

Silver Anniversary Reunion



KFEIRIAN BROTHERHOOD

Aug. 31 - Sept. 2, 1957

HUNTINGTON, W. VA.

25 *Years of . . .*

Brotherly Love, Fun and Fellowship



THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED
TO THE
FOUNDERS
OF THE

Kfeirian Reunion Brotherhood

WHOSE DESIRE TO PRESERVE AND PERPETUATE THE
RELATIONSHIP AMONG THEIR FELLOW KFEIRIANS AND
TO ENJOY THEIR FELLOWSHIP LED TO THE ESTABLISH-
MENT OF THE ANNUAL KFEIRIAN REUNION, THE SUCCESS
OF WHICH IS EVIDENCED BY THIS CELEBRATION OF
OUR SILVER ANNIVERSARY REUNION.





To our most beloved friends, the members of the Kfeirian Reunion, and to all their friends gathered in this city, we extend our sincere congratulations in their Silver Anniversary celebration, wishing them to celebrate their Golden and Diamond anniversaries in health and happiness always.

METROPOLITAN ANTONY BASHIR



On behalf of the Reunion Committee of the Kfeirian Foundation, it is indeed a pleasure to welcome you to Huntington, West Virginia's largest city. We are doubly honored to have you return to the founding city of the Reunion to celebrate your Silver Anniversary. It has been both a distinct honor and a pleasure to plan and prepare this special Reunion for you, and we sincerely hope that for each of you it will prove to be the most enjoyable, successful and memorable of our twenty-five year history.

To the members of the Reunion Committee, I wish to extend my warmest appreciation for the diligent and sincere efforts they have shown me during the past year. In addition, I extend my heartiest thanks to the membership of the Kfeirian Brotherhood for their wonderful assistance and cooperation.

Huntingtonians and the Reunion Committee extend to you their very best wishes and join me in saying, "Congratulations, Kfeirians, on your Silver Anniversary".

JAMES V. HANNA, Reunion Chairman

CHAIRMAN	James V. Hanna
CO-CHAIRMAN	Norman J. Tweel
TREASURER	Mike George, Jr.
SECRETARY	Mary Kinsey

EXECUTIVE BOARD — Lorena George, Chairman; Ernest G. Tweel, Louis M. Bokair, Joseph Bolus, T. A. Nasser.

Truly significant of the Brotherhood's many years together is the theme of this year's Reunion, "Twenty-Five Years of Brotherly Love, Fun and Fellowship". Our deeds and achievements of the past reflect the interest with which our organization has grown. Such a history of accomplishment as we have enjoyed in the past twenty-five years can only promise us many more years of happy relationship and at the same time a deep and sincere appreciation for the rich inheritance with which we have been endowed.

EDMUND GEORGE, Chairman
Board of Trustees, Kfeirian Foundation

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

T. A. NASSER	Huntington, W. Va.
JAMES A. TWEEL	Huntington, W. Va.
JAMES V. HANNA	Huntington, W. Va.
GEORGE JAMRA	Toledo, Ohio
PHILLIP BASSETT	Toledo, Ohio
HAFIZ A. NASSAR	Toledo, Ohio
ROGER E. KOUREY	Charleston, W. Va.
SOL N. STEFFAN	Williamson, W. Va.
ALEX KIRBY	Cleveland, Ohio
ROGER SAHLEY	Cleveland, Ohio
NAMEE A. THABET	Beckley, W. Va.

MEMBERS OF THE KFEIRIAN BROTHERHOOD

GREETINGS:

On behalf of the citizens of Huntington it is indeed a pleasure to extend greetings and a cordial welcome to the officers and members of your great organization.

Huntington has a reputation for being a fine convention city and we are happy that you have chosen our city for your Silver Anniversary Reunion. We trust and hope that your visit to Huntington will be a pleasant one.

I pledge you my utmost cooperation toward making your Silver Anniversary Reunion a complete success.

Sincerely,

EUGENE WILLIS, Mayor

WELCOME TO HUNTINGTON

KFEIRIANS

Hotel Prichard

In Loving Memory

of

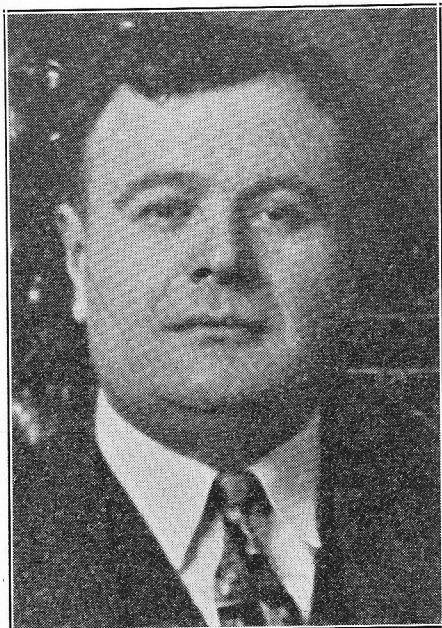
Victor Hanna

Phillip E. Hanna

Mrs. Victor Hanna

Louise and Jim Hanna

IN LOVING MEMORY
O F
Charles George



MRS. CHARLES GEORGE
MISS LORENA GEORGE
MISS LOUISE GEORGE
MR. EDWARD GEORGE
MR. & MRS. JOHN SAKAKINI
MR. & MRS. FRED GEORGE
MR. & MRS. PHILIP GEORGE
MR. & MRS. EDMUND GEORGE
MR. & MRS. JIMMIE GEORGE



