



The Kfeirian Reunion Newsletter

SUMMER 1999

Number 4

66th Reunion in Columbus Was a Blast!

CoChairmen **Selma Bassett Edinger** and **David Rahal** were aided by the Columbus Committee **Veronica Nedeff Sherman, Emmoline Jamra, Mary Lou Simon, Pam Rahal, Leslie Hendricks, George Hanna, Lorraine Scott, Nabil Ailabouni, Matt Bassiet, and Abe & Sharon Bassett.** The Columbus Marriott proved to be a very comfortable and congenial spot to which many would like to return some day soon. We really enjoyed the hotel and many travelers loved the convenience of Columbus for flights in Many came from far and wide to join in the festivities. The hotel was really accommodating and the gym on the first floor and pool aided us in soothing tired muscles after the debkie roll had its toll.

The events were wonderful, the music foot stomping good and the banquet really a feast to be enjoyed. We always love the addition of some Arabic food like at the reception. Yea, hummous, tabouli, khoobz and olives. Abe Bassett showed some wonderful pictures and videos of trips to Lebanon, which we all hope to make together some day. There was a helpful Arabic lesson conducted by Nabil Ailabouni, a teacher from the Columbus schools.

They came from far and wide . We think Australia being the furthest this year. The only real problem with the weekend was its going too fast! Can't we have a week long reunion someday?

The first Columbus Reunion was held in 1989 and was carried by Selma's son, **Alan Edinger.** This year he was a great consultant and aided in many ways. There was a mini-reunion this year with **Joe Coury,** of Texas, formerly of Parkersburg, WV , and his daughter **Jeanne** and relatives from Texas, New York, and other parts convening to almost 40 strong.



Board of Directors Meet

The Board of Director's met at the Radisson Hotel in Huntington on April 25, 1999, to review the 66th Reunion and plans for the 67th. We are definitely ready for the 21st century as 7 Board Members attended the meeting by teleconference. The Columbus Reunion made a good profit and the Treasury is doing well under the protection of George Hanna, Treasurer .

Plans for the 67th Reunion were discussed and seem to be going well. The band is scheduled and we hear there may be some surprises!

The Kfeir 2000 plans were discussed (see details on the Kfeir 2000 page 3).

It was discussed that future scholarships will be reviewed by an independent academic institution. Marshall University personnel have agreed to review applications in the future.

News About US!

There was a nice article in *The Arab-American Voice*, a newspaper in English and Arabic distributed in the US about our Kfeirian Reunion. Titled *The Essence of Lebanōn: A Kfeirian Tale.* The article had a nice picture of Selma Bassett Edinger, a picture of the Kfeir, and a picture of the 66th Reunion Committee. The story gave the history of our reunion, talked about our Scholarship initiative, and shared the inspirational aspect of our Reunion with the American-Arab world. It also talked about our Family Tree and Kevin Donley's Genealogy Project. A copy of the article will be on display at the 67th Reunion for all to see.

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From the Editor's Desk

A loving duty, the newsletter comes out again. I am dismayed, however, by the lack of news forwarded to me. **Where is the community spirit for making our newsletter great?**

As always, I thank George Hanna for his tireless aid and contribution to the newsletter. Also, thanks to ALL who contributed news and money! Thanks for the cut out newspaper obituaries, I want to get your names in here correctly spelled. Thanks Selma Edinger, Abe Bassett, Jeanette Bolus, Mitchell Mickel, Kevin Donley, Pam Newey, Joey Peck, Debbie Michael, Dorothy, and everyone whose name I forgot, for NEWS, help with address list, and photos!

Time and time again I call, write, email, and beg for news. We all want to know what is happening to our loved ones, but someone has to give me the details and facts.

Pictures, news articles from papers, hand written letters, cards, email, carrier pigeons, send me **THE NEWS**.

As far as Kfeir 2000, there is some progress. A committee was formed headed by Mydina Thabet and there are some good ideas. Look for them on the KFEIR 2000 page for details. We hope you all are saving your pennies to make this trip together.

Donations are trickling in for the Kfeirian Reunion Scholarship Endowment Fund, but more of an effort is needed. Where is the leadership and commitment to our youth from the greater Kfeirian family. Come on folks, share with the next generation!

The lamentable high school violence around the country makes even more poignant the strong family and community values our Kfeirian brotherhood holds dear. Our youth can march us proudly into the next Millennium or end us all. The violence on TV and video games and in the world must give way to reasoned brotherhood and caring for one another. We make our small contribution in this wonderful Reunion we have founded as well in some many other ways in our lives.

FUTURE REUNION SITES

Well, this year we are back home in **Huntington**. No one else could really get it together and take the reunion. This is becoming a problem, but we have new locales vying for our reunion, too. We have been hearing about **Prince Edward Island** now for quite a few years. We have been excited about partying with our Canadian cousins, but it never seems to come together. What's up?

We have had a wonderful proposal from the John Thabet family in **San Antonio** and this could be great. Country line dancing added to the Debkie! And some Tex-Mex food no doubt. We would love to hoop it up at a rodeo or two as well. **North Carolina** has mentioned an interest. The only problem there is, mountain or beach? What a great choice. There is a new park at Universal in **Orlando**, and maybe there is interest in that locale again. **Let's Go Fodor's, Kfeir!**

The Reunion Dates

There is some talk about changing the dates of the reunion. This comes up at every General Assembly. Labor Day is no more the wonderful last long weekend of the summer because of school starting early. This puts a damper of attendance for families with children. Children and youth are just exactly who we want to attract to the Reunion. It is impossible for college students to come on Labor Day most of the time, because classes have started and they have moved into the dorms. Many families just don't want to come without their children.

Also, other events in West Virginia really compete with the Reunion on Labor Day such as the Regatta and the Charleston activities. Many people have suggested trying for the 4th of July. The problems with the 4th of July are that it is not always on a Friday or Sunday to make a long weekend like Labor Day does. Travel to locales like Canada and Texas and Orlando would really be wonderful if people could stay for a longer time. **What DO YOU THINK?** Write me and I will take your ideas to the General Assembly this year for discussion.

Kfeirian Youth Page

As there are a lot of Kfeirian Youth on the web, we thought it would be great to have a forum for them to congregate, write in their ideas, share news, and just "surf" together. **Joey Peck** has taken a lead in this, but he needs your interest and help. We can link it to the existing Kfeirian Web Page and support it with time, skill, and interest. What do you think? Send your feedback to me and I will share with others interested.

Also, we are collecting email addresses for Kfeirians, so email me with your and I will add you to the list. Perhaps the Kfeirian Address Book for the year 2000 will add email addresses!

Support the Kfeirian Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Make plans to attend the 67th Reunion in Huntington.

And save your money for the Millennium trip of a lifetime: Kfeir 2000!

