



The Kfeirian Reunion Newsletter

Summer 1997

Number 3

Plan to Attend 65th Reunion in Huntington

The plans are made and all that is missing is YOU!

CoChairmen **Richard Tweel** and **George Hanna** (Derbakie Man!) have laid out the plans, and all that's left is buying the dresses.

Huntington will host the 65th Kfeirian Reunion at the Radisson Hotel. We are eager to all come "home" to Huntington and party all night!

Starting August 30th through September 1, 1997, we will gather in the traditional way to reunite as a family of descents of a rich heritage. A wonderful lineup of events is planned and you will be sorely missed if you don't join us in this historic 65th year of fellowship, family and cultural renewal, and good old fun!

Board of Directors Meet

The Board of Director's met at the Radisson Hotel in Huntington on May 18, 1997, to review the 64th Reunion and plans for the 65th. Even though we knew attendance at the Orlando Reunion might be light, there were 136 people at the Hafli and 116 Sunday at the banquet. The Orlando Reunion did bring in a profit of \$2,517, pretty good for our first foray out of the home base of Huntington-Charleston. The best result was the attraction of new attendees and long lost Kfeirians who all had such a good time they all said they will be coming back.

The Huntington Committee presented the agenda for the 65th and the Board was pleased to accept it.



Boy, the antics never stop! Here is **Michael Abraham**, of Tampa, showing off his muscles and workout tapes, unbelievably hoisting **John Hodge**, of Coral Springs, Florida, on high as a jubilant **John Abraham**, of Orlando, looks on!. Can you imagine working with these guys? Never a dull minute and lots of yuks! But they are all hard workers and thanks to each of them making a significant contribution, the Orlando Reunion was a great success.



Diann Michael, left, and **Lila Mickel Fischer**, right, were CoChairman, welcoming one and all to Orlando for the 64th Reunion in Orlando. They are joined here by their cousin, **Ghada Michael Deeb**, from Boston, center.

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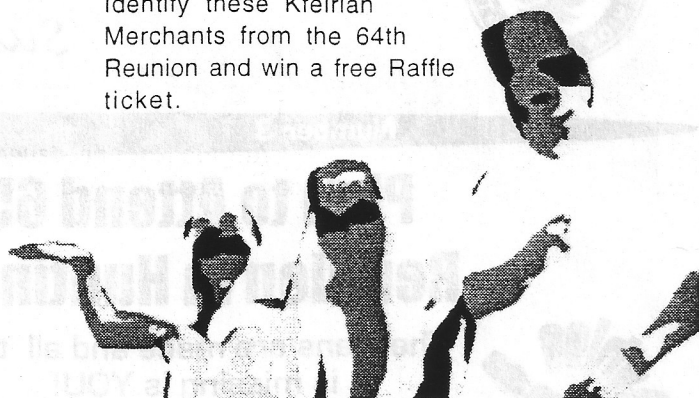
Endowment Fund

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From the Editor's Desk

Identify these Kfeirian Merchants from the 64th Reunion and win a free Raffle ticket.



Make the newsletter self supporting. Make a donation to cover the cost of printing and mailing.

First and foremost, I'd like to thank everybody who has sent such heart warming and rewarding letters about the newsletter. Yes, it is a bit of work, but the interest you have shown has been richly rewarding. Also, thanks to each and everyone of you who made generous donations to see the newsletter continue. I would like to see the newsletter be self supporting, ultimately. It costs around \$1200 to print and mail the newsletter, which is around \$1 to each addressee. Even a small donation of \$5 covers the cost for your newsletter for 5 editions. We currently have 1181 addresses and there are more to be added. If you have addresses for now married children, please forward them so that we can keep the next generation involved and maintain our heritage and closeness.

We have had more than \$400 donated for the newsletter this year. Thanks to all of those individuals. The cost of mailing is particularly high to Canada, and I would appeal to that population to make a donation to cover the triple postage that is incurred. Also, I would love to have a Canadian reporter to add to our news from that section of the Kfeirian community.

