

# National Conference of Arab & Muslim News Media

**March 8-10, 2002**  
**Radisson O'Hare Hotel**

Chicago, Illinois

**[www.ArabAmericanView.Net](http://www.ArabAmericanView.Net)**

## In the Aftermath of Sept. 11

**A national conference for publishers,  
editors, reporters, journalists, and writers  
for Arab & Muslim newspapers,  
magazines broadcast radio/TV,  
and online news web sites.**

**Host Committee:**

**National Arab Journalists  
Association, & the  
Arab American  
Republican Federation**

# Program Book



# **The National Arab & Muslim Journalism Conference**

is co-hosted by

the Arab American View Newspaper

the National Arab Journalists  
Association

& the  
Arab American Republican  
Federation

*which promotes Arab American involvement in the American political process.*

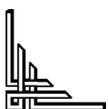
for more information, visit

[www.ArabAmericanView.net](http://www.ArabAmericanView.net)

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It is my pleasure to welcome you to this event and thank you for your attendance and support.

It is a time when our community is under siege and pressure from all sides that your support gives it the strength it needs.

Your participation is the more important because it points to the resiliency of our community and our resolve to defend it and be involved in the civil process of our country.

Our community continue to grow in numbers and importance.



This success would not have been without the hard work and dedication of men and women of our community like you.

We of the Arab American Republican Federation dedicate this event to you all.

Be proud that you are an Arab American.

**WE WILL NOT YIELD TO PRESSURE OR INTIMIDATION BUT STAND TALL.**

**-Dr. Shibli M. Sawalha,  
Chairman Arab American  
Republican Federation  
Committeeman, Homer Township  
Republican Organization  
smsawalha@aol.com**

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Welcome to Chicago and welcome to the National Conference of Arab & Muslim American Journalists and Communicators.

The purpose of this conference is to bring together our multi-talented community of journalists, communicators, public relations specialists, writers, authors and students so that we may celebrate our achievements as professionals. We want to share our talents, experiences and offer support and guidance so that we may become more effective as communicators.

As Arab and Muslim journalists, we have a special responsibility to insure that journalists who cover the Middle East, the Muslim World, our communities, apply the fundamental principals of truth and accuracy. It is our responsibility to encourage the American and Western media to do a better job of reporting so that the public sees and hears an accurate and fair presentation of the facts.

My hope is that we will use this conference as an opportunity to network, to

share and to support. By networking, we can become a stronger Arab & Muslim American news media.

This is our second conference, the first was in 1999. These conferences can serve as a foundation to build a stronger Arab & Muslim media voice, and give direction to help the mainstream American media move back towards professionalism.

If you leave this conference with anything, leave with the confidence that our Arab & Muslim media is strong and that we have a significant role to play in American society.

Thank you.



**-- Ray Hanania  
Conference Chairman**

# M.T. Mehdi Courage in Journalism Award

Dr. M.T. Mehdi was a pioneer in Arab American journalism, the publisher of ACTION Newspaper, a leading English-language Arab American newspaper. Dr. Mehdi was a high profile champion of Arab and Palestinian rights, appearing often on national television debates and discussions.



As he championed Arab and Palestinian rights, Dr. Mehdi remained dedicated to accuracy, justice and a fearless determination to face the bias that exists in the mainstream media.

The Mehdi Courage in Journalism Award was created in 1999 to recognize the achievements of individuals in the media and in communications who adhere to these principles of accuracy, justice and courage. Past recipients include Tribune columnist Salim Muwakkil, RAWI, columnist Charlie Reese, the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, TV anchor Mike Monseur, and the Beirut Times newspaper.

We are grateful to the Mehdi family for their support and encouragement in allowing this award to be bestowed each year on its recipients.

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## Al-Jazeera, the 2001-2002 Mehdi Courage in Journalism Award recipient

**T**he Qatar-based Arab World satellite television network, Al-Jazeera, was named as the recipient of the 3rd annual M. T. Mehdi Courage in Journalism Award for "the courageous pursuit of professional journalism" in its coverage of the American war in Afghanistan and the Middle East.

The M. T. Mehdi Courage in Journalism Award was established in 1999 to recognize journalists of all backgrounds and all media that display courage in the pursuit of truth and accuracy in reporting news related to the Middle East.

The award is named in honor of the late Arab American activist and journalist Dr. M. T. Mehdi, who published one of the most

widely read English language newspapers in the United States.

"Al-Jazeera has distinguished itself as having the courage to pursue the truth, to broadcast the facts that other media, particularly in the West and the United States, have refused to publish or broadcast," said Ray Hanania, a longtime Chicago area Arab American journalist who with members of the Mehdi family oversee the award each year.

"Since its inception, Al-Jazeera has given people of the Middle East, and Americans, a taste of real journalism. During that same period, Al-Jazeera has expanded its broadcasts to the West and the United States serving as a major source of news on the

Palestinian Intifadah and on the whereabouts of Osama Bin Laden in the wake of the September 11th terrorist attacks."

**A**nisa Mehdi, a New York based TV producer and the daughter of Dr. Mehdi, will present the award for Al-Jazeera to Washington D.C. bureau chief Hafez Al-Mirazi at the National Conference of Arab and Muslim Journalists banquet in Chicago, Saturday, March 9, 2002.

"Al-Jazeera and its staff stand for the principles that my father dedicated his life to pursuing, truth, fairness and honesty," Anisa Mehdi said.

"The Mehdi family is very proud that Al-Jazeera is this year's recipient."

# Program Schedule

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## FRIDAY

6:30 - 9:30 PM

Opening Reception, Hors d'ouvres  
(Lower Level Ballroom)

- **Tayyibah Taylor**, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief Azizah Magazine
- **Ray Hanania**, Executive Director, NAJA Publisher, the Arab American View
- Presentation about Azizah Magazine, Magazine Staff
- Poetry Readings by **Sammer Ghouleh**

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## SATURDAY

(Salon A, Salon B, Salon C -- Lower Level)

9 AM \_\_\_\_\_

**Salon A: PANEL:** *Status of Women in Islam, during the time of the Prophet and the Rightly Guided Caliph* -**Dr. Assad Busool**, American Islamic College, Chicago

**Salon B: PANEL:** *Publishers address the challenges facing the Arab & Muslim media in America*

- Ray Hanania**, Publisher, Arab American View Newspaper, Chicago
- Joseph Haiek**, Publisher, News Circle Magazine, California
- Osama Siblani**, Publisher, Arab American News, Detroit
- Tayyibah Taylor**, Publisher, Editor-in-Chief of Azizah Magazine
- Walid Rabah**, Publisher, The Arab Voice Newspaper, Paterson, New Jersey
- Dr. Aslam Abdallah**, Editor-in-Chief of the Minaret magazine & Vice-Chairman of MPAC
- Dr. Mohrez El Hussini**, publisher, Al Manassah Newspaper

