



Williamson Hosts 59th Reunion

The Kfeirian families of Williamson are hosting the 59th annual Kfeirian Reunion this Labor Day weekend, August 31, September 1, 2, in Huntington, WV. Jeanette Cantees McCoy and Cheryl Slater are co-chairmen.

The Reunion will be held in the Radisson Hotel, the same site as the previous year, but at more favorable hotel rates. The events of the gathering will be found on page two of the newsletter. With this newsletter you will find a registration form and return envelop. Make your hotel reservations directly with the Radisson Hotel; their telephone numbers are on page 2.

Other members of the host committee are LoRayne Dingess, Secretary, and Phil Abraham and Abe Cantees, Co-Treasurers. Williamson last hosted the 54th Reunion in Lexington, KY in 1986.

KRF President Suspends Publication of Newsletter

KRF President Thomas P. Bevins, Surfside Beach, SC, suspended the publication of the KRF Newsletter on January 15, 1991, because of "present economic conditions" which have "placed the Foundation into a state of financial difficulty."

Bevins explained that the drop in CD interest rates have cut into income needed to fund scholarships. Treasurer, Jane Eubanks reported that some CD's are paying 7.15%, a drop from 8.00%

Following lengthy discussion at the spring board meeting on April 28, the board sanctioned the publication of this issue of the newsletter by authorizing the expenditure of \$1100 in the special newsletter fund, plus an additional \$500 from the general treasury. The \$1100 newsletter fund has been contributed by the membership for the express purpose of publishing a newsletter.

In other action, the Board rejected a motion that would have established a policy that prohibited the publication of articles that contain political content.

KRF Newsletter Goals and Objectives

"To foster increased communication among Kfeirians by publishing an annual directory.

"To encourage greater awareness of Lebanese culture and tradition, particularly among the young.

Foundation Treasury Reaches An All-Time High

The treasury of the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation has reached \$52,500 for the first time in its history, according to a financial report issued by Jane Eubanks, Treasurer.

A dramatic increase of 23% in the past year (six months) reflects a profitable 58th reunion, increased scholarship contributions, and a positive cash flow in the Newsletter special account.

Listed below are reports of the financial status of the KRF since 1949. Since the KRF does not have an official fiscal year, annual comparisons may be misleading.

A precipitous decline in the treasury in 1952 was caused by a contribution to Kfeir. The drop in 1964 coincides with the establishment of the Scholarship program when \$6,600 was transferred to a separate account, which was maintained until 1973 when scholarship funds were co-mingled with other foundation accounts.

1949 Sep \$16,017	1971 Sep \$13,590
1950 May \$13,964	1973 May \$21,274
1951 Aug \$10,299	1974 Aug \$13,590
1952 Jul \$ 4,496	1975 Sep \$23,645
1953 Jun \$ 4,590	1976 Mar \$25,263
1954 Sep \$ 6,167	1977 May \$28,681
1955 Sep \$ 4,256	1978 May \$25,566
1956 Jun \$ 4,738	1980 Jun \$33,794
1958 Jan \$ 9,726	1981 Sep \$40,239
1960 Sep \$10,300	1982 Sep \$41,733
1961 Aug \$10,028	1984 Aug \$42,850
1962 Sep \$11,418	1985 Aug \$42,850
1963 Sep \$12,775	1985 Dec \$45,288
1964 Sep \$ 6,646	1986 May \$46,016
1965 Sep \$11,083	1988 May \$45,092
1966 Sep \$10,576	1989 Dec \$41,642
1967 Jan \$10,691	1990 Dec \$42,620
1968 Sep \$10,393	1991 Apr \$52,503
1969 Sep \$12,471	

"To nurture pride in the accomplishments of Kfeirians by publicizing news of their achievements.

"To stimulate increased attendance at the annual reunion.

"To garner support for the scholarship program and other projects of the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation."

Thank you, Cousins!

