



The Cedar

An Ancestry of
Many Names
One Heritage!



Spring 2014

In this issue...

- Page 1 Welcome from Sherry Mickel Parrish, KRF President
- Page 2 2013 – 2014 Board of Trustees
- Page 3 Success in a Changing World
By Michael Abraham
- Page 4 Major Contribution from the Children of Alice Bassett Rutherfordale
- Page 4 George!
- Pages Births, Achievements, Wedding
5 - 8 and Other Announcements
- Page 9 Travel Website Information and Certificates of Appreciation
- Pages In Memoriam
10 – 11
- Page 12 Details for the 82nd Reunion
- Page 13 The Power of One
By Michael Abraham
- Page 14 Engage! By Michael Abraham
- Pages Kfeirians Out and About
14 – 17
- Page 17 Scholarship Information
- Page 18 Pictures from the 81st Reunion
- Page 19 And so it goes...
- Page 20 Your Family Tree
By Kevin Donley
- Page 21 Historical Photograph
- Page 22 Photo from the 80th Reunion
- Page 23 The 1933 Picture Project
- Page 24 Help us find our "Lost Kfeirians"

Happy 82nd Anniversary

By Sherry Mickel Parrish, KRF President

In over 80 years, people can build a wonderful and successful tradition together, but it takes a team and a little hard work to make it happen. That is what we have done!

Our members come from all over the world and all walks of life but share one heritage. Keeping this connection alive for the next generation is the goal of our Kfeirian Reunion Foundation. Please join me and the members of the Board of Trustees as we keep alive and honor the vision of our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents and be a part of the 2014 Kfeirian Reunion in Huntington, WV. Back to our roots and yours.

It really does not matter how long it has been or if you have never been to the Reunion. Come, join us and have a wonderful time. What could be better than a weekend away, good food, family fellowship, dancing to an authentic Arabic Band and reconnecting with your heritage?

It is beautiful to see the smiles on the faces of friends reuniting after many years at the reunion and hear their joy and laughter as they "catch up" with each other. Sometimes they catch up on the events of a few years and sometimes a few decades. Sharing life and photos of children and grandchildren is a source of happiness for each of us. As for me, time really does not matter when it comes to reuniting with family and friends.

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

Ask yourself this . . . would my Sittee be pleased if I came to the Reunion and brought my family and close friends? Funny question – simple answer, of course she would. And, she would be proud that a tradition that she and others, so long ago felt was vital for their children is still supported by her family.

One more thing . . . In this edition of *The CEDAR* you will read about your family and friends and their travels and accomplishments in life. We are happy to have this information for you and want more. I hope you will take a moment to let us know what is happening in the lives of your family members and allow us to share this with the Kfeirian Reunion Family.

I hope to see you in Huntington, WV and thank you all for sharing the dream of our grandparents. Our first 82 years is just the beginning!



2014 Reunion – Pullman Plaza Hotel

Join us for the 82nd Kfeirian Reunion at the Pullman Plaza Hotel in downtown Huntington, WV.
August 30 – September 1, 2014

The Pullman Plaza Hotel is located in the heart of downtown at 1001 Third Avenue, Huntington, WV.

More information is on page 12.

2013 – 2014 Kfeirian Reunion Board of Trustees

Sherry Mickel Parrish, President
Abraham Saad, Vice President
Denise Mickel Russell, Treasurer
Thomas P. Bevins, Secretary
Michael Abraham, Immediate Past President
Lila Mickel Fischer
Mydina Thabet
John Joseph
Mike Harris
Rose Thabet Christian
Elaine Rahall
Kimberly Thomas
George Hanna, Treasurer Emeritus

Join us on Facebook at Kfeirian Reunion. We also have an email database that you can be added to. Just email reunion@kfeir.com and ask to be added. The Kfeirian Reunion web site is located at Kfeir.com.



Success in a Changing World

**By Michael Abraham,
Immediate Past President**

The attendance, enthusiasm and energy of the last few years at our annual Labor Day Reunion continue to foster an excitement that spreads to Kfeirians of all ages. Thank you for your faithful support. It's this unending support that helps us to visualize 100 years of the Kfeirian Reunion.

With so many outlets for your time and entertainment dollar that didn't used to exist, it's a testimony to the resiliency of Kfeirians. As children's summer time activities have grown throughout the Kfeirian Reunion history, so have family summer vacations as travel became easier and less expensive. There are regional and local festivals, high school and college sports and, though not new for college age Kfeirians, schools starting before Labor Day. There is now more competition than ever before for our families time, commitment and entertainment dollar between the end of one school year to the beginning of the next.

Even through all these new demands, our children attendance has steadily increased the last four years. This is due to the commitment of parents who want to spend more time with their families and wanting their children to know of this dynamic heritage that has been placed before them. These parents are establishing a tradition and faithfulness in their children that was given to them by their parents and their families, and now being passed on to the next generation. With this revival of attendance, the foundational spirit that is within our children will grow into something large and firmly rooted as they mature into the realization of how important their Kfeirian Heritage is to them. This was the dream of 1932.

As current stewards and in looking at our 82-year history and the future of the Kfeirian Reunion, we must

think of the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation as a whole entity and the traditions that have made their way into each of our families culture.

Attending the Kfeirian Reunion's annual weekend is a commitment. It was a commitment made years ago by many and it continues today. It's not only an 82-year tradition, but also a priceless legacy that is second to none. It's a vision of the long term, by and for all Kfeirians.

