



KFEIRIAN REUNION FOUNDATION

Founded 1932

Summer 2005 Newsletter

73rd Annual Reunion Hits The Beach In Sunny California

Pack your dancing shoes, your durbukeh and your sunscreen and join fellow Kfeirians in sunny California! This year's Kfeirian Reunion will be held July 2-4, 2005, in Manhattan Beach, California. This is the first time that we are bringing the Reunion to the West coast where many Kfeirians reside. Get ready for some fun in the sun!

The 73rd Annual Kfeirian Reunion will be held at the Manhattan Beach Marriott Hotel, a 27-acre facility with a golf course, lake, health club and pool. Conveniently located, the hotel is just 10 minutes south of the Los Angeles airport and 40 minutes from downtown Los Angeles, Santa Monica and Disneyland. It is also centrally located to many Kfeirians who live on the West coast.



There are many fun-filled activities planned as we are building on last year's program that offered Introduction to Arabic, Dabkeh Dancing 101 and Beginner Durbukeh Lessons as well as children's activities. After soaking up the sun, enjoy the dinner and Hafli on Saturday, July 2nd and the Grand Banquet dinner and Hafli on Sunday, July 3rd — both complete with Arabic music and dancing! We will complete the weekend with a brunch on Monday, July 4th.

The hotel is offering a special rate of \$99 per night for the Reunion weekend as well as three days prior to and three days following the Reunion. Make your reservations now by calling (310) 546-7511 or toll-free at (800) 228-9290 and mention the "Kfeirian Reunion" to make sure you get the special rate. The special rate is available until June 17, so we encourage you to make your reservation today. If you have already registered for the Reunion — we look forward to seeing you there! If you have not, be sure to fill out and send in the inserted registration form in addition to the raffle form where 100 percent of the raffle proceeds go toward the Kfeirian Reunion Scholarship Program. The forms are also available at www.kfeir.com

As always, be sure to visit www.kfeir.com for the most current information. If you have any questions, please contact Board of Directors President Phil Sadd at (770) 393-3743.

We look forward to having fun in the sun with you in California!



When:	July 4 th Weekend — July 2 - 4, 2005
Where:	Manhattan Beach Marriott, Manhattan Beach, California
Registration:	Mail in registration form insert or download at www.kfeir.com Early bird registration deadline is June 10 (postmarked)
Room Rate:	\$99 per night (Mention "Kfeirian Reunion") Rate applies June 29 – July 7; reservation must be made by June 17
Hotel:	Call 800-228-9290 (Toll free) or 310-546-7511 (Direct hotel number)

The Next Generation of Kfeirians

2004 - 2005
Board of Trustees

Phil Sadd
President

Joseph Peck
Vice President

George Hanna
Treasurer

Mydina Thabet
Secretary

Mike Abraham
Trustee

Matthew Bassiet
Trustee

Jim Donley
Trustee

Kevin Donley
Trustee

Greg Hanna
Trustee

Mike Harris
Trustee

John Joseph
Trustee

Phil Thabet
Trustee

For the past 40 years, we have supported our next generation Kfeirians by offering scholarships to aid in their college education. Our scholarship program was launched in 1964 and since then, we have awarded over 125 scholarships. The scholarship program has become a tradition of this Reunion that characterizes the nature of Kfeirians — a warm, giving, pioneering people.

Over the years, the cost of a college education has continued to rise, but our scholarship program has struggled to keep pace. We have continued to award scholarships based on the funds available but donations have decreased. Of the 1,200 families in our Reunion, less than 1 percent made a contribution last year.

When you contribute to the scholarship program, you are not just making a donation. Yes, that is certainly part of it, but more importantly, you are planting a seed in the lives of our Kfeirian youth. The future of the Reunion is dependant upon our Kfeirian youth and we are dependant upon you to support them. When you help support their education, it's as if you are telling them... "your forefathers came to this country with empty pockets, but hearts filled with courage. You are the fulfillment of their dream — to have

opportunities they never had in this great country of America. We support you and send you forth to get an education. Now go. Make a difference in your schools, in your community, in this Reunion. Make a difference in all that you place your hands to!"

The forefathers of this Reunion were men and women of faith and followed a Biblical principle found in the book of Proverbs (13:22) which is "a good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children".

Many people who founded the Reunion are no longer with us, but they sacrificed so that it could be left as an inheritance to us. It is now our responsibility to ensure that the inheritance they left us in this Reunion continues to be left as an inheritance for our children's children.

~ Phil Sadd, Board of Trustees President

To contribute to the Kfeirian Reunion Scholarship Program, please send your donations to: Kfeirian Reunion Foundation, 25 Hillendale Drive, Huntington, WV 25705.