**KFEIRIAN NEWSLETTER
CONTRIBUTORS**

ANGELS \$100 & Up

Farris & Victoria Rahall
Edward McCarus
Lucille Saad Smith
John & Barbara Thabet

PATRONS \$50 to \$99

Joseph S. Bassett, M.D.
Russell & Helene Bassett
Rev. George S. & Laila Corey
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FRIENDS Up To \$24

Constance M. Hanna
Patricia Marlowe
Selma Andrews
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Martha Rutherford Soujeole
Jo Ann Thabet

**ALL ROADS LEAD TO
Radisson Hotel
1001 3rd Avenue
Huntington, WV 25701**

for the

**FIFTH-NINTH
ANNUAL
KFEIRIAN
REUNION**

**3 BIG DAYS
Aug. 31, Sept 1, 2**

Saturday Events

Registration
Swimming
Cocktails
Hafl and Disco Music
Buffet Supper

Sunday Events

Registration
Choice of Church
Brunch
Newsletter Editors Meeting
Annual Business Meeting
Cocktails
Dinner
Grand Ball

Monday Events

Committee Meetings
Breakfast
Drawing for Prizes
Scholarships Awarded

**Host City
Williamson**

**Radisson Hotel
(800) 333-3333
or direct to
(304) 525-1001
by August 15**

An Editorial

A pattern has emerged with the publication of this issue of the Kfeirian Newsletter. Two issues will be distributed annually: the first in November featuring a complete directory, and the second in June featuring news of the next reunion. Both issues will carry news briefs and articles of general interest.

Voluntary contributions have fully met the expenses of the first three issues. There have been to date 129 contributions, including 48 for this second volume. It has been pleasing that 116 **different** persons have contributed. That is more than 10% of the membership. The average contribution has been nearly \$35, ranging from \$5 to \$125.

Some suggestions have been made to save money by printing a directory only every second or third year, or by publishing only one-half of the directory each year. However, since the fall directory issue did not exceed the minimum weight allowed by the post office for bulk mailings, no money would have been saved.

Anyone who works in marketing knows how quickly a mailing list goes out of date. People move, change telephone numbers, die, divorce. Invalid names have been removed from the list, but the names of even more Kfeirians have been added. The list now contains 1220 names and address. The directory issue has become a valuable resource for me; the copy next to my telephone is used constantly.

If the newsletter continues to serve the membership, contributions will continue. As long as the membership submits news and information and helps keep the mailing list up to date, this newsletter, I believe, will continue to be a valuable publication. I am deeply appreciative for the many fine comments received and for the generous contributions.

Come to the Reunion and express your opinion.

--Abe Bassett

From Beirut To Jerusalem

Middle East Conflict Explained in Acclaimed Book by NY Times Reporter Thomas L. Friedman

The excerpt below is reprinted from From Beirut To Jerusalem by Thomas L. Friedman, by permission of the copyright holders, Farrar, Straus & Giroux, Inc., New York. The book is available in a paperback version published by Anchor Books. 541 pp. \$12.95

The roots of the Lebanese civil war, which is the backdrop for the first half of this book, can be traced back to the very foundation of Lebanon. The post-World War I modern republic of Lebanon was based on a merger between the country's two then-dominant religious communities, the Sunni Muslims and the Maronite Christians. The Maronites, an Eastern Christian Church founded in Syria around the fifth century by a monk named Maron, acknowledged the supremacy of the Pope and the Catholic Church in Rome, but also retained their own distinctive liturgy. They managed to survive for centuries in a sea of Muslims by entrenching themselves in the rugged terrain of Mt. Lebanon, and by regularly seeking help from, and forging alliances with, Christians in the West--from the Crusaders to modern France. By the late 1700s, their expanding population, openness to modernization, and high degree of communal organization made the Maronites the most powerful religious community on Mt. Lebanon. The second-largest religious community in the region were the Druse, a splinter sect of Islam whose exact religious beliefs are a communal secret. The Druse, too, had been drawn to Lebanon's mountaintops in order to practice their faith in solitude, without fear of conquering armies.

Following World War I and the collapse of the Turkish Ottoman Empire, which had controlled the Middle East for some four hundred years, the area that is now Syria and Lebanon fell to France. In 1920 the Maronite leadership managed to convince France to set up a Lebanese state which the Maronites and the other smaller Christian sects allied to them would dominate. But in order to make that state economically viable, the Maronites appealed to France to include in it not only their traditional Mt. Lebanon enclave--which was about 80 percent Christian and 20 percent Druse--but also the predominantly Sunni Muslim cities of the coast--Beirut, Tripoli, Sidon, and Tyre--as well as the Shiite Muslim regions of south Lebanon, the Akkar, and the Bekaa Valley. In this "Greater Lebanon," the Maronites and other Christian sects comprised only slightly more than 51 percent of the population, according to the 1932 census.

The Sunni and Shiite Muslims roped into this new state of "Greater Lebanon" were not consulted, and many of them deeply resented it, since they would have preferred to become part of Syria--with its Arab-Muslim majority and orientation.

