



NEWSLETTER

International

September 2011

DRUZE ORPHANS & CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

VOL. 12 NO. 1&2

DOC O Exceeds One Million Dollar Mark

By Kamel Muakkassa, MD
President

DOC O is celebrating its 13th Anniversary this year and thanks to your continued commitment, we were able to raise over a million dollars to better the lives of the orphans, and the disadvantaged families who rely on us for support each day.

We couldn't have done it without you – So to you Happy 13th Anniversary!

We, as individuals, a family, a community have had to face challenges and struggles like never before. DOC O recognizes this and is especially grateful to our friends and donors who continue to support the work that we are doing in spite of these difficult times.

We are also very thankful to our volunteer DOC O team, for their untiring efforts in the successful running of this organization.

DOC O continues to expand in order to meet the increased demand for its services to the children.

Our success is your success and we are so pleased to be able to share it with you. Only together can we continue to make a difference in the lives of so many children and families.

Please, take a moment now to send your gift in the enclosed envelope.

A Visit to Syria —One Story Two Writers

By Kathy Jaber Stephenson and Dr. Sahar Muakasa



Dr. Sahar Muakasa standing 3rd from the right in back row with Mr. Ihsan Jarboub, Chairman of the Syrian Organization for Social Welfare

About Sahar

By Kathy Jaber Stephenson

Few people realize the time and effort Dr. Sahar Muakasa spends focused on Druze orphans in the old country. When we hear the words Druze orphans, we immediately think of those in Lebanon. But there are other Druze orphans - who especially interest those of us who have ties to Syria - in Soueida.

When I saw Sahar during the Druze Convention this year in Florida, she always seemed to be with children – some related, some not. I think she has a special love for little ones, and this attribute definitely spills over to the charitable causes she supports. DOC O is all about charity. And that, for our brethren in Lebanon and Syria.

During one of our conversations, she told me about a visit to the orphanage in Syria she took a year ago. While there, she ventured to Qurraya, my father's hometown; then she said, "I have some photos from the Majliss in Qurraya that I would like to share with you and your brother Bobby?"

I had never seen the majliss, but had always wanted to. But first things first. Following, in her own words, are some interesting facts about the Druze orphanage in Soueida, located in Jabal al-Druze, that Sahar sent me in an email attachment.

Beit-al-Yateem, Syria

By Sahar Muakasa

The Druze Orphanage in Syria is under new management. Mr. Ihsan Jarboub, Chairman of the Syrian Organization for Social Welfare, visited the

Druze Orphanage in Abey, Lebanon, and was very impressed by its dormitories for the boys and the girls. His visit inspired him to lead a movement to renovate all the dorms in Soueida. Consequently, a huge project of modernizing the buildings began.

During my visit to the orphanage in Soueida, I saw how happy the children were and told that to the chairman. My comments touched him so much that it brought tears to his eyes. He gave me a tour of the orphanage and showed me what future plans he and his board had for the orphanage.

The Organization for Social Welfare in Soueida, Syria was founded in 1949 under the name of Beit al-Yateem, Soueida, by the late Aref Nakadi. In 1971 the name was changed to Organization for Social Welfare in Soueida. The responsibilities and activities of this organization include the following:

- Shelter, education and medical services for 400 orphans from first grade until university level.
- Education and clothing provisions for an additional 200 nonresident orphans, also until university level.
- Shelter and care for the elderly.
- Shelter and care for the blind.
- Shelter for children whose families do not have the means to support them.
- A special school for children



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Letters to DOCOC

Dear Sabar,

Thank you so very much for offering to take the toothbrushes to the Druze Orphanage. I was at a loss at how I was going to get all of them to Lebanon.

Please distribute them as you see fit to both orphanages (Lebanon and Syria). You know better than me where they are needed most. I am also enclosing a check for \$50 as well. Please use the money to pay for any overweight fees that you might incur due to the toothbrushes. If there are no overweight fees, please forward the money to the orphanages (half to Beit al-Yateem in Lebanon and half for the Syrian orphanage).

Thank you so much again for all the work you do for this great cause! I hope you have a great trip to Lebanon.

Best wishes,

Amer & Rana Abouhamze
Gainesville, FL

Note: DOCOC thanks Dr. Amer and Rana Abouhamze for sending 300 tooth brushes. They were delivered to both orphanages by Dr. Muakasa.

Dear Aunt Afifi,

It was good to speak with you today. Thank you for all you do.

I have enclosed my check in memory of my mother Wadad Jamell for \$1300.00. \$500 is for the Druze Orphanage in Abey, \$500 for the aged and \$300 for Swaida Orphanage.

I have also enclosed her biography and picture.

God's blessings upon you.
Jeanette Jamell Thrower
Arvada, CO

Dear Afifi,

Thanks for all that you do on behalf of the children. The enclosed check is for Syria.

Bobby Jaber,
Long Beach, CA

Dear Friends,

Kindly accept my personal contributions for the memory of Najla Showker, mother of "Lucky" Roosevelt.

Sincerely,
Mary Rose Akar
Washington, DC

Dear Dr. Muakasa,

The first time I ever visited Beit al-Yateem was with my late grandfather, Halim Boudiab. He taught us the importance of supporting our community. Children immediately recognized his kind nature and flocked to him instantly when we arrived for our tour of the orphanage.

Please list this donation "In Memory of Halim K. Boudiab." Thank you for your efforts and for providing a means for us in the States to support our fellow Druze.

Sincerely,
Linda Boudiab
Irvine, CA

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of my sisters and brother, I would like to make a contribution to the Druze Orphanage in the amount of \$100 in memory of our beloved Mother, Mrs. Rose Hassen.

Today would have been our Mothers' 94th birthday as she passed away in Mexico, Missouri on January 16, 2009 at the age of 92.

Enclosed is a picture of our Mother and brief biography. Your consideration in placing this obituary in your next issue of DOCOC Newsletter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Fred Hassen
Houston, TX

DOCOC is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law in the United States.

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Epistle 57 - Hamzi Ibn Ali

**"I enjoin you to safeguard
your fellow men.
In safe-guarding them your
faith reaches perfection"**

Continued on Page 3

Through Your Love

Only through your love, can both Orphanages (in Abey & Soueida) provide loving care, wholesome meals, clothing and a warm bed and a good education, to those in need.

Only through your love, does the Druze Foundation for Social Welfare provide Scholarships and Grants to enable young adults to attend University.

Only through your love, does the Secondary Schooling for the Orphans provide one-on-one support to help Orphaned students adapt, stay on track, overcome obstacles, and graduate from High School and University.

Only through your love, does the University Student Resident provide housing in Beirut to enable young females who come from distant areas to pursue higher education.

Only through your love, does Ain Wazein Elderly Care Center provide a place where the elderly can be looked after with dignity, in their remaining days.

Only through your love, does sponsoring a child provide basic necessities, safe and secure housing, and education.

Only through your love, you give inner happiness and a smile to hundreds of orphans by remembering them with gifts of pocket money for Eid al-Adha.

Our vision is for all disadvantaged children to have a chance for a decent life, get an education and become independent.

