

Algerian-American Association of Greater Washington

Friends of Algeria

New Board of Directors

Washington DC,
November 1, 2001 —
The Algerian-American Association of Greater Washington (AAAGW) elected a new Board of Directors at its annual meeting on October 21, 2001 in Bethesda, Maryland. About one third of its members attended the meeting. Expected to hold their positions for two years, the new Board of Directors are:

Abdenmour Azeddine,
Yassine Belkhodja,
Naim Bentahar,
Nadira Boumechal,
Radia Lalouani,
Nacer Megherbi,
Taoufik Ouatas,
Houria Sammari,
Abdel-illah Stambouli.

Subsequently, the new Board of Directors announced the election of the following officers:

President - Naim Bentahar
Vice-Pres.- Houria Sammari
Secretary - Taoufik Ouatas
Treasurer - Yassine Belkhodja

Friends of Algeria

Algerian-American
Association
of Greater Washington
P.O. Box 65063
Washington, DC 20035

Email: foa@aaagw.org
Web: www.aaagw.org

Message of the President

By Naim Bentahar, President

As the newly elected President of AAAGW, I am honored and gratified for the opportunity to serve in this capacity at this very difficult period of the life of the Association. I am well aware of the challenges and responsibilities that come with the privilege of being in this position and I look forward to meeting these challenges and fulfilling my responsibilities. I know I can count on the support of many of you.

There are many issues and problems that continue to plague our Association. We must search within ourselves and examine the way we view this organization and each other as members of this association, as well as how we view our role in the struggle to overcome these challenges. We cannot afford to sit on the sidelines. We cannot afford to pretend and act "as usual." It is my hope that starting with this year, we will finally use our collective time, talents and resources to create a "revolutionary spirit" to positively impact the Association's future.

The past month has not only been a time of reflection for the new Board of Directors but it has also been a time of taking stock of AAAGW's accomplishments today and where we should be placing our energies for the next couple of years. I am so mindful that a small Association such as ours, cannot do and be everything for all. We must make choices. But one of the most important goals is to restore members' confidence and trust in this Association and to increase its visibility on both the local and national levels.

We have much work to do. Let us join together to make this one of the most powerful and productive year in AAAGW's history. How can we restore your confidence in your Association? Drop me a line at president@aaagw.org

Flood Victims Fundraising

By Yassine Belkhodja, Treasurer

The Algerian-American Association of Greater Washington has started a fundraising effort to benefit the recent flood victims in Algeria. As you probably know, the devastating mudflows and floods which hit the Algerian capital and much of the coastal belt on November 10 have left hundreds of people dead, injured or homeless.

AAAGW has sent letters to all its members and alerted other Algerian communities in the United States though the Internet. The response has been phenomenal. We have received dozens of contributions and words of encouragements. Several other Algerian-American Associations in the US have joined effort with us.

Volunteers at the World Bank have also joined in the Fundraising effort and have setup tables at building entrances to collect money. There again the response has been tremendous.

AAAGW and Andaloussia, the local Algerian band, have organized a fundraising sahra to collect more contributions for the flood victims.

As of the time of this article we have already collected over \$12,000. This is a great achievement for the Algerian community both in our area and across the United States.

The funds collected will be transferred to Algeria through the following Non-Governmental Organizations:

SoliMed, for the purchase of medications for the victims,
the Lion's Club of Algiers, for the rebuilding of a clinic in Bab El Oued, and
the Algerian Red Crescent, for its work on the ground.

 More information is available on our website.

RAMADHAN 2001

The Meaning of Ramadhan

The blessed month of Ramadan is with us. During this month, it is prescribed for every Muslims adult, male and females, if in good health to fast from dawn to sunset. The sick, invalids and travelers are not required to fast while they are in their particular situations of discomfort.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar based on the lunar calendar (29-30 days in a month). It is 10 days shorter than the Gregorian (regular) calendar. In this month God (Allah) sent down his final message – the Quran- for all mankind through Prophet Mohammed (pbuh). In this month Muslims revive their faith, renew their commitment to Allah, refresh their knowledge of the Quran, and remove any ill feelings against each other.

In this month there is a night that is more meritorious than one thousand month (i.e., 83 years & 4 months). In that night the angels of Allah descend by the permission of their Lord with every blessed command. The night is peaceful and blessed until the break of the dawn. It is called the Night of Glory and Power (leilatu el Qadr). During this night, it is recommended to say the invocations (du'as) and perform extra prayers.

