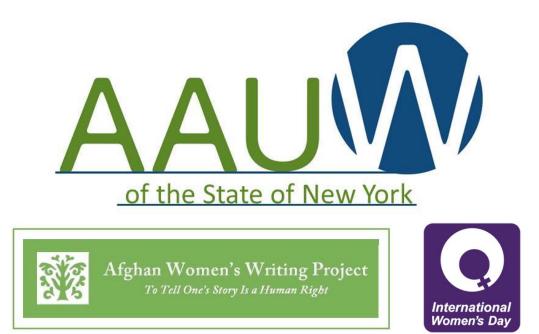# "Connecting with Afghan Women and Girls Though Their Writing and Poetry"

an International Affairs and Cultural Interests Program in a Box
for International Women's Day, March 8, 2014: *"Inspiring Change"*

Program Summary

AAUW NYS members from around the state will host readings and discussions of poetry and prose written by Afghan women and girls in celebration of International Women's Day and Women's History Month.

Objectives

- To celebrate the communal and global spirit of International Women's Day by connecting with women and girls from the other side of the world.
- To support and honor the hard work of Afghan women and girl writers, as well as the efforts of the Afghan Women's Writing Project (AWWP).
- To help Afghan women and girls be heard, amplify their voices, and share their stories.
- To raise awareness and foster greater understanding of the unique challenges that Afghan women and girls face and what some of them are doing to overcome them.
- To celebrate International Women's Day and Women's History Month by celebrating women and girls participating in the tradition of poetry in Afghanistan, a beautiful art with ancient roots but too few female participants.

Table of Contents

Afghan girls from Kandahar Province at a health education event in 2011
Photo by Pfc. Alicia Brand (flickr dvidshub)

Steps

1. **Plan the event and find a venue**
   a. Do you want to hold a reading as part of your branch meeting or do you want to host an event open to the public?
      i. Consider hosting a reading at a place like a middle or high school, retirement home, or community center.
   b. With your branch, decide on desired a date and time, pick a few back-up dates that work in case you have trouble finding a venue for that time.
   c. Find a venue suitable for your reading with plenty of comfortable seating and a table you can set up as a welcome booth. If you are expecting a big crowd, have a large event space, or soft-spoken readers, ask if there is a microphone system that you can use. ([AAUW suggestions for meeting venues](#))
   d. You will probably want to reserve the space for about an hour longer than your event is planned to allow for plenty of setup and cleanup time.
   e. Will you be serving any refreshments? Do you want to have refreshments available during the reading or have a tea hour and let the crowd mix at the end?

2. **Pick out some poetry, prose, and participants**
   a. Select pieces of writing to read from the AWWP website or contact AWWP to request that they send you a selection (their contact information is in the resources section).
   b. Find volunteers to read. If your event is public, in addition to recruiting your members, consider asking students, members of different organizations, and other community members to read.
      i. Either assign them a piece to read or allow them to pick from the works you've selected.
   c. Designate a "Master of Ceremonies" who will keep the event flowing and introduce each piece and reader.
   d. Request that your readers and MC arrive at least 15 or 20 minutes early so they can get comfortable and you know if you need to do any shuffling or find any understudies.
   e. Plan the structure of the event and the order that pieces will be read. Decide if you want to concentrate solely on the readings or if you want to leave time at the end for discussion.
   f. Decide how or if you want to document the event, do you have someone who will take photos or perhaps a video?

3. **Publicize**
   a. For public events, consider making flyers to post and distribute.
   b. Post information on your website, social media, calendars, etc. In addition to publicizing your particular event, share some information and other pieces from the AWWP website on your social media to generate interest.
      i. Please look over the AWWP Media and Sharing Guidelines sheet in the Resources section for best practices and other information.
   c. If you have invited people outside of your branch to read, give them information to take back to their groups and distribute.
   d. Consider writing a press release for your local media.

