



The Kfeirian Reunion Newsletter

Winter 2000 Special Edition

Announcing Kfeir 2000 Trip

Number 5

67th Reunion A Great Success Back Home in Huntington

This year no site came forward to host the Reunion, so the Board of Directors served as host, and the erstwhile presence of our stalwart standard bearer, **George Hanna**, made it possible. Thank you, George, for a wonderful Reunion, which would not have been, if not for your efforts.

The Radisson Hotel in Huntington, traditional "home" of the Reunion these many years, opened its broad arms to gather our people together again in the cheer of the **LAST REUNION OF THE 20TH CENTURY!** **Our group can be proud to carry this tradition into the 21st Century with a bang.**

Young and old, fat and thin, sober and, alike debkied to the music of John Faddul and his band. **David Harrington**, Director of Finances for the City of Huntington, was the main speaker and had interesting words regarding investing in our youth and family and tradition. Comments were made by **John Hodge** and **Michael Abraham**, and our inimitable **George Hanna was Master of Ceremonies** (he kept us in stitches, as usual).

We were excited by international guests such as **Doug Bassett**, son of **Abe and Sharon Bassett**, who lives in Italy where he works as a photographer. Doug brought some of his fabulous photos of Lebanon which were on display in the Mezzanine area for all to enjoy.

We were glad to welcome people we hadn't seen in years, like **E. J. Thabet**. The **Sadd family** of Atlanta, **Phil, Greg, & Tammy**, came to Huntington. They had enjoyed the reunion in Columbus so much, the family made plans to attend in Huntington together. they had plans to come to Huntington with their beloved mother, **Louise Sadd**. Her untimely death brought moments of sadness to all Kfeirians. Her children attended in memory of their beloved mother.

Nicholas Nassar, son of **Samir & Laudy Nassar** of Toledo, and **Michael Joseph**, son of **John & Kristine Joseph** of Georgia, were among the youngest attending, both under the age of one! **Abe Cantees** from Williamson attended for the first time in ten or twelve years and brought tears to our eyes remembering the old days. **Peggy Shaheen** came with her daughter **Lucy** who endured George Hanna's bad jokes about Lucy "Teen", (Lucy's last name is Figg!) Ha! Ha!

Deitra Jamra and John Hickey attended their first reunion as husband and wife and responded as good Kfeirians by taking the **Kfeirian Reunion to Toledo next year in 2000. Way to go, Deitra!** We are really looking forward to it.

We had some new people elected to the Board of Directors: **Philip Sadd**, son of the late **Louise Sadd**, and **Matthew Bassiet**, son of **Selma Bassett Edinger**, joined the Board. Welcome to both!
Board Officers for 1999-2000 are: President, Diann Michael, Vice-President, Kevin Donley; Treasurer, George Hanna; and Secretary, Selma Bassett Edinger.

The **General Assembly Meeting** was lively and much discussion ensued, regarding upcoming Reunion sites. After the discussion, the Board elected, at its Board Meeting, to encourage cities to submit proposals two years in advance so that we can inform the Kfeirians and also encourage some competition. Great proposals for suture sites are: San Antonio, TX, Raleigh, NC, California. Who knows? perhaps even a Florida Cruise Reunion? Haflee the boat away! If you or your community are interested, please make a written proposal to the Board for their April 2000 meeting. Include hotel room prices, identify a hotel with a ballroom, and include food, music, and other costs. Contact any Board Member with your interest.

The General Assembly also heard from Abe Bassett regarding important papers with births and deaths that give our genealogists important information. These records are on slips of papers and logs held in the Kfeir. We are trying to

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From the Editor's Desk

I know, I know, when am I going to change this picture? Well, it bears a resemblance to your aging editor, and it is a flattering version, so maybe next year?

This is a short edition of the newsletter, primarily to announce the successful planning phase has ended for Kfeir 2000 and we have a trip to offer to you and yours. Please come and join me debkie in the town of our mutual ancestors and tour the countryside of Lebanon and Syria, while we enjoy the city sights of Beirut, Jounieh, and Damascus.

Nothing could start out the New Millennium better than our Reunion taking itself to its real roots. What a memory!

Friends you have known and grown up with, here in America, joining you to see the homeland of our parents and grandparents, and our Lebanese and Syrian cousins, nieces, nephews, brothers and sisters. What an enormous treat to view the land together in an air conditioned bus, in air conditioned five star, modern hotels, with a wonderful itinerary, special receptions to include our Lebanese and Damascan cousins, and, the high point, two days in the Kfeir itself to be guided by an English speaking resident who can identify your family's traditional homestead and explain the story of the village of the Kfeir in a way that you can understand and relate to easily. Picture opportunities, services in our historic church, even our traditional ice cream social, with the people we look forward to seeing every year with our Kfeirian relatives.

We are trying to give you many options to get there and share this moment with us. You can make your own air and land arrangements and meet us in Zahle on July 14th, spend the two days with us, and then make your own trip.

We have two travel agents willing to make air and land arrangements for you, or you can make them on your own and just register with them for the two days and nights in the Kfeir.

Contact: Sharon Jones, Travel Network, toll free (877) 746-5400 or Becky Thabet Schulze, Accent Travel, toll free (800) 494-3553.