Make your donation today with confidence, knowing it will help create a better life for a child, a young adult and an elderly person. God Bless you and your families.

*Sabar Muakasa, PhD
Editor*

Dear DOCO Donors,

On behalf of the Motherhood Committee in Lebanon – Aley Qaza – and myself, I thank you for your generous donation of \$1,500 (one thousand five hundred dollars) to the Mammography, Ultrasound and Osteoporosis Center in Aley.

This much appreciated donation will help our center to continue rendering services to the people in need in the area of Mount Lebanon.

Wishing your organization continuous success.

Sincerely
Zeina Arslan
President



L to R: Princess Zeina Arslan with Mrs. Rola Muakkassa by the mammography machine.



Mr. Nahid Halabi retired recently after a 27 year career with NASA. Mr. Halabi was born in Lebanon in 1944. His interest in technology and its advancement led him to study and earn a degree in Aeronautics. He was hired by NASA in 1982, and joined a team to work on several projects associated with successful missions such as F-15, F-16, B52, & F-18. He was also part of the space shuttle recovery team, assisting with the astronauts' safe recovery.

He worked on experiments on the structural advancement of the notorious swept wings and assisted in making improvements and modifications to technology, thus contributing to a more efficient progression of quality. Such launching research became valuable in the transition of today's modern forms of communication including cellular and email capacity. In October 1988 He received a Group Achievement award recognizing his group's efforts in breakthrough research on both equipment size capabilities and speed performance.

Mr. Halabi is married to Ester Halabi. They have three children, Salim, Samer and Lila. Today, Mr. Halaby enjoys fishing & traveling with his loved ones.



On January 2, 2011, The twins Alex and Andrew sons of Dr. Akram and Luna Masri celebrated their sixth birthday. Standing behind them is their brother Allen.

DOCOC: Many happy returns.



Lila Ibrahim and Karl Liebat were blessed with the birth of twin daughters: Zoey Naila and Annabel Nicole, born on April 16, 2010.

Congratulations to the proud parents.

First Emigrant Druze Congress – Lebanon

July 19-22, 2010



Left to right: Ali Al-Oud, Dr. Rima Muakkassa, Samer Abou-Mjahed, Dr. Sahar Muakasa, Omar Hatoum, Sheikh Camile Sarieedine and Basbir Abi-Akar.

The first Emigration Congress of the Druze was convened by the Emigration Affairs Committee of the Druze Religious Council, (Al Majliss Al Mathhabi) under the patronage of His Excellency President of the Republic of Lebanon, General Michel Sleiman. It was attended by over 800 Druze delegates from 37 countries.

The opening reception at the BIEL – Beirut, was attended by H.E. Walid Bek Jumblatt and H.E. Prince Talal Arslan.

Four distinguished Druze personalities were honored at the dinner:

- Mrs. Yvonne Abdel Baki, President of the Parliament of the Andes countries and First female Ambassador of Ecuador the United States to America.
- Ms. Rahgida Dergham, renowned journalist and Director of al-Hayat Newspaper Bureau at the United Nations Headquarters.
- Mr. Asaad Zebian, Veteran Emigration Author in Brazil.
- Mr. Mounir Mazkour, member of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Argentine.

The Congress sessions were spread over two days, at al- Mir Amin Palace in Beiteddine, Lebanon. Speeches were given by the heads of the delegations.

Sheikh Camille Sarieedine outlined the demographic, economic and national status of the Druze in Lebanon, pointing out the strengths, the challenges and the work precepts, followed by Dr. Sahar Muakasa, CEO of DOCO, who spoke on “Vision of New Dynamic Horizon for the Druze”(see page 7 for complete version). Sheikh Marwan Khaireddine, President of Bank al-Mawarid, spoke on the state of the Lebanese economy as

well the Druze financial establishments and the necessity to orient the Druze capital in productive industries and small businesses. Dr. Saad Andary, Second vice Governor of the Lebanese Central Bank, discussed the necessity of developing leadership qualities and encouraging the establishment of investment projects with credit facilities.

This was followed by discussions of the activities of the religious Council. The Director General of the council, Mr. Mazen Fayad, spoke about projects and objectives of the Council; Mr. Esmat Saab, spoke on the Council financial planning; Chief Brigadier Issam Abou Zaki spoke on socio-economic situation in the neglected Druze regions; The Religious Endowment Committee (Awkaf) report was presented by Sheikh Sami Abdel Khalek and the Druze personal status (ahwal al-Shakhsiyah) was presented by Dr. Sajih Al-Awar and Judge Shiekh Fouad El-Baeini.

The last session, featured discussions of religious topics moderated by Mr. Camille Sarieedine. Lecturers were Dr. Sami Makarem, Dr. Farouk Hamze, Shiekh Sami Abilmona, and Dr. Abbas Abou Saleh.

His Eminence Sheikh Al Akl, Naim Hassan, President of the Religious Council presided over the closing session which was held at the Druze Community Center (Dar Al Tayfeh) in Beirut. The recommendations of the congress were:

- To emphasize the unity of the Druze emigrants;
- To establish the Religious Orientation and Research Body;
- To establish an office for the follow up of personal status under the supervision of the council, to assist the emigrant community members to register their mar-

riage contracts, whether religious or civil, as well as to register their children;

- To establish a socioeconomic dynamic liaison group between Lebanon and the emigrants;
- To create an investment real estate establishment, in order to assist in the preservation of the land and prevent its exploitation.
- To establish a support mechanism for the Druze charitable organizations in Lebanon supporting the most needed areas;
- To launch educational cultural exchange programs between Lebanese residents and the emigrant community.
- To establish a pilot business development and information exchange center.

The general emigration Congress will be held every two years by convocation of the Emigration Affairs Committee.

The Emigration Affairs Committee is headed by Sheikh Camile Aref Sarieedine, Mr. Samer Sami Abou-Mjahed, is Secretary and its members are Mr. Ali Anwar al-Oud, Mr. Omar Fares Hatoum, and Mr. Bashir Youssef Abi-Akar.

CONGRATULATIONS



Rana N. Masri, daughter of Nabil and Iman Masri, graduated from California State University Channel Islands in December 2010 with a Bachelors of Science in Business.

A Visit to Syria

Continued on Page 1

who cannot hear or speak, staffed by experts in the field.

- A school for mentally challenged children.
- A center for monitoring youngsters who have emotional problems because their families are unable to care for them or provide needed support.

The organization continues to grow. It is dependent on private donations for support. It is considered one of the largest charitable organizations in Soueida, Syria. It also has a reputation of helping all those in need such as distributing financial aid and clothing to deserving families in the community.

While there, I presented \$1,000.00 from DOCO donors and gave the organization 100 toothbrushes I carried with me from the US. They were donated by *Dr. Amer* and *Rana Aboubamze* from Gainesville, Florida.

Another worthy non-profit organization that I visited in Soueida is: Lamsat Hanan (Touch of Sympathy) headed by Ms. Maha Janbay. Members include: Hana al-Maghoushi, Raja Azzam, Samira Saraya and Nuhad Badr. This organization cares and supports women with breast cancer.