I want to thank **George Hanna**, in particular, for all the news he provides and again appeal to those of you who could send in news clippings or interesting information. Thanks also to **Mitchell Mickel, Mike Abraham, and Lucile Kerbawy DeGroff**, who have also been helpful reporters.

The most exciting outcome of the Orlando Reunion (besides the out and out fun of it) was the renewed and new involvement of some Kfeirians that expressed an interest and got involved. Keep it up, we need you all.

As I looked over the mailing list (yes, this time I did the mailing list, so if there are errors we will update them and I will make corrections as you send them to me), I noticed all of the Canadians and Californians who have not been attending. There is talk of a Reunion in Prince Edward Island and there is plenty of interest in seeing that part of the country and

meeting and partying with our Canadian cousins. But what about the Californians?

I also want to laud our youth for their interest and participation and welcome the three youngest Board Members: **Anthony Razcallah, Deidre Jamra, and Mydina Thabet**. Their participation and interest insures our vitality and continuation into the 21st century. They are our link from the past to the future.

Mydina has already taken on a committee of her own: The reunion in the Kfeir! Everyone has talked about it for years and years! What an exciting idea! It will take a LOT of hard work, planning and perseverance (and misarie = \$), but what a once in a life time event. To image ourselves there, debkie-ing with the best of them in the mountains of olden days... Choke, choke, nostalgia and sentimentality have always been part of the Lebanese character.

Kevin Donley has been officially instated as Chairman of the Genealogy Committee and we have a Genealogy Web Page that is linked to the Kfeirian Web Page. I have been working on our web page, but it always under construction. Check it out at:

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/3487>

There is a complete update on the 64th Reunion there, most of which is now in this newsletter, and a lot of photos (in color!). I will be putting the update from the 65th Reunion on the web for those of you who can't attend, so check it out!. It is a faster way than the newsletter. Soon I will have a form on the Web Page so that you can submit news directly from your computer into mine! Ah, technology, what a joy!

If you are still into snail mail, please send all news, pictures, and address updates to:

Kfeirian Newsletter
Diann Dee Michael, Editor
6930 SW 15th Street
Plantation, FL 33317

School News

Scholarships were increased for the first time in decades, from \$600 to \$800 annually. We were very glad we could do this for our youth. Our youth is the future of our heritage.

Angela Nassar, daughter of Fred and Joann Nassar, of Toldeo, OH, graduated in May 1996 from Ohio State University with a degree in Dietetics and Nutrition. Beauty and brains....



Scholarships were awarded to the following Kfeirian students for the 1996-97 academic year:

Greg Hanna (top)
Karissa Kary (bottom left)
Stephanie Hanna (center)
Philip Thabet (bottom right)

This year scholarships were increased from \$600 a year to \$800. Six scholarships are available each year and any student interested in 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.



Awards, Promotions,

Accomplishments

Kelly George:

Mother of the Year

Kelly George, wife of Romney George, of Huntington, was selected as West Virginia Mother of the Year by the American Mothers, Inc. She is President of the West Virginia Volunteer Advisors She is active on several Boards and Women's Clubs in the Huntington-Charleston area. Mrs. George accepted the award at the Scottsdale, Arizona 62nd Convention of the American Mother's organization.

Bruce Coleman of Naples, Florida, son of Ben and Rosalie George Coleman of Huntington, was named **Outstanding High School Teacher of the Year** in Collier County. Way to go, Bruce!

Army 2nd Lt. Bruce Hanna will be stationed at Ft. Steward in Georgia for the next two years. Bruce completed the air defense basic course at Ft. Bliss, TX. He graduated last year from Wake Forest University with a B.A. in Psychology. Bruce is the son of George and Gloria Hanna of Huntington.

Charles Fischer, son of Chuck and Lila Mickel Fischer of Orlando, Florida, has just completed Naval Basic Training in Chicago and is going to Intelligence School in the Virginia area. Watch for him in his Navy Blues, girls!

Brad Tweel, son of Larr and Cheryl Tweel and grandson of Jim and Sally Tweel, all of Huntington, scored a double eagle April 16, 1997, at the Orchard Hills Golf course. Brad was playing with his team members from Cammack Middle School. Hey, go guy, the next Lebanese Tiger Woods!!



