



Kfeirian Reunion Foundation NEWSLETTER

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Fort Wayne, Indiana

December, 1991

"Brotherhood hurt"

Board members blast newsletter in general assembly debate; others rise in defense

In a divisive 90-minute debate at the 59th Reunion General Assembly, Larry Jamra led an orchestrated attack of some board members upon the newsletter.

In a session marred by frequent interruptions and general confusion, the general assembly approved the newsletter for one more year on condition it is produced without cost to the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation.

After placing discussion of the newsletter on the agenda, President Tom Bevins called on board members to express their opinions. He asked board members to judge the newsletter on two criteria: increased reunion attendance and increased scholarship applications and donations.

The first of several points of order was raised when discussion began without a motion on the floor. When Sally Tweel, Huntington, rose from the general assembly to move that the newsletter be authorized for another year, Jamra stated that he was "totally opposed." He presented a lengthy speech outlining his objections.

According to Jamra, "the attendance at this reunion has shown that our publications this year have not helped. That's number one. That is one of the primary reasons of this publication, and number two, was to pass the word about scholarship applications. Our scholarship applications are almost at an all time low this year."

Jamra went on to say that "this reunion is supposed to promote two things: brotherhood and...scholarship. The scholarship has not been helped by the publication. We have not only not promoted brotherhood, we have hurt the brotherhood of the reunion through this publication".

He defended at length the present financial health of the foundation, saying that it has never been better (as reported in the last Newsletter). "For the first time, and maybe for ever, this reunion is in fairly good shape with the money. Does that mean because we have fifty-thousand dollars in our treasury we are supposed to make sure it gets down to twenty in case we have bad times we have to worry about it again?"

"Certain members of the board feel that these publications,

as nice as they are giving news to everybody, have a lot of different political views in them. That's not us either."

Edmund George, Huntington, asked Secretary Selma Edinger if she had "received a great amount of correspondence from various people all over the country or all over the world?", When the answer was negative, George remarked that it was "very shocking" that people haven't written saying "we have enjoyed the newsletter, (it) has done this for us, you have opened our eyes to many things."

Treasurer Jane Eubanks expressed doubt that "contributions will pay for the newsletter. In 7 months we only earned \$1800; the other \$1800 has to be earned in 5 months. That's impossible!". She expressed the fear that "with a newsletter we are going to eat into the balance of our principle".

Karyn Stagg, immediate past president spoke "in favor of the newsletter. Last year, our reunion made almost \$5800, and if I am not mistaken, that was the first time in a long time that a reunion has made that much money."

Louis Kawaja, Lexington, KY, objected to the inclusion in the last issue of a signed editorial (on the subject of the newsletter), and the article on historical sources of the Lebanese civil war extracted from Arthur Friedman's book *From Beirut to Jerusalem*. Kawaja, the board's parliamentarian, remarked that "I would like to make a motion that we set up an editorial board from the board governing this newsletter and not just a one-man operation."

John Joseph, Simpsonville, SC, moved "that before the newsletter is published, a copy is sent to every member of the board...for their approval or disapproval or any questions or comments, to see if everything in there is copesetti, and is not going to offend anybody or make anybody mad and make sure that no ones name is spelled wrong and things of this nature".

Several Kfeirians rose from the floor of the general assembly to defend the newsletter: Matthew S. Bassiet remarked that "I think the Newsletter is wonderful, and so do the people I have talked to during this reunion and the last reunion and the relatives I see during the year. I have heard nothing but praise. What a wonderful job this newsletter is doing! They are getting information they normally do not get. They are proud!

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"The mailing list, which was in totally disarray, has been turned into something which is quite useful. Now, that is one thing the newsletter has done, and will continue to do for years to come. It will get more people involved, it will get to the sons and daughters of people who normally come to the reunion and get them to come to the reunion."

T.A. Saad, Huntington WV, argued that "you haven't given this newsletter a chance to work. Speaking from experience, I think it is a great idea. For me, personally, the past year my father passed away and I got a lot of Kfeirians call me up to comfort me. I think that why I want to continue making a contribution to the newsletter."

Paul Scott, San Francisco, CA, responded to the charge that the newsletter was political. "What is political? To me, the last issue was the most interesting issue. If you are going to take a ham sandwich, and take out the meat and the mayonnaise, what are you left with?"

Clay Scott, Damascus, "Ideally, the newsletter would stimulate attendance but you can't measure its success solely in terms of attendance. I think it has independent inherent value: it is a surrogate for people who can't attend which is most Kfeirians, including those like us from California, and the Canadian contingent. It is reaching a lot of people, and, as Matt pointed out, this is the 59th reunion, and I know five or six people personally who said they not going to attend this year, they can't afford both.

"If you look at tourism around the country, it is way down because of the recession of the past couple of years. I think it is fatuous to say that the newsletter has been here for a couple of years, and then all of a sudden, the attendance is low. That's pretty simplistic."

An Editorial

Editor bids farewell

Dear Kfeirians,

It has been a privilege to have been your Newsletter Editor for the past two and one-half years. What I have gained personally from the experience has been worth the time and energy I have invested.

Because an editor is always considering what should be in the next issue, he constantly reads and talks and thinks about Kfeir, Kfeirians, Lebanon, Lebanese, and the Middle-East.

Because an editor must have a network of co-editors, he must be in contact with dozens of people by telephone and letter. Searching for news makes him aware of your achievements and your history. Because he also maintains the mailing list, he learns your names.

The Newsletter has been a great success among the membership. More than 150 of you have made 170 contributions, which have averaged \$36 each. Dozens and dozens of you have expressed your appreciation at the Reunion or with penned notes.

I am sorry that this issue brings my tenure to an end (and probably the Kfeirian Newsletter too), but without the full support of the Board of Directors, what began in pure joy has begun to slip away.

The real reason for the board's hostility to the newsletter is inexplicable. *So many reasons have been advanced in opposition to the Newsletter that they add to nought:*

the newsletter is too political, the newsletter is too costly, the newsletter has hurt the scholarship program, the newsletter has hurt attendance at the reunion, the newsletter has hurt the brotherhood, the newsletter takes money that would have gone to the scholarship fund, the newsletter has not increased attendance at the reunion, the newsletter causes a decline in scholarship applications, the newsletter will drain the treasury, the newsletter reveals too much information about the financial condition of the foundation, etc.

Although the Board has talked about starting a newsletter for the past ten years, and maybe longer, the fact is that no board initiative ever came forward. The actual birth of the newsletter was a totally spontaneous occurrence at the 57th reunion's general assembly. It was born on a motion made and supported by the membership.

And therein lies what I think is the root cause of opposition: the newsletter opens up the business of the foundation to the membership and threatens the control of key board members. The newsletter stimulates interest in the business of the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation and encourages others to be involved.

It is sad but true that the board of the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation is dysfunctional. Major decisions are made outside of meetings by a handful of people. Board meetings

The happenstance of birth cannot forever keep the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation focused, functioning, and flourishing.

are conducted without an agenda circulated in advance. Written communication between board meetings is virtually non-existent. There are few written committee reports. Little effort is made to involve the membership in discussion, and even board members who are not members of the inner circle are excluded. No nominating committee exists to recruit new members to the board. The constitution is outdated. There is a paucity of new ideas and an antipathy to considering them.

I chose to be involved with the Newsletter because I was concerned about the future of the Reunion. No organization lasts forever, and time is fleeting for an organization that does not work hard at renewal. The happenstance of birth cannot forever keep the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation focused, functioning, and flourishing. It is time for new and vigorous voices to claim responsibility for developing and building the Kfeirian Reunion.

Dear Cousins and Kfeirians, thank you for the privilege of letting me know you better. I am proud of my heritage, and I am proud of your accomplishments. I wish you well and I look forward to our next meeting.

Abe J. Bassett

Last issue

Newsletter editor resigns from board of directors

Abe J. Bassett, Editor of the *Kfeirian Newsletter* has submitted his resignation from the Board of the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation in protest of opposition by board members to the newsletter.

There are no plans to publish further issues of the *Kfeirian Newsletter*. "When I volunteered to undertake the newsletter in September, 1989", Bassett said, "I had in mind that this was to be a three-year demonstration project. I intended to show that a newsletter was possible, useful, self-supporting, and would have a positive effect on the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation. All of those things have proven to be true to the membership but not to the board."

"I am dismayed and perplexed," he continued, "that some members of the board do not wholeheartedly embrace the newsletter. It is obvious that we have touched some sensitive nerves with those who run the board."

Bassett explained that the newsletter has been totally self-supporting. The start-up funds for the first issue was advanced by himself and his sister, Selma Edinger, board secretary. From a deficit of \$1600 for the first issue the newsletter fund has increased until there is a positive cash flow of \$1200 for the present issue.

More than 150 Kfeirians have made 170 separate contributions totaling \$6,000. Contributions have ranged from \$5 to \$250 and the average contribution is \$36.05.

The membership is not being solicited to help share the approximately \$500 that will be required to complete payment of the fifth issue, but, Bassett said, "anyone interested in making a contribution will be welcome."

One of the benefits of the newsletter has been the total reconstruction of the Kfeirian mailing list. During the past three years, more than 2000 changes have been recorded. Hundreds of names have been deleted, but even more have been added. Presently the mailing list consists of 1230 names and addresses with 98% accuracy. There are telephone numbers for 79% of the entries. A mailing list tends to lose from 15% to 20% accuracy a year. -S. Sabet

The 59th reunion a success

For the third successive year, an annual Kfeirian reunion has finished with a profit.

A preliminary financial report shows that the 59th Reunion, hosted by Williamson, ended with a surplus of \$2,880.

The Williamson committee was co-chaired by Jeanette Cantees McCoy and Cheryl McCoy Slater, a mother-daughter combination. Others on the Williamson steering committee were LoRayne Dinguess, Secretary, and Phil Abraham and Abe Cantees, co-treasurers. Williamson last hosted the 54th reunion in Lexington, KY in 1986.

The Board of Directors is hosting the 60th reunion, and Huntington is slated to host the 61st.