The Muslims of the world have long been divided between Sunnis, who are the majority, and Shiites. In the seventh century, shortly after the death of Islam's founder, the prophet Muhammad, a dispute arose over who should be his successor as spiritual and political leader, known as caliph. One group, the majority, argued that Muhammad's successor should be appointed through the process of election and consensus by the elders of the community, as was the tradition of the desert. "Sunna" in Arabic means tradition, and those who held this view became known as the Sunnis.

A minority faction, however, argued that Muhammad's successors should come exclusively from his own family and their descendants. They insisted, therefore, that his first cousin and son-in-law--Ali--be appointed as leader of the community. Those who held this view became known in Arabic as the Shia, or "partisans," of Ali. The Shiites were clearly influenced by the notion of divine-right monarchy of pre-Islamic Persia (Iran). The Sunnis eventually defeated the supporters of Ali and installed their own chosen caliphs. Nevertheless, the Sunni-Shiite split has continued down through the ages of Islam, and a whole body of theological and even cultural differences developed, distinguishing Shiites from Sunnis. Summarizing these differences, Islam expert Edward Mortimer observed in his book Faith & Power: "Sunni Islam is the doctrine of power and achievement. Shi'ism is the doctrine of opposition. The starting point of Shi'ism is defeat: the defeat of Ali and his house. . . . Its primary appeal is therefore to the defeated and oppressed. That is why it has so often been the rallying cry for the underdogs in the Muslim world. . . especially for the poor and dispossessed."

Back in the 1930s and 1940s, the Sunnis of Lebanon, who were the second-largest religious community after the Maronites, tended to be the wealthiest, most urbanized, and best educated of the country's Muslims. The Shiites, who were the third-largest group, tended to live in the countryside and were less economically advanced and less well educated. Despite the initial reluctance of the Sunnis and Shiites to be drawn into the Maronites' Greater Lebanon, their leaders eventually reached a political understanding with the Christians in 1943 that enabled the Lebanese republic to become independent of France. The Muslims agreed to abandon their demands for unity with Syria, while the Maronites agreed to sever their ties with France and accept the notion that Lebanon would be an "Arab" country. This unwritten agreement, known as the National Pact, also stipulated that the Lebanese President would always be a Maronite and that the parliament would always have a 6:5 ratio of Christians to Muslims--to ensure Christian predominance--while the Prime Minister would always be a Sunni Muslim and the Speaker of the Parliament always a Shiite--to ensure the country's Arab-Muslim character.

This understanding held up as long as the Maronites and other Christians made up roughly 50 percent of the population. But by the 1970s, rapid demographic growth

among Lebanon's Muslims had turned Lebanon upside down. The Christians had shrunk to a little more than one-third of the population and the Muslims and Druse had grown to roughly two-thirds, with the Shiites becoming the largest single community in the country. When the Muslims demanded that political reforms be instituted to give them a greater share in power by strengthening the role of the Muslim Prime Minister, the Maronites resisted. They wanted Lebanon on its original terms or none at all. In order to support the status quo, the Maronites formed private armies. Most notable among them were the Phalangist militia, originally founded by Pierre Gemayel and later led by his son Bashir, and the Tigers militia founded by former Lebanese President Camille Chamoun and later led by his son Danny; the Lebanese Muslims and Druse established similar private armies to enforce their desire for change.

Around the same time that Lebanon's congenital Christian-Muslim tensions were heating up in the early 1970s, another major intercommunal conflict in the Middle East--that between Palestinian Arabs and Jews--was also coming to a boil. As it happened, I would be on hand when the two conflicts merged in Beirut.

Profile on Julian Saad

This is the third in a continuing series of profiles of the members of the Board of Directors of the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation.

Julian Saad, Huntington, WV, Vice-President of the KRF, is serving on the Board of Directors for the second time.

Julian lives in Huntington with his wife Jihad and their four children: Rebecca, 15; Sarah, 14, Abraham, 12; and Christina 9. He is an electrical engineer with a B.S. degree and has been a sales engineer at Service Machine & Power Distribution Products for the past 18 years. For the past three years Julian and Jihad have owned and operated an oriental rug store in Huntington.

Julian is the son of the late Toufic Kaleel Saad and Mountaha Bouassali McKarids. He is an active member of the Masonic Lodge, the Royal Arch Chapter, the Commandary of Huntington, and the Kiwanis Club. He is a sub-deacon and chanter with the Holy Spirit Orthodox Church in Huntington.

Julian's goals for the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation include keeping the Reunion alive and active, and increasing the benefits and number of scholarships awarded annually.