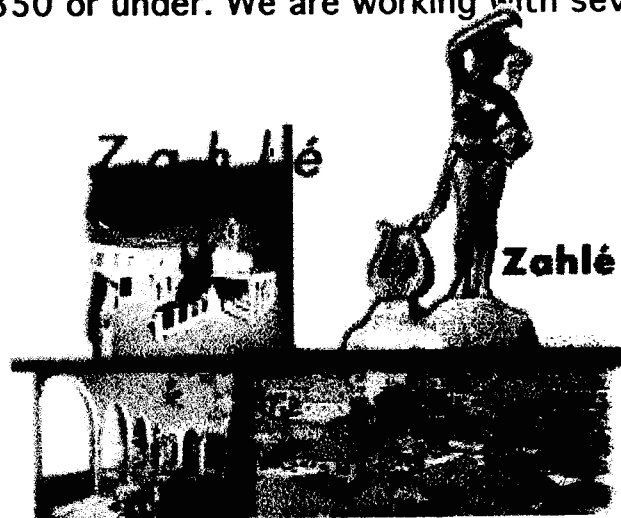
Send all your family news to:

**Kfeirian Newsletter
Diann Dee Michael, Editor
6930 SW 15th Street
Plantation, FL 33317
email:
dianndee@yahoo.com**

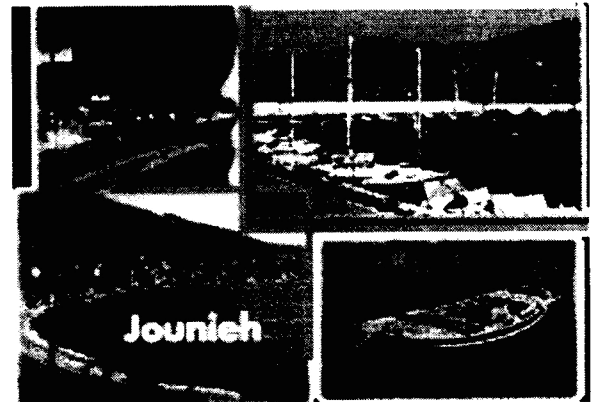
KFEIR 2000 !

The Kfeirian Reunion Board of Directors decided at the April meeting to offer a Kfeirian Reunion sponsored trip to the Kfeir in July of 2000. (This will NOT replace the regularly scheduled Reunion at Labor Day that year, but will just be an additional trip offered to Kfeirians.) It will consist of two days and two nights in the Kfeir with food, activities, dancing, music, hotel, and transportation included. Since there is no hotel in the Kfeir, hotel accommodations will be arranged in nearby Zahle or Tchura where breakfast will be served prior to the bus taking us to the Kfeir for the day.

Fair market prices indicate that this two day, two night event with food and hotel and entertainment all inclusive can be arranged for \$350 or under. We are working with several tou



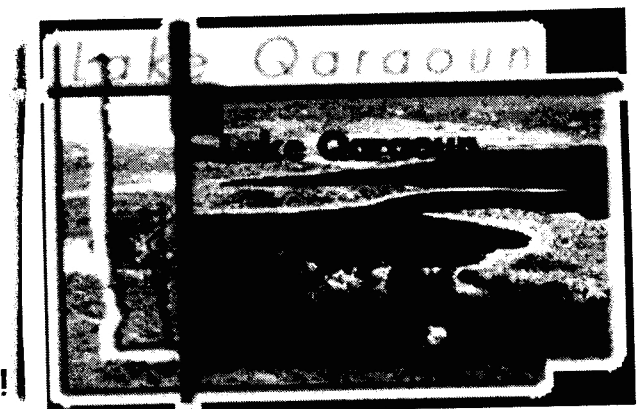
companies to arrange a ten day trip around the Kfeir weekend which would include travel from New York, travel to Beirut, Baalbek, Jounieh, and other historic features of Lebanon. This information should be available at the 67th Reunion in Huntington. So save your pennies for a trip of a lifetime. No trip can ever equal what this one will be, with the American & Canadian Kfeirians and the Lebanese and Syrian Kfeirians all together again in the Kfeir!



The Casino is open for great food, good fun, and maybe you can win your travel costs back?? I had a great time there when I last visited Lebanon. Word of warning, stop while you are ahead!



Baalbek is one of the most beautiful of sites in Lebanon. Amongst ancient ruins one feels the connection of the civilizations of the past in our own, Kfeirian, history.



2000 BUS

Come, Join
us in the
KFEIR!



A map of Lebanon shows the Kfeir, spelled above Kfair. You can see the adjoining towns of Mimes & Ain Aata. Our hotel will be in Tchoura or Zahle, where we will have great accommodations. A Mercedes bus will take us to the Kfeir each morning after breakfast, where activities are planned until the late evening.



Selma Bassett Edinger, of Columbus, OH, stands in front of the large tree in the Kfeir's church courtyard on a recent trip Selma is already on the list for our Kfeir 2000 group. Why don't you join her?

THE TWO DAYS AND NIGHTS IN THE KFEIR, INCLUDING HOTEL IN A NEIGHBORING TOWN OF 4 STAR QUALITY, MEALS, TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE KFEIR, SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES AND ENTERTAINMENT LOOKS LIKE IT WILL COST AROUND \$350 OR LESS. Beckey Thabet Schulz is helping with the travel arrangements! THANKS, Becky! THE ROUND TRIP AIRFARE FROM NEW YORK TO BEIRUT, 4 STAR HOTELS IN BEIRUT AND TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE KFEIR TRIP IS LIKELY TO RUN \$2500, WITH A DELUXE OPTION AT \$3200. THIS PART OF THE TRIP WOULD BE CONTRACTED FOR SEPARATELY FROM THE TWO DAYS IN THE KFEIR, OR PEOPLE COULD MAKE THEIR OWN ARRANGEMENTS.

- I am interested in the Kfeir 2000 trip which includes 2 days and evenings in the Kfeir, 2 nights in a local hotel, transportation, all meals, entertainment during July 2000.
- I wish to be placed on a special mailing list for the Kfeir 2000 trip at no obligation.
- I would want to take a tour that includes air from the USA, and travel and hotels through Beirut, Baalbek, and other parts of Lebanon.
- I would prefer to make my own travel and/or tour arrangements.
- I am ready, bags packed and writing your deposit check!



RETURN TO:

DIANN DEE MICHAEL
6930 SW 15TH STREET
PLANTATION, FL 33317





Thank You!

KFEIRIAN REUNION FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT PLEDGES

5 YEAR CONTRIBUTORS (LISTED IN RANDOM ORDER)

Raymond Abraham
 Kevin Donley
 Selma B. Edinger
 George Hanna
 John Hodge
 Dr. Diann Michael
 Mitchell Mickel
 Anthony Rezzcallah
 Mydina Thabet
 Charles Thabet
 James Donley
 Julian Saad

John & Wendy Abraham
 Helen Ramey
 David and Sandy Campbell
 Claire Abourizk
 John and Barbara Thabet
 Danny Tweel
 Lucile Kerbawy DeGroff
 Ramez McCarus
 Randy and Becky Schultze
 Denise Bolus
 Marshall and Vivian Woods
 Emily Abraham Haddad

Catherine Bolus
 Congressman Nick Joe Rahall
 Toufic and Sandra Saad
 Stephen Ramey
 Ron and Denise Mickel Russell
 Freddie and Katie Simon
 Chuck and Lila Fisher

10 YEAR CONTRIBUTORS (LISTED IN RANDOM ORDER)

Simon & Fadwa Naoufal

Michael and Madia Bolus El-Hage

OTHER ENDOWMENT CONTRIBUTORS (LISTED IN RANDOM ORDER)