4. **Gather other materials**
   a. Create a program that shows the schedule of the event, it should include the title and author of each piece, as well as the reader's name and affiliation.
      i. The program should also include some information about your group, AAUW, and AWWP. Include website addresses and social media pages and consider using some information from the factsheets in the Resources section about women and girls in Afghanistan, AWWP, etc.
      ii. Consider printing booklets containing the text of the reading selections for event attendees.
   b. Print out extra copies of each reading selection, in case readers don't bring copies.

      c.   Plan your welcome booth
          i.   Near the entrance have a table with event programs and sign-up sheets requesting information from AWWP and your branch. Decide if you want to bring some display materials from your Branch, flyers, AAUW pamphlets, etc.

5. **Time to host your event!**
    a.   Arrive early to set up seating, any refreshments, and the sound system, if needed.
        i.   Reserve seats near the front for readers and have water available.
        ii.   If you're serving refreshments after the reading, set up everything you can before to minimize distractions during the event. Drape the food with napkins, a tablecloth, or some other sign to indicate it isn't being served yet.
       iii.   If you plan to use a microphone, it is best to ask to test it a few days before the event so you have time to find an alternative if it isn't working. Test the sound system again before guests start arriving.
    b.   Arrange a welcome table near the entrance with programs, information about the groups involved, and sign-up sheets for AWWP's newsletter, information from your group, etc. If you're offering refreshments, it might be good to have the refreshment table nearby so more people will stop while they wait on line or mill around.

6. **The big show!**
    a.   Begin the event by welcoming and thanking everyone, give a short introduction to AAUW and AWWP and the work each organization does.
    b.   The MC should introduce each piece by the title, author, and the reader's name.
    c.   The photographer should snap a few pictures of each reader in action. Before or after the reading, you may also want to get a photo of the whole group of readers.
    d.   End the event by talking about how to get more involved with AWWP and AAUW.

7. **Post-event wrap-up**
    a.   Send the sign-up sheet for AWWP's newsletter to contact@AWWProject.org
    b.   Send a note or email to anyone who signed up for information from your branch thanking them for their interest, welcoming them to any upcoming events, and encouraging them to join or support AAUW.
    c.   Write or email thank-you to all of the participants and to AWWP. Email or mail the readers copies of any good photos of them reading. Write some wrap-up, reflection, and thank you posts on social media. Share AWWP's page so attendees can find it easily.
    d.   Consider submitting a press release and photos to your local media about the event, AAUW, AWWP, and/or International Women's Day. Please share copies or links to any write-ups and/or press coverage with AWWP and AAUW NYS.
    e.   Fill out the brief Program Evaluation in the Resources Section.

Resources

[Meeting Space Suggestions](#)

Information about the Afghan Women's Writing Project

Afghan Women's Writing Project
History and Mission
Frequently Asked Questions
Love, Forgiveness, and Pens With Blue Wings: A Curriculum
Amazon Books: *The Sky is a Nest of Swallows*
AWWP on Facebook
@AWWProject - AWWP on Twitter

Explore and Select Poetry and Prose to Read

Index of AWWP Authors
AWWP Highlights (a small selection of AWWP participants' writing)
Oral Stories Project Interviews
Email: contact@AWWProject.org use "AWWP Friend-Raiser PIAB Selection Request" as a subject line

Materials

- **Materials Needed:**
  - Printed Supplies: copies of readings, programs, AWWP sign-up sheet, sign-up sheet for information from your branch and AAUW
  - Other: pens, water (especially for readers), a camera or cameraphone, a microphone (if needed). Also consider bringing a tablecloth, pamphlets, and display materials for the welcome table.

