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# The Cedar



SUMMER - 2010

WWW.KFEIR.COM

## 78th Reunion - Huntington, WV



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### Reservations and Information

**When** Labor Day Weekend, September 4-6, 2010

**Where** Huntington, W.V.

**Hotel** Pullman Plaza Hotel (formally the Radisson)  
(304) 525-1001 or toll-free (866) 613-3611  
\$89 per night (mention "Kfeirian Reunion")  
Complimentary valet parking included  
Reservations must be made by Aug 15, 2010

**Registration** Early bird registration deadline is Aug 24, 2010  
Fill out and mail in enclosed form



### Events

#### **Saturday, Sept 4, 2010**

Pool Party  
Children's Corner Activities  
Arabic Dance, Drum and Language Seminars  
Touma Middle Eastern Museum Tours  
Cocktail Hour, Dinner and Hafli with Arabic Band and American Music DJ

#### **Sunday, Sept 5, 2010**

Divine Liturgy at Holy Spirit Orthodox Church  
Children's Corner Activities  
General Assembly Meeting  
Cocktail Hour, Banquet and Hafli with Arabic Band and American Music DJ

#### **Monday, Sept 6, 2010**

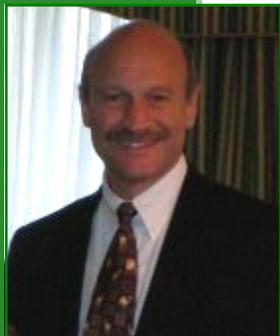
Brunch and Raffle

أهلاً وسهلاً!

**Online Registration - Coming Soon!**

*Look for more details in the upcoming registration packet.*

## Message from the President



My Fellow Kfeirians,

Warmest greetings to you and your family. It's hard to believe the seasons have come and gone the past year and we're getting ready to gather once again, this time for our 78th Kfeirian Reunion. What a blessing it is to be able to meet and celebrate a true American success story. Our story. A story of immigrants from the small village of Kfeir in what is now Lebanon and generations later, we still gather to honor all those who have come before us. Kfeirians one and all.

As we prepare for the 2010 reunion, let's not forget last year's reunion in Toledo, Ohio. What a great time that was. My many thanks again to the Toledo leadership and your board of directors for an outstanding job in putting together the 77th Kfeirian Reunion. When our Kfeirian families gather, we share memories of our past reunions and family members and friends no longer with us, but more importantly we create new memories and establish our future as we did in Toledo with so many children in attendance.

Our celebration for 2010 is in Huntington, WV at the Pullman Plaza Hotel, (Formerly Radisson Hotel) Labor Day Weekend, September 4th, 5th and 6th. Huntington was the home of the very first organized reunion in 1932 and we have many memories of past reunions being held in this fine city on the Ohio River. Reservations can be made directly through the hotel or through our own travel website, [www.kfeiriantravel.com](http://www.kfeiriantravel.com), along with any transportation needs. There is also a link to the travel website at the bottom of our main website, [www.kfeir.com](http://www.kfeir.com). Please take advantage of this easy and convenient access for any of your travel needs throughout the year. The registration packet will be coming to you soon with all the details for this years Kfeirian Reunion in Huntington and how to registration online through our main website.

Ours is a legacy where so many of our younger Kfeirian families have a special opportunity to share a legacy and heritage with their children and discover family members you may never knew of and to discover the Kfeirian roots that not only include present day Lebanon, but when it was still part of Syria as well. Take this time at the 78th Kfeirian Reunion to discover or rediscover a heritage that is second to none. Make this a special time of family and friends and come to the 78th Kfeirian Reunion.

It's a testimony to all Kfeirians past and present on what has been accomplished through the years by our people who volunteer their own time even though they have major commitments to their families, businesses and communities. It is this dedication and unselfishness that has made us a success and will continue to do so in the years to come as we go forward towards a century of our Kfeirian Reunion. When I tell people about our story, they are truly amazed and envious because they don't have a present day connection to their ancestors or their heritage. It is a legacy we are proud to have and I know it will continue to be carried on through the same dedication and commitment of so many present day and future Kfeirians. Have a wonderful and safe summer and I look forward to seeing everyone this Labor Day Weekend 2010 in West Virginia's River City, Huntington. Take care and blessing to each and everyone,

Mike Abraham, Board President

### 2009 - 2010

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Deitra Hickey

Philip Michael

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## Congratulations! مبروك! ✨ Engagements / Weddings



Corey Campbell is engaged to Amanda Louise Bailey of Charleston, WV. Corey is the son of Steve and Sandy Michael Campbell, the grandson of the late Amiel and Julia Michael of Charleston.



