



The Kfeirian Reunion Newsletter SUMMER 1998

Number 3

65th Reunion in Huntington Great Success

Who can name these adorable Kfeirians ?????? The first to answer wins 3 free raffle tickets at the 1998 Reunion! Mail in your answers to the Editor!



Nick Joe Rahall,
KeyNote Speaker,
U.S. Congressman,
and Fellow
Kfeirian

CoChairmen **Richard Tweel** and **George Hanna** (Derbakie Man!) laid out the plans Huntington hosted the 65th Kfeirian Reunion at the Radisson Hotel. The entire weekend was delightful and full of homecoming camaraderie. The Radisson was a friendly and hospitable traditional locale and old friends and familiar faces were numerous and heartwarming.

Saturday Night's Hafli was in full swing and the feet were beating to the Derbakie Roll when we were saddened, as was the world with the news from Paris of Princess Diana's accident. While this cast a sadness on the events, the Kfeirians are a strong and hearty lot, and went on to enjoy their reunion in spite of the international tragedy.

Another odd event had us all outside and out of the hall as the fire alarms went off and the building had to be evacuated. Probably it was set off by some cute Shabab": with their big grins and big cigars, and after the Huntington Fire Department assured us all of safety, we were back at the Debkie Stomp with grins and bells on.

The events were wonderful, the music foot stomping good and the banquet really a feast to be remembered. In addition to comments by Lila Mickel Fischer, we were treated by the inspirational comments and honored presence of our Kfeirian

Congressman Nick Joe Rahall.

The Huntington Committee presented **George Hanna with a Life Time Award**, which seemed to take him completely by surprise, though it shouldn't have, as he has been the stalwart hard working corner stone of so many wonderful reunions over the years.



Board of Directors Meet

The Board of Director's met at the Radisson Hotel in Columbus on April 26 , 1998, to review the 65th Reunion and plans for the 66th. We are definitely ready for the 21st century as 7 Board Members attended the meeting by teleconference. The Huntington Reunion made a good profit and the Treasury is doing well under the protection of George Hanna, Treasurer . The band is scheduled, disco will reverberate in addition to the debkie, and the plans are set for a wonderful Ohio Reunion this year! The Columbus Committee presented the agenda for the 66th Reunion and it sounds great! Can't wait to swim in that indoor/outdoor pool at the Coumbus Marriott! Cont. Page 4



George Hanna,
Recipient of
Kfeirian Life
Time Award

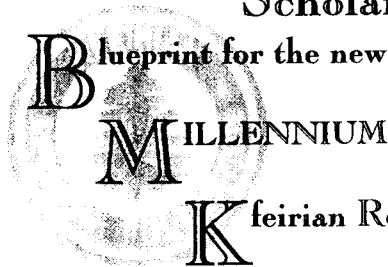
inside. . .

From the Editor's Desk	Page 2
KFEIR 2000!	Page 3
Board News Cont.	Page 4
Endowment Fund	Page 5
Scholarships/School News	Pages 6 -7

Accomplishments	Pages 8 - 9
Family News	Pages 9 -10
Photomontage	Page 11
Travels	Pages 12 - 13
Obituaries	Pages 14 - 16
Photomontage	Page 17

Kfeirian Reunion

Scholarship Endowment Program Campaign:



Kfeirian Reunion Foundation Incorporation

It is good news about one of the most exciting endeavors the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation has ever undertaken. And you can help make it happen.

What? The Kfeirian Reunion Foundation Scholarship Endowment Fund is a separate account and earmarked for scholarships ONLY. It is a separate account where monetary gifts donated or bequested are held in an investment account and ONLY the interest is drawn for annual scholarships.

Why? The future is now! We want to grow our scholarship amount and the number of recipients. We have six recipients and we have just increased the award from \$600 to \$800 annually. It's time to focus on academics and position our reunion to make a positive impact on every Kfeirian youth.

How much? \$250,000 in five years; \$500,000 in ten years, most of which must come from your contributions. We're off to a good start, but EVERYONE must contribute in order to meet our goals. Highly appreciated stocks or Series E savings bonds can be donated. Contributions will be invested in a safe, interest bearing portfolio in the range of 8-12% annually.

What's in it for you?

- Tremendous satisfaction that you've supported the future vitality of our youth, and the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation.
- A sense of pride in our Kfeirian Reunion Foundation as an academic leader, moving aggressively into the 21st Century.

Please complete the pledge form and mail your contribution today! Every contribution is significant, regardless of how large or small. It does matter whether or not you contribute. For example, if 1,000 Kfeirian families were to donate \$50.00 a year for 5 years, we would generate \$250,000. We are asking for 100% participation. And you can make a difference. CAN WE COUNT ON YOU?

Thank you,

George Hanna, Treasurer
25 Hillendale Drive
Huntington, WV 25705

**Your contributions are tax deductible.
We have a Federal Identification Number.**

Kfeirian Reunion Foundation Endowment Fund

Enclosed is my/our gift to help enrich educational opportunities for Kfeirian students.

\$2,000 \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 Other \$ _____
 Per year for 10 years Per year for 5 years Other _____

Name _____

Address (City, State, Zip) _____

Home Phone _____

If you work for a matching gift company, please enclose necessary form to double or triple your gift.



From the Editor's Desk

Sometimes we ask ourselves, "What am I doing? What is it all about?" I have been reflecting on these questions of late and have a few thoughts to share

Recently a woman and friend my age, also a psychologist, also blond (? natural or bottle), also full figured (ha!), also an only child of deceased parents, also with an only child daughter, suddenly died of a heart attack. This event has made me reflective as we are often wont to do when we lose a beloved peer and I have been re-evaluating certain interests and projects and commitments. At the same time I am currently launching several research projects on children and adolescents and self esteem, trying to find out why some youth drop out and fail and others excell in spite of adversity and difficult lives. I know you are asking yourselves, "Where is she going with this and what does it have to do with the Kfeirian Reunion?" It has everything to do with the Kfeirian Reunion, Kfeirians, the Scholarship Endowment, and our proposed trip to Kfeir in the year 2000.

Kfeirians. Who are we? We are as diverse a group as any American immigrant group. We live far and wide, we comprise every occupational group, we have married spouses from many nationalities. Sometimes we have little in common on a day to day basis, but we have come together every year for 66 years to celebrate our roots, our heritage from a tiny village overlooking snow capped peaks in a land of strife and turmoil far from our American daily lives. We spend countless hours at the malls and ballfields of America, but the little village of the Kfeir still beats in our hearts. The short 3 day reunion that we share marks us indelibly from childhood on with this bond: **we are Kfeirians.** We share the common heritage of strength and hope and rhythm and laughter of a people that are extraordinary. And more importantly it beats in the hearts and minds and souls of our youth. We have kept this memory alive. The memory of our ancestors, young women and men, scared, alone, coming across an ocean, to what? They did not know. Young men and women, 19, 20, 14, alone, crossing on a cheap boat, not on ocean liners, without even the language of their new land under their belt. Coming for what? A better future, peace, opportunity. Tweels, Radwans, Abourizks, Hannas, Michaels, Deebs, Radwans, Thabets, many surnames all coming, brave, frightened, to seek and create a new life in the "New World." Each year we bring our youngsters, in

diapers and in evening gowns to meet each other and to make friends, to get to know their cousins, perhaps find a spouse!