Links to Articles and Factsheets

Afghan Woman Fights For Women's Education: an Interview with Shabana Basij-Rasikh
Despite Education Advances, a Host of Afghan School Woes
UNICEF: Education in Afghanistan
Why Afghan Women Risk Death to Write Poetry
Afghans Build Peace, One Stanza at a Time
Women and Modern Art in Afghanistan
Unveiling Afghanistan: An Interview Series with Influential Afghans

Information about Afghanistan (Links)

Afghanistan: CIA World Factbook
Reuters: Afghanistan
New York Times: Afghanistan

Contact Information

Elise Russo, International Affairs and Cultural Interests Director, Schenectady Branch
2174 Lynnwood Drive, Schenectady, 12309 ◆ (518) 393-2470 ◆ marusso@aol.com

Jennifer Mayfield, International Affairs and Cultural Interests Director, Kingston Branch
4 Arnold Drive, Kingston, NY 12401 ◆ (914) 388-2937 ◆ jennifer.a.mayfield@gmail.com

Afghan Women's Writing Project: contact@AWWProject.org

AWWP Sharing and Media Guidelines

AWWP strongly encourages supporters to share the writers' published works online and in print. To ensure the safety of the writers, protect their intellectual property, and best support AWWP's work, ***the following sharing and media guidelines should be followed by all print, online, and audio outlets***:

- **Protection of Writers' Identities**
  - o Security is paramount for AWWP's work; many of the writers are contributing without permission from family members and/or against the wishes of their communities.
    - ▪ Because of that, AWWP only uses writers' first names and gives writers the right to publish their works anonymously or under pseudonyms. Under no circumstances may you share or publish a writer's first and last name.
    - ▪ No other identifying information about the writers may be shared (i.e. names, locations, personal details).
- **AWWP Tagline**
  - o In programs, blog posts, newsletter articles, etc. please include AWWP's full name and their tagline:
    - ▪ "The Afghan Women's Writing Project was founded in 2009 in defense of the human right to voice one's story. Poems & essays by Afghan women are published online at awwproject.org."
- **Prints and Online Reprints of Writers' Work**
  - o Reprints of works published on the AWWP blog are allowed with permission, under the following conditions:
    - • No re-editing, reprints must appear exactly as they do on awwproject.org
    - • Again, no identifiable details, last names, or recognizable photos of the authors may be shared.
    - ▪ Online reprints (i.e. blog pieces, social media blurbs, eNewsletters, etc.):
      - • All online reprints and social media references to individual pieces must include a link directly to the piece's individual webpage.
      - • Online reprints should contain at least two links to pages on the awwproject.org website (one must be a link to the piece; suggestions for the other include links to the AWWP home page, the "Get Involved" section, the author's page, etc.).
    - ▪ Hardcopy reprints:
      - • All hardcopy versions should have full attributions, including the title, the author's first name, date published, and the Afghan Women's Writing Project website as the source.
- **Notification of publication**
  - o Upon publication (print or online), links and/or sample copies should be sent to AWWP for recordkeeping and for publicity purposes where appropriate.
  - o Please also share any clippings or links to any outside press about your group's event with AWWP.

Factsheet about Women and Girls in Afghanistan

- Afghanistan was named the world's most dangerous country for women by Reuters in 2011.
- More than 87% of Afghan women and girls have or will experience forced marriage or physical abuse.
- 500 of the country's 700 female prison inmates were jailed for "moral crimes" like running away from forced marriages and physical abuse.
- Healthcare is scarce there are only 0.19 physicians per 1,000 citizens and healthcare resources are concentrated in urban areas.
    - Women's health and maternal care are especially poor. Pregnancy and childbirth complications are a leading cause of death for young women. The rate of maternal deaths per live births is 460 to 100,000, the 23rd highest rate in the world.
    - Afghanistan has the highest infant mortality rate in the world: 122 per 1000 live births. In early childhood, nearly 1 in 3 Afghan children are underweight (32.9% of children under 5 years).
    - Only about 20% of Afghan women have access to any sort of contraception.
    - Afghanistan has the 8th highest fertility rate in the world, an average of 5.54 children are per woman.
- The literacy rate is very low, despite a rich tradition of Afghan poetry that stretches back more than a millennium.
    - Only 28% of all Afghan adults are literate. It is one of the least literate countries in the world (ranking 204th out of 205 countries).
    - The literacy rate is much worse for females, only 13% of Afghan women and girls over the age of 15 can read and write.
- Demand for education in Afghanistan is the highest it has been in decades but insufficient infrastructure and a shortage of qualified teachers is holding back progress.
    - Only about 24% of Afghanistan's teachers meet the legal qualification to teach there (completing a two-year program after high school). Many teachers did not finish high school.
    - Despite Afghanistan's harsh climate, 45% of schools operate without a usable, permanent building; classes convene in tents, and under tarps and trees.
    - Fewer than 1 in 3 teachers in Afghanistan are female, who are needed to teach girls in traditional regions.
- In some areas, families still worry about sending their daughters to school because of threats from local Taliban and disapproval from local elders and the community.
    - Of the 4.2 million Afghan children not enrolled in school, 60% are girls.
    - Most girls marry by the age of 16 and such early marriage usually means that those girls drop out between sixth and ninth grade.
        - In 2011, 200 out of 412 rural and urban school districts did not have a single girl enrolled in grades 10-12.
        - In total, the high school graduation rate is about 10% but the rate is about half that for girls.
        - The average number of years children stay in school is 8 (from primary to tertiary school), boys average 10 years while girls average 6 years.
    - Child labor is also still a problem, in a 2008 study, UNICEF found that about 30% of children ages 5-14 were engaged in child labor.
- Giving women and girls greater access to education is one of the best steps toward sustainable economic and social development.