Sam and Julienne Newey
 Dr. Joseph and Anna Bassett
 Ernest and Adele McCarus
 Nick Ansara Family
 Don and Rose Christian
 Naomi Thabet McCarron
 Ruth M. Kerbawy
 Ernest and Gwen Thabet
 George and Alice Rahall Murad
 Farris and Victoria Rahall
 Eddie and Helen Kallile
 Dr. Orlando and Dorothy Skaff
 Victor Ayoub
 Adeeb and Carolyn Sadd
 Louis and Elaine Rahall
 Allan and Karen Stagg
 Peggy Tweel Shaheen
 George and Souhail Zakem
 Kerbawy Family
 Ima Andrews

Mrs. H. R. Winkle
 solicited by Mrs Grayce A. Neimy
 David A. Zegeer
 Phillip J. Hawarny
 John and Christine Michael
 Lucy Shaheen
 Ruth D. Thabet
 and Norma Norman
 Naseef and Rita Kourey
 Mr. Josephine Bassett
 Phillip G. Sadd
 Phillip and Mae Michael Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Ellis
 Horizon Mobile
 Richard Pulcrano, President
 George Kawaja
 Tom and Veronica Sherman
 David A. Zegeer
 Jack and Esabell Metre
 Mrs. Anna Sabah

TOTAL TO DATE CONTRIBUTIONS..... OVER \$45,000.00

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



Scholarships

Scholarships were awarded to the following Kfeirian students for the 1998-99 academic year:

Hannah Ammar, Robert J. Branco, Nicholas Haddad, Barbara Michael, Mary Michael, Rebecca Saad, and Sara Saad.

We were glad to have been able to increase scholarships to \$800 a year and to offer seven Kfeirian students a helping hand toward their studies.

Eight scholarships are available 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.

Mary Michael,

the daughter of Philip and Georgiana Haddad Michael, attends West Virginia University where she is studying Biology. Mary and Barbara are the granddaughters of the late Philip and Mae Michael of Charleston and the great-granddaughters of our beloved George and Sadie Michael, originally of the Kfeir.

Robert Branco, son of Lois Thabet Branco, is attending the University of Texas at San Antonio where he is majoring in Psychology.



Hannah Ammar, daughter of Mary Ammar and granddaughter of William Ammar is attending Hawaii Pacific University in Honolulu where she is studying marine biology.



Nicholas W. Haddad, son of Geoffrey and Susan Haddad of Charleston, is attending Georgetown University, in Washington, D. C.



Rebecca Saad, daughter of Julian and Jihad Saad, of Huntington, attends the University of Kentucky. She is a regular Kfeirian Reunion attendee.



Sarah Saad, daughter of Julian and Jihad Saad, is also studying at UK and is in a pre-med program. No picture was available.

We awarded 7 Scholarships of \$800 in the 1998-99 Academic Year. We are so proud to support the education and futures of our Kfeirian youth.



Barbara Michael, daughter of John and Christine Michael, of Elkview, is attending West Virginia University and studying music and biology.



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

School News

This article was submitted by Julian and Jihad Saad

We would like to congratulate our four children on a job well done in school.

Rebecca has graduated from the University of Kentucky with an English degree and maintained a 3.7 in her major classes. She plans to apply to law school in the future and is currently taking graduate courses at Marshall University.

Sarah has just completed her fourth year at the University of Kentucky where she made a 4.0 the first semester and 3.65 the second. In her major, dietetics, she holds a 3.8 average and plans to begin her masters in business within the next year.

Abraham is currently pre-law at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee and has just finished his second year. Abraham holds a 3.6 in his major.

Christina is in the eleventh grade and will graduate from high school next year. Christina has managed to hold a 4.3 GPA.

We are so proud of you all and love you very much. Congratulations on a job well done and the best of luck in the future.

Julian and Jihad Saad

Michael Nassar of Toledo, Ohio, son of Fouad and JoAnne Sabb Nassar, graduated from high school with great jubilation and celebration of all. A party at his parents home of over 70 people marked the occasion, which was not marred by a little storm at the same time. Best of luck in the future, Michael.



Michael Nassar

Nicholas William Haddad, son of Jeff and Bell Haddad, and grandson of Clifford and Ruth Haddad, of Charleston has been acknowledged for his accomplishments and scholastic excellence. Nicholas attends Charleston Catholic High School, St. George Orthodox Church, and was a National Merit Finalist, was in the WV Governor's Honors Academy, was the Co-Salutarian, and took first place in the Mid-West Region Conference Teen Catechism Bowl. Nicholas has been accepted to Georgetown University where



Melissa Husson

Melissa Husson, daughter of Nick and Sharon Husson, a student at Winfield H. S. was selected as Head of Class by principals and guidance counselors. She is Student Government President, Student Council Secretary, National Honor Society president, Varsity Soccer Captain, Marching Band Section Leader, and is a member of the concert band, Christian Teens, and is a Peer Mediator. And who does this fabulous teen most admire? Her parents. What a wonderful example of family values and success potential.

Phillip Thabet, of South Charleston, WV, graduated from W. Va. Tech in Montgomery with a degree in Chemical Engineering.

Phillip has landed a job with an engineering firm in the Pittsburgh area for the past year.

Phillip is the son of Charles and Leila Nassar Thabet. Charlie Thabet has been active in the Kfeirian Reunion for his life time and currently serves on the Board of Directors.

Kfeirian Golf Fund-Raiser!

Hi Folks,

I was wondering if there are any golfers in our group? If time permits, I would like to play a round while in Huntington. Please let me know if any of you are interested in playing. Also, does anyone know which is the best course in the area that would be accessible to us?

Perhaps we could make it a fund raiser for the endowment.

I'll look forward to hearing from you.

Steve Ramey, KRF Board Member

Sounds like a great idea, Steve. And those of us who would rather check out the malls.... can sponsor a golfer while we sit in the clubhouse! Your Loving but Lazy Editor

Awards, Promotions, Accomplishments

Kevin Donley, our Genealogy Chairman and Vice-President of the Kfeirian Reunion Board of Directors, has been promoted Vice President of Marketing.



Joey Peck

Jim Donley, our traveling reporter and former Board of Director for the Kfeirian Reunion, was recently named Systems Manager for the new Poland Plant in addition to the Czech plant for Ford Motor Company in Europe. He was lucky to be visited by his mother, Mary Thabet Husson, of Dearborn, MI, in the Czech Republic. She was hosted by Jim for 2 weeks and then visited 5 other countries on her European tour.

Michael Abraham accepted a position as Senior Property & Casualty Underwriter with FCCI Insurance Group in Sarasota, FL. Mike had been with the Maryland Insurance Group for the past 12 years.

Laura Jamra Volleyball Star

Junior outside hitter Laura Jamra, daughter of Larry Jamra and the late Ruth Jamra, of Toledo, OH, was named Northeast Conference Volleyball Player of the week in Sept. 1998. Laura was a key player in helping her team to two wins in a row. Laura plays for Robert Morris College where she is on full scholarship for her volleyball skill. She is majoring in Sports management and will be teaching tennis this summer at the Pittsburgh YMCA. Go girl!

Greg Hanna, of Huntington, WV, graduated from Marshall University in Huntington and then completed an Internship in Sports Management in California. Continuing with his studies, Greg will now pursue a Master's Degree in Sports Management at the Florida State University in Tallahassee. Proud parents, George and Gloria Hanna, went down to install him (Gloria, don't buy the young man too many fine linens! Dig Deep into those pockets, Dad!)

