

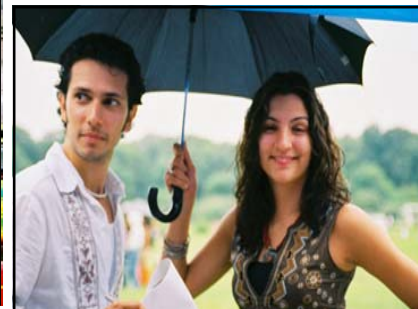


AFGHAN COMMUNICATOR
SERVING THE AFGHAN COMMUNITY

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Scenes from Afghan Heritage Day 2004

فوتبال دختران افغان

افغان کمیونیکیتور (AC)، جهت تقویه سطح دانش و بلخصوص تشویق دختران در افغانستان، ۸ تن از دختران را برای تمرین فوتبال و داخل شدن در مسابقات بین الدول اطفال در شهر کلیولاند (Cleveland) ولایت اوهایو (Ohio) اسپانسر شد. AC و دوشیزه اوستا ایوب از AYSE سهم بزرگی درین پروگرام داشتند. از جامعه افغانی در ورجینیا، مری لند، کونکتیکیت، نیویورک و نیوجرسی بخاطر کمکهای بیحد شان با ما درین پروگرام سپاسگزار استیم. امید است سال آینده پروگرام خود راوسع تر و موفقتر بسازیم، البته با کمک هموطنان عزیز.



رای دادن در انتخابات امریکا

از هموطنان عزیز جداً تقاضا داریم تا در رای دادن در امریکابتاریخ ۲ نوامبر سهم گرفته و از حقوق خود بحیث اتباع امریکا استفاده نمایند. ما برای تان اطمینان میدهم که رای دادن شما را دچار تکلیف در مقابل دولت نمیگذارد.



Immigration News

On July 16th, the Civil Liberties Restoration Act (HR.4591,S.2528) was introduced into Congress to counter the post 9-11 attack on civil liberties, characterized best by programs such as the Special Registration Program and legislation such as the Patriot Act.

Introduced into the Senate by Senator Edward Kennedy (MA), the bill is designed to restore precious civil liberties that are meant to be the foundation of this country.

If enacted, CLRA will obligate the government to timely notify detainees of the charges brought against them and would prohibit the blanket closure of deportation hearings.

With respect to the Special Registration program, it would provide relief for some individuals facing deportation and reduce some penalties for failing to register. Perhaps one of the most significant outcomes of the legislation would allow for Congressional supervision of the government when collecting data on individuals. The bill is currently being reviewed by the Senate. www.bordc.org/legislation.htm

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

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AFGHAN HERITAGE DAY 2004

AFGHANS GATHER TO CELEBRATE CULTURE

On Saturday, August 14th, for the third consecutive year, Afghan Communicator hosted its annual outdoor picnic, Afghan Heritage Day. The event was held at the Old Westbury Campus of SUNY in Long Island, New York.



Part of the children's program, two girls model traditional Afghan clothing on stage during the Children's Fashion Show

Despite a hurricane advisory in effect for hurricane Charlie, which plagued the skies with dark clouds and spurts of rain, about 2,000 people gathered to enjoy food, dance, music, shopping and Afghan culture. Ven-

dors sold kabobs, cotton candy and traditional Afghan ice cream, jaala, as well as traditional Afghan clothing and jewelry.

Throughout the day, AC conducted many different activities, such as need assessment surveys so that we better know how to serve the Afghan community. In order to mobilize the Afghan community to exercise their civic duties, AC conducted a voter registration and education drive, to make sure Afghan votes are counted and their voices heard! The response was very

encouraging. The program commenced with a traditional Quran reading by Hasibullah Qurbanzada. Following a short welcome speech in Dari, Pashtu and English, the day's events included children's games, a fashion show, traditional attan dance and featured lively Afghan music by Rubin Javid of Bazi Entertainment.

In the afternoon, elected officials such as Assemblyman Barry Grodenchik addressed the large crowd. Other honored speakers included Mr. M. Ashraf Haidari, the Government and Media Relations Officer of the Embassy of

Afghanistan in Washington D.C. and Commissioner Guillermo Linares, NY City's Mayor's Office Commissioner on Immigrant Affairs.



NYC Commissioner on Immigrant Affairs, Guillermo Linares, presents Rameen Javid with certificate officially proclaiming August 14, 2004 as Afghan Heritage Day



Joining AHD for a second year as a speaker, NY State Assembly Member Barry Grodenchik poses with AC's Rameen Javid

AFGHAN GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

In an effort to encourage mutual respect and understanding between the people of Afghanistan and the United States, and to provide opportunities for the Afghan women to raise their profile and self-esteem, Afghan Communicator has sponsored eight girls (ages 11 to 16) to come to the US from mid June to early August 2004.



