



AFGHAN COMMUNICATOR
SERVING THE AFGHAN COMMUNITY

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BOOK REVIEW: BEHIND THE BURQA MAKES FOR A GRIPPING READ

Batya Swift Yasgur's *Behind the Burqa: Our Life in Afghanistan and How We Escaped to Freedom*, is the tale about the struggles for the rights of Afghan women.

innocent women seeking asylum in the US and the power of religious faith to provide hope and courage even in prison."

Yasgur intermeshes the stories of this pair in an interesting combination. Her distinguished style of writing captures each sister's personality, experiences and struggles in a lucid and thoughtful manner.

She has also given the reader information on how to help in various ways, such as donating expertise, time, money, skills, etc.

Eleanor Acer of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights calls this book "a gripping reading experience."

Behind the Burqa takes the reader through the lives of two sisters, Sulima and Hala who hold opposite views on religion.



But it only partly a story about religion. Yasgur also recounts the struggles of these asylum seekers.

Fauziya Kassindja, author of *Do They Hear You When You Cry*, who has had her own run-ins with asylum problems says that *Behind the Burqa*, "shows the injustices suffered by

Although the book is great in many respects, one thing to keep in mind while reading

this book is that the stories are not a true depiction of the whole of Afghanistan.

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AFGHAN COMMUNICATOR  SERVING THE AFGHAN COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

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AFGHAN PROFESSIONALS MEET AT TOWN HALL

An enthusiastic group of urban, young Afghan professionals met to discuss critical issues during a Town Hall meeting at the Empire State Building on February 8th organized by Afghan Communicator.

The goal of the event as envisioned by Afghan Communicator was to create a space for young Afghans to network with each other and discuss the issues facing Afghan-American professionals today.



Young Afghans met at a Town Hall meeting organized by Afghan Communicator.

tween Afghan and American values.

Many were frustrated by the general lack of community development and unity among Afghan Americans who remain divided.

Attendees also pointed to the dearth of social events for Afghan Americans, as a serious obstacle to building community relations.

Possible solutions to these issues were discussed in the concluding session of the Town Hall. Suggestions

included holding events similar to the Town Hall frequently, organizing inter-generational events, and building a networking database.

The group came largely from the New York tri-state area. Backgrounds ranged from those who worked in the non-profit field, to business, medical, and media professionals.

Several attendees volunteered for AC projects and some promised to take on organizing social events. They continue to be in contact with each other and with Afghan Communicator.

Walied Osman, co-producer of the documentary *Afghan Stories*, filmed the event.

TOWN HALL PICS



The group spent the Sunday afternoon discussing identity and assimilation.



Moderators Rameen Moshref Javid, AC Executive Director and Fahima Ahad, AC Public Relations Coordinator, prepare.

COMMUNITY LEADERS GATHER WITH MAYOR

South Asian community leaders along with Afghan Communicator gathered together on Wednesday November 5th at Gracie Mansion for an evening with Mayor Bloomberg, and Commissioner of the Office of Immigrant Affairs, Sayu V. Bhojwani, along with several other New York officials.

Mayor Bloomberg spoke of the importance of immigrant and South Asian communities in New York especially

and in America generally, and he acknowledged their contributions to New York City. He also urged the community leaders present to continue their work on behalf of their communities.

Commissioner Bhojwani also spoke about need to reach out to immigrant communities.

Prior to becoming commissioner of the Office of

Immigrant Affairs, Commissioner Bhojwani herself founded South Asian Youth Action (SAYA!), a youth development agency serving over 300 youth each year.

SAYA! currently operates in five schools in Queens and Manhattan, offering programs in leadership and organizing, academic and career preparation, and arts and recreation.

Ms. Bhojwani also spoke at Afghan Communicator's *Afghan Women's Benefit* on March 8th.

AC appreciated this effort by Mayor Bloomberg.



Mayor Bloomberg shakes hands and poses for a picture with AC Executive Director, Rameen Moshref Javid.

