



AFGHAN COMMUNICATOR

An Art & Culture Organization

Mission: Afghan Communicator is a community based, grass-root organization dedicated to education, advocacy, community development, youth leadership art & culture.

Accomplishments

2006

EDUCATION, ART & CULTURE

Dec 2 Lifetime Achievement Award — Honoring Poet Raziq Faani

Feeling responsible to safeguard Afghan culture, Afghan Communicator created *the Torch Bearers of Afghan Culture Award* to honor, in their lifetime, those who have sustained the bright light of Afghan culture and have given continuous sacrifice in the face of war, exile, and destruction. On December 2nd 2006 we honored Mr. Raziq Faani, the great contemporary Afghan poet, as the first recipient of this Lifetime Achievement Award. Joining our event were four of Afghanistan's top scholars: Latif Nazemi from Germany, Ambassador Ravan Farhadi from NY, Sammander Ghoryani from Delaware and Wasef Bakhtari from California. Well wishers and fans attended from as far as California and Toronto for this event! Those who could not be present sent their well-wishes from all over the world. As part of the tribute to Faani, AC will publish his new book, *False Prophets*, comprised of his poetry.



Mr. Faani

May 28 Afghan Heritage Day (AHD)

NY

AHD is a cultural celebration for thousands of Afghans in the Eastern U.S. Each year, we invite community leaders, elected officials, state officials, celebrities, non-profit organizations, as well as a variety of vendors to add flavor to these festivities. This year Rafi Refa and his band performed to thousands of Afghans at Queens College during Memorial Day weekend. As in past years, the fashion shows were the most anticipated of the day, with spectators crowding around the stage and later joining to dance with the energy and momentum of the music. This year, the Bond Street Theatre entertained the audience by strolling through the gymnasium on stilts. Also in attendance were some local government representatives, namely Councilmember Tony Avella with his wife, Mrs. Judith Avella, as well as Mr. Morshed Alam, a candidate for NYS Assembly, District 25, KAVA voter registration. AC was delighted to continue to build on the tradition of AHD as it is the only event on the East Coast that serves to unite the community in celebration of our culture.



June - July Flushing Library Film Festival

NY

From June to July, Afghan Communicator hosted Afghan film screenings at the Flushing Public Library. The public was invited to screen a selection of short films which addressed the themes of women in Afghanistan as well as the nation's current state of affairs in its new post-war era. The films were followed by a Q&A and discussion with the audience. The film screenings were part of AC's new initiative to represent Afghan Art and Film in a variety of venues in order to educate others about Afghanistan and Islam.



Courtesy of Women Make Movies

Sep Howard Community College

MD

In an effort to expose new audiences to Afghan art, Afghan Communicator began organizing educational exhibits at universities and other public institutions around the US. The first one was held this year at Howard Community College in Maryland. Through these exhibitions, AC works to create new artistic spaces for dialogue and cultural exchange, while continuing to support Afghan artists by selling and promoting their works. All art is available for purchase and all proceeds go toward AC's efforts in supporting Afghan artists and reviving Afghan art & culture.



Oct National Geographic Society

DC

For the second time, Afghan Communicator participated in the 2nd National Geographic Society's All Road Art Festival and Market taking place at the NGS Headquarters. Aside from the festival, Afghan art was displayed at the Market site, and on Sunday noon panel discussion, Afghan Communicator's Executive Director, Rameen Javid spoke about Afghan art and its cultural significance today.



YOUTH AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghan Professional Nights

NY

In order to encourage young Afghan professionals to network and to build a sense of community in New York City, Afghan Communicator organizes regular outings to local cultural events, which include anything from museum visits and film screenings, to music concerts, poetry readings, outdoor activities and fashion shows. If you would like to be kept informed of future events, please send a blank email to <NYAreaAfghans-subscribe@yahoo.com>. AC sends out regular event notices and welcomes ideas for venues/activities.



Dec 9-10 Inter-Afghan Young Professionals Summit VA

Hosted by American Society of Afghan Professionals, this year young Afghan professionals from US, Canada and Asia attended this event on December 9-10 at Washington University in DC. Created by Afghan Communicator in 1999, this event is a gathering of active, young Afghan professionals from all over to discuss issues concerning the Afghan community. Since then, it has been held in New York, California, Virginia and Toronto. In 2003, AC created the Most Active Young Afghan Award at the summit, intended to encourage leadership and participation in the community.



COMMUNITY BUILDING & ADVOCACY

Aug 17 Afghan Art at the Embassy

DC

In recognition of Afghan Independence Day, AC was granted the honor of organizing an Afghan art exhibit at the Embassy. The exhibition commenced the Embassy's annual Afghan Independence Day Celebration and continued to run through the end of August. The displayed works of Afghan artists from the US, Canada, Afghanistan and abroad, appropriately addressed the themes of Afghan 'independence' and 'culture'. Artists included Yar Taraky, Rafi and Gazelle Samizay, Fatana Arifi, Tawfiq Rahmani, Ghafar Ghafoori and Ariana Delawari. In order to support these gifted artists, AC organized a silent auction for the duration of the exhibition.



July 27 A Dialogue with Afghanistan's Ambassador to the U.S. NY

Afghan Communicator (AC) was honored to host a reception for Afghanistan's Ambassador to the U.S., His Excellency Said Tayeb Jawad, at New York City's landmark Empire State Building. Present at the event were members and leaders of the New York Afghan community, local non-profit representatives, academics and professionals, as well as various press who covered the event, including Reuters and Ariana TV. Addressing the Afghan-American community, His Excellency described the current state of affairs in Afghanistan, five years since the fall of the Taliban in 2001. The speech was concluded by a brief question & answer session, after which the audience was free to mingle amongst themselves and with the Ambassador and other Embassy officials. His Excellency thanked AC for its work in bringing various Afghan communities in America together and "ensuring the vital continuity between Afghans across the span of generations and geography."



July Welcoming Afghanistan's Foreign Minister DC

Afghan Communicator joined the Afghan Embassy in welcoming Afghanistan's new Foreign Minister, Dr. Rangin Spanta, on his first official visit to the U.S. Discussing Afghanistan's security challenges, he called for specific action by the international community to help Afghanistan succeed in its efforts towards sustainable peace & prosperity. Reaching out to the Afghan community in the US, Minister Spanta met with Afghan-American leaders at the Afghan Embassy. AC was honored to be present at the event and to have the opportunity to meet the Foreign Minister and discuss important issues facing the community and Afghanistan.

