. First, she is the owner of a recreation center and which is called In Motion-

Claudia Samano-Losada: 02:34 In Motion Company.

Ken Harvey: 02:35 In Motion Company, She is a dance movement therapist, a certified early childhood educator and practitioner. She's also a bilingual facilitator and a certified life coach. And it sounds like as I was chatting with her a little bit, that life coaching work is having the bio that it's through movement, but it also sounds like she is actually also providing some life coaching staff. So, for some of the folks who take advantage of her experience, skills, and wisdom. And there are other things that she is involved in, a dance instructor, a choreographer, and she's been a movement educator with... and has a degree in movement therapy, and she has over 25 years of experience. So that experience really covers a number of different things in addition to what I've already said. And she's been doing a lot of this work since 1997, in the 1990s.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 03:41 Correct. Yes.

Ken Harvey: 03:42 So don't do any math to try and figure out what her age is.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 03:46 Please.

Ken Harvey: 03:46 We're not going to ask that, and so don't do the math on your own. What you can just anticipate is that she has a lot to share with us. So Claudia, thank you so much for spending the time with us.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 04:00 Thank you. Thank you so much for inviting me. I'm very excited to be here.

Ken Harvey: 04:04 Well, we really become aware of you because of your work in interaction with Sno-Isle Libraries at the Oak Harbor library. And one of the things that I'm aware of is that you've been part of, I think an advisory board or some of the work with the librarians there. Do you want to tell us a little bit about that?

Claudia Samano-Losada: 04:27 Sure, sure, sure. I've been involved in the library community, in Oak Harbor since 2012, since my kids were young, and I moved to the Island, our second home was the library. And so I-

Ken Harvey: 04:42 That's great to hear.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 04:42 Yes, yes. All the programs are amazing. So we were very involved in our free time there. I started doing some programs as an independent contractor there. So I teach movement and language programs at the library here and there. But I recently became a board member. So now I'm part of the board. And I also collaborate with other amazing people at the primetime, literacy program, which is twice a year, and this is in collaboration of the school district too. So yeah, I am involved in different ways at the library. And as I say, it has been an amazing journey.

Jim Hills: 05:29 So you mentioned Primetime and I have to admit that I've seen you participate in the Primetime program, in my role here at the library I often go out to programs and I get to take pictures and write stories about what's going on. And I've seen you presenting to the parents and the students that are coming from Oak Harbor schools, into that prime time program. You want to talk a little bit about that? Cause I find that particular piece really fascinating.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 05:55 It's fascinating. I've been working with Jane Lopez-Santillana in this project since three years. This is as I mentioned before a collaboration with the school district, where we meet with families once a week in this case on Tuesdays, to share books and then we read the books to the entire family, they take the books two more books home, and they follow one week we discuss the books. We offer them dinner, and then we read the

books with them, and then the discussion with the parents and the kids. So, it has been a great experience. And this is again thanks for the foundation for Humanity Washington, I'm sorry, that we can do this. So the next one is during the next fall, and I'm just excited to be there again.

Jim Hills: 06:55 Right. Right, Primetime is a program that originated with Humanities Washington and a number of Sno-Isle Libraries have applied for grants through Humanities Washington, so they can provide that. And in addition, there are some local support that comes from that. That's come from the Oak Harbor community, as I understand it's as much of an event, for that particular evening for the students and the family as it is or maybe perhaps more, so an opportunity to model behavior and introduce this family interaction around books and stories, and I think the students are... are they second or third graders?

Claudia Samano-Losada: 07:44 Second and third graders, yes. Yes. And they can bring their siblings too, their siblings if they are preschoolers, they have their own program in the library where they discuss the book in another level because they can discuss it in a level where they understand the book, we the volunteer that is in the library with them. So it's for the entire family, and yeah, you say it very well, is more than just reading a book. The kids and the families look forward to go to have time with our finalist together, having dinner and enjoying the story. Plus that is caution, which is awesome because you can bring from one book, so many ideas and so many discussions from the kids. And that's the goal.

Ken Harvey: 08:27 Yeah, that is really neat. I'd like to j p back to you being the... joining the Oak Harbor library board. So what would motivate you to do that? Aren't you busy enough? Don't you have... was that to enrich your life or because you didn't have a life before or?