At our annual reunion, we honor not only the elders that led us from the past to this present we share, but we honor the youth that will lead us into the future. Our Kfeirian Reunion Foundation is the epitome of the American Dream; we are a people firmly committed to democracy and progress who understand and maintain the roots from whence we came. The Kfeirian Reunion Scholarship Endowment Fund assures the future of our children by giving them some support for their preparation to lead us. The monetary contribution is important, but nothing compared to the moral support we give when we acknowledge our youth as our future.

And a great future it will be. We are going into the New Millenium. **How do our young people want to herald this new century?** By making a Kfeirian Reunion pilgrimage back to that tiny village from whence we all descended. The Board of Directors has decided to sponsor a trip to the Kfeir in the year 2000. The Committee for the Kfeir 2000 is young, vibrant, ready to contribute. We want to build this kind of youth, we want to honor this heritage. None of us know how many days we have left. Have you contributed to the Endowment Fund? Do you travel to see your cousins at the Reunion? Have you taught your children the depth of family values that the Kfeirian Reunion can impart? Bring your children in diapers and and with lollipops to meet their cousins, making friends of family and making memories with old friends and meeting new ones. Build their self esteem by giving them a firm understanding of the great men and women from whom they have descended. Reach beyond your singular daily life to link with others who can enrich your lives. In sum, I find no one committment I have more important to my family or myself than the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation.

Next year our Canadian cousins invite us to Prince Edward Island. It is a long way from the tip of Florida to that little island, but in travelling to the new locale of Prince Edward Island we are really going home to our roots.

Support the Kfeirian Scholarship Endowment Fund. Make plans to attend the 66th Reunion in Columbus, Ohio, and the 67th Reunion in Prince Edward Island. And save your money for the Millenium trip of a lifetime: Kfeir 2000!

Kfeirian Newsletter
Diann Dee Michael, Editor
6930 SW 15th Street
Plantation, FL 33317
email: DiannDee@aol.com
VISIT our Kfeirian Reunion

As usual, I thank George Hanna for his tireless aid and contribution to the newsletter. Also, thanks to ALL who contributed news and money!

Come dance with us
in the Kfeir in the
year 2000!



Aawaa!

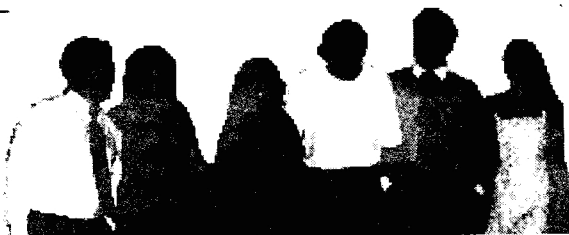
KFEIR 2000!

The Kfeirian Reunion Board of Directors decided at the April meeting:

1. Not to attempt to hold the Kfeirian Reunion in the Kfeir;
2. To gather information and attempt a Kfeirian trip to the Kfeir in the year 2000;
3. To have the trip during dates when most people could take vacation with students included;
4. To explore the Kfeirian membership's interest and support of such a trip;
5. To contact travel agents experienced in such travel;
6. To start saving our money!

We estimate a trip to the Kfeir and Lebanon will cost approximately \$3000. Since this is a large expense we would like to explore the interest of the Kfeirian community. The trip we have in mind would of course include Beirut, the Bekka, perhaps side trips to Damascus, and at least two or three days in the Kfeir. Several issues need to be decided.

1. When to go. The summer is hot, but that is the time most people are free. Easter in the Kfeir is ideal, but it is hard for families to get away. Those are the two most popular times. The harvest in the fall is wonderful, but impossible for people with children or students, or teachers. Those are the pros and cons of periods of travel.
 2. Where to go. Many people, once they get there, want to make a grand tour. How long should our trip be and how many stops, etc.
 3. What kind of accommodations? The Kfeir has no grand hotels. If we are to stay with homes in the Kfeir, there needs to be some type of compensation.
 4. What activities/sites to visit.
- Mydina Thabet is chairing the Kfeir 2000 Committee. Send your thoughts to her. There is a survey on the next page with the address for return included.



Tradition dictates that **Julian Saad** lead us in the Debkie!

Elaine Rahall has taken up the challenge for the water glass dancing Queen!

BOARD NEWS

The Columbus, OH, committee is made up of Selma Bassett Edinger, David Rahal, Veronica Nedeff Sherman, Emmoline Jamra, Mary Lou Simon, Ram Rahal, and Abe Bassett. They are all inviting us to debkie through the lovely rooms of the Marriott.

In other Board business there was discussion of the Outstanding Achievement Awards to Kfeirians of Distinction. The Board has been interested in honoring members of the Kfeirian community with some type of Award. Abe Bassett had suggested the idea, and others on the Board felt favorably about it. The Board will reconsider this at the Reunion meetings.

The Huntington Reunion was very well attended and had 258 people according to Co-Chairman, George Hanna.

There were memorial donations made for our beloved, departed Yvonne Kawaja and Rusmia Thabet. Thanks to all who contributed.

There was much discussion regarding the 1999 Reunion and its possible location in Prince Edward Island. We are trying to determine if Kfeirians will travel there and to locate hotels that can accomodate the group.

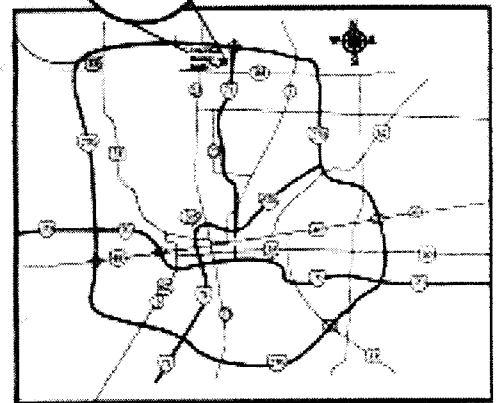
80TH REUNION

COLUMBUS

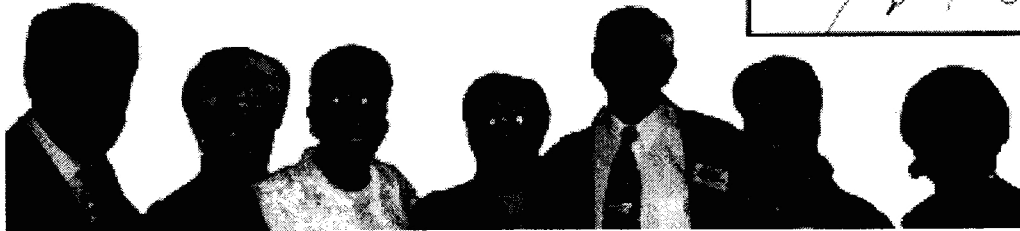
1999

COLUMBUS
Marriott
NORTH

All Roads Lead to
Columbus!!



Kfeirians
enjoyed their
Reunion in
Huntington!



Join us in
Columbus!

