



Arab American Association of New York Newsletter

June 2008

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Dear Friends of AAANY,

First off, I would like to **thank all of those who have supported us** thus far through our **1st Annual Spring Appeal**. We have already raised \$1,000! With your support we can reach our goal of \$3,000. The funds we receive through this appeal help to support the events and programs you read about in this newsletter every month. For information about giving, please visit our website at www.ArabAmericanNY.org.

As the summer months quickly approach, our staff has been in high gear preparing for summer programming (Youth Summer Program) and events (Bay Ridge Arab American Bazaar). We've also had a month filled with outreach events both within in the community and reaching out to other New York City communities. The office remains a hub of activity. This past month we've not only provided services to many established clients, but also served over 30 new individuals and families!

I hope you enjoy learning more about the happenings in and out of the Association. As always, should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact our staff at (718) 745-3523 or by e-mail at ArabAmericanNY@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Dr. Ahmad Jaber
Board President

Features:

The Arab Community Comes Together for Service Day

On Saturday May 17th, Arab American Organizations across the country participated in the **4th Annual Arab American Service Day**, organized by the *National Network for Arab American Communities*. The goal of service day is for Arab communities across the nation to reach out to non-Arab communities nearby and help with service projects. The projects begin building bridges amongst communities.



AAANY, along with the *Network of Arab American Professionals – NY Chapter (NAAP-NY)* and the *Arab American Family Support Center (AAFSC)*, reached out to the African immigrant community in Harlem. Volunteers from our organizations spent the day helping to clean and beautify the *African Services Committee's* office space. They are a social service organization that has been serving the African immigrant community for over 25 years. We are hopeful that this project will not be the last with the *African Services Committee*. **Thank you to all the volunteers that came out and helped!**

Increasing Health Awareness in the Community



On Friday May 30th, the community room at Beit El-Maqdes Mosque was filled with people getting their blood pressure and blood sugar checked, getting

information about health insurance, diabetes, asthma, breast cancer and other health related issues. The annual health fair, organized by AAANY, was attended by an estimated 150 people. Physicians covering podiatry, dentistry, internal medicine, pediatrics, pulmonary medicine and more, as well as representatives from the *AMBER Project*, *Visiting Nurses* and *The Arab American Family Support Center*. The event was sponsored by *Beit El-Maqdes Islamic Center*, *Lutheran Family Health Centers*, *Health Plus*, *YWCA of Brooklyn*, & *Pharmacy on Fifth*. **Thank you to all the organizations and health care professionals that came out to help increase health awareness in the community!**



Program Updates:

Boys Basketball

The team hasn't yet played an official game, but the boys have been busy practicing. A scrimmage against Al Noor School is being planned sometime in the next couple weeks. Keep an eye on our website for game postings.

Truth About Immigrants Campaign: Salaam Series

The first workshop of the series was presented at Millenium High School in Manhattan. The presentation was received well. We look forward to continuing the presentations in the coming weeks at International High School at Prospect Heights in Brooklyn.

Beyond the Office:

Choosing a School

This past month AAANY has been visited by the New York City Department of Education Magnet Program Office in an effort to increase the awareness of magnet schools and the parent's choice as to the options available. Magnet Schools are schools of *choice*. Applications will be available starting in September, 2008. For more information, please contact Geraldine Scotto at (718) 759-4977 or (718) 420-5661.

Upcoming Programs/Events:

Girl Talk / Girl Talk Jr.

This coming month Girl Talk and Girl Talk Jr. (ages 9-18) will be having a Kareoke Saturday and Basketball game in which they'll take on our boys team or play against each other. For more information, please contact Raja at rajaalthabani@gmail.com

Youth Summer Program

Registration is now open for our Youth Summer Program for youth ages 7-12. The program will run from July 8th – Aug. 14th on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 am – 3pm. The youth will enjoy educational excursions around Brooklyn, arts and crafts, learning Debkeh and much more! The cost is \$60 per child and \$40 for each additional child from the same family. Registration is first come first serve. Please call (718) 745-3523 or come by the Association to register your child(ren).

Be sure to save the dates for the following events. Please visit our website for more information.

June 15th – Outlandish in Voices for Change comes to New York! The concert is at The New Balance Track and Field Center at the Armory from 6pm – 9pm.

Please visit

<http://www.masyouth.net/voicesforchange> for more information and to purchase your tickets now!

July 9-16th - ArabAmerican Heritage Week, events throughout the five boroughs.

July 13th – Bay Ridge Arab American Bazaar at Shore Road Park.

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