Naw Ruz or the New Year is coming up on March 21st, the first day of spring. The AC family wishes everyone a

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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WHY VOTE? SOME BASIC INFORMATION

Because it is your fundamental right as an American, and the most basic means by which you have a voice in how your government works. By voting, you participate in a process that determines who will represent you, your family, and your neighbors in your community, your state, and your country. Each and every vote is the voice of a citizen of the United States of America.

One voice speaking out can change the course of history as several of our states, including California, Idaho, Oregon, Texas and Washington, became states by just ONE vote and in 1948, Lyndon B. Johnson, our 36th president, became a U.S. senator by a ONE vote margin.

How do I vote?

Most states require that you register to vote. You may register at your local election office, by mail, when you get or renew your drivers' license, when you apply or are re-certified for benefits in

public assistance agencies, and at agencies serving people with disabilities.

The general election in all U.S. states and territories is to be held on Tuesday, November 2, 2004. Check your state's voter registration information:

NEW YORK

<http://www.elections.state.ny.us/>

Must register 25 days prior to the election.

NEW JERSEY

<http://www.state.nj.us/lps/elections/>

Must register 29 days prior to the election.

CONNECTICUT

<http://www.sots.state.ct.us/ElectionsDivision/ElectionIndex.html>

Must register 14 days prior to the election.

موبل مجانی

پروژه Met Council Project Machson

- میت کونسل مچسن در نظر دارد تا برای

مهاجرین و پناهیویان مستحق فرنیچر یا

موبل نسبتا مستعمل را بصورت مجانی

توزیع نماید. کسانی که معطل اخذ تابعیت

هستند، مهاجرین قانونی، پناهیویان قانونی

میتوانند درخواستی خویش را هر چه زودتر

ارائه کنند تا فرنیچر متذکره به صورت مجانی

به منزل ایشان تحویل گردد.

این پروژه که یک برنامه ویژه "شورای

متروپالیتن فقر یهودان" است توسط

دفتر خدمات عامه مهاجرین و پناهیویان

ایالت نیویارک تمویل میگردد.

جهت معلومات مزید، لطفا با خانم انا موروز

در شماره ۲۱۲.۴۵۲.۹۵۲۶ داخل

تماس شوید. یا به ادرس ذیل ایمیل بفرستید

amoroz@metcouncil.org

FREE FURNITURE

The Met Council Project Machson is offering gently used furniture to immigrants. Those who are pre-citizenship immigrants and those who hold "Refugee," "Adjudicated asylee," "Entrant or Parolee" from Haiti or Cuba, or "Amerasian immigrant" status can now apply to receive this furniture. There may be additional eligibility requirements.

The furniture will be delivered at no cost to the recipient's home.

This public service project has been made possible by a grant from the New York State Bureau of Refugee and Immigration Affairs. The project itself is a special program of the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty.

For more information, please call Anna Moroz at 212.453.9526 or contact her via email at amoroz@metcouncil.org.

The Met Council is located at 80 Maiden Lane, 21st Floor, New York, NY 10038.

چرا رای دادن امر مهم است ؟

و بر علاوه در سال ۱۹۴۸ لیندون ب.

جانسن سی و ششمین رییس جمهور امریکا

صرف زریعه یک رای به مقام سناتوری انتخاب

گردید.

نیویارک: NY

<<http://www.elections.state.ny.us/>>

باید دست کم ۲۵ روز پیش از انتخابات خود را

ثبت و راجستر نمایید

نیو جرسی: NJ

<http://www.state.nj.us/lps/elections/>

باید دست کم ۲۹ روز پیش از انتخابات خود را ثبت

و راجستر نمود

کنکتیکت: CT

<http://www.sots.state.ct.us/electionsDivision/electionIndex.html>

باید دست کم ۱۴ روز پیش از انتخابات خود را ثبت

و راجستر نمود

برای اخذ معلومات مزید یا با دفتر افغان

کمیونیکیتور (718-445-6438) تماس بگیرید.

چرا باید رای بدهیم ؟

یکی از حقوق اساسی هر شهروند

آمریکائی حق رای است و رای دهی یگانه

وسيله است که از طریق آن تنها میتوان

صدای در حکومت داشت بلکه میتوان از

فامیل، همسایه، ایالت یا ستیت مربوطه،

و بلاخره کشور خویش نمایندگی نمود.