**Salon C: PANEL:** Arab & Muslim Women Discuss challenges facing the Arab & Muslim Woman

- Hosted by Chicago area American, Palestinian Women and Friends
- Barbara Nimri Aziz**, Pacifica-WBAI Radio, NY

11:30 AM \_\_\_\_\_

**Salon A: PANEL:** *Arab & Muslim themes in book publishing*

- Ethan Casey**, publisher Blueear.com online publishing, Dispatches from a Wounded World
- Mohammed el-Nawawy**, author, Al-Jazeera: How the Free Arab News Network Scooped the World & Changed the Middle East
- Adel Iskandar Farag**, author, Al-Jazeera: How the Free Arab News Network Scooped the World & Changed the Middle East
- Shaw Dallal**, "Scattered Like Seeds"

**Salon B: PANEL:** *Main Stream American Media perspectives on media coverage*

- Ali Alarabi**, NAJA Board member
- Jerome McDonnell**, WBEZ Radio World View host
- Steve Huntley**, Chicago Sun-Times
- Mike Flannery**, WBBM TV Political reporter

**Salon C: PANEL:** *Arab American Media on the coverage of the Middle East and getting the message out in America*

- Nadeem al-Khuffash**, Voice of Palestine Radio WCEV Radio, Sunday
- Mahmoud Saeed**, author journalist
- Dr. Amjad Zureikat**, Arab/Assyrian TV's "Doctor's Corner" broadcast
- Nidal Ziyad**, publisher, Al-Maraya Newspaper
- Kawthar Othman**, publisher Al-Offok al-Arabi Newspaper
- Shafiq al-Khalil**, columnist Al-Maraya Newspaper

## 2 PM

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**Salon A: PANEL:** News Media Objectivity:  
Who's reporting the news?

-**Marda Dunskey**, Asst. Prof. Medill School of  
Journalism, Northwestern Uni.

-**Nermin al-Mufti**, Iraqi journalist

-**Anisa Mehdi**, TV producer and journalist

**Salon B: PANEL:** *Professional development in jour-  
nalism and the media - Hosted by the Chicago  
Tribune Newspaper*

-**Don Wycliff**, Public Editor, , commentator, The  
Chicago Tribune

-(Panelists to be announced)

**Salon C: PANEL:** *Civil Rights abuses & the role of  
the Arab & Muslim Media and community*

-**Aladdin Elaasar**, NAJA journalist

-**Khaled Elkhatib**, VP, ADC Chicago, civil rights  
attorney

-**Omar Najib**, ADC Chicago, civil rights attorney

-**Anna Mustafa**, community leader & activist

-**Mike Monseur**, former CLTV News

Anchor/Reporter

## 4:30 PM

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**Salon A: PANEL:** *Reporters discuss challenges in  
covering "War on Terrorism"*

-**Sarah Downey**, reporter, NEWSWEEK

-**Roxane Assaf**, correspondent for the  
Washington Report on Middle East Affairs

-**Niraj Warikoo**, Detroit Free Press

-**Sally Farhat**, Seattle Sun Newspaper

**Salon B: PANEL:** *Alternative methods of reporting  
the news, online and paid-radio*

-**Ahmed Bouzid**, Palestine Media Watch

-**Ramzy Baroud**, Palestine Chronicle.com

-**Mary Ann Tawasha**, Asst. Mng Ed.

Countrywatch.com

-**Mark Pinski**, director, WSBC AM Radio,  
Chicago

-**Toni Khatib**, Islamic Center of Villa Park,  
online web master

-**Barbara Nimri Aziz**, Pacifica-WBAI Radio, NY

**Salon C: PANEL:** *Mainstream Media views of the  
Arab American Community, and the Aftermath of  
Sept. 11*

-**Ali Alarabi**, NAJA Board

-**Martha Irvine**, Associated Press news wire

-**Pierre Roberts**, Midwest Bureau Chief,  
Washington Post

-**Julie Snyder**, WBEZ (Chicago NPR Affiliate)  
"This American Life"

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## DINNER

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Lobby, Main Floor

**Reception 6:30 PM**

7:30 PM -- Dinner seating/service

8:30 PM -- Program

-Host **Shibli Sawalha**

-emcee **Ray Hanania**

## Speakers

-**Lorraine Ali**, NEWSWEEK Journalist

-**Hafez Al-Mirazi**, Al-Jazeera Washington DC  
Bureau Chief

-**Jim Avila**, NBC TV Correspondent

## Awards Presentations

-Presentation of the **MT Mehdi Courage in  
Journalism** Award for 2002 by **Anisa Mehdi**

-Awards Presentation by UHLF, PACC

-Presentation of Excellence in Journalism  
Awards, hosted by NAJA

-NAJA President's Award presented by **Yousef  
Shebli**, NAJA Chairman

# SUNDAY

(Salon A, Salon B, Salon C -- Lower Level)

## 7:30 - 10 AM

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**Salon A: PANEL DISCUSSION:** Publishers, Editors, reporters of newspapers, magazines, online web sites & broadcast discuss creation of an Arab/Muslim American News Wire Service System, and a formal journalism association. Hosted by **Dr. Aslam Abdullah**, Vice President, MPAC, publisher of Minaret Mag.

## 9 AM

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**Salon B: PANEL:** *Current issues facing the Arab & Muslim American community*

-**John Janney**, HLFRD; fighting the boycott of the Dallas Morning News

-**Dr. Assad Busool**, Jihad: Self-discipline or Holy War?

-**Kamal Abu-Shamsieh**, MPAC, Eyewitness report from Palestine; The reality on the ground vs the media coverage

-**Moin Moon Khan**, author, writer & Muslim activist

**Salon C: PANEL:** *Ethnic Americans in the main stream media: Has coverage been fair?*

-**Hannah Allam**, Pioneer Press, Minnesota

-**Emilia Askari**, Detroit Free Press

-**Lorraine Ali**, NEWSWEEK Magazine

-**Marda Dunskey**, Medill School of Journalism

## 10 - 11:30 AM

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**Salon A : PRESS CONFERENCE:** Arab & Muslim Journalists Address the murder of Daniel Pearl; Mainstream media failure to fully report coverage of Arab & Muslim community reactions; "collateral" post-Sept 11 victims.