From our small but visionary beginning in 1932 to where we are today shows the strong will and inner strength of ALL Kfeirians. A testimony today as much as it was then as we strive to pass on this legacy, our heritage, not just to our children, but to our children's children and generations to come.

Its 82 years of faithfulness that we will celebrate once again, Labor Day Weekend 2014.



The Children of Alice Bassett Rutherforddale Make Major Contribution

Pictured: The four children of Alice Bassett Rutherforddale and Alice at a Middle Eastern restaurant celebrating Alice's birthday. From left to right, Jay Rutherforddale, Sacramento, CA, Jan Rutherforddale, Juneau, AK, the late Alice Bassett Rutherforddale, Martha de La Soujeole, Dallas, TX and Nancy Rutherforddale, Sacramento, CA.

As if celebrating the 80th Kfeirian Reunion over four days wasn't enough, at the Monday morning brunch, Nancy Rutherforddale, daughter of the late Alice Tamam Bassett Rutherforddale, made the event even more special. Speaking on behalf of her brother and sisters and highlighting the life of their mother, the family made a \$9,400 contribution to the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation Scholarship Fund. It was the largest single donation to the Fund in recent memory and was the highest honor they could bestow in their mother's memory.

In reflection of this wonderful gift, then Kfeirian Reunion President Mike Abraham said afterwards, "this donation embodies not only the memory of a beloved family member, but the spirit of the Kfeirian Reunion. It honors our past and all those who have come before us with a focus on future generations of Kfeirians. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in the passing of their mother and we thank them so much for keeping the memory of their mother alive with such a wonderful gift."

Alice is the daughter of the late Abraham Joseph and Rahija Saad Bassett, passing away April 16, 2011. Born in Williamson, WV, Alice graduated from Williamson High School, where she was a member of the marching band and an excellent student, even while working evenings in her father's confectionary store. Alice graduated with a B.A. from Marshall College, taught music for a year in Cassopolis, Michigan, and learned to fly a plane, all before completing a Master of Music at the University of Michigan in 1944. That year Alice joined the Women Army Corps (WAC) and served as a cryptographer at the US Army Signal Intelligence Service at Arlington Hall in Virginia.

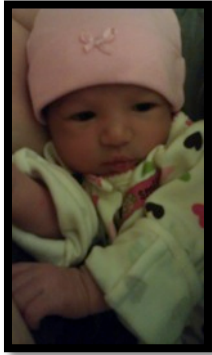
It is evident from her background how much Alice valued education, and now, with the forethought and generosity of her children, that commitment to higher education will be carried on to the children of all Kfeirians.

George!

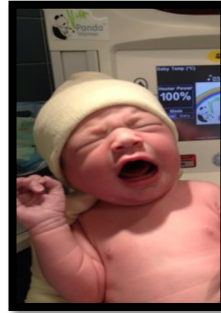
What does it take to become a legend?
A commitment to keeping the flame lit!
Over our 82 years, there have been many contributors to the ongoing success of our Kfeirian Reunion Foundation, but none so loyal and hard working as our own George Hanna! Thank you for 50 years of dedicated service!



Birth Announcements



Brooklyn Grace was born on September 27, 2012, weighed 6 lbs., 8 oz. born to parents Leslie Thabet and Mark Henry.



Emily Elizabeth Todora - daughter of Doug Todora and Rebecca Saad Todora, was born November 20, 2012 at 2:01 a.m.

Michael Abraham Moujaes was born on January 17th, 2013. Weight: 6lbs 9oz. 20 inches. Parents: Fadi & Deborah Michael Moujaes: Giddo & Sitto are Georgiana and the late Philip Michael of Charleston, WV.



Kylie Berlin Kawaja, Born February 18, 2013! Proud parents Wes and Lauren Kawaja. Niece of the late Mary Ann Kawaja Elrod.



Gabrielle Sarah McNeely daughter of Christina Saad McNeely and Scott McNeely.



Ray and Kristi Henson are the proud parents of Caroline Raye Henson, born Sunday morning, April 21, 2013. Kristi is the daughter of Bob and Linda Thomas and granddaughter of Ray Abraham.

Caroline was our youngest Kfeirian at the 81st Reunion in Myrtle Beach!



Parents Andrea Thabet Waldman and Alan Waldman, and big sister Audrey from Los Angeles welcomed a baby boy, Evan Edward, on May 22, 2013, 7 lbs 10 oz, 21 inches.

A sweet baby boy was born on October 17, 2013 to Bashir and Stephanie Adili in Charleston, SC. Milan Gabriel weighed 8lbs 10oz and measured 21.5" long. His proud grandparents, George and Gloria Hanna, got to spend two weeks in SC helping with all the chores!

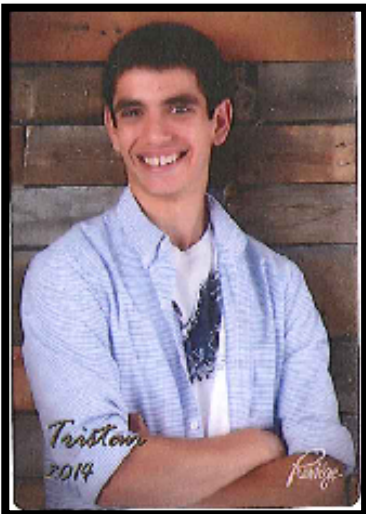


Becky Rahal Anderson and Gloria Hanna gave a baby shower in Milan's honor at the 81st Kfeirian Reunion where all the ladies got together to celebrate.