Six 1991 KRF scholars chosen

Six students have been awarded \$600 scholarships by the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation Scholarship Committee. Each year, scholarships are awarded to undergraduate students on the basis of merit. Students must maintain a high personal and scholastic record and a normal academic load. Scholarships may be renewed by the Scholarship Committee up to a total of four years. Applicants for scholarships for 1992-1993 are available from Mitchell Mickel, 2913 Macon Street, South Charleston, WV 25303. The next application deadline is August 1, 1992. This year's recipients are:

Joseph C. Branco, San Antonio, TX, son of Lois (Thabet) Branco, and grandson of Jim Monsour Thabet, is a freshman at the University of Texas-Austin, pursuing a degree in music. As a June 1991 graduate of MacArthur High School in San Antonio, Joseph was active in musical ensembles, performing as a bass trombonist with the concert band, marching band, orchestra, and jazz band. He was a member of the all state orchestra and a first alternate in the all-state jazz band.

Andréa Michele Evans, Lost Creek, PA, a freshman at Westchester (PA) University, is the daughter of Paul and Michele Evans, and granddaughter of Nima Kourey Evans. At Cardinal Brennan High School, Andréa was active on the Forensics Team, yearbook, chorus, liturgical singers, band, varsity singers, school musical, and student council. She was a finalist for the Governor's School for Excellence in Creative Writing and was a Hugh O'Brien Youth Ambassador. At Westchester University she is majoring in acting and hopes to become a film actress.

Tony Ayoub Saad, Huntington, WV, the son of Rose and the late Ayoub Saad, is a junior at Marshall University where he is majoring in accounting, and planning to go to law school. He is fluent in French and enjoys soccer. He belongs to the Marshall University track team. Tony maintains a 3.4 grade point average.

Karen Amelia Salamy, Whitesville, WV, is the daughter of Alfred Essa and Beverly Salamy. As the valedictorian of her high school class and the recipient of several academic and leadership awards, she is currently a junior at the University of South Carolina majoring in marine science. She has worked as a marine technician identifying larval fish and processing deep sea sediment cores for data analysis. A member of Phi Eta Sigma, Biological Sciences honor society, she finds time to pursue hobbies that include scuba diving, volleyball and biking. She is the granddaughter of Lutfy Essa and the late Aileen Zegeer Salamy of Whitesville.

Elizabeth Jean Thabet, Van Nuys, CA, the daughter of Edward and Daphne Thabet, and granddaughter of Toufic and Rasmia Thabet, a recent graduate of Notre Dame High School, is now a freshman at Los Angeles Pierce College. Elizabeth majors in communications and looks forward to working with environmental and social issues. At Notre Dame High School in Van Nuys, Elizabeth was active in the pep club, drama club, S.A.D.D., Knights of the Round Table. Her

hobbies include tennis.

Samira Jo Thabet, Charleston, WV, the daughter of Charles and Layla Thabet, is a sophomore at West Virginia University. Presently, she is undecided in her field of study. She has just pledged Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority. Along with this, she works for the university in the Office of Student Activities. She is currently enrolled in a Modern Standard Arabic class where she is learning how to read and write in Arabic. Her grandparents are Toufic and Rasmia Thabet and Noha Nassar.

Eddie Bassitt of St. Albans: a cheerleading mayor

by Karyn Cantees Stagg

I had an appointment to meet the mayor at 2:15 in Shoneys. At 2:30 the phone rang. The hostess came to my table and explained, "That was Mayor Bassitt, he said to tell you he was on his way."

He was smiling as he approached me. I think he would make a great Santa Claus, this rotund man with the jolly face and red hair who is always smiling, always telling people they're better than they are. He's likeable. In fact even people who don't agree with him politically usually like him.

His full name is Adeeb Edward Bassitt. He is single and he's the mayor of St. Albans, WV, a community of some 12,000 people located about fifteen miles west of the capitol city of Charleston. Everyone calls him Eddie. He was a teacher at St. Albans High School before he was mayor.

Bassitt's father, who was also Adeeb Edward Bassitt, is deceased. It was Adeeb's parents who came to this country from Kfeir, Lebanon. Adeeb's wife was Helen McCallister, of Scotch Irish descent. She was and still is a homemaker who raised four children. The mayor's mane of red hair is characteristic of his mother's side of the family.

"When I was growing up, I disliked my first name Adeeb, so I went by Edward. But I was always proud of my heritage."

Adeeb Bassitt's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Solomon Bassitt, were pack peddlers before opening the National Department Store in St. Albans. Adeeb and his brother Hassieb acquired the inventory of National to form George S. Bassitt and Sons Department Store. According to Bassitt, his parents were work and education oriented, successfully encouraging three of their four children to get a college degree.

I asked him if being Lebanese had helped or hurt him and how he felt about his heritage. He said he believed it had helped him. "When I was growing up," he said "I disliked my first name Adeeb, so I went by Edward. But I was always proud of my heritage." I think I am closer to the Lord Jesus Christ because of it, because we come from the land of the Bible."

"Lebanese kids need to be proud of their heritage", he said, "and the Lebanese people have the ability and the opportunity to make a great impact in this country. They need to stand up for what they believe in. I believe they don't do this because they're afraid to made changes that need to be made."

I asked him if all people had the capability to make an impact or was it just the Lebanese people? He said, "I think it is especially true of us because many of us came to this country with nothing. We have an excellent work ethic and we can make a difference in people's lives. We have a great chance to make a contribution to the country."

Bassitt was teaching leadership classes at the high school when he decided to run for mayor. He said his students had wanted to have a bonfire for a school rally and he approached then-mayor Avril Ramsey about a permit. According to Bassitt he was told to forget it.

Feeling the unfairness of the situation, Bassitt's students encouraged him to enter the race for mayor. He had taught them to take leadership roles and to make a difference, now they were challenging him to practice what he preached. He decided to accept the challenge, but his attitude was dispassionate.

Then, according to Bassitt, came the now famous phone call that spurred him into action like a rodeo cowboy trying to lasso and tie a calf before the buzzer. One of the area's political types called Bassitt's principal to say that he was a joke in the mayors race and was campaigning on school time. According to Bassitt it was this insult that prompted him to act. He started campaigning door-to-door and the rest is St. Albans history. He won the mayors race by 1,400 votes.

The first time Bassitt remembers hearing about politics was from his cousin Sol Steffan, now deceased, a founding father of the Kfeirian Reunion from Williamson, WV. Steffan was on the Executive Committee for the Democratic Party in Mingo County. Bassitt thought that was "the greatest thing in the world. I always wanted to be there and I got there," he said.

He was elected, not once, but twice. He resigned his first term because he moved, he said. However, he still wanted to be a part of the Committee, but says he was told to forget it - that he would never be reelected. Whoever told Eddie Bassitt to forget it found what Avril Ramsey, the former mayor found when he said no to Bassitt's bonfire permit. Eddie Bassitt doesn't take no for an answer. He was reelected in a landslide.

I asked him about his future political career. Yes, he will run for major a third term. He says he wouldn't mind being Secretary of State, but no, he wouldn't want to be governor. "It's too demanding," he says. "You have to be too much of a cheerleader."

As the waitress approaches our table, Eddie takes her hand and says, "Come here, honey, where've you been? I've been asking about you. I want you to meet Karyn Stagg. She's a great lady, the greatest." The man who doesn't want to be a cheerleader is perhaps the greatest cheerleader of them all.

The President's Box

60th reunion is upon us

The 59th Annual Kfeirian Reunion was truly a success, as all enjoyed themselves to the fullest. The fellowship was great, the food was good, and the music was excellent.

Now the stage is set for the 60th Annual Kfeirian Reunion. Wait a second...the 60th? Yes, that is right! The Kfeirian Reunion will celebrate sixty years of brotherhood and fellowship in 1992. I wonder if our forefathers knew that their work and love would have an ever-lasting impact for generations. It has to be a warm feeling for those that are still with us to see how this reunion has lived on. Also, it is an exciting feeling to keep the reunion growing on.

After attending the reunion for 30 years, it has taken a different perspective for me over the past two years. Now I attend as a father, to watch my son grow and learn about his heritage, meet relatives, learn how to dubbke and play the derbekee. I will pass along to my son the history, love and faith that my parents passed on to me about the Kfeirian Reunion, and I am sure he will pass it on to his family.

The 60th Kfeirian Reunion will be a real treat for all, young and old, it is a time for ALL Kfeirians--from all over the world--to reunite on Labor Day of 1992. It is time for those of us who are young parents to bring our families to the reunion. It is time to pass the heritage and love on.

The 60th will be a reunion to remember, with much excitement, fellowship, fun, and surprises. Mark your calendars now! Start saving now! Start calling your relative now!

The 60th Annual Kfeirian Reunion is Labor Day, 1992. See you there!

-John Joseph

Memorial and scholarship contributions

The persons named below have made memorial contributions totaling nearly \$300 to the Kfeirian Reunion foundation in the name of recently deceased loved ones.

For Lydia Bassett Michael: Toufic and Rsmia Thabet, Charles and Layle Thabet. For James Thabet: Farris and Clemence Bassett, Lila M Husson, Mitchell and Linda Mickel, Toufic and Rasmia Thabet, Diane M. Leroux, Helen C. Richardson, Health Alliance Plan. For Jim Mansour Thabet: Louis J. and Karen F. Chasar

Galib E. Kawaja, Virginia North, and Clay Christian have made contributions to the scholarship fund.

Geography and population of the Arab world

The Arab world refers to the territory from the Atlantic Ocean to the Persian/Arabian Gulf and from the Arabian Sea to the Mediterranean. There are four principle regions: the Fertile Crescent, the Arabian Peninsula, the Nile Valley, and North Africa.

There are now 2.5 to 3 million Americans of Arabic ancestry. The largest communities are in Detroit, Chicago, New York and Boston, but there are many small communities scattered throughout California, Texas, Ohio, West Virginia, and Canada. The majority of Arab-Americans are Christian, and over half come from Syrian and Lebanese backgrounds.