The Afghan & Cleveland teams come together for a picture

The aim of this new initiative is multi-folded. Foremost the program is to give the Afghan girls and women the opportunities that were taken from them in the past

decade; second, to increase mutual respect and understanding among people of Afghanistan and the United States; third, to help the reconstruction of Afghanistan through education, financial assistance and morale support; fourth, to give the Afghan communities in the US a chance to contribute directly to people in Afghanistan; and fifth, to encourage the young generation in Afghanistan to take leadership roles in a civil society and learn best practices while in the US.

Afghan Youth Sports Exchange (AYSE) and sponsored by Afghan Communicator. The girls were recruited with the help of the Afghan Center in Kabul. Tickets for their flights in the US was donated by American Airlines and space at the camp was donated by Ethel Walker School in Connecticut.

The program at the camp was designed to teach sports and leadership skills, in a month-long program, so that the girls take back home their skills and experiences and be a mentor for their peers in Afghanistan. Four months before their departure, the Afghan Center in Kabul organized some sports training for them. The Center and

The initiative was founded by

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the Afghan Communicator office in Kabul will follow up with the girls once they are back in Kabul, so that the skills they have learned are not lost.

In the Ethel Walker Camp, the girls learned volleyball, basketball, swimming and biking. But because they had entered the International Children's Games in Cleveland to play soccer, the girls practiced soccer more than other sports.

By entering the International Children's Games, the girls made history twice. First, the girls are the first group to be sponsored by an Afghan organization, such as Afghan Communicator, for sports. Second, the girls are the first group to represent Afghanistan in its 40 year history of the International Children's Games.

The girls (Roia Ahmad, Aarizo Mohammad, Hanifa Mohammad, Hasina Mohammad, Razia Rasoul, Yasamin Rasoul, Shamila Wukil, and

Khatera Zahir) first came to Maryland to stay with Barbara of the Afghan Center. Afghan Communicator immediately presented them with appropriate clothing for their official and non-official visits in Virginia, Washington DC and Maryland.



The team energizes in a huddle.

The Afghan community in the Metropolitan Washington DC gave them a warm Afghan hospitality by organizing a fundraiser and taking them to Busch Gardens and other points of interest. The girls were just in time for the July Fourth Afghan Soccer Tournament, organized by Afghan Sports Federation, in which they played an exhibition game against the local girls' team.

Being treated to luncheons, stuffed animals, equipment and toys, the girls had a great time. Members of the Afghan Communicator traveled to Cleveland to morally support the team and root them on.

Sponsoring the girls' soccer team yielded many positive results. First, it brought Afghan organizations together in an atmosphere of cooperation. It also brought together the Afghan communities, as each one made small

and large contributions so that the girls feel at home. Moreover, the girls learned a great deal about the United States and its culture. Along with their newly acquired sports and leadership skills, they will take their positive experience back to Afghanistan to inspire not only the next generation, but serve as role models and ambassadors between East and West.

As always, Afghan Communicator is dedicated to strengthening the Afghan community and build bridges between Afghanistan and the United States. In our quest, we seek your support to grow stronger and help more people. Please contact Afghan Communicator for more information and how to contribute.



The team & supporters pose with Afghan flags.

VOTER REGISTRATION AND YOU

Many Americans neglect the task of registering to vote. Are you one of them? Registering to vote is the only way you can participate in local and national elections. This means that if you, as a citizen, want to be counted in elections, you must register. It's a quick, simple procedure that gets you access to the rights and privileges you have as an American. To those who say "It doesn't make a difference if I vote" or "I don't want jury duty" there are a few things you should know:

Voting Counts!

Voters are organized by district based upon where they live. Politicians pay attention to how and if those districts vote! They use this information in campaign planning and developing their policies. So, if you think it doesn't matter, think again.

Politicians target groups who have a record of voicing their opinion at the ballot box. Prove you care about your

community, prove you are mobilized to act. Show your representatives that you exercise your power to vote. They will work hard to listen to you, their job depends on it!

Restrictions, limitations, complications

Do you feel there are hindrances to getting registered or getting to the polls? Think again. The state board of elections in addition to numerous other voter rights agencies are geared towards ensuring you get out and vote. They offer many valuable services such as translation services and absentee ballots. You can find out more by asking questions! Contact the board of elections in your area, you may be surprised at how simple it is. Your tax dollars pay for these services, don't be afraid to put them to use.

Put your mouth where your money is!