Graduation

Tristan Samuel Anderson will be graduating from Sanderson High School in Raleigh NC on June 7, 2014. During his freshman year in high school, he was on the Cross Country team and received Academic All-Conference and the Most Dedicated Cross Country runner award. He participated in AFJROTC his freshman, sophomore and junior years and spent his junior and senior years working for Ace Hardware and O2 Fitness. Tristan has applied to Appalachian State University and is interested in forensic science. Tristan is the son of Becky and Troy Anderson; the grandson of Ayoub and the late Elaine Rahal; and the great grandson of Kallel and Emily Bassett.



We are so very proud of you Tristan for all of your hard work and accomplishments these last four years. Best wishes to you in the future!

Kfeirian To Take Part In New York City Jazz Festival



The Fruit Cove Middle School Jazz Band of St. Johns, FL will be performing at the 2014 New York City Jazz Festival. Michael Abraham, son of Mike and Nora Abraham and grandson of Raymond Abraham (Huntington) is a two-year member. Michael plays trumpet for this outstanding group of 28 young musicians directed by Don Isabelle. This Jazz Band is only one of 12 school bands from across the country invited to play at this highly regarded event that will perform at New York City's Lincoln Center. This weekend experience during April 14th-16th also features sessions with professional jazz artists and while in New York, the group will have the opportunity to experience a Broadway play.

Achievements

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) named Sherry Mickel Parrish as a Social Work Pioneer for 2012. The professional achievement honor was presented at the NASW Foundation awards luncheon in Washington, DC.



On Sunday, April 14, 2013, Garrett Russell was honored at an Eagle Ceremony recognizing him for his outstanding accomplishments in scouting. Garrett designed, planned and provided leadership for a Children's playground at his church in Richmond, VA. Garrett graduated from Glen Allen High School in June 2013 and is attending J. Sargent Reynolds Community College. Garrett is the son of Ron and Denise Mickel Russell and grandson of the late Mitchell and Linda Thabet Mickel.



On September 20, 2013, Sandy Mickel Ruder was inducted into the Hermitage High School Hall of Fame after 20 years of service.

Congratulations to Nathan Fleshman who was honored at a Boy Scouts of America Eagle Court of Honor ceremony on November 17, 2013. A very high honor to be proud of! Nathan is the son of Debbie Fleshman from Las Vegas, NV.

Engagement, Wedding and Anniversary Announcements

Jane Griffith married Jesse Ward-Karat. Jane is the granddaughter of the late Alice Bassett Rutherford, and the daughter of Nancy Rutherford Griffith of Sacramento.

Congratulations to George and Evelyn Sahley Cassis! They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on November 25, 2012 by renewing their vows. Father Olof Scott at St. George Orthodox Cathedral performed the service.



Charlie and Layla Nassar Thabet of South Charleston, WV celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on January 26, 2014. Their children are Mydina Thabet, Samira Thabet Leguizamon, and Phil and Jen Thabet. They have two grandchildren, Carter and Colton.



Abe Saad and Sarah Dixon both from Huntington, WV were married on Saturday, February 22, 2014 in a beautiful ceremony.



Abe is the current Vice President of the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation and he is also the President of the West Virginia Young Democrats. Abe is pictured here with his father, Julian Saad and fellow Kfeirian, U.S. Representative Nick Rahall.



Take Advantage of Kfeirian Reunion's Travel Website

Kfeirian Reunion now has FREE Travel Website for all Kfeirians and their Friends.

Want to save money and contribute to the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation at the same time? It's easy. Use our travel website, www.kfeirtravels.com. How does it work? Every time you use a travel website, the travel companies pay BIG commissions for your reservation. Now, when you book through www.kfeirtravels.com, your Kfeirian Reunion Foundation will get a portion of that commission. Through www.kfeirtravels.com, you can also make retail purchases and the reunion receives commissions. We get commissions from all travel bookings and retail purchases!

Stop and browse this valuable site, become familiar with it and start using it. It's **FREE** for you to use! There are no hidden fees involved. You get the same competitive air, hotel and cruise bookings as Travelocity, Orbitz and other notable travel websites, but now the reunion gets a percentage of the commission. What a way to save money and significantly help fund the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation's general fund. Let your friends know of this valuable tool for their travel and retail shopping needs. Anyone can use our free travel website, www.kfeirtravels.com.

Please note the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation is not involved with your travel arrangements. When you book travel through www.kfeirtravels.com, you are dealing directly with the vendors just like you would on all travel websites.

From the 2013 Kfeirian Reunion in Myrtle Beach, SC

Certificates of appreciation - 2013

- **Kevin Donley** for his service as **Keynote Presenter on the Reunion Genealogy Project**
- **Carol Rahter, DO**, for her outstanding work and leadership in **Hospitality!**
- **Jennifer Thabet** for her service in **Contract Review**
- **Thomas Bevins** for his outstanding work and leadership as **Host City Chairman 2013**
- **Kristie & Ray Henson** for their outstanding work as our **Webmasters**
- **Nicholas Joseph** for his outstanding & dedicated Service as our **Ambassador!**

Certificate of appreciation to four outgoing board members in 2013

- **Michael Abraham**
- **Lila Mickel Fischer**
- **Denise Mickel Russell**
- **Louie Cassis**

Pictured: Nicholas Joseph, our Kfeirian Ambassador at the Ocean Dunes / Sand Dunes Villas, Myrtle Beach, SC.