Gianna Michael, daughter of Dr. Diann Michael, is engaged to Khaled Mourra of Beirut, Lebanon. She is visiting Beirut this summer for tourism, studying Arabic to visit the Michael family descendants in Beirut, Kfeir, and Damascus, work on her video art projects, and wedding planning.



Mary Michael is engaged to Tony Nasr. The wedding is June 26th at St. George Cathedral, Charleston, WV. Mary is the daughter of Philip and Gigi Howard Michael of Charleston, WV. The festivities have been enjoyed for several months with bachelorette parties in Fort Lauderdale and Vegas.



Kristi Thomas, daughter of Bob and Linda Thomas, granddaughter of Ray Abraham, was married to Ray Henson on the beach of Siesta Key, Florida May 16, 2010. Immediate family was in attendance. A reception for all family and friends to celebrate the marriage of Kristi and Ray was held in Huntington, WV at the Guyan Golf and Country Club on May 29th. They will be living in Proctorville, Ohio.



Christina Saad, daughter of Julian and Jihad Saad of Huntington, WV is engaged to Scott McNeely. No date has been set.

## Births



Grace Irene Sadd

Philip and Stephanie Sadd had their first baby! A beautiful little girl, Grace Irene Sadd, was born March 26, 2010 and weighed over 8 lbs. Grace is the granddaughter of Jameel Sadd of Atlanta, GA. She is simply beautiful!

Ryan and Barbara Michael Morrison had a beautiful baby girl, Samantha, in Huntington, WV. Samantha is the granddaughter of John and Christine Michael, of Florida, formerly of Charleston, WV, and the great grand-daughter of Philip and Mae Michael.



Samantha Morrison

Doug and Rebecca Saad Tadora of Columbus, OH had a beautiful baby girl! Alexa was born on June 8, 2010 at 11:08 AM. Alexa is the granddaughter of Julian and Jihad Saad of Huntington, WV

Wesley and Laurie Kawaja had a beautiful baby girl. Annabelle Rose was born on June 19, 2010. She weighed 7lbs 6oz. She is the granddaughter of Galib and Judy Kawaja.



Alexa Tadora



Annabelle Kawaja

## Birthdays

Matthew Fischer, son of Charlie and Melanie Fischer and grandson of Chuck and Lila Mickel Fischer celebrated his 2nd birthday. His sister, Anna graduated from pre-school a great start to her future academic career!

Quentin Hanna, son of Greg and Jamie Hanna of Huntington, WV will turn 5 years old on June 14th.

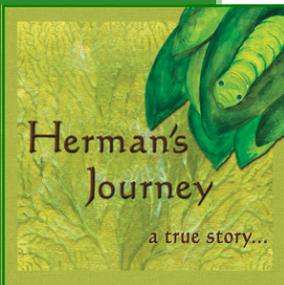
Congratulations to Tammy Sadd who turns 50 in June!



## Accomplishments

Greg Hanna who joined 5th/3rd Bank in Huntington, WV last September has recently been promoted to Branch Manager. The branch is located about two minutes from his home. Congratulations!

Jamina Carder and her friend Kaaren Engle went on a weekend trip to Chattanooga, TN. Unbeknownst to them, they had an unexpected traveler. IT WAS A CATTAPILLAR. Jamina and Kaaren named the caterpillar HERMAN. During the weekend, they came up with an idea; why not write a children's story around HERMAN. Jamina and Kaaren co-authored the story and Kaaren, a professional artist, did the illustrations. It is a sweet, tender story for kids. Jamina Carder is the daughter of Jimmie Tweel Carder and granddaughter of Sally Tweel, and her late husband James A. Tweel of Huntington, WV. "Herman's Journey" is \$15.00 a copy and can be purchased by going online to [www.hermansjourney.com](http://www.hermansjourney.com).



Jim's Steak and Spaghetti House in Huntington, WV has just celebrated their 72nd anniversary. Congratulations to Sally, and Jimmie for continuing Uncle Jim's legacy.

## Graduations



Jane Griffith, daughter of Nancy Lynn Rahija Rutherford and Tom Griffith, graduated from

Duke University with a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. She has settled in San Francisco. Megan Rahija Rutherford Bush, daughter of Jan Rutherford and Jeff Bush, graduated with a bachelor's degree from Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. Megan was a Classical Studies major.