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

Please submit all news to:

Diann Michael, Editor **Kfeirian Newsletter**
6930 SW 15th Street
Plantation, FL 33317

Engagements

Michael N. Bofysil is announcing his engagement to **Robin Lee Laurant**. Robin is the daughter of Mrs. Barbra Laurain of Manister, Michigan. Michael is the son of Wadad E. Bofysil. Both Michael and Robin attend Michigan State University. Robin is a nurse and Michael is a wedding photographer and Medical Lab Technician.

Michael Abraham is announcing his engagement to **Nora Nuchols**. Many of you met Nora at the Orlando Reunion and were enchanted by her charm and sweet personality. She made the great table decorations for the banquet with the lovely arrangement and memento Lebanese and American flags. Both are currently residents of Tampa. They have set a date for October 18, 1997, in Huntington, WV. their honor at the Inverness Country Club in Toledo. Best wishes and many more years of happiness.



Farris Rahall

Marriages



Samir Nasser, born in the Kfeir, but currently of Toldeo, Ohio, returned with his new bride, **Laudy Hanna**, formerly of Beirut. They were married in Beirut and several of Samir's American family attended. **Congratulations!**

Dr. Makram Hajj also returned to the "old country" to marry this year and returned with his wife, a pharmacist. Markram is a Cardiologist. and the couple is residing in Maryland.



Chuck Fischer

ANNIVERSARIES

Farris and Clemence Bassett celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 6, 1996, at St. Elias Church in Sylvania, Ohio. Their son, Father Deacon Michael Bassett assisted Father Paul Albert, the service honoring his father and mother. Their daughters Cynthia and Cathy and their spouses and grandchildren were in attendance at a brunch in their honor at the Inverness Country Club.

BIRTHS

Cathy Lowen Erno and her husband had a baby boy named **Gabriel** July 27, 1996. Cathy the daughter of Ernest Lowen of Fairfax, VA.

TRAVELS

James Donley is living and working for Ford Motor Co. in the Republic of Czechoslovakia, but he is getting around, too. He spent a month in Israel, Jordan, and Egypt over Christmas. We hope to see him at the Reunion. His brother **Kevin Donley** isn't letting the grass grow, either. He spent May in London and Paris, romantically overlooking the Seine, then touring Chateaux country. Way to go, Kevin!

Charlie Fischer liked Lebanon so much he went back by himself this year. He spent a month there over Christmas and toured with family and friends. He was trying to get in some R & R before taking off for the Navy.

Selma Bassett, formerly of Charleston and now residing in Miami, took a grand tour with her sister **Mary Sheik Ghiz** and her daughter **Ernestine Sayfie Ede**. They started their trip in Cape Cod visiting family, travelled to Conn. for a wedding and then.... off to Damascus. They attended the wedding of **Justin Sayfie**, son of **Dr. Ernest Sayfie** of South Florida. Justin is an attorney in Conn. and his new bride is a public defender. After the wedding, Rome and Damascus called. They returned to Katana, place of their birth, and also visited Rashaya, Baalbek, Saidnaya, Maloola, Beirut, and if that wasn't enough, they went on to Jordan and Israel. Selma thoroughly enjoyed seeing family and making new friends, but said one month isn't enough... next trip will be longer!

Hanna Mickael, of Boston, spent two months in Beirut and visited the Kfeir. He is courting a lovely Lebanese physician, Mouna, and also visited with his grandmother, **Hana Mickael**, from Brazil who is visiting her daughter **Yvon Radwan Mickael** of the Kfeir.



Victoria Michael Ansara, Sao Paulo, Brazil, came the furthest to Orlando. She is pictured with nephew **Hanna Mickael**, of Boston.

Awards, Promotions, Continued

Accomplishments

On November 26, 1995, **Michael T. Bassett** of Owosso, Michigan, was ordained to the Holy Diaconate during Divine Liturgy at St. George Orthodox Church, Flint, Michigan, by his Grace Bishop Demetri Khoury. He is the son of Farris and Clemence Bassett of Blissfield, MI. A dinner was held honoring Father Deacon Michael, and also Subdeacon Nicholas Abdella and Reader George Jamra. Three hundred family and friends attended. Father Deacon Michael and his wife Pamela have two sons, Chris and Jon.