In Memoriam



Michael Todd Clark, 32, of Charleston, WV passed away July 19, 2012, His parents are Nancy J. Clark and Thomas P. Clark; grandmother, Lorena M. Copley.

Jameel George Sadd, of Norcross GA, passed away peacefully in his sleep on September 19, 2012. He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Naheel Sadd and brother, Adeeb Sadd.

Selma Bassett Edinger, age 96, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, September 23, 2012. Selma was a long time Secretary of the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation.



Ronald "Ron" Cantees, 57, of Lexington, KY died Sunday, November 18, 2012.

Nabih A. Nassar, age 83, of Toledo, OH passed onto eternal life on Saturday February 16, 2013.



Stanley Brooks, 69, of Blissfield, MI, passed away on Friday, February 8, 2013. Stanley was the husband of Cynthia Bassett Brooks.



George N. Hodge, 71, of Cape Coral, FL formerly of Huntington, WV passed away April 21, 2013.

David George Asser, 65, died Saturday September 28, 2013 at St. Mary's Hospital in St. Louis after a brief illness.



Mary Ann Kawaja Elrod, 62, of Lexington, KY wife of Mark Elrod, died Thursday, June 20, 2013. She was the daughter of the late Haleem and Alice Cury Kawaja.



Philip E. Michael, 71, of Charleston, WV fell asleep with the Lord on February 21, 2013. Phillip is survived by his wife and childhood sweetheart, Georgiana.

On July 30, 2013, Marshall Duer Woods of Gaithersburg, MD passed away. He was the beloved husband of Vivian Steffan Woods. Vivian is the daughter of the late Sol Steffan.



Lorena May Aborizk Copley, widow of App F. Copley, 89, of Charleston, W.Va. formerly of Chesapeake, Ohio, was joyfully called into Heaven on Friday, October 11, 2013; she was born June 22, 1924 in Huntington, WV.



Betty Jo Cantees Kawaja, wife of Louis Kawaja of 46 years, passed away Sat, Dec 7, 2013 at St. Joseph Hospital. Born May 27, 1947 in Williamson, WV, she was a daughter of the late Abe and Hazel Dawhare Cantees.

Rev. Esber N. Tweel, 72, passed away Dec. 4 after pneumonia ended his 15-year battle with Polymyositis. God granted his wish and took him home. Esber was preceded in death by his parents, Naif and Margaret Tweel. He is survived by his wife, Carol Lynn.



Helen Louise Hensley George, 86, of Huntington, passed away Friday, March 28, 2014, at St. Mary's Medical Center. She was born November 24, 1927, in Cabell County, a daughter of the late Delbert Curtis and Louise Bias Hensley. She is survived by her daughter, Paula George Tompkins of Sausalito, California.

Photo from the 79th Kfeirian Reunion in Myrtle Beach, SC. Photo Credit – Kevin Bevins of www.nuvoimages.com



HUNTINGTON! HERE WE COME

Picture it. Authentic Lebanese food, Arabic music, dancing and fantastic fellowship. This is just part of the excitement that's in store for us at the 82nd Kfeirian Reunion in Huntington, West Virginia, Labor Day Weekend 2014. The dates are August 30 – September 1, 2014.

The hotel this year will be the Pullman Plaza where we have called home many times. The Kfeirian Reunion will be one of the first events to be held in the newly remodeled lobby to be completed this summer. What an exciting time for us and the hotel!

During the recent chemical spill in Charleston, WV, less than 50 miles from Huntington, that effected nearly 30% of the state's population and made all water unfit for any use, the Pullman Hotel was proactive and within a day of the accident was offering free showers for people affected by the spill. At the time, general manager Anna Pope, notified all media outlets that the hotel was setting aside several rooms where people could shower. The hotel also opened its lunch buffet on Saturday after the spill so people could eat as well as shower. The buffet is normally closed on Saturday. We're proud to be able to call the Pullman Hotel home for 2014 as they exemplify our own giving spirit as we often reach out to those in need within our own Kfeirian Community. The full article on the hotel's outreach can be read on the Kfeirian Reunion Face Book page.

The Reunion Planning Committee is taking huge steps in making the 82nd Reunion the most dynamic and exciting Reunion in recent memory. In a break from our normal two consecutive nights in the same room at a hotel, our dinner and Hafli on Saturday will be held at Huntington's Holy Spirit Orthodox Church's newly built Reception Hall so we can enjoy our own authentic Lebanese dinner. With Arabic music and dancing, it will have a feel of our ancestors back in our ancestral village of Kfeir! What a moment to capture for the first night of the 82nd Kfeirian Reunion. We are planning transportation to and from the Church for those who prefer not to drive. Your Board of Trustees wants everyone to have an enjoyable but safe evening at our own private oasis! The Grand Banquet and Ball Sunday night will be held at the Pullman Plaza as well as all other events. Complete details of the Reunion Weekend will be provided in the upcoming registration packet to be mailed to you at a later date.

The 82nd Kfeirian Reunion will be an exciting time to share with family and friends as we go to Huntington, home of the very first Kfeirian Reunion in 1932. Come and enjoy your unique heritage that is shared by all our Kfeirian Families.



The Power of One

by
 Michael Abraham,
 Immediate Past President

President John F. Kennedy said, "One person can make a difference and every person must try."