SURVEY FOR KFEIR 2000

1. Would you be likely to attend a special trip to the Kfeir in the year 2000 if the price were approximately \$3000 per person (including airfare, 3 nights in Beirut, transportations & accommodations in the Kfeir)?
2. What time of year would be best for you in 2000?
3. Please list names of those who might attend to help with planning.
4. What cities would you be most interested in visiting?

Cut out this Survey and mail to:
Mydina Thabet
1723 N. Troy Street Apt. 405
Arlington, VA 22201-3220

George's Page

LETTER OF APPRECIATION TO THE KFEIRIAN REUNION FOUNDATION

I am deeply appreciative at having been selected by the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation Board of Directors to be honored with a plaque at our 65th Kfeirian Reunion in Huntington, WV. I was touched and completely caught off guard.

My contributions to our wonderful Reunion may be somewhat overstated. I am deeply proud to be part of such a fine organization. It is composed of many wonderful and dedicated people from across the country. Over the years we have worked collectively to fulfill the goals and dreams of our forefathers and plan ahead into the next millenium. The fact that we will be celebrating our 66th Reunion in Columbus, Ohio, in September is a tribute to those wonderful people that have gone before us, that got involved to keep our Reunion alive.

My motivastion has always been to give back to the Reunion through time and effort, to make sure it continues. I am truly humbled and deeply appreciative of this honor.

Thank you,
George Hanna

KFEIRIAN REUNION ENDOWMENT NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

We wish to thank all of the 65 families and/or individuals who have made a committment to support the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation Scholarship Endowment Fund. **We now total over \$20,000.**

Your contribution will enable the Scholarship Committee to increase the number of students and the amount they receive in financial assistance. Last year we increased this amount from \$600 to \$800 per year. That increase was only possible through your generous donations. Not only does this money financially assist the student, but it also helps boost their morale. The fact that the Foundation deems them worthy of receiving the scholarship is a wonderful vote of support and approval. We are helping to instill in the student those values we wish them to strive for and to exemplify, that through hard work, effort, and study, they can achieve their goals.

Our goal was to reach \$250,000,000 in 5 years. ... we have more than 2 years to go. **If you make a committment today of only \$50 a year for 5 years, (a total of \$250), we can achieve that goal!** Write that check today for whatever your pocket can allow and what your heart dictates and send to:

**KRF ENDOWMENT PROGRAM
25 Hillendale Dr.
Huntington, WV 25705**

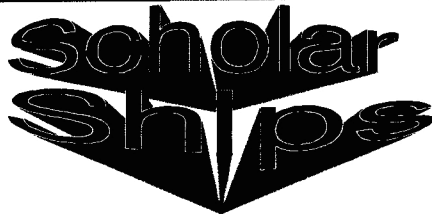
We thank our former scholarship recipients who have given generously to the Endowment, and urge the rest of you to consider your support and participation. **There can be no more worthy cause than our own youth.**

May God bless and reward you tenfold for your support of this worthy project.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE ARE ACCEPTABLE

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

FEDERAL TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER UPON REQUEST



School News

Scholarships were awarded to the following Kfeirian students for the 1997-98 academic year:

Greg Hanna, Robert Branco, Abraham Saad, and Rebecca Saad.

We awarded 4 Scholarships of \$800 in the 1997-98 Academic Year. We are so proud to support the education and futures of our Kfeirian youth.

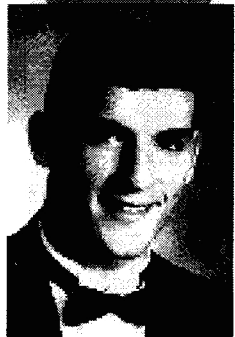
We were glad to be able to increase scholarships to \$800 a year.

Six scholarships are available each year and any student who is a senior in high school is encouraged to complete an application to:

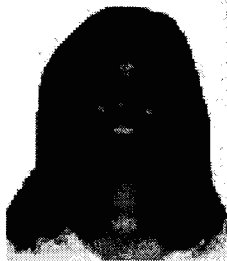
**Mitchell Mickel, Chairman
Kfeirian Reunion Scholarship
2913 Macon Street
South Charleston, WV 25303
(304) 744-0631**

Scholarships applications must be received by August 1st to be considered.

Robert Branco, son of Lois Thabet Branco, is attending the University of Texas at San Antonio. No picture was available.



Greg Hanna, son of George and Gloria Hanna of Huntington graduates from Marshall University this year after completing an internship at Fox Sports Network in Los Angeles, CA.

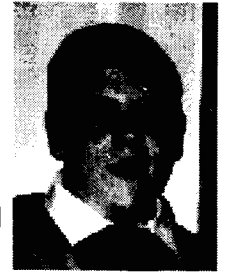


Rebecca Saad, daughter of Julian and Jihad Saad, of Huntington, graduates this year from the University of Kentucky.



Abraham Saad, son of Julian and Jihad Saad is in his first year at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN.

Joseph M. Peck, son of Mary Hodge and Joe Peck, graduated from Huntington High School on June 6, 1998.



A graduation party was held at his grandmother's house, **Asma Hodge**, on June 13th. There was delicious Arabic food, and of course, Derbakie music! Joey is one of our up and coming young participants and shows great interest in working for the Reunion. He helped a great deal in the planning and organization of the Huntington Reunion last year. The party was very well attended with Ayoub and Mary Rahal, Rebecca, Christina, and Abraham Saad, George, Gloria, Stephanie, and Nazik Hanna, Jeanette Bolus, Richard Tweel, Mary Lou and Ellen Bokair, Leila Hawarny, and Kimberly Hodge, to name a few. Word is Joey is thinking about the Priesthood. (I have only one question... can he still Debkie then? We'll get special permission, Joey, 'cause you da Debkie man!) Congrats!

Dear Scholarship Committee:

I would just like to sincerely thank you for the scholarship stipend during my college career. It was a tremendous help and I, and my parents, truly appreciate it.

I will finish my college degree this summer upon completion of an internship at Fox Sports Network in Los Angeles, CA.

Thanks again,
Greg Hanna
P.S. See you in Columbus!

If your family's news wasn't here, it is because we didn't have it!

Please submit all news and pictures to:

Diann Michael, Editor Kfeirian Newsletter

6930 SW 15th Street
Plantation, FL 33317

MORE

School News



NEWS FROM CHARLESTON, W.V.!

Deborah Lynn Michael - Daughter of **Philip and Georgiana Michael** from Charleston, West Virginia is Graduating from West Virginia State College with a B.S. Degree in Elementary Education, and Minorng in Special Education. She will also maintain a B.S. Degree in Regents of Bachelor of Arts.

Stephanie Ann Michael -Daughter of **John and Tina Michael** of Elkview, West Virginia, is a Graduate of Tulane University in Louisiana. She will maintain a B.S. Degree in Biology and will attend Dr. Scholl's School of Podiatry in Chicago, Illinois in the Fall.

George Choueiri - Son of **Tonias and Connie Choueiri** of Charleston, will Graduate with a PhD Degree in Pharmacy from St. Louis School of Pharmacy in St. Louis Missouri. He will practice in Charleston, West Virginia.