59th Kfeirian Reunion Preliminary Financial Statement

EXPENSES	
Mailing	\$500.00
Printing	371.00
Ribbons	204.11
Arabic Band	1,200.00
Disco Band	500.00
Favor	370.00
Labor	51.00
Loan Repayment	1,000.00
Hotel	9,121.94
Sub-total	\$13,317.55
INCOME	
Registration	\$14,244.39
Scholarship	665.00
Raffle	1,289.00
Sub-total	\$16,198.39
PROFIT	\$ 2,880.45

Kfeirian Reunion Foundation Simplified Financial Statement August 24, 1991

INCOME	
1990 Reunion Profit	4,654.08
1990 Reunion Scholarship	2,105.00
1990 Interest	267.01
1991 Interest	1,846.29
Memorial Contributions	293.00
Scholarship Donations	600.00
Newsletter	420.68
Sub-total	10,186.06
EXPENSES	
Scholarship Awards	1,800.00
Spring Board Meeting	181.49
Reunion Advance	1,000.00
CD Purchases	5,000.00
Sub-total	7,981.49
Newsletter Account	
Contributions	2,722.94
Expenses	1,823.78
Sub-total	899.16
Balance of Checking	4,710.62
Certificates of Deposit	46,013.39
Total Fund Balance	\$50,724.01

The Hijra: a personal memoir

by Arreph El-Khoury

Arreph El-Khoury, a citizen of Kfeir, Lebanon, and author, spent many of his early years in America. The brother of the late Mrs. Eli (Najla) Bassett of Welch and Huntington, WV, he is the son of Ayoub El-Khoury, and the nephew of Farris and Faiz El-Khoury, renown politicians and diplomats. Arreph has written a history entitled Kfeir: The Cradle of Genius, from which the following is extracted. Permission has been given by the author to Abe J. Bassett to edit and publish the book. A publication date in 1993 is anticipated.

The Hijra or migration of the people of Kfeir, and other Christian village of Lebanon, has been a most destructive force. It left the houses empty the land fallow. The immigrants contribution to their new countries is nothing to compare with the loss to the Motherland.

Compared with other migrations to the United States of America, the Lebanese migration in general and that of the Kfeirians in particular, are comparatively recent. The Kfeirian migration is perhaps only a hundred years old. Perhaps a little longer according to the late Reverend Basil M. Kherbawi in his Arab history of the United States of America.

The first Kfeirian to set foot on the soil of the United States is entirely unknown now. Had this question been asked fifty years ago, one would have likely obtained the man's name and date; but now the old folks have passed away and we have to use approximate dates. I have heard it said that Habib Mansour Makarios was the first Kfeirian to go to the United States.

Others claim that Hannah Mikhail, son of Isbir, was the first. Hannah had made two trips to the United States: on the first he took four men at his expense; on the second, five years after, he took fourteen, also at his expense. Even his son Fouad does not know the date of either one of these two trips, and the old album at his house shows pictures of several men and women dressed in American costumes of those days when they were taken away to Fort Wayne, Indiana. Obviously these two trips of Hannah were made during the last quarter of the last century. It has also been said that Assaf Saad, Habib and Tanious Ammar were among the early emigrants from Kfeir.

Some of the early Kfeirian immigrants did not remain long in the United States, perhaps four or five years at the most, since their objective was to save as much money as they could, and return home to improve their living conditions. These improvements they wished to make included, among other things, remodeling of their one-room square houses, buying furniture and land, and getting married. The married men among the early immigrants had to hurry back to their wives and children, if they had any.

The Kfeirian migration to the United States can be divided into three stages. The first stage covers from the earliest times until 1914, the beginning of World War I when travel between the Motherland and the U.S.A. ceased. The second stage started in 1919 and lasted till the beginning of World War II in 1939 when again transportation between here and America came to a standstill. The third stage began in 1946, the end of World War II, and is still going on, but with fewer numbers than before.

Some of these early Kfeirian pioneers endured many hardships: fatigue and sickness, hunger and thirst, and home sickness, the result of living in a strange land among strange people who spoke a strange language. The generations that followed owe them appreciation and gratitude for the security, happiness, comfort, good reputation, and property they now enjoy. These pioneers had established enviable futures for their posterity, the likes of which one rarely encounters in any other community.

Besides being hard workers, the Kfeirians were, above all, law-biding citizens. One never heard of a Kfeirian being a thief, a law-breaker, or a gangster. No matter where they first lived, their life was an endless chain of toil, be it in the black forests of West Virginia, or the plains of Ohio, Michigan, Nebraska, or Dakota. In Lebanon, these men were not merchants, but small landowners and laborers who tilled their land. Some of them were muleteers and others were weavers. Then in America, suddenly and unexpectedly, they found themselves peddlers, selling goods which they had never seen before and the names of which they did not know, even in their dreams. They did not know a word of English, and even in Arabic, their own language, most of them were illiterate.

Some men who did not like to work as peddlers went to the city and became factory workers. The peddlers were called *Kashashi*, the singular *Kashi* derived from the word *Kash* which means two leather suit cases; one small and one large carried on the backs of the peddler by means of leather straps, a small case resting on the large one. Inside these cases the peddler put clothes of all sorts for men, women, and children, in addition to small articles, the names of which he, most of the time, did not know. Soon, by rote he learned the names of these articles, and to say simple things in English: "good morning," "wan'na buy something," and "I am hungry. I am thirsty!" He learned to count by learning the prices of his goods.

Those who peddled on the plains soon bought horses and wagons and took their business from farm to farm. Those in the West Virginian mountains, which had few roads then, carried heavy loads on their backs. Patiently, they carried on until they had a working knowledge of English, and had saved enough money to enable them to open stores. These were mostly fruit stores, pool rooms, and restaurants, and once in a long while, a dry goods store.

The store brought stability and security which, in turn, brought the house, and the house had to have a woman. Some Kfeirian girls had gone with their brothers to America and were married there. Many young men returned home, got married, and rushed back to their work.

The early Kfeirians settled in West Virginia in Williamson, Welch, Bluefield, Princeton, Beckley, Logan, Charleston, Saint Albans, Huntington, and Point Pleasant. In Ohio, the city of Toledo was called "the Mother of the Orphans" because it housed a very large colony of Kfeirians who worked in numerous factories. Some towns close to Toledo, such as Napoleon and Blissfield and Milan, Michigan had Kfeirians. Some went to the plains of South Dakota.

In the second phase of the Hijra, from 1919 to 1939, a new wave of Kfeirian immigrants came to the United States. These immigrants were all young men between twenty and thirty years old, and of a higher educational background than the members of the first wave. Most of them could speak, read, and write Arabic, French, and some English.

Arriving in the United States, these young men did not have to work as peddlers, but went directly to work in stores already opened by their parents, or relatives and countrymen. The store owners were happy to have their compatriots work for them. They could be trusted and they were paid less because they furnished them with room and board. The newcomers accepted this scheme of things for sometime, until they had saved enough cash to enable them to open their own stores.

During the depression, the newcomers barely made a living in their new stores. When World War II broke out most of these young men became American citizens and were drafted into the army, selling their stores or leaving them in the hands of relatives, and sometimes, wives.

The period which followed the end of World War II marked the beginning of the Hijra's third stage. During this period the number of Kfeirians who went to the United States dwindled. Some of them were young men who had married American born young women who went to Lebanon and came back with husbands. Others were college students who went to the United States to pursue their higher studies, married American women and remained there. Some of them who brought the wives here were divorced only a few months after their arrival.

The outstanding collective achievement of lasting worth which was undertaken by the Kfeirians in the United States was the establishment of the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation, Inc. and its annual meeting. When I was in America, the project was only a whispering campaign, carried around by a very few spirited, scattered Kfeirians. It was a saga in an embryo; and since I happened to be in the United States at that time, (and to a certain extent took part in its bringing the idea to light), I knew its early development. Among those enthusiastic Kfeirians who honestly wanted to put the scheme across, and felt it to be a social necessity of prime magnitude, were, as I now recall, Sol Stephen, Mike Abraham Khawahja, Abraham Joseph Bassett, Joseph Cantees of Williamson; Eli Bassett and Nimey Rahall of Welch; Michael, Nick, and Assaf Rahall of Beckley; also Ramiz Ramey, Kamil and Isbir

Mikhail of Charleston; and George Bassett of St. Albans. In Huntington were Mary Louise Tweel, Fred and Philip Bassett, Khalil and Louis Bokair, Charles George, Toufic Kassab; in Napoleon, Ohio, Moses Bassett; and in Toledo, Albert Jamra, Faris Sahley, Albert Corey George Saad, and others.

After many ups and downs, the idea fermented, and I think now that it was Huntington that took the initial move and sent out invitations to the first gathering called Mahrajan. About three hundred persons attended. A Mahrajan committee was set up at that meeting. At those early meetings it was the host city which paid all the expenses, which we felt was not fair--not fair to let two or three houses in Williamson pay all the expenses when the country had not yet recovered from the depression. I attended one meeting in Beckley and one in Williamson.

The idea behind the meeting was to get together to discuss ways and means to help Kfeir, and if there were any needy persons of Kfeirian families in the United States, to stretch forth a helping hand. The second purpose was to increase social contacts among the younger generation, and if it led to marriage, so much the better.

I returned home in 1936. After the war, Syria and Lebanon became independent countries and then members of the United Nations. It so happened that Faris El-Khoury headed the Syrian delegation to the UN, and his brother Faiz was Syria's ambassador in Washington, both Kfeirians. They attended one of the annual meetings of the Kfeirian Reunion, raising enough funds to cover the expenses of the electric and water projects at Kfeir. They also drew up the bylaws of the Reunion Foundation, on the strength of which was given a charter and legal permission to operate business with a president and board of directors. Not only that, but they made the visitors pay for their expenses. And so what was once a day dream became reality.

In a response to my inquiry earlier this year about the effect of the civil war on Kfeir, Arreph wrote the following description.

Editor.

Our travails began when the people of Beirut began suddenly and unexpectedly jumping at each other's throats like wild beasts, destroying their beautiful city and many of their villages. In such chaos, people sought refugees in placid places and as some 55 Kfeirian families live in Beirut, they naturally rushed back home where we lived in peace and harmony with our Druze neighbors. They and their children brought a new look to our sleepy town, with their tan bodies, flowing hair, abbreviated skirts and pants, moving around the town streets like a host of golden daffodils. Our church, which in olden days was a citadel, barely held the people on Sundays and many had to stand outside near the door during the mass.

Kfeir is now spreading north and east. Here houses are popping up like mushrooms with roads, electricity and running water at their heels. All our streets are paved with cement or asphalt.