The Kfeirian Reunion Foundation knows the true impact of this statement. It's this difference every Kfeirian has made from that one simple idea in 1932 to have an annual gathering, to where we are today. Look at our achievements. A foundation website, establishment of a scholarship program, newsletters, taking advantage

of social media, our own travel website and much more. Achievements in our 82-year history, accomplished by people who share an ancestry from a small village with a population of less than 4,000. Our success is the collective energy and efforts of each of us. Kfeirians past and present contribute in many ways. Whether a board of trustee member or not, Kfeirians contribute.

For 2014 and beyond, let's take a new look at the Power of One. I have no doubt during our annual reunions, there is someone you haven't seen for a long time. It could be a family member. It might be a friendship that was strengthened over the years only because of the Kfeirian Reunion. These stories are common - cousins getting to know cousins or finding out someone REALLY is a cousin. Our family connections and friendships are **stronger** because of the Kfeirian Reunion.

As you make your plans to attend the Kfeirian Reunion this year, give that family member or friend a call and tell them how much you've missed them. Tell them how great it would be to get together again at a Kfeirian Reunion. It's the influence you have in inviting that one extra special person. Each of us can make a difference in strengthening the bond that we all share, our Kfeirian heritage. It is the power of one within each of us to keep that simple idea of our ancestors alive as we move forward towards 100 years of the Kfeirian Reunion. It's making sure we're together as one every year. Reach out now to that family member or friend and tell them you want to see and be with them at this year's Kfeirian Reunion. Each of us can make a difference, each of us must try.

Seeking Reporters!

There are many ways to contribute to the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation! We are seeking volunteers to be "reporters" for *The CEDAR* Newsletter. Please drop us a note at reunion@kfeir.com to let us know of your interest to be a reporter. Thanks!

Engage Engage Engage!!! **By Michael Abraham**

Your Kfeirian Reunion Foundation continues to take full advantage of technology to communicate and enhance relationships that began generations ago. As we Kfeirians continue to expand to different regions of this great nation, forging these relationships to next generations becomes more difficult. Establishing our newsletter years ago was one way to reach out with news about Kfeirians and to keep these relationships from fading away. With the advent of technology, we were at the forefront of non-profits establishing a website in 1996. We are now currently in its second generation and making plans for a third version.

We are always striving to make communication easier and simpler for all Kfeirians, which led us to have a Kfeirian Reunion Face Book page. I encourage everyone to invite family and friends to build our network of Face Book Kfeirians. This is an extension of our successful newsletter, to gather information about Kfeirians by Kfeirians. What better way to enjoy up-to-date news, saying nothing of the fantastic pictures that are posted.

Our Face Book page has been instrumental in making new friends and reestablishing old friendships within our Kfeirian Community that extends well beyond the North American Continent. I ask you to not only take advantage, but share this opportunity to enjoy, engage and touch lives through the Kfeirian Reunion Face Book page.

*Find us on Face Book at Kfeirian Reunion
and request to be a member of the group*

Kfeirians Out and About



Simon Naoufall and his lovely wife, Najwa Banna from Lebanon, formerly from California 33 years ago, attended many Kfeirian Reunions in the past. They live between his hometown of Kfeir and Beirut. Simon is pictured with Najwa in Bali Indonesia celebrating the New Year 2014. He encourages every one to visit the lovely village of Kfeir.



Pictured above from right is Jimmie Carder, her mother Sally Tweel, and Jimmie's nephew Brad Tweel. In June 2013, Jim's Steak and Spaghetti House in Huntington, WV celebrated 75 year in business. Congratulations!!



A cool new show - "Genealogy Roadshow" featured our very own, Kevin and Monica Donley (on right) on the September 30, 2013 episode!

Gia Michael, daughter of the late Diann Michael recently emailed to let us know that she has travelled to India on a one-way ticket with a small backpack. She will be scattering her mother's ashes in the Himalayas. Gia has started a blog and you can follow her at <http://giamama.us>.

Dr. Deitra Hickey - Owner, Serenity Health and Wellness Center

Dr. Hickey, a University of Toledo alum, is the owner and operating manager of Serenity Health and Wellness Center, as well as a counselor and certified life coach. She demonstrates her daily commitment to the Glass City through Serenity Health Spa, which opened in April of 2010 and provides a wide variety of holistic treatment, detoxification and stress-relieving services.

Visit serenityspamaumee.com for more information

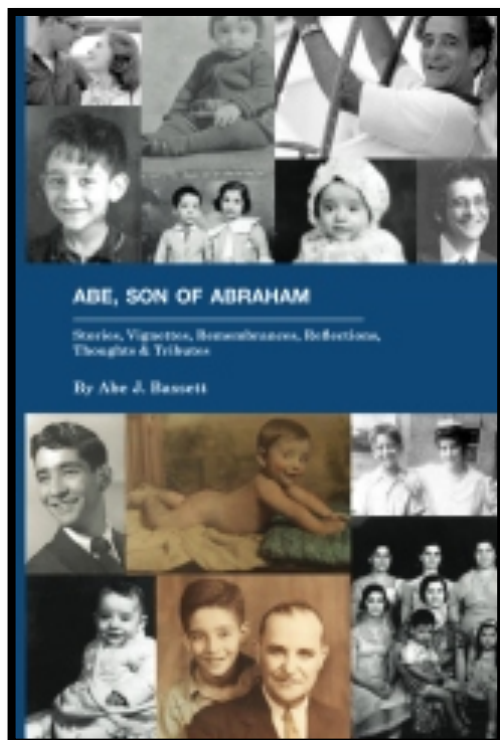
Deitra is a former Board of Trustees member. She is the daughter of Larry and the late Ruth Jamra of Toledo, OH.