حتی اگر کاندید مورد نظر

تان هم برنده نشود با رای خویش میتوان

جامعه را از خواهش و تقاضاهای خویش

آگاه نموده و از پالیسی و کاندیدی که پیروی

مینمایید حمایت خویش را عملاً ابراز نمایند

چونکه رای دادن موثر تر از حرف خالی است.

چنانچه تاریخ نمایانگر است یک رای توانسته

مسیر اتر تغییر بدهد. از مثال های

برجسته آن تولد ایالات کالیفورنیا، ایداهو،

اوریگان، تکساس و واشنگتن بوده

که تنها توسط یک رای هر یک از این جاهای

نامبرده به صفت ایالت شناخته شدند

گرد همائی "تاون هال" جوانان مسلکی افغان

یک گروه جوانان علاقمند و فعال افغان

به تاریخ ۸ فبروری ۲۰۰۴ در امپایر

ستیت بلدنگ دور هم آمدند. گرد همائی

متذکره بمنظور شناسائی جوانان افغانی

با همدیگر و بحث مسائل ذی علاقه از

طرف افغان کمیونیکیتور

سا زماندهی گردیده بود. پس از بحث

همه جانبه در مورد مشکلات که

جوانان افغان مواجه اند، از قبیل

هویت دوگانه امریکائی و افغانی

بازدید نمایندگان جوامع آسیای جنوبی با شهردار نیویارک

بزرگان و نمایندگان مردم آسیای جنوبی همراه با افغان کمیونیکیتور طی یک

دعوت رسمی در شام روز چهارشنبه مورخ ۵ نوامبر با شهردار بلومبرگ، خانم سایو

وی بوجوانی - کمشنر امور مهاجرین و بعضی مقامات دیگر نیویارک بازدید نمودند.

در این نشست آقای بلومبرگ و خانم بوجوانی در مورد اهمیت جوامع مهاجرین و

سهم ایشان در نیویارک صحبت نمودند. قابل تذکر است که در طی سخنان خویش

خانم بوجوانی از تجلیل روز زن توسط جامعه افغانی هم یاد اوری نمود.



Town Hall attendees and AC staff pose for a picture at the conclusion of the meeting.



Filmmaker Walid Osman records the meeting while AC Chair, Nadia Hashimi takes notes on the discussions.

BOOK REVIEW: THE KITE RUNNER

In Khaled Hosseini's masterpiece work, *The Kite Runner*, a seamless blend of eastern and western cultures form the backdrop for a cast of characters, so vivid and delightfully realistic that the reader feels part of the action - if not as another character, then indeed as a witness.

The cosmic battle between good and evil is played out here between an unlikely hero, a cowardly young man constantly trying to prove himself, and his domineering father.

The plot moves sinuously, and the subtext is rich with sexual implications. The Oedipal complex interwoven in the fabric of the plot makes

the hero at once pitiable and redeemable.

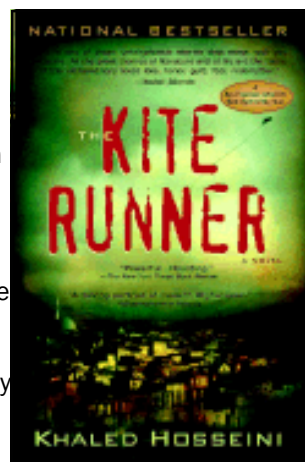
The explicit drama and sexual misconduct makes this book both forbidden and desirable for all cultures, genders and tendencies.

Hosseini's lush descriptions are cradled in a lyrical prose that is a pleasure to read.

One is left continually startled as Hosseini deftly moves the plot to its heartrending finale.

Critics have warmly welcomed *The Kite Runner*. The New York Times writes that Hosseini "gives us a vivid and engaging story that reminds us how long his people have been struggling to triumph over the forces of violence..."

Not a bad beginning for an Afghan physician's first attempt.



Khaled Hosseini's work "The Kite Runner" has gained favorable reviews from critics.