Claudia Samano-Losada: 08:47 I think that's the question my husband makes me several times. Well it is actually, I think I'm very passionate about a lot of things, and one of my passions is to share, to share with others and to, I think to take and give in the same, since I have had so much from the library I wanted to give back too and this is a very good way to give back, but not just that, to know more about the library. So I really want to know more about what was happening in the library and being part of the board, Of course I have to know. So, and because I have the recreation center, I own the recreation center. I'm also able to share all the information that I have from the library.

- Claudia Samano-Losada: 09:39 With my little community in my little recreation center, I have a lot of families that are interested are all became interested because I wrote books or information from the library. So I think for me it was a way of connecting the community, and the people that are with the same interest. So connecting businesses, connecting families, connecting families with little kids, connecting families with teenagers. So we're all in the same in the same boat, and it's awesome for me to be able to share one thing from another. So, that was probably the main reason to connect.
- Ken Harvey: 10:22 I think that is so great and I really appreciate your sharing that with us in the audience. I think you represent, so many others who have chosen over the years to become involved in library boards, as well as eventually some individuals becoming board of trustees for the entire library district, individuals who care about the community and the care about the role and the value of libraries and learning and wanting to make sure that is continued to be stewarded. And it's interesting how much you learn about both the opportunities and the realities by saying, "Okay, I'm willing to serve in this capacity." And that essentially opens up this conduit of information that you might not otherwise have.
- Claudia Samano-Losada: 11:18 What the library offers in the community, and since I moved to the States in 2002, I've being involved in every single place in the libraries. What the libraries offer to the community in each state is amazing. Not everybody everywhere have the opportunity to have a library that offers free books to check out free programs, help for the parents, so many things. But anyway, when I moved to Washington state, and I discovered the library system, this one I just got involved has been the best experience I have had with libraries.
- Claudia Samano-Losada: 12:01 And the community needs to know, because the community sometimes are not fully aware of everything that the library can offer. And it has been like my job lately. And so, you don't know that the library offers tutoring for the kids and you don't know that library offers this?" "Oh no, I didn't know." "So go and check." So I think it's important for us, for the leaders in the community to spread the word, of what things are happening, and good things are happening. And since I took advantage of that, for so many times in a good way, I want everybody to know what is happening at the library.
- Ken Harvey: 12:40 Thanks for being that kind of ambassador of voice.

Jim Hills: 12:42 So I'm really curious about the word community and we've used it in a couple of different contexts, and earlier you were talking about your recreation center, and your little community there, and then the community at the library, and then the Oak Harbor community. I'm interested to hear how you see either, overlaps, commonalities, whether, how, maybe you're in motion community, your rec center, community, reflects or what it taps into the Oak Harbor community. And the same thing from the library perspective. How do you see those all working together?

Claudia Samano-Losada: 13:24 That's an amazing question. It's an amazing question. We live Oak Harbor, we all know Oak Harbor is a very small community, we have our military community-

Ken Harvey: 13:36 well, can I just jump in for a second and say small compared to some, but one of the largest or the largest on the Island.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 13:44 On the Island, correct. Correct. Maybe I'm talking about small, where I lived before big cities. Yes, we have, I say it this way. We have our own interests and our own little communities in Oak Harbor. We have the military community, we have the people that go to the library every single Tuesday, every single Wednesday. And there's the library community. My people, my families, I'm not saying that it's the same, they're the same families over and over, but it's a small family that knows in motion that advocates movement, advocates physical activities. So I see that way and I see that some stuff connect us. However, we need more connection. We need more connection between us, between all these little communities, between the military library in motion and all the places that are of course, and I'm part of the community.

Ken Harvey: 14:47 So we've got about five minutes and then we're going to take a short little break. I'd like to make sure that we talk about, your founding this group or organization, Bilingual Integrated Learning Movement Program. And the acronym for that is BLIMP.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 15:04 BILMP, Yeah.

Ken Harvey: 15:07 So I said BLIMP, and you said-

Claudia Samano-Losada: 15:08 BILMP.

Ken Harvey: 15:08 BILMP.

Jim Hills: 15:11 It is BILMP,

Ken Harvey: 15:12 BILMP.

Jim Hills: 15:13 We just made a mistake in our notes.

Ken Harvey: 15:15 Oh. [crosstalk 00:15:17].

Claudia Samano-Losada: 15:16 No worries.

Ken Harvey: 15:18 We wanted to believe it was BLIMP but it BILMP.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 15:22 Believe me it sounds good anyway.