Rita Hawarny of Huntington, daughter of Leila the late Albert Hawarny, graduated from medical school at Marshall University. She will be completing her residency in Huntington, WV. Leila cooked for weeks to prepare food for Rita's graduation party which was held at Holy Spirit Orthodox Church in Huntington, WV. Rita was a recipient of the Kfeirian Reunion Scholarship. She is one of our most beautiful Arabic dancers and entertained us all with her energy and beauty at the last reunion.



Xavier [Zaza] Patrick Felix Alegre de La Soujeole, daughter of Martha Rutherford and Axel de La Soujeole, graduated from high school in Dallas, Texas. He will pursue training and certification in automotive mechanics. Alice Bassett Rutherford, daughter of Abraham and Rahija Bassett, living in Sacramento, California, celebrated three May graduations among her grandchildren.

Congratulations to Rhoda Hodge and her grandchildren: Stephanie Kenney, who graduated from the University of Kentucky, and Shelby Kenney, who graduated from Walton High School, in Marietta, GA. Stephanie and Shelby are the daughters of Stuart and the late Nancy Hodge Kenney of Marietta, Ga. Also

graduated from Virginia Tech was Scott Hardy, son of David and Nadia Hodge Hardy, and Evan Thompson, son of Doug and Norma Hodge Thompson, who graduated from St. Joseph High School, in Huntington, WV. Evan also graduated from the HPD Explorers. God Bless them all in their future endeavors.



Shannon M. Parrish 18, the daughter of Sherry Mickel Parrish, graduated from Centennial High School, Ellicott City, MD. Shannon will study Behavioral Sciences at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD. She is also enrolled in the elite "Civicus" Program designed for students interested in Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility. In celebration of her accomplishments, the family is enjoying a 2 week Mediterranean Cruise to Italy, Greece and Turkey! Shannon's mother, Sherry, is a valuable member of the Kfeirian Reunion Board of Directors and led a wonderful fund raising effort at the last reunion raising over \$4,000 in a matter of minutes. She and her husband sweetened the pot by matching all donation in an act of great wisdom and generosity.

Gianna Michael, daughter of Dr. Diann Dee Michael of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, graduated with Honors with a Bachelor in Fine Arts from Alfred University, in Alfred, NY. A recipient of the Kfeirian Reunion Scholarship, Gianna was also

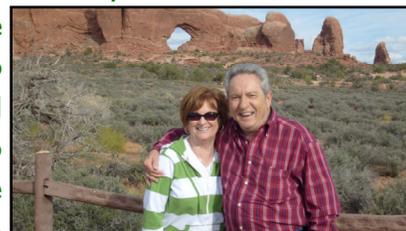


awarded the Bergren Innovation Award in 2009 for her charity fundraising art auctions, was President of the Art Union for three years, was a recipient of the New York State School of Ceramics Scholarship throughout her studies and was consistently on the Dean's List. Her video projects and a recently published pictorial and poetic book, *Disinherited Earth*, has been shown at art exhibitions and galleries in Spain, China, New York and Croatia. She will be spending the summer working on video projects in Beirut.

## Travels



George and Gloria Hanna made a memorable trip recently to Price, Utah to honor Fr. Athanasios Emmert on his 50th Anniversary as a priest. Fr. Emmert founded Holy Spirit Orthodox Church in Huntington, WV in 1968, which George and Gloria were also founders. They also celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary on June 11, 2010. They flew in to Las Vegas, visited the Hoover Dam, Grand Canyon and Zion and Brice



Canyons. The next day, on our way to Price Utah, we hit 2 to 3 feet of snow in the mountains and had to cross Dixie National Forest. It was the most beautiful site from about 8-9 thousand feet. Gloria was scared to death while George was having fun peering over the beautiful snow capped mountains. Fr. Emmert's weekend celebration event was a wonderful, fun filled weekend full of activities in which two Metropolitan Bishops were present. While in Utah, "Lead Foot" George got two speeding tickets! He says they were speed traps... yeah right! On their way to Phoenix Arizona, they toured many historic sites, traveled through the Navajo Indian Nation, and purchased many souvenirs for the grandkids. Arriving at their resort that evening, they met up with Karen Wigglesworth and fiancé DeWayne at a great Mexican restaurant. The next day the Hanna's drove to Las Vegas to find out that Rhoda Hodge, her daughters Lora, Sharon and grandson Ryan were there to surprise them. The next two days we spent with Dee and Bernie Weber. Dee, a Kfeirian, was from Huntington, WV and a Marshall University graduate. She attended the Las Vegas Kfeirian Reunion with all her family. When the rental car was returned, George had driven around 1830 miles in the 3 state area.