Mae Michael's One Year Memorial Service was held the weekend of March 30, 1998. May her Memory Be Eternal.

I will send more later..

Debbie Michael, Charleston Editor



**Kristin Bet hany
Turner**

Kristin Turner, daughter of the Late Robert Turner and his wife Brenda Kay, is graduating from Fairfield High School in Proctorville, Ohio this year. She will be attending Shawnee State College in Portsmouth, Ohio, in the fall. She attended the 65th Reunion in Huntington and had a blast! Her mother, Brenda, was there as well with her grandparents App and Lorena Aborizk Copley. Lorena is the daughter of the late Abraham and Mary Mariage Aborizk.

Debbie Michael, our Charleston, W.V., Editor, with her father, **Philip Michael, Jr.**



Barbara Mae Michael

Barbara Mae Michael - Daughter of **John and Tina Michael** of Elkview, West Virginia is graduating with Honors from George Washington High School. She will attend Vanderbilt University in Tennessee in the fall and major in Music Performance.

John Andrew Michael- Son of **John and Tina Michael** attends New Braunsel High School, in Texas and is ranked #41 for his age group, Boys 16 in the country.

Mary Elizabeth Michael - Daughter of **Philip and Georgiana Michael**, from Charleston, West Virginia is Graduating with Honors, in the top 10% of her class from Capital High School. She will attend West Virginia University and Major in Biology.



Mary Elizabeth Michael



These are some happy cousins! **Jim Donley** surprised everyone and came home to the Reunion from Czechoslovakia. He is pictured here 3rd from the left with brother **Kevin**, of Michigan, and his cousins **Medina and Samira Thabet**, from Washington, DC.

Awards, Promotions,

Accomplishments



60 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AND GOOD FOOD!

Jim Tweel celebrated 60 Years of business in Huntington at Jim's Steak and Spaghetti House on June 9, 1998

Jim Tweel was courting Sally and making \$18 a week when he decided his fortune lay elsewhere and started Jim's Dairy Bar in 1938. He did, as we all know, marry Sally, and went on to years of successful business feeding the folk of Huntington and a few Presidents along the way. He has always been known for his fairness, his personal touch and his genuine love for people. Jim's Manager, "Bunny" Gray has been with him since the beginning and many of his waitresses have worked there for decades. People can count on the service, the quality, and most of all, Jim's smile and handshake. This is truly the American Dream, opportunity, fairness, and hard work mean dependability. This attests to the character of a gentleman and role model for us all. Now, as if this achievement was not enough, Jim was also the

the recipient the Sam Walton Business Leader Award on June 24, 1998. He is one of 720 people chosen across the United States to receive the reward named after Sam Walton, founder of WalMart. Barbara Brooks, an employee of the WalMart on US Route 60, presented Jim the award, stating, "He exemplified what Mr. Sam was - he built his company on appreciation and recognition of customers and associates and community." Jim was nominated by the Huntington Area Development Council because he fit the business criteria. This award celebrates outstanding local business men and women. Congrats and we're proud of you, Jim!

Charles Fischer, son of Chuck and Lila Mickel Fischer of Orlando, Florida, is on an aircraft carrier in the Persian Gulf. He was scheduled for a long, round the world tour, but the Gulf problems with Saddam Hussein and then directly to the Gulf. Yes, his mom, Lila Mickel Fischer, was a basket case until the war plans were cancelled. He ran into his cousin the Mall in Dubai. Now it that is not a small world! He met Maha Abdullah, his mother's first cousin, when he was in Lebanon two years ago, then saw her again when he returned in December 1997. She was just shopping when she heard him call, "Hey, Maha!" What a small world. A warrior, a sailor, and now intelligence, what a guy! (Did I mention he is the Editor's godson, too?)

George Hanna, President of the Parish Council of St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Huntington, WV, was the Master of Ceremonies at the Grand Banquet of **50th** Anniversary Celebration of St. George Church on May 24, 1998. Word is he kept the audience in stitches with his jokes. (This editor can attest to it as she was the guinea pig for several of the jokes and had to go to the Emergency room to have her laugh relaxed!) **George was presented with the honor of "Kentucky Colonel"** (no, we don't mean chicken!), which is a honor given by the Governor of Kentucky for people who have tirelessly contributed charitable works. Congratulations to George and his family. Good works are rewarded with heartfelt thanks!



The George Hanna Family Celebrates Together.
Left to Right: Bruce, Greg, George, Gloria, Nazek, and Stephanie Hanna.

Awards, Promotions, Continued

Accomplishments



Rosemarie Corey, here with Kathyrene Williams of the Women's Club of Beckley, received her 25 year membership certificate. She has been an active member and served in many capacities.



Mrs. Virginia Waikem, mother of Rosemarie Corey, recently moved to Beckley and became a newly inducted member of the Women's Club.



Well, he went to the Gulf of Persia, but that doesn't mean he could get away from his mother! Lila Mickel Fischer of Orlando went to Dubai and met up with her son, Charlie Fischer, stationed on an aircraft carrier in the Gulf with the U. S. Navy. God be with him and bring them all home safely!

BIRTHDAYS

A surprise birthday party was given for **Raymond Abraham** by his children, **Linda and Mike**, March 7, 1998, in honor of his 70th birthday. It was held at the Uptowner Inn in Huntington, WV. Many Kfeirians were among the 80 plus people in attendance with George Hanna, Mike George and Richard Tweel leading the way with their gag gifts. Family and friends brought pictures and memories and his sister **Emily Haddad** from Illinois wrote a humorous but touching letter about growing up with her older brother. A previous commitment kept her from traveling to Huntington.

ILLNESSES

Mrs. Nazik Hanna of Huntington, West Virginia, took a bit of a fall and was slightly slowed down for a time during the winter. As usual, she was full of courage and a great spirit which helped all to heal quickly. Son George Hanna was, of course, at her beck and call.

As this goes to press our hearts and prayers are with **Eva Kawaja**, daughter of **Naseib and Waffa Kawaja** of Toronto and granddaughter of the late **Ramez Kawaja** of Montreal as she struggles with serious illness. Surrounded by loving relatives and friends, Eva is showing the same sweet and gentle spirit for which she is so cherished and loved. Our Prayers are with you, Eva.

Please send the editor news clippings directly from your local newspaper so that we can include photos and accurate information.

Engagements

Dr. Lisa Harris, daughter of **Norma Harris**, was engaged to **Thomas Kurtz** of Ohio in December of 1997 and plans are for a wedding in 1999. Lisa, a former Kfeirian Reunion Scholarship Recipient (aren't we proud of our youth?) left Akron last year to study at Tulane in Louisiana. She is taking a Neurology Residency and was awarded Best Teacher in that group for 1997-98 (Yea! Lisa). **Michael Harris**, her brother, continues his successful career at Honeywell in Minneapolis and his mom **Norma**, is happily retired after 50 years of employment. Ya shoulda been at the 1997 Reunion to watch mom and daughter cut the rug! great dancers!

Berry Marriage Cont.

The reception featured a live band from Lexington and some old derbakie guys played some Arabic music, too! (Ha, George Hanna, Derbakie Man!) There was a brunch Monday at Selma and Colin's home by the pool with a catered repast under a tent. Selma's mother **Nellie**, was a Dawahare, and the Dawahare family from Lexington was in full attendance.