## 11:30 AM

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**Salon A: PANEL:** *Fiction and other ways to tell the truth*

-**Barbara Nimri Aziz**, Pacifica-WBAI Radio, NY

-**Shaw Dallal**, "Scattered Like Seeds"

-**Liza Elliott**, "Finding Palestine"

-**Arlene Hirsch**, author, "The Palestinian and The Jew: An Intimate Memoir of Love and Madness"

-**Siva Vaidhyathan**, author, "Dispatches from a Wounded World"

**Salon B: PANEL:** *Challenges facing Arab & Muslim media in the wake of Sept. 11*

-**Andy Martin**, Radio talk show host, Palm Beach Florida

-**Jawed Anwar**, Editor, Muslims Newspaper

-**Fadeel Al-Amin**, News Director IBN Radio Network, Washington DC (WWTL 700 AM)

-**Riad Al-Majali**, Columnist Al-Maraya Newspaper

**Salon C: PANEL:** *Working for a stronger Arab & Muslim Community voice*

-**Mohammed Al-Araj**, communications director United Trust Bank, Bridgeview

-**Samaa Elibyari**, host, Caravan, a weekly bilingual (English/French) radio program dealing in Montreal

-**Linda Mamoun**, communications manager, Free Speech TV

## 2:30 PM

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**Salon A: PANEL:** Sponsored by the United Muslim Americans Association (UMAA):

*Challenges facing the Muslim community*

-**Sabri Samirah**, President UMAA

-**Sammer Ghouleh**, board member

-**Moin Moon Khan**, author, writer & Muslim activist

**Salon B: PANEL:** *Poetry and the importance of poetry in Arab and Middle East literature* --**OPEN MICROPHONE for Poets ...**

-**Salameh Zanayed**, past president Ramallah American Federation, poet, former Arabic radio host for 15 years, TV host/producer (5 years).

-**OPEN MICROPHONE** for poets to present

**Salon C: PANEL:** *Challenges facing the Arab media (ARABIC LANGUAGE)*

-**Yusef Shebli**, WPNA Radio Chicago

-**Yusef Marei**, Voice of the Muslim Community

-**Mahmoud Saeed**, author journalist

# Selected Speakers' Bios

## Sally Farhat

Sally Farhat is a reporter at The Sun, a daily Scripps Howard newspaper in Bremerton, Washington. She is a Lebanese-American Christian who holds a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and Middle Eastern Studies-Arabic from the University of Washington. She was reporter at the Detroit Free Press for one-and-a-half years up until this past May. Detroit has the most Arab Americans in the nation. Last year, Miss Farhat spoke on a panel on how to cover Arab Americans and was one of the writers of the Detroit Free Press' handbook on how to write about Arab Americans. She is also the editor of the Seattle Maronite News.

## Ray Hanania

Ray Hanania is an award winning journalist. He covered Chicago's City Hall from 1978 through 1992 first for the Daily Southtown (1978-1985) and later the Chicago Sun-Times (1985-1992). He hosted a popular talk show on WLS AM Radio and was a frequent guest panelist on the city's top television news discussion programs. He published the Middle Eastern Voice Newspaper (1975-1977), the Villager Newspapers (1993-1996), the Arab American View Newspaper (1999-present). He is the recipient of the Sigma Delta Chi Chicago Headline Club's Peter Lisagor Award for column writing (1985), and holds five runner-up citations. He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize by the Chicago Sun-Times in 1990. He currently is the executive director of the National Arab Journalists Association in Chicago. He currently works as vice president of Public Affairs/Public Relations for a Chicago based communications firm.

## Jim Avila

Jim Avila is a veteran member of the Chicago Arab journalists association. He is a longtime Chicago television journalist and now serves as international and national correspondent for NBC TV. He recently reported from Afghanistan. His personal stories about growing up as the child of an Arab American immigrant and Hispanic mother are inspiring, compelling and motivating. His reports have won numerous awards.

## Arlene Hirsch

Arlene Hirsch is a career counselor and psychotherapist in Chicago. She is the author of two best selling career books, Love Your Work and Success Will Follow and The Wall Street Journal Premier Guide to Interviewing. Both books were written in collaboration with the Wall Street Journal and published by John Wiley & Sons. Arlene has recently written her first memoir, The Palestinian and the Jew: An Intimate Journey of Love and Madness. She has lectured extensively, appeared on local and national radio and television, and has been widely quoted in the media. Arlene also teaches Career Psychology at Northwestern University

## Ramzy Baroud

Ramzy Baroud is the President of Palestine Independent News Agency (PINA Online), Editor-in-Chief of PalestineChronicle.com, and Managing Editor of Middle East News Service. As an interna-

tional journalist whose writing covers various subjects and conflicts around the world, mainly in the Middle East and Africa, Baroud was published by over 50 publications in over 40 countries.

## Emilia Askari

Emilia Askari is a reporter at the Detroit Free Press.

## John Janney

Activist who organized the successful boycott and protest against the Dallas Morning News newspaper. His focus is on pooling resources, identifying and understanding the audience, crossing the bridge from small-time newspapers to a big-time media power house. Will share his experiences with fighting the Dallas Morning News and how we used the media during that fight (and the challenges we faced, and overcame).

## Hannah Allam

Hannah Allam, a 24-year-old Egyptian-American who moved to the United States about six years ago. Allam was raised in the UAE, Egypt and Saudi Arabia by an Egyptian father and American mother, both Muslim. He attended the University of Oklahoma, graduating in 1999 with a BA in journalism with a French minor. He was editor of the campus paper and interned at three papers in college, including The Washington Post. The Post kept me on after my internship ended and I stayed there several months until taking a courts job with the Pulitzer-winning St. Paul Pioneer Press in Minnesota. Since Sept. 11, he has authored articles told from the perspective of Muslims and Arab Americans. He lives in Minneapolis. Ironically, two of his brothers --- Ahmed and Mohamed --- are U.S. Marines who are intelligence specialists. They translate Arabic in several dialects and are now stationed with Marines in or near Afghanistan. The events of Sept. 11 have affected him in a very personal way.

## Liza Elliott

Author of "Finding Palestine. Her topic is writing about Palestine and the Middle East towards reaching the American Audience. Her book is filled with history and political analysis but reads like a novel. Liza Elliott holds a BSN from Indiana University, 1976, an MSN from Catholic University of America, 1979, and a PhD in Sociology from Northwestern University, 1991. She is a Board member of the National Council on US-Arab Relations, Gulf States Committee, a Board member of the United Nations Association, Greater Birmingham Chapter, and President of the Birmingham Branch of the National League of American Pen Women. An adjunct professor at University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Public Health she lectures on refugee health care, NGO's and is a consultant to the Palestine Red Crescent Society. Liza Elliott lives in Birmingham, AL with her husband, Peter Glaeser.