Facts about the Afghan Women's Writing Project

- The Afghan Women's Writing Project (AWWP) was founded in May 2009 by Masha Hamilton, novelist and journalist who after seeing a video of a brutal public execution of a woman named Zarmeena carried out by the Taliban. Hamilton was disturbed by what she witnessed and tried to learn more about Zarmeena and her life, but details were hard to come by. She realized that women in Afghanistan did not have the opportunity to share their own stories and be heard, their experiences and accounts were always filtered through men or the media. AWWP was founded to give women the opportunity and means to speak for themselves.
- **What does AWWP do?**
  - AWWP facilitates online and in-country, face-to-face writing workshops and mentoring programs for women and girls in Afghanistan.
  - In addition to providing instruction, AWWP provides laptops and internet service for writers. Since safety is definitely a concern, AWWP also arranges safe round-trip transportation for all AWWP writers at every AWWP event.
  - Records and broadcasts women and girls reading their work on radio stations in Afghanistan, Canada, and Spain.
  - To serve the large portion of Afghan women who lack literacy skills, AWWP is developing an oral stories program to record and share those women's experiences.
  - AWWP also reaches out to women with disabilities to encourage them to join their programs. Disabled women in Afghanistan are often the most marginalized members of an already very marginalized group.
- **Why does AWWP do what it does?**
  - First and foremost, AWWP gives women and girls a platform to tell their stories. AWWP believes that "to tell one's story is a human right." It is a right that is routinely denied to Afghan women and girls.
  - Participating in AWWP helps women and girls improve their English, writing, and computer skills, and builds self-confidence.
    - Why English? Many Afghan women and girls began learning English in refugee camps so it is a language spoken across social classes. English is the primary language of international business and diplomacy so it is a very valuable skill. Additionally, the English-language audience is one of the largest in the world so writing in English gives the women access to a broader audience
  - In the long-term, AWWP hopes to help foster a new generation of women's leadership in Afghanistan.
- **Facts and figures**
  - Since April 2010, AWWP has published more than 900 poems and essays by more than 170 AWWP writers. Over 90 women and girls from all around Afghanistan have participated in AWWP's mentorship program
  - Over 95,148 people from 187 countries have read works by the AWWP writers.
  - There are AWWP programs in five Afghan cities.
- **Firsts**
  - In 2012, AWWP's first book, *The Sky is a Nest of Swallows*, a collection of poems and essays by AWWP participants was published by Belleville Books Press.
  - AWWP opened Kabul's first women-only writing and internet café in 2012.
  - In 2014, AWWP will offer its first workshop in Dari, one of Afghanistan's languages.
- **How can I support AWWP?**
  - Read the women and girls' writing on the AWWP website. Leave feedback and comments for the writers on their pieces. Subscribe to the AWWP newsletter for updates.
  - Share the writers' work on your social media profiles and encourage your friends to read the pieces, leave comments, and share with their friends. And be sure to follow AWWP on Facebook and Twitter.
  - Host readings like the one detailed in this AAUW PIAB for other groups, consider working with local middle and high schools. Or put on a show and give a theater performance using an AWWP script.
  - Help AWWP fund their work by donating, fundraising, or volunteering your grant writing skills.
  - If you are a teacher or writer, apply to become a mentor and host an online workshop.
  - Connect AWWP with media or publishing professionals to help them get the word out.

