



TUCSON MED CLUB



ZUROUNA زورونا

www.tucsonmedclub.org

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Letter from the President

Hassan Hijazi

Dear fellow members and friends of the MED Club:

Greetings and best wishes to all.

The Annual Med Club meeting was held on March 6, 2011. The meeting was productive and fun and it was widely attended by new and old members. The attendees discussed a wide range of issues related to the club, our past and future activities and the election of the new board.

The attendees elected the following members to our 2011- 2012 board: Ousam Abdelatif, Fadi Deep, Reem Hanna, Salim Hariri, Hassan Hijazi (President), Nabeeh Lahood, Maggie Moussa, Sonia Moussa (Treasurer), Kamil Moukabary (VP), and Lydia Sahyouni. I look forward to working with all of you to make the future endeavor for the MED Club to be successful, entertaining and productive one.

The last ten years have been extraordinary for the MED Club, providing our greater community with a rich assortment of events that allow us the opportunity to showcase our remarkable heritage, culture and accomplishments. We look forward to another decade of success and hope that each of you will join us during these celebrations!

I would urge all to help us continue on the path to excellence by making sure the club activities will continue to prosper:

Continue the member recruitment and encourage others to join the club.

Collaborate with other entities in our community and University Departments such as the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and partner with them on joint events to promote awareness of who we are as part of the larger community.

Continue successful club activities, such as: family gatherings, picnics, newsletter, scholarship drives, graduation ceremonies and New Year events.

Encourage all to participate in the cultural, social, lectures and musicals of our greater community. Let our community know that we exist! I will be sharing many of these pertinent social and cultural events with you on a regular basis.

Let's build great memories together. I look forward to seeing all of you at our next event on **April 29, 2011** which is to celebrate the graduation of our MED Club youth. I wish you all good health, happiness and peace.



I am the descendant of a people that builded Damascus, and Byblos, and Tyre and Sidon and Antioch, and now I am here to build with you, and with a will.
Kahlil Gibran





Syrian Americans

Provided by Albert Moussa

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syrian_American

Syrian Americans are residents of the United States of Syrian ancestry or nationality. This group includes Americans of Syrian ancestry, Syrian first generation immigrants, or descendants of Syrians who emigrated to the United States. Syrian Americans may be members of a number of differing ethnicities, including Arabs, Assyrians/Syriacs, Kurds, Armenians and Circassians. It is believed that the first significant wave of Syrian immigrants to arrive in the United States was in 1880. Many of the earliest Syrian Americans settled in New York, Boston, and Detroit. Immigration from Syria to the United States suffered a long hiatus after the United States Congress passed the Immigration Act of 1924, which restricted immigration. More than 40 years later, the Immigration Act of 1965, abolished the quotas and immigration from Syria to the United States saw a surge. An estimated 64,600 Syrians emigrated to the United States between 1961 and 2000.

The overwhelming majority of Syrian immigrants to the US from 1880 to 1960 were Christian; a minority were Jewish, whereas Muslim Syrians arrived in the United States chiefly after 1965. According to the United States 2000 Census, there were 142,897 Americans of Syrian ancestry, about 12% of the Arab population in the United States.

The first Syrian immigrants arrived in the United States from Ottoman Syria. Most of them came from Christian villages around Mount Lebanon, while around 5-10 % were Muslims of different sects. A small number were also Palestinians. According to historian Philip Hitti, approximately 90,000 "Syrians" arrived in the United States between 1899 and 1919. An estimated 1,000 official entries per year came from the governorates of Damascus and Aleppo, which are governorates in modern-day Syria, in the period between 1900 and 1916. Early immigrants settled mainly in Eastern United States, in the cities of New York City, Boston and Detroit and the Paterson, NJ area. In the 1920s, the majority of immigrants from Mount Lebanon began to refer themselves as "Lebanese" instead of "Syrians".



Syrians, like most immigrants to the United States, were motivated to immigrate to the United States to pursue the American Dream of economic success. Many Christian Syrians had immigrated to the United States seeking religious freedom and an escape from Ottoman hegemony. Thousands of immigrants returned to Syria after making money in the United States; these immigrants told tales which inspired further waves of immigrants. Many settlers also sent for their relatives.

According to the United States 2000 Census, there are 142,897 Americans of Syrian ancestry living in the United States. New York City has the biggest concentration of Syrian Americans in the United States. Other urban areas, including Boston, Dearborn, New Orleans, Toledo, Cedar Rapids, and Houston have large Syrian populations. Syrian Americans are also numerous in Southern California (i.e. the Los Angeles and San Diego areas) and Arizona, many are descendants of farm laborers invited with their farm skills to irrigate the deserts in the early 20th century. Many recent Syrian immigrants are medical doctors who studied at Damascus and Aleppo Universities and pursued their residencies and fellowships in the United States; in Tucson MED Club, we have more than 20 medical doctors that are active members.

Continue on Page 3

Continue from Page 2 — Notable Syrian Americans and contributions

Sometimes some confusion occurs between Greater Syria and the modern Syria when determining the place of origin of the earliest Syrian Americans. However, the following list comprises notable Americans who are originally people of modern Syrian heritage.

