



AFGHAN COMMUNICATOR
SERVING THE AFGHAN COMMUNITY

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AHD 2006



Every year the AHD was held in August in NY; however, this year we will hold it on **Sunday May 28, 2006** at Queens College, NYC, indoors!

Programs include: Live Afghan music by Mukhtar Ghaznavi, traditional Attan dance, kids games, fashion shows, Afghan films, celebrities, speeches by NY community leaders and elected officials, Afghan clothing and jewelry, traditional ice cream "jaala", kabob, and lots more entertainment!



Singer Mukhtar Ghaznavi

Because the event is indoors, we are not at the mercy of the elements.

There are plenty of seating, and ample free parking near the site. QC is also close to public transportation. More information is available on our website <http://ahd.afghancommunicator.com>. Interested vendors, sponsors, volunteers and performers are welcomed to contact us.

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AFGHAN COMMUNICATOR  SERVING THE AFGHAN COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3

MAY — JUN 2006

EMBASSY CELEBRATES ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

On Monday, April 17, 2006, Afghan Communicator was formally invited by the Afghan Embassy in Washington DC to a reception in honor of Afghanistan's Deputy Minister of Culture, His Honor Omar Sultan, along with the Delegation of Afghan Museum and Cultural Heritage Specialists.

This event was organized by Mr. Hamed Elmi, Cultural Attaché, and sponsored by the Embassy, National Geographic Society and the Association for the Protection of Af-

ghan Archaeology. Its purpose was to raise awareness regarding the Preservation of Afghanistan's Past. Addressing the crowd, His Excellency Ambassador Said Tayeb



L to R: Poet, artist & art historian Hamed Nawid, and sculptor & founder of Kabul University's Faculty of Fine Arts, Amanullah Haiderzad with AC's Rameen Javid

Jawad reminded us of Afghanistan's treasures and the need to safeguard them.

His Honor, Deputy Minister Omar Sultan, reiterated the need to educate the public about the importance of Afghanistan's national treasures as part of



Deputy Minister of Culture, Mr. Omar Sultan and Delegation of Afghan Museum and Cultural Heritage Specialists, Ambassador Jawad, Ms. Nemece, & Rameen Javid

safeguarding the country's physical heritage. This especially resonates with Afghan Communicator's effort to restore Afghan art to its former glory.

Also present were Mr. Amanullah Haiderzad and Mr. Hamed Nawid, with whom AC is collaborating

to produce a book, the first of its kind, about Afghan art. Working with Herat & Kabul Universities, as well as independent art organizations in Herat and Kabul, Afghan Communicator aims to support Afghan artists and promote their work.

Moreover, AC plans to organize a significant Afghan art exhibition in New York early in 2007. Working with reputable art galleries such as NY-based Viridian Artists Inc, AC hopes to successfully introduce Afghan art in the US. Also present at the event was Viridian Artists' Director, Ms. Vernita Nemece.

NAWRUZ CELEBRATION

Members of AC were honored to attend Mayor Bloomberg's Naw Ruz celebration at Gracie Mansion on March 28, 2006. In attendance at the event were prominent members of the Afghan, Iranian, Azerbaijani, Central Asian and other New York City communities. Mayor Bloomberg spoke on the significance of this holiday in unifying

groups from differing religious backgrounds in a celebration of the spirit of renewal and rebirth. He also described the pivotal role that immigrant populations play in keeping our city functioning, not to mention the cultural enrichment they add to the city. The guests were delighted



AC at Naw Ruz meeting with Mayor Michael Bloomberg

to hear the Mayor close

with "Nawruz Mubarak" in his best Farsi accent.

Gracie Mansion's décor was enhanced with an "haft seen," the traditional table that bears seven items starting with the letter 's'. In good humor, the Mayor suggested adding Staten Island to the table.

With hors d'oeuvres and beverages in hand, guests mingled and enjoyed an elegant night to celebrate the awakening of the spring season. AC appreciates the Mayor's support of our culture & welcomes NY in sharing our traditional cultural celebrations.

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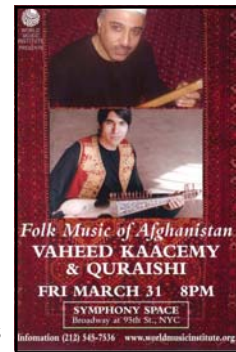
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AFGHAN PROFESSIONAL NIGHTS

In a Town Hall meeting organized by Afghan Communicator (AC) for young educated Afghans and held last year at Empire State Building in NYC, many requested a regular social outing, where young professionals in and around NYC

come together to socialize and network. Honoring that request, AC has begun organizing occasional outings to local events, which include anything from museum visits and film screenings, to a night of ghazal, poetry readings. In the past social functions have included:

- An Afghan music concert presented by The World Music Institute featuring the popular Afghan singer, Va-

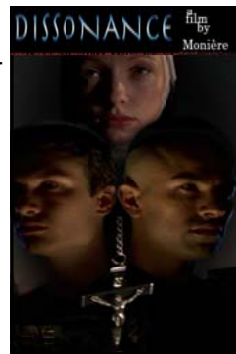


heed Kaacemy, rubab master, Quraishi, Chetram Sahni (dohl), a master of folk rhythms; and musicians on tanbur, tabla and flute

- *Via Kabul* - A Central Asian Concert with music from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan (Afghan rubab player, Homayun Sakhi with tabla player Toryalai Hashimi). Together, the three groups represented a striking combination of ancient and contemporary music that crosses boundaries of geography and culture.