IN CHERISHED MEMORY
OF MY
BELOVED HUSBAND

Frank N. Sayer

MRS. FRANK N. SAYER

IN MEMORY OF

Fred J. Thabet

MRS. FRED J. THABET & FAMILY

Charleston, West Virginia

PROGRAM

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 1957

- 1 to 5 P. M. — REGISTRATION Lobby, Prichard Hotel
1 to 5 P. M. — SWIM PARTY Dreamland
7 to 10 P. M. — REGISTRATION Lobby, Hotel Prichard
9 P. M. to 2 A. M. — INFORMAL GATHERING
Room 203
Mezzanine Prichard Hotel

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1957

- 9 A. M. — REGISTRATION Lobby, Hotel Prichard
11 A. M. — DIVINE LITURGY
St. George's Greek Orthodox Church, corner of
7th Street and 11th Avenue. Metropolitan Arch-
bishop Anthony Bashir, officiating, assisted by
Reverend Wakeem Dalack.
2 to 5 P. M. — TEEN-AGE MIX
Bridge Room — Mezzanine Prichard Hotel
5 to 6 P. M. — COCKTAIL PARTY
Room 203 Mezzanine
6:30 P. M. — DINNER Ballroom
9 P. M. to 1 A. M. — SILVER JUBILEE FUN PARTY
Ballroom

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1957

- 9 A. M. — REGISTRATION Lobby, Prichard Hotel
1 to 3 P. M. — BUSINESS MEETING Mezzanine
Rooms 202 - 203 - 204 - 205
5 to 6 P. M. — COCKTAIL HOUR Mezzanine
Room 208
6:30 P. M. — GRAND BANQUET Ballroom
9:30 to 1:30 A. M. — ANNIVERSARY BALL Ballroom

A HISTORY OF THE KFEIRIAN REUNION

By: SOL N. STEFFAN, Williamson, W. Va.

In 1932, an informal gathering of Kfeirians was held in Huntington, W. Va., where Mike Abraham of Williamson, W. Va., was the principal speaker on this occasion, which was marked by gaiety and fellowship. During this affair it was suggested that this be an annual gathering so that the children of Kfeirian descent may become acquainted with each other and a closer relationship may be formed among them. Receiving widespread approval the suggestion was adopted. An organized club known as the Kfeirian Brotherhood of Toledo, Ohio, then requested the subsequent meeting for the following year.

During the year 1933, the Kfeirians assembled once again in Toledo, Ohio, where the Kfeirian Brotherhood was the host group. It was at this meeting that the name, *Kfeirian Reunion*, was established. Kfeirians of Huntington invited the assembly to return to their city, and since that time the annual meeting has been rotated among the following cities: Cleveland and Toledo, Ohio; Beckley, Williamson, Huntington, and Charleston, W. Va. At that time Kfeirians in host cities entertained the Reunion at their own expense.

Williamson, W. Va., was the site of the 1936 Kfeirian Reunion, when it was decided at the business session that an admission fee would be charged to defray expenses of the event. This fee was to be initiated after cities with enough Kfeirians to handle the Reunion were afforded the opportunity to have the gathering at the expense of the host city. This custom is still handled accordingly.

During the early years of the Reunion the event was informal, and there was no record of its legal existence. From its inception to the present the Reunion has been an annual gathering for descendants from the little village in Lebanon, known as Kfeir, and it has met for the solemn purpose that Kfeirians and their descendants may be better acquainted in the Land of the Free. The event's meeting time has been set for the Labor Day Weekend in order that participants may take advantage of the holiday period.

Farris Bey El Kourey was the Guest of Honor at the Reunion in Huntington, in 1948. At his request a pledge of \$15,000 was made by the assembly for the purpose of providing electricity for Kfeir, Lebanon. This move also led to the formation of the Kfeirian Foundation, Inc., which was chartered in the state of Ohio and established in 1949 to handled all business and legal matters.

Under its present system the Foundation is progressing and many of its functions have been turned over to the young generation of Kfeirian descent. Its source of revenue has been the profits derived from the annual assembly and the Everlasting Flower Fund, established in memory of deceased Kfeirians. Originated by the immigrants from the Kfeir, the Reunion Foundation has developed to a known organization which is capable of rendering material, physical, educational, and cultural service to the Kfeir and Kfeirians wherever they may be.

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In seeking information concerning the history of the Kfeirian Reunion, the committee received an item of interest from George Kerbawy of Blissfield, Mich. This was a copy of the constitution of the Kfeirian Brotherhood, formed in Toledo, Ohio, in 1917.