A Lebanese Feast: Cooking on Prince Edward Island

by Elizabeth Baird

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"We're not can-opener women." No truer words could be spoken. But as we arranged the table with the bounty of food cooked from scratch by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Lebanese Club of Charlottetown, no convincing was needed. Putting on last-minute garnishes were the women who had spent the day preparing this feast to showcase their traditional dishes.

The table fairly groaned with platters of artfully seasoned and enticingly arranged food, vivid with the summer freshness of lemon, parsley, tomato and hearts of romaine lettuce, wholesome with lentils, yogurt and fruit, hearty with barbecued chicken and beef-stuffed vegetable marrow, gutsy with garlic, and beautiful with flowers.

Food that now satisfies the eyes as well as the appetites of club members keeps alive the roots that go back more than a century to Lebanon. It may come as a surprise that the province that gave us *Anne of Green Gables* and raspberry cordial also serves *hommous* *be tahini* and *tabouli*. But it's true. Esteemed members of the community bear Lebanese names, and chances are that if you go into a grocery store in Charlottetown, the owner will name Lebanon as his ancestral home. True, there are larger Lebanese communities in Ottawa, Montreal and Halifax, but this garden province has the only premier who is of Lebanese heritage, and we were delighted to be invited to his mother's home for a Lebanese meal.

Surveying her table in suburban Charlottetown, Marguerite Ghiz commented on Lebanese ingredients, "They're what everybody knows," she said, "like this typical Sunday dinner." Looking at the spread, one could only agree. Among the dishes were chicken with almonds nestled on a bed of rice, a red kidney bean and chick-pea salad (not unlike the popular three-bean salad but much tastier) and a lemony dressed

lettuce salad with tomatoes.

"Take yogurt, for example," Marguerite continued, as she talked about familiar ingredients. "I've made my own all my life. Commercial yogurt tastes sweet to me. Ours is tangier. In Lebanese cuisine, yogurt is a sauce for savory dishes." She went on to recount how Lebanese pioneers made fresh yogurt when they came to the island more than a century ago, in an era when yogurt was a foreign to Canadians as soy sauce. "They made something called white cheese to eat on the boat crossing to Canada" Getting a jar out of the refrigerator, she showed us a 1990's sample as she said, "That's yogurt drained until it's a thick as cream cheese, salted, shaped into discs and preserved in olive oil. Once in Canada," she continued, extracting a sample for us to spread on bread, "the pioneers added water to some of their remaining cheese and used that as a starter for making fresh yogurt again. Even though commercial yogurt is available in dairy counters today, I still make my own yogurt," said Marguerite, who has good reason not to stop. "My grandchildren visit often and their first request is always "we hope you have homemade yogurt."

But Marguerite doesn't cook only for her grandchildren, as son Premier Joe Ghiz enthusiastically demonstrated when he helped himself to seconds of this favorite dish, *kibbi*. A seasoned ground beef or lamb mixed with bulgur, a hint of onion and undertones of cinnamon and allspice, *kibbi* is the Lebanese version of steak tartare. Premier Ghiz expertly demonstrated how to eat it when he shaped his portion into a shallow cup to hold chopped onions, which he then drizzled with clarified butter.

Eating foods such as *kibbi* and *tabouli* is a way of keeping in touch with Lebanese roots. "Even if second and third generation Lebanese don't cook Lebanese food," said dinner guest Georgette Kays, "they can always find someone to prepare the dishes. My husband makes the yogurt in our house-

-and makes enough for our son and daughter-in-law, too."

With the trend toward yogurt and more healthful eating, Canadian cooking is catching up with the Lebanese way with food. Today, everyone talks about eating a more wholesome diet, reducing fat, cutting back on salt, flavoring with the clean tastes of lemon and herbs, and eating lots of fresh fruits, vegetables and grains.

For ingredients that aren't always available in supermarkets, the health food store is a logical place to shop, as I later discovered with Leila McKarris. "I like to come to this store," she said, as she scooped up steamed dried crushed wheat (bulgur), lentils and freshly ground spices in preparation for the Ladies' Auxiliary feast. "It's a little like shopping at a Lebanese market." Other special flavors and tastes, such as rose water, pomegranate juice and *zaatar*--a special blend of marjoram, sumac and sesame seeds--get written down on shopping lists of friends or family going over to Halifax. The favor will always be returned.

However, as each member of the ladies' auxiliary of the Lebanese club showed with her own special dish, Lebanese cooking doesn't depend on exotic and hard-to-find ingredients. Rather, it depends on love, skill, patience and a respect for food. Their recipes, adapted in the *Canadian Living* test kitchen, are a tasty introduction to Lebanese cooking in Canada.

Stuffed Grape Leaves (*Warak Areech*)

"Every Lebanese family on the Island grows grape vines, especially for their leaves. When I moved to my new house two years ago," said Marguerite Ghiz, "my youngest son, Peter, planted a vine for me." But, all the women agreed that the best variety has leaves that are shiny and dark green on both sides, not the kind with a fuzzy white underside. Lila Taweel salts and freezes enough for a whole year of stuffed appetizers to serve with homemade yogurt.

1 jar	grape leaves, 16 oz, drained
1 lb	ground lean beef or lamb
1 cup	parboiled rice
1/4 cup	butter, melted
1 tsp	salt
1/4 tsp	each cinnamon, pepper, allspice
1/3 cup	lemon juice

In large bowl of warm water, rinse grape leaves, unrolling each bundle carefully. Drain in sieve. Using about half of the imperfect leaves, line bottom of heavy non-aluminum saucepan; set remaining imperfect leaves aside.

In bowl, blend beef, rice, butter, salt, cinnamon, pepper and allspice. Working with one at a time, place leaf, shiny side down, on work surface with stem end closest to you; place 1 rounded teaspoonful rice mixture just above stem. Fold left side over middle and roll up one turn; fold right side over and roll up to form neat package 2 inches long.

Arrange rolls snugly, folds down, in prepared pan; pour in enough water just to cover. Add lemon juice; cover with layer of reserved imperfect leaves. Weigh down with heatproof plate. Cover and bring to boil over medium heat; reduce heat and simmer for about 20 minutes or until most of the water has been absorbed and rice is tender. Remove stuffed leaves with tongs and arrange on service plate. Makes 8 servings.

Homemade Yogurt (Laban)

Nothing is easier than making your own yogurt, and it's much less expensive than store-bought yogurt.

4 cups	whole milk
2 tbsp	plain yogurt

In heavy saucepan, bring milk to boil over medium heat. Remove from heat and let cool until you can touch side of pan for 10 seconds. In large bowl, stir together yogurt and 1/4 cup of the warm milk; stir in remaining milk. Cover and wrap with heavy blanket; let stand at room temperature for about 5 hours or until set. Remove blanket;

refrigerate until chilled, without stirring. (Yogurt can be refrigerated for up to 3 days.) Makes about 4 cups.

Chicken with Lemon and Garlic (Djaj Mishwi)

4 lb	chicken pieces
5 cloves	garlic
2 tsp	salt
1 cup	lemon juice
1/4 cup	vegetable or olive oil
1 tbsp	cinnamon
2 tsp	paprika
1 tsp	black pepper
1/4 tsp	cayenne pepper

Trim fat from chicken; cut into serving-size pieces, skinning if desired. Crush garlic with salt until paste like; combine in bowl with lemon juice, oil, cinnamon, paprika, black and cayenne peppers. Add chicken and turn to coat; cover and refrigerate for at least 1 or up to 8 hours.

Transfer chicken and marinade to shallow baking dish; bake in 375° oven, basting often and turning once, for 45 minutes or until browned and juices run clear when chicken is pierced with fork. Makes 8 servings.

Lentils with Rice (Mjudara)

Lentils and rice are a wholesome combination, rich in fibre and full of flavor, especially when topped with golden brown onion strips, as Daad Rashed prepares this dish. *Mjudara* can be served at room temperatures.

2 1/2	cups green lentils
1 cup	parboiled rice
1 tsp	salt
1 large	spanish onion
1/3 cup	clarified butter

Rinse and sort lentils, discarding any blemished ones or any grit. In large saucepan, bring lentils and 4 cups water to boil; reduce heat, cover and simmer for 5 minutes. Add rice and salt; cook for 25 minutes or until moisture is absorbed and lentils and rice are tender.

Meanwhile, cut onion lengthwise into thin strips. In large skillet, cook half of the onion in half of the butter over medium-high heat for 15 minutes or until golden brown. Repeat with remaining onion and butter. Mound rice and lentils on platter; cover with onion. Makes 8 servings.

Clarified Butter

In a small saucepan, melt 1 cup butter over low heat. Skim off foam. Pour off clear yellow liquid, of clarified butter, and discard white sediment. Makes 3/4 cup clarified butter.

Wheatlet Squares (Nammoura)

Not quite a cake, and firmer than a pudding, syrupy *Nammoura* is served in small squares or diamonds.

1 cup	quick-cooking semolina (cream of wheat)
1 cup	granulated sugar
4 tsp	baking powder
1 cup	plain yogurt
1/3 cup	clarified butter
1 tbsp	rose water
2 tbsp	toasted slivered almonds
SYRUP:	
2 cups	granulated sugar
1 1/2 cup	water
1/3 cup	lemon juice
4 tsp	rose water
2 tsp	orange blossom water

In bowl, stir together semolina, sugar and baking powder; blend in yogurt, butter and rose water. Spread in greased 11 x 7 inch baking dish; let stand at room temperature for 1 hour. Bake in 350° F oven for about 40 minutes or until firm and golden brown on top.

Syrup: Meanwhile, in a saucepan, bring sugar and water to boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes or until syrupy. Add lemon juice, rose and orange blossom water; pour over hot baked mixture. Let cool and cut into 1-inch squares or diamonds. Decorate each piece with almond sliver. Makes about 60 squares.

Journey's End**Dr. Mary Louise Tweel Haddad's 41-year quest ends**

Journey's End is both the name of Mary Louise Tweel Haddad's home in Chesapeake, OH, and the mark of her quest for a doctorate that took 41 years to complete.

"This is the culmination of my life's work," Mary said. "I never doubted I would complete my dissertation; the actual ceremony was anticlimactic."

Columbia University conferred the degree in June, 1991, following the completion of her dissertation, a study of Lebanese adaptation to America. Following further revision, Mary plans to seek publication.

