



The Arab American Family Support Center

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Arab American Family Support Center Newsletter

June 2011

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the summer edition of the AAFSC Newsletter! It's an exciting time for us at AAFSC.

First and foremost, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of you who joined us at the Prince George Ballroom on April 7. It was a very special evening as we caught up with old friends and met new ones, and were privileged to honor four incredible people who have inspired us all. For more information and photos, please see below.

The 7th annual Arab American Heritage Park Festival is coming up on July 17th - so mark your calendars now. We have an amazing line-up of gifted Arab American female musicians - so this is an event that cannot be missed! More details below.

Our Summer camp and SAT intensives are in place - as we look forward to another summer of fun and learning for our young people. Our Adult Literacy Program continues with citizenship and English conversation classes. We are also excited to announce that we just started our pre-GED classes at our Court Street location - so far we're fully enrolled but have started a waiting list for interested clients.

We will also continue to provide our

A Brooklyn Woman of Distinction!

Congratulations to AAFSC's Executive Director

The Board of Directors and staff of AAFSC would like to congratulate Executive Director Lena Alhusseini on being selected as a Brooklyn Woman of Distinction. Courier Life Publications



chose 25 women who have made tremendous contributions to the Brooklyn community and Lena is one of their honorees!

A gala event will be held on June 22, 2011 at the [New York Aquarium](#) on Coney Island to celebrate all of the women who have contributed to the borough. Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased by contacting Carol Magluilo at 718.260.8319 or cmagluili@cnglocal.com.

Click [HERE](#) for a special publication from Courier Life on the Brooklyn Women of Distinction.

Fighting to Maintain
Essential City Services!

clients with a variety of fitness classes that include Belly Dancing for Fitness, Yoga and Mat exercises, and a women's walking club.

With so many cuts to essential social services in the city, coupled with the increased influx of refugees from the Middle East in light of the Arab Spring, we need your support now more than ever. Anything you can contribute will make a difference and is truly much appreciated.

I'd love to hear from you with any comments, suggestions or ideas, so please feel free to contact me directly at 718.643.8000 or lena@aafscny.org.

You can also let us know what you think by commenting on our [Facebook](#) page.

Warmest regards,

Lena Alhusseini

A Very Special Evening!

AAFSC's Annual Fundraising Event



AAFSC's annual fundraising gala was held on April 7, 2011 at the [Prince George Ballroom](#) in Manhattan and we'd like to thank the friends and supporters who joined us at the event. We'd especially like to thank our four honorees: Abigail Disney, Dr. Ahmad Jaber, Helen Saman and James Hood. They truly are "Leaders Who Inspire Communities."

It is because of our tremendous supporters that AAFSC is able to continue providing comprehensive social services to the Arab American community of New York City. To see more pictures from the party, please click [HERE](#).

AAFSC joined with organizations from around the City to fight budget cuts

On Thursday, May 12, AAFSC staff members, volunteers and clients joined



with other New York City organizations to protest the drastic cuts to the City budget, which will greatly impact the most vulnerable members of society - particularly new immigrants.

We'd like to thank [United Neighborhood Houses](#) and the [Human Services Council](#), along with many other organizations, for organizing the rally. Together, we can show the city that programs that help immigrant communities are essential and will ultimately help the City grow.

Giving Back to the Community!

Arab American Service Day

On Saturday, May 14, AAFSC staff members and volunteers



participated in the Seventh Annual Arab American Service Day. On this day, Arab Americans across the United States engaged in public service projects to contribute to their communities.

This year, AAFSC sponsored two events. One team of volunteers spent the day digging up plant beds in the [Brooklyn Promenade Park](#) while the second group spent the day with senior citizens at the [Cobble Hill Health Center](#). It was a great day for all involved!

Summer Youth Program

Activities for kids of all ages!

We've got a busy summer planned for the kids in our youth program! We'll have fun games and activities for 2nd to 5th grade students and a Civics Education Program for 6th to 8th grade students, where the kids will learn more about government and how policies are created.

For high school students, we will be offering an intensive SAT preparation class that meets two nights per week.

For more information or to enroll your children in these FREE programs, please contact Edward Kim at 718.643.8000 ext. 39 or edward@aafscny.org.

This summer, we'll also have a special program for girls ages 14 to 19 called Digital Battleground: Women and the Media which will explore the way women and girls are portrayed in television, film, magazines and other forms of media. The six week course will meet four days per week from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Space is limited and applications are due by June 17, 2011. For more information, contact Sara Elghobashy at 347.560.6577 or sara@aafscny.org.