I also met with H. E. Sheikh al-Akl Hinnawi, one of the three members of Mashayekh al-Akl in Syria. I was accompanied by Dr. Talal Al-Attrache, at whose residence I was a guest.



Board of Trustees

Left to right: Nasser Naim, Toufic Ghanem, Amin Beaini, Ihsan Jarboub (chairman), Dr. Sahar Muakasa, Jamal Abou Jabla, Jamal Hmaidan, and Masbari Salha

My Father and the Majliss in Qurraya

By Kathy Jaber Stephenson

It is difficult to write about one's father in a glowing manner. The writer does not want to appear overly promoting a loved one in a bragging manner. I



L to R: H. E. Sheikh al-Akl Hinnawi, Dr. Talal Al-Attrache and Dr. Sahar Muakasa

have this problem, but at the same time, I would like to pay homage to my father because of his love for the Druze, and I hope you, as the reader, will look upon his character through his actions and not because of anything I have written in this story.

In her email to me Sahar wrote, "I told H.E. Sheikh al-Akl about your father and how he built the Majliss in Qurraya. He said he knew about it. He facilitated our visit to the Majliss, where I took several photos".

During the early 1950s, I clearly remember my father mentioning he was providing funds to build a majliss in Qurraya, Jabal al-Druze, Syria. He sent letters back and forth to Sultan Pasha al-Atrash, who oversaw the construction of the building along with other brethren in the little town. During different intervals my father would send funds for the building.

My father, Jeber Shokair (Joe Jaber) was born in Qurraya during the latter part of the 19th Century. He came to America, as far as we know, around 1914. My brother Bobby and I were born in this country. But as for our Bayeh, there were no birth certificates announcing the exact dates of the births of Druze babies, so we never really knew how old he was. But what we do know is that, as many other immigrants during those days, he never forgot his people in his motherland.

I never had the opportunity to see the Majliss my father helped to build. There are no words adequate enough to thank my dear friend Sahar Muakasa for sending the photos you will see that follow. I will always treasure this wonderful lady and her great gift to me and my brother: these photos - that rekindled memories of our beloved father, the best human being I have ever known.

Along with me, my father never saw the majliss after it was completed and dedicated, during May of 1955. He passed away that same year - on September 18. May God rest his precious soul.



A drawing of a beloved father, Jeber Shokair hanging inside the Majliss

The Arabic Translation at the bottom of the picture:

"Your goodbye made us realize our farewell would be very long and our separations very bitter. You fulfilled your role in life as a supporter and your picture (image or drawing) kept reminding us of you. You spent your life in its entirety, and our perfection came from accepting you as our teacher as we march in life."

Jeber Shokair - 1880-1955

Dedication by Ghassan Abu-Tarabeh, Majliss of the Qurraya



Interior View of the Majliss in Qurraya, Jabal al-Druze, Syria



Inside the Majliss. Women sit behind the green curtains while listening to prayers recited by the mashayekh.

Sponsor a Child

Without the human community one single human being cannot survive (The Dalai Lama)

By Lina Shebayeb

Children are the innocent victims of wars, political unrest, and a stagnant economy, in any country. That is the case in Lebanon. The gap between rich and poor is getting wider. The rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer and children are suffering.

The Rotary club of Aley, Lebanon, launched a program in 2006 called "Sponsor a Child". Hundreds of Children have benefited from this program and continue to do so. DOCO has added this charitable endeavor to its many other charities and helped us reach out to the American Druze community. Many of you have responded to our call and have reached out to help. We thank you with all our heart.

In the past we had asked our sponsors to choose a child they would like to help, from our "Sponsor a Child" list and asked for a monthly commitment.

Due to the overwhelming demand from poor families and the limited number of sponsors, we decided to change this program. We are not asking for a monthly commitment but any amount no matter how small. The money will then be distributed equally among a group of 100 needy children. Cash, food, house gifts and toys will be donated to children twice a year during a daylong carnival where children and their families are offered a free lunch and a day filled with fun, music and games. For as little as \$50 you or someone you know can put a smile on a needy child's face or perhaps even change his life. Please send your tax deductible donation to:

DOCO – Sponsor a Child
P.O. Box 1433, New York, NY 10018



Ms. Lina Shebayeb (R) with a sponsored child and his mother



Aley Rotary President Walid Al Mohtar distributing checks to sponsor children and their mothers



July 2011 Sponsor a Child Event at the Club of Aley, Lebanon

A Loving Letter of Thanks from University Student Residence

Because you care about us and follow our news, we would like to thank you by telling you of our accomplishments during 2011. In mid September, we will begin accepting our



Annual picnic of USR students

female college students. This year as in previous years, the number of students is 75 attending several colleges with different majors, mainly in sciences, math and information.

Many of our students excel in their studies because we are able to provide them with a relaxed and secure study environment, albeit with strict disciplinary rules.

Seven students graduated this year from the colleges of nursing, math, business, information and law. We also gave scholarships to six deserving students based on their good academic standing and economic situations.

As in every past year, we went on a recreational and educational trip. This year our destination was to north Lebanon, where we visited Basbous museum in Rashana and Palm Islands in Tripoli. We invited the participating students to lunch at al-Khawaja Mill over Rasheen Bridge.

Our annual breakfast was held at the Palace Restaurant in Aley. 280 ladies from our local and emigrant friends attended this event.

Finally, we are continuing on the road to achieve our goal, where no female student is denied a good education because of lack of housing. However, to reach our goal, we need your faith in us and your active support.

We wish to thank DOCO donors for \$1,000.00 received from Dr. Sahar Muakasa while she was Lebanon.

Congratulations to Linda!

Linda Farid Muakkassa graduated with honors from Saint Hilary School in Akron, Ohio on June 6, 2011. Linda is the daughter of Dr. Farid and Dr. Rima Muakkassa.

She will attend Walsh Jesuit High School, placing in the prestigious Campion Society Honors Program. Congratulations and best wishes for a bright future.



Vision of New Dynamic Horizon for the Druze

By Dr. Sahar Muakasa

Religion, simply stated, reflects human beings' relation to that which they regard as holy, sacred, spiritual, or divine. Humans may relate to one God, several Gods or other Holy Spirits. Worship is probably the most basic element of religion, but moral conduct, strong faith and participation in religious institutions are generally also constituent elements of the religious life, as practiced by believers and worshipers, all over the world, and as commanded by religious sages, scriptures and social as well as cultural values.

In order to comprehend a particular religious system, its founders, reformers, and other religious personages, one must take into account, among other things: history language, culture, social and geographical theaters of other religions, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Greek religion, Islam, Judaism, Mystery religion, Shinto, Sikhism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism etc.

A United Nations review of world population including a 1998 Revision (New York: United Nations, 1999), covering the period from 1950 and projecting to 2050, estimates that Christians, Followers of Jesus Christ, affiliated with various churches will number 1,907,363,000, (divided among the six standardized ecclesiastical mega blocs). Buddhists will number 6 billion, of which 56% practicing Mahayana, 38% practicing Theravada (Hinayana), 6% practicing Tantrayana (Lamaism). Hindus will number about 1.7 billion divided: 70% Vaishnavites, 25% Shaivites, 2% neo-Hindus and reform Hindus. Muslims will number about 1.3 billion, divided into Sunnis 83%, Shi'ites 16% and 1% other schools. Furthermore as of 2005, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica, the list of organized religions also includes, 7 million practicing Baha'ism, 6.3 million practicing Confucianism, 4.2 million practicing Jainism and 4 million practicing Shintoism. The place of the Druze, with similar numbers, in the world body of information is hard to find, thus depriving the Druze community of benefits the United Nations had accorded to members of the religions which have suffered religious persecution.