A New Book!

Abe, Son of Abraham is the title of a just published book by Abe J. Bassett of Beavercreek, Ohio.

The book begins as a series of well-written and funny vignettes about the author’s early years and his special relationship with his father. It concludes with remembrances of his uncles and aunts, immigrants from Lebanon. In between are stories of adventures of hitchhiking in Europe, serving in the Army in the Far East and traveling in the Middle East.



The title derives from the fact that Abe and Abraham are Junior and Senior, leading to the book’s dedication to the father whose influence permeated the life of the junior.

Abe J. Bassett is Emeritus Professor of Theatre Arts at Wright State University, and former Dean of the School of Fine and Performing Arts at Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne.

He writes about his academic career and how his Theatre Arts department became the most outstanding undergraduate program in Ohio.

Earlier he edited and published ***Memories of Rahija***, stories of his mother. Altogether in 296 pages there are 55 entries in ten sections.

Abe, Son of Abraham is available at Amazon.com. Enter the title or the author into the search bar.

Recipe Book

Wes Kawaja wrote to tell us about his Great Aunt Rose Cury Bittar's Recipe Book. It was recorded by Wes' cousin Eddie, shortly before he passed away. Wes received a copy from his Aunt Mary before her passing. Check out the wonderful recipes at this web link:

www.328studios.com/books/RoseCuryBittarCookbook.pdf

Pictured to the right is Rose Cury Bittar with her husband, Anthony Bitter, Syrian born, a Pharmacist turned artist.



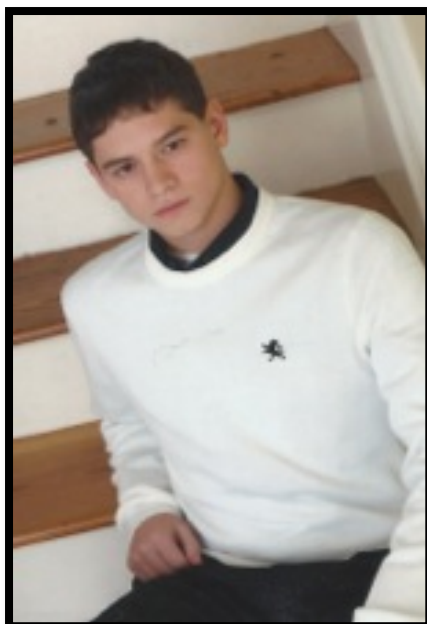
Scholarship Information

The Kfeirian Scholarship is judged on financial need, leadership and scholastic ability. Scholarships are limited to four years and designed for courses leading to an undergraduate degree in an accredited college or university. Applications can be found at Kfeir.com. Our current scholarship recipients are Melaina N. Russell, Evan Thompson and Lyndsey A. Cantees.



Melaina Nicole Russell is a senior attending James Madison University, majoring in Business Management with a minor in Human Science. Melaina is graduating in May 2014. She is the daughter of Ron and Denise Mickel Russell from Glen Allen, VA, granddaughter of the late Mitchell and Linda Thabet Mickel and great-granddaughter of the late Abe and Nahia Mickel and the late Toufic and Rasmia Thabet.

Evan Thompson is a senior attending Marshall University, majoring in Forensic Chemistry and pre-pharmacy. Evan is graduating in December 2014. He is the son of Douglas and Norma Hodge from Huntington, WV and the grandson of Rhoda Hodge and the late Tufe Hodge.



Lyndsey Alexandra Cantees is a junior attending the University of Central Florida, majoring in Business Management with a minor in Spanish and a certificate in Leadership. Lyndsey is the daughter of Stephen and Janet Cantees of Nokomis, FL and the granddaughter of one of our eldest Kfeirian members, Harry Cantees and his wife Fern.

Pictures from the 81st Reunion at the Sands Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC



Photo credit – Tammy and Kevin Bevins of www.nuvoimages.com



And so it goes...



Pictured front row, left to right: Steve Pegram, Max Pegram, Laura Lechlak Pegram, Larry Lechlak, Charlotte Sadd Lechlak, Grace Sadd. Back row left to right: Michael Joseph, Nick Joseph, Tammy Sadd Scott, Marshall Scott, Chrissy Joseph, John Joseph, Phil Sadd, Samia Pegram, Stephanie Sadd, Randy Sadd, Carolyn Thabet Sadd and Luke Sadd. Taken at Myrtle Beach, SC at the 2013 Kfeirian Reunion

George Hanna submitted this picture to the newsletter editors via email and Sherry Mickel Parrish asked the question, "How is John Joseph related to Phil Sadd?" We think secretly that Sherry was wondering if she was related too.

George replied, "John Joseph's mother, Naime Saad married Sam Joseph. She had five brothers, Ayoub, George, Daniel, Julian and Edward Saad and one sister, Eva. Naime's father, Toufic had a 1st cousin named George Sadd. George was the father of Jameel, Adeeb, and Charlotte Sadd Lechlak. They are 2nd cousins with Naime, and her siblings. Jameel's kids (Phil, Tammy Sadd Scott, Randy and Greg Sadd) are 3rd cousins with Naime's kids (John, Sandra and Diane Joseph Asmus). And that's how Phil Sadd and John Joseph are related."