~ In Memory — Elizabeth Sahley ~

We mourn the loss of our fellow Kfeirian, Elizabeth Sahley, who died at the age of 93 on February 17, 2005.

Elizabeth was born on September 27, 1911, and was the beloved wife of Roger (deceased) and loving mother of Elayne Sahley, Rev. Deacon Yarid, Norman and Richard.

She was the grandmother of Regina, Erica, Phillip, Mark, David and Seandra and great-grandmother of Alexander, Elayna, Emily, Justin, Gabriel and Adam. Elizabeth was the sister of the following deceased: Harry, Lucile Tweel, George and Sam.

Donations may be made to St. Matthew Orthodox Church, North Royalton, Ohio or the American Red Cross.

~ *Memory Eternal*

~ In Memory — Mary E. Peck ~

We mourn the loss of our fellow Kfeirian, Mary E. Peck, who died at the age of 59 on May 4, 2005, in Cabell Huntington Hospital in Huntington, West Virginia.

Mary was born on April 21, 1946, in Huntington, the daughter of Asma Bassett Hodge and the late Nick Hodge. She was a member of the Holy Spirit Orthodox Church. In addition to her mother, she is survived by her husband of 27 years, Joe Peckpne son, Joey Peck of Huntington, two brothers and sisters-in-law, George and Wanda Hodge of Cape Coral, Florida, and John and Phyllis Hodge of Coral Springs, Florida, two nieces, Sheri Beneke and her son Blake and Kim George and her son Alec and a special friend, Cazzie Lucas.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Holy Spirit Orthodox Church, Huntington, West Virginia.

~ *Memory Eternal*

Reasons To Celebrate!

Weddings

- ★ U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) married the former Melinda Ross, of Ashland, Kentucky on December 11, 2004. The two were wed at The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. The wedding was attended by a number of Members of Congress and foreign ambassadors, including ambassadors of Syria, Lebanon, and Qatar.
- ★ Phil Thabet (son of Charles and Layla Thabet and grandson of Toufic and Rasmia Thabet and Michael and Noha Nassar) married Jennifer Amira on May 29, 2005, in Orlando, Florida. They will reside in Alexandria, Virginia.

Anniversaries

- ★ Louis and Elaine Rahall celebrated 50 years together as their children held a dinner reception in their honor.

Engagements

- ★ Phil Sadd (son of Jameel and Louise Sadd) and Stephanie Brown.
- ★ Diane Rose (daughter of Stuart and Tracie Rose and the granddaughter of Don and Rose Christian) and Hank Adams.

Births and Adoptions

- ★ Baby Gabriella to parents Tony and Amira (Nassar) Pedro.
- ★ Baby Vincent to parents Matthew and Monique De Felice.
- ★ Baby Elizabeth to parents Cynthia and Dave Brown.
- ★ Baby Hanna Louise to parents Greg and Cheryl Sadd.
- ★ Baby Maxwell to parents Steve and Laura Pegram.

Graduations

- ★ Cheryl Sadd (wife of Greg Sadd) earned a PhD from University of South Carolina.
- ★ Chrisa Sadd (daughter of Adeeb and Carolyn Sadd) earned her Master's degree in Counseling Psychology from The California Graduate Institute in Los Angeles, Ca. She is currently working towards her Marriage, Family Therapy License.
- ★ Chris Bassett (son of Mike and Pam Bassett and grandson of Farris and Clemonce Bassett) earned a Master's degree from California Institute of the Arts.

Graduations (cont.)

- ★ Ashley Christian (daughter of Brian and Yvonne Christian and granddaughter of Don and Rose Christian) graduated from high school.
- ★ Rachel Rose (daughter of Stuart and Tracie Rose and granddaughter of Don and Rose Christian) graduated from high school.

Achievements & Honors

- ★ Dr. Michael Bolus has been invited to the Edinburgh International Festival to direct the play "Pound of Flesh" which he authored. The play will run August 9 - 20, 2005. It made its world premier at the Berkshire Theater Festival three years ago.
- ★ Wes Kawaja (son of Galib and Judy Kawaja and grandson of Haleem and Alice Kawaja) worked as a post-production sound designer for the independent film, *Star Wars: Revelation*. The 40-minute film (sort of a *Star Wars* Episode III1/2) has garnered a lot of buzz and critical praise inside and outside the vast *Star Wars* fan community.
- ★ Mary Elizabeth Sadd (wife of Randy Sadd) earned a pink Cadillac from Mary Kay Cosmetics.
- ★ Brad Tweel (son of Larry and Cheryl Tweel and grandson of Jim and Sally Tweel) received the men's golf leadership award from Marshall University.
- ★ Lana Eubanks McGlynn retired as Special Assistant for Models and Simulations and Light Forces Studies from the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Army (Operations Research).
- ★ Rev. Esber Tweel retired as rector of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Kanawha City, West Virginia. He was also presented the Distinguished West Virginian Award by the governor.
- ★ Dr. Harry Tweel was appointed director of the Cabell-Huntington Health Department.
- ★ Raymond Abraham recently retired from Chandlers Plywood Products Inc.