About George Hanna, although he is retired, he is not sitting on his laurels (or anything else for long). Gloria has a list for him everyday, and mom has a few things for him to do, too. George has been elected President of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church Parish Council and planned and MC ed the 50th Anniversary Grand Banquet with almost 300 people attending. Way to Go, George! When he has free time he is planning our Reunion!

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH 30TH ANNIVERSARY

On May 8th & 9th, Holy Spirit Parish celebrated it's 30th Anniversary. We were honored by the visit of His Grace, Bishop DEMETRI and Mrs. Deborah Kaleel, the Mid-West Region President of The Fellowship of St. John the Divine. Other visitors included the Dean of the Appalachian - Ohio Valley Deanery, The Very Rev. Olof Scott of St. George Church in Charleston, WV; The Very Rev. Thomas Gallaway of St. Andrew Church in Lexington, KY; The Rev. Frank Milanese of St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Huntington, WV; and The Honorable Nicholas J. Rahal, Congressman from WV. The festivities began Saturday at Noon with a special program for Bishop DEMETRI, presented by the Church School children. On Sunday morning the Church was filled with an abundance of faithful. During the Liturgy, the Sub-Deacon Mark Hagan would be ordained into the Holy Diaconate. At the time of ordination, Bishop DEMETRI delivered his pre-ordination counsel to Sub-deacon Mark, who was then lead by his sponsors, around the Holy Altar three times, kissing the corners of the Altar and the hand and Shield of the Bishop, who sat at the right side of the Holy Altar. At the conclusion of the Liturgy, Dr. Steven Nicholas, was inducted into the order of St. Ignatius of Antioch. Following the services, a luncheon was served in the parish hall for all in attendance.

Sunday evening, the Grand Banquet was held at the Huntington Museum of Art. The main speaker was Bishop DEMETRI, with remarks made by Doctor Joseph Touma, Father Joseph Cervo - Pastor, Father Olof Scott - Dean and Congressman Nicholas J. Rahal. The program proved to be edifying, memorable and enjoyably not too lengthy.

This article was submitted by one of our young Kfeirian reporters, Joey Peck, son of Peck and grandson of Asma Hodge all of Huntington, WV. Joey is working on the Kfeirian Youth Web Page. Thanks, Joey!

Awards, Promotions,

Accomplishments

Continued

BRIDGE NAMED AFTER OUR KFEIRIAN, REPRESENTATIVE NICK RAHALL

The 17th Street Bridge in Huntington, West Virginia, now honors our fellow Kfeirian and cousin, Representative Nick Rahall, of Beckley, as acknowledgement for his dedication to serving his fellow West Virginians and being instrumental in having the construction projects legislation through the Congress.

In the ceremony dedicating the bridge, many lauded Nick's efforts on behalf of the State of West Virginia, Marshall University, and public works. A bit ruffled by the honor, Nick likened himself to a young man receiving an honor for the first time. The bridge will hold the official title of **The Nick Joe Rahall Bridge** and is the first, but likely not the last, public works project in his name. How proud we all are of our Kfeirian brother.

As if that honor was not enough, Nickie Joe, who recently turned the big 50, was also lauded by President Clinton at a recent fund raiser for Nick's upcoming campaign. A Democratic Club breakfast buffet in his honor added to the coffers of his campaign fund. Lauding Rahall's support of economic efforts, transportation initiatives and support of other Democratic candidates, the President also noted Nick's Lebanese heritage and support of Arab Americans. Happy Birthday, Nick, and keep up the good works.

Photo Hunt!

Three Bassett cousins, Abraham, Moses, & Michael, early 1920's. The three piece suits, starting out as peddlers, eventually establishing a businesses and accumulating wealth and community stature. Another example of our own Kfeirian version of the American Dream. Abraham ran Bassett's Confectionery in Williamson, Moses owned a Five and Dime in Napoleon, Ohio, and Michael was an Optometrist in Toledo.



Dr. Karam Radwan

Dr. Karam Radwan, son of Jamil and Eva Radwan of Damascus, immigrated to the USA last year in July and attended his first Kfeirian Reunion in Columbus. Karam has accepted a residency in Psychiatry at the University of Missouri in Kansas City, MO. I told him the Lebanese don't need Psychiatry because we have the Debkie, haha!

Huntington East High School Laments the Retirement of Inspirational Leader

Bob Tweel taught band at Huntington East High School for 36 years before retiring last year. When Huntington East and Huntington High School consolidated, Bob stayed on for the first two critical years, getting the program off to a great start. His successor, Vernon Varnum, was once a student of Bob's.

Bob's uncle, Jim Tweel, of Huntington, remembered that young Bob's aspirations were always in music, even as a teen. Bob had aspirations to go to Europe and conduct an orchestra, but his first teaching position in Huntington grew on him. He became full time Director of the high school band in 1981. Tweel is remembered as a patient and understanding role model. He was also always loved by his students for his humorous side.

ILLNESSES

Mike George, of Huntington, WV, had 5 by pass surgery last summer by our very own Kfeirian, Dr. Jeffery George.

Mike was not feeling well and went to see Dr. George. In two days time, Mike was being operated on by Dr. George. Quick action by Jeff may have saved Mike's life. Way to go, Jeff! (Maybe we all need an appointment?)

Kevin Donley, Kfeirian Board of Directors Vice-President, is engaged to Monica Murillo and recently wrote us this note after returning from a European visit.

"Walking on Pont Neuf bridge (oldest in Paris) which is on the Seine River to look at the Eiffel Tower. I said, "This is romantic, but it is missing something," to Monica in Mexican. We walked under the bridge and there I had engaged a 5-piece Mariachi band. Two guitars, a violin and a trumpet. Their first song was "Que Bonita Es Chihuahua" (the song of Monica's city). I proposed to Monica in Spanish and we danced as the band played for 1/2 hour. People gathered from the tour boats and the bridge to watch and take pictures. It was really nice." And, thus, we lose one of our sweetest bachelors to Monica. Our great joy as everyone already dubbed Monica an honorary Kfeirian for her great Debkie when she was in Columbus at the last reunion.

Dr. Mark Choueri, son of Tanios and Connie Michael Choueri of Charleston, WV, celebrated his engagement to Lori Brady of St. Albans, WV, in a party hosted by his parents on August 8, 1999. Mark, who graduated from medical school at WVU is completing his last year of Residency at the WVU program at the Charleston Area Medical Center in general surgery. We wish them all the best.

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

Marriages



Dr. Lisa Harris, daughter of Norma McCarus Harris, was married to Thomas Kurtz of Ohio this spring. Lisa, a former Kfeirian Reunion Scholarship Recipient is doing her residency in Neurology at Tulane in Louisiana. Tom and Lisa were married in Ann Arbor May 15, 1999, and honeymooned in Aruba. They will return to Louisiana for a year, but have plans to live in Ohio.

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.

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.



Miss Catherine Mae Tweel and Robert Michael Crites were united in marriage March 27 in Fort Myer, VA. Catherine is the daughter of retired CDR and Mrs. John Tweel of Springfield, VA and the granddaughter of Mrs. Samuel Tweel of Huntington, WV. Catherine received her jurisdocterate from Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, and the groom graduated from the University of Maryland. They will reside in Los Angeles.

