



Arab American National Museum

NEWS

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AN EVENING OF PALESTINIAN ARTISTRY AT AANM

Dearborn, MI (October XX, 2007) – In conjunction with the Arab American National Museum's current exhibition, *Threads of Pride: Palestinian Traditional Costumes*, a special evening celebrating various aspects of Palestinian identity has been scheduled for Thursday, October 18, 2007.

The public is invited to attend a free reception, lecture and slide show on Palestinian embroidery styles and their interpretations presented by Rabiah Shafie of the Palestine Aid Society, beginning at 6 p.m. A question and answer session and a sale of embroidered items follow the lecture. The reception includes free refreshments. Those wishing to attend should RSVP to 313.624.0200 or fsaad@accesscommunity.org.

Later that evening, at 7:30 p.m., the Ford Comerica Global Thursdays concert series at the AANM offers a rare Midwestern appearance by New York-based actor/author Betty Shamieh. Her triumphant, sold-out performance at the AANM in February 2006 is considered a highlight in the history of the Global Thursdays series, garnering enthusiastic audience response that in part led to this return engagement.

Shamieh, a Palestinian American, will present a one-woman show features excerpts from her many plays. Tickets for the performance are \$8 for Museum Members and students; \$10 in advance at the Museum or by phone with a credit card at 313.582.2266 or 313.624.0215; and \$12 at the door. It takes place in the Museum's intimate, 156-seat Auditorium.

Betty Shamieh has two plays premiering during the current New York theater season. Her play *ROAR*, starring Annabella Sciorra and Sarita Choudhury, premiered off-Broadway and was selected as a *New York Times* Critics Pick for four consecutive weeks in 2004. Her honors include a National Endowment for the Arts grant, a Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center residency and a New Dramatists Van Lier Fellowship.

The Palestinian American Shamieh is a graduate of Harvard University and the Yale School of Drama, and in 2005-06 served as a Fellow for the Harvard/Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study, working on a play about the experiences and challenges facing Arab Americans. Read more at www.bettyshamieh.com.

Sponsors for the Global Thursdays concert series include: Ford Motor Company; Comerica; The Wallace Foundation; National Endowment for the Arts; Metro Times; and DoubleTree Hotel.

Threads of Pride, which remains on exhibit in the AANM's Main Floor Gallery through November 25, 2007, is comprised of over 40 embroidered dresses and ceremonial costumes, dating from the early 20th century, from the collection of Hanan and Farah Munayyer, founders of the Palestinian Heritage Foundation of Caldwell, New Jersey.

While the art of embroidery is common to many cultures around the world, Palestinian embroidery is unique not only for its striking, and almost exclusively, red and black intricate patterns, but also for its cultural and social meaning. Once a traditional craft practiced only by village women, Palestinian embroidery has taken on new meaning as an artful expression of Palestinian identity. With each passing phase of history, the tradition of spinning, weaving, dyeing and embroidering textiles has been held in high esteem. *Threads of Pride* addresses the struggle to sustain this important aspect of Palestinian cultural heritage and identity despite a displaced and fragmented society.

The exhibition is free with Museum admission. It is presented with support from The Wallace Foundation.

The Arab American National Museum documents, preserves, celebrates, and educates the public on the history, life, culture, and contributions of Arab Americans. We serve as a resource to enhance knowledge and understanding about Arab Americans and their presence in this country. The Arab American National Museum is a project of ACCESS, a Dearborn, Michigan-based nonprofit human services and cultural organization. Learn more at www.arabamericanmuseum.org and www.accesscommunity.org.

The Museum is located at 13624 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn, MI, 48126. Museum hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Closed Monday, Tuesday; Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Admission is \$6 for adults; \$3 for students, seniors and children 6-12; ages 5 and under, free. Call 313-582-2266 for further information.

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