On August 25, 1996, Metropolitan **Philip Saliba**, head of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, celebrated his 30th Episcopal Anniversary in Toledo, Ohio. At the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, Metropolitan Philip bestowed the Antiochian Silver Medal of merit upon **Hafiz A. Nasser** from St. Elias Church.

Hafiz is well known to the parishioners of St. Elias as a dedicated member of the church community and a committed steward of the ongoing growth and development of St. Elias. He has served over many decades on parish Council and was Chairman, overseeing the construction of the new church in the late 1970's. Hafiz has been a charter member of the order of St. Ignatius of Antioch since 1977 and served on the Archdiocese Board of Trustees since 1985.

their mother, Asma Hodge, Richard Tweel, the Saad Family, the Abrahams, Joey Peck, Jeanette Bolus, Mullard and Betty Price, George's father and mother in law, friends from George and Gloria's wedding, friends from the Army Corps of Engineers, Mike George, and George's mother, Nazik, and children. A great time was had by all at this somber affair. The entire house was decorated in black and white, he got a great bouquet of dead roses, a lot of "over the hill cards", and gag gifts. There were over 50 people celebrating this sad, sad day!

Even worse than that, was the morose celebration of **Richard Tweel's** 65th birthday on May 23rd. They held the event at the Elks Club where they feted Richard with gifts like BenGay, PolyGrip and other geriatric aids. George and Gloria Hanna were presents (playbacks are such fun), as were Jeanette Bolus, Danny Tweel, George Hodge, Mike George, Abe & Mary Rahall, Ray Abraham, Mike Abraham and his fiancée, Nora, and many other friends and family.

Well, some of us don't need parties like this... because we never age.....



Danny Tweel seemed to have a good time in Orlando! Winning the Oriental Raffle Prize may have had something to do with it. Or maybe Azury, our dancer, lightened his mood?

ILLNESSES

Alex Mickel of Richmond, VA, underwent a triple bypass surgery in December of 1996. He also has a more recent operation to repair an aneurysm. He is doing well and resting at home.

Nahie Steffan of Miami underwent a quadruple bypass and is doing very well. Her brother **Fouad Abourizk** was also feeling poorly but he and wife **Rahme** and Nahie attended the Orlando Reunion with Fouad's lovely daughters and had a great time. Everyone was so glad to see them healthy and enjoying themselves.

They were accompanied by **Madeline Guerin** who was a great help to the Reunion and volunteered much of her time and expertise.

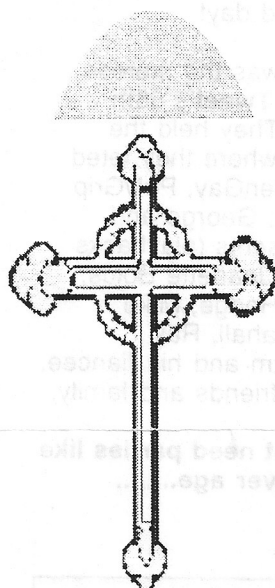


BIRTHDAYS

Wow! **George Hanna**, affectionately known to this writer as Derbakie Man!, had a Surprise 60th Birthday Party April 3rd pulled on him by **beautiful wife, Gloria**. The party was attended by over 50 people including John and George Hodge and Gloria Hanna



In Memoria



Lucille Abraham, 86, of the Williamson area passed from us on September 1, 1996. She was the daughter of the late Mike and Amy Aborizk Abraham. She was preceded in death by her brothers Thomas and Edward, and her sisters, Ida and Valentine. She is survived by her brothers Philip, Jack, and Raymond, and sisters Adeline and Emily, and numerous nieces and nephews. May she rest in peace.

