ABID MINTO
REMEMBERING
FAIZ AHMED FAIZ
Centenary Celebration 2011

SATURDAY JULY 16th, 2011
5:30 PM SHARP

DEAR HEART (Staged reading)
A Short Play
By Sam Litham & Munib Anwar
Stage Adaption by Saqib Mausoof
Featuring: Jessica Risco as Alys & Kashif Maqsood as Faiz Ahmed Faiz
Produced by Ijaz Syed

Presented by:
FRIENDS OF SOUTH ASIA
PAKISTAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTRE
Faiz Centenary Celebrations Committee

VENUE
PACC
1590 Oakland Road, Suite B213
San Jose, CA 95131
408-676-7725

http://friendsofsouthasia.org

Abid Minto is currently the elected President of National Workers Party (NWP) of Pakistan.

Abid Hassan Minto Minto (born 3rd February 1932, Rawalpindi, Pakistan) is a constitutional expert and senior lawyer of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. He is also a literary critic and a leftwing civic and political leader. His legal career spans over 50 years during which he was elected member of the Pakistan Bar Council from 1966 up to 1983; President, Lahore High Court Bar Association (1982); Chairman, National Coordination Committee of Lawyers (1981 to 1985) and President, Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan (SCBA) (1997 to 1999).

Minto became a member of The Communist Party of Pakistan (CPP) in 1949 and remained with it until it was banned in 1954 after the Rawalpindi Conspiracy Case along with the Democratic Students Federation (DSF) which was also co-founded by Minto in 1949 while at Gordon College.
FAIZ was one of the most acclaimed poets of South Asia, born in Sialkot, Pakistan, writing in Urdu & Punjabi. He allied his poetry and person not only with the aspirations of Pakistanis but also with the international movement for peace and human rights. He was awarded the Lenin Peace Prize and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

FAIZ's outspoken condemnation of injustice and inequality led to the charges of high treason and was imprisoned. A romantic revolutionary poet kept writing, conventional theme of love & beauty submerged in larger social & political issues, Dast-e-Saba & Zindan Nama, two collections of modernist poetry blended with classical Urdu & Farsi tradition. He was friends with Nazim Hikmet and Pablo Neruda, the Nobel Laureate.

FAIZ's poetry is a message of hope for the people longing for peace and freedom, a source of inspiration for those seeking to build a just society.

A Tribute by T. Beeth

In a cruel sunless prison
He breathes the freshest air
Deprived of pen and paper
His soul soars
Pierces the relentlessly cold skies
In a harsh dry soil
Grows an unforgiving acorn
That’s FAIZ!

وہ تھاں کا گھر ہے کہ چھیڑ کر بارے کیم
اور تھلے گے غمین دے تکلیف
جین کی نیا طلب دے نارے قدام
مختصر کر پھیلے دو یک

Rise now from the dust
My darling young one Wake.
Wake now Wake now.
We've your life's bed to make.
Look how the dark night
Comes wrapped in a long blue shawl
Where these crying eyes
Have heaped up pearls—
So many pearls whose light
Casts on your wedding rite
A shimmering tonight
To brighten your name

From Sar-e-Wadi-Sina
Translation by Andrew McCord

Alys Faiz
1914-2003

ALYS was a British-born naturalized Pakistani poet, writer, journalist, human rights activist, social worker and teacher.

She is best known as the wife of the famous Pakistani poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz. She was also the aunt of the assassinated Punjab governor Salman Taseer. By birth she was British but later adopted Islam and Pakistan as her religion and country. She married Faiz Ahmed Faiz in the 1940’s.

Let’s raise our hands together
To peace and prosperity of the world
Faiz centenary theme

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