

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

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IMMIGRANT WORKERS FREEDOM RIDE

On Saturday, October 4th, *Afghan Communicator* joined thousands in a rally for the rights of immigrant workers and their families. Flushing Meadows Corona Park was teeming with proud families, banners and flags. Vendors sold colorful clothing and jewelry, while the enticing aroma of curries, grilled corn and kebabs filled the air.

The day's celebration was the culminating event of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride. In the spirit of the freedom rides of the sixties, over 900 immigrants and supporters rode from major US cities to Washington, DC to deliver a list of demands to Congress. The trip then continued

from DC to NYC for the grand finale in Flushing Meadows with over 100,000 immigrants, their families and other supporters in attendance.



Guest speakers included: Congressman John Lewis, Council Member Robert Jackson.

NYC Council Members - John Liu, Yvette Clarke, Hiram Monserrate, Diana Reyna and Miguel Martinez

Entertainment was provided by Wyclef Jean.

In an article in *The Nation*, writer Julie Quiroz-Martinez recounts a conversation she had with an Afghan immigrant on a bus during the Freedom Ride: "Olia tells me how she fled Afghanistan when the Taliban came to power, leaving behind three children. 'I never forget...I do 18 hours every day and save all my money. After 4 years, my children come.'"

Immigrants, including Afghans, work in the US in every field ranging from health care to agriculture. AC was proud to participate in an event of this magnitude and importance.

AC AT THE IMMIGRANT WORKERS FREEDOM RIDE



Fahima and Nadia representing AC at the Immigrant Freedom Ride Event at Flushing Meadows Park



100,000 people gathered for the finale of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride

SOCIETY OF AFGHAN ENGINEERS CONFERENCE

The "International Planning Conference for the Empowerment of Afghan Professionals" organized by the Society of Afghan Engineers was held this past month from October 3rd through October 5th at the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey.

The three-day conference

was a joint effort and was co-sponsored by the Stevens Institute and the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations. High level officials of the Afghan government were invited including the Ministers of Public Works, Education, Higher Education, Rural Rehabilita-

tion, Public Health, and Communications, as well as the Chancellor of Kabul University and the Dean of the School of Engineering.

Representatives of *Afghan Communicator* were present for the duration of this conference.



The Conference offered a myriad of panels by experts.

انجمن انجینیران افغان

انجمن انجینیران افغان از ۳ الی ۵ اکتوبر در ستیفان انستیتوت شهر نیوجرسی یک کانفرانس بزرگی را جهت گردآوری افغانان فنی و پروفیشینال دایر کردند. چندین تن از وزیران افغانستان درین کانفرانس تشریف داشتند. اعضای افغان کمیونیکیتور درین کانفرانس همکاری و شرکت داشتند.

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UTAH CONFERENCE

On October 17 & 18, Utah University held its first conference on contemporary issues of the Middle East and Central Asia. Titled, "Contemporary Affairs and Future Prospects," the conference was organized by the departments of Middle East & Central Asia, Politics, and Economics.

Rameen Javid Moshref of *Afghan Communicator* attended the conference to present his paper on "Afghans Abroad: the Generational and Ideological Divide." Rameen also chaired a panel on "Contemporary Issues in Afghanistan," which included Afghan scholars such as Dr. Wali Ahmadi, from University of California-Berkeley, who gave a talk on "Contemporary Afghanistan in Transition." Dr. Abdul-Qayum Mohmand, from the University of Utah, presented a paper on "The Rise and Decline of the Taliban." Looking to the future, Mr. Hekmat Karzai of the Afghan Embassy in Washington DC discussed "Afghanistan: The Challenges Ahead."

Rounding out the panel was Mr. Hekmat Sadat, a PhD candidate from the Claremont University Consortium, who gave an overview of the "Political History of Constitutional Development in Afghanistan." *Voice of America* taped the panel and interviewed some of its participants.

AC also presented a film by filmmaker Sam Edwards, which covered the return of some Afghan ex-patriots from the US to help in the reconstruction. The 90 minute film called *Nameh Shab* [Name of Night] is available for viewing and purchase at the AC office.

In addition to a variety of screenings of Middle Eastern and Asian films, the two-day conference included prominent key-note speakers. Attendees were treated to a complimentary Middle Eastern dinner along with a spectacular performance by the Central Asian dance ensemble.

کنفرانس شهر یوتا

در ۱۷ اکتوبر پوهنتون یوتا که در شهر سالت لیک سٹی موقت دارد برای اولین بار یک کنفرانس آسیا مرکزی و شرق میانه را برگزار کرد که در آن ده ها تن از دانشمندان اشتراک داشتند. در جز افغانستان داکتر عبدالقیوم مهمند و آقای حکمت سادات با میزبانی آقای رامین جاوید مشرف از دفتر افغان کمیونیکیتور صحبت نمودند. بخش پشتو صدای امریکا با اراہ کنندگان صحبت مختصر داشتند.



مارش مهاجرین

در ۴ اکتوبر اعضای افغان کمیونیکیتور در مارش که با کمک از چندین موسسات کارمندان و مهاجرین ترتیب داده شده بود شرکت کردند. اضافه از یکصد هزار شخص از چهار گوشه امریکا درین مارش حصه گرفته بودند. چندین تن از سیاستمداران نیویورک و هنرمندان سرشناس نیز شرکت داشتند.