Lydia Radwan Ammar, of Bluefield, WV, passed away December 9, 1996. Born in Damascus, Syria, she was the daughter of Deebie and Assad Radwan of the Kfeir. She immigrated with her sisters, Asma and Agea, and brothers Saber and Ayoub, all deceased, to the West Virginia area. She had a sister Shafeeka Kawaja of the Kfeir and St., Kitt, West Indies, also deceased. She was married to Kaleel A. Ammar, residing first in Williamson and then in Bluefield, WV. They had four children, Rosella Michael, deceased, and Adele Cecil, K.A. Ammar, Jr., and Richard, who survive her with their spouses. She left seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren. She will be deeply mourned by all who knew her.

Eli Bassett of Milam, Michigan, passed away March 29, 1997, after a long illness. He is survived by his wife, Shumla Steffan Bassett.

Robert Tannel Cantees, 66, of Williamson, formerly of Huntington,

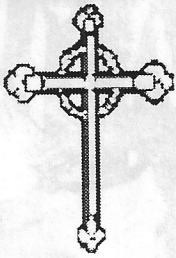
passed away January 22, 1996, in Williamson. he was a retired mathematics instructor from Southern West Virginia Community College and a U.S. Air Force veteran. He was survived by his brothers, Abe and Saber, and his sisters Emma, Rose, and Josephine, all of Williamson.

Joseph M. Ghiz, 54, of Culloden, WV, passed away on June 5, 1996, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Jo Holbrook, his son, William, and his daughter, Alicia, and his brother, Albert, all of Huntington. Joe was an insurance agent and a member and usher at Milton Baptist Church.

Felix Hage, age 82, of Huntington, WV passed away March 8, 1997. He was survived by his wife Gladys and his daughters Gladys Anne, Susan, and sons Thomas, Felix J., and Ralph and their spouses. Her also left three granddaughters, Susanne, Aimee, and Jennifer.

Paul H. McCoy, 73, of Williamson, WV, passed from his beloved family in April 1997 after a long bout of heroically battling diabetes. He is survived by his Jeanette Cantees McCoy, daughters Cheryl Ann and Christy, and son, Dean at their spouses. H was a stalwart supporter of the Kfeirian Reunion and served on its Board for many years. No words could be more touching than those written by his grandson, Paul McCoy.

Mae Haddy Michael, 84, of Charleston left her beloved family on March 30, 1997, after a long illness. The wife of the late Philip Michael of Charleston, she leaves her sons Philip E. and John, daughters Connie and Jean, and their spouses. She also is survived by her sisters Virginia



In Memoria

Continued

Haddy, Elizabeth Lapa, and Charlotte Rahall, all of the Charleston area. She leaves 15 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Mae was an active member of St. George Orthodox Church for many years and will be deeply mourned.

Adeebby Mickel, wife of the late H.R. Mickel of Bluefield, WV, passed away. She had two sons, Philip, deceased, and John, currently residing in Bluefield with his wife and two children. She leaves five grandchildren and three greatgrandchildren.

Mountaha Saad passed from our midst March 28, 1996, in Waterloo, Ontario, at the age of 83. She was the wife of the late Toufic Saad. She leaves her children Eva McKarris of Waterloo, Naime Joseph and Julian Saad of West Virginia, George and Daniel of the Kfeir, and Edward of Dubai, U.A.E. She is also survived by 25 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her son Ayoub, her brother Gorious, and two sisters, Katrina and Nellie. Her legacy is great and she will be sorely missed by all those who knew and loved her.

Lena Lowen Salamy of Charleston passed away January 1, 1996. Lena had formerly resided in Brazil.

Fred W. Tweel, 66, of Huntington passed from us on December 11, 1996. He was a retired employee of the Department of veteran's Affairs. he is survived by one sister, Peggy Tweel Shaheen of Canton, Ohio.

God Be with them all.

**The battle is
lost, but the
war was won.
Heaven is
rejoicing.**

A Tribute to a Beloved Grandfather

Excerpts from

"The Definition of a True Hero : Paul H. McCoy" by Chad D. Slater

A hero, a man distinguished for exceptional courage, fortitude, or bold enterprise and one idealized for superior qualities of any kind.