After gaining her Master's degree in 1945 at Marshall University, Mary enrolled at Columbia and was close to completing her work when fate intervened. Illness in her family required her to return home and the need to earn a living intervened, resulting in the long delay.

"My mother became ill and I had to take care of her," Mary said. "It was just one thing after another. I come from a big family and there was always something."

When she did complete the dissertation, her professors at Teachers College insisted that she take part in the commencement exercise the day before she defended her dissertation.

Mary taught at Huntington High School, and in several sites in Ohio. A multi-lingual (English, Arabic, Spanish, French) and well-traveled educator and translator, she has served as a consultant on middle-eastern culture. She assisted with protocol for King Ibn Saud's visit to the U.S. during the Nixon administration.

An honors graduate with a M.A. and M.A. degree and a former faculty member of Marshall University, she continued her studies at the University of Havana and New York University.

Mary was one of seven children born to John and Anna Tweel. Her husband Edward passed away in 1973. Her daughter, Kathy Haddad Goodman and son in law Steve Goodman, both holders of master's degree, live in Huntington. She is a life long member of Trinity Episcopal Church.

American Task Force for Lebanon executive director traces roots to Kfeir

Tanya Rahall, Executive Director of the American Task Force for Lebanon (ATFL) is a third-generation Lebanese-American whose grandparents were Kfeirians.

Rahall, born in Beckley, WV received her bachelor's degree from West Virginia University, then moved to Washington, D.C. where she worked for the U.S. House of Representatives committee on Education and Labor. Following five years of experience on Capitol Hill, she went to work for the National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA) and rose to the rank

of Director of Government Affairs.

In 1987, Peter J. Tanous, Executive Vice-President of Bank Audi in New York, and then a member of NAAA's Executive Committee, formed the Task Force within NAAA. Rahall served as coordinator for the Task Force, which became independent in 1989.

The ATFL is a non-sectarian, non-partisan organization whose goal is to heighten awareness of the American public and U.S. government officials and policy makers to the plight of Lebanon and the Lebanese people. ATFL strives to assist in rebuilding Lebanon after sixteen years of strife.

The ATFL membership is comprised of a roster of Lebanese-Americans, prominent in their fields, including all high ranking U.S. government officials of Lebanese descent. The organization has achieved credibility, having had a succession of meetings with President Bush and White House Chief of Staff John Sununu.

At the end of June, ATFL sponsored a major conference on Lebanon. Kfeirians who are members of ATFL include Tanya's brother, U.S. Congressman Nick Joe Rahall II, N. Joe Rahall, Sr. Sam Rahall, and Adeeb Sadd. The ATFL is headquartered at 2550 M Street NW, Suite 305, Washington, DC 20037. Tanya lives in Arlington, VA.

A SNAPSHOT OF KFEIR

by Michael el-Hage

Official name: It appears on government maps and documents as Kfeir El-Zait, Kfeir Zait, El-Kfeir, and Kfeir. but we Kfeirians call it Kfeir.

Dimensions: 2 miles east-to-west and 3/4 miles north-to-south.

Population: Approximately 2000; there is no official census.

Site: Kfeir is situated in South Lebanon in the foothills of snow-capped Mount Hermon (Haramoun).

Administration: Kfeir a village in the district of Hasbaya. Hasbaya is inside the security zone, which is controlled by the detached Southern Lebanese army.

Village Officials: The mayor is Salim Abou Rizk. Business is conducted in his house as there is no official mayor's office.

City Council: There are five members of council, and a president. No government funds are available to the council for improvement projects.

Mail Center: There are four full-time employees and although this office is frequently paralyzed, mail frequently does arrive.

Taxes: There are no taxes, for all practical purposes.

Climate: Kfeir has legitimate four seasons. Maximum temperature of 80° F in August, and a minimum of 26° F in January. Relative humidity is 75% in winter and 35% in summer. Air quality is very high. Precipitation: rain, 7-15 inches annually; snow, maximum of 12 inches in Jan-Feb.

Altitude: The elevation above sea level varies from 2400 to 2850 feet.

Housing: There are 300 houses, mostly built with cement blocks, and equipped with running water, modern bathrooms and kitchens and modern furnishings. comfortable.

Housing: There are 300 houses, mostly built with cement blocks, and equipped with running water, modern bathrooms and kitchens. Furnishings are modern and comfortable.

Religion: Eastern Orthodox and Druze.

Priest: Rev. Moussa El-Khoury, a non-Kfeirian native. His salary is \$35(US) per month. The average donation to the church during Sunday service is 10(US) cents.

Utilities: There is no telephone system, but the Lebanese government is constructing a microwave telephone system.

Electricity: Lebanon Power and Light furnishes electricity 12 hours in every 36. Personal generators have been purchased by some residents during the past fifteen years.

Sewer system: None. Primitive drainage system exists but is paralyzed. Each residence has a primitive septic tank.

Water system: There are two wells and pumping stations. Using a gravity distribution network, water is supplied about three hours each day, subject to the availability of power. The water is not chemically treated.

Farming: There is no farming in the usual sense of the word. Mechanized farming was introduced in 1974 for use in the olive fields, but old techniques are still used.

Heating and air conditioning: Heating during the winter season is dependent on iron stoves, which burn logs and olive oil sludge. Diesel oil-fired stoves are also widely used. Air conditioning during summer season is not required.

School: There is a government school from kindergarten through high school. The school consists of three buildings on a site near the church.

Teachers: There are forty teachers.

Salary: The average teacher's monthly salary is \$200(US).

Students: There are 350 students who come from Kfeir and the neighboring villages.

Health care: A first aid clinic is staffed with two nurses. The nearest hospital is 50 miles away. A dental clinic is privately owned and operated by Dr. F. Damishk.

Industry and business: There are two olive oil mills, one of which is inoperable, and the second of which employs two people, two months each year. Honey bee farming is a desirable business because it requires a low start-up cost and brings a quick return. Honey, olives, and olive oil produced in Kfeir are considered of the highest quality available in Lebanon. Additionally, several individuals are employed as carpenters, plumbing, shoe making, housing construction, etc.

Labor: The labor work force is mainly used in the upkeep of the olive fields and during the harvesting season. The average Kfeirian worker is a jack-of-all-trades.

Salary: The average daily salary earned is \$10 to \$15 (US).

Entertainment: The chief entertainment is card-playing and gossip. Social affairs and local politics are discussed in the grocery stores in an open forum.

Services: There are no restaurants or coffee shops. A cafeteria operates on the school grounds serving short orders.

Genealogy

Capturing your heritage on tape

The rewards of capturing your heritage is now easier than ever, and the rewards are greater.

The availability of good quality, inexpensive cassette tape recorders now makes it easy to capture the memories and recollections of older family members. Memories that must be captured now or never.

Genealogy research should always begin with living persons, particularly because vital records in Lebanon are difficult if not impossible to obtain. The questions you ask will depend on the person you interview, but below is a sample oral history outline, prepared by ADC, The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee Research Institute:

I. Background Information

- A. Name of interviewer, place, date
- B. Name of person being interviewed:
 1. age
 2. place of birth
 3. occupation
 4. religion, politics

II. Family History

- A. Birthplace of parents
- B. When did parents come to this area?
- C. Why did they come to this area?
- D. All locations parents lived in before coming here.
- E. Father's occupational history
- F. Did mother work, when, where, how long?
- G. Who resided in household when you were a child?
- H. Parent's view on religion, education, values, etc.
- I. Size of family
- J. Names, birthdates and birthplaces of children, parents, grandparents, siblings and spouses
- K. Brief descriptions of the people above

III. Immigration of America

- A. Date left Lebanon, description of Kfeir and life there; circumstances surrounding decision to leave
- B. Trip to America, name of ship, other mode of travel, who came, conditions, feelings?
- C. Port of entry, arrival in America, where stayed, first impressions, decision on where to settle
- D. Description of new home, adjustments, reactions

IV. Personal History

- A. Childhood years--friends, schooling, activities, interests, family traditions.
- B. Teenage years--friends, schooling, activities, interests, family traditions
- C. Adult years--education, career, marriage, military service, community service, religious affiliations, family traditions
- D. Evaluation of personal accomplishments, influential family traditions or lessons
- E. Feelings about Lebanese people and their culture, what especially should be known or remembered.

Steak & Spaghetti: Jim and Sally

The following article was extracted from the *Huntington Quarterly*, Summer, 1991, written by D. J. Schroeder, with permission of the publisher.

There's an institution in Huntington, West Virginia, that many claim is a crown jewel---Jim's Steak & Spaghetti House. It has been at the same downtown location and operated by the same owner--Jim Tweel--since 1938.

The famous have tasted the fare--the chocolate, strawberry, and pumpkin pies, the steaks, the fish, and, of course, the well-guarded secret spaghetti sauce. John Kennedy stopped by in the middle of his 1960 campaign for the presidency. And proudly displayed are autographed pictures of famous entertainers from the big-band era--Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Perry Como, and Ozzie Nelson. A television reporter once commented he learned more about what was going on in City Hall at Jim's than at City Hall.

Many of the people who work at Jim's have been there more than 25 years. However, a young lady from Beckley has been very much a part of Jim's for more than a half century. Sally Rahall and Jim Tweel had known one another as children, but something special happened when she came to town to attend a high school journalism conference at Marshall College. "We saw each other and it was love at first sight," Tweel recalled. "Sally and I courted--that's what they called it back then--for about three years and one day I realized I might lose her if I didn't do something pretty quick."

Jim was graduated from Huntington High School in 1932 at the age of 16. He worked at "odd jobs" and at age 19 worked at his cousin's T.A. Nasser's Art Linen Shop on Ninth Street. A family tradition rooted in entrepreneurship meant starting your own business in the "land of opportunity" was the natural thing to do and the solution to the problem of taking a wife.

"Uncle Abe" Tweel, already in Huntington, helped Jim's mother and father, Simon and Regina Tweel, come to America from Kfeir in 1900. Simon and Regina had heard America was the "land of the free and home of the brave." After landing at Ellis Island, they took a cab to brother Louis' home in New York.

"Mom was surprised to hear the cabbie yell 'hey, the fare?'" says Jim as he proudly reels off one of the many family stories from the 'old days.' "Mom said 'free country--free country.' She thought everything in America was free."

