



As we approach the end of yet another challenging year, we wanted to provide our dedicated supporters and readers a glimpse into a few initiatives AAAWA members have been working on the past few months. This year has no doubt been a taxing one for our loved ones in Afghanistan and for us in the diaspora. As we try to navigate the ongoing uncertainties that confront our communities, we thank you for your ongoing support and enter the new year with a renewed sense of love and hope.

AAAWA GoFundMe Update

For those who would like to support our GoFundMe Campaign, it is still active. Please visit [our GFM Page](#) to get more updates on how we have been able to help vulnerable Afghan artists seeking evacuation.

Afghanistan Crisis Resources

For more resources on supporting the crisis in Afghanistan, please visit this [infographic](#) identifying important local (to the central VA area), national and international organizations aiding Afghan nationals, including the following:

NATIONAL

- [Afghans for a Better Tomorrow](#)
- [Afghan Diaspora Hub](#)
- [Afghan Diaspora for Equality and Progress](#)
- [Afghans Empowered](#)
- [Afghan American Foundation](#)
- [Afghan American Community Organization](#)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Action for Afghanistan](#)
- [Hazara International](#)

AAAWA Voices on Recent Events

- [Afghan women have a long history of taking leadership and fighting for their rights](#)
- [For some Afghan women, the U.S. and the Taliban are a problem](#)
- [After the withdrawal, U.S. Museums need to tell a richer story about Afghanistan](#)

- [Bay Area Afghan Artists Step Up in Response to Crisis Facing Artists in Afghanistan](#)
- [Concern grows for Afghanistan's cultural heritage under new Taliban rule](#)
- [Meet The Afghan Artist Who Wants To Help Creators Free Themselves From The Taliban](#)
- ['The lives come first': Why Western cultural institutions need to support Afghan artists](#)

"UNDOING THE IMPERIAL IMAGINATION" PANEL DISCUSSION

AAAWA members recently participated in a panel discussion titled "*Undoing the Imperial Imagination: Afghanistan and a History of the Present*" at the University of Virginia. The panel explored imperial geopolitics and diplomacy, international media and development, and cultural expertise in today's Afghanistan. Drawing on insights from Afghan and diasporic scholars in the fields of History, Anthropology, Media Studies, and Diplomacy Studies, the panel offered a nuanced and contextualized analysis of the current situation in Afghanistan.

Panelists:

- Ali A. Olomi, Pennsylvania State University
- Farkhondeh Akbari, Australian National University
- Morwari Zafar, Georgetown University
- Wazhmah Osman, Temple University
- Moderated by Helena Zeweri, University of Virginia

You can watch a recording of the panel [here](#).

Shabe Yalda

a solstice for AFGHANISTAN



Artwork: Shahzia Sikander, Emanate, 2021

On **December 28, 2021** join us across the stars, in digital celebration of Shabe Yalda, to lift up the voices of Afghans as we take part in a millennia-old tradition of connection, reflection, and renewal of our human bonds.

With lullabies and stories from artists and human rights advocates who recently escaped from Afghanistan, and music, poetry, and visual arts from immigrant and diaspora heritage artists Zohra Saed, Hamid Rahmanian, Nilufar Karimi and Eliseo Ortiz, Kevork Mourad and Kinan Azmeh, Fakhria, Mai Der Vang, Tyler Duncan and Erika Switzer, Mamak Khadem, Lisa Marie Simmons & Marco Cremaschini, Shahzia Sikander, and Shamsy Sun.

Hosted by Ariana Delawari

- **Register at this [Eventbrite Page](#)**

Update on Bi-Lingering: The Language of Letters

Labkhand Olfatmanesh and Gazelle Samizay recently received a grant from [ARTogether](#) to continue their project Bi-Lingering, so you still have time to [sign up](#) and participate to receive a limited edition art card! They also conducted the workshop “Dear Bi-Lingering: The Language of Letters” at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, as part of the After Hope Symposium. It was a powerful in-person event that validated the importance of sharing our experiences with bilingualism to shed shame and create connections between us. If you are interested in hosting a workshop, please [contact](#) Gazelle and Labkhand.

Happy Holidays!

During these difficult times we would like to extend our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. Happy Holidays!



Afghan American Artists and Writers Association

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