Ramadhan Moubarek to all of you.

Did You know?

Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam. The others are the declaration of faith (Chahada), performing the regular daily prayers, making the mandatory donation (zakat) and performing the pilgrimage to Mecca if one can afford it.

EID CELEBRATION! KIDS BEWARE!!!!

You are invited to a Eid Celebration
Sunday, December 16, 2001 - 2:00 PM
Bethesda-Chevy Chase Service Center

Lots of Fun for Kids, including:
2:00 pm Fair booths
(face painting, arts and crafts, games and prizes)
3:30 pm Story Telling
4:00 pm Gifts for kids

Please bring your desserts/pastries to share, Tea, Coffee/Soft Drinks will be served
For further information or to volunteer for an activity, please call Radia Lalouani at (202) 473-5187 or send an email to social@aaagw.org.

The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda, Maryland USA 20814.

Thanksgiving Day Celebration

The origin of Thanksgiving Day has been attributed to a thanksgiving festival held by Plymouth colony in December 1621, although such celebrations date from ancient times. From early colonial times the various American colonies celebrated thanksgiving days in recognition of such happy events as good harvests and victories over the Indians. One of the first proclamations was made in Charlestown, Massachusetts in 1676. President George Washington in 1789 issued the first presidential thanksgiving proclamation in honor of the new constitution. During the 19th century an increasing number of states observed the day annually, each appointing its own day. In 1941 both congress and the



President designated the fourth Thursday of November as Thanksgiving day. Thanksgiving remains a day when many express gratitude to God for blessings and celebrate material bounty.

Thanksgiving is traditionally celebrated with a family dinner around a turkey, stuffing and gravy, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie.

Halal turkeys are now available from most halal meat stores (see next page).

Zakat El Fitr

To bless their fast, Muslims are requested to give a financial donation to the needy. It is equivalent to the price of one descent meal (\$8-\$10). You can donate your "Zakat El Fitr" to AAAGW who will in turn send it to the needy in Algeria.

Algerian Iftar

During Ramadan, a variety of traditional Algerian dishes are prepared for dinner. Amongst the favorite ones is the traditional Chorba soup. In other parts of Algeria, Chorba can be called Djari, Hrira or other names. This soup is

Ramadhan Recipe

DJARI FRIK



Ingredients:

- ½ pound of lamb,
- 1 chopped onion,
- 1 hand-full of chickpeas soaked the day before,
- 1 bunch of coriander,
- 2 freshly-pureed tomatoes,
- a spoon of tomato concentrate,
- 3 spoons of oil,
- 1/4 teaspoon of black pepper,
- 1 teaspoon of salt,
- 3 cloves of mashed garlic mixed with a spoon of ground coriander,
- a few dried mint leaves,
- 1 cup of FRIK (cracked wheat)

Preparation:

Cut the meat into small pieces, put in a pot, grate the onion, add the coriander, salt, black pepper and oil. Cook during a few minutes while mixing, then add the FRIK and the mashed garlic mixed with the ground coriander and a glass of water, cook for another 5 minutes. Cover with water, add the tomato puree and tomato concentrate, chickpeas and let cook for about 40 minutes.

Serve with some lemon, fresh coriander and the dried mint.

usually accompanied by boureks, traditional meat rolls and then followed by a main dish.

Later mint tea, coffee and sweets complete the dinner. It is usually shared in the company of extended family and friends.



Local Mosques

Islamic Center of Washington,
2551 Massachusetts Avenue,
NW, Washington, DC 20008
Phone: 202-332-8343

The Muslim Community Center (M.C.C.),
15200 New Hampshire Ave.,
Silver Spring, MD 20904
Phone: 301-384-3454

Dar Al-Hijra,
3159 Row Street,
Falls Church, VA 22044
Phone: 703-536-1030

 *The complete list is available on our website.*

Upcoming

Muslim Holidays

Eid EL Fitr

– December 16, 2001

Eid El Adha

– February 25, 2002

Awal Mouharam

– March 15, 2002

Mawlid Ennabaoui

– May 24, 2002

Halal Grocers

The District of Columbia

Orient Foods,
2116 18th Street, NW, Wash-
ington, DC 20009
Phone: 202-265-7100

Maryland

Al-Tukbeer Halal Meat,
800 Ingleside Ave, Catonsville,
MD 21228-1722
Phone: 410-788-3737