Kfeirian Reunion Foundation's Purposes

"To provide a suitable method of association and reunion for all members of Kfeirian families in the North American Continent;

"To instill in them a love for our democratic way of life, with its freedom of opportunity, freedom of worship, and justice under law;

Ernest and Adele McCarus Lead North Africa Study Tour

During the summer of 1990, Ernest and Adele McCarus led a group of social studies secondary school teachers on a Fulbright-Hayes Study Tour of North Africa.

The main purpose of this federally funded trip was to heighten the sensitivity and awareness of these teachers to the vital issues in North Africa. Each of the teachers prepared a teaching unit of some aspect of North Africa to be published for classroom use.

After a weekend in Ann Arbor of introductory lectures by specialists on North Africa, the group spent six weeks in Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco.

In each country they attended lectures by local professors on aspects of North African society: economic, political, historical, anthropological, cultural, and religious affairs with special emphasis on women's status. Other topics included the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, the problems of modernization and liberation, and the special status of the Maghrib as a regional entity.

In each country the group took tours and excursions to see the important historical, cultural, and geographical points of interest.

Ernest McCarus is Professor of Arabic and Kurdish Linguistics in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He is Director of the Center for Near East and North African Studies, and has served two terms as chair of the Department of Near Eastern Studies. He is also director of PICAS (Program for Inter-institutional Collaboration in Area Studies).

A native of Charleston, WV, Ernest obtained three degrees from the University of Michigan: a B.A. in Japanese (1945), M.A. in Spanish (1949), and Ph.D. in Linguistics (1956). His dissertation research was on the Kurdish Language in Iraq.

He was director of the U.S. Foreign Service Institute of Arabic Language and Area Studies in Beirut, Lebanon (1958-1960) and was a two-term director of CASA (Center for Arabic Studies Abroad), a federally funded program that sends American students to Cairo for long term intensive study of the Arabic Language. Ernest has authored or co-authored a number of textbooks on Arabic and Kurdish, which are used around the world.

His wife, Adele, teaches French in Middle School in Ann Arbor, and has shared with him his many travels in Europe and Asia. He has a son, Peter, and a daughter, Carol.

"To promote and foster education, religion and scientific research among Kfeirians; and

"To give aid and assistance to, and to attend the welfare of, all Kfeirian families, wherever they may be."

From the Articles of Incorporation of the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation, Inc.

DEATHS

Frank Bassiet, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI, passed away on June 26, 1990 at age 94. His body rests at White Chapel Cemetery in Troy, Michigan. Frank immigrated to the United States about 1910. After serving in the United State Army in France, he entered into the restaurant business, continuing until his retirement in 1972. Frank was pre-deceased by his wife Jeanne, sister Hicebe, brothers Abraham and Sam, father Joseph and mother Miriam. He is survived by 5 nephews and 5 nieces. At age 92, friends and family held a birthday party for Frank in Detroit.

Dalour G. George, 72, Toledo, OH, has passed away. He worked in plant engineering at the Jeep plant for 40 years. He was a past president of the Parish Council of St. Elias Orthodox Church, and chairman of the construction committee for the new church in Sylvania. Dalour was a member of many organizations, including, the Society of Designing Engineers, the Knight of the Order of St. Ignatius of the Antioch, Society of Orthodox Youth Organization, the Toledo A.L.S.A.C. Chapter of the St. Jude Hospital of Memphis, the Elks Club, and the Joseph Darah American Legion Post.

Surviving are his wife, Elaine; son, Matthew David; Daughter, Kelly George-Fingerle; brother, Michael George; sister, Margaret Hartje, and 3 granddaughters, Gretchen, Christine, and Michelle.

Rosalie Lowen, a lifetime resident of Charleston, died November 13, 1990, following a brief illness. She was a member of St. George Orthodox Church, and was retired from The Diamond department store. Surviving are her sisters, Lena Salamy and Marguerite Lowen, Charleston; and her brothers, Louis of Charleston, and Ernest of Fairfax, VA,

Norman Semaan McKarris, 68, Waterloo, ONT, passed away November 10, 1990. He is survived by his wife Eva, sons George of Geneva,

Switzerland and Sam of Concord, NC; daughter Nahela of Chatham, ONT; five grandchildren, and brother Muneer of Charlottetown. He was predeceased by his parents, one brother and one sister.