That ancient religious traditions may have been preserved in different regions, although fragmented and adapted to new conditions, is, of course, possible. Indeed, seemingly trustworthy discoveries have been made that substantiate this view. One must, however, be extremely circumspect in projecting hypotheses applying to the entire linguistic groups that have codified religion. Genetic-historical considerations are of great

importance when dealing with those areas of the language family, where a cultural connection has subsisted long and late.

Whenever life was at stake or under threat by a natural phenomenon or human created circumstances, and for the preservation of self, humans have managed to find some phenomenon and turn it into an 'object' of worship, most essential for their existence. Thus was created the concept of God. In the beginning tribes had their gods, when several tribes formed a village; they had a god for the village. Thereafter kings had Gods to whom they offered sacrifices, in the hopes of achieving their desired objectives. As society developed, the concept of One God also developed, but soon God was given different names and images depending on cultures and languages, leading to 'Idol' worship in one form or another. Thus an image of God gained ground in almost all the prevalent religions except the Druze religion. Hindus worship the images of Gods and goddesses, Christians worship the Cross, Muslims keep the image of the "Holy Kaaba" stone when they kneel and perform prayers etc.

Normally the worshipper associates the idea of infinity, omnipotence, omniscience, purity, perfection, freedom, holiness, truth and omnipresence with the God he chooses to worship, simply because he cannot hold a conception of the Absolute in initial stages. The difference is not in the kind of worship but in the strength and level of worship.

The Human species is said to be a ternary entity consisting of three components, namely: mind, body and soul. The presence of magnetism in human beings is indicated by the mind and its spiritual tendencies, which differs in intensity and effect depending on the delicacy and purity of the inner self. Ancient sages, in different parts of the world including India, Tibet and the Middle East, supported this statement through their studies of philosophy. Since time immemorial, sages have been working hard for the sake of purification and enlightenment of mind and soul through various processes, including meditation. Some actually acquire miraculous powers of healing by merely offering a touch or blessing. This supremacy is achieved by them through constant spiritual practices and attempts at the purification of mind, through high thinking and truthful living, which infuses every cell of their body with delicate but mega magnetic powers. According to ancient Indian philosophy, this magnetism then works upon the sick whereby a mere touch or a spoken

word, the sick person is healed. Ancient philosophy has various examples of such healings, where a pinch of Vibhuti (Ash) from the hands of these superior souls created miracles. The 'magnetized' Vibhuti (Ash) works on the ailing body and decreases its suffering. These sages are said to be the stock house of high-power human magnets that attract the sufferers.

Conflict is inherent in nature. It is also a part of human nature. In the embodiment of the desires and efforts to perceive God, conflict, in the approach and processes, is also natural. The resolution of these conflicts, perhaps, reflects and defines the establishment of the Druze faith, where the answer is found in the ultimate timeless al-Akl (the all inclusive being). Spiritual practices and attempts at the purification of mind, through high thinking and truthful living, can lead human beings to a state where every cell of their body is infused with dedicated powers to achieve their spiritual aim supported and actualized by charity.

The Druze Faith's message was meant for the entire humanity. However, historical, social and political constraints undermined the spread of this message. Theo-political powers considered it a challenge and a threat they could not face, and practiced persecution of people of Druze Faith. A good number of the persecuted faithful migrated towards the east of the Arabian Peninsula (towards India via Afghanistan or took the sea route) where other persecuted religions settled in areas like Sindh and Punjab (generally known as Hind) where they could practice their faith either openly or under 'Ta'ia'. In the Arabian Peninsula the Druze faith acquired its present form of practice for survival.

In tentative support of my hypothesis, I can state that the secret language in the manuscript (Druze epistles in the Hikme Book) "letters from India" collected by our late leader, Kamal Jumblat belongs to the tribe of 'JATS'. In their social system and pyramid of power, they change their secret language every hundred or two hundred years even to this day.

This is a small part of my 20 years of research in Druze History. Today, freedom of worship has become almost universal, backed by the United Nations and facilitated by modern means of transport and communications. Thus it is the time to start a concerted effort to research and codify Druze history. We must enhance our resources and undertake systematic and well coordinated research projects. This of course has to be undertaken by qualified Druze scholars through expanding the geographical area and time span of their research as far back as 1500 BC.

Copyright by Dr. Sahar Muakasa

Computer Lab Update

Over the past decade, Lila Ibrahim established and maintained three computer labs at the orphanage in Lebanon, where her father was raised.

To date, after raising roughly \$75,000, the orphanage has about 85 computers. "I really wanted to say thank you to my dad for the opportunities I had," says Lila. She didn't realize what she'd get out of the deal: a tremendous bond with the students at the Druze Orphanage and a crash course in introducing technology for education in a country with an emerging economy.

Of course her father is proud. "As you can see, it's for a good reason," Shawki Ibrahim, a retired electrical engineer in West Lafayette, Indiana says: "Lila's commitment and that of my other children, and all of us, actually, is for a continuing type of assistance on our part to education in the orphanage."

Principal Hayat Nakadi, said that the computers have made a big difference for the orphanage's roughly 500 students. "The students are much more active and motivated in the classroom and they are much more curious to know what is beyond their classroom. Some students even told their teachers that the computer brought them closer to each other, as they can now share their stories and their common interests." Lila went back again to the Orphanage in 2010 (funded largely by herself and her husband) to upgrade her original work of 85 computers. Her parents, brother, sister and husband all joined her on that trip.

On behalf of DOCO and its donors, we wish to express our sincere thanks to Lila, for all that she has done for the orphans.

Congratulations

Nora Wael Muakkassa graduated from New York University School of Medicine in May, 2011 and is currently completing her internship year in internal medicine at Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She will begin her residency in ophthalmology at Tufts University in Boston next summer.

Continuing the traditions started by her late grandfather Dr. Fuad Muakkassa, Nora donated \$720 from her 1st salary earmarked to Dr. Muakkassa Clinic at Beit al-Yateem.



Left to right standing: Omar, Dr. Nora, Dr. Rima, Dr. Wael, Dr. Kamel, Rola, Rima and Dr. Sabar Muakkassa. Sitting left to right: Linda and Naji Muakkassa and Sarah Hamadeh.

Secondary Schooling for Orphans (SSO) Ten years of Achievements

SSO has given the orphans hope and a chance to fulfill their dreams and to attain higher levels of education. SSO supports orphaned students who have finished 9th grade and are eager to continue their schooling in the hope of realizing a better future. This charitable program, initiated in 2000, has made great strides towards accomplishing its goals.



Mrs. Rola Muakkassa (R) presenting a check totaling \$2,730 to Mrs. Amal Shantouf (L), president of SSO.