Ken Harvey: 15:23 So, but tell us about that program. What does that program offer and where did the idea for that come from?

Claudia Samano-Losada: 15:30 Sure. Bilingual Integrated Learning Movement Program was born in 2011, when I just opened my studio with the idea of, again, sharing with parents in the community, a fun and easy way to learn a second language. At the same time I was volunteering for the school district, teaching Spanish just for fun. So I got very interested in going be John teaching Spanish, and teaching movement. So BILMP started growing up with the idea of getting in the same page, getting all the family in the same page. Like movement is important and a second language is important in our community, in our kids, in the foundation of our education.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 16:25 So I continue the development of this project in my studio, putting some rules and standards and the things that I thought that were very important, for the education of the preschoolers and the families to know and to be connected with a second language. With the time I got more involved with other languages, so my idea was to create a program that could be used in different languages. I speak Spanish, but I wanted to also teach with the help of other instructors, Japanese, Italian, Chinese, and other languages. So the idea behind BILMP is to use movement as a way of learning a second language. And this is because the movement is also fundamental for education, so the kids learn-

Ken Harvey: 17:25 So you got to explain that. How does movement help learn a language?

Claudia Samano-Losada: 17:29 Yes. well, there you go. okay. So movement is completely strictly related with our brain. So every time we move, our brain gets so active that our neurons sustained it start connecting with each other and creating more connections. When we are

very young and when we start learning how to move the basics, so this could be crawling, jumping on one foot hopping, it's so important to develop the skills in order for our brain to start absorbing knowledge. And this model skills will help immediately to our cognitive skills, reading, math, attention spam.

- Claudia Samano-Losada: 18:22 So it's so important for us to go back to the foundation of movement when we're trying to get our kids focused in a skill, in a cognitive skill, in this course. So for me, it's a foundation that I take to all ages. As an adult, I will see if you were able to crawl when you were a young, or to jump on one foot, or because that will actually give me a sense of where are you in your connections between body and mind and your connection between your movement and pretty much what happening in your brain. And so I've read a movement therapist is we read the mind through the body. We read the cognitive skills through the body, that this is movement therapy. So I hope I answered that question.
- Jim Hills: 19:13 I'm so happy to hear you say that it can be all ages. So I get it for young people and their development, but I wanted to ask my question is it too late for me? I'm sitting in a desk all day and I'm not moving very much, and then the couch looks really good when I get home, and so I can change?
- Claudia Samano-Losada: 19:33 Well, yes, of course. And what is happening-
- Ken Harvey: 19:36 There is hope.
- Claudia Samano-Losada: 19:36 Yes. Hope, it is hope, what happens is we were trying to be a preventive, preventic met of health. So if we start when they're very young, if we start teaching our kids to be healthy physically, and mentally, they will be adults that actually are better learners, and everything else emotionally to mental emotional and cognitive. So we're trying to be preventive now. If you are an adult and want to join the classes. Yes, of course I am not and that's what I do a coaching to a coaching session, because now my coaching sessions are help and help of you. You talk to me, you tell me where are you right now in your life, and then I apply the movement therapy.
- Ken Harvey: 20:25 Wow. There's a lot there, and no wonder you react to that way when I ask you to explain that. We're going to take a break though. And so we've been talking with Claudia Samano-Losada.
- Claudia Samano-Losada: 20:40 Perfect, Yes.

Ken Harvey: 20:41 Losada, and when we come back from the break, we're going to talk a little bit about her origins and the unique perspective that those origins bring to how she is serving community, and seeking to build community. So right back shortly.

Speaker 3: 21:02 Hey parents, your two to six year old is sure to enjoy the high five magazine. Available online from Sno-Isle Libraries. Treat your favorite preschooler to age appropriate stories, foams, puzzles and activities. Every issue, free to download with your library card from Sno-Isle Libraries.

Ken Harvey: 21:22 If you have a great library experience you'd like to share with us, we would love to know about it. Drop us a line at checkitoutpodcast@sno-isle.org. Again, that's check it out podcast, all one word, [@sno-isle.org](https://twitter.com/sno-isle.org). Who knows, we might even invite you to share your story on a future podcast. So we're having this conversation and delightful conversation with Claudia Samano-Losada and from the Oak Harbor area-

Jim Hills: 22:00 Nice job.

Ken Harvey: 22:00 Thank you. And sometimes I can almost recapture the Spanish I learned as a child in Madrid, Spanish, but I don't practice it enough.