- Film Screening of *Dissonance*, written, directed, & produced by new Afghan filmmaker, Moniere

- A Fashion Show by Zarif & Royah Design at Chakpalu Gallery in Manhattan. With the help of women in Afghanistan, the designers use traditional Afghan textiles to



create modern clothing. There is no obligation to join any group or committee. Come whenever you can, bring a friend or two, or come by yourself and make friends. There is no membership fee or any other extra fees aside from the general cost of the event. If you would like to be kept informed of future social events, please send a blank email to <NYAreaAfghans-subscribe@yahoo.com>. AC will send out an organized event every month or so and welcomes your ideas as to venues/activities, so please do not hesitate to email us.

Getting to Know Afghan Art



Deh Morasi and Mundigak are located in Southern Afghanistan. Between 4-5,000 years ago an urban civilization rose in these sites. There is also evidence of early religious developments: pillared buildings, altars, goat horns, goat scapula, hollow copper tubing, and pottery figurines – all of which suggest previous performance of religious ritual. Pottery figurines of a classic Zhob Valley Style are considered to represent the mother-goddesses. The figurines have full forms to symbolize their power over life and fertility, and their ugly appearance symbolizes power over death. Deh Morasi was abandoned about 1500 B.C. Mundigak continued to survive and to suffer two invasions before it was abandoned about 500 years later after existing for 2000 years.

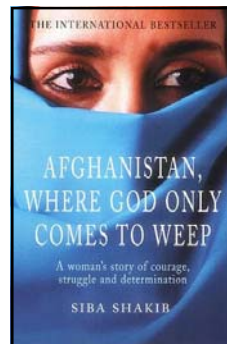
BOOK REVIEW:

Afghanistan: Where God Only Comes to Weep, A woman's story of courage, struggle and determination

By: Siba Shakib

Author Siba Shakib, originally from Iran, traveled to Afghanistan for research while writing this novel. The story begins at a refugee camp in Afghanistan, where the narrator meets the protagonist, Shirin-Gol, an Afghan woman in her thirties who is desperately seeking aid for her family. She lets the narrator into her life and thus begins a dramatic and emotional journey into Shirin-Gol's past.

While the story gives a glimpse into an Afghan women's life and the conditions of Afghanistan, the reader should keep in mind that this



پرورش اطفال

پرورش اطفال در جامعه غیر افغانی دشوار است. بچند نکته ذیل توجه کنید:

۱. وقتی طفل را در کار خوب دیدید تشویقش کنید.
۲. در پیش خود یک "نقشه فکری" روزمره طفل خود را داشته باشید، از جمله رفا، رقیبان، پروگرام هرروزه.
۳. بجای لت و کوب، سرزنش کنید تا اطفال عقده نگیرند.
۴. بجای نی گفتن برایشان دو چیز دیگر برای انتخاب پیشکش کنید.
۵. حرفی که بطفل میزنید خود نیز تعقیب کنید و عقده خود را از اطفال نگیرید.

برای معلومات بیشتر با خانم شری شکوهی صحبت کنید. ۲۲۱- ۹۸۱-۹۹۹-۷۱۸

is a work of fiction, and one that is not written by an Afghan. Thus, the images of Afghanistan, its culture and the misery and devastation facing its people are coming from an outsider's perspective. Nonetheless, the novel is a chilling and sometimes shocking account of one woman's life and the challenges she faces in a country ravaged by war.

SALAMAT: Parenting Skills

It is a fact that parents want to do right by their kids and kids want to engage with their parents. Yet these are particularly difficult times for both, especially for immigrant families who also have to contend with a huge cultural gap between the parents' experience in their home country and that of their children in the U.S. The following suggestions have been shown to go a long way in improving parent/child relationships:



- Praise your kids; "catch them being good!" and avoid excessive criticism, humiliating comments, or putdowns.
- Maintain a "mental map" of your kids' daily life (friends and foes, likes and dislikes, daily schedule).
- Use "time-outs" and "positive reinforcements" to shape their behavior and NOT punishment or hitting, which makes them feel powerless, unfairly treated, angry, and models violence & aggression.
- Give them choices (for example, to wear a coat or a sweater; to eat cereal or bread), and let them contribute at home (cooking, making their bed, cleaning up, etc.).
- Practice what you preach, because "children do what they see," and manage your stress so you don't take out your frustrations on your kids.

For more information on this topic, refer to *Raising an Emotionally Intelligent Child: The Heart of Parenting* by John Gottman, or contact Sherry Shokouhi, a psychotherapist, at the Asian Outreach Clinic of the Queens Child Guidance Center in Elmhurst, NY. She can be reached at 718-899-9810 x221.

Editor's Notes

First, happy belated Naw Ruz! May the melting snows of Hindukush wash away the collective stains of the past 25 years; may the spring waters end the long and difficult draught; and may the coming of the 'new day' usher in positive change for us all!

One cannot forget the past and must draw lessons from it. It is our past that brought about the present, and in turn the present will determine the future. No future should be met without a plan and no present should be lived complacently.

At Afghan Communicator, we determine our goals for the year against the backdrop of our mission. We then decide what projects should we involve ourselves to have the greatest impact with our limited resources. It is our relentless pursuit with reasonable objectives and self criticism that made us continue on the right path for so long.

Through all of our achievements, it is the staff and board of Afghan Communicator, as well as our friends and supporters who have made Afghan Communicator the most active Afghan organization in North America. In short, we are as good as the people who support us.

AC will be screening Afghan films in June and July at Flushing Library as part of a Film Festival which will focus on the themes of Reconstruction and Afghan Women. For more info on Afghan films, visit aff.afghancommunicator.com

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.

PLEASE PRINT:

Yes, I would like to support Afghan Communicator's efforts.

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.