



MEDIA ADVISORY
For immediate release

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NAAP-NY to Celebrate Three Years of Dedication to Arab-Americans and to Honor *Al-Hayat* Senior Diplomatic Correspondent Raghida Dergham at Annual Banquet

What: Network of Arab-American Professionals of New York's 3rd Anniversary Banquet
Date: Saturday, February 26, 2005
Time: 7:00 PM – Cocktail Reception; 8:00 PM – Program
Where: Southgate Towers Ballroom, 371 Seventh Avenue (@ 31st St.), NYC

NEW YORK CITY – Feb. 23, 2005 – On Saturday, February 26, 2005 the Network of Arab-American Professionals of New York (NAAP-NY) will celebrate three years of dedication to the Arab-American community with its third annual banquet. Since its inception in Feb. 2002, NAAP-NY's membership has ballooned from only five founding members to almost 1,000 members in the NY/NJ area.

NAAP-NY is a volunteer-based community organization that supports the Arab-American student movement, provides opportunities for networking among professionals, empowers the community through advocacy, and promotes and preserves Arab culture and identity. Through the efforts of its devoted members over the past three years, NAAP-NY has built a highly respected, deeply motivated and dynamic organization with a vibrant, contemporary outlook on the promise of our Arab-American community here in the United States.

Some groundbreaking local and national NAAP achievements include the first-ever Arab Cultural Street Fair in NYC, the first-ever Arab-American Comedy show, the first-ever Arab-American Filmmaker Award, co-sponsored by Emmy-Award winning actor Tony Shalhoub, and an internationally broadcast weekly TV show (ART Downstairs Café).

At the banquet, NAAP-NY will present *Al-Hayat* Senior Diplomatic Correspondent **Raghida Dergham** with the 2005 *NAAP-NY Achievement Award* for her journalistic integrity in addressing Arab issues in the media. In addition to her role at the London-based *Al-Hayat* newspaper, Ms. Dergham is a Political Analyst for MSNBC and NBC News and frequently appears on CNN, FOX News, PBS' The News Hour and Charlie Rose, ABC, CBS, NPR, and BBC to weigh in on Middle East affairs as a commentator.

This year's banquet will take place at Southgate Towers in the heart of Manhattan. Entertainment will be provided by Amer Kharoubi.

Please RSVP to Yasmin Hamidi at **917-860-6828** or yasminaai@hotmail.com. For further information about NAAP-NY, please visit www.naaponline.org/ny.