Jane Eubanks, Huntington, WV, daughter of **Josephine Cantees Eubanks** of Williamson, WV, became the bride of **Brian Gilkerson**, December 25, 1997. The wedding was an intimate family affair with a reception following the ceremony in the church hall.



Who is this dancing couple??

Free raffle tickets for the first to identify!

Marriages

Michael Abraham was married October 18, 1997 to **Nora Nuckols**, in Huntington, WV. Michael's father **Raymond Abraham** was best man. A reception was held at the Knights of Columbus. **George Hanna**, **Thomas Bevins** and **Eddie Henry** provided "live" entertainment so family and friends could dubkee the night away. Michael and Nora spent their honeymoon on the island of **St. Barthelemy** in the French West Indies. They will continue to live in **Clearwater, FL**. Best wishes and many years of happiness.

Colin and Selma Kawaja Berry, of Williamson, WV., saw their daughter **Christy Berry** marry **Alan Coffman** of Lexington, Kentucky. The formal wedding was lovely and featured 5 bridesmaids, 2 junior bridesmaids and two flower girls. The wedding program gave witness to the wonderful Kfeirian family heritage by making a touching tribute to **Abe and Nellie Kawaja**, the bride's grandparents. The church was personally decorated by **Selma** and her daughter, **Cathy**, and the beauty of it was remarked by all.



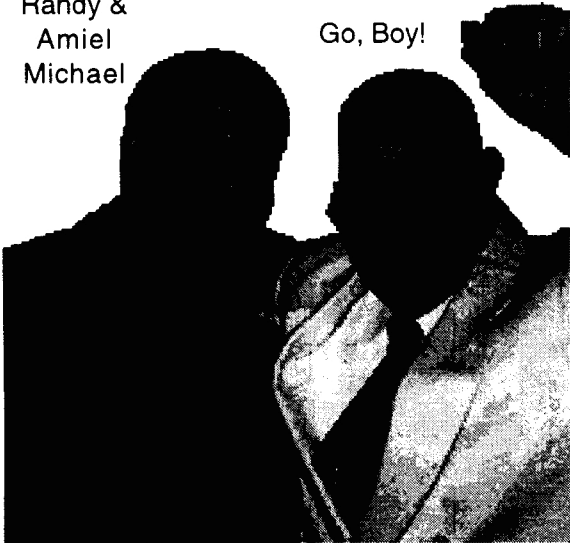
Let us introduce you to **Armando Javier Bassiet**, born December 17, 1997, son of **Matthew and Lynda Bassiett** and grandson of **Selma Bassett Edinger**, all of Columbus. Hi, Guy!. We will be dancing with you soon!

Randy and Becky Thabet Schulz of Sa Antonio, TX, were reportedly expecting! Hey, how's about some photos?

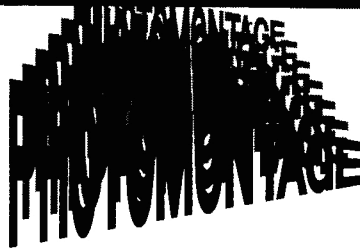
ANNIVERSARIES

Bob and Linda Abraham Thomas were pleasantly surprised with a 25th wedding Anniversary Party at the Radisson Hotel in Huntington, WV, The party was hosted by their daughters, **Kerri**, **Kristi**, and **Kimberly**. **Linda is the daughter of Ray Abraham** of Huntington and the sister of **Michael Abraham**, KRF Board President, **Michael Abraham**. This wonderful reception was held on June 6, 1998.

Randy & Amiel Michael



Go, Boy!



Kristine & John Joseph



Julia, Nabih, & Hafiz Nassar.



Thabet Family at the 1997 Reunion Surrounding their beloved mother and grandmother, Rusmia. God rest her soul.



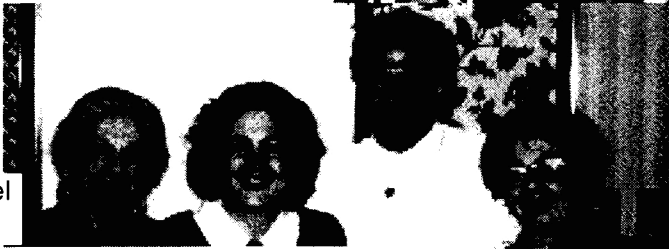
Jaoa & Evony Miguel, Jaime & Stella Michael Blandy of Brazil with Lila Mickel Fischer.



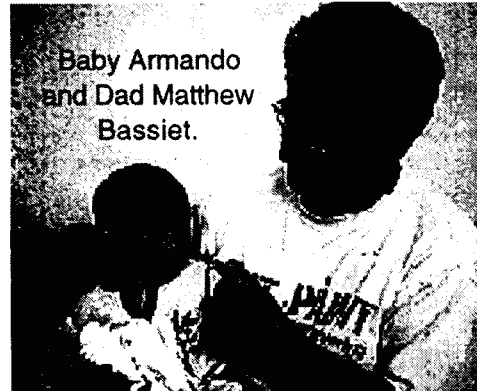
Lorena Abourizk Copley & daughter, Sandra Aiello.



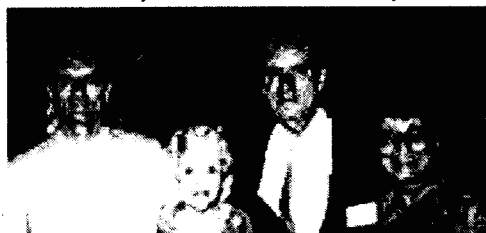
Asma, George & John Hodge, George & Nazik Hanna, but who is the baby?



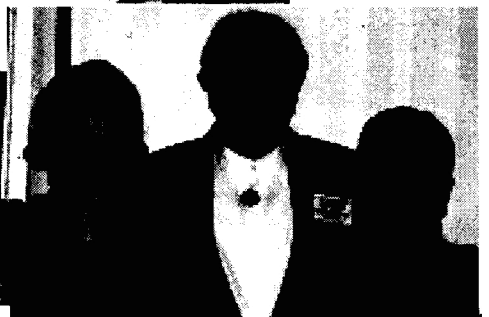
Rosemarie Corey, Pam Newey, Mark Corey, & Julienne Newey.



Baby Armando and Dad Matthew Bassiet.



Danny Tweel, Jeanette Bolus, Richard Tweel, and Lila, again (HA!).



Mark Corey with his cousins from Kfeir.

TRAVELS



Hey, Camel Jockey!

Charlie Fischer got to Saudi Arabia (hearsay was that it was an super high secret intelligence mission)! He also spent a lot of time in the Mall at Dubai (hearsay is he didn't buy much - tight with his money!)

George and Nouha Rezcallah took their three children, **Anthony, Vanessa, and Alexander**, to Lebanon and Syria this past summer to visit the homeland and family there. They spent several weeks in the Kfeir.

Three weeks after their return to the States, Nouha's mother, **Alice AbuJamra**, passed away into eternal life. May God rest her soul!