Jim Hills: 22:14 I didn't know you had that.

Ken Harvey: 22:16 I don't practice it enough-

Jim Hills: 22:17 Cheating experience.

Ken Harvey: 22:20 To be able to do it seamlessly well, but yes. So Hey, we're having this fascinating conversation. Claudia is very involved in the Oak Harbor community, she's a wife, a mother, the owner of a recreation center, very involved with the schools and with the library, and is the founder of organization or movement called BILMP that I discovered I was saying BLIMP before, and that was a mispronunciation of the acronym, which stands for Bilingual Integrated Learning Movement Program.

Ken Harvey: 22:59 So part of the part of the background that you have Claudia, that I find very interesting is that you're not a native Oak Harbor or [inaudible 00:23:16] person?

Jim Hills: 23:16 Yeah, I don't know. That's a good question. We have to look that up.

Ken Harvey: 23:18 Yeah. What do you call yourself-

Jim Hills: 23:20 Good thing, we have librarians close by we can ask them.

Ken Harvey: 23:22 Yes. What do you call yourself if you, if you were born and raised in Oak Harbor, but, you came to Oak Harbor, you said, how many years ago?

Claudia Samano-...: 23:30 12.

Ken Harvey: 23:31 12 years ago. And part of your... so tell us about your origin story, and what's the arc was that brought you to-

Claudia Samano-Losada: 23:41 Oak Harbor.

Ken Harvey: 23:41 Oak Harbor.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 23:42 Yeah, well, I was born and raised in Mexico city, a big city. I was there until-

Ken Harvey: 23:49 One of the largest city.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 23:50 One of the largest city BC, beautiful in many ways. And I met my husband and I came to the States for love. Some people ask me why you came to the States for love?

Ken Harvey: 24:04 That's a great reason.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 24:04 That's a really, really good reason. I met my husband back in 1994, in Mexico city. He was visiting Mexico and we met there, and then we dated for many years until I decided he was here living in San Diego. And I decided to make my life with him. So I moved in 2002, our first home was in Florida, he was military. So we lived in Florida, then we lived in California, and then military brought us to Washington, to Whidbey Island.

Ken Harvey: 24:41 So I have to ask which place, which locale has the best weather?

Claudia Samano-Losada: 24:49 Do you really want to know? California for me. San Diego, sorry, but I'm still missing the sun. Yeah.

Ken Harvey: 25:00 So which, which locale has the best food?

Claudia Samano-Losada: 25:03 Mexico city.

Ken Harvey: 25:04 And you say that because why?

Claudia Samano-Losada: 25:11 Because, I just love the food in my country of course. And I think food also brings so many things, it's not just the food on the table, but it's the family as a tradition. The jokes, is the fights, and the table, is everything that food brings to each family. And yes. So we love food at home too. My husband loves food too.

Ken Harvey: 25:31 That's cool.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 25:32 So, yeah.

Ken Harvey: 25:33 So I understand that before you left Mexico, you had already essentially moved into some of your career, passions, and you were already involved in movement, and dance, and cause I'm seeing here in our biographical information about you that you teach modern dance, lyrical jazz, yoga, or yoga dance.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 26:00 Yoga dance or yoga therapy. Yeah.

Ken Harvey: 26:03 That's quite a lot. And that before you left Mexico that you were actually in some ways recognized for your skills because you display those skills as part of a Hollywood movie, so she was looking at me like, "Okay, I'm not exactly sure where you're going." But I warned her I was going to bring this up. So you were involved in an MGM film?

Claudia Samano-Losada: 26:29 I was.

Ken Harvey: 26:29 Is that correct.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 26:31 I was and I'm laughing because very few people ask me about it. I feel proud of myself now. Yes, I was, this was back in Mexico. That's a funny part yeah, I did my bachelor's degree, I have my bachelor's degree of movement therapy back in Mexico. At a very young age, I discovered my passion for movement. I was doing a high school at the same time with my bachelor's degree, so I could finish both on the same time, and Could be recognized and certified. So when I finished... in the process, I'm sorry, in the process, the entire production of Original Sin MGM was in Mexico.

Ken Harvey: 27:11 So that was the name of the movie.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 27:13 That was the name of the movie.

Ken Harvey: 27:14 Original Sin.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 27:14 I already say the name of... Yeah Original sin. Yes. Angelina Jolie and Antonio Banderas.

