

Peggy Kelsey



“Afghanistan: A View from the Ground” opens with some surprising things Peggy Kelsey found, including a children’s circus, women drivers, women studying tae kwon do and basketball with male instructors, and more. Scenes and stories from Kabul City, Herat, Bamiyan City, and provinces (where the Buddhas were blown up) give one a feel for life in these different places. Maps and aerial shots give one a sense of place and geography. This presentation is an eye-opening and stereotype-breaking introduction to the current situation in Afghanistan.

Peggy Kelsey is a professional photographer who was inspired to begin the Afghan Women’s Project after meeting with a delegation of Afghan women who passed through Austin, Texas in 2002. She traveled to Afghanistan the following year for a six-week stay and created a photo-documentary chronicling the narrative histories of forty women. In the spring of 2010, she revisited the country for an 11-week stay, gaining new insights and updating the photo-documentary. She now travels around the US sharing her slide presentations and exhibits that describe the variety of experiences and the complexity of the situations Afghans live in. Peggy’s comments serve as a bridge between the reader and Afghan women, as she addresses intractable issues and situations that the Afghans face.