Afghanistan Overview and Factsheet

- **Historical Timeline**
    - The first Afghan state was founded in 1747 when the Pashtun tribes unified and won independence from the Persian Empire.
    - It remained largely independent but fell under "notional British control" over matters related to foreign affairs. Primarily, Afghanistan acted as a buffer between the British and Russian empires until 1919 when it became a completely independent democratic state.
    - In 1973, Afghan democracy ended with a coup and the country became increasing unstable. In 1978, communist counter-coup took over but the new communist regime had a very tenuous grasp on power.
    - The Soviet Union invaded the following year (1979) to bolster the communist regime's flagging position and the country descended into a decade of brutal war. The USSR supported the communist sides while the US and other world powers supported the anti-communist mujahedin rebels.
    - After the USSR withdrew forces in 1989, the country plunged into greater chaos and civil wars erupted. Many different types of movements and militias crystallized in the anarchy as people struggled to stabilize the country. The Taliban emerged as one of these groups in 1994. It was supported by Pakistani forces and motivated its members and supporters with hardline religious and ethnic ideology.
    - In 1996, after more than a year of fighting and shelling Kabul, the Taliban took over the capital city and cemented the group's control over the entire country. As the group strengthened its power, its forces ruthlessly executed systemic campaigns of murder, violence, and intimidation against civilian populations. Additionally, the Taliban government enacted stringent, often brutal legal codes based primarily on ancient Pashtun tribal law.
    - In 2001, after the September 11 terrorist attacks, a coalition of US, Allied, and anti-Taliban Northern Alliance forces invaded Afghanistan in retaliation for the Taliban's support of al Qaeda, Osama bin Laden, and other terrorist networks.
    - In December of 2001, with the Afghan Taliban government clearly overthrown, the United Nations held the International Conference on Afghanistan in Bonn, Germany to set up an interim government and develop a path forward. The Bonn Conference, as it is commonly known, called for a new Afghan constitution, a presidential election in 2004, and foundation of a new legislative body, the National Assembly, to be elected in 2005.
    - In December 2004, Afghanistan elected Hamid Karzai as president and in December 2005, the first session of the National Assembly of Afghanistan was inaugurated. President Karzai was reelected in 2009 for another 5-year term. The country has made great strides in building a stable government but continues to face challenges from Taliban rebel forces and instability in some provinces, especially in the south and east parts of the country.
- **People**
    - Afghanistan's population is 31,108,077, making it the 40th most populated country in the world.
    - There are two official languages, Afghan Persian or Dari and Pashto.
        - 50% of the country speaks Dari, 35% speak Pashto, 11% speak Turkic languages like Uzbek and Turkmen, and there are 30 other minor languages like Balochi and Pashai. Many Afghans are bilingual speakers.
    - There are seven main, indigenous ethnic groups within the country:Pashtun 42%, Tajik 27%, Hazara 9%, Uzbek 9%, Aimak 4%, Turkmen 3%, Baloch 2%, other 4%
    - 80% of the Afghans are members of Sunni Muslim sects, 19% are Shia Muslims, and the remaining 1% belong to other religious groups.
    - Afghanistan has one of the lowest life expectancies in the world, ranking 219 out of 223 countries. For the total population, life expectancy is 50.11 years. It is 48.81 years for males and 51.47 for females.
    - Due to low life expectancies and high fertility rates (5.54 children per woman), Afghanistan is a young country. The median age of the population is 17.9 years old (in comparison, the median age in the US is 37.2 and in Canada it is 41.5).

