

ARTS & LEISURE



At Al-Humza grocery store in Concord, one of dozens of Pakistani-owned groceries in the borough, a store employee takes time for prayer.



S.I.'s first mosque was opened by the Albanian community in 1973, a decade after they began moving here in large numbers. In this image, they share this space with the Pakistani community Sunday school.



PHOTOS COURTESY/WILLIE CHU & THE WAGNER COLLEGE HISTORY DEPT.

Soon after their engagement, Mohammed Dwikat and Israa Odeh, of Palestinian descent, opened Sumac on Forest Avenue. Catch up with AWE's recent three-star review of the restaurant at SILive.com/AWE.

EXHIBIT: 'Muslim Americans on Staten Island'

Staten Island's 9th Annual NYC Immigrant Heritage Week celebration takes an in-depth look at the flip-side of a faith that is often subject to misinformation and misperception.

The theme of this year's celebration is "Muslim Americans of Staten Island: Leaders, Families, Neighbors for 50 Years." The program opens with a reception at 5:30 p.m. in the Horrmann Library's Spotlight Gallery, where a photographic exhibition focuses on the story of Staten Island's diverse Muslim community.

The show combines contemporary images by photographer Willie Chu of S.I.'s Pakistani, Albanian, Egyptian, Turkish, West African and Palestinian Muslim communities in professional and religious settings today, as well as family and historic photos dating back to the 1960s.

The program then moves from the gallery to Spiro Hall 2, where a musical and dance performance will introduce a panel of business and cultural leaders from the local Muslim communities: businessmen Jawaid Syed and Ismet Capric, Dr. Shamim Salman, former Marine

Ahmed Kargbo and CSI student Islam Allen.

The panel on "Muslim-American Leadership on Staten Island" will be moderated by Ameena Ghaffar-Kucher, associate director of international education at the University of Pennsylvania and an expert on Muslim youth and education.

At 7:30 p.m., the program will conclude when Borough President James P. Molinaro presents two awards recognizing exemplary service to the Island's immigrant community.

The Staten Island Immigrant Heritage Week celebration is co-sponsored by the Wagner College Muslim Student Association, History Department and Center for Intercultural Development; the Albanian Islamic Cultural Center; and the Staten Island Immigrants Council.

For more information, call 718-390-3309 or email LRWeintr@wagner.edu.

— ADVANCE STAFF REPORTS