



AFGHAN COMMUNICATOR
SERVING THE AFGHAN COMMUNITY

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New Email List for NYC

We have created a list server for those who are interested in getting information about upcoming events and announcements in NY, NJ, CT & PA. This list would have a more detailed list of events and not all events are Afghan events.

If you wish to receive limited e-mails about events and announcements that you can attend in the NY area, please subscribe directly.

The new list announces upcoming seminars, jobs, events, volunteer opportunities, rallies, announcements, etc. To subscribe, please send a blank e-mail to the following address:

NYAreaAfghans-subscribe@yahoo.com

Please note that this is in addition to the Weekly List of Afghan Events server, which reaches 1,400 members worldwide. You can subscribe to this list by sending a blank e-mail to: AfghanEvents-subscribe@yahoo.com

DARI CLASS

Register now for the fall 2003 Dari classes, taught at Hunter College by a qualified and experienced instructor. For more information call the AC office at 718-445-6438 or e-mail Rameen@afghancommunicator.com

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COMMUNITY BULLETIN

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5

SEPTEMBER 2003

AFGHAN HERITAGE DAY IN NY

On Sunday, August 17th, over 2,000 Afghans joined together to celebrate the annual Afghan Heritage Day celebration. This was the second year that AC had the pleasure of hosting the event. In spite of the temperamental skies, the aftermath of the blackout and a new location, many families came out to the spacious and lush green

SUNY College at Old Westbury campus to enjoy a day of music, food and mingling.

The day's activities

began with the traditional Quran reading by Mr. Hasibullah Qurbanzada and Ms. Aziza Sultan. The crowd was then welcomed by a children's march organized by the Afghan School at Whitestone. Children dressed in Afghan

clothing, greeted the attendees with a welcome train and then sang a chorus. Throughout the day, the crowd was kept entertained by the traditional adult and children's Attans, as well as the ever popular fashion show. DJ's Fawad and Jawed kept the energy level high with upbeat Afghan sounds and the live music of

everything from chandeliers, Afghan jewelry and clothing to hot kabob dishes and traditional Afghan ice cream (jaalah). People had a chance to talk to organizations recruiting for positions available in Afghanistan as well as Afghan authors, discussing and signing copies of their books.



Khalil Ahmadi's singing attracted a crowd of dancers and spectators

Although the day's program was cut short by the torrential down-pour, an energetic crowd, a greener venue and the attraction of vendors/musicians combined to create a memorable celebration of Afghan culture. AC was hon-

ored to have had the chance to hold AHD for the second time and looks forward to joining the community for an even greater success next year!

Khalil Ahmady moved some people to their feet. Mr. Sadiq who traveled all the way from Philadelphia read a moving poem in Pashtu.

Westbury's green field was crowded with vendors selling



Assemblyman Grodenchik poses for a picture with Rameen Moshref at AHD



Mr. Jorge Mendizabal, Director of Language Unit of NYC, visiting an AHD vendor admires Afghan jewelry.

IMMIGRANT WORKERS FREEDOM MARCH

Afghan Communicator took part in a rally organized by The New York Immigration Coalition on Saturday September 20, 2003, to connect local issues to national freedom ride, which will take place at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park on October 4, 2003.

The march, which began at 37th Ave and 82nd Street in Jackson Heights and ended

at Linden Park on 42nd Ave and 103rd Street in Corona, called for:

- Equal and safe access to city and state services by immigrants through language access (Intro. 38) and confidentiality protections (Intro. 326).
- Ending bias/hate crimes in Queens and New York.

- Rights of street vendors, day laborers, and domestic workers.

Present at the rally were elected officials including Senator John Sabini, Assemblyman Jose Peralta and City Council Member Hiram Monserrate, as well as immigrant community leaders and immigrant workers from the community.

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OPEN LETTER TO THE AFGHAN COMMUNITY

Dear Friend,

Afghan Heritage Day 2003, held on Sunday August 17th at SUNY College at Old Westbury was a great success! Vendors and participants alike traveled from as far away as California, Florida, Virginia and Connecticut to be a part of the celebration.

The blackout of August 14 was an ominous prelude to our event, but in the end we experienced a tremendous turnout as over 2,000 people attended throughout the day. His Honor Thomas R. Suozzi, Nassau County Executive recognized the positive contributions of the Afghan American community and proclaimed August 17, 2003 "Afghan American Day". In a letter of support, Senator Hillary R. Clinton recognized the valuable and productive contributions of the Afghan community to the United States, and specifically recognized the efforts of Afghan Communicator toward improving the quality of life for Afghan Americans. New York State Assembly Member Barry S. Grodenchik, Nassau County Assistant District Attorney Mr. James Clarke, and Mr. Jorge Mendizabal, Director of Language Unit, NYC, Office of Immigrant Affairs, Department of Youth & Community Development, also honored us with their presence and

support.

The Afghan Communicator staff, board and volunteers worked diligently on Afghan Heritage Day for six months to present the best possible program. As you know, this is an arduous task but one that is very important to our identity. Thank you for your e-mails, phone calls and words of encouragement. We also appreciate the constructive criticism offered by attendees; it is your wisdom and support that inspires us to improve and excel.

Last year we were applauded for our programs – such as the attan competition, fashion show, and kids' activities – and this year we made sure to improve and expand our programs. The issues most commonly raised from last year concerned the dusty venue, lack of security, short program hours, and lack of kabob vendors. Accordingly, this year we changed the location to a greener and cleaner venue, hired extra security, extended the program hours to 8 PM, and made sure to have at least one kabob vendor.