Dr. Diann Michael went to Sao Paulo, Brazil, in April to meet her many Kfeirian cousins. The family reunions were many and joyous, with Diann meeting her three first cousins, Joao, Ivani, and Stella Miguel for the first time ever. Their father, Diann's uncle, Toumie Miguel (Michael), went to Brazil when he was 19, several years after Diann's father, Esber Michael, came to the USA and settled in Charleston, WV. The two brothers established families, writing, but never seeing each other again. This visit reunited the family almost 100 years later. Although her Portuguese is null, Diann communicated with everyone in English, French, or Arabic. Stella's husband, Dr. Jaime Blandy was the greatest guide and translator for Diann. Nicky and Carmen Ansara Neto, who have been frequent travelers to the US and have attended several Kfeirian Reunions, were great hosts and Nicky even escorted Diann to Sao Paulo's many museums. Nicky and Diann found a new friendship viewing all the wonderful art together while Carmen spoiled Diann with great food and wonderful conversation. At a wonderful



## Travels (continued)



dinner arranged by Ivani Miguel, attorney, there were 39 Michael descendant Kfeirians all eating the most wonderful Arabic food. Diann reunited with Hana Michael Haddad, from the Kfeir, who lives in Sao Paulo now with her husband and her beautiful daughter, Mariana. Diann had just visited Hana's mother, Souad, and brothers Sleiman and Salaam, when she was in the Kfeir in December of this past year. Diann was hosted at The University of Sao Paulo by Dr. Rachel Kerbawy, fellow psychologist and wife of Dr. Jose Kerbawy. They had many common acquaintances and experiences, so their days together were wonderful. The trip was topped off with wonderful weekends in the country at Dr. Antonio Blandy's (Stella and Jaimie's son) Arabian horse ranch. Antonio is Stella and Jaime's son. The only problem with the trip was saying goodbye, and not having enough Brazilian BEANS AND RICE since returning. Diann is planning a trip back ASAP! Diann is researching the Kfeirian Reunion Cookbook and trying to update the Michael-Radwan Family Tree during her travels to the Middle East and Brazil.



Abe and Sharon Bassett celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this past June. In this picture they have just boarded their cruise ship in Rio de Janeiro for a trip around Cape Horn to Santiago, Chile. Happy Anniversary!

## Get Well Soon!

Jeanette Bolus of Huntington, WV was trying to be helpful to a sick neighbor by walking her little dog, fell, and broke her right arm two weeks ago. Being right handed, she has been having a hard time doing anything for herself and around the apartment. She is slowly recovering.



## Apply for Kfeirian Reunion Scholarships

Since the founding of the Kfeirian Reunion Scholarship in 1964, over 135 Kfeirians have been awarded scholarships for higher education.

We encourage Kfeirians to apply for next year's scholarship. To download the application and apply, please visit our Web site at [www.kfeir.com/scholarship.html](http://www.kfeir.com/scholarship.html).

Who are these two young fellows?

Derbekah kings from years past. ..

Rock on... Aywah!



## Kfeirian Reunion Heritage Cookbook

For the 80th Reunion, we hope to have a Kfeirian Reunion Heritage Cookbook. All proceeds will go to the Kfeirian Reunion Scholarship. Diann Michael has been working on the cookbook and heritage history. She has updated a lot of information about Kfeirian recipes, cooking, heritage, and traditions during her recent trips to Lebanon and Brazil. WE NEED MORE TESTERS, and TASTERS! If you just love to eat Arabic food or would like to submit a recipe, contact Diann Michael (dianndee@yahoo.com or 954 583-0566) and it is a gourmand's dream.

### Recipe: Smead Wa Benadoora (Wheat and Tomatoes)

#### Ingredients

1 to 1 ½ cups chopped onions  
 1 cup coarse bulgur  
 4 medium chopped firm tomatoes or one large can of diced tomatoes  
 1 small can of tomato paste (optional)  
 One can of garbanzo beans (optional)  
 2 cups of water  
 1/4 cup extra Virgin olive oil  
 salt and pepper to taste

صحتين!

#### Preparation

In a large pot, lightly cook the onions in the oil until yellow and soft, add the garbanzo beans to coat and caramelize, mix the bulgur into the pot and stir with the oil and onions. Add the tomatoes, salt and pepper and two cups of water. Bring to just below boiling and maintain on simmer for 30 - 40 minutes, stir and keep from sticking to the bottom of the pan. If you like tomatoes a lot, you may add tomato paste, add a ¼ cup of water to thin the tomato paste while cooking. Some do not add the garbanzo beans, and others add squash, carrots, or other vegetables for different flavors, or add sugar to cut the bitterness of the tomatoes, but the more traditional Kfeirian way to make this tasty dish is just with bulghur and tomatoes and onions. Serve warm with sliced onions and pita bread. This dish goes very well with greens such as spinach and onions (a recipe to come in a later edition) or salata: tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, and onions, with olive oil and lemon.