Emmeline R. Michael, 66, Beckley, died Monday, Feb. 25, 1991 following a short illness. Born December 13, 1924 at Clotheir, WV, she was the daughter of the late James G. and Rose Simon Russell. Emmeline was a former co-owner of Freddie's Restaurant in Beckley from 1960 to 1974 and was a former employee of Stone and Thomas in Beckley from 1975 to 1986. She was a member of the St. Nicholas Orthodox Church where she was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary and the Shums II Bir Club. She was preceded in death by two sisters.

Survivors include her husband, Fred G. Michael; four daughters, Mrs. Diane Michael and her husband, Larry Katz of South Orange, NJ, Mrs. Valorie Allen and her husband, David Allen of Beckley, Mrs. Michele Sculte and her husband, Jon Schulte of Beckley, and Mrs. Carolyn McDonough and her husband Pat McDonough of Midlothian, VA; two brothers, George Russell of Charleston and Phillip Russell of Houston, TX; nine grandchildren, Joshua, Christopher, Lori, Emily, Michael, Laura Caitlin, Phoebe, Zoe, and Zachary.

Lydia Michael, 73, Blissfield, MI, passed away suddenly on Christmas Day, 1990, at her home. Lydia was born to Michael and Thebe Bassett in Oak Harbor, OH, (May 6, 1917) she married Edward Michael, June 20, 1941. Michael passed away in 1981. Lydia was a member of the Order of Eastern Star, Northwest Deerfield Extrusion Church and an elder of First Presbyterian Church in Blissfield.

Surviving Lydia are two sons, Joe, Birmingham, MI, and Bob, Waterford, MI; two sisters, Louise Tweel, Huntington, and Rose Jordon, Blissfield; and three grandchildren. Rev. Jamie Schultz officiated at the funeral services on December 28; burial was at Pleasant View Cemetery

in Blissfield.

Stephanie Sahley, 18, Wellesley, MA, the daughter of Camille and Venice (Cahaly) Sahely, passed away July 6, 1990. She graduated with the Wellesley High School Class of 1990, receiving her diploma at home. In March, the Starlight Foundation of Boston had granted Stephanie's long desired wish to travel to the Caribbean and Disney World.

Stephanie loved theatre, music, gymnastics, swimming, and horseback riding. All who knew her noted that her achievements to overcome her problems were remarkable. She is described as "a courageous young person who fought a very hard battle against a rare disorder of the autonomic nervous system, called Dysautonomia. In spite of this, she lived each day to its fullest, giving of herself to others. She was wise, witty, and gentle. She had a zest for life that made her a very special person."

Stephanie is survived by a brother, Alexander; two sisters, Nadia and Colette, grandmother, Laurice Cahaly, all of Wellesley; and several aunts and uncles in Australia and Massachusetts. She was the granddaughter of the late Raphael Cahaly and Abdallah and Zahia Sahely.

Funeral services were held at St. John of Damascus Orthodox Church in Dedham.

Jim Mansour Thabit, San Antonio, TX, died April 12, 1991, in a nursing home. His wife Virginia passed away in 1978. Surviving him are eight children: Lois Jean Branco, John Thabet, Jo Ann Thabet, all of San Antonio, and Mary Husson, Dearborn, MI; Betty Lou DeFelice, Brooklyn, NY; Karen Chaser, Auburn Hills, MI; Beverly Ward, Missouri City, TX; Dwight Thabet, Lavonia, MI. Twelve grandchildren and one great-grandchild also survive.

BIRTHS

Marilyn Corey Cochran, Lockwood, CA, and her husband **Kirk** are expecting their second child in May. A son, **Jarrold Sean** was born April 22,

1989. Marilyn, who works as a paralegal in Paso Robles is the daughter of Frederick (formerly of Beckley) and Dorothy Corey. Kirk is California Sales Manager for Ochoa Seed Company of Gilroy.

T. Kevin and Najette Betes Delaney are the parents of a son, **Michael Kevin**, 7 lbs., 10 oz., 21 inches, born on April 6, 1991 in Cincinnati. Michael has two sisters, Bridget, 12, and Theresa, 10.

Dr. & Mrs. Jameel Hourani, Los Angeles, CA, are expecting their first child this spring. Dr. Hourani is a pulmonist at UCLA and his wife is a former nurse and model. He is the son of Edy Hourani of Charleston.

Fred & Selana Shaheen, Encino, CA, are proud parents of a son, **Salem Eassa**, born December 8, 1990. Grandparents are Eassa and Peggy Shaheen of Canton, OH.