I am going to introduce to you a real life hero, a man that has all of the characteristics of being one, a man that what a hero truly is, for this hero is my grandfather. He is a man of honor, a man of integrity, a man that has complete trust in what he is going to say or do next.

If I had only one sentence to tell my grandfather, and I knew he could understand it all, it would be this: You have fought the fight, you have won the wars, and I just want you to know that you are my one and only hero, and for all you have meant to me, I love you so very much, thank you, thank you for everything!

This is a hero, a man that has exemplified the exceptional courage, a man that is bold, and above and beyond anything else, a man that has displayed great fortitude. The true meaning of fortitude is strength of mind in face of pain, adversity, or peril: patient courage. This is my grandfather, and he will make it home, for my hero will never die, he will merely move on.

The final chapter to a hero would be one that moves on to become a legend, a hero on earth; now all that the hero has left are the legends that made him such a hero. The war that was fought is now over and the battle he has lost, but overall the war was won. It was won by the heavens, and lost here on earth. We will miss you, we love you, and as we speak the heavens are rejoicing. Thank you for all that you have done, thank you for all you have done for me, I love you, I miss you, and most of all I already miss seeing that happy, smiling face that all have come to know. The page is being turned, the hero is now a legend!

Editors Note: This is such a touching tribute, all of us are honored to share it.



Charlie Fischer and Father John Hamatie.



John Hodge, John Abraham, Paul McCoy, Kein Donley & Gianna Michael.

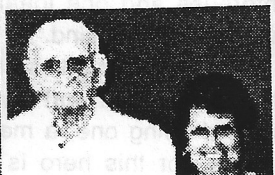


DERBAKIE MAN!

George Hanna.



Julia and Amiel Michael.



Fouad and Rahme Abourizk.



Clockwise from left top: Julia Michael, Sandy Michael, Ghada Michael, Victoria Michael, Ansara, & Carmen Ansara.



Nikki Ansara.



Lorraine Bassett Scott & Jeanette Cantees McCoy.



Paul McCoy.



Julian Saad, Claire Abourizk, Humberto & Sonia Abourizk, Estonez, & Jihad Saad.



Ernie McCarus George, Asma, & John Hodge.



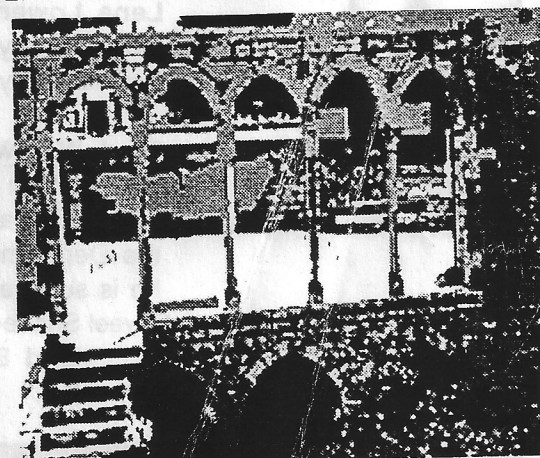
Board of Directors, Orlando, 1996, 64th Kfeirian Reunion: L to R, Charlie Thabe Selma Bassett, John Hodge, George Hanna, Kevin Donley, Mydina Thabet, Julia Saad. Missing Deidre Jamra, Tony Razcallah, Ray Abraham, Mitchell Mickel and Diann Michael (I'm taking the picture!)



Kevin, Naomi, Samira, Leila, Philip & Mydina Thabet.