Jim's father settled in Huntington, but could not read, write, or speak English. Like many immigrants, he put a pack on his back and traveled the countryside of West Virginia selling trinkets, lace, and linens. Later, he opened a confectionery and fruit store.

Back in 1938 Jim saw the Kennedy Dairy Store as the key to his future. "There was a little store where I am located called the Kennedy Dairy. At Art Linen, I was making \$18 a week, which wasn't bad for a youngster, but you can't get

married on it."

So Jim went to his two brothers and said "Boys, I need \$800 for a down payment on a store costing \$1,550, and I got it, interest free." Jim bought the dairy and paid the difference in payments with the income from his 10-cent hamburgers, 10-cent milk shakes, and five-cent ice cream cones.

Jim opened June 9, 1938. Sally and Jim were married Jan. 29, 1939. "Sally worked with me. We struggled along. We opened at 7 a.m. and closed a 1 or 2 the next morning. We would always stay open for the dance crowds. One or the other of us would be there."

Jim has never kept track of how many people he serves per week, but the restaurant has seats for 125 and most days there are waiting lines. He is as proud of his food as his spotless kitchen. "The girls in the kitchen have to be as clean as the girls on the floor. It's just as clean on the kitchen floor as it is in the dining room."

Jim says the restaurant has been a blessing, providing a life packed with loving and sometimes funny memories. "We have a lot of very loyal friends. We're feeding four generations of customers now."

He also remembers one especially embarrassing moment. "There is a big round booth up front and seven people came in dressed very nicely. So, I pranced up and in my manner and said 'Hi folks, you all look nice. Just come from a party? Well, they hadn't. They had just come from a funeral. I almost fell through the floor. I learned a lesson from that."

Very special to Jim is the big 50th anniversary of the restaurant in 1988 when 17 members of his family came in to work. The town celebrated. The Huntington Foundation selected Jim as a Hall of Fame Honoree. Mayor Bobby Nelson declared him "Mr. Hospitality."

After 52 years, Jim still looks forward to going to work Tuesday through Saturday. It's closed on Sundays and Mondays. "That's plenty for my age--Jim is 77. If I dreaded it, I'd give it up. But, I love what I'm doing and I get to meet and greet so many wonderful people. If God allows me, I'll just go on and on."

Huntington site for 60th

The 60th annual Kfeirian reunion will be held in Huntington, WV on Labor Day weekend at the Raddison Hotel.

The reunion is sponsored this year by the board of directors with Edmund "Moonie" George, Chair. Other's on the committee are Julian Saad, David Rahall, and George Hanna. Jim Tweel will be food chairman. Other Huntington Kfeirians will be appointed to reunion committees.

The reunion may be expanded by one day with a early possible start on Friday, September 4, 1992. Otherwise, the reunion will begin on Saturday, Sept 5, and end on Monday, Sept. 7.

The committee is meeting to consider special events such as a ride-dinner on the West Virginia Belle, a river boat, a golf outing, and special events for children.

Tips for travelers: customs and courtesies of the Lebanese

Greetings: Lebanese people take social amenities seriously. When meeting strangers, acquaintances, or friends, it is important to exchange greetings, to inquire about the person, the family, and in general to make polite small talk before getting down to business. Americans are sometimes taken to be unfriendly because they rush right into business matters. Handshakes are common to both men and women. Close friends and relatives often kiss each other on both cheeks upon meeting or departing. Titles such as "Dr." or "Professor" should be used consistently where appropriate. In Arabic, these titles are commonly used with the person's first name, but Lebanese are accustomed to hearing titles with last names in English and French.

Visiting: Hospitality is a prized tradition in Lebanon. People feel honored to have guests in their homes and love to chat. They appreciated genuine compliments on their homes, food, children, and accomplishments. Gifts of flowers or candy are appropriate when visiting. Hosts always serve guests something to drink, usually coffee or tea. This will often be prepared and served without asking the guest. Hospitality requires that it be accepted, so a word of polite explanation is in order if it is refused. Any topic may be discussed, but in view of the strong feelings of most Lebanese people toward the internal strife of recent years, it

would be wise not to express any precise political opinions until the view of the host have been determined. Arguments about local politics are inappropriate.

Eating: Unspoken rules of hospitality require the host to make the guest feel as welcome as possible and to try to get him to eat as much as possible. It is impolite not to take foods that are offered, but when a guest has had enough, it is not necessary to give in to urging from the host. Western eating utensils are usually used, except for several foods that are eaten with pieces of broken Arabic bread used as a scoop. Pieces of lettuce are also used as scoops in eating *tabouli*, one of the national dishes. Meals often consist of many courses and can last several hours. It is not appropriate to discuss business during a meal.

Personal Appearance: Lebanese care about style. Western dress is the norm, and people of all classes make an effort to be clean, neat and stylish. Outlandish fashions are rarely followed. Conservative suits for men and modest but fashionable attire for women are normal.

Gestures: "Yes" is signified by a nod; "no" is signified by an upward movement of the head or raised eyebrows, sometimes accompanied by a clicking sound made by the tongue. Gesturing to someone to come with your hands (the palm facing down and the fingers waved) is acceptable.

Objects should not be handed to another to hold, as this may imply a servant status. Showing the palm with the fingers up is usually a sign of negation. A closed fist should never be waved in the air. The soles of the shoes should always be directed toward the earth and never toward another person, as this can be very offensive.

The People

General Attitudes: Lebanon is a good example of a traditional third-world society that has had a long association with the West and has been deeply influenced by it. Attitudes vary greatly; many traditional Arab attitudes and values remain, but people are "western" in various degrees. Life in Lebanon is still fairly relaxed and slow-paced. People tend to care more about personal relationships than about "getting ahead." Most people are deeply involved in local political issues, but personal relationships and family ties are often much more important in determining loyalties than political ideologies. "Leftist" and "rightist" labels must be taken with a grain of salt.

Lifestyle

The Family: Lebanese families tend to be strong and close knit. Cousins and other relatives are expected to have close personal relationships. Discipline in the family is strict, and children show respect for their parents and other elders. Family loyalty is a pervasive social value.

Diet: Three meals are eaten daily, the main one between noon and 3:00 pm. This meal may last two or more hours. Except in upper class homes, the diet has less meat and more fruit, vegetables, bread, and rice than in Canada or the United States. Various stews are Lebanese specialties. The cuisine is often spicy and hot.

Work Schedules: A typical week involves eight hours of work per day. Monday through Friday, and a partial day of work on Saturday. Sunday is usually not a work day.

Recreation: Soccer is the most popular Lebanese sport. Movies are well attended. One of the most common leisure activities is simply visiting friends and relatives.

Souks

Few of Lebanon's guests have been able to resist the lure of Lebanon's traditional souks--specialized markets spread out all over the country, offering at unbelievably low prices, useful, decorative and precious items, all handmade, all reminiscent of the ancient East: **pottery**; **glassware** (made almost exactly as the ancient Phoenicians made then a thousand years before Christ); **brass and copper goods** (braziers, bowls fluted jugs, ashtrays, swords, doorstops); **cloth** (silk and wool, fashioned into *kaftans*, *abayas*); **gold and beaten silver**.

From
Today's Memory...Tomorrow's Dream, 100th Anniversary of the Lebanese Community on Prince Edward Island, with permission.

DEATHS

Nahey R. Bassett, 77, Ruskin, FL, passed away December 21, 1990. Born March 8, 1913, she was the wife of Abe N. Bassett. The funeral and interment took place in Oak Harbor, OH.

Frank (Buddy) Cantees, Jr., Cocoa Beach, FL, passed away October 22, 1991. He was the son of the late Frank Cantees, Sr. of Williamson.

Edward N. McCarus, 71, Sarasota, FL, died October 3, 1991, following a brief illness. He was born July 5, 1920, in Charleston, WV, and moved to the Sarasota area eight and one-half years ago after residing in several Florida cities for many years.

Edward was a graphic artist for CRA Marketing in Sarasota. A 1941 graduate of the Central Academy of Commercial Art in Cincinnati, Edward was responsible for the art work of the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation logo that appears in the masthead. Edward was an World War II Army veteran, serving in the 330th Infantry, 83rd Division. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign War and of the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Survivors include a son, Barry of Barcelona, Spain; two sisters, Mary Frances Zegeer of Charleston, and Norma M. Harris of Ann Arbor, MI; two brothers, Ernest of Ann Arbor and Ramez of Charleston, and nieces and nephews. Orthodox services were held at the Snodgrass Funeral Home in South Charleston, WV, and ment is at Sunset Memorial Park.

Jamelia Thabet Rahall, 87, Beckley, died Monday, September 16, 1991, at her home following a long illness. Born March 21, 1904, in Odgenburg, NY, she was the daughter of the late Nimer and Haney Thabit Thabet. She was preceded in death by her husband, Assaf Rahall, on August 9, 1989, and one grandson. She was a member of the Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church. Survivors include two sons, George A. and his wife, Livia Rahall of Pittsburgh, PA, and Louis A. and his wife, Elaine Rahall of Fayetteville; two daughters, Mrs. Joe (Alice) Rahall of

Beckley and Mrs. Raymond (Deloris) Hawarny of Sterling Heights, MI; two brothers, Wadear Thabet of Point Pleasant, and Freddie Thabet of Mason; a sister, Alice Thabet of Huntington; 15 grandchildren, and 34 great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Kenneth Rahall, Dr. Lawrence Rahall, Congressman Nick Joe Rahall, Edward Rahall, David Rahall, Michael Rahall, Gregory Rahall, Michael Hawarny, Jim Hawarny and Lt. Commander Ronald Rahall. Honorary pallbearers were Paul Hassler, Dr. Bruce Dassis, Nick Husson, Jr. and Stephen Rahall.

Paul A. Saad, Sr., 62, Tampa, FL, passed away October 4, 1991, at home. Born on March 6, 1929, to Jasper and Clara Sword Saad, he was honored as one of the most outstanding attorneys in the nation, by Lawyers in America, an association affiliated with Harvard Law School. An undergraduate and law school graduate of the University of Kentucky, Paul almost pursued a career in broadcasting. As a high school student he was heard on WPKE, Pikeville (KY), and as a college student he was heard on WLEX-TV, Lexington. At one time he was a vocalist on WBTH, Williamson (WV). A licensed private pilot, he served as a Lt. in the U.S. Signal Corp in Germany. He served on many boards in the Tampa area and was vice-chairman of the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority when the Tampa International Airport was planned and built.