Bassetts Enjoy a Visit to Lebanon

Following a two-week tour of Jordan and Syria in May, members of the Bassett family had a week long visit in Lebanon.

The entourage included **Abe and Sharon Bassett** of Beavercreek, OH, **Selma Bassett Edinger** of Columbus, OH, **Lorraine Bassett Scott** of Palo Alto, CA, **Douglas Bassett** of Milano, Italy, **Nancy Rutherford Griffith** of Sacramento, CA, and **Jan Rutherford** of Juneau, Alaska. All are the children or grandchildren of the late Abraham and Rahija Bassett.



PEEKA BOO!
Sharon Bassett,
wife of Abe
Bassett, in Petra,
Jordan.



Kfeir, Lebanon at St. George Orthodox Church
L to R: Church Priest, Lorraine Scott, Sharon Bassett,
Douglas Bassett, Selma Edinger, Nancy Griffith;
Jan Rutherford, Abe Bassett. May 18, 1998.

Besides spending a full day in Kfeir, (where they met KRF board member, Lila Fischer) the group visited Baalbek, Aanjar, Zahle, Jounieh, Tripoli, The Cedars, Jeite Grotto, Sidon, Tyre, and Beirut.

The highlight of the tour was the day long visit to Kfeir, and to Kab Elias where they met previously unknown members of the Bassett family (Kaboosh branch).

During Abe's visits to Syria and Israel in the past several years, he has now met Bassett family members in Damascus and Malah, Syria, and in Kafr Yassif, Galilee, Israel. One Israeli cousin, Amal Morcus, has just released a CD featuring original songs sung in the style of Joan Baez.

The tour was organized by Abe, who since retiring as a college professor and administrator, has operated Bassett Tours, Inc. Each year, he and his wife Sharon lead one group to England and Europe, and another to Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. He also arranges custom tours for individuals and small groups.

Staggs Tour China's Great Wall



Alan & Karyn Cantees Stagg toured China. Alan, a geologist, was teaching the Chinese government about hard rock mining procedures. Alan is owner of Stagg Engineering in Cross Lanes, WV.

Lila's Travels

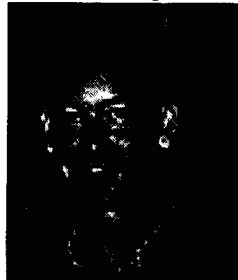


Victoria Michael Ansara of Sao Paulo and Lila Mickel Fischer

Well, **Lila Mickel Fischer** sure doesn't let the grass grow under those feet. She went to Sao Paulo, Brazil, in '97 for two weeks to visit the Michael family on the south side of the equator. It was a fine reunion, Brazilian style, and she was welcomed by Niki Ansara and his mother, Victoria Ansara, both Reunion attendees. She met so many Michaels and worked on the family tree. Now she is off to Lebanon for 3 weeks, leaving on the 29th of April. Her cousin Fakhre Abood visited Canada and the US this fall and made a grand tour renewing contacts with many of his Michael cousins. Lila is helping this Editor fill in the women on the Michael/Radwan family tree and so is on a research mission. She visited her Aunt, Souad Abood and family in Beirut, the Bekaa, and the Kfeir. Just before leaving she had a call that her Aunt Souad's husband, Dr. Fouzie Abood, was ill and in the hospital. Our prayers and condolences go out to the family, as he passed away just after Lila's arrival.

Lila to meet up with **Selma Bassett Edinger** who was in Beirut, the Kfeir, and other parts Lebanese on a tour with her brother, **Abe Bassett**. Lila and Selma are both Board Members and the Board entrusted them to do some research on location and facilities for our planning the trip to the Kfeir in the year 2000. Hopefully they will come back with some great information.

James Donley is living and working for Ford Motor Co. in the Republic of Czechoslovakia, and is touring so many other places as well. What an adventure! We were all so happily surprised to see his face at the Reunion, but none so happily surprised as his mother, **Mary Husson**, who had literally no idea he was going to appear. The plans were well hidden and there was subterfuge and lies told to make this the most wonderful surprise ever. Truly, it brought tears to our eyes to see this family so happily reunited. This is what the Kfeirian Reunion is all about, family, love, and coming together to make new memories while sharing the old.



LIFE IN CZECH

Excerpted from Personal letters from Jim Donley in Czechoslovakia to his Kfeirian Cousins.

Just an update on the African adventure. Spent a week on Safari in South Africa where you got so close to wildlife you could count how many ...

they had (buffaloes had more than giraffes). Twice... yes twice, we almost got our car crushed by elephants. Saw alligators, rhinos, hippos, McDonald's, zebras, wildebeests, etc. etc. Got hit on by a few Banchi women, but I didn't like their nose rings.

Capetown. Party, Party, Party (New Year's was a Rave party of 15,000 people). The Rave was so strange that midnight came and went and they never announced it. My friends and I felt out of place as we had sleeves and lacked blue or red spiked hair. Temperature was in the upper nineties. Ended the trip in Lesotho, where I don't believe white man has been spotted in centuries. All the kids waved to you and wanted to touch you. Good business opportunity if you drive an ice cream truck.

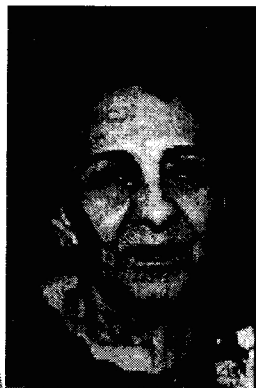
Germany: Karnival and a Young, Naive American

I innocently attended meetings in Cologne Germany a few weeks ago. I arrived on Women's day??? and was informed that starting at 11:11am, any woman in town got whatever she wanted. I soon realized that Karnival in Cologne came in a close third for most lustful city of all time... slightly behind both Sodom and Gomorrah. Everyone was in costume, and the bar was a scene out of the Ten Commandments, while women from age 18 to 70 began to attack. Wedding rings were hidden until the next day as was tradition. Festivities lasted 4 days straight, around the clock.

Portugal and the Ladies of Christopher Columbus On to Portugal where the women also had something in common with Sodom and Gomorrah.... they resembled the lady that turned to stone! My vision of the beautiful women that had emerged in Brazil from Portuguese descendants was crushed... I was seeing women that looked like Christopher Columbus, only they had thick beards.

Roma I found a very cheap flight to Rome. Rome truly was beautiful. It is also a very romantic town. So there we were in the city of ruins, ugly cats, beautiful women, gladiators, beautiful women, people on mopeds who drive worse than the Domino's delivery guys, beautiful women and beautiful women. I went to **St. Peter's** for church. To my astonishment (not really, as I expected it), Pope JohnPaul II stopped Mass, pointed at me and asked where the heck I had been (just like mom said he would do for the last 10 years). I apologized as I had been very busy recently, and he offered me another chance. Hope to be in **Berlin** for Easter, then I have to clean up my act for awhile. Mother is coming to check on her son; sounds like I need to convince her I really do have a job.

In Memoria



Mrs. Rosalie George Coleman of Huntington, WV, passed away September 14, 1997. She was the daughter of Helen George and the sister of Julius George, who preceeded her.