Lucy Shaheen, daughter of Peggy Tweel Shaheen and the late Eassa Shaheen, of Canton, married Michael W. Figg in July of 1998. The happy couple is living in North Canton, Ohio. We wish them many years of happiness.



KFEIRIAN REUNION FOUNDATION, INC.

Scholarship Committee
25 Hillendale Drive
Huntington, West Virginia 25705

July 30, 1999

Dear Fellow Kfeirans:

We pray this letter finds you and your family in the best of health and surviving this hot weather.

To date over 80 families have contributed to the Endowment program. We now have over \$45,000 in our program toward a goal of \$250,000. Their generosity has allowed the Board of Directors to increase the scholarship amount from \$600 per year to \$800 per year for 6 students. We look forward to the day we can give \$1000 per year to 10 students. To accomplish this we need you to give a tax deductible donation of 50¢ per day for 5 years—Can you do that? All it really takes is a commitment. If you want to dedicate a contribution in memory of specific deceased Kfeirian or loved one, that too will be gratefully appreciated

Beginning this year an independent panel made up of faculty from Marshall University will evaluate all our scholarship applications and recommend 6 students based on a criteria set by the Board of Directors and the Scholarship Committee. The six students awarded scholarships will be announced at our annual reunion.

We want to thank all the wonderful folks out there who have contributed to the Endowment. Please join us helping to prepare our young Kfeirians for global leadership. YOU are an important part of this mission.

Once again thank you for your help and for caring.

Sincerely,

George Hanna, Chairman

Enclosed is my/our gift of \$ _____ to help enrich educational opportunities for Kfeirian students for _____ 5 years, _____ 10 years, _____ other.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE () _____



Dr. Richard Ammar, Jr. and wife Lynette, had a son, Parker Andrew, born June 4, 1998, in Indianapolis, IN, where Ricky is Chief Resident of Cardiology and pursuing research. Ricky is the son of Richard and Jay Ammar of Bluefield, WV, and the grandson of the late K.A. and Lydia Radwan Ammar, of Bluefield.

John and Christine Joseph and son Nicholas, of Suwannee, Georgia, welcomed a new addition, Michael John on Sept. 24, 1998. Will he be the youngest at the 67th reunion? John is a former Kfeirian reunion Board President and John and Christine are regular Reunion attendees.



Samir and Laudy Nassar of Toldeo, Ohio, are the proud parents of a beautiful baby boy, Nicholas Michael Nassar. Nicholas was born January 25, 1999, at Toledo Hospital.

Just last year I put in the wedding announcement and this year we have another Kfeirian on the way! Expecting! Our Kfeirian Reunion Board President, Michael Abraham and his lovely wife Nora are expecting a child. Here are the words from the .. horse's mouth.

"I want to share with you all that Nora and I have just recently found out that we're going to have a BABY! A brand new Kfeirian running around by mid January. We've come down to almost cloud nine. We are so excited. She is doing fine, tires easily though, some nausea and can't seem to sleep well. I told her that's the way I feel after a good Reunion weekend!

Everyone take care....Mike

Randy and Becky Thabet Schulz of San Antonio, TX, attended the Columbus Reunion with their newest edition. As if that was not enough, guess what? They are expecting a second bambino! Hey, how's about some photos?

Dr. Makram and Susan Hajj of Indianapolis, Indiana, became the proud parents of a handsome boy, Joseph Christopher Hajj. Joseph was born March 29, 1998 in Baltimore, MD. Makram and Susan moved to Indianapolis the latter part of 1998 and he is now associated with Indiana Cardiac & Vascular Consultants in Indianapolis. Makram and Susan are expecting a second child in August of 1999.

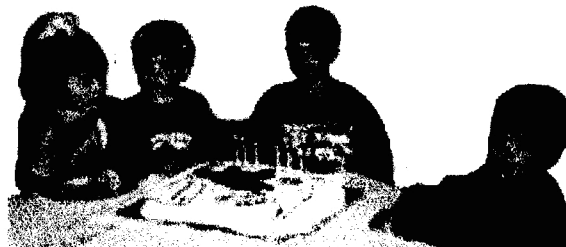
BIRTHDAYS

SURPRISE!!!!!!!!!!!!

A surprise birthday party was given for Charlie and Lyla Nassar Thabet by their children, Mydina, Samira & Phil, May 30, 1999, in honor of his 70th and Leila's "ladies don't tell their age" birthday. It was held at Rose and Don Christian's house. Many Kfeirians were among the 80 plus people in attendance with Fouad & JoAnne Sabb Nassar, Samir & Laudy & little Nicholas Nassar all of Toldeo, Cleo Bassett and daughter Cynthia came from Michigan, Aunts Asma Hodge and Nazik Hanna came from Huntington, Sherry Hodge Beneke, Joey Peck, Louise Tweel, Mary Lou Bokair, George Hanna, and a host of other friends partied and ate and drank the night away. 40 - 50 people.

Another surprise birthday party! Lorena Copley was feted at a surprise birthday party attended by friends, family and hosted by her daughters, Nancy Clark and Sandy Aiello, and husband, App, in Charleston. She was 75 years young, which no one can ever believe looking at her youthful appearance and bubbly personality. Happy Birthday, Lorena!

In May Denise Bolus of Silver Springs, MD, took her mother, Catherine Bolus, on a 5 day cruise for her birthday. They cruised down the Mississippi on the American Queen Steam Boat and then spent two nights in New Orleans.



Happy Birthday, Brent!

The little cuties are celebrating Brent Anderson's 6th birthday. Brent is the son of Becky Rahal Anderson of Raleigh, North Carolina. He is pictured with his cousins, R to L, Leah, and Cameron, Brent the birthday boy, and his brother Tristan, grandsons of Ayoub Rahal of Huntington.

LIFE IN CZECH

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

Latest escapades took me to Moscow for 4 days. I had plans to visit a friend who works in Ford of Moscow but hours before my departure to Moscow, I was informed that my friend had a slight change of plans... he decided to get married that weekend.

I arrived at passport control where the fun began. My invitation letter, written all in Russian and reading to me like the Rosetta stone, was stared at intensely by the Customs officer/night time model. She blared a few words in Russian, to me, of which I understood a few (didn't hear beer, thank you, or where is the toilet). She called in the troops who quickly scurried my way. There in front of me were 4 of them, obviously on break from the Miss Moscow beauty competition. They took off with my passport, and left me standing as the only person remaining in any of the lines. I assumed the KGB was doing a little background check. I told them red was my favorite color, but that wasn't to be an ice breaker. Many minutes later they returned... appears that my passport says James and my invitation letter was for a man named... Jim. You know where this trip is headed.

My hotel was the Hotel Russia, largest hotel in the world (seriously). It overlooked Red Square, and the service made me feel like Communism never left. They yelled at me because my visa was wrinkled, complained because I didn't speak Russian, were violent about the Bay of Pigs, and made me pay for four days upfront. After all that, I find out the driver screwed up and was supposed to take me to the wedding party first.