## Shaw Dallal

Shaw J. Dallal (J.D. Cornell University), professor. Professor Dallal teaches comparative Middle East Politics, the Arab Israeli Conflict and the Middle East

and the global political economy, which he instituted for the Maxwell School in 1990. He also teaches Islamic Culture and Civilization in the Honors Program at Syracuse University. An international lawyer and scholar, he has served as the chief legal advisor for the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) in Kuwait. He is presently the Senior Vice President for International Development at Zogby International. He is the author of the recently published novel *Scattered Like Seeds*. shd@earthlink.net

## **Osama Siblani**

Osama Siblani is the publisher of the very popular Arab American Detroit Newspaper, the Arab American News. This is a weekly newspaper published in full color and includes Arabic and English.

## **Siva Vaidhyathan**

Siva Vaidhyathan, a cultural historian and media scholar, is the author of *Copyrights and Copywrongs: The Rise of Intellectual Property and How it Threatens Creativity* (New York University Press, 2001). He is currently working on a book about Napster and the ways we regulate our information ecosystem. Vaidhyathan has written for many periodicals, including *The Dallas Morning News*, the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, and *The Nation*. He is a frequent contributor on media and cultural issues to MSNBC.COM and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. His research has been profiled by programs on National Public Radio, CNN, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, International Herald-Tribune Television, Pacifica Radio, and *Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting*. Vaidhyathan has also been featured in articles in *AsianWeek*, *India Abroad*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Industry Standard*, and *ZDNet.com*. After five years as a professional journalist, Vaidhyathan earned a Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. Vaidhyathan has taught at the University of Texas, Wesleyan University, and New York University. He is currently an assistant professor of Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

## **Marda Dunsky**

Marda Dunsky is an assistant professor at the Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University, where she has taught since 1994. She teaches newspaper editing for graduate and undergraduate students and the Global Journalism seminar as well as advanced print editing. Dunsky worked as an editor at the *Chicago Tribune* from 1983 to 1988, first in features and then on the National/Foreign Desk. She worked as an Arab affairs reporter for the *Jerusalem Post* during 1988-1990, covering the Palestinian minority in Israel. Dunsky's op-ed and analysis pieces on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict/peace process have been published in the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Washington Post* and the *Cape Times* (South Africa). Her study on how U.S. media report the conflict appeared in the summer 2000 issue of *Arab Studies Quarterly*. She does frequent public speaking on the topic in the Chicago area. Dunsky is currently writing her Ph.D. dissertation in the history department at Chicago, "The Land Speaks Arabic: A Social History of the Palestinians in Israel," for which she received a Fulbright research grant. She earned a master's degree in Middle Eastern studies at the University of Chicago in 1988 and a bachelor's degree

in journalism from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1981. Dunsky also has worked as a copy editor at the *Sun-Sentinel* in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and the *Telegram & Gazette* in Worcester, Mass.

## **Mary Ann Tawasha**

Mary Ann Tawasha is the Assistant Managing Editor of *CountryWatch.com*

## **Joseph (Yousef) R. Haiek**

Joseph (Yousef) R. Haiek, publisher of the *News Circle Magazine* and editor of the online news web site, [www.arab-american-affairs.net](http://www.arab-american-affairs.net).

## **Steve Huntley**

Steve Huntley is Editor of the Editorial Page of the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Under his leadership, the *Sun-Times* editorial page staff was awarded a Peter Lisagor Award for exemplary journalism in 1998. Before joining the *Sun-Times* Editorial Board in 1997, Huntley was Assistant Managing Editor/Metro of the *Sun-Times*. Under his leadership, the Metro staff won Lisagor awards in 1996 for coverage of the Fox River Grove, Ill., school bus-train crash that killed seven children, in 1993 for coverage of the Chicago Loop flood and in 1992 for the "After the Shooting Stops" series on the impact of violent death on families and communities. Huntley previously was Night City Editor of the *Sun-Times*. He joined the newspaper in 1986. Huntley worked for seven years (1979-86) for *U.S. News & World Report*, heading up its Chicago bureau before transferring in 1982 to Washington, D.C., where he was an Associate Editor until promoted to Senior Editor in 1985. Huntley worked 13 years (1965-78) for *United Press International* as a writer and editor in bureaus in Chicago, Greensboro, N.C., Atlanta, Ga., and Columbia, S.C. He was promoted in 1977 to Executive Editor of UPI's National Broadcast Department.

## **Jawed Anwar**

Jawed Anwar is the Editor of *Muslims Newspaper*.

## **Mike Flannery**

Michael Flannery has been the Political Editor for CBS 2 News since 1980, responsible for covering City Hall, Springfield and all elections. Flannery also serves as an investigative reporter for the station. He exposed unlicensed insurance companies that cheated thousands out of their health insurance. As a result of this investigation, the offending insurance companies were put out of business and many of the defrauded people were reimbursed. Flannery has received many awards throughout his career. He won two Gold Bell Awards from the Mental Health Association in Illinois for his coverage of the atrocious treatment of patients in state run mental hospitals. Flannery's disclosure of a pattern of abuse of chronically ill psychiatric patients in a private halfway house won him the Illinois Associated Press Award for Best Enterprise (1982). He received two more awards from the Associated Press; Best Reporter Award (1986) and was honored for his work on "The Death of Mayor Washington."

## **Carol Bradford**

PhD thesis at Cambridge College was on Arabs and their culture, their differences, etc. profiled in the February-March 1998 issue of the *Washington Report*

on Middle Eastern Affairs.

## **Dr. Aslam Abdallah**

Dr. Aslam Abdallah is the Editor-in-Chief of the Minaret magazine & Vice-Chairman of MPAC. A community leader of the Islamic American community, he is a frequent guest speaker and lecturer, and author.

## **Walid Rabah**

Walid Rabah is the publisher of the Arab Voice Newspaper based in New Jersey. He is also an activist with the Palestinian Writer's Guild in the United States.

## **Barbara Nimri Aziz**

Dr. Barbara Nimri Aziz is the executive director of RAWI, Radius of Arab American Writers, Inc. She currently works as a journalist for Pacifica-WBAI Radio in NY, where in addition to news reports, she produces and hosts two weekly programs, "Behind the News" and "Tahrir-Voices of the Arab Muslim Peoples Here and Abroad." [www.RadioTahrir.com](http://www.RadioTahrir.com), a recently launched web page, illustrates her broadcasting work at WBAI 99.5 fm, NY. Aziz regularly visits the Arab homelands to interview individuals. From her assignments in the "field" she also makes live reports to WBAI Radio. Before entering journalism, Aziz worked for 20 years in Asia as a professional anthropologist. She completed her PhD in anthropology at the University of London, UK. In addition to two earlier books based on her anthropological research in Asia, Aziz has just completed a third book. Released by the University of Nepal in Oct. 2001, HEIR TO A SILENT SONG: TWO REBEL WOMEN OF NEPAL, is available from the author. She is currently working on a new book based on her extensive experience in Iraq. Her news writings and OpEds have appears in MEI (UK), Christian Science Monitor, Aramco Magazine, Natural History Magazine, Toward Freedom (Vermont), The Catholic Reporter, among others. She is featured, along with other Muslim women, in the current issue of Azizah Magazine.

