



Welcome to the November edition of AAFSC's newsletter!



Last month was an exciting time for AAFSC as we celebrated Domestic Violence Awareness Month with a very special event. Our Executive Director, Lena Alhusseini, was honored by the White House as a Champion of Change for AAFSC's work to address domestic violence in the Arab American community of New York City. The event was live streamed on the White House website, but can be found [on AAFSC's blog](#) in case you missed it. Ms. Alhusseini was also asked to write a [blog post](#) for the White House Champions of Change [website](#), where she

spoke about addressing domestic violence through a culturally-competent model. Ms. Alhusseini said that "it was such a great honor to be recognized for the important work that AAFSC does to combat domestic violence in our community."

This month, AAFSC is participating in and holding some very exciting events that explore a slew of issues. Check out what we have in store and we hope to see you at the events below.

As always, we would love to hear from you with any comments, suggestions or ideas. E-mail us at info@aafscny.org or call us at 718-643-8000. You can also connect with us on our [Facebook](#) page.

"War Redefined"

November 2, 2011 at 6:00 PM
Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute

47-49 East 65th St. (btwn Madison and Park)
New York, NY 10065
T: 212-650-3174

The **New York Women's Foundation** in partnership with **Hunter College** invites you to a special film screening and panel discussion on "**War Redefined**," the capstone film in the powerful PBS five-part series, *Women, War, & Peace*.



The screening will be followed by a panel discussion, featuring series co-creator **Abigail Disney**; AAFSC's Executive Director, **Lena Alhusseini**; Executive Director of the Service Women's Action Network, **Anuradha Bhagwati**; and Executive Director of Sauti Yetu Center for African Women, **Zeinab Eyega**. Welcoming Remarks will be made by **Jennifer J. Rabb**, President of Hunter College.

The series reveals the changing landscape of war, in which women are becoming primary targets and suffering unprecedented casualties, and the necessary partners in brokering lasting peace across the globe.

RSVP to: ebraune@nywf.org

Screening: Eid Milad Laila (Laila's Birthday)

November 17, 2011 at 7:00 PM
150 Court Street, 3rd Floor

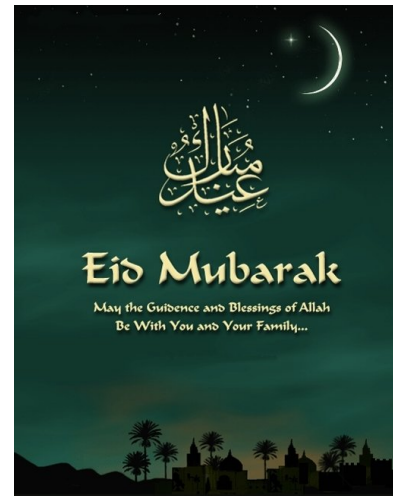
AAFSC and [Alwan for the Arts](#) present a free screening of *Eid Milad Laila* at AAFSC.

Palestine / Tunisia/ Netherlands, 72 minutes, Arabic with English subtitles

Gaza-born director Rashid Masharawi captures the absurdity of the Palestinian situation in this comically deadpan, stop-and-start "road trip"



Eid Mubarak



The Board of Directors and staff of AAFSC would like to wish everyone a happy Eid!

During this time of year, please remember those less fortunate. You can help support families in need by making a [donation](#) to AAFSC or [purchasing items for our clients](#). Items purchased must be shipped to our office (150 Court Street, 3rd Floor, Brooklyn, NY, 11201). Please send an email to info@aafscny.org with your address and the items you donated in order to receive a tax receipt. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Fearless Factor Woman of the Year Award

November 11, 2011 at 5:00 PM
Metlife Building



The [Fearless Factor](#) Woman of the Year Award celebrates women who stand up for what they believe and make enormous strides in changing their community. This year, AAFSC's Executive Director, Lena Alhusseini, will be honored alongside Saranne Rothberg of ComedyCures.

through the land of checkpoints and barriers. A former judge who still retains his regal bearing, Abu Laila (stone-faced Mohamed Bakri, a Palestinian Buster Keaton) now drives a taxi to make ends meet. His customers are a motley cross-section of Ramallah's citizens: a young Romeo who hires the taxi to have a place "alone" with his lover; a housewife who'll stop anywhere there's a free-food giveaway ("Is this Fatah? Hamas? Who knows? I just saw a line and got in"), armed militia members (to whom Abu Laila points out the "NO SMOKING" and "NO AK-47s" signs) and, in one dramatically complicated case, an ex-convict who leaves his cell phone in the cab. Our harried hero is also trying to regain his former position (his frequent trips to the Ministry of Justice are both comical and heart-breaking) and, today at least, needs a birthday cake for his daughter. Using Abu Laila's travails as a window into contemporary Palestine, Masharawi reveals a situation both more complicated than one could image and one that is universally human. Most of all, he captures the surprising beauty of Ramallah ("I wanted the city to be a character and different from the way others have depicted it before," he notes) and the unshakable spirit of its people. "Through [Abu Laila] we can face ourselves as Palestinians," says Masharawi, "and where we are going in all this."

Arab American Communities and Disabilities Conference

December 10, 2011 at 8:30 AM
Doubletree Hotel, Somerset, NJ

Join AAFSC at the [Arab American Communities and Disabilities Conference](#) in Somerset, NJ as our Executive Director, Lena Alhuseini, discusses best practices when working with the Arab American community.

This workshop, which will take place at 11:15 AM, will provide an overview of over 17 years in providing social services to individuals and families in the Arab American Community in New York. Successes and challenges faced by AAFSC will be shared, along with recommendations and best practices in providing social services in the community.



[Join us](#) at the award show. Partial proceeds from the event will go toward AAFSC and ComedyCures. We hope to see you there!

Save the Date!

17th Anniversary Benefit Gala: Artists Who Bridge Cultures

April 12, 2012
6:30 - 9:30 PM

Helen Mills
135 East 26th Street

Join AAFSC for our 17th Anniversary Benefit Gala as we honor and celebrate artists and arts-based organizations that create and utilize unique ways to engage communities and build bridges, including:

[Polyphony Foundation](#) &
[Alwan for the Arts](#)

For information on sponsorship and silent auction donations, please contact Sara Elghobashy at 718-643-8000 ext. 19 or sara@aafscny.org.

Quick Links



About Us

The Arab-American Family Support Center is a non-profit organization that empowers new immigrants with the tools they need to successfully acclimate into the world around them and become active participants in their communities.

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