Before I made my way into the hotel, I decided to visit Red Square. The experience was amazing. Stand in one spot and you can see the domes of the Cathedrals, the tombs of Lenin, Stalin, Andropov, Brezhnev and others, the Kremlin, the golden arches, and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. There I stood in the middle with darkness settling in when.... the square was surrounded with Police. I was forced from the Square, but somehow made my way back in among the turmoil. Next thing I know I'm marching into the Square with about 100 people in their 90s (slightly older than me, but with much more hair than I) all carrying Communist Red Flags and screaming through loud speakers. Moments later it all made sense... they were celebrating the death day of Stalin. Wreaths were laid on his grave. Unfortunately, I had left my American flag in my room. Probably a good way to make new friends. Ended the night with my first traditional Russian restaurant... Planet Hollywood. *(I had to edit this wonderful story, only because of space, but had to end Jim's tale with this last sentence.....)* The trip ended with one last traditional Russian restaurant... the American Bar and Grill. Nothing like a true Russian steak.

Regards, James Donley



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!

Jim has now been named the Systems Manager for a new Poland plant in addition to the Czech plant he already manages

Travels

Other Kfeirian voyagers are many.

Selma Bassett Edinger and Lorraine Bassett Scott were off to Vienna, Salzburg, Prague, Budapest, and Hungary in the spring. Bring us back some crystal, girls. Selma went with brother Abe to many places in a Mid East tour in 1998. She hopes to return on the Kfeir 2000 trip.

Ghada Michael Deeb and her son Michel had a reunion with her mother from the Kfeir, Yvon Radwan Michael, her sister Mouna, also from the Kfeir, her brother Samer, a cardiologist who lives in Thessaloniki, in Greece.

Nikki Ansara and wife Carmen came to visit their son, Carlos, wife, and new daughter, in Washington, D. C., where Carlos is studying for a doctorate. Nikki came on to Florida where he visited cousins Diann Michael and Lila Mickel Fischer.

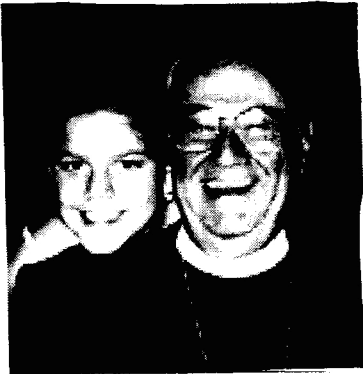
Dr. George Farha and his wife, and their daughters, husbands and children all visited Orlando for the New Year and wore themselves out at Disney World. George is enjoying golf after his recent retirement. Dr. Makram Hagg and his bride, visited Key West over the spring. As if a new move to Indiana wasn't enough of a change this year, they are expecting!

Lyla Nassar Thabet, of South Charleston, and her daughters, Mydina and Samira, all took off for a tour of Europe this spring.

George Hanna and wife Gloria were busy on the roads this year, visiting Florida, North Carolina, and many stops in Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky. They have been to Florida with their son Greg, who will be going to graduate school in Tallahassee, and stayed in Atlanta with Bruce on the way home.

Danny Tweel took off for Colorado & some good air. Chuck & Lila Mickel Fischer went to meet son Charlie in Las Vegas to celebrate Charlie's 21st birthday. Charlie is in the Pacific somewhere (top secret, you know) on the John C. Stennis carrier. Kevin Donley has let no grass grow, he has been to Spain, Paris, Tokyo and Kyoto, not to mention Mexico, where his father formally asked the father of Monica Murillo for her hand in marriage.

Nadia Bolus El-Hage and her children, Omar and Alexis, spent last summer with their husband and father, Michael El-Hage in Saudi Arabia, then traveled to Lebanon to visit relatives.



Gianna Michael, daughter of Dr. Diann Michael, celebrated with His Eminence Metropolitan Philip Saliba at a banquet in Ft. Lauderdale, Fl, after elevation of Father Alex Kouri to High Priest. Diann was inducted into the Order of St. Ignatius by Metropolitan Saliba in the same ceremony.

PHOTO MONTAGE



Doug Bassett and his father, Abe Bassett, pictured with the hills of the Kfeir in the background.



Doug Bassett is a professional photographer and lives in Milan, Italy. Here he is pictured with his cousin, Jan Rutherford, when they were in Lebanon, May, 1998.



Debbie North Carolina Style at the Rahall Family Reunion at Myrtle Beach.



THE LEBANESE SEINFELD

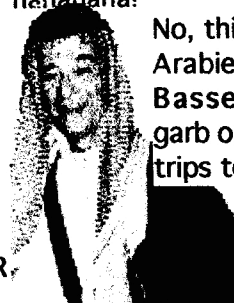
George Choueri, son of Tanius and Connie Michael Choueri of Charleston, Jeff Cassis of Charleston, son of George and Evelyn Cassis, Philip Saad, from Marietta, Georgia, son of Louise Hanna Saad, Cynthia Rahal, of Virginia, Kamel & Betty Rahal's daughter, posed for a picture at the Huntington Reunion. Don't they look just like the sitcom stars? Let's do our own Lebanese Seinfeld, hahahaha!



A Bassett Family Reunion in Kabellas on the 1998 trip to Lebanon.

IF YOU DIDN'T SEE YOUR FAMILY'S NEWS OR THEIR PICTURES, IT IS BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T SEND IT IN! FIX THIS BY SENDING THE EDITOR ALL THE NEWS YOU'VE GOT FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!

Thanks for the Photos. Abe



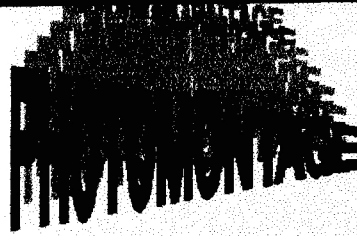
No, this is not the Sheik of Arabia! Just our own Abe Bassett in traditional garb on one of his latest trips to the Middle East.

Who are these young men? Any ideas? Find the answer on another page!





Mydina Thabet, of the Washington, D.C. area, daughter of Charlie and Leila Nassar Thabet, regularly dances up a storm, to the delight of all. She is pictured here with Kimberly Michael, daughter of Phillip and Georgiana Michael of Charleston. Kim was a greqat addition to the dance floor in Columbus last year.



66TH REUNION PICTURES IN COLUMBUS, OHIO, 1999



Elaine Rahall dances as the world watches. Pictured in the background are late night Kfeirian regulars at the post hafli - hafli. We partied all night, and yes, the next day was hard on some, but not Elaine! You go, girl!



Samira Thabet, of the Washington, D.C. area, daughter of Charlie and Leila Nassar Thabet, and her future cousin, Monica Murillo, fiancée of Kevin Donley, make a lovely picture of family values. Isn't there a nice resemblance? The both showed up in cute, hott rea dresses Sunday night. Monica proved to be a good Debkie understudy!



Gianna Michael and Ashley North, daughters of Diann Michael and Claire and Virginia North met at the Reunion when they were toddlers. Here they sing Karioke with a bang! Yep, the songstress has a broken right arm!



Joey Peck, great derbakie understudy to his Godfather, Derbakie Man George Hanna, is initiating Dr. Karam Radwan into the American ways, haha! Hey guys, extra cool look there with your modern tarbooshes!



A moment caught on film! Elaine Rahall, Karyn & Alan Stagg and Cheryl McCoy Slater whooped it up in Columbus last year.



The dancing family! Fouad & JoAnne Nassar, Mydina and Leila Nassar Thabet.