Surviving are his mother, Clara Sword Saad, Pikeville; three children: Paul A. Jr., and Stuart Morgan Saad, Tampa, and Valerie Saad, Oklahoma City, OK; two sisters, Rose Farley and Lucille Smith, Pikeville.

BIRTHS

Ethan Cody Cochran was born May 20, 1991, weighing 8 lbs, 6 oz, 21 inches long. Parents are **Kirk** and **Marilyn Corey Cochran**, Lockwood, CA. Ethan is the granddaughter of Frederick and Dorothy Corey of Montecito, CA.

Christopher and Valerie Bassett Cundiff, West Carrollton, OH, are the parents of **Ryan Michael** born July 12, 1991. Ryan weighed 6 lbs. 15 1/2 oz. Ryan and his older brother Tyler Andrew are the grandchildren of Abe and Sharon Bassett.

Alyssa Darah, Toledo, 6lb. 5oz, was born on the 4th of July, 1991. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. **Bill Darah, Jr.**, the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Darah Sr, and the great granddaughter of Melvina Shemas.

Bassem and Sophie El-Hage, Montreal, are the parents of a baby daughter, **Stephanie**, their first child, who was born on December 14, 1990. Bassem is the son of Shawky and Odette El-Hage of Kfeir, Lebanon. Sophie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Hashem of Marj'ayoun, Lebanon.

Michael and Michele Kourey, Danville, CA, are the parents on a son, **Grant Michael Kourey**, born August 27, 1991. Robert Kourey of Sacramento is the grandfather.

Jeffrey and Cary Rahall, St. Petersburg FL, are the parents of **Farris Alexandria**, a daughter, born June 19. The infant is the third daughter in the family joining 4-year old Cary Bond and 7-year old Victoria Lamar. The grandparents are Farris and Victoria Rahall of St. Petersburg. Jeffrey works with his father dealing in stocks, bonds, and investments.

Ryan Powell Shaheen, Canton, OH, 9lb. 10oz, 21 1/4 inches, was born on July 12, 1991. He is the son of **Lou** and **Lori Shaheen** and grandson of Ace and Peggy Shaheen, Canton.

ANNIVERSARY

Tom and Mary Frances Ellis, Madison, WV, celebrated their fifty- third wedding anniversary on August 7, 1991.

Jeanette Cantees and Paul McCoy, So. Williamson, KY, celebrated the 40th anniversary of their marriage on September 23, 1991. Jeannette and Paul have long been active in the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation.

MARRIAGE

Susan Abourezk, was married in Rapid City, SD, on May 25, 1991, to **Jim Callas**. She is the daughter of Tom and Twila Abourezk of Rapid City, SD. The bride graduated from Arizona State University in 1980. She is employed as a marketing officer for Citicorp in Irvine, CA. The groom attended the University of California in Irvine, and is a vice president at Foothill Capital Corporation. They live in Arcadia, CA.

James G. Abourezk, Rapid City, SD, was married May 31, 1991, to the former **Sanaa Dieb** of Safsafi, Syria. Sanaa has a master's degree in nutrition from Cal Tech, and was employed in the Qatar Embassy in Washington, DC, prior to marriage. They will live in Rapid City, where Jim practices law. Jim is former United States Senator from South Dakota, and founder and chairman of ADC, the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee. He has been a Kfeirian Reunion keynote speaker, and author of a *Kfeirian Newsletter* article.

Richard Donley, Troy, MI, and **Carolyn Dobosz** were married May 31, 1991, at Holy Name Church in Birmingham, MI. Richard is the son of Mary Thabet Husson of Dearborn, MI, and the grandson of the late Jim Mansour Thabet of San Antonio, TX.

Chadi S. El-Hage and **Sandra G. Saad**, Montreal, were married on June 17, 1990, at the St. Nicholas Church in Rashaya El-Wadi. The wedding ceremony was performed by the Bishop of Zahle, Rev. Met. Estephanos Haddad, assisted by the Rev. Moussa El-Khoury, the Rev. Abdullah Harb, and the Rev. Naame Abou Rahall. The groom is a graduate of the Lebanese University with a Master's degree in Interior Design and Fine Arts. The bride is a graduate of the American University of Beirut (AUB), with a Bachelor of Science in Biology degree. Chadi is the son of Shawky and Odette El-Hage of Kfeir, Lebanon. Sandra is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George T. Saad of Beirut, Lebanon. After a brief visit with relatives and

friends in Lexington, KY, and Huntington, Chadi and Sandra have made their home in Montreal, Canada.

Leah Sue Haddad, daughter of George and Emily (Abraham) Haddad, Frankfort, IL, was married to **Stephen Weber**, on September 8, 1990. Leah attended John Powers Make-Up Artist School in Chicago and is an Elizabeth Arden Consultant. Stephen is shop manager for the Sharp Corporation. They reside in Midlothian, IL.

Carol Ann McCarus became the bride of **Louis Patrick Rector**, July 20, 1991, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Ann Arbor, MI. Carol is the daughter of Ernest and Adele McCarus of Ann Arbor. Honor attendants were Pamela Cadora of Washington and Rebecca Gouge of Clayton, NY, both cousins of the bride. The couple had a Caribbean cruise honeymoon. Carol and Lou are living in Chicago.

ENGAGEMENTS

Jay Rutherfordale, Sacramento, CA, is engaged to **Sydney Cummins**. Jay is the son of Alice Bassett Rutherfordale of Los Altos, CA, and grandson of the late Rahija and Abraham Bassett. He is employed at Sacramento State University.

Charles Saad and **Jackie L. Mashni**, Lexington, KY, are engaged to be married. Charlie, a post-doctoral engineer at the University of Kentucky, played in the band that performed at the 59th reunion.

EDUCATION

Archpriest **George S. Corey**, Brooklyn, NY, has received his Doctor of Ministry degree at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary in New York, and is now teaching part-time at the seminary while pastoring at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Brooklyn. St. Nicholas is the parish of Fathers Basil Kerbawy and Wakeem Dalack. Father George is the son of Lena Thabet Corey of Charleston.

Patti Hanna Garlitz has graduated from the University of Toledo with a master's degree in business. She is the

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Hanna. Patti and her husband Rick live in Maumee, OH.

Angela Nassar, Sylvania, OH, has graduated from Northview High School and is now attending the University of Toledo. She was awarded an academic scholarship by the Midwest Region S.O.Y.O. of St. Elias Orthodox Church in Sylvania. She is the daughter of Fouad and JoAnn Nassar.

Bichara Sahely, Basseterre, St. Kitts, British West Indies, has earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology with distinction in May, 1991, from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. He is also the recipient of the Avery Prize, given annually to the graduate who has achieved the highest standing among those being graduated in general degree courses. Bichara is the son of Sleimen Bischara Sahely and Nahia Abourizk-Sahely of Basseterre.

David Shemas, Kokomo, IN, son of James and Emily Shemas, Toledo, graduated summa cum laude from Ohio State University with a degree in electrical engineering. He is employed with Delco General Motors in the Engineering Research Department in Kokomo. David is the grandson of Melvina Shemas.

BAPTISM

Kelly Marie Ellison, 1, and **Michael Alexander Mederos**, age 4-months, received the Holy Sacrament of Baptism on May 11, 1991 at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Beckley, WV. Kelly is the daughter of **Darrell and Lila (Bassett) Ellison** of North Carolina. Michael is the son of Dr. **Ivan and Sarah (Bassett) Mederos** of Port Washington, NY. They also have a daughter Diana, age 2 1/2. Grandparents to Kelly and Michael are Mr. and Mrs. Sammy A. Bassett of Beckley.

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL

Abe N. Bassett, Ruskin, FL, sends with pride an advertisement that appears in

the Oak Harbor, OH, newspaper, which details the history of the family business: "Bassett's IGA stores have faithfully served Ottawa County for 95 of its 150 years. Nahmy Bassett opened his first small market in 1898. His specialties included tobacco, candy, fruits, nuts and friendly service. When Nahmy Bassett died in 1930, the ownership of the Water Street store in Oak Harbor passed to Mary Bassett and Abe Bassett. In 1964 the Oak Harbor store was moved to its present location where it has been remodeled and enlarged eight times--growing from 7500 sq. ft. to its present 33,000 sq. ft. The store is currently owned by Richard, Mike & David Bassett. Bassett's are currently designing a new Port Clinton store of 36,000 sq. ft. to replace the existing one. Until then Bassett's will be pleased to serve you from their existing store on Catawba Road."

Allan Bassett, S. Milwaukee, WI, has started a new company, "Bassett Air Quality." The firm specializes in indoor air quality analysis, monitoring, testing, and consulting. Allan is the grandson of Edna Rahall of Beckley, and son of Abe N. and the late Nahey Bassett of Ruskin, FL. His wife, Catherine works for Swanson Environmental, and his daughter Anissa is attending the University of Hawaii in Hilo. Ryan, his son, lives in St. Francis, WI, and is an auto technician.

Matthew Saad Bassiet is the owner and operator of "Wet Paint", a general painting company in Columbus, OH. Matthew is the son of Selma Bassett Edinger, Kfeirian Reunion Foundation secretary.

Joe and Judy Sabah, Denver, CO, will have their book, *How To Get The Job You Really Want, and Employers to Call You*, will be published by Dutton Publishers of New York (a division of Penguin/USA). The book, which earned Joe and Judy a \$25,000 advance, will appear in bookstores nationwide sometime in 1992.

Cheryl McCoy Slater, Forrest Hills, KY, in addition to teaching a non-

graded pilot program for grades K-3, has taken a job as an Educational Information System consultant with IBM. She will train educators in various IBM concepts, including Writing-to-Read (WTR), Stories and More, Teaching & Learning With Computers, and WTW (Writing-to-Write).

Joseph S. Bassett, M.D., Bloomfield Hills, MI, has published an article, "Infectious Complications in Patients Undergoing Coronary Artery Bypass" in the *American Surgeon*. This is ninth article that he has authored that has been published in a major medical publication. Dr. Joe, a heart surgeon, is President of the Detroit Heart Club. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and earned his M.D. degree at Wayne State University in 1961. A native of Blissfield, MI, he is the son of the late Samuel Bassett and Farha Abourezk. He and his wife Anna live in Bloomfield Hills.