Philip and Mary (Simon) Shakro, Danbury, CN, are the proud parents of "a darling" baby girl, **Rosemary Jeannette**, born on October 5, 1990, at 7 lbs. 1 ounce.

Ramzy and Cathy Taweel, Halifax, NS, are the parents of **John James**, a second son, born November 9, 1990.

ANNIVERSARIES

Offspring and relatives of the late **Rahija Saad Bassett** marked the 100th anniversary of her date of birth on May, 26, with a moment of reflection and remembrance at 12:00 noon, EDT. Rahija, born in 1891 in Kfeir, came to American on July 15, 1911, and lived for several years with her brothers in Pikeville, KY. In February, 1914, she married Abraham Joseph Bassett and together they had five daughters, one son, and 13 grandchildren. Rahija passed away in 1982 at the age of 91. She and Abraham made their homes in Madison and Williamson, WV, Pikeville, KY, and Columbus, OH.

Sadie Byerline, Birmingham, MI, celebrated her birthday this year by

hosting 16 relatives and friends for lunch at Hathaway House, Blissfield, MI. Guests from Toledo, OH, Jackson, Bloomfield Hills, Wampler's Lake, and Birmingham, MI were in attendance. "We won't tell you Sadie's age, but she was a most gracious hostess."

Charles and Edna Tweel, Huntington, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in October, 1990.

BAPTISM

Andrew John Zegeer, age 8 months, received the Holy Sacrament of Baptism, on February 24, 1991, at St. George Orthodox Church in Charleston. All his family, relatives, and friends joined him for this event. Rev. Father Olof Scott performed the service along with godparents Richard Zegeer and Rebecca Gouge. Drew is the son of John and Sharon Zegeer of Charleston.

EDUCATION

Michael Bassett, Methuen, MA, has graduated from Phillips Academy in Andover, and his sister, **Danielle**, has graduated from St. Monica's Grammar School. Michael and Danielle are the children of Gerrie Bassett and Real Deschanes and grandchildren of the late Michael and Selma Zorban Bassett.

Michael Bofysil, Lansing, MI, attends Lansing Community College where he studies Microbiology and Physiology in pursuit of a doctor's assistant certificate. Michael, the son of Wadad and the late Jim Bofysil, does clinical rotations in internal medicine in local hospitals.

Mark A. Chouieri graduated this spring from West Virginia University where he majored in Biology. He will enter medical school at WVU this fall. Mark was a member of the Golden Key Honor Society of WVU and the secretary of Alpha Epsilon Delta medical fraternity. He is the son of Tanios and Connie Chouieri and the grandson of Philip and Mae Michael, all of Charleston.

George M. Damous, Charleston, received his Master of Arts in Psychology degree from the West Virginia University's College of Graduate Studies at Institute. He will be employed in a private practice in Cross Lanes, WV.

Andrea Evans, daughter of Paul and Michele Evans of Lost Creek, PA, will be a freshman at Westchester College (PA) in the fall, where she will study in the arts. She is the granddaughter of Mrs. Nima Evans of Charleston.

Geoffrey A. Haddad has graduated from Capitol University Law School in Columbus, OH, with a Juris Doctor degree. He is employed by Kay, Casto, Chaney, Love & Wise, a Charleston law firm. Geoffrey is the son of Clifford and Ruth Haddad, St. Albans, and grandson of William and Mary Thabet of Gallapolis, OH. Geoffrey and his wife, Belle, and their son Nicholas, live in St. Albans.

Kimberly Ann Michael, Charleston, WV, has graduated from George Washington High School and will attend Concord College in Athens, where she will major in pre-pharmacy. She is the daughter of Philip and Gigi Michael and granddaughter of Philip and Mae Michael, all of Charleston, WV.

Kathryn Nasser, Charlotte, NC, granddaughter of T.A. Nasser of Huntington, WV, is a junior at the north Carolina School of Science and Math in Durham, NC, a state supported high school for gifted and talented students.

Clay Scott, Palo Alto, CA, a four-year Kfeirian Reunion Foundation scholarship winner, has graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in May, with a Bachelor of Arts in Near Eastern Studies. Clay has been honored as one of the University's top five undergraduate students. He was runner up for the University Medal, awarded each year to one student in the UC graduating class, and was one of six graduating

students to receive the Certificate of Distinction. He graduated with a 3.98 grade point average.