Bismillah Halal Meat ,
1401 University Blvd E,
Hyattsville, MD, 20783-4029
Phone: 301-434-0051

Indus Food,
15511 New Hampshire
Avenue, Silver Spring, MD
20904
Phone: 301-989-9448

Rockville Gourmet Halal Meat,
1331 Rockville Pike, Rockville,
MD 20852-1444
Phone: 301-424-4444

Sabah Halal Meat,
1366 Holton Ln, Hyattsville,
MD 20783-4606
Phone: 301-434-8282

Virginia

Al-Amana Market,
3811 South George Mason
Drive, Falls Church, VA 22041
Phone: 703-379-5539

American Halal Meat Market,
7653 ENF Fullerton Road,
Springfield, VA 22153
Phone: 703-451-9240

Arlington Grocery and Halal Meat Center,
3425 Wilson Blvd, Arlington,
VA 22201-2235
Phone: 703-527-9720

Asian Halal Meat & Spices,
200 Old Ox Rd, Sterling, VA
20166-0941
Phone: 703-478-0002

Crescent Halal Meats,
2105 N Pollard St, Arlington,
VA, 22207-3811
Phone: 703-243-0444

Fair Price Supermarket,
5703-C Edsall Road, Alexan-
dria, VA 22304
Phone: 703-751-0786

Farrar Grocery & Halal Meat,
156 Enterprise St. B, Sterling,
VA 20164-3276
Phone: 703-450-5531

The Gourmet Basket,
6829 Tennyson Drive, McLean,
VA 22101



Are you under 18?
Do you want to serve
your community?
AAAGW
needs you!
Join the Youth Committee

Phone: 703-848-2456, Fax:
703-827-7341

Halal Food Company,
10967 Lute Ct, Manassas, VA
20109-2440

Phone: 703-257-1383

Halal Meat Market,
108 E Fairfax St, Falls Church,
VA, 22046-2902

Phone: 703-532-3202

Halal Meat & Spices,
4231 Markham St Q,
Annandale, VA 22003-3023

Phone: 703-941-2000

Halal Meat and Spices,
313 Spring St, Herndon, VA
20170-5212

Phone: 703-904-7000

Halalco,
108 E Fairfax St, Falls Church,
VA, 22046-2902

Phone: 703-532-3202

Khatib Butcher (Skyline),
3817-G South George Mason
Drive, Falls Church, VA 22041
Phone: 703-845-9388

Lebanese Butcher,
113 East Annandale Road,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Phone: 703-533-2903

Mediterranean Bakery,
352 South Picket Street,
Alexandria, VA 22304

Phone: 703-751-1702

Mount of Olives,
3405 Payne Street, Falls
Church, VA 22041
Phone: 703-379-1156,

Fax: 703-379-1307

Mustafa Halal Market,
13255 Occoquan Rd,
Woodbridge, VA 22191-1041
Phone: 703-490-1756

Seven Stars Halal Market,
6333b S Kings Hwy, Alexan-
dria, VA 22306-1052
Phone: 703-660-6755

Sharieff Halal Meat Market,
5135 Lee Hwy, Arlington, VA
22207-1603

Phone: 703-536-4322

Star Halal Meat & Groceries,
4221 Fairfax Dr, Arlington, VA
22203-1606

Phone: 703-875-7626

Tu-Tu Halal Meat,
3811-A South George Mason
Drive, Falls Church, VA 22041
Phone: 703-998-5322

 *The complete list as well as halal restaurants and other businesses is available on our website. If you know of other stores, do not hesitate to send them to us.*



Eid Stamp

The Postal Service issued the Eid stamp on September 1 of this year as part of its holiday series. Designed by calligrapher Mohamed Zakariya, of Arlington, the stamp displays the Arabic words Eid Mubarak. Seventy-five million Eid stamps were issued

September 1 and sales figures will determine whether the Eid stamp is reissued next year. The U.S. Postal Office reports that if a new stamp is re-issued three times, it will then become a

permanent part of the United States Holiday Collection.

In order for this Eid stamp to mark the American history, you should encourage your family members, friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers and others in your community to continuously buy this stamp. You may have noticed that our AAAGW has started using this stamp almost exclusively.

The Eid stamp is available for purchase online at the Postal Store www.usps.com. You can also get them by calling toll free 1 800 STAMP-24.