Afghanistan Overview and Factsheet

- **The Country**
  - o Afghanistan is a landlocked country in South Asia. In total, it shares international borders with 6 countries, the western part of the country borders Iran. Moving clockwise to the north, it borders Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. To the extreme east, it shares a tiny 47 mile border with China. The southern border with Pakistan is the longest, stretching more than 15,000 miles.
  - o At 251,827 square miles, the country is just a little smaller than Texas or about five times the size of New York State. The terrain is dominated by rugged mountains but there are some plains in the north and southwest. Throughout the country, the climate is arid to semi-arid with very hot summers and harshly cold winters.
  - o Kabul is Afghanistan's capital and largest city with about 3.5 million residents. The city has served as a cultural and political center for various empires for over 3,500 years. The rest of the country is divided into 34 provinces.
- **The Government**
  - o The country is an Islamic Republic with a democratically elected government with three branches of government.
    - ▪ The executive branch is comprised of a president elected to five year terms and 25 cabinet ministers appointed by the president and approved by the National Assembly.
    - ▪ The legislative branch is bicameral, the National Assembly consists of the Meshrano Jirga or House of Elders (102 seats, two-thirds of members elected from provincial councils for four-year terms, and one-third nominated by the president for five-year terms) and the Wolesi Jirga or House of People (no more than 250 seats; members directly elected for five-year terms).
    - ▪ The judicial branch is headed by the Supreme Court or Stera Mahkama, which consists of the Supreme Court Chief and 8 justices. Subordinate courts include Appeals Courts, Primary Courts, and Special Courts for issues including narcotics, security, property, family, and juveniles.
  - o The legal code is a mixed system of civil, customary, and Islamic law.
- **Economy**
  - o Afghanistan's economy is working to rebound from decades of instability and violence and for now, it is dependent on foreign aid. Living standards there are remain among the lowest in the world.
  - o The country still faces a high unemployment rate, inadequate infrastructure, and shortages of skilled labor, raw materials, housing, healthcare, and energy. Corruption, ineffective governance, and uncertainty are also lingering issues that hinder growth.
  - o Afghanistan's GDP is around $33.79 billion, making it the 106 largest economy in the world. However, on a per capita basis, it ranks 216 out of 229 countries with just $1,100 per person.
  - o The growth rate in Afghanistan is currently 12.7%, the third highest rate of growth in the world.
  - o More than three quarters of Afghan laborers in agriculture (78.6%). However, that is one of the least profitable sectors of the country's economy. While that sector uses 78.6% of the country's labor, it generates less than a quarter of the country's wealth (contributes about 20% to GDP). Meaning that the bulk of the population is employed in subsistence or unprofitable production while wealth is accumulated by workers employed in other sectors much more readily, contributing to income inequality and stunting development.
  - o Infrastructure is inadequate for ensuring development and stability. For example, a majority of rural and urban populations do not have access to adequate sanitation facilities. Large portions of both populations do not have access to safe water sources. Especially in a country with serious food and waterborne diseases, this is a grave threat to public health.

Afghan Women's Writing Project

AWWP's Mission:

The Afghan Women's Writing Project was founded in 2009 in defense of the human right to voice one's story. The empowering of Afghanistan's women creates possibilities for economic independence and instills leadership abilities as it reinforces freedom of speech. The aim of the organization is to nurture, educate, and carry the voices of Afghanistan's women to the world, while offering readers unique insights into Afghan culture.

AWWP's Programs:

Online writing workshops partner international writers, educators, and journalists with English-speaking women in six Afghan provinces. Poems and essays are published each week at awwproject.org. In support of this central focus, AWWP's program also includes:

- **Safe Facilities for Computer Use:** Since 2012, AWWP has run Kabul's 1st women-only internet café, also used for monthly workshops.

- **Online Dari Workshops:** In 2014, AWWP expanded to include online workshops for women writing in Dari. This opens up opportunities for Afghan women who do not write in English. As this program grows, AWWP will be adding editors and mentors who are proficient in Dari.