Our main objective is to continue to promote our culture and to educate our children and others about our rich heritage. Afghan Heritage Day is the day

we gather en masse to show the world who we are and to assert our identity as Afghans and Americans. Please know that your support of this event, and our other events, is crucial to the success of our community as a whole.

Again, we thank you for your support and hope to count on you for future events. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Rameen Javid Moshref

Executive Director



National Attan Dance at AHD by attendees.

COLUMBIA PANEL

Asian American clubs of Columbia University organized a panel of activist to encourage the freshman class to be civically active. Among the panelists were Glenn Magpantay, Staff Attorney at the Asian-American Legal Defense & Education Fund, Jimmy representing Commissioner Sayu Bhojwani and Rameen Javid Moshref, Executive Director of Afghan Communicator. In his speech Rameen expressed the need for formation of an alliance to coordinate joint efforts toward a common goal.

A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE—9/11

AC joins the Afghan, greater New York and global community in remembering the countless lives lost on September 11, 2001 and in its aftermath. On the second anniversary of the tragic event, we at AC took time to reflect on the incredible spirit of the people of New York and the changes that have taken place in Afghanistan as a result of the WTC disaster.

The people of New York, including Afghan-Americans, paid tribute to the solemn occasion by attending memorial services, participating in candlelight vigils or spending time at home with loved ones.

We are encouraged to see that

NY has done more than "move on" and that the people in Afghanistan are today experiencing a freedom they had almost forgotten. We hope that the international community will continue to be vigilant in its efforts to curb terrorism and to encourage peace worldwide.



Worldwide Language Resources

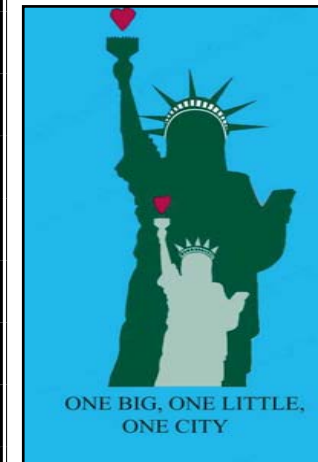
Bridging the Gap Between Cultures
P.O. Box 125, Andover, Maine 04216
Tel 207-364-5866 Fax 207-364-5867

BIG BROTHER BIG SISTER

Big Brother Big Sister (BBBS) of New York City invited Afghan Communicator's Rameen Moshref and Wida Amir (who is also part of South Asian Youth Action) to take part in a Dialogue With Muslim Leaders with the focus on Helping Muslim Youth and Stopping Bias Through Mentoring.

This Centennial Celebration Lecture Series took place Thursday September 18, 2003 at the BBBS conference room in Manhattan. Rameen Moshref underlined the importance of empowering the Muslim community to heal itself, while Wida Amir stressed the need for young people to receive help and guidance.

BBBS needs your help as a mentor for young people of various backgrounds. Please contact them directly at (212)686-2042 or help@bigsnyc.org.



AHD Crowd enjoying festivities.



Young men dancing in front of Stage at the Afghan Heritage Day—August 17, 2003



Families picnicking on the lush green grass & enjoying the festivities throughout the day at the Afghan Heritage Day.



AC staff taking part in the Immigrant Workers Freedom Rally



Led by Chinese dragon drums, the Rally passed through Jackson Heights with organizations displaying banners.

جشن افغانی در نیویورک

در ۱۷ اگست ۲۰۰۳ افغان کمیونیکیتور (Afghan Communicator) جشن افغانی را در لانگ آیلند برگزار داشتند که اضافه از ۲۰۰۰ هموطن از چهار گوشه آمریکا تشریف آورده بودند.

آقای تامیس سوزی، رئیس ناسا کاونتی (Nassau County Executive) و خانم هیلاری کلینتون، سناتور نیویورک این جشن را برسمیت شناخته و از زحمات جامعه افغانی و افغان کمیونیکیتور قدر داری کردند. از جمله مهمانان، آقای باری گروندنچک، عضو اسیمبلی نیویورک، آقای جیمز کلارک، معاون دسترکت اتورنی ناسا، و آقای جورج میندیابل، دایرکتور دیپارتمنت جوانان شهر نیویورک تشریف داشتند. پروگرام با تلاوت چند آیه از قران شریف به آواز حسیب قربانزاده و بعدا عزیزه سلطان شروع شد. سپس اطفال مکتب افغانی وایت ستون، به کمک آقای حکیم عزیز، مارش کردند و بعدا در روی سٹیژ ترانه زیبای خواندن. در طول روز، پروگرامهای مختلف از قبیل پروگرام اطفال، فیشن شو، اطن، و موسیقی خلیل احمدی، و دی جی فواد و دی جی جاوید فضای جشن را پرشورتر ساخته بودند.

مارش مهاجرین

در ۲۰ سپتمبر، اعضای افغان کمیونیکیتور در مارش که برای خواستن حق برابری برای مهاجرین و مسلمانان گرفته شده بود شرکت کردند. این مارش که در جکسون هایت کوینز برگزار شده بود، به استقبال مارش بزرگی که در ۴ اکتوبر در فلاشنگ میدو پارک با اشتراک از ده ها هزار نفر از سراسر آمریکا برگزار میشود، گرفته شده بود. از هموطنان عزیز خواهش نمودیم که در این مارش شرکت گرفته و با آواز بلند به دولت آمریکا ناراضیت خود را بخاطر رفتار ناگوار پولیس و دفتر ایمیگریشن در مقابل افغانها و مسلمانان هویدا بسازند. برای معلومات بیشتر بدقت ما لطفا تیلیفون بزنید.



The Immigrant Workers Freedom Rally ended at a Corona Park, with moving speeches.