HAS YOUR CHILD APPLIED FOR A KFEIRIAN SCHOLARSHIP?

New Contact Info? New Family News? Suggestions? Let Us Know!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

News, Announcements & Suggestions (births, deaths, engagements, marriages, etc.):

Mail or Email To: Kfeirian Reunion Foundation, 25 Hillendale Drive, Huntington, WV 25705 or sthabet@nyc.rr.com.



73rd KFEIRIAN REUNION

MANHATTAN BEACH MARRIOTT HOTEL

MANHATTAN BEACH, CA

JULY 2 - 4, 2005

Registration Form

Write names as you would like them to appear on name badges. Please print clearly.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

<u>Registration Fees*</u>	
<i>Before June 10, 2005 – EARLY BIRD</i>	
Adults/Teens (Ages 11+)	\$ 125
Children (Ages 5 – 10)	\$ 65
Youth (Ages 4 and under)	FREE
<i>After June 10, 2005</i>	
Adults/Teens (Ages 11+)	\$ 140
Children (Ages 5 – 10)	\$ 75
Youth (Ages 4 and under)	FREE

	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Subtotal</i>
# of Adults/Teens _____	X \$125 = \$	_____
# of Children _____	X \$ 65 = \$	_____
# of Youth _____		FREE
Raffle Tickets _____		\$ _____
Total		\$ _____

* Includes Saturday Hafli/Dinner, Sunday Hafli/Dinner and Monday Brunch

Please mail form and check (payable to Kfeirian Reunion Foundation) to:
 Kfeirian Reunion Foundation
 25 Hillendale Drive
 Huntington, WV 25705

Don't forget to visit www.kfeir.com



73rd Kfeirian Reunion

Los Angeles, CA

July 2-4, 2005

RAFFLE

Here's a great way to win some cool prizes and help support the future of our Kfeirian Reunion!

Fill out the raffle tickets on the reverse side and send them in prior to the Kfeirian Reunion!

Lucky winners will be announced after Monday brunch in Los Angeles!

"Please accept my most sincere appreciation for last year's reunion. Reconnecting with old friends and making new acquaintances contributed to a fun and memorable weekend. I was also fortunate enough to win the grand raffle prize! Hope to see everyone at the (next) reunion!" ~ Michael Bolus

1st PRIZE: One free 2005 Reunion registration (\$125 value)

Two 2nd PRIZES: One night stay in the Manhattan Beach Marriott Hotel during the reunion (\$99 value)

3rd PRIZE: One Durbukeh (Arabic drum) (\$65 value)



Kfeirian Family Tree

Our family tree continues to grow with more than 4,000 names! Thank you for all of your updates. Please visit www.kfeir.com and click on "Family Tree" to see the latest.

The most exciting advancement in genealogy is the promise of DNA testing. As you may know, the same Y-chromosome is passed from father to son from generation to generation. As a result, a simple DNA test can verify with 99.9% accuracy if two people are related. The tests are becoming more affordable each year and, as more people are tested, the possibilities of making a link to your past increases. The most popular testing company is FamilyTreeDNA (www.familytreedna.com) which has over 32,000 samples in their database. There are very few who have been tested with Kfeirian surnames so why not be one of the first! I've already taken the test so let me know if you have any questions. ~ Kevin Donley, Board of Trustees

Be A Kfeirian In The Know!

Always the last to hear the news? Wish you knew more about the reunion? Check out the Kfeirian Reunion Web Site to get the following information and more:



- Get upcoming reunion news and information
- Link to the Kfeirian Reunion Family Tree Web site
- View photos of reunions past
- Learn more about the village of Kfeir
- Buy your next durbukeh at the Kfeirian marketplace
- Get information on the scholarship program

What are you waiting for? Check out the Kfeirian Reunion Web site today at www.kfeir.com!

Oh, and don't forget to send us your news for the next newsletter! Send or email your information to Kfeirian Reunion Foundation, 25 Hillendale Drive, Huntington, WV 25705 or sthabet@nyc.rr.com.

Thanks to all of those who contributed to this edition of the Kfeirian Reunion Newsletter.

Editor: Samira Thabet