Other honors gathered by Clay in his academic year include election to Phi Beta Kappa, the prestigious national honorary society. He received the Departmental Citation as the outstanding graduating student in Near Eastern Studies. In the summer of 1988 he was granted a President's Undergraduate Fellowship for original research involving the collecting of oral histories in refugee camps in Jordan. Clay was a two time winner of the "Joan Lee Yang Memorial Poetry Contest."

Clay will spend the 1991-1992 academic year in Damascus as a Fulbright Scholar studying Arabic literature. He has also been accepted into Journalism School for the 1992-1993 academic year. In addition to Arabic, he is fluent in French, German, Spanish, and other languages.

Clay regaled the banquet audience at the 58th Reunion by reciting, in broken Arabic, a humorous version of "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

Alaina Noel Stout and **Sam E. Stout, III**, Williamstown, WV, children of Mr. and Mrs. Sam E. Stout II, and grandchildren of Mr. & Mrs. Edy Hourani, Charleston, are both honor roll students, and have been since third grade. Alaina is in the ninth grade and Sam is a 6th grade student.

HONOR

Joe Branco, San Antonio, was named to the Texas all-state symphony orchestra, performing the bass trombone. Joe graduated from Douglas MacArthur High School in June.

Angela Tweel Bullock, Frankfort, KY, has been named the "Teacher of the Year" for Fayette County, Kentucky. She is the daughter of Charles and Edna Tweel of Huntington, WV.

Stephani Evans, age 10, Oxnard, CA, daughter of Sam and Jeanne Evans, starred in a production The Nutcracker Suite during the past Christmas

holiday season. Her sister **Danae**, 8, was a member of the chorus. The girls are the grandchildren of Mrs. Mina Evans of Charleston, WV.

Hanna Griffith, 13, Sacramento, CA, representing the State of California, participated in the 1991 World Finals of "Odyssey of the Mind" at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville in May. Teams of seven are involved in creative problem solving completions. Other honors won by Hanna include the School District Young Author's Award for her story "On The Battlefield", a story of women who fight for women's rights. She earned the "Outstanding Student Award" for her school.

Hanna enters ninth grade in the fall in the Humanities and International Studies Magnet School. She is the daughter of Nancy and Tom Griffin, the granddaughter of Jack and Alice Bassett Rutherford, and the great grandchild of the late Abraham and Rahija Saad Bassett.

Stephani Michael, Charleston, WV, is ranked 40th nationally by the United States Tennis Association. This is this highest national ranking by a West Virginian in many years. Stephanie is a 9th grade student at John Adams Jr. High School and is the daughter of John and Tina Michael of Elkview, WV, and granddaughter of Philip and Mae Michael of Charleston.

Stuart Rose, Matthews, NC, who is employed by Duke Power as a nuclear research engineer, is serving as chairman of the Matthews Habitat for Humanity. Stuart is married to Tracie Christian, daughter of Rose and Christian, South Charleston.

MARRIAGES & ENGAGEMENTS

Vanessa Kelly George, Raleigh, NC, a Public Relations and Sales Representative with Capitol Coffee Systems, is engaged to marry **Wesley O'Dell Stafford**, a civil engineer with the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Father Edward Sadie will officiate at the Sacred Heart Cathedral on November 20, 1991.

Vanessa is active with the Raleigh Junior League. She graduated from George Washington University with a bachelor of science degree, and from the University of London, King's College, London, England. Stafford is a graduate of West Virginia University where he earned a bachelor of science degree in engineering. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Sarah C. Ghiz, Charleston, WV, is engaged to marry **Jay Wayne Craig**, May 11, 1991. Sarah, daughter of Theodore and Marian Ghiz of Charleston, and Craig are both attorneys-at-law.

Susan D. Hanna, Arlington, VA, was married in April to **J. Joseph Fantom**, Silver Springs, MD. Susan is daughter of Constance Hanna of Arlington, and James V. Hanna of Huntington. Susan graduated from Huntington High School and Purdue University with a bachelor degree in audiology and speech science, and a master's degree in speech and language pathology. She is a speech pathologist at the George Washington University Medical Center.

Fantom has undergraduate degrees in psychology and nursing and is a member of the St. Catherine Labuere Church and on the clinical staff of neuroscience with the National Institute of Health.

Lora Ann Hodge, Huntington, WV, is engaged to be married to **David Michael Nicholas** of Roanoke, VA in July, 1991 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Huntington. Lora Ann, the daughter of Rhoda Hodge, graduated from Huntington High School and Huntington College of Business. She is attending Marshall University, majoring in library media technology.