Selma Bassett Edinger, Columbus, OH, has been promoted to the position of Comptroller of Hockaden & Associates, a civil engineering firm. Selma has been employed there for 32 years. In August, Selma vacationed on a cruise ship tour from Anchorage to Seattle, accompanied by her sister, Lorraine Bassett Scott of Palo Alto, CA.

Rebecca Zegeer and **Kary Gouge** are in the video rental business in upstate Clayton, NY, owning the store in Clayton and the tapes in 7 outlets in neighboring towns. The name of the store is "Village Video". Rebecca is the daughter of Mary Frances and Harry Zegeer of Charleston.

George and Emily Haddad, Frankfort, IL, have sold their Golf Course Turf and Supply Company. While Emily has retired from that business she continues to work with George in their tax accounting business of 21 years. Emily is either semi-retired or semi-employed.

Starr Ramieh-Horne, daughter of Lucy Ramieh and the late Mose T. Ramieh of Beckley, WV, has been promoted to

the position of Chief, Corporate Training Branch, of the F.D.I.C. Starr has been employed for the past 13 years with the al Revenue Service and was the Assistant Director of Human Resources Division. She lives with her husband Tony in Larton, VA.

Denise M. Karam, Toledo, OH, is employed by M&M Restaurant Supply in Toledo, a supplier of area McDonald's restaurants. She will edit the company monthly newsletter and quarterly reports. Denise is a recent graduate of the University of Toledo with a B.A. in communications, specializing in Graphic Arts. Denise had a year-long ship at Libbey Owens Ford and was editor of their eight-page monthly newsletter, writing many of the articles and doing all of the graphic arts. She is the daughter of Richard and Shirley Karam, and granddaughter of Alice Genite Karam, all of Toledo.

Thomas M. Levitt, II, Ft. Bragg, NC, has returned safely home after serving eight months in the Persian Gulf. Tom, a sergeant who serves with the 82nd Airborne Division, is the son-in-law of Rosemary Aborizk Guthrie of St. Petersburg, FL.

John McCarus, New York City, is Marketing Manager for People Magazine. He is the son of Ramon and Carol McCarus of Birmingham, Michigan.

GENERAL

Volentine Abraham is recuperating at her home in Slaters Branch KY, after breaking her pelvic bone in a fall.

One of the largest families at the 59th reunion was the **Abraham** family with sixteen members represented. The main body of Abrahams live in the Williamson area.

Abe J. Bassett, Ft. Wayne, IN, editor of the Kfeirian Newsletter, is editing *Memories of Rahija*, a compilation of memories of Rahija Saad Bassett by her children, grandchildren, and extended family. Aref El-Khoury of Kfeir has given permission to Abe to edit and publish *Kfeir: The Cradle of*

Genius, a history of Kfeir. Bassett will continue his work on family genealogy. He is planning on a two-week trip to Damascus and Kfeir in May.

Abe is the Dean of the School of Fine and Performing Arts at Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne. Abe's wife Sharon is Director of Community Based Services at St. Joseph's Children's Treatment Center in Dayton, OH. They have two children: Douglas, a professional fashion photographer working in Milano, Italy, and a daughter, Valerie, mother of two sons, and living in West Carrollton, Ohio.

Abe N. Bassett, Ruskin, FL, attended the 65th year reunion of the high school graduating class of Oak Harbor High School, July, 1991. Of the graduating class of 33, 18 are still alive, all 84 years old.

Jan Rutherford Bush, Juneau, AK, and her family (husband Jeff, daughters Megan Rahija and Isabel) are on a six-month sabbatical in Mexico. In April, Jan will return to her job as an Assistant Attorney General, and Jeff, a former Assistant Attorney General, will enter private practice. Jan is the daughter of Alice Bassett Rutherford and the granddaughter of the late Rahija Saad Bassett and Abraham Joseph Bassett.

Michael el-Hage, Abqaiq, Saudi Arabia, son of Shawky and Odette Mickel El-Hage of Kfeir, is a ten-year employee of Saudi Aramco, the Saudi Arabian Oil Company, as an Instrumentation and Control Engineer. Michael's wife Nadia Bolus El-Hage is the daughter of the late Col. John S. Bolus and Catherine Bolus of Washington, DC. Their children, all born in Saudi Arabia, are Omar-Michael, 9, Alexis, 6, and Julian, 3. Michael, who last visited Kfeir in January, 1991, has a brother Jamal, Montreal, PQ, *Kfeirian Newsletter* co-editor.

Claire Farley, Arlington, VA, is employed in the office of Senator Lloyd Bentsen (D-Texas) and attends night law school at American University's Washington College of

Law. She is enrolled in the joint JD-MA program which leads to both a degree in law and a master's degree in international Affairs. Claire, formerly of Frankfort, KY, and Tampa, FL, is the daughter of Rose Saad Farley of Pikeville, KY, and the granddaughter of Clara Sword Saad and the late Jasper Saad.

Teresa Isaac, Lexington, KY, is an at-large city/county council member, and a practicing attorney. A mother of two children she is testing the waters for a try at a U.S. congressional seat. Teresa has represented Arab-American grocers in the Lexington area. Her grandparents are the late Diab and Mary Thomas of Mullens, WV.

Tina Longcor and **Lyn Longcor**, are the children of Bonnie Longcor and grand children of Tom and Twila Abourezk, all of Rapid City, SD. Tina is enrolled at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Lyn is a sergeant in the U.S. Army stationed in Fort Hood, TX. He served in Panama and Saudi Arabia during recent combat operations.

Dr. **Diann Michael**, Paris, France, daughter of the late Esber John and Asma Radwan Michael, Charleston, is returning to the United States after working eight years in Europe. She and her daughter, Gianna Christiane, 3, will live in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, where she will be working as a Clinical Psychologist at American Biodyne. Friends may contact Diann at her Florida business address, found in the directory.

Martha Rutherford, Scotts Valley, CA, is in her 9th year of volunteer service with Nursing Mothers Counsel. She begins her 4th year on the National Board of Directors with a goal of helping to expand the organization nationwide. Martha, the mother of four children, is the daughter of Alice Bassett Rutherford of Los Altos, CA, and granddaughter of the late Rahija and Abraham Bassett.

George Saad, Beirut, Lebanon, was a recent visitor to the United States. He is a brother to Julian and Edward Saad

and Naime Joseph of Huntington. His son Charlie, an engineer, lives in Lexington, KY and a daughter lives in Montreal. He returned to Beirut on October 18th.

Michelle Salamy, Toluca Lake, CA, was chosen as first place winner in the Western Region Oratorical Contest for the Antiochian Orthodox Church, earning her an opportunity to compete at the national convention in Washington, DC. Michelle is a senior at Notre Dame High School, where she has performed in seven major theatrical productions. She is the daughter of Joyce and the late Raymond Salamy.

Clay William Scott, Berkeley, CA, is a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Damascus, Syria. Interesting reactions have come to Clay who describes himself as "a tall, very American-looking guy who speaks quasi-fluent Arabic with a pronounced south Lebanese accent." On the plane that brought Clay to Damascus he sat next to a young Syrian woman and her daughter. As it turned out, she was from Kfeir, from the house of Bassit, and they determined their "grandparents were cousins. In Damascus, there was trouble with her visa (she was from Canada) and they wouldn't let her back in the country. I asked if there was anything I could do to help, and she said, in English, 'It would be better if you left me alone.' I didn't get her telephone number."

Jo Ann Thabet, San Antonio, TX, will attend the presidential nominating convention of the Libertarian Party in Chicago.

THE ARAB WORLD

The Arab World has been strongly influenced by the major religions originating in its region: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In today's Arab world 90% of the population is Muslim but they account for only 15% of the Islamic World.

The population of the Arab world is approximately 165 million and is concentrated in urban centers.

Thank You, Cousins for your Newsletter Contributions**VOLUME II - 1991**

ARCH-ANGELS \$250+
Rahall, Farris E. & Victoria

ANGELS \$100 & Up
Abourezk, James G.
Bassett, Abe & Sharon
Corey, Father George S. & Laila
El Hage Family
McCarus, Edward
Nasser, Mitchell & Lucy
Sahely, Sleimen
Scott, Lorraine Bassett
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Ellis, Thomas T. & Mary Ghiz,
Robert & Vivian Khoury, Atef
Khoury, Moufeed
Lowen, Farris & Patsy
Muslin, Milan & Elsie J.
Parlette, Gladys Bassett
Ramey, J. Stephen
Tweel, James A. & Sally R.

COUSINS \$25-49
Abourezk, Tom & Twila
Abou-Jamra, Hoda
Abraham, Raymond
Ammar, Woody
Asmus, Diana and Chris
Angelo, Ralph. E.
Asmus, Diana & Chris
Bassett, Allan
Bassett, Charles, Jr. & Joetta
Cantees, Adebe
Daher, Roger & Mary
Evans, Nima K.
Garrett, Thelma Joseph & Jack
Ghantous, Ghassan
Ghiz, Theodore & Marian
Haddad, George & Emily
Herrmann, Steve and Jean
Ramey
Kays, Emmanuel
Kourey, Robert & Joanne

Lowen, John Victor
Lowen, Marguerite T.
Lowen, Virginia K.
McCarus, Richard & Catherine
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Ellis
McKarris, Sam & Elizabeth
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Mitchell, William M.
Nasser, Raymond & Candace
Neimy, Grayce A.
Rahal, David A
Ramey, Helen
Ramey, Victoria Helen
Russell, Ronald & Denise
Mickel
Sadd, Phillip George
Sahely, Nabih & Hind
Saker, Jeanette K.
Shaheen, Ace and Peggy
Shaheen, Lucy
Stuart, Rose Cantees
Tweel, David & Carla
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Isaac, Teresa
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Lowen, Mary F.
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Soujeole, Martha Rutherfordale
Thabet, Jo Ann
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Rose Cantees Stuart
Jo Ann Thabet
Ruth D. Thabet
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Larry & Cheryl Tweel
Frank & Janet Zakem

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Farris & Clemence Bassett
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Robert & Katherine DeCrease
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Ramon McCarus
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Tom & Deanna Spitzer
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