She was survived by her husband, Benjamin Coleman, three sons, Benjamin, Jr., Bruce, and Brian, six grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren, and three brothers, Emil George and Louis George of Huntington and Raymond George of Charleston.

James Corey of Beckley, WV, died March 26, 1998, in Huntington after an illness. He was the son of the late Pete and Wacella Michael Corey. A graduate of Woodrow Wilson High in Beckley, and Beckley College, he was owner and operator with his family of the Rainbow Grill. He served in the Korean War. Jim was an active member of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church where he was on the Parish Board. He was preceded by his brother Mitchell Corey. His is survived by his wife Frances Taylor Corey, two sons James and Jamal, and a daughter, Jeanie Garretson, brothers Fayez and Robert, and three grandchildren.



Michael Edward Corey of Daytona Beach, formerly of Beckley, WV, died October 7, 1997, after a long illness. Michael was owner operator of Coastline Specialities of Daytona. He was active

Michael Edward Corey - Continued in Holy Cross Eastern Orthodox Church and supported the Kfeirian Reunion for many years. He was Parish Council President and aided in the building committee. Active in many civic pursuits and charities, he will be deeply missed. His parents are Edward and Rosemarie Waikem Corey of Beckley, WV. He is survived also by his wife Mary Richman Corey, two brothers Steven and Mark Corey and his maternal grandmother, Virginia Waikem of Beckley.

Barbara Henry died December 28, 1997 after a brief illness. She is survived by her mother Bernice Abraham and son, Eddie Henry. Her father, Ed Abraham, was active in the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation until his death in 1970.

Ruth A. Jamra of Toledo, OH, passed away April 14, 1998. She was a member of St. Elias, Anthiochian Orthodox Church and was former assistant superintendent of St. Elias Sunday School. Ruth was a volunteer kindergarten teacher and girl scout leader at Old Orchard School. She raised money annually to send girl scouts to camp at no cost to them and served as a volunteer for the Channel 30 Auction. Ruth was a member of the Toledo Zoo for many years and participated in many special activities with her family. One of her biggest enjoyments in life was watching her girls excell in athletics. Ruth will be remembered by all those who knew her for her kindness, honesty, and eagerness to help others. Ruth was the daughter of Ramez and Madeline Ramey. She is survived by her husband Larry Jamra, who has served for many years on the KRF Board of Directors, and her daughters, Tanya, Laura, and Deitra, currently KRF Board Member, and her sisters, Jean Hermann, Elaine Bowers, and Kathy Zaferatos.



In Memoria Continued

The Lord is my sheperd,
I shall not want.
He maketh me to
lie down
in green pastures;
He leadeth me beside
the still waters,
He restoreth my soul.
He leadeth me in the
paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk
through the
valley of the
shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
for thou are with me;
they rod and thy staff
they comfort me.
Thou preparest a
table before me in the
presence of mine
enemies;
Thous anointest
my head with oil,
my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and
mercy shall follow
me all the days
of my life;
and I shall dwell
in the house of the
Lord forever.



Yvonne Radwan Kawaja, of Lexington, KY, passed away October 20, 1997. Formerly of Hazard, she was a member of the Hazard Christian Church, a graduate of Bowling Green Business University, member of the Eastern Star, Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, a Girl Scout Leader, and business partner in George's Shoe Store in Hazard, KY, Radwan's Shoe Store in Pikeville, KY, Cinderella Shoe Store in Clevbeland, TN, and George's Shoes in Lexington, KY. She was also a member of the Eastern Orthodox Church in Lexington, KY. She is survived by her husband of 49 years, George Kawaja, her mother Kalia Radwan, and daughters, Sharri Geer and Loretta Kawaja, and two grandchildren. She is also survived by her brother Nelson and sister Reinette.

Nazeema Khoury of Toldeo, OH, passed away December 10, 1996, in Darlington House., She was a member of St. Elias Orthodox Church and the ladies Society. She is survived by her nieces and nephews, including Ralph Shamas and Rosalie Murray.



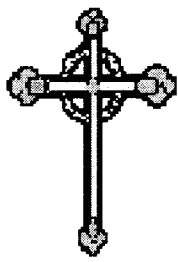
Helen Abourezk Ramey of Beckley, WV, died February 12, 1998, at the home of her daughter Helen Vicky Ramey of Atlanta, GA

Helen and her husband were owners of Ramey's Sweet Shop and the Columbia Grill in Beckley. She was a member of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, the Eastern Stars, and the Laurel Business and Professional Women's Club. She was preceded in death by her husband, Fayez Ramey, in 1967, and her brother, Chick Abourezk, in 1996. She is survived by four daughters, Dorothy Ramey Skaff, Sally Ann Glisson, Lane Barrett, and Victoria Helen Ramey, two brothers, Tom and Sen. James Abourezk of South Dakota, her sister, Virginia Nicholson, 7 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.



Eassa Shaheen, Jr., of Canton, OH., passed away December 19, 1997, after a brief illness.

A life long resident of Canton, he was a member of St. George Anthiochian Orthodox Church. He attended Kent State University and was a life member of the Canton Advertising Club from which he won the Advertising Man of the Year in 1977. He was inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame in 1989. He was a retired advertising account executive for WHLO. He is survived by his wife, Peggy Tweel Shaheen, two sons, Fred and Dr. Louis Shaheen, two daughters, Lucy and Janine, two brothers, Charles and Louis, two sisters, Mimi Cavalier and Janet Shaheen and 6 grandchildren.

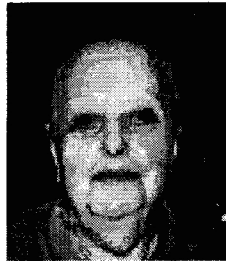


In Memoria

Continued

Dr. Ernest Sayfie, of Hollywood, FL, died January 22, 1998, of cardiac complications after surgery. Ernie, known throughout the South Florida area for his affable personality and successful medical practice was often referred to as "Doctor to the Stars" because he provided care to Frank Sinatra, Lisa Minelli, and many stars who visited and performed in South Florida. Born in Charleston, WV, he moved to Hollywood in 1967 to set up a medical practice that became renown. He received his BA, a BS in Pharmacy, and his MD from WVU. Dr. Sayfie was Chief of Staff at Hollywood Memorial Hospital from 1984-85, President of the Broward County Medical Association from 1983-84. Dr. Sayfie had a family practice specializing in Geriatrics and was remarkable in his dedication to his patients and known for his friendly bedside manner and wonderful personality. He is survived by his wife, Judith, his three sons, Justin, Jordan, and Jan, his mother, Selma Bassett, his brothers Dr. Eugene Sayfie and Russell Bassett, his sister, Ernestine Ede, and his great aunt, Mary Ghiz, all of South Florida. He will be deeply missed both by his family, to whom he was deeply dedicated, and to his patients and the medical community he served with such distinction.

John E. "Freddie" Thabet of Mason, OH, passed away December 9, 1997. He was the son of the late Nimer and Jenny Thabet. Co-owner of ABC Dry Cleaners in Mason, he was a member of the mason United Methodist Church, the Masonic Lodge, the Moose, and was an Army veteran of World War II and the Korean War. He was a member of the American Legion and the Stewart Johnson VFW in Mason. His wife, Mary, and three daughters, Joy, Susan, and Jenny Clendenen, and a son, John.