## **Kamal Abu-Shamsieh**

Kamal Abu-Shamsieh is a former Palestinian journalist and a documentary film maker. He is currently the national community relations director of the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) based in Los Angeles. He provides the Muslim & ethnic media outlets with weekly updates and news about the Muslim community.

## **Ali Alarabi**

Ali Alarabi is a freelance columnist covering the Muslim and Arab communities in the United States. His columns are published around the Arab World. He is a board member of the National Arab Journalists Association. Previously he worked as a writer for the Times of Houston Arabic Language weekly newspaper.

## **Anisa Mehdi**

Anisa Mehdi is an award-winning reporter and producer of television news programs and documentaries. Her specialties are religion and the arts. Currently Ms. Mehdi is Executive Producer for The Islam Project. In 1998 she produced award-winning coverage of the Hajj for PBS's "Religion and Ethics News Weekly," becoming the first American woman

to report for television from Mecca. She has been arts correspondent for New Jersey's nightly PBS newscast for 14 years. Prior to working with PBS, Ms. Mehdi was with CBS News in New York. She has an M.S. in Journalism from Columbia University and a B.A. in Spanish from Wellesley College.

## **Nermin Al-Mufty**

Faculty of Arts, al-Mustansiryah Uni. Baghdad, 1980, Diploma in General Journalism, IOJ, Budapest, Hungary, 1983. Permanent address: P.O. box: 59107, Code 12149, Baghdad, Iraq. Editor in Alef Baa weekly 1981-1990, Director of developing programs, Baghdad radio. 1990; Director of feature department, member of editing board in al-Jumhuriyah Daily 1993- April 2000; Chief of editors in Alef Baa Weekly April 2000 - Director of feature Dep. In al-Zawraa Weekly, 2000- Produce in Baghdad satellite TV 1998- Contributor writer in al-Thawra Daily 1999- Correspondent of al-Kahera, an Egyptian weekly 2000- Columnist in the Woman magazine 1984- Contributor translator and producer with NBC 1998. Languages: Arabic, English, Turkish (excellent), French (not very good). Awards: best journalist in Iraq 1984, 1985, and 1987. The second prize of the Union of Iraqi Journalist 1993 The first prize of al-Jumhuriyah Cultural Club 1995. The best radio program 1990. Books: three scientific books for children, 1985, 1986. The Dairies of A Dying Man, short stories, 2000.

## **Jerome McDonnell**

Jerome McDonnell, Host, Worldview Jerome has been with WBEZ since 1984. He has served in almost every capacity at the station beginning as an intern-volunteer. He's stuffed envelopes, dubbed tapes, produced call-in shows and a weekend magazine show, had a number of technical functions, and a management fling as well. Jerome was also the producer of WBEZ's Midday with Sondra Gair, a international news analysis show. He has hosted Worldview since 1994. Jerome is the winner of the Peter Lisagor Award and the Illinois Broadcasters' Association for Best Public Affairs Program in a series.

## **Nidal Zayid**

Nidal Zayid is the publisher of the Al-Maraya Newspaper and representative of the Arab American Media & Information Center in Houston, Texas.

## **Riad Al-Majali**

Riad Al-Majali is a columnist and writer for the Houston-based Al-Maraya Newspaper and a member of the Arab American Media & Information Center in Houston, Texas.

## **Julie Snyder**

Julie Snyder works with WBEZ Radio's popular "This American Life" program and is a veteran Chicago radio journalist. She has covered the Chicago Arab American and Muslim American community and has authored several reports since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Julie has also participated on several panels addressing media coverage of the Arab and Muslim American community.

## **Khaled Elkhatib**

Khaled has been actively involved in the Arab community. In 1998, he and a friend founded Chicagoland Arab Professionals & Students (CAPS), a professional networking and socializing organiza-

tion. He is currently a member of Arab American Bar Association (ABAR), and sits on Mayor Daley's Advisory Council on Arab Affairs. Much of his time is spent working with the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC). As Vice President of ADC Chicago, he is actively involved in many issues. One of the most important recent issues has been the FBI interviews of Arab Americans as a result of September 11th. ADC and ABAR are part of a coalition providing free legal assistance to Arabs contacted by the FBI.

## **Sarah Downey**

Sarah Downey has been reporting out of Newsweek's Chicago Bureau since 1999. Since Sept. 11, she's been on the trail of Zacarias Moussaoui and other suspected terrorists with ties to the Midwest. After Downey traveled to Minnesota and Oklahoma in October, Newsweek reported that Moussaoui had bought the same flight-training videos as Mohamed Atta--a finding included in the federal indictment two months later. Downey is a former police reporter for the City News Bureau of Chicago. Her first taste of war coverage came in East Timor, where she went as a freelancer in 1999 and wrote for dailies like the Boston Globe. Downey had gone to the Pacific Rim to cover Australia's historic republican referendum vote; she sold stories to several U.S. papers, then hitched a ride to Dili on a military plane. A 1990 graduate of Scripps College in Claremont, Calif., Downey has also worked for the Chicago Tribune and is a regular contributor to the Chicago Reader.

## **Mohammed el-Nawawy**

Mohammed el-Nawawy, Egyptian born and raised, has worked as a journalist in the Middle East and the U.S. His experience includes working for the Associated Press in Cairo, the Middle East News agency and the Baltimore Sun. The author of The Israeli-Egyptian Peace Process in the Reporting of Western Journalists, El-Nawawy has a Ph.D. in journalism and is professor of journalism at the University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL. He is the co-author with Adel Iskandar Farag of Al-Jazeera: How the Free Arab News Network Scooped the World and Changed Middle East.

## **Adel Iskandar Farag**

Adel Iskandar Farag, an Egyptian-Canadian, is an expert on Middle East media. He has conducted studies on viewership of Arab media and the use of North American media by Arab immigrants. He has lived in Kuwait and in Egypt for many years, and currently teaches communication at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. In his free time, he serves as the executive editor of The Ambassadors Online Magazine. He is the co-author with Mohammed el-Nawawy of Al-Jazeera: How the Free Arab News Network Scooped the World and Changed Middle East

## **Kawthar Othman**

Kawthar Othman publishes the Arabic language broadsheet newspaper, Al-Offok al-Arabi. She has been cited in the past for her informative news stories by the Chicago Association of Arab American Journalists & Communicators. Her newspaper is considered the primary Arabic language newspaper published in Chicago.

## **Mahmoud Saeed**

Award winning author, poet and writer.