TRISTES NOUVELLES DE NOTRE PAYS LE PLUS CHER "ALGERIE"

By Radia Lalouani

Vendredi 9 novembre à 10 heures du matin, est un jour de gloire pour le peuple Algérien. Le peuple retrouve le sourire et l'espoir de vivre. Leur souhait s'est enfin exhaucé! En effet, quelques jours avant, plusieurs personnes se sont réunies dans les mosquées du quartier pour faire la prière de la pluie.

Ce jour là, dans le cadre d'une mission de la Banque Mondiale, je profite de quelque temps libre pour aller me recueillir sur la tombe de mon Père située à quelques kilomètres d'Alger. Inutile de vous dire que les conditions de conduite étaient extrêmement pénibles. D'un coté les routes glissantes, et d'un autre le brouillard épais, qui ne facilitaient guère la visibilité. Bien que nous roulions à petits pas et avec prudence, ceci ne nous a pas empêché d'être témoin d'au moins cinq accidents de voitures graves, dont deux dans lesquels les passagers ont trouvé la mort.

Depuis ma chambre d'hôtel, située à vingt minutes d'Alger, la pluie, le vent, les orages, et les vagues sont au rendez-vous du jour «J». Le bruit fracassant et foudroyant m'empêche de dormir. Je me réveille vers 6 heure du matin pour me préparer à partir sur Alger centre pour rencontrer le Ministre Boukrouh. Instinctivement, j'allume la

télé pour regarder les infos, en vain. J'allume la lumière, de même. En fait, les employés de l'hôtel Sheraton ont pour la première fois connu, me dit-on, une coupure d'électricité. Les pluies diluviennes continuent, les vagues agitées et monstrueuses débordent, les vents sifflent de part et d'autre, les orages effrayants vibrent et le sol blanc est couvert de grêle. Je descend au lobby où mes collègues et moi attendons impatientement le chauffeur depuis 9 heures du matin. Ne sachant pas l'ampleur et la gravité du désastre qui a touché notre pays, nous avons décidé d'aller à notre rendez-vous.

A notre grand ébahissement, nous avons été témoin de près ou de loin de la catastrophe qui a envahi notre pays. Nous nous sommes trouvés au milieu d'embouteillages monstres qui ne menaient nulle part, sous les pluies toujours diluviennes. Des manifestations se sont regroupées rapidement par des sinistrés furieux demandant au gouvernement de se manifester pour constater les dégâts causés par les pluies et les inondations qui ont emporté leurs maisons. Les gens énervés se tapaient dessus et se lançaient des cailloux. En vain, nous avons essayé de prendre des raccourcis où nous avons été témoins de voitures



Floods and mudflows cause hundreds of victims in Algiers

les unes sur les autres, renversées, enfoncées dans la boue et inondées. Après plusieurs tentatives, nous avons décidé de repartir à l'hôtel. Le lendemain matin, je suis partie à Alger pour continuer ma mission. Sur mon chemin, je lu sur les visages de nos compatriotes leur tristesse, leur déception, leur misère. Cependant, malgré cette tragédie nationale le peuple Algérien n'a pas perdu sa Foi, dit le chauffeur.

Avec le recul, durant mon trajet sur Washington, j'ai revu d'une part les images de la tragédie, qui a fait plus de 700 victimes identifiées et 300 autres disparues, et d'autre part, mon égoïsme, qui voulait que ma mission soit un succès. En effet, sachant que ma

mission s'achevait dimanche, je devais absolument obtenir des dossiers importants menant à la signature du Projet. Ainsi, j'ai réalisé combien, aujourd'hui, les tragédies sont banalisées dans notre société où le monde de travail est plus important que tout.

J'aimerais, au nom de la communauté Algérienne de Washington, transmettre nos condoléances les plus sincères aux familles touchées par la catastrophe.

 *The article is published here in its original French version, a translated English version is available on our website.*

It's time to renew your membership

It is the time of the year when you need to renew your membership. Memberships in AAAGW follow the calendar year, so your 2001 membership will end on December 31,

2001. New memberships and renewals are accepted from September to December for the following year.

If you are not yet a member, now is the time to join and support your association. AAAGW cannot get stronger and better without the continu-

ous help and support of its members.

Membership in AAAGW are still \$40 for families, \$25 for individuals, and \$15 for students.

Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to assist the Board of Directors in achieving the goals of the association. Contact the Secretary at secretary@aaagw.org