Rusmia Lowen Thabet of South Charleston, WV, passed from our midst on February 23, 1998.

Rusmia, well known to Kfeirians and revered as a gentle and wise woman, had attended the last two reunions, being one of the dedicated elders of our community. She was a homemaker and co-owner of Thabet's Grill in South Charleston. A member of St. George Orthodox Church in Charleston. Rusmia is the mother of Charles Thabet, KRF Board Member, grandmother of Mydina Thabet, KRF Board member, and the mother-in-law of Mitchell Mickel, KRF Board member, demonstrating the great family and community spirit she instilled in her offspring. In addition she is survived by her daughters, Linda Mickel, Rose Christian, Naomi McCarron, Clemence Bassett, and Carolyn Saad, and sons Charles, Edward, her brother Tennel Lowen, 20 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. She was deeply loved and revered and will be missed by all who knew her.

Mary Michael Tweel, of Huntington, WV, passed away in Memphis, TN, April 14, 1998. She was the wife of Leonard Tweel and owned and operated Leonard's Grill in Huntington with him. The daughter of Nicholas and Takia Michael of the Kfeir, Mary came to the US at 8 years of age and was raised by her aunt and uncle, the late George and Sadie Michael of Charleston, WV. She was active in the 5th Avenue baptist Church. She is survived by her children, Thomas, Betty Rahal, Judith Prater, Sandra Starnes, and seven grandchildren and one great grandson.

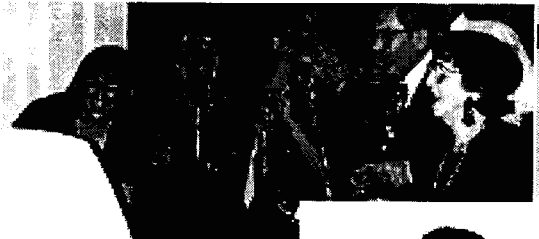


Roger Tweel, of Proctorville, OH, passed from us on June 29, 1997.

He was a retired civil engineer with the Army Corp of Engineers, part owner of WNXT Radio Station in Milton, President and owner of Tweel Engineering, Vice President of Allstate Engineering Co. Born in Huntington, he was the son of the late Saied George and Nazy Tweel. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, Harvard Business School, and Rensselaer Polytechnic. He also served in the Navy for 11 years. He was preceded in death by his brother, Naseeb, and his sister, Kathryn. He is survived by his wife, Therese Tweel, two sons, Matt and Ronald and his daughter, Sueilen Tweel Casto, six grandchildren and two brothers, Harry and Robert Tweel of Huntington.



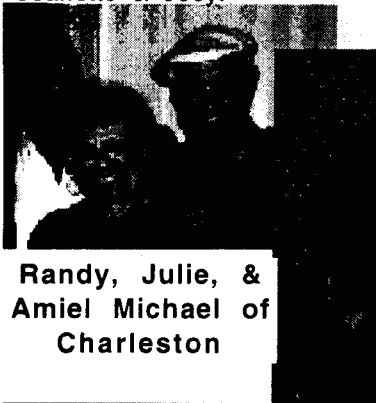
Belt it out, Jeanette & Joey!



Who is the pretty, smiling blond belting it out with Jeannette, Elaine, George & Selma. They sure look like they are having a blast at the 66th in Huntington!



Jeanette Corey from Texas will be at the Reunion in Columbus! Another chance guys! She's still single! And she pounds a mean Derbakie!

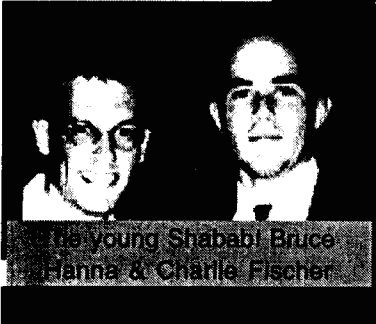


Randy, Julie, & Amiel Michael of Charleston

Ashley & Gianna met at the reunion when they were 3, now they are 9!



Michael cousins from Charleston,



The young Shabab, Bruce Hanna & Charlie Fischer



Elaine & Louis Rahall



Board of Directors, Kfeirian Reunion Foundation, 1997.



This was a nice Reunion for the **Harris Family** to get together as they are spread from the South to North to Midwest. **Michael, Dr. Lisa, and Norma Harris.** They are pictured with **Ramez McCarus.**



Jim Donley surprised everyone by his unexpected appearance. Here are **Kevin and Jim Donley**, two of our most eligible bachelors!



Amiel & Julie Michael

George Hanna & Louis Rahall.



Yours truly at the 66th Reunion in Huntington



The **John Michael Family** of Bluefield, WV.

THANK YOU

KFEIRIAN REUNION FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT PLEDGES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES FIVE YEAR CONTRIBUTORS in random order

Raymond Abraham	Mydina Thabet
Kevin Donley	Charles Thabet
Selma B. Edinger	James Donley
George Hanna	
John Hodge	Julian Saad
Dr. Diann Michael	
Mitchell Mickel	
Anthony Rezzcallah	Total Pledges.....\$4,500.00

OTHER 5 YEAR CONTRIBUTORS IN RANDOM ORDER

John & Wendy Abraham	Congressman Nick Joe Rahall
Helen Ramey	Toufic & Sandra Saad
David & Sandy Campbell	
Claire Abourizk	
John & Barbara Thabet	
Danny Tweel	
Lucile Kerbawy DeGross	
Ramez McCarus	
Randy & Becky Schultze	
Denise Bolus	
Marshall & Vivian Woods	
George & Emily Haddad	
Catherine Bolus	Total Pledges.....\$8,750.00

OTHER 10 YEAR CONTRIBUTORS

Simon & Fadwa Naoufal \$1,000.00

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS.....Approximately \$1,000.00

(Given over last 3 years)

OTHER ENDOWMENT CONTRIBUTORS in random order

Sam & Julienne Newey	Mrs. H.R. Winkle solicited
Dr. Joseph & Anna Bassett	by Mrs. Grayce A. Neimy
Ernest & Adele McCarus	David A. Zegeer
Nick Ansara Family	Phillip J. Hawarny
Don & Rose Christian	John & Christine Michael
Naomi Thabet McCarron	Lucy Shaheen
Ruth M. Kerbawy	Ruth D. Thabet and
Ernest & Gwen Thabet	Norma Norman
George & Alice Rahall Murad	Naseef & Rita Kourey
Farris & Victoria Rahall	Selma Andrews
Eddie & Helen Kallile	Mrs. Josephine Bassett
Dr. Orlando & Dorothy Skaff	Phillip G. Sadd
Victor Ayoub	Pillip & Mae Michael Family
Adeeb & Carolyn Sadd	Total Contributions.....\$6,140.00
TOTAL TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS.....	OVER..\$20,000.00

GOD BLESS THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN

We need a total of 1000 families to participate. Join us and send in a pledge today!
K.R.F. Endowment, 25 Hillendale Dr., Huntington, WV 25705