## **Martha Irvine**

Martha Irvine is a Chicago-based National Writer for The Associated Press and, through the AP's Chicago bureau who covered breaking news and social issues -- everything from race relations to immigration, housing and poverty. Last year, she received a Studs Terkel award, which honors journalists who make an extra effort to cover the Chicago area's diverse communities. A native of Michigan, Irvine received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and her Master's from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism

## **Roxane Assaf**

Roxanne Assaf is a Chicago area based journalist and reporter whose articles appear in many publications including the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs.

## **Toni Khatib**

Khatib, 38, of the western suburbs, designed and maintains the Web site for the Islamic Foundation of Villa Park. Khatib, who is of mixed African-American and white parentage, was raised Muslim on Chicago's South Side. A former information technology network manager, she is now at home; she and her husband, born in Syria, have three children.

## **Dr. Mohrez elHussini**

Dr. Mohrez elHussini is the publisher and journalist for the Al Manassah Newspaper based in New Jersey. New Jersey is home to a very significant Arab American and Muslim American population and his newspaper has pioneered the delivery of Arab American news in this country.

## **Niraj Warikoo**

Niraj Warikoo is a staff writer for the Detroit Free Press, where he has covered Arab-American and Muslim communities since 1998. He also reports on the area west of Detroit. Warikoo has exposed workplace safety problems at one of Ford's biggest plants, traveled abroad to report on the use of child labor in making cigarettes, and revealed Michigan's decade-long neglect of its wetlands. He spoke last year at the Investigative Reporters and Editors' national conference. Since Sept. 11, he has written about how the government's war on terrorism has affected the civil rights of Arab-Americans.

## **Dr. Assad Busool**

Dr. Assad Busool is a professor of Islamic Studies at the American Islamic College in Chicago. He is the author of several scholarly works on Islam. And he is a frequent lecturer on Islam, the myth and the reality as a religion and a political force.

## **Ahmed Bouzid**

Ahmed Bouzid is the editor and director of Palestine Media Watch, the online web site that focuses on accuracy in the American media, and in encouraging the dissemination of the Arab and Muslim American viewpoint on Middle East and Middle East related issues. The website is at [www.pmwatch.org](http://www.pmwatch.org).

## **Dr. Amjad Zureikat**

Dr. Amjad Zureikat is currently Medical Director of

Integrated Care at Lincoln Square, a multi-specialty clinic. Dr. Zureikat is the President of the Greater Chicago Medical Association, a prominent independent physician group in the Chicagoland area. He is currently a board member of the Ravenswood Physician Association. For the past 15 years, Dr. Zureikat has been representing the medical community on both Arab and Assyrian TV on the "Doctor's Corner."

## **Sammer Ghouleh**

Sammer Ghouleh is an award-winning poet and a board member of the Illinois Spina Bifida Association. She is the author of several books of poetry. She is a board member of NAJA and also a member of the Board of the United Muslim Americans Association.

## **Samaa Elibyari**

Samaa Elibyari has been preparing and producing Caravan, a weekly bilingual (English/French) one hour radio program dealing with current Arab/Muslim affairs, in Montreal and around the world for the last three years. Caravan is independent of any political or religious organization. It has no sponsors or commercial ads. As a community program, it's broadcast free of charge, on CKUT, Radio McGill 90.3FM on the dial in Montreal, [www.ckut.ca](http://www.ckut.ca) on the Internet. Caravan was previously called Xroads. Samaa Elibyari has published articles about her trips to Iraq in The Gazette, Montreal leading English newspaper and in the webzine [www.middleeastnews.com](http://www.middleeastnews.com).

## **Andy Martin**

Martin's program has become the center of foreign policy debate on the internet. Since 1965 he has been associated with the study of revolutionary warfare, starting under the late Bernard B. Fall. Martin has been in Libya, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Iran, Afghanistan, Viet-Nam, Cambodia, Thailand and Hong Kong as a foreign policy analyst and consultant. In 1974 Martin formed the Revolutionary War Research Center to study revolutionary war movements and their impact on future foreign policy issues. Martin's program currently broadcasts in Palm Beach County from 1-3 P.M. Monday - Friday. Foreign policy issues are heard daily in the 2-3 hour. Starting March 4, 2002, the program will move to noon-2 P.M. Monday-Friday.

## **Itedal Shalabi**

Itedal Shalabi is co-owner of Arab-American Family Services, a not-for-profit social service agency that assists Arab American and Muslim families and individuals in need. Services include tutoring, domestic violence counseling, youth counseling and more.

## **Mohammed Al-Araj**

Mohammed Al-Araj is a board member and the communications and marketing director for the United Trust Bank based in Bridgeview Illinois.

## **Linda Mamoun**

Linda Mamoun discovered Free Speech TV after moving to Boulder, Colorado from Philadelphia in July, 2001. Prior to working at FSTV, she taught sociology as an adjunct instructor at the University of Pennsylvania and Temple University. Raised in Naperville, Illinois, Mamoun attended the University of Illinois, and attended graduate school at the

University of Pennsylvania. She serves as FSTV Communications Manager supervising a weekly newsletter to members, distributes their weekly program schedule, and conducts outreach with political and cultural organizations around the country, as well as abroad. Working with activists and artists, FSTV uses television to cultivate an informed and active citizenry in order to advance progressive social change. We broadcast nationally to nine million homes on the DISH satellite (channel 9415) and on affiliate cable community access stations all over the US.

## **Sabri Samirah**

Sabri Samirah is the director of the United Muslim Americans Association and a community communications activist.

## **Salameh Zanayed**

Salameh Zanayed is a longtime Chicago activist and poet who has published several poetry books. He is the former national president of the Ramallah American Federation, and member of the Palestine National Council. He served as the first director of the Chicago Advisory Commission on Arab Affairs for more than a decade.

## **Moin Moon Khan**

President of the American Muslims for Peaceful Co-existence, Moin Moon Khan is widely recognized in the Muslim American and Asian American communities for his moderate and patriotic views and commitment to coalition-building efforts. Served on the boards of more than a dozen civic organizations in the past 15 years that include the Illinois Ethnic Coalition, United Way, American Cancer Society, Council of Islamic Organizations, Asian American Institute, Federation of Indian Associations. In its October 9th editorial, the Chicago Tribune admired him for urging fellow Muslims to defend the United States in its war against terrorism. Founding president of the Republican Minority Caucus, Moon holds MA and MBA degrees and works in the MIS field.

*Special thanks to the members of the NAJA board, Chairman Yusef Shebli, and the committee for their support. Also, thanks to Itedal Shalabi and Nareman Taha and Adam Shillo for assisting in overseeing the registration tables.*

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*Bios published include those submitted by the speakers for inclusion in the Program*

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## **A note about our guest speakers**

Organizing a conference of this magnitude is very difficult, but each time it improves. The individuals here have not only donated their time, but most have also paid to participate to insure the success of this conference. Their support has created this environment where we can all share and discuss important issues. Please respect all of our speakers. Speakers will present for up to 15 Minutes each during panel sessions. Each Panel will last 2 hours with 15 minutes for closings and questions and answers. Let us thank all of them for making this conference a success.