Some very impressive statistics:

- 42 SSO sponsored students have graduated with Baccalaureate II.
- 10 SSO sponsored students have completed 4 years of college and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Arts and/or Sciences.
- This academic year (2010-2011), 40 Students were registered in several high schools. They received full academic scholarships.
- 11 Students were registered in various Colleges and their expenses paid for the first year. Subsequent years may also be supported by SSO as needed.
- 3 other scholarships were granted to students who qualified under other Charitable Causes.
- All Sponsored students are monitored to make sure they are doing well academically, socially and psychologically.
- SSO also provides for transportation, books, uniforms, and pocket money.

Living expenses, tutoring and medical services are provided as needed.

- A luncheon is held at the end of each academic year to honor the graduates and to welcome the new scholarship recipients.

2010-2011 activities include:

- Lunch to all the children at the Druze orphanage in commemoration of Child's Day.
- Lunch for the residents of the Handicap foundation in Abey.
- Lunches to the Ain-wa-Zein Elderly Center residents on the occasion of Mother's day.
- An annual fundraising brunch is held at the end of each calendar year.

Even though SSO holds an annual fundraising brunch, they are nevertheless in great need of support from generous donors like you.

SSO extends its heartfelt thanks to DOCO supporters and all the schools in Lebanon that support SSO students.

Donations Received in Memoriam 2009 and 2010

Donor Name	In Memory of	Amount
Dr. Tarek Khaled Abd al-Samad & his wife Natalie Fawzi al-Rayes and son Julian	Mrs. Hind Attallah Halime	1,000
Najjar, Said & Randa	Badeha khaddage	500
Masri, Karim & Ibtisam	Makram Masri	500
Mire, Fouzie & Nancy	Najla Sanjad Mire Aboulhosn	500
Noueihed, Ghada	Riyad Noueihed	270
Mire, Fouzie Aboulhosn	Najla Sangid Mire Aboulhosn	250
Masri, Afifi	Aniseh & Wadiah Assaf	200
Kassem, Omar R.	Najla Sangid Mire Aboulhosn	200
Assaf, Munah & Diana	Saleem Assaf	200
Elassal, Riad & Jamilie	Adele Mikesell Alasal & Ricky Kahlel Alasal	100
Masri, Afifi	Aniseh assaf	100
Deme, Elae	Dr. Lane Ameen	100
Assaf, Monah	Jamilee Richani	100
Richani, Ratha & Leila	Najla Sangid Mire Aboulhosn	100
Assaf, Anis & Suad	Noha Hamzi	100
Ismael, Nadia	Noha Hamzi	100
Assaf, Monah	Raji Sami Darir	100
Najjar, Mark A.	Rose Hassen	100
Hassen, Fred	Rose Hassen	100
Assaf, Nabil & Jumana	Salma Hamzeh	100
Israwi, Hassib & Nouhad	Samia Majeed Israwi	100
Wahby, Salah & Najah	Seikh Abu Riyad Said Abdallah Wahby	100
Assaf, Mounah & Diana	Sheikh Atef Hatoum	100
Wahby, Salah & Najah	Sheikha Moneera Wahby	100
Assaf, Mounah & Diana	Wahib Alghawi	100
Joseph, E. M.	Hassen & Semeia Joseph	50

سعادة العطاء

إذا اردت ان تتمتع بالسعادة فما عليك الا العطاء.

العطاء متعدد الأنواع، وبإمكان كل مخلوق المساهمة به على طريقته وحسب استطاعته، ولا تهم الكمية مهما قلت، فالقليل خير من الحرمان. والعطاء انواع: المادي والمعنوي. العطاء المادي ضروري جدا لتأمين معيشة الانسان واحتياجاته، انما بإمكان من انعم الله عليه ان يساهم ولو بقليل منه في مساعدة محتاج أو مُعدم أو يتيم ومسرُد، أو على ان يعمل على جمع المال لهذه الغاية بطرق عدة كما يفعل بعض السيدات حيث يدعون الصديقات لارتشاق فنجان من القهوة أو الشاي شهرياً ثم يقدمن حصيلة اجتماعهم الخيري للأعمال الخيرية وما أكثرها. أما العطاء المعنوي لا يقل عن المادي نفعاً، بل فوائده اعم ويشمل كل شخص. فهناك الطبيب الذي يكرس يوماً من كل اسبوع مجاناً للمرضى الفقراء أو يقوم بتفقد جمعية خيرية أو مأوى للعجزة أو بيت اليتيم ويقدم خدماته بشكل مستمر وكلما دعت الحاجة لوجوده فيها. ومزارعون كثير يقدمون من محاصيل مزارعهم من الفاكهة الموسمية والخضراوات المتنوعة، كما يقوم بعض التجار في تقديم المواد الغذائية من حبوب مختلفة والطحين والسكر واللحوم المتنوعة، كما الخباز يقدم بعضهم الخبز بكميات وافرة والمعجنات والحلويات وكلها تساهم في تخفيف العبء عن المؤسسات الخيرية والميتمات بنوع خاص.

اما بعض الصناعيون فيقدمون من انتاج مصانعهم اشياء عدة، ولن ننسى بعض اصحاب الصالونات الحلاقة يقومون بزيارة الميتم ومنهم بيت اليتيم الدرزي في عيبه ويقومون بقص شعر طلابه من البنين والبنات كما دعت الضرورة لذلك. ثم هناك عدد من المطاعم الشعبية التي تساهم باستضافة بعض الايتام مجاناً ويقدمون لكل منهم هدية. كما أن هناك عدد لا بأس به من السيدات الذين يتبرعون في تقديم خدماتهم للمؤسسات الخيرية من خياطة الالبسة والاشغال اليدوية المتنوعة وبعض الكُتاب الذين يقدمون لمكتبات تلك الجمعيات الكتب الثقافية، وهناك العدد الوفير من محبي العطاء من العائلات الكريمة يدعون من حين الى اخر عدد من ابناء الميتم الى موائد سخية في بيوتهم أو المطاعم، أو الى منزله جميل أو لحضور حفلات ترفيهية ثقافية، كما انهم يدعون الصغار منهم ليشاركو احد اطفالهم بعيد ميلاده ويقدمون لهم الحلوى والهدايا. والمعلم الذي يساهم باعطاء الدروس الاضافية لمن يحتاجها من الطلاب أو يتبرع بمشروع محو الأمية في المناطق النائية. حقاً إن كل كائن على وجه هذه الارض باستطاعته العطاء أكثر مما عطى والكريم يكرمه الله تعالى ويزيده من نعمه وبركاته. فلا عذراً لأحد ان يقول "بما عرفت السعادة في حياتي" فأنت مخطئ، فالسعادة بمتناول كل انسان اذا عرفت مفتاحها الحقيقي الأ فهو العطاء ثم العطاء، لان في العطاء السعادة جعلكم الله من السعداء في الدنيا والأخرة.

الجددة الفخورة المحبة

عفيفه عساف المصري

"The coin which you drop into the withered hand stretching toward you is the only golden chain that binds your rich heart to the loving heart of God."