Don't you want to have a say in who you are hiring? Your President, Your senators, Your governor, Your assemblypersons, and many others are paid for by YOU through your tax dollars. Make sure you know who you are hiring. Get edu-

cated, get involved and vote! You wouldn't want to pay for an unskilled plumber, don't hire a lousy politician!

Afghan Communicator's

Voter Registration Drives

So far Afghan Communicator has conducted voter registration drives in various states, such as California, Virginia and New York. We are members of the New York City voting coalitions of New York Immigration Coalition and Asian Pacific American Voters Alliance (APAVA). These groups work to ensure that every American, especially immigrants, the working-class and the poor are able to go to the polls and cast their ballots.

In addition, Afghan Communicator has invited other Afghan groups and organizations around the country to join in the effort to register Afghan-American voters. This is the first voter registration drive ever to specifically target Afghan-American voters. Please contact the AC office to volunteer for future voter registration drives.

FILM REVIEW: Afghanistan: The Lost Truth

Yassamin Malekhasr takes viewers on an hour long journey through Afghanistan's best known cities, exploring the cultural link between Iran and Afghanistan. The tour appropriately begins in Herat, the border city whose history and legacy bridge the two nations.

Herat is rich in domes, palaces, minarets and tombs of esteemed poets. Continuing on through Bamiyan, Kabul and Kandehar, to name a few, Malekhasr speaks to local residents to get first hand perspectives on daily life and aspirations of Afghans today.

In Kandahar, she stumbles upon a mosaic of cultures, languages and colors. Kabul's streets and markets bustle defiantly against a shell-shocked backdrop.

Viewers will be inspired, touched and saddened by the staunch determination the interviewed individuals show in the face of dismal conditions. Despite years of being violently denied the basic right of education, school girls proudly state that they intend to pursue careers as doctors, engineers and pilots.

Mothers yearn for news from sons and soldiers are never more than an arms length away from their weapons but, somehow, the Afghan spirit perseveres and dances through tragedy. Peppered with acoustic Afghan music, the film gracefully weaves through Afghanistan's multifaceted culture and existence.

This film is both authentic and polished, a welcome diversion from the clichéd images of rubble and rock-ets.

Directed by: Yassamin Malekhasr

Distributed by: Women Make Movies

تجلیل جشن (۲۰۰۴) افغانها در نیویورک

جشن افغانی در نیویورک

در ۱۴ اگست ۲۰۰۴ افغان کمیونیکیتور (Afghan Communicator) جشن افغانی را در لانگ آیلند برگزار داشت. با وجود باران تقریباً ۲۰۰۰ هموطن از چهار گوشه آمریکا برای شرکت به این روز کلتوری تشریف آورده بودند.

آقای گالیرمو لیناریس، مدیر کمیسیون مهاجرین به نمایندگی از آقای بلومبرگ، شاروال شهر نیویورک، درین جشن سهم گرفته و این روز کلتوری افغانها را برسمیت شناخته و از زحمات جامعه افغانی و افغان کمیونیکیتور قدر داری کردند. از جمله مهمانان، آقای باری گروندچک، عضو اسامبلی ولایت نیویورک درین سال بازم شرکت داشتند. همچنان، آقای اشرف حیدری از سفارت افغانستان در واشنگتون تشریف آوردند.

پروگرام با تلاوت چند آیه از قران شریف به آواز حسیب قربانزاده و بعداً عزیزه سلطان شروع شد. سپس اطفال مکتب افغانی وایت ستون، به کمک آقای حکیم عزیزی، مارش کردند و بعداً در روی ستیز ترانه زیبای خواندن. در طول روز، پروگرامهای مختلف از قبیل پروگرام اطفال، فیشن شو، اطن، و موسیقی دی جی روبین جاوید فضای جشن را پرشورتر ساخته بودند.



Photography by Asma Zaka

Afghans dressed in traditional clothing to celebrate their culture

Children enjoyed activities and games such as face painting and Tug of War

DONATE AND HELP AFGHANS REBUILD

Afghan Communicator is a community based, grass-roots organization that was founded in 1997. Our programs are local, national and international in scope. We organize a number of cultural, educational and humanitarian projects and events throughout the year. Working towards the reconstruction of Afghanistan, AC is proud to announce the opening of its new office in Kabul.

PLEASE PRINT:

Yes, I would like to help Afghans rebuild their community here and abroad.

Full Name: _____ Tel: _____

Email: _____ Address: _____ Date _____

I am donating: Patron: \$500 Friend: \$250 Benefactor: \$100
 Supporter: \$50 Helper: \$25 Other _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ payable to **Afghan Communicator**.

* AC is a 501(c)3 not-for profit organization. All contributions of cash or in kind are tax deductible.

To learn more about our work, please visit us at www.afghancommunicator.com.