And in true Kfeirian culture, these family members are related in more ways than one. When Naime came to America as a young adult, her uncle George Sadd adopted her so she could remain in the US. Through adoption, Naime became George's daughter. Naime also became Jameel Sadd's sibling, which makes Phil Sadd and John Joseph both 1st and 3rd cousins. Sam heard of a young single lady in Toledo after the adoption and he went to Toledo and married Naime. Many years later, still living in Huntington, John heard of a young single lady in Toledo, went there and married Krissy. He did the same thing as his dad!

George Hanna then added, "Jameel was married to Louise Hanna Sadd, niece to my dad Moussa, and that is how Louise and I are related. Adeeb Sadd married Carolyn Thabet Sadd and her brother Charlie Thabet is married to my first cousin, Layla Nassar Thabet. Layla is my mother's niece. I think that's the way it goes..."

Then Sherry jumped in added, "Carolyn Thabet Sadd and Charlie Thabet were siblings to Linda Thabet Mickel who was married to my uncle Mitchell Mickel, who is brother of my father, Alex Mickel and Mitchell is father to my first cousin Denise Mickel Russell...and so it goes". And that Sherry is how you are related...and it goes on and on and on.

What a great family story showing how we are all connected! If you noticed the difference in the spelling of Saad and Sadd, Charlotte shared the history. She wrote, "The only reason for the difference in the spelling of the last name is that when Aube Saad, my grandfather, came to this country thru Ellis Island, his penmanship was not the best, and the 2nd "a" looked like a "d" so Saad then became Sadd."

Your Family Tree *by Kevin Donley*

*“... the Kfeirian Reunion was founded for the purpose of getting acquainted and meeting old friends, and that our children who were born under the skies of Liberty will know each other, particularly **their genealogy and where they came from.**”*
~ Sol Steffan - Kfeirian Reunion 1965

For those who attended the last Kfeirian Reunion we had a great time with family and friends, danced, and collected shells on the beach. We also climbed a tree. The Kfeirian family tree. Here are some of the details we shared.



The Kfeirian Family Tree - Like a real tree, there are millions of roots (our ancestors) and as many leaves (their descendants). Our Kfeirian family is unique in that it is made up of many trees from one village. Like an olive orchard, our trees are separate; yet connected.

The Kfeirian Tree was started in 1982 at the 50th Kfeirian reunion. Today we have 4,908 people on our tree. A few other stats:

- Marriages: 1,385
- Generations: 10
- Surnames: 917
- Earliest known ancestor: Serkes Sarkous – 1,650 A.D.

Our family has spread from Lebanon to countries all over the world, with the largest populations in the U.S., Canada and Brazil.

How You Can See The Tree

Thanks to technology today, the Kfeirian tree can be shared easily with you and cousins all over the world. Just send an email to me (kdonley17@gmail.com) and I'll give you access. Then send me corrections, new additions and any other updates. I receive emails from Kfeirians around the world every month. It's also a big help if you post your news (births, marriages, obituaries and pictures) on the Kfeirian Reunion Facebook page or in future newsletters.

Quick Tips For Tracing Your Own Tree

- Talk with the elders in your family. Ask them to tell their stories.
- Study old family photos or the front of the family bible
- Go to the Kfeirian Reunion and meet your cousins
- Visit the Kfeirian Facebook page often
- Spend time on Familysearch.org or Ancestry.com
- Visit family cemeteries
- Check out the free 1940 Census on Ancestry.com
- Get your kids involved - show them where they come from using Google Earth
- Have your DNA tested (see below)
- Watch family tree TV shows when they air
 - Who Do You Think You Are?
 - PBS Genealogy Roadshow (see related article on page 15)

Article continued on next page...

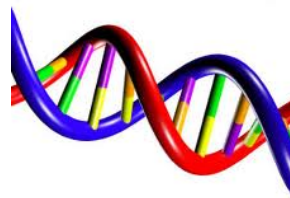


The DNA Breakthrough

Nothing has been more exciting for genealogy than recent discoveries in DNA testing. Now you can easily order a kit online, return it and several weeks later you'll learn where in the world your ancestors roamed. You also immediately start connecting with other people that match your DNA. You can contact these cousins online and swap family tree info. Several members of the Kfeirian family have done this and we're already meeting new cousins. One place to start is at Ancestry.com where you can get a kit for \$99 (sometimes less).

The gift that we can pass on to future generations is their roots. Happy hunting!

Kevin Donley
kdonley17@gmail.com



Historical Photograph From 1947



Abe Bassett submitted this historic photograph from 1947 which was taken by Jasper I. Saad in Williamson, WV. Here is the identification of the people in the photo: All are from Williamson, WV except as noted. From Left to Right, Standing: John Bassett (St. Albans, WV); Abe Mickel, Nahia Mickel, George Cantees, Nasseph McCarus (Charleston, WV), lady unknown, Albert Jamra (Toledo, OH), Hania Steffan and Sol Steffan. Seated: Miriam Bassett Kawaja, Selma Kawaja, Nellie Kawaja, Abe Kawaja, Priest George Kerbawy (Blissfield, MI), man unknown, Joe Simon (Bluefield, WV), Joseph Cantees. Sitting on Floor: Louis Kawaja.

Miriam Bassett Kawaja is mother to Abe Kawaja and first cousin to Abraham Bassett. She is sister to George Bassett and John Bassett of St. Albans, WV and aunt to Abe N. Bassett of Oak Harbor, OH. Great picture Abe! Thanks for sharing!