-Gibran Khalil Gibran

You Can HELP: Give Now!

DOCO is dedicated to support the various non-profit organizations that provide programs and services to the Druze Community

Please join us as we extend a helping hand to those in need.

- You can make a difference in the lives and futures of children
- Help the elderly spend the remainder of their lives in dignity,
- Encourage and educate women on health and family issues,
- Support university students,
- Help orphans to pursue higher education
- Support the institutions that take in and care for hundreds of orphans and needy children.

Obituaries

Fayez Youssef Al-Masri 1915 - 2011

Fayez Youssef al-Masri was born on February 15, 1915, in the town of al-Mreijat, Beqaa. He attended the National College in Aley graduating with honors. On July 28, 1938, he married Afifi Abdel-Rahman Assaf. Together, they worked as administrators and teachers in al-Mreijat school. They later joined the Druze Waqf schools established, during the French Mandate, by the late Aref Bek al-Nakadi in Druze villages which lacked public schools. Together with his wife, Faez started several schools connected to the Dawoudiah College in Abey. They established schools in Qubaia, Sawfar and Baaklene. In 1941, they moved along with the administration of the Orphanage (Beit al-Yateem) to Karakol al-Druze in Beirut, where larger quarters were being built to accommodate the growing number of orphans.

In the fifties, the orphanage was moved back to Abey. Faez continued to work there as financial administrator.

In 1956, he immigrated to Liberia, Africa to work in commerce. He imported fabrics from Japan and Europe for retail and wholesale. He remained in this business for 18 years.

In 1974, he retired to California to be close to his sons. He was very active with the local Druze community and continued



to assist his wife in raising funds for the orphanage. He was also among the founders of Druze Orphans and Charitable Organization (DOCO).

Funeral services were held in California on 30 July 2011.

A Prayer (Salat Al Ghaib) service was held on Sunday August 7, 2011 at the Masri Family's Khalieh, in his home town of al-Mreijat.

He is survived by his wife Afifi Assaf Masri, his sons Sami, Nabil and Akram and their families. May he rest in peace.

Donations in his memory for Beit al-Yateem totaled \$10,525.00:

Afifi Masri	500	Suad Anis Assaf	100
Sami & leila Masri	500	Nadia Assaf Ismail	100
Nabil & Iman Masri	500	Badih & Samia Wahbe	100
Akram & luna Masri	500	Shakeeb & Linda Hamden	100
Karim & Ibtisam Masri	500	Bassam Ayyas	100
Abboud & Amal Assaf	500	Hayat Noueihed & family	100
Dr. & Mrs. Salah Al-Andary	500	Marwan Masri	100
Dr. & Mrs. Kamel Muakasa	500	Dr. & Mrs. George Kafrouni	100
Dr. & Mrs. Farid Muakasa	500	Monira Yakzan	100
Dr. & Mrs. Wael Musakas	500	Kathy Stephenson	100
In Orphanage Box	530	Fawzi & Samira Makarem	100
Zouheir & Daad Masri	300	Anis & Nadia Aboulhosn	100
Nabil & Juman Assaf	300	Mounah Assaf	100
Hassan & Jumana Ayass	300	Dr. & Mrs. Adel Mayyasi	100
Nada Rayes	300	Mrs. Fayda Mourawed	100
Salim & Barbara Israwi	200	Mr. Saade Noueihed	100
Jihad & Dunia Wehbe	200	Sahar , Samar & Majd Muakasa	100
Nabil and Nahia Aboulhosn	200	Nabila Assaf Jahchan	50
Dr. & Mrs. Fred Milkie	200	Mona Souki	50
Samar Masri Phillips	200	Hoda Hamoud	50
Mona Masri	200	Nabil & Elham Aboulhosn	50
Lena Masri LaVine	200	Behjat and Raghida Jurdi	50
Samir & Nhya Aboulhosn	200	Amin Ballout	25
Jamal Zouheir Masri	100	Adnan & Dunia Zeineddin	20
Jamal Assaf	100		

Florence Najjar 1914 - 2010

By Norman & Cheryl Najjar

Florence Najjar, 96 of Fenton, Michigan, passed away Monday, October 25, 2010. Born on October 24, 1914 in Carbondale, Pennsylvania, she had been a resident of Phoenix, AZ for the past five years, coming from Michigan. She was the second oldest of five siblings born to Joseph and Rose Sefa. In 1937 she married James Najjar in Connecticut. She loved taking care of her family and home, and for many years she also worked in the family grocery business. She always remembered special times for her nieces and nephews and their children, and was an inspiration to our family. She had the ability to make everyone feel special.

She leaves behind two children, Raymond of Santa Rosa, California and Norman (Cheryl) of Phoenix, Arizona, and a sister Sonia Taylor of Fenton, Michigan, three grandchildren, Jennifer Najjar of Saginaw, Michigan, Brooke (Brian) Swails of Phoenix, Arizona and Ryan (Julie) Iffland of Boise, Idaho, and many nieces and nephews. Mom was well loved by her family and friends.

Florence was preceded in death by her husband, James, two Sisters, Helen Dow and Rose Sefa, and two brothers, Fred and Sam Sefa. Donations in her memory totaled \$120.00 to Beit al-Yateem:

Richards, Bell	40.00
Safa, Riad	30.00
Farah, Rushed	25.00
Alkateeb N.	25.00

Raymond Hamady 1945 - 2010

Raymond Mouneer Hamady of Flint Michigan passed away on September 2010, at the age of 65. He was the son of Frank and Thelma Hamady. He is survived by his sister, Madeline Hamady of North Carolina. Raymond is remembered in heart and prayer. Donation of \$100 by Madeline Hamady in his memory was earmarked for Beit al-Yateem.

Wadad Halime Jamell 1914 - 2010



By Jeanette Jamell Thrower

Wadad Halime was born in Aley, Lebanon on June 20, 1914 to Brahim and Rahimi Schmite. She married Hatem Jamell on Oct. 23, 1932 when he had returned to Lebanon on a visit from the United States. Not having enough money for both of them to travel together, Hatem returned to Ft. Smith, Arkansas and worked until he had enough to send for Wadad. She boarded a ship in Beirut, Lebanon armed with no more than faith in her future and her pet bird in a cage as her sole companion. She spoke no English but managed to communicate via signs and her joy of life and even managed to find and reclaim her bird which had mysteriously gone missing from her room, by walking up and down the halls calling its name until she heard its response from another passenger's room.

Wadad arrived in New York on June 19, 1934 and proceeded by train to Ft. Smith to be reunited with her husband. They worked hard, eventually owning and operating a neighborhood grocery store. Three children were born to them: Gene, Jeanette and Eddie.

Wadad became a proud naturalized American citizen on January 12, 1943 at the age of 28.