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# Resolutions

As journalists and writers, we not only report the news but we also have an obligation to lead public opinion on the process of reporting the news to insure that the reporting remains professional. Journalism must be professional. As participants, we urge you to consider these and other resolutions as public statements of our dedication to professionalism.

**RESOLUTION:** Urging the end to the occupation and the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people; urging an end to the repression of the Palestinian people.

**RESOLUTION:** Urging the mainstream American media to diversify their news rooms by hiring more African Americans, more Hispanic Americans, more Native Americans, more Asian Americans and more Arab Americans.

**RESOLUTION:** Urging the American media to be objective and fair, and to adhere to the fundamental principles of professional journalism by insuring that the Arab and Muslim American viewpoint is included in the public debate on the Middle East.

**RESOLUTION:** Denouncing the vicious, brutal murder of journalist Daniel Pearl of the Wall Street Journal. No cause or injustice can justify the kidnapping or murder of innocent people. Further, journalists should be accorded special protections and rights.

Newspapers that refuse to publish the views of the Arab or Muslim American community are biased. Professional journalism dictates that newspapers remain objective, balanced, and that while they may take a point of view in their editorials, they must fairly provide equal access to opposing viewpoints, especially to the prominent opposing viewpoints.

Too many American newspapers and media frequently provide space to publish the views of pro-Israeli writers. Yet, these same newspapers and media refuse to provide space to publish the views of pro-Arab and pro-Muslim writers.

We, Arab and Muslim Americans, are not asking the American media to become biased in support of Arab or Muslim causes. We ARE asking that the American media give us an equal opportunity to present our views to the American public. We believe the American public is educated enough to understand and comprehend the truth, if they are allowed to read it or hear it in the American media.

We are only asking for equal time. We are only asking to be allowed to present our views. We are only asking the media to be the professional journalists they claim to be.

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## Palestinian Journalists "under occupation" among Excellence in Journalism award recipients

Chicago -- The National Arab Journalists Association will present 20 journalism awards at its Convention Dinner on Saturday, March 9, including to the Palestinian journalists who work under Israeli occupation.

Citations include the coveted **MT Mehdi Courage in Journalism Award** which is being presented to **Al-Jazeera** satellite television, a **Lifetime Achievement Award** to Arab American NBC-TV correspondent **Jim Avila**, and 18 Excellence in Journalism Awards to recipients ranging from newspaper publishers, online web-masters, poets, writers and journalists.

The awards, intended to highlight the vast array of writing and journalism talent in the Arab and Muslim community, will be presented at the National Conference of Arab & Muslim Journalists, to be held March 8 - 10, 2002 at the Radisson O'Hare Hotel in Chicago.

One of the awards will go to the **Palestinian journalists and media in the Occupied West Bank, Occupied Gaza Strip and Occupied Jerusalem.**

"Only one nation, Palestine, remains under a military occupation today and the Palestinian journalists who cover this occupation under the harshest of conditions deserve to be recognized for their insistence on recording accurately the events of this brutal occupation," said Conference Chairman NAJA executive director Ray Hanania.

"Despite the hardships of working in a war zone. Despite the threats to their lives by fanatic Israeli settlers and the aggressive Israeli military. Despite impediments imposed on their movement by the occupation government. Despite all of these road-blocks, the Palestinian journalists continue to provide the most accurate and complete coverage of this only occupation that remains in the world today."

The award is presented to Palestinian journalists and the Palestinian media, including the many newspapers such as Al-Quds, Al-Ayyam, and Baladi.

"These are only a few that struggle to exist and refuse to be silenced by Israel's massive military, propaganda arm of oppression," Hanania said.

The Mehdi award, named in honor of the late Arab American journalism pioneer Dr. M.T. Mehdi, is being presented to Al-Jazeera for sending shock-waves through the American-dominated news media.

"Al-Jazeera has singled-handedly forced the often biased and unobjective American media to second-guess its own reporting. Al-Jazeera has broadcast reports that the American media has preferred to ignore but cannot. Al-Jazeera has remained professional and has remained dedicated to the principles of professional journalism which demand that information be presented to the public truthfully, fully and accurately," Hanania said.

Avila, who is Arab and Hispanic, has been a professional journalist for nearly three decades covering Chicago politics and now the international stage. His most recent reports included coverage of the American war in Afghanistan and the Enron scandal. "Avila's reporting has been first rate and on target," Hanania said. "While he is not assigned to the Middle East, as an Arab American, his track record

of award winning, professional journalism remains a role model to others who seek journalistic professionalism," Hanania said.

Other journalists and media publications also receiving awards at the March 9 dinner include:

- **Roxane Assaf** for her informative reporting for the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs magazine.
- Chicago Radio talkshow hosts **Yusef Shebli**, **Nadeem al-Khuffash** and **Yusef Marei**. Their radio stations serve as the only broadcast forum for Arab American news in the Midwest, filling a gap left by biased, one-sided American news media reporting.
- **Palestine Media Watch** & Ahmed Bouzid web-master. This web site provides a valuable service to help augment the voices of the Arab and Muslim American community using the Internet.
- **Palestine Chronicle** and web-master Ramzy Baroud. Baroud's innovative media ventures online, in print and his columns, help to keep the public focused on the truth of the Middle East conflict.
- **The News Circle Magazine** and Joseph Haiek publisher. Joe Haiek is an icon in the Arab American and Lebanese American journalists community. He is an activist who has organized journalists on the West Coast and publishes the very informative News Circle Almanac.
- **Al-Offok al-Arabi Newspaper** and Kawthar Othman. Ms. Othman's broadsheet newspaper is the only real professional Arabic language newspaper in Chicago.
- **The Voice of Jordan Newspaper** and The Hon. Ihsan Sweis, publisher. This Jordanian focused newspaper has been a fixture in Chicago for nearly a decade, providing firstclass news and information in English and on a steady, regular basis.
- **Sammer Ghouleh**, poetry and writing. Her poems have received international awards and citations. She remains active in the Spina Bifida Association where her views and writings have moved many people to compassion.
- **Muslims Newspaper** and Jawed Anwar publisher. Anwar's broadsheet newspaper is one of the most professional designed and published English language newspapers that focuses on Muslim related news from around the country. It is first class.
- **Islamic Horizons Magazine** and Omer Bin Abdullah, Editor. This is a singular resource on Muslim American information.
- **Arab American Business Magazine** and Nidal Ibrahim. Publisher Ibrahim's magazine has become must-read in the Arab and Muslim American business community, providing coverage of a segment of our society that is often unreported.
- **The Arab Voice Newspaper** and Walid Rabah Publisher. This Arabic language newspaper is a compass for the Arab and Muslims of the greater New York area, keeping the nation abreast of the events in this important region.
- **Al Manassa al-Arabiye** and Mohrez elHussini. Mr. elHussini's newspaper is must read in the New York and New Jersey region, providing the most comprehensive picture of Arab and Muslim American activism and news
- **Minaret Magazine** and Dr. Aslam Abdullah. This is a first class magazine that continues to break new ground with informative and well written articles that inform and help to correct the false images often portrayed of Muslims in America.
- **Lorraine Mahia Ali**, Newsweek journalist and Arab American reporter. She reigns as one of the highest ranking Arab Americans in magazine journalism.