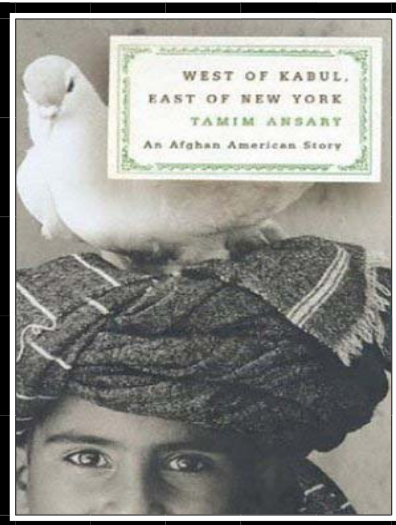
BOOK REVIEW: WEST OF KABUL, EAST OF NEW YORK

Tamim Ansary's *West of Kabul, East of New York* is an engaging narrative that can, at times, feel like a casual conversation with the author. It is an account of one Afghan-American's journey through Afghanistan, the United States and the Middle East with a look at its contemporary political atmosphere.

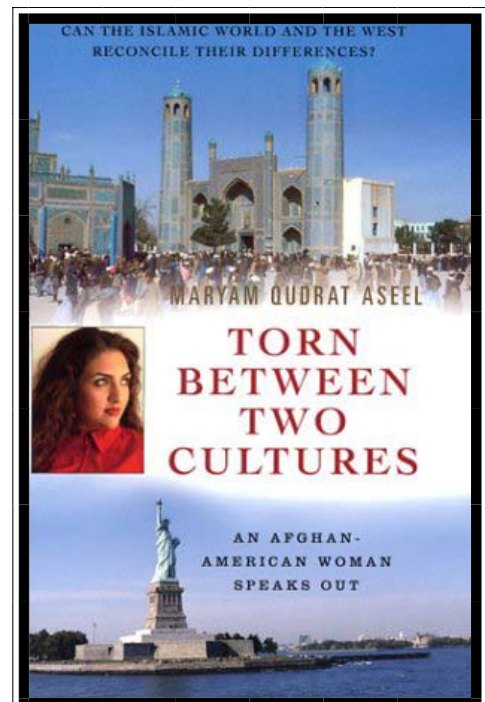
The author touches on family, history, religion, politics and growing up. Ansary shares his struggles with cultural identity and his feeling of being torn between two seemingly opposing hemispheres.

For the non-Afghan reader, *West of Kabul* is a peek into an Afghan household with its intricate family dynamics and customs. The Afghan reader may feel quite at home in the book as names like "Khan Kaka" and "K'koh" and settings like Lashkargah and Deh Yahya echo a certain familiarity.

This book is an opportunity to get to know the man behind that famous post-9/11 email and to reflect on how two worlds can be reconciled to create an Afghan-American identity.



For review of *Torn Between Two Cultures* please see page 4



NEED ASSESSMENT SURVEY

برای دانستن ضروریات هموطنان عزیز، لطفاً این سروی را پر کرده دوباره برای ما بفرستید تا ما بتوانیم سرویس های مطابق را فراهم سازیم. در شماره بعدی، این سروی به دری نیز ترجمه میشود.

In order to serve the community better, we need to determine what services are needed. Please take a moment to complete this form and return it to us by mail or fax. Please answer to the best of your knowledge.

Please check the answers that apply to you.

What services do you find most useful? Please rank them as 1, 2, 3...

I need help with:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Counseling | <input type="checkbox"/> Tax Returns | <input type="checkbox"/> Job Placement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small business development | <input type="checkbox"/> Voting & elections | <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tutoring for children | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer/internet | <input type="checkbox"/> Adjustment to life in the U.S. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration & legal issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement plan/investments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daycare | <input type="checkbox"/> Language translation (Dari or Pashto) | <input type="checkbox"/> College Advice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English Classes for Adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Dari or Pashto classes for children | <input type="checkbox"/> Citizenship services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Internship Placement | | |

Others _____

How far are you willing to travel for these services? Choose all those that apply.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anywhere in Queens | <input type="checkbox"/> Anywhere in Brooklyn | <input type="checkbox"/> Anywhere in Manhattan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anywhere in NYC | <input type="checkbox"/> Anywhere in Long Island | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I can't travel, I live in _____ | | |

(Borough or Town)

Others _____

About you

Age: Under 18 18-25 26-39 40-50 51-65 65 & over

Gender: Male Female

Resident Zip Code: _____ - _____

Borough: _____

Tel/Fax: _____

(Queens, Manhattan, Brooklyn, Bronx, Staten Island, Suffolk, Nassau)

(Optional)

E-mail: _____ **Address:** _____

(Optional)

(Optional)

Additional concerns/ comments: _____

Please consider providing as much information as possible. We want to know who the community is so we can best service your needs. Your information will be kept confidential. Thank you for your cooperation. Please mail or fax the completed form to:

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BOOK REVIEW: TORN BETWEEN TWO CULTURES

Torn Between Two Cultures by Maryam Qudrat Aseel is the exciting and incredible story of a young Afghan-American woman caught between her Afghan and American identities during a wartime situation.

Not fully Afghan or American, Aseel's remarkable story resonates with most young Afghans in the States and elsewhere who are struggling with their identity especially in the aftermath of 9.11.

Aseel touches upon almost all aspects of Afghan-American life moving from her own experiences to her family, friends, and even

strangers. She frankly discusses the important issues of religion and culture. In so doing, Aseel paints a vivid picture of the experiences that have shaped her bi-cultural identity.

Her struggle with a vexed bicultural identity leads her to advocate efforts towards a better understanding between what is roughly understood as the East and the West.

This book is an intriguing journey into one woman's life as she struggles for a self-identity, and it's a must-read for all who are torn between two cultures.

DARI CLASS

Register now for the next session of 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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