- **Equipment:** AWWP provides laptops and internet service for writers.

- **Training Workshops:** In collaboration with Afghan-based agencies, AWWP provides AWWP writers with opportunities to workshop with top writers and teachers in a secure, face-to-face environment.

- **Radio Broadcasts:** At an in-house recording studio, AWWP writers record their poems and essays for broadcast on Afghan radio programs.

- **Oral Stories:** AWWP developed an oral stories component to capture the voices and stories of women who lack literacy skills.

- **Transportation:** AWWP provides safe round-trip transportation to all AWWP writers to every AWWP event.

- **Publication opportunities:** In addition to publishing AWWP writers' works online, one print & ebook has been published with a second expected to publish in 2014. This edition will be bilingual in English and Dari.

awwproject.org   Afghan Women's Writing Project   contact@awwproject.org

Afghan Women's Writing Project

AWWP's Mission:

The Afghan Women's Writing Project was founded in 2009 in defense of the human right to voice one's story. The empowering of Afghanistan's women creates possibilities for economic independence and instills leadership abilities as it reinforces freedom of speech. The aim of the organization is to nurture, educate, and carry the voices of Afghanistan's women to the world, while offering readers unique insights into Afghan culture.

AWWP's Programs:

Online writing workshops partner international writers, educators, and journalists with English-speaking women in six Afghan provinces. Poems and essays are published each week at awwproject.org. In support of this central focus, AWWP's program also includes:

- **Safe Facilities for Computer Use:** Since 2012, AWWP has run Kabul's 1st women-only internet café, also used for monthly workshops.

- **Online Dari Workshops:** In 2014, AWWP expanded to include online workshops for women writing in Dari. This opens up opportunities for Afghan women who do not write in English. As this program grows, AWWP will be adding editors and mentors who are proficient in Dari.

- **Equipment:** AWWP provides laptops and internet service for writers.

- **Training Workshops:** In collaboration with Afghan-based agencies, AWWP provides AWWP writers with opportunities to workshop with top writers and teachers in a secure, face-to-face environment.

- **Radio Broadcasts:** At an in-house recording studio, AWWP writers record their poems and essays for broadcast on Afghan radio programs.

- **Oral Stories:** AWWP developed an oral stories component to capture the voices and stories of women who lack literacy skills.

- **Transportation:** AWWP provides safe round-trip transportation to all AWWP writers to every AWWP event.

- **Publication opportunities:** In addition to publishing AWWP writers' works online, one print & ebook has been published with a second expected to publish in 2014. This edition will be bilingual in English and Dari.

awwproject.org   Afghan Women's Writing Project   contact@awwproject.org

Sign up for More Information about AWWP

![Afghan Women's Writing Project]

The Afghan Women's Writing Project was founded in 2009 in defense of the human right to voice one's story.
Poems and essays by Afghan women are published online at awwproject.org.

Name	Email Address

Program Evaluation

Please take a few moments to let us know about your branch's experience with the "Connecting with Afghan Women and Girls Though Their Writing and Poetry" Program in a Box (PIAB). We want to know what you liked and didn't like about the program and program materials and what your branch would like to see in future Programs in a Box.

You can either email Jenn and/or Elise with your responses or print it out and mail it to one of the addresses in the resources section. You can also fill this form out online: PIAB Evaluation Online Response.

Thank you for your guidance and suggestions!

1)	Generally, how enjoyable do you think this program was for participants? (1 being very unenjoyable and 5 being highly enjoyable)	1	2	3	4	5
2)	Was turnout for this event lower than average (1), about the same as always (3), or higher than average (5)?	1	2	3	4	5
3)	Please rate the degree of difficulty (1) or ease (5) of facilitating the program	1	2	3	4	5

4) What was your branch's favorite aspect or feature of this program?

5) Was the written program material helpful? What could be changed to make material for future PIABs more helpful?

6) What are some themes or types of programs that you and your branch would like to see covered by PIABs?

7) Do you have any comments or suggestions for future International Affairs and Cultural Interests programs?