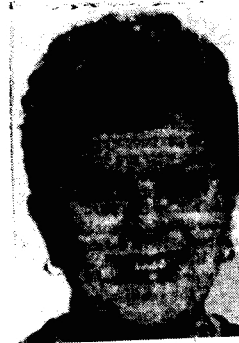
The Grand Banquet was great! Left to Right Top, Abe Bassett, Lila Mickel Fischer, Co-Chairmen David Rahal & Selma Bassett Edinger, Board President Mike Abraham, Bottom, Deitra and Larry Jamra, and Mydina Thabet

In Memoria



Luther Bassett, of Huntington, WV, passed away on August 17, 1998. he was born in Welch, WV, the son of Eli and Najlah Kourie Bassett. Luther was studying at WVU when he entered the Army to serve his country in WWII. He was reported missing in the European conflict in Feb. 1944 and was liberated from a prisoner of war camp in Germany May 4, 1944. He had been awarded the E.R.T.O. Ribbon, three bronze stars and the Good Conduct Ribbon. He continued his education after the war in music and had a jazz ensemble as well as holding sales, advertising, and managerial positions. After retirement he returned to reside in Huntington. He is survived by his brother, E. A. Bassett, of Germany.

Selma Jean Berry, wife of Colin Berry, and daughter of Abe and Nellie Dawahare Kawaja, all of Williamson, passed from our midst March 7, 1999. Mrs. Berry was a well known Williamson businesswoman and is survived by her husband Colin and daughters Kathy Berry Thacker and Christy Berry Coffman, and a brother, Louis Kawaja of Lexington, KY, and two grandchildren. She had formed the management of Tots to Teens together with her daughter, Kathy, , a thriving Williamson business. The Kawaja family had operated the National Department Store and her mother's family, the Dawahare's, operate a string of 23 retail clothing stores in a four state area. Selma was a Member of the First Presbyterian Church, the Williamson Junior Women's Club, and was a Brownie Leader. She made many contributions to her community and will be sorely missed. God Rest Her Soul.



Ellen Katherine Bokair of Huntington, WV, passed from us on Sept. 26, 1998.

Ellen passed away suddenly and it was a great shock to all. She was the daughter of the late Kalel and Katie Shishim Bokair. Ellen was retired from CSX Railroad where she had served as a traffic clerk for many years. She was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church and the Altar Guild. She is survived by her sisters, Mary Lou Bokair of Huntington, and Julia Bokair Nassar of Toledo, OH. She will be sorely missed.

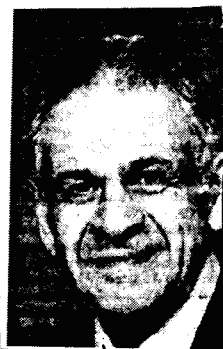
Hazel Cantees, wife of Abe Cantees, passed away June 18, 1999, in Huntington. The Cantees were long time residents of Williamson. Hazel was survived by her husband, Abe, one brother, Ed Dawhare of Hazard, KY, her two daughters, Betty Kawaja of Lexington, KY, and Mary Lou Clymer of Indian Harbour Beach, FL, and two sons, Joseph Cantees of Orlando, FL, and Ronald Cantees of Louisville, KY. .



In Memoria

Continued

God
Give
them
Serenity
in sitting
close to
the Lord
and
Bless
them in
Eternity.



Fred Fouad George of Huntington, WV, passed away Nov. 11, 1998. The son of the late Charles and Rose Fakhoury George, Fred was the owner and operator of George Tobacco Co., a member of Trinity Episcopal Church and

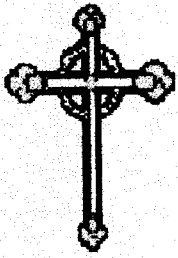
the Layman's League, the Elks, and the WV Wholesalers Association. He was a WW II veteran and was decorated from that conflict. He was preceded in death by two brothers, Edward and Jimmy George, and two sisters, Louise and Lorene George. He is survived by his wife, Salwa Mickel George, two daughters, Deidra Michele George of Huntington, and Dr. Julia Denise George and her husband Dr. Bryan Sadler of Raleigh, NC, his son, Frederic Joel George, of Huntington, his sister Linda George Sakakini, two brothers, Edmund Mooney George and Philip George of Arizona and three grandchildren.

George Haddad, long time resident of Chicago, passed away recently after several years of declining health. Survived by his wife, Emily Abraham Haddad, George was born in Geneva, NY, and graduated from the University of Georgia in science. George served in the Second World War, then returned to his studies and received a Master's Degree from Ohio State University. He worked with the agricultural and chemical division of Swift & Co. where he worked for many years. He started several business of his own and was known as a scholar as well as a business man. He is survived as well by three daughters, Mary Haddad, Leah Webber, and Amy Cook, a sister, Greta Cole, his brother, Dennis, and two granddaughters.



Sharon Hage-Reeder of Vienna, WV, passed away July 8, 1998, in Huntington after an automobile accident. Sharon was born in Huntington, the daughter of the late Abe and Louis Ghiz Hage. She graduated from Marshall University in 1975 and graduated from Optometry School at the Pennsylvania School of Optometry. She had an Optometry practice in both Parkersburg and Harrisville. She was survived by her husband, Harry Reeder, one son, Harry Aaron, and by two step daughters, Carrie Bland of Parkersburg, and Tracey Kelly of Panama.

Alice Simon Lakis, of Cleveland, OH, passed away on June 18, 1999, in Cleveland after a very short illness. The wife of the late Harry Lakis, Alice was the daughter of the late Joseph and Agea Radwan Simon, residents of Bluefield, WV. Alice, known for her sense of humor and warmth, was recently bereaved by the loss of her sister, Francie Simon Lynch, who passed away this past spring. They were preceded in death by their brother, Freddie Simon and his wife, Della, of Bluefield, WV. Alice is survived by her daughters, Michelle Lakis of Chicago, Stephanie Gambino of Cleveland, and her son Alan Lakis of Cleveland, and four grandchildren and many loving cousins. May she rest in peace.



In Memoria Continued

The Lord is my shepherd,
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 art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies;
Thou 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.

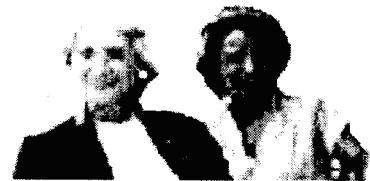
Victor Lowen, of Beckley, died August 15, 1998, after a long illness. Victor was retired from Kroger after 32 years of service and was a former councilman for the city of Mabscott, a member of the Beckley Masonic Lodge, and the Elks. He was a WW II veteran and an active member of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, where he served as head chanter and a past president of the Board of Trustees.

He is survived by his wife Hafiza Husson Lowen, his sons, John of Charlotte, NC, George of Beckley, and Jim of Charleston, and by three grandchildren. He will be sorely missed and fondly remembered.



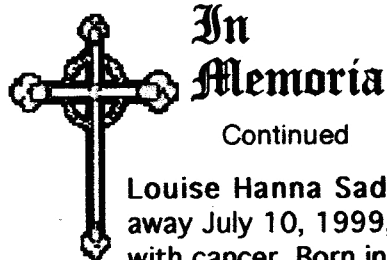
Virginia Kourey Lowen of South Charleston, WV, passed from us on August 16, 1998, at home after a short illness. She was retired from the state Dept. of Employment Security. She was a member of St. George Orthodox Church in Charleston where she was a member of the Ladies Guild. A lifelong resident of the Kanawha Valley, Virginia was a volunteer at Thomas Memorial Hospital and a member of the Capitol Women's Club. She is survived by her loving nieces and nephews.