*Thanks to Gloria Hanna, Ghada Michael Deeb, and Lila Mickel Fischer for input on this recipe.*

### Kfeirian Reunion Reporters Wanted!

Looking for 'in-the-know' Kfeirians to gather news and information for the newsletter! Help us collect information on fellow Kfeirians such as milestone events, births, weddings, anniversaries, graduations, etc. Send the information to us and we'll print it in the next newsletter. Contact Diann Michael (954) 583-0566 or email to dianndee@yahoo.com if you are interested. Also, feel free to email any news of your family & pictures.

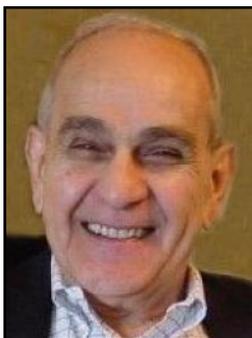


May their memory be eternal! فليكن ذكرهم مؤبداً! م



Four generations of the descendants of Abraham Joseph Bassett, Sr. commemorated the 125th anniversary of his birth on April 28 of this year. Abraham died suddenly on March 28, 1949 at the age of

63. He had immigrated to America in 1902 with his father Joseph, working first—as did many Kfeirian immigrants—as a peddler. In the following years, Abraham lived in Toledo, Blissfield, MI, Pikeville, KY, Madison and Williamson WV and Columbus, OH. He married Rahija Saad in 1914 and together they had five daughters and one son. Abraham’s businesses progressed from peddling to a fruit and cigar shop, to a confectionery and sandwich shop, and to a restaurant. Known for his sense of humor, he also could laugh at himself. Once, asked if he had an education, he replied that he did, but he left it at home. He would have been most proud that his six children earned ten college degrees, including two doctorates, three masters, and five bachelor degrees. Five of the six became teachers.



**EMIL R. GEORGE**, 83, passed away Wednesday, May 26, 2010, in Huntington. Funeral services were May 29, 2010, at Holy Spirit Orthodox Church, Huntington. Burial was at Spring Hill Cemetery, Huntington, with American Legion Post 16 conducting Military Graveside Rites. He was born Oct. 6, 1926 in Huntington, W.Va., a son of the late Samuel and Helen Tweel George. A sister, Rosalie Coleman, and a brother, Julius George, preceded him in death. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, having served during five invasions in the South Pacific and a successful busi-

nessman and entrepreneur who ran several businesses. Survivors include: his wife of 48 years, Barbara George; two daughters and sons-in-law, Paula and Tom Tomkins of Sausalito, Calif., and Ann-Marie and Randy Clay of Chesapeake, Ohio; a son and daughter-in-law, Vincent and Shelia George of Russell, Ky.; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Raymond and Kelly George of New York City and Charleston, W.Va., and Lou and Betty George of Hilton Head, S.C.; and 10 grandchildren. He also leaves behind many nieces and nephews.

Louise Tweel, 91 years old, passed April 5, 2010, Huntington Health & Rehabilitation Center. She was survived by her son, Jeff and daughter in law Susan, 4 grandchildren: Lauren & Chase Tweel, Sherry Patterson, John Outland, 2 great-grandchildren, 2 sisters-in-law, Clemence Bassett & Sally Tweel, and several nieces & nephews. Remembrances can be made to First Presbyterian Church in Huntington, WV.



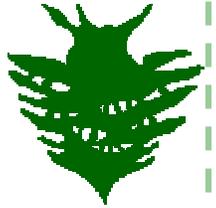
This year marks the fifth anniversary of the falling asleep of Mary Peck, mother of Board VP Joey Peck. A memorial service was conducted by the Archpriest John Dixon at Holy Spirit Orthodox Church in Huntington, WV on

May 2nd. Allah yerhama! This year also marks the fifth anniversary of the falling asleep of Asma Hodge, mother of George and Johnny Hodge and the late Mary Peck. A memorial service will be conducted at Holy Spirit Orthodox Church in Huntington, WV by the Archpriest John Dixon. The family wishes to invite extended relatives and friends to her memorial service on Sunday, August 22nd.



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## Holy Toledo... Pictures from the 77th Reunion!