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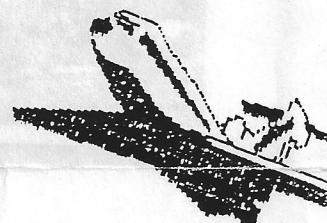
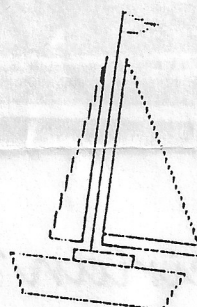
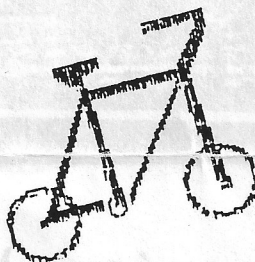
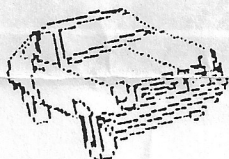
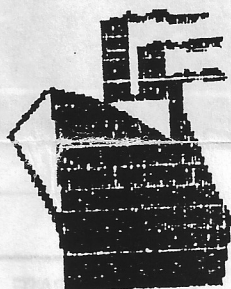
65th Kfeirian Reunion

August 30, 31 September 1, 1997
Radisson Hotel, Huntington, WV

MAKE YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND NOW
Don't you **DARE** make any other plans for those dates,
because we will miss you if you are not there.

We don't care what transportation you use,
whether your come by.....

*Ronald, Denise
why don't you
bring Malina
and come to
the Reunion
George*



.....just be sure to come.

Co-chairmen Richard Tweel and George Hanna
have a lot of great plans in store for you.



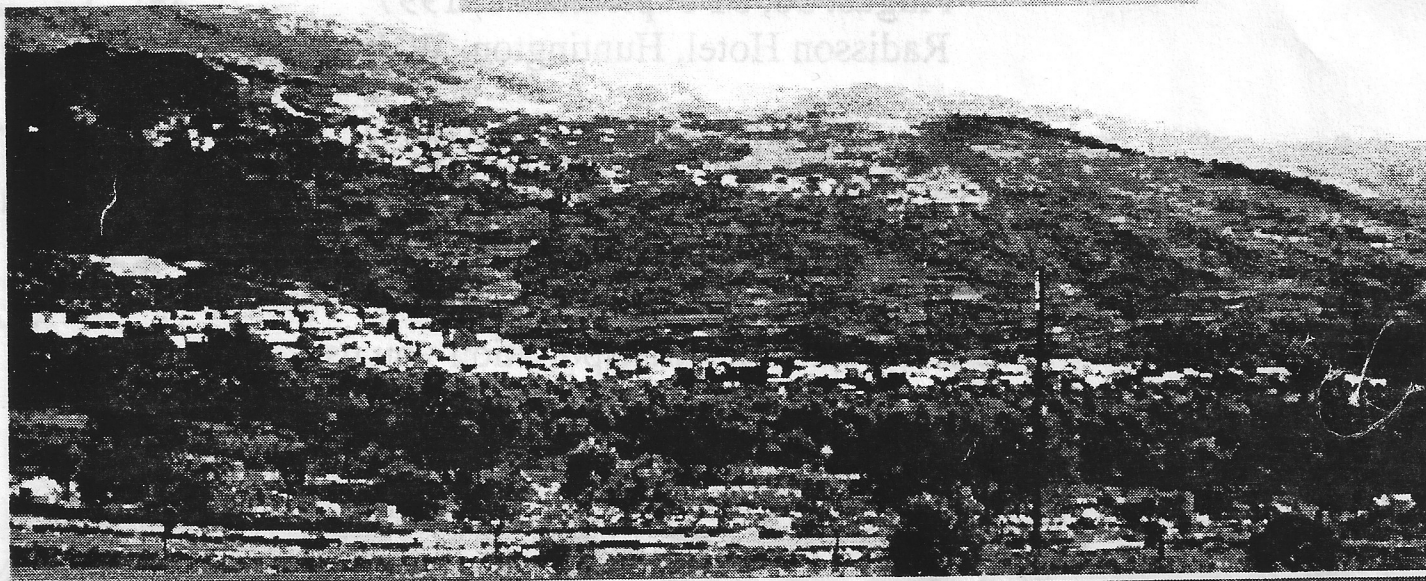
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

If you are interested in a
Kfeirian Reunion Foundation Scholarship Application
write or contact:

Mr. Mitchell Mickel
2913 Macon Street
South Charleston, WV 25303
304-744-0631

Deadline for returning your application is August 1, 1997

The Kfeir, Lebanon Heritage of Distinction



The Kfeirian Reunion Newsletter

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