Tennel Lowen, of Pomona, CA, formerly of Charleston, WV, passed away April 17, 1999, after a short illness. Tennel was retired from the WV Alcohol Beverage Control Commission and was formerly owner of the Lowen Market and the Lowen Cafe, both located in Charleston. He was a member of the St. George Eastern Orthodox Church of Charleston. He is survived by his wife, Angeline, sons Farris and Michael, both of California, his son Nicholas of South Charleston, and nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



Alice Lakis and Francie Simon pictured in the Fifties outside the Royal Confectionery in Charleston, WV. May they rest in Peace.

Frances Simon Lynch of Bluefield, WV, passed away in Middleburg Heights, OH, after a short illness on March 30, 1999. Known to all as "Francey", she was the daughter of Joseph and Agea Radwan Simon of Bluefield, and the wife of the late Harry Lynch all of Bluefield. Harry and Francey were well known as long time proprietors of the Sahara Supper Club, a Bluefield landmark known for its wonderful food and friendly atmosphere. Francey was well loved for her infectious laughter, friendliness, and great sense of warm humor. She was preceded in death by her husband and partner, Harry Lynch, and her brother, Freddie Simon of Bluefield, WV. She is survived by many nieces and nephew and cousins who will sorely miss her infectious laughter and loving warmth. God rest her soul.



In Memoria

Continued

Louise Hanna Sadd, of Marietta, GA., passed away July 10, 1999, after a courageous battle with cancer. Born in Huntington, WV, Louise attended Marshall University and was a member of Pi Kappa Sigma Sorority. She was employed for 25 years by Tenneco Oil Company. She is survived by her daughter, Tamara Sadd of Norcross, GA, and three sons, Phillip of Doraville, Randal of Alpharetta, and Gregory of Marietta, and two grandsons, Jacob and Luke, by her brother Jim Hanna of Huntington, eight heices, one nephew, and many friends. She will be remembered with love.

Dr. Orlando Skaff, of Miami, FL, passed to the Lord on October 25, 1998, after a short illness.



Born in Charleston, WV, Orlando completed his BS at WVU and graduated from the University of Maryland Dental School in 1959. After serving as an Air Force dentist in Kansas for two years, Dr. Skaff practiced in Miami since 1961. He was an early activist in the floridation of the water in North Miami. He was a member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, a founding member of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral in Miami and served on their Parish Council for 35 years. Orlando was a member of the Governing Council of the Order of St. Ignatius and served as a guide and inspiration to his friends and community. He is survived by his loving wife, Dorothy Ramey Skaff, formerly of Beckley, WV, and his sons, Dr. Mark and Dr. David Skaff, both of Miami, his daughters, Tina of Chicag and Michelle Biafora, of Morgantown, WV, grabdchildren Lena and Richard Biafora, and his sister Betty June Skaff Bojrab of Ft. Wayne, IN.



Rose Cantees Stuart, a lifetime resident of Williamson, passed from our midst January 11, 1999.

Rose was the daughter of Joseph and Helen Mickel Cantees of Williamson. Rose was the owner/operator of Cantees Department Sore. She was a Member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Rose was survived by her daughter Patricia Coggin, her brothers Abe and Saber Cantees, her sisters Esma Cantees and Josephine Eubanks, three grandsons and one great grandson. Blessed be her memory.

Evelyn Sadd Thabet of Huntington, WV, left our midst April 19, 1999 in Marietta, OH. Evelyn had resided in Madison, WV, for the past two years. She was born in Salima Lebanon, the daughter of Michael and Frangie Sadd. She was preceded in death by her husband, Edward George Thabet and a daughter, Rita Thabet. Evelyn was a homemaker and raised sic children. She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church and the International Club. She is survived by three daughters, Carole Clapper of Newark, OH, Nancy Johnson of Charlotte, NC, and Susan Skidmore of Marietta, OH, and two sons, Robert of Goshen, NY, and Gary of Gler Allen, VA, a granddaughter, Kasi Skidmore, and five grandsons, Mark and Christopher Thabet, Zachary and Jack Skidmore, and Will Johnson. Evelyn is also survived by five sisters, Lorraine Moses, Kaye Ellis, Elizabeth Solomon, Agnes Kawash, and Madelyn Raynes, and a brother, George Sadd, and many neices, nephews and cousins.



In Memoria

Continued

Betty Jane Thabit

Surrounded by her family, Betty Jane Thabit passed away in her home on Jan. 2, 1999, after a courageous 15 year battle with breast cancer. She turned 75 years old on Christmas Day.

Born Betty Hartley in Defiance, OH, she spent most of her youth in a children's home. The experience made her self-reliant at an early age. It also helped her appreciate the unique beauty of the loving and tight-knit family she became the matriarch of.

In 1952, Betty met her future husband, George Thabit. They were married on July 2, 1954, and celebrated their forty-fourth and one half-year anniversary the night of her death.

Betty was a homemaker and mother of three children, Susan, Carol, and Douglas. She was an active member of St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church, where she served two terms as president of the St. Elias Ladies Society.

Surviving are her husband, George, son, Douglas Thabit, daughters, Susan Thabit and Carol Haddad; sister, Margaret Brueshaber, and grandchildren, Anthony, Emily, and Christopher Haddad, and Ashley and Sarah Thabit. May her memory be eternal



Nellie Thabit, wife of George Thabit, both of Huntington, WV, passed away January 30, 1999, at her residence. Funeral services were at St., George Orthodox Church. Born in the Kfeir, Nellie was the daughter Mabada and Halack Nassar Bassett. She was preceded in death by two brothers and two sisters. She is survived by her daughter, Elsie and son-in-law Charles Hosey of Huntington, three sons, Dr. George, Brus, and Dr. Mitchell Thabit, 9 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren. God let her rest in peace.

Other deaths about which we were informed but did not have sufficient information to write about individually are:

Helen Abourezk Ramey of Beckley, WV, who passed from us on February 12, 1998, her daughter, Sally Ramey Glisson, passed away after an serious illness on September 27, 1998. Carol Abourezk Hinseth, daughter of Chick Abourezk of South Dakota, passed away March 17, 1999.

APOLOGIES

FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE ON MAILING LABELS FROM OUR EDITOR. PEOPLE AND COMPUTERS ARE NOT PERFECT AND WE TRIED TO UPDATE AN OLD FILE INTO A NEW FILE WHICH MAY HAVE CAUSED SOME ERRORS THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY CORRECTED. ALSO, SOME FIELDS GOT SCRAMBLED (PROBABLY A VIRUS). IT TOOK WEEKS AND WEEKS OF WORK TO FIX TO ITS CURRENT STATE. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE STILL CRAZY TRANSPOSITIONS BEING FOUND.

IF THERE ARE ANY ERRORS ON YOUR ADDRESS OR NAME, PLEASE SEND THEM IN SO WE CAN CORRECT THEM AND COMPLETE AN UP TO DATE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 2000. ADD IN A CURRENT (WITH CORRENT AREA CODE) PHONE NUMBERS AND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS. PLEASE SEND IN YOUR FAMILY UPDATES AS WELL.

THANKS FROM YOUR EDITOR