Ken Harvey: 27:19 Okay. Say that again. Those are your name dropping. So who were the noted stars?

Claudia Samano-Losada: 27:27 Angelina Jolie and Antonio Banderas. Yes.

Ken Harvey: 27:30 Awesome.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 27:30 Mm-Mmh(affirmation) So, they were in Mexico city filming the movie, this movie actually is settled... It's supposed to be in Cuba, they were doing it in Mexico. So they asked for forecast, and extras, and everything, and they were asking for a belly dancer. My husband's family and his family was a little involved in the production too. And he just called me and say, there you go. This is your turn. And I was like, "I don't really want to do it." I was not really, but anyway, I did it and yeah, I cast and we were like 15 people and three of us got the little role, is a very tiny 10 second role of belly dancing at the end of the movie. So don't think I'm going to be there talking or no, I'm just dancing that.

Jim Hills: 28:22 I don't think Ken or I have been in a Hollywood movie. I'm pretty sure our tech guy here has been in a few commercials.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 28:29 Really?

Jim Hills: 28:29 Yes.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 28:30 Nice.

Jim Hills: 28:30 Nobody here other than you has been in the Hollywood big screen with Antonio Banderas-

Claudia Samano-Losada: 28:35 It's a great experience. Yes.

Jim Hills: 28:36 And Angelina Jolie.

Ken Harvey: 28:38 So I do have to admit that I been involved in the production.

Jim Hills: 28:48 No.

Ken Harvey: 28:48 Like you no speaking, but sitting in the background or standing in a place and the stars walk past. And so, [crosstalk 00:28:57] Okay, will that actually show up anywhere? Maybe, maybe not.

- But, it's very interesting to see the how movies or these productions are done from the inside.
- Claudia Samano-Losada: 29:12 Correct. Yes. It's really interesting and see how really things are, I mean, we see something on TV, but in the back there is a lot of things happening that we don't realize. So yeah, we actually, I want to mention something, the photography, there's other photography, cinematographers is called Rodrigo Prieto and he was just nominated for the Oscars last time and he had already two Oscars, so it was amazing just to be around him too. He's from Mexico too. So that was really nice experience.
- Ken Harvey: 29:48 So you should send them a LinkedIn connection invite and invite him to connect with you and say, "You remember me?"
- Claudia Samano-Losada: 29:57 I don't think he remembers me. I do have a picture though, so when I show my picture with Angelina Jolie, some I just have joined like showing like probably a couple of times and they one time they were like, that is a Photoshop. So after that I was like, Oh, I'm not showing the picture anymore because no one is gonna believe me.
- Ken Harvey: 30:11 Photoshop you. Well my name drop was Robert Conrad who was an actor who was involved in Baba black sheep and a number of westerns and other things, and I still remember the director had said, "Okay, Ken, you stand right there and he's going to come up the stairs and walk past you."
- Jim Hills: 30:34 Can you do that?
- Ken Harvey: 30:35 And I was like, "Can I practice?" Anyway it went off without much headshot. I think we only had to do with three or four times. That worked well. Hey, so you mentioned that you graduated from high school and college, same time you essentially, we're now recognized, at least recognized by Hollywood to start practicing your craft, but according to our notes, you continue to do some more study, or continue to do some more work that took you out of Mexico, not just to Florida, but to another country.
- Claudia Samano-Losada: 31:16 During my process, during my school on my degree, I had the opportunity to go to London. And one of the main schools of movement therapy-
- Ken Harvey: 31:27 So, this is not London, Washington, its [inaudible 00:31:30]
- Claudia Samano-Losada: 31:29 No, is Great Britain.

Ken Harvey: 31:31 Great Britain.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 31:32 Yes. This is a school called [inaudible 00:31:36] Center, and this is one of the main schools for movement therapy. So, for personal situations, I got the opportunity to go to London and be there for a year. And I had the opportunity to be in the school for a couple of months. And this was an amazing experience also, I live in London for less than a year, and then I live in Spain for a little bit more.

Ken Harvey: 32:05 Wow. So with the United States, so United States, Great Britain, Spain, Mexico. So four different countries.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 32:17 Yeah.

Jim Hills: 32:19 So that gives you, it seems to me, maybe a unique perspective on issues around immigration and in issues around just around diversity, and let's just talk about that. What these days, what's your feeling around diversity?