## Hafez al-Al-Mirazi Al-Jazeera TV

Hafez Al-Mirazi is a lead news correspondent for Al-Jazeera TV which, in November 1996, became the first Arab satellite channel specializing in news and discussion programs.



Today, it has become a phenomenal performer in the Arab media world. Its slogan, "One opinion, and the the Other," shows why it has gained this stature. objective, comprehensive, daring: Al-Jazeera's style is absolute freedom of expression. This uncompromising commitment runs through its news-casts, talk shows, documentar-

ies, scientific, sports and educational programs, aired 24 hours a day. Through its correspondents and reporters in major Arab and World capitals, Al-Jazeera was first to break the news on several significant events and developments. These scoops have gained for the channel confidence of Arab and Arabic-speaking audiences in its home region and North America.

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## Lorraine Mahia Ali Newsweek Magazine

Lorraine Ali is a general editor at Newsweek Magazine. She writes primarily for the magazine's Arts and Entertainment section covering music. An award-winning journalist, she has written about everything from Christian alternative rock to Latino Lone Star rap and has interviewed everyone from Dolly Parton to Marilyn Manson. She occasionally covers Arab-American culture for the magazine's Society section, and has reported on Middle Eastern affairs from Egypt for Newsweek's international packaging stories. The New York-based Ali has also contributed arts and culture stories to the New York Times, GQ and Rolling Stone, and her piece on palestinian rappers ("West Bank Hardcore") recently made it into "DeCapo's Best Music Writing 2001" anthology. Ali, who is half-Iraqi, is currently working on a book about growing up Arab American.



## Our Dinner Speakers ...

### Jim Avila NBC TV

Jim Avila was promoted to National Correspondent in January 2000, based in Chicago. Most recently, Avila reported from Afghanistan and covered the Enron scandal.

Previously, he work as Chicago bureau correspondent for NBC, reporting on stories throughout the American Midwest. Before coming to NBC TV News, Avila was an investigative reporter for KNBC's Channel 4 News in Burbank California. While at KNBC, he was the principal reporter on the O.J.



Simpson criminal trial, helping the station earn the 1995 Golden Mike Award and an Emmy Award in 1996. He joined KNBC News in 1994 from WBBM-TV, the CBS-owned station in Chicago where he was a general assignment reporter. Avila covered a variety of news stories including the Gulf War from both Saudi Arabia and Tel Aviv. From 1980 to 1984, Avila was a general assignment reporter for WLS-TV, the ABC-owned station in Chicago. He had been a weekend anchor and the San Jose bureau chief for KPIX TV in San Francisco from 1976 until 1980. Avila began his broadcasting career in 1973 as managing editor at KCBS Radio in San Francisco and was later promoted to Bureau Chief.

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*Al-Jazeera, M.T. Mehdi Courage in Journalism Award 2001-2002*

*Jim Avila, Lifetime Achievement Award*  
*Lorraine Mahia Ali, NAJA Excellence in Journalism Award*

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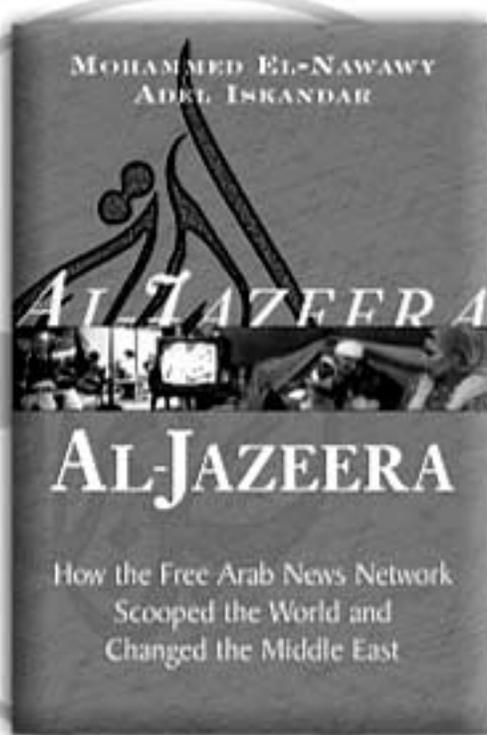
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—Richard W. Bulliet, Columbia University

**“An important book chronicling the rise to global media prominence of the Qatar-based satellite station. In Afghanistan, Al-Jazeera was the eyes and ears for much of the world.”**

—David Barsamian, *Alternative Radio* and the author of *The Decline and Fall of Public Broadcasting*



*Al-Jazeera*, the independent, all-Arab television news network based in Qatar, has emerged as ambassador to the Arab world in the events following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, and the war waged in Afghanistan.

More than a channel reporting the news as it happens, Al-Jazeera (Arabic for “the peninsula”) has access to the Arab world and is “scooping” the western media conglomerates. It has emerged as an international relations actor on the world stage with its exclusive access to Osama Bin Laden and members of the Taliban. Its reputation has been burnishing quickly through its daily exposure on CNN in the U.S., even as it strives to maintain its independence as an international free press news network.

*Al-Jazeera* sheds light on the background of the Al-Jazeera network, how it started, how it operates, the kinds of programs it broadcasts, its effects on Arab viewers, the reactions of the West and Arab states, its implications for the future of news broadcasting in the Middle East, and its struggle for a free press and public opinion in the Arab world.

**MOHAMMED EL-NAWAWY**, Egyptian born and raised, has worked as a journalist in the Middle East and the U.S. His experience includes working for the Associated Press in Cairo, the Middle East News agency and the Baltimore Sun. El-Nawawy has a Ph.D. in journalism and is professor of journalism at the University of West Florida.

**ADEL ISKANDAR**, an Egyptian-Canadian, is an expert on Middle East media. He has conducted Studies on viewership of Arab media and the use of North American media by Arab immigrants. He has lived in Kuwait and in Egypt for many years, and currently teaches communication at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky.

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