In 1946, the family moved to Colorado to improve Hatem and Gene's asthma and eventually settled in Walsenburg, where they owned and ran a family clothing store for over 20 years. Actually, the family joke was you never came home and threw your things down on the couch as Wadad might have sold it when it was admired by a customer visiting the family's living quarters behind the store. On October 19, 1964, Wadad and Hatem bought a home in Arvada, Colorado to be near their grown children after selling their business and retiring. Wadad was not retired for long as she worked in the nursery at Arvada Covenant Church for over 10

years, caring for the babies and young children she loved so much. Many of these children would often come back as they outgrew the nursery to visit and see Wadad. She delighted in the many friendships she formed and loved nothing more than inviting everyone to come to dinner as she was a wonderful cook, feeding them from the bounty of her garden in the summer. No doubt the proliferation of zucchini in Arvada was due to her sharing the Lebanese seeds she insisted they plant. Also, those neighbors (or strangers, it made no difference to her which they were) who had a grape arbor learned to expect visits from her to ask for the grape leaves that she would turn into a delicious stuffed entree. Her gift of hospitality was legendary as was her love of people, music and her faith in God. Her greatest delight was attending the annual American Druze Convention whenever she could and enjoying every minute of the festivities. She was usually the last to bed in the wee hours of the morning as she loved visiting and reconnecting with her friends.

Following her husband's death in 1986, Wadad remained in the family home until she suffered a health setback and went to live with her son, Eddie, his wife, Hiam and their family for 18 months.

In 1997, she moved to Springwood Assisted Living for 2 years, followed by a year at San Marino until she needed full nursing care and arrived home to Aspen Care at Covenant Village where she was lovingly cared for 10 years and 4 months. Wadad died peacefully on October 21, 2010 surrounded by her family, the staff and residents. It was two days before her wedding anniversary-what a gift to be reunited with her husband and loved ones on that special day. Heaven is no doubt enjoying an extra celebration in welcoming Wadad. God indeed was faithful to her as she loved and served Him, with devotion and constant prayers all of her life.

She is survived by her three children: Gene and Adeby Jamell, Jeanette and Larry Thrower and Eddie and Hiam Jamell, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. She will be missed by scores of friends and relatives who will always remember this remarkable woman. Donations in her memory totaled \$1,500.00:

Thrower, Jeanette Jamell (500 Biet al-Yateem, 300 Swaida Orphanage, 500 Eldery Care Center)	1,500
Kassem, Jamel & Family	100
Simpson, Nazeema	100

Fouad Youssef Richani 1918 - 2010



Fouad Youssef Richani passed away on September 16, 2010. He was born on January 15, 1918 in Chouifat, Lebanon, to the late Youssef and Nazira Richani. He received his early education in the local schools. After high school he attended College De La Sagesse and also College Des Arts and Metiers, in Beirut, where he studied Electrical Engineering. He later moved to Venezuela, S.A. where he owned and operated a furniture factory.

In 1959 he moved to Charleston, W.V. where he continued his studies. In 1961 he moved to Bristol, TN where he opened Dino's Restaurant. He was the first to introduce fresh pizza to the Tri-Cities. He was a Charter member of the East Tennessee Studebaker Car Club. He became a Mason in 1964. When he moved to Texas with his family in 1966, he transferred his membership to Midland, TX where he was very active. He was a member of Knoxville Scottish Rite and a Shriner with Suez Temple in San Angelo, TX.

After the memorial service on September 20, 2010, a Mercy dinner was held in his honor at the Center. He was a loving husband and father. He left a wonderful legacy, his family, who will continue to honor his memory. He is survived by his loving wife, three beautiful and loving children, and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two brothers, Jamil of Chouiefat and Adel of Bristol, TN; two sisters: Adele Deen of Panama City, FL and Wadad Naim of Cleveland, OH. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. A donation in his memory of \$1,100 was earmarked for the Druze Orphanage in Lebanon. God bless his soul.

Remebering A Wonderful Friend to DOCO: Najla Showker

We, at DOCO, would like to remember and honor the life of a wonderful woman who passed away in the fall of 2009. Following are excerpts from a eulogy given by her daughter. There are few people in this world who were as special and important to our community as this great lady.



In Memory of My Mother

By Selwa "Lucky" Roosevelt

My mother never met a stranger. And to be her friend, all you had to do was allow yourself to be loved and pampered with Lebanese hospitality. Her generosity of spirit was legendary. Her curiosity about everyone was extraordinary - to the extent that sometimes my late husband and I were tempted to tease her mercilessly. ..

Mother ... had an adorable innocence - a corollary of her inability to think negatively about anyone...

She was a woman who retained certain old-country ways until her death, she was also an incredibly modern woman - her talents nurtured in the American environment in which she found herself after coming to Kingsport, Tennessee, as a 16-year old bride. Imagine what it must have been like for her speaking French, Arabic and English - to meet people in her new home, who, when she said she came from Lebanon, assumed she meant Lebanon, Tennessee.

Mother saw she had her work cut out for her. She became heavily involved in civic affairs. She got into politics. She even formed a local chapter of the League of Women Voters and went on to become the head of the Tennessee League of Women Voters at the age of 36 - all this while raising her two daughters, helping our father in his business and entertaining constantly in the Lebanese tradition of abundant and delicious food - often for 30 or 40 people for Sunday lunch.

She was always drawn to teaching and early on she began giving French lessons to the sons and daughters of the local gentry. With the extra money she earned she saw to it that we had music and dance lessons, art

appreciation courses, elocution lessons, poetry recitation and public speaking lessons. She also surrounded us with books by the great masters as well as Nancy Drew mysteries...

When my father died after a valiant battle with cancer, Mother was left with little money and an insecure future. Undaunted, she decided to go to college and got her BA, graduating second in a class of 750 students, and she did it in two years. ..Then she won a Woodrow Wilson scholarship and came to Georgetown University to get her Master's Degree and earn her credits for her Ph.D. She did not write her dissertation because she really wanted to teach; so, she went back to East Tennessee State College where she became Professor Showker until her retirement.

All that I have described does not come close to the essence of this remarkable woman. She was so loving, so joyous and so full of life. She led us by example with her beautiful manners, her thoughtfulness and her great capacity for human relations. She inspired not only her daughters but also everyone who came in touch with her. And she was incapable of a selfish act...

She was truly lovable and loved by young and old, men and women and people of diverse backgrounds. The letters we have received about her emphasize over and over again her sympathy and her caring heart.

In conclusion, I suppose the ultimate lesson all of us take from Sitt Najla's life is the power and importance of unconditional love. We were the beneficiaries of that love and by her example she demonstrated that the art of giving is, quite simply, the greatest talent of all.

Thank you, dear little Mama, for this gift which has sustained us all our lives and which we will cherish forever.

Selwa "Lucky" Roosevelt, Najla Showker's daughter is the former Chief of Protocol under President Ronald Reagan. She made this presentation on behalf of her sister Khalida, "Kay," as well.

Donations in her memory to Beit al-Yateem totaled \$320.00.

Wilson, Sara Najjar 100, Stephenson, Kathy 100, Cunningham, Carter B. 50, Oakar, Mary Rose 50, Mitchell, Mary A. 20

Rose Hassen 1916 - 2009



Rose Hassen was born in Maassir El-Chouf, Lebanon on November 27, 1916 to Alamedeen & Fakhreh Fayad. On January 12, 1933. She married Hassen H. Hassen (who preceded her in death on April 18, 1982) and together they immi-

grated to the United States in August of 1938 with their daughter Amelia and son, Fred to Mexico, MO where they would join the family Hassen Creamery business and later bring into this world a second daughter, Rosafay and a second son, Sid. Mrs. Rose Hassen was a sweet and caring lady who loved her family and friends. She will be deeply missed by those who knew and loved her.