Claudia Samano-Losada: 32:41 Yeah. I think since I was very young, I always had an idea, a very different idea of people, I never see people in different ways than me. I always saw the similarities in everybody. I think. And lately in the last years, I think I have discovered so many things that I didn't know, not literally I have discovered all these differences that actually makes more difficult, the way we build communities, the way we leave as society, the way we press our interest as a community. It has changed a lot. And I think since I moved to the United States, I recognize something that I didn't know before. I recognize that some people actually looks you in different ways, or some people see different that you need even know that you have.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 33:44 So with time, I see that diversity is just a concept that of course it's so important in so many countries, but it's a concept that some people take it like as a bad thing, and some people think takes it like an amazing way to be in the same society growing together. Right? Talking about the United States, I think, being in one of the most diverse countries in the world, for me it has been amazing to be around people from all over the world. Now in the last years, what I feel is that we are a multicultural nation that is not cross-cultural, and that is not crossing paths. We are getting in the situation where our difference are, are getting in a bigger place than our similarities.

- Ken Harvey: 34:47 So, like we're magnifying our differences, and not minimizing, I mean, not looking at those differences. Something we celebrate together.
- Claudia Samano-Losada: 34:55 Correct. Correct. I think diversity is to celebrate, to celebrate, the same way we're going, I think if we all have a goal, we have different goals, but if we all have a goal as a country, as a community, as a society, we need to embrace our similarities. And this is something that I have worked in my program cross cultural emotion to where I say, part of this login is our similarities will divide us more, I'm sorry, our differences will divide us more. Our similarities will make us one, which is what I'm trying to implement in our kids too. I mean, between my movement and all my art and my expression, I also try to unite. I also try to give the message of it's okay to be different, It's okay to speak a second language. It's okay to be in a multicultural family. It is okay. That will make us actually a better community, a better society. And we will unite us.
- Ken Harvey: 35:59 Yeah. Thank you for saying that. I really appreciate your perspective, having lived so many different places and recognizing that sometimes we can fall into an unintended trap where we allow our differences to in some ways to divide us, rather than help bring us together and see those similarities so that... in some ways think about it like a body and mind integration. Just trying to integrate everything ourselves together, which makes us healthier as a community.
- Claudia Samano-Losada: 36:34 Yeah. If we're going towards a better life, a better country, a better whatever you have to say. Like a better day by day situation, a better life for our kids, a better economical situation, a better political situation. We need to get together, we need to embrace that similarity. Now I want to mention also that diversity is known in a country with different, with people from all over the world. Diversity is in one country where you find people from the same place, and I was talking to you about that and before we started, we can talk the same language, we can speak the same language, we can have the same nationality but have completely different perspectives, or cultures, or way to say things, or ideas, and respect is the word, I mean, respect is what is going to save us from being fighting with each other, or trying to see what is going to divide us. Respect and embracing similarities. Yes.
- Ken Harvey: 37:42 I love that. So look in the last minute or two that we have, I'd love to just drop, jump back to something that you mentioned, before the break I believe, and you were talking about libraries, and that not everyone takes advantage of the opportunities of a

library, and that in fact sometimes we might take for granted what the libraries offer us. I'd love to just get maybe some closing thoughts from you in terms of, why you think it's important to recognize that not everyone gets to enjoy What libraries offer, in other places?

Claudia Samano-Losada: 38:26 Mm-hmm (affirmative). In every place where I've been, because I love to inquire and I loved books. I have tried to get a book, so I'm in every country and every place. Not everybody has the opportunity that the United States gave because not everybody has the opportunity of being able to check out a book for free or build a community in a library and equally in my country, in Mexico, we have two amazing universities that have one of the biggest libraries in the world actually, but you have to be part of the university to be in being able to check out books, and be part of the library community. In other countries, I am not very aware of how it works, but I think the United States, the opportunity that the library gave us, especially the library that we are right now representing, has been amazing.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 39:31 This library is just another door, a door of knowledge, a door of understanding our community. Because if you get immersed in what the library offers, you get immersed in the community. You see the diversity that they was talking about in the library. You see all kinds of topics and things. You see all the advocacy for many things in the community. So that is not actually a part of the life in other countries. It's not part of life in many people in the world. I will say, this is just an amazing system. It's an amazing project and I think we shouldn't take it for granted. It's not, take it seriously, take advantage of it, go to the library every single day just to check out what the library is offering for free, because this is also I don't know, something that we should be reminding each other is free.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 40:34 It's free in other countries, everything has a cattle cost, everything has money involved. The library is in charge of so many in so many life experiences and enrichment for the families, I feel like it's in charge of that, because people don't have money to take a class. They can go to the library and get that class for free. So, maybe I'm not being very clear, but what I'm trying to say is even if you don't have money, you can have classes, programs, help, from the library here in our Iceland. So don't take it for granted.