Stories of the Forgotten

Giving Women a Voice



On Tuesday, March 29, AAFSC hosted Stories of the Forgotten in honor of Women's HERstory Month. The event included a collection of stories from women whose voices are rarely heard in the mainstream. The collection illustrated the diverse experiences of women living in America.

Special thanks to our partners and supporters for the event: [Korean American Family Service Center](#); [Women](#)

AAFSC's Annual Health Fair

Valuable information for the community!

Our annual health fair is scheduled for Friday, June 17 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm in front of our office on 150 Court Street in Brooklyn. We'll have many partner organizations available to offer: blood screenings for diabetes, cholesterol and blood pressure; confidential HIV testing; and information on a wide range of topics including breast cancer, lead poisoning, health insurance plans, child safety and much more!

Our partners include: [Dodge YMCA](#), [The New York office of the US Department of Health and Human Services](#), [New York State Department of Health](#), [New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene](#); [Mount Sinai School of Medicine](#); [Brooklyn Hospital](#), [Long Island College Hospital/SUNY Downstate](#), [Chase Bank](#) and [Northwestern Mutual Insurance](#).

Women's Economic Empowerment

Providing valuable information to the women we serve!

AAFSC is starting a new program to promote economic empowerment for women. We will be hosting bi-weekly workshops in both English and Arabic on a wide range of topics, including: basics of banking; budgeting; credit cards; resume writing and how to look for a job.

The workshops will be conducted at our Court Street office. For more information, please call 347.560.6577 and ask for Sara Elghobashy or Peter Volkmar. You can also email sara@aafscny.org or peter@aafscny.org

Our Supporters

Our thanks to those who keep us going!

[for Afghan Women](#); and [Women's Islamic Initiative in Spirituality and Equality](#).

Save the Date!

Our Annual Park Festival is only a month away



Be sure to join AAFSC and [Alwan for the Arts](#) at the Seventh Annual Arab American Heritage Park Festival on Sunday, July 17 from 1 pm to 6 pm at [Prospect Park](#) in Brooklyn! The theme of this year's festival will be Celebrating Arab American Women and will include performances by some truly gifted performers. Come join us for a fun day of day of music, dancing, fun and games for the kids and great food.

We're working hard to find some incredible performers for this year's show and it's shaping up to be the biggest and best event we've ever held! Come join us at the 15th street entrance to the park.

As always, we'd like to thank the government agencies, foundations and corporations that support the work that we do. It is because of them that we are able to provide comprehensive social services to the Arab American community of New York City: [NYC Children's Services](#); [NYC Department of Youth and Community Development](#); [NYS Office of Children's and Family Services](#); [US Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women](#); [Daphne Foundation](#); [Brooklyn Community Foundation](#); [Brooklyn Perinatal Network](#); [Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services](#); [National Network of Arab American Communities](#); [New York Community Trust](#); [Lily Auchincloss Foundation](#); [Jean and Louis Dreyfus Foundation](#); Marilyn M. Simpson Charitable Trust; [Healthy Families Brooklyn](#); [Olayan America Corporation](#); [Nathan Cummings Foundation](#); [Tides Foundation](#); [Atlantic Philanthropies Employee/Designated Gift Fund](#); The offices of [Council Member Brad Lander](#); [Council Member Sara Gonzalez](#); [State Assembly Member Joan Millman](#); and [State Senator Daniel Squadron](#).

Although we can't name them all here, we'd also like to thank the individuals who have made contributions to AAFSC; we appreciate your support!

Get to Know us!

Meet the Newest Members of the AAFSC Team

Urbi Dev joined AAFSC in May 2011 as a Preventive Services Case Planner. She graduated from the University of Edinburgh with a M.Sc. Degree in Cultural Studies and from Franklin & Marshall College with a B.A. Degree in English. Prior to joining AAFSC, she worked as a Research Assistant at UT Southwestern and was an Executive Board Member of the Alice Drum Women's Center at Franklin & Marshall and has volunteered extensively with homeless infants and children. She is also a fluent Bengali speaker.

Kay Myles joined AAFSC as the Assistant to the Executive Director in May 2011. She has an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor's Degree in Forensic Psychology from John Jay College, as well as a Master's Degree in General/Special Education from Touro College. Ms. Myles has experience in teaching,

social services and finance.