



Rugs of Remembrance:

Bosnian Weaving in Hartford

DATE: Thursday November 3, 2011

TIME: 5 – 7 PM

LOCATION: The Institute for Community Research Gallery, 2 Hartford Square West, Suite 100; 146 Wyllys St. (corner of Charter Oak Ave. and Columbus Blvd.), Hartford CT 06106

This event is free and open to the public.

DETAILS: This exhibit displays handwoven rugs, carpets, and wall hangings made by skilled Bosnian weavers living in Hartford. A special memorial quilt from Bosnia will also be on view, loaned by the social justice organization Advocacy Net. The opening event will also feature weaving demonstrations as well as Bosnian music and food.

Greater Hartford is now home to over 10,000 Bosnians, most coming here as refugees from the war in the former Yugoslavia. For the many widows in the community, continuing to practice the traditional arts of weaving, knitting, and crochet lace helps them to cope with the trauma of the genocide their families suffered. For five years, ICR's Connecticut Cultural Heritage Arts Program has worked with Bosnian artists to encourage production and marketing of their exquisite carpets. Our project has helped to improve English skills, involve the weavers in American society, and support their families. The exhibit provides a chance for public to meet these talented artists and watch them weaving at their looms. Many of the carpets will be for sale.

The exhibit is supported by the Aurora Women and Girls Foundation and the Greater Hartford Arts Council through contributors to its United Arts Campaign and the United Way Community Campaign. CHAP's participation is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, and the Institute for Community Research.

INFORMATION: Contact Lynne Williamson at 860-278-2044 x 251 or Lynne.Williamson@icrweb.org; also visit our websites at www.incommunityresearch.org and www.ctheritagearts.org
For press information and publicity photographs call 860-278-2044 x 284

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