Survivors include two sons, Fred Hassen & wife, Sue of Houston, TX, Sid Hassen & wife, Madeline of Union, MO and two daughters, Amelia Toney of Fond du Lac, WI and Rosafay Hassen of Mexico, MO; five grandsons and one granddaughter; seven great grandchildren and two great, great grandchildren.

Afif Abisaab 1932 - 2011



Afif Abisaab was born in Aitat, Lebanon. He passed away on April 5, 2011. Funeral services were held on April 10, 2011 and Burial service on April 12 in California. Prayers were said by Sheikh Muada Aridi.

He is survived by his wife Siham Israwi Abisaab, son, Khalid Abisaab & Sandy. Daughters: Jumana & Fadi Nassereddine, Hanaa Abisaab, and by his grandchildren: Jihad, Ramzi Abisaab, Mona, Shadi, Tanya and Maya Nassereddine.

In his eulogy his son Khalid said: " My father was one of those hard working...very compassionate and kind people... he was very proud of his children and grandchildren, and would always make sure that we were taken care of... To his friends, he was a very kind and generous person, always ready to help..

May God bless his soul. Donations in his memory to Beit al-Yateem totaled: \$600 (Mrs. Siham Abisaab \$500, Mrs. Hayat Assaf Noueihed \$100).

Anis Abdel-Rahman Assaf

1914 - 2010



Anis Assaf was born in 1914, in Ain Al-Mraissheh, Beirut, Lebanon. He passed away on January 29, 2010 in La Crescenta, California. After a long career with The telecommunication company "Radio Orient", He retired to the United States, (in 1986) to be close to his son Nabil and his family. He was a devoted family man, generous of soul and spirit, always giving of himself and his time to help anyone in need.

He had a history of helping the Druze orphanage since its inception and throughout his life. He was always cheerful with an endearing, welcoming smile.

He is survived by his wife Suad Hamze, his son Nabil and his wife Jumana, his daughter Nadia and husband Rida Ismail, daughter Nabila and husband Simon Jahshan, Lina and husband Kamal Abdel-Satar, and his 11 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his daughter Aida, who passed away during the Lebanese civil war. He will be greatly missed.

His grand daughters' eulogy was very touching:

"The love we have for you, Jeddo Anis will never fade away. We will think of you throughout each passing day. Every time we walk into your room and see your empty chair. Although we know you are resting, we will feel your presence there.

We will forever remember your pure heart, loving smile, warm voice and eyes so bright. We are grateful for all the joyful years, we spent with you, and we thank you for the love your life brought to each one of us"

Donations in his memory for Beit al-Yateem totaled \$6,100.00:

Faez Masri & Family, Dr. Sami,		Wehbe, Jihad & Dunia	100
Nabil, & Dr. Akram	1,000	Mohtar, Rafic & Samar	100
Assaf, Abboud & Amal	500	Wahbe, Badih & Samia	100
Assaf, Nabil & Jumana	500	Merhi, Salim	100
Ismail Rida and Nadia Assaf	500	Muakkassa, Dr. Sahar,	
Abdel-Satar Kamal & Lina	500	Dr. Samar, & Majd	100
Said, Dr. Hayel & Hiam	300	Assaf, Milhim & Anita	100
Kantar, Bill & Rana	250	Ghanem, Faisal & Mona	75
Jahshan, Simon & Nabila	200	Anonymous	45
Hamze, Leila	200	Jamal, Samir	40
Muakkassa, Dr. Kamel & Rola	200	Souki, Mona	40
Muakkassa, Drs. Farid & Rima	200	Masri, Karim & Ibtisam	40
Muakkassa, Dr. Wael & Rima	200	Al-Tay Donation	40
Ghosn, Rabih & Yasmeen	200	Masri, Zouheir & Daad	30
Saab, Shaheen Helou	200	Ballout, Malek	20
Takid, Raja & Nawal	100	Karameh, Khaled	20
Assaf, Monah & Diana	100		

**We would like to encourage you to make a difference
by making a donation to DOCO
to support the various needs.
It is through your
donation that you show gratitude for
those charities you love.**

Naim Homaidan

1940 - 2011



Naim Homaidan, was born in Ain Anoub, Lebanon in 1940. He passed away on January 23, 2011. He is survived by his wife Rana Homaidan, daughter Nagham Homaidan and brother Bahej Homaidan.

Naim was a well known musician, composer and song writer. He married Rana in 1976 and moved to California to be close to his brothers Atef, Hafez, Malek and Bahej and twin sister Souad. Through the years Rana and Naim became one name, two hearts came together as one. They shared a love story unlike any other, and they devoted their life to one another. Their daughter Nagham was born in 1977 She was their pride and joy.

They traveled to South America and many parts of the world. Naim was well known for composing the hit songs "Ya bu3gal w kafeeye" and "deer al gahwa ya ama". In 1986 Naim moved his family to Dearborn, Michigan where he became the first Lebanese musicians to start the Arab music Era that has become so popular in the last thirty years. Naim & Rana sang at weddings, parties and festivals in all parts of the United States. Naim also was the first to start a music school, where he gave voice lessons and taught musical instruments. He also published "Majalet Nagham" featuring many local and international musicians.

Through his music he expressed his love for life, his family and his fans. He was a generous, selfless, caring, and humble man who never asked for much, a man who gave more than he received and lived his dream and shared his passion with the world.

Naim Homaidan, there are not enough words to describe the wonderful man he was. He will be missed dearly and his smile is one that will be engraved in our hearts forever. May he rest in peace.

A Tradition of Giving

We at DOCO would like to offer a special salute to the following for generously donating to DOCO's various charities. This list acknowledges donations received from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2010. Please excuse us if your name doesn't appear in the list below. Please let us know in order to make necessary correction in the next issue. Please note that donations made in Memory of Faez Masri & Florence Najar (p.10), Wadad Jamell & Fouad Richani (p.11), Najla Showker, Rose Hassen & Afif Saab (p.12), Anis Assaf (p.13), and Hassib Israwi (P.15) appear separately.

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FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

Hassib Israwi



Hassib Israwi passed away on January 6, 2010. He was born and raised in Btater, Lebanon. In the twenties, he immigrated to Venezuela where he worked in commerce and succeeded immensely because of his excellent conduct, honesty and good business sense. He worked tirelessly for almost forty years. When the political and economic conditions deteriorated in Venezuela, he emigrated with his wife Nuhad al-Richani, his son Fadi and his daughter Lamia, to the USA and settled down in Florida. He worked in commerce for twenty more years until his death.

He was a gracious host, extremely helpful, lovable and respected by all who knew him. He was dedicated to do charitable work especially that which benefited the Druze Orphanage in Abey. He was also a devoted husband, a kind and loving father and a dotting grandfather. May he rest in peace. Donations in his memory to Beit al-Yateem totaled \$1,450:

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