Ken Harvey: 41:09 Right. Gosh, thank you. It has been an incredible opportunity to have this conversation with you, really appreciate what you have brought and shared with us, but also what you're sharing with the communities that you're working with and through and

trying to help cultivate in the Oak Harbor area. And we are Richer because of what you're doing.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 41:37 Oh, thank you.

Ken Harvey: 41:37 So thank you so much.

Jim Hills: 41:38 Thank you.

Claudia Samano-Losada: 41:38 Thank you. Thank you so much for the opportunity. I think what I do is with all my love, and I think the recognition that you're giving the studio on myself is huge. Thank you so much. Because for me this is a great, great opportunity to share with you what I feel.

Speaker 3: 41:55 Wanting to get the latest business news, and solid financial advice from the experts for free, you can with your Sno-Isle Libraries account, library customers can download the latest news and advice from publications like entrepreneur, Kiplinger's, Fast company and Inc. You'll find feature stories around the business of technology, leadership, innovation, the stock market, retirement planning, and achieving financial success. All of that with a library card, just waiting for you online at Sno-Isle Libraries.

Ken Harvey: 42:34 Claudia Samano-Losada.

Jim Hills: 42:36 Was very interesting to talk to. the life experience that she brings.

Ken Harvey: 42:42 Yeah.

Jim Hills: 42:43 And also, I think we mentioned that, the primetime program and I had an opportunity to take some pictures of her couple of different of those and on watch Claudia read stories to these, second and third graders and their families. And just what a wonderful human being and how she's giving to her community and in creating community

Ken Harvey: 43:05 Well along with that and really appreciative of her desire to cultivate community at various levels. And her comments at the end around what she saw, about how the richness of diversity should really help people draw together and feel like they're part of a greater whole rather than feeling divided and separated, and people kind of go into different camps and, and tribes.

- Jim Hills: 43:37 I thought as I was listening to her, I was imagining, there does seem to be this when we think about division, there is a sense of personal loss if you're thinking about joining or having groups come together. But that's not her perspective at all.
- Ken Harvey: 43:56 No, none of it. And I share that perspective.
- Jim Hills: 43:59 How you can celebrate your individuality and yet appreciate. And as she mentioned, and use the word respect, it boils down to that.
- Ken Harvey: 44:12 Well, the other thing that was interesting in our conversation with her is, her talking about, not only where she was born and that when it all comes down to it with every place she's lived. There's certain places that she likes the weather better. Some places there's a definitely, something that she really still loves about the food, the dishes of, that she could consume from her birthplace. And I think that's totally fine. It's some places just, you always compare everything you eat to those places.
- Claudia Samano-Losada: 44:56 What was fun is how, the words that she was using to describe why she liked the food from Mexico City, became words to describe family, relationships. It wasn't about, the taste, it was about feel, and emotion and family. I love that.
- Ken Harvey: 45:15 Yeah. And the last thing I would just say, I think mentioned, well maybe I shouldn't say last thing, but the next thing that I would say-
- Claudia Samano-Losada: 45:23 I know you, never the thing.
- Ken Harvey: 45:24 The next thing that I would say is sometimes, you can overshadow everything else that you have to talk about as soon as you start name-dropping a famous name that you've come into contact, you either walked close to or been in the presence of, or interacted with, and from the show notes that are going to be with this interview, there'll be a picture of her and Angelina Jolie, next to each other because of Claudia's work in an MGM movie that Angelina was part of. So, even though she's rubbed shoulders with recognized names, in stardom, Claudia, just very personable, very capable, very passionate around the things that she's involved in. I just love the fact that she's making a difference in the community.
- Jim Hills: 46:26 Yes. What a wonderful person to have in the community.
- Ken Harvey: 46:29 Yeah. We're fortunate to have her.

Ken Harvey: 46:32 That's this week's episode of the Check It Out podcast. Don't forget to join us next week for another episode. Thanks for listening.