We also have two tours available for you with slightly different itineraries, both of whom meet up with us in the Kfeir. All hotels are 5 star, air conditioned, as is motor coach transfer. A \$100 deposit, nonrefundable, will save your space and full payment is due 60 days prior to departure. **Contact: Sharon Jones, Travel Network, toll free (877) 746-5400 or Father John Hamatie (407) 422 3230 .**

Safety of our loved ones is a number one priority, of course. For that reason, if there is any difficulty in the area we will not depart. All travelers will be required to purchase travel insurance so that they can get full refunds if the trip is cancelled or if they fall ill prior to travel. Also, while traveling, the itinerary will be modified if any safety issues arise. Safety comes first. Period.

Join me in making this a success and a fantasy come true. How proud can we be to return hand in hand to laugh, play, dance, sing, debkie, eat, and pray in this beautiful village at the foothills of the famous Mount Hermon of Biblical times.

There are many trips available to Lebanon, but none will ever offer the memory that this one can: to be with the Kfeirian Reunion family that we have created here in America, in the Kfeir at the dawn of a new age, a New Millennium of peace, brotherhood, and love.

Make the Millennium trip of a lifetime: Kfeir 2000!

Join our Web egroup for fast information on Kfeir2000 : <http://www.egroups.com/group/kfeir2000/>

Send all your family news to: Kfeirian Newsletter
 Diann Dee Michael, Editor
 6930 SW 15th Street
 Plantation, FL 33317
 or email me : dianndee@yahoo.com

KFEIR 2000 !

The Kfeirian Reunion Board of Directors announce 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 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 for \$350. We will arrive in Zahle on the 14th of July and visit the Kfeir all day on the 15th and 16th. We have a full schedule of activities for your enjoyment.

We have worked with several tour companies, and are now able to inform you of a 15 day tour to Lebanon and Syria which will include the Kfeir weekend. Sharon Jones of Travel Network has put together a very wonderful itinerary and includes experienced, professional travel guides with 5 star hotels, many lunches and dinners, and all the sights. The total cost of the trip depends on the number of travelers,

10 - 19 = \$2775

20 - 29 = \$2725

30 - 39 = \$2645

40 & up = \$2575

The tour includes travel from New York to Beirut, Byblos, Tyre, Baalbek, Jounieh, and other historic features of Lebanon, as well as a tour of Damascus, Sednaya, Maaloula, and Bosra. The trip is complete and we are now taking deposits of \$100 to save your spot. Space will be limited, and inclusion in this historic event is on a first come, first serve basis. In addition, the tour company will make special arrangements if you cannot make the full two weeks and want to attend the two nights and days in the Kfeir.

They will be mailing a flyer to you with a full itinerary, address for deposits, and all other necessary information.

Contact:

Sharon Jones

Travel Network

2700 Mountaineer Boulevard

South Charleston, WV 25309

(304) 746-5400

Toll free: (877) 746-5400

Email : sjones@travelworkwv.com

Father John Hamatie, Orthodox Priest of Orlando, Florida, an experienced traveler and guide of tours to Lebanon, is also leading a tour that will meet up with us in the Kfeir on the 15th and 16th of July.

He is offering an additional week for those who want to go to the Holy Land. His tour leaves the 9th of July from Orlando arriving in London where they are staying overnight, continuing to Beirut.

FATHER HAMATIE'S**PROPOSED DAILY SCHEDULE**

Price depends on the number of travelers but is estimated between \$2700 - 3000.

SUN. 7/9 LV ORLANDO AT 7:10 PM ARR

LON - Gatwick 8:15 AM

MON. 7/10 ARR LONDON - Gatwick AT 8

:15 AM - SIGHTSEEING AROUND LONDON

TUES. 7/11 DEP. MEA # 202 at 1:35

PM - ARR. BEIRUT AT 8:05 PM

WED. 7/12 To JITTA GROTTO - LUNCH -

HARISSA STATUE - JOUNIEH - DINNER - CASINO

THURS. 7/13 BYBLOS - BALAMAND - TRIPOLI

- CEDARS - DINNER & OVERNIGHT

FRI. 7/14 HAMAT - DEIR MAR YACOB -

BATROUN - JOUNIEH - DINNER

SAT. 7/15 KFEIR - REUNION - HAFLEE - SLEEP

ZAHLE

SUN. 7/16 LITURGY IN KFEIR - LUNCHEON

SLEEP ZAHLE

MON. 7/17 ZAHLE - BAALBECK RUINS -

ANJAR - DAMASCUS - DINNER BARADA RIVER

TUES. 7/18 DAMASCUS [OLD CITY]

SAIDNAYA & LUNCH - DAMASCUS DINNER

WED. 7/19 DAMASCUS - MAALOULA [ST.

THEKLA - DAMASCUS - ZAHLE - DINNER WADI

THUR. 7/20 BEITADINE - BEIRUT MUSEUM,

PARLIAMENT, CATHEDRAL, HAMRA - DIN

FRI. 7/21 BEIRUT - HAMRA - PIGEON GROTTO

LUNCH - SHOPPING - FAREWELL DINNER

SAT. 7/2 DEP. MEA # 201 at 8:30 A

M ARR. LON CONNECT FOR FLIGHT TO ORLANDO

(OPTIONAL HOLY LAND EXTENSION LEAVES 7/21 TO AMMAN, THEN JERUSALEM RETURNING TO BEIRUT 7/27 AND TO THE STATES 7/29)

Contact :

FATHER HAMATIE

135 WALL STREET

ORLANDO, FL 32801

(407) 422 3230

See you in the Kfeir!