Photograph from the 80th Reunion at the
Marriott Hotel, Charleston, WV

Photo Credit – Greg Mencotti
www.gregmencottiphotography.com/



The 1933 Picture Project



If you have a family member that attended the reunion in 1933 and you can identify them in this photo, then we need your help. Below is a numbered version and so far we have identified the following: 2 Regina Tweel Huntington, WV 3 Charles George Huntington, WV 7 Farris Thabet Pt. Pleasant, WV 9 Jenny Thabet Pt. Pleasant, WV 10 Mantaha Saad Pikeville, KY 11 Norma McCarus Harris 23 Edna Rahall Beckley, WV 24 Fozia Nasser Huntington, WV 25 Columbia Hage Thabet Huntington, WV 27 Zahia Hage Huntington, WV 28 Fred Tweel Huntington, WV 30 Mary Aborizk Huntington, WV 31 Mike Thabit Huntington, WV 34 Sam Tweel Huntington, WV 35 Sam Saad Pikeville, KY 47 Freda Jamra Toledo, OH 49 Adeebly Mickel Barbery Williamson, WV 50 Nazla Kawaja Radwan (Adebe Mickel Barberry's mother) Williamson, WV 51 Mike Abraham Williamson, WV 54 Lorena Aborizk Copley Huntington, WV 57 Mary Tweel Haddad Huntington, WV 66 Sam Bassett Toledo, OH 68 Jad Jamra Toledo, OH 71 Mike George, Sr. Huntington, WV 72 Abe Mickel Williamson, WV 77 Abraham Aborizk Huntington, WV. A large poster will be available for your review at the reunion in Huntington this year, or you can email us at reunion@kfeir.com with your additions to the list.



Help Us Find Our “Lost Kfeirians”

Please review the list below of our “lost Kfeirians”. Over the years as we mail registration forms or newsletters we keep track of the undeliverable mail. If you can help to identify the new address for anyone on the list, please call Denise Mickel Russell at 804-261-6575 or email us at reunion@kfeir.com with the update. Thanks in advance for your help!

Kristin Bethany Cantees	1940 County Road # 66	Proctorville	OH	45669
Jim Keeper	PO Box 7504	Tampa	FL	33673-7504
Crystal Kramer	18417 Peninsula Cove Ln	Cornelius	NC	28031-7748
Randolf & Jeri Miles	5600 Wildberry Dr	Greensboro	NC	27409-2714
Arthur A. Naddour	4153 S Flower St	Los Angeles	CA	90037-2151
Del Schutte	2262 Jasper Blvd	Sullivans Is.	SC	29482-9613
Emil Tweel	9511 Shore Rd	Brooklyn	NY	11209-7550
Victor Kerbawy	Au Itacira, 363	Sao Paulo		04061-000
Ellanor Abodeely	294226 N. 22nd Street Unit # 1	Phoenix	AZ	85016-6156
Dib Abourizk	1907 Juno Avenue	Ottawa	ONT	K1H 656
Nemer Abourizk	1907 Juno Avenue	Ottawa	ONT	K1H 656
Azile Abujamra	Rua Santos Dumont, 148	Jacarezinho	Parana	86400-000
Jeanette H. Cates	P.O. Box 418	Tiptonville	TN	38079
Martha J. Daniel	4715 Mal Passo	Lansing	MI	43537
Albert Davis	6601 W. 60th St N	Sioux Falls	SD	57107
Joe Elias	1228 Oak Grove Avenue	Steubenville	OH	43952
Humberto, Sonia A. & Claire Estenoz	555 NE 34 ST. #1202	Miami	FL	33137-4055
Nathan Fitch	504 Wilder Reynolds Road	Wilmore	KY	40390
George D. George	5148 Oxbridge Dr.	Salisbury	MD	21801
Lewis Hodge	2509 W Southern Ave Lot 57	Tempe	AZ	85282-4211
Albert H. Jamra Jr.	5444 Citation Road N.	Toledo	OH	43606-2160
Josh & Rebecca Jolin	31 W. Adams St. Apt 706	Jacksonville	FL	32202
Brian Kawaja	41 Poinsetti Drive	Thornhill	ONT	3T2 2T2
Nassib Kawaja	41 Poinsetti Drive	Thornhill	ONT	L3T 2T2
George Kourey	5840 Des Artisan's	St. Leonard	QUE	H1P 1R4
John Marriage	480 Call Street	Boyne City	MI	49712-9132
Joseph & Norma Marriage	6753 Arrow Wood Road NW	Rapid City	MI	49676
Seth McCarus	1108 Riverside Drive	Nashville	TN	37206-1432
Clare and Ashley North	1717 Cherokee Road	Ann Arbor	MI	48104
Richard Rahall	P.O. Box 2531	Gainesville	FL	32602-2631
Ann Reed	407 Franklin Street	Blissfield	MI	49228
Evelyn Ruth Sabah	2085F Olivera Road	Concord	CA	94520
Brian Sahely	620 Jarvis St. Apt 617	Toronto	ONT	M4Y2R8
Flossie Shemas	2700 Pelham - 166	Toledo	OH	43606
Alif Wakim	1070 Raimbault Street	St. Laurent	QUE	H4L 4R6

How to Contact Us

Co-editors for this copy of *The Cedar* are Denise Mickel Russell, Mike Abraham and Sherry Mickel Parrish. Many thanks to Gloria and George Hanna and Rose Thabet Christian who contributed to and proofread the newsletter. You can contact us by emailing reunion@kfeir.com, visit our website at Kfeir.com or find us on Face Book at Kfeirian Reunion.