Nicholas graduated from Vinson High School and Marshall University with a bachelor of arts degree in speech-broadcasting, a bachelor of business administration degree in management, and a master's degree in journalism. He is a federal buildings manager with the General Service Administration.

Rebecca Lynn Rahal, Raleigh, NC, and **Michael Troy Anderson**, both of Raleigh, NC, were married April 20, 1991 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Huntington. Rebecca is the daughter of Ayoub F. Rahal, Huntington, and the late Elaine Rahal. Rebecca is a graduate of Huntington High School and Marshall University where she earned a bachelor degree in computer science. Susan and Michael both work as software analysts with Medic Computer Systems in Raleigh.

Lutfy Salamy, Whitesville, WV, was married to **Anna Cantly** of Horse Creek, WV, on September 4, 1990. They are residing in Whitesville.

Matt Tweel and **Susan Smith** were married on December 22, 1990. Susan is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Clard, and Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Peterson, all of Aberdeen, SD.

Suellen Tweel and **Dr. Harold Casto, Jr.**, were married on Saturday, September 8, 1990, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Huntington. A reception followed the wedding at the Guyan Country Club. Suellen is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Tweel of Charleston, and Harold is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Casto of Charleston, WV.

PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS

Michael E. Abraham, Dunwoody, GA, is President-Elect of the Southern Underwriters Association for 1991. He works for Maryland Casualty in Atlanta, GA. Michael is the son of Raymond and Mary Abraham.

David C. Corey, Boston, MA, is a radio disc jockey at Boston's popular KISS-108. His radio name is "Kid David"! He also works local night clubs and appears at various charity functions in the city. David chants Byzantine hymns for local Orthodox church services. He is the son of Father George and Laila Corey of Brooklyn, NY, and grandson of Lena Thabet Corey of Charleston.

Valerie George, Charleston, is a bank

officer with United National Bank and is active with the Charleston Junior League.

Vincent George, Charleston, is a health care provider with the West Virginia Bureau of Health, and is working on his Ph.D. degree. He serves as president of the Kanawha County Young Democrats and is a candidate for Charleston City Council.

Raymond "Rommie" George, formerly of Huntington, is president of Puma International, NYC. He is a retired West Virginia National Guard colonel. His wife, **Kelly Light George**, is a former West Virginia Mother of the Year, and serves as an Administrative Assistant with the West Virginia legislature. She is the Third Congressional Executive Committee Woman, and has attended four Democratic National Conventions, and two U.S. presidential inaugurations. She is state president of the National Council of Catholic Women.

This past summer, Kelly and her son Victor toured the Middle East. Victor is senior law partner of the Victor L. George law firm in Santa Monica, CA.

Elsie J. Muslin, Malibu, CA, is President of the Malibu Board of Realtors and Director for the State of California. Elsie, daughter of the late Charles and Manira Naddour of Aliquippa, Pa., attends quarterly meetings around the state. Her organization is involved in lobbying for such issues as mortgage interest and tax deductions.

Denise Mickel Russell, Richmond, VA, was recently promoted to Financial Operations Analyst in the Check Services Division at the Federal Reserve Bank in Richmond. Denise has worked for the Federal Reserve for the past twelve years. She is the daughter of Linda and Mitchell Mickel of South Charleston.

Barbara Thabet, San Antonio, is now the American Field Service representative for greater San Antonio.

AFS is an international, intercultural foreign exchange student program. Barbara's husband, John, has assumed the position of head counselor.

Nancy Thabet, Charleston, is in her third year as State Director of Special Education for the State of West Virginia. She began her career as a high school special education teacher, then worked with the Kanawha County Board of Education, before assuming the state position. She is the daughter of Edward G. and Evelyn Thabet of Huntington.

RETIREMENTS

Lucille Saad Smith, Pikeville, KY, has retired as Postmaster after 23 years service. However, Lucille continues to be occupied with a daily radio show, "The Personal Touch," on WPKE and a weekly column in the Pikeville News-Express. Lucille was elected four times for Pike County Tax Commissioner, serving a total of 14 years. In February of this year she was honored as "Citizen of the Year" and in May as "Clubwoman of the Year. She is the daughter of Clara Sword Saad and the late Jaspas Saad.

GENERAL

Von Thomas George is married to Jane E. McNeill, his undergraduate sweetheart. They are the parents of Raymond Reid, 3, and Ellen, 1. Von is a captain in the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Evelyn Ghareeb, Springfield, MA, had a wonderful visit recently with her brother, David Zegeer of Kentucky. Evelyn reported that seeing her brother made her very happy.