- **Paula Abdul (born June 19, 1962)**, is a television personality, jewelry designer, multi-platinum Grammy-winning singer, and Emmy Award-winning choreographer. According to Abdul, she has sold over 53 million records to date. Abdul found renewed fame as a judge on the highly rated television series *American Idol*.
- **F. Murray Abraham (born October 24, 1939)**, is an actor who won the Academy Award for Best Actor for his role as Antonio Salieri in the 1984 film *Amadeus*. His career after *Amadeus* inspired the name of the phenomenon dubbed "F. Murray Abraham syndrome", attributed to actors who, after winning an Oscar, have difficulty obtaining comparable success and recognition despite having recognizable talent.
- **Moustapha Akkad (July 1, 1930 – November 11, 2005)**, was a film director and producer originally from Aleppo; Akkad is best known for producing the series of *Halloween* films, and for directing the *Lion of the Desert* and *Mohammad, Messenger of God* films.
- **Tige Andrews (March 19, 1920 - January 27, 2007)**, was an Emmy-nominated character actor who was best known for his role as "Captain Adam Greer" on the television series *The Mod Squad*.
- **Paul Anka (born July 30, 1941)**, is a singer and song writer. Anka rose to fame after many successful 1950s songs, earning him the status of a teen idol. (Some sources, such as *The Canadian Encyclopedia* and *Time* magazine, suggest that Anka is of Syrian descent, while other sources, including Anka's official website, suggest that he is of Lebanese descent.
- **Rosemary Barkett (born 1939)**, was the first woman to serve on the Florida Supreme Court, and the first woman Chief Justice of that court. She currently serves as a federal judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.
- **Mitch Daniels (born April 7, 1949)**, is the current Governor of the U.S. state of Indiana.
- **Robert M. Isaac (born January 27, 1928)**, is the former Republican Mayor of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Elected in 1979, he was the first elected Mayor of the history of Colorado Springs, serving through 1997.
- **Steve Jobs (born February 24, 1955)**, is the co-founder and CEO of Apple, the largest Disney shareholder, and a member of Disney's Board of Directors. Jobs is considered a leading figure in both the computer and entertainment industries.
- **Louay M. Safi (born September 15, 1955)**, is a scholar and Human Rights activist, and a vocal critic of the Far Right. Author of numerous books and articles, Safi is active in the debate on nuclear race, social and political development, and Islam-West issues. He is the chairman of the Syrian American Congress.
- **Jerry Seinfeld (born April 29, 1954)**, is a comedian, actor, and writer, best known for playing a semi-fictional version of himself in the long-running sitcom *Seinfeld*, which he co-created and executive produced.^[46]
- **Yasser Seirawan (born March 24, 1960)**, is a chess grandmaster and 4-time US-champion. Seirawan is the 69th best chess player in the world and the 2nd in the United States.
- **Mona Simpson (born June 14, 1957)**, is a novelist and essayist; Simpson is also a sister of Steve Jobs.
- **Kelly Slater (born February 11, 1972)**, is a successful professional surfer and an 8 time world champion.
- **Vic Tayback (January 6, 1930 – May 25, 1990)**, was an actor who won two Golden Globe Awards for his role in the television series *Alice*.
- **Fawwaz Ulaby**, is the R. Jamieson and Betty Williams Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Michigan, and the former vice president for research.



You know you're an Arab When...

by Lana Hariri

- You reply with a NO when you're asked if you would like more food, and it somehow translates into a YES
- You refer to your dad's friends as Um-mo
- You have an endless supply of pistachios, dates, and pumpkin seeds...
- You hug and kiss relatives you have never seen before in your life.
- After a family meal, the women fight to death over who should wash the dishes while the men sit on their behinds and discuss politics, waiting for their Arabic coffee. ..
- Your parents want you to become a doctor or engineer. ...
- You use your forehead and eyebrow(s) to point something out...
- Your mother yells at the top of her lungs to call you to dinner even if you're in the next room....
- You have at least thirty cousins. ...
- You arrive one or two hours late to a party and think it's normal
- You talk for an hour at the front door when leaving someone's house....which leads to walk to the car and another hour of talk
- You say bye 17 times on the phone. ...
- You make Arabic coffee before leaving home to work, at the office, before lunch, after lunch, when having guests, before the guest leave, after the guests leave and before you go to bed.
- You teach your friends swearwords in Arabic
- You love Um Kalthoom and if you don't, your dad makes you listen to her and tries to translate the words into English so you can appreciate her as much as he does.
- Your mother calls you "Mama" and your father calls you "Baba"
- You've heard Amr Diab's "Habibi ya nour el ein" 764363 times in your life.
- Your mom has a creative nickname for you like "Natoosheh," or "Tuntooneh."
- You use Arabic bread as a utensil in every meal
- You go to Arabic Restaurants, tell the owners your Arab, and think you're going to get free food.

Fast Facts

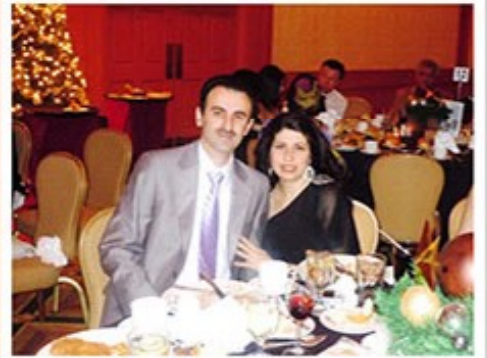
By Lana Hariri

- 55% of people yawn within 5 minutes of seeing someone else yawn.
- MasterCard was originally called MasterCharge
- Tokyo was once known as Edo.
- On every continent there is a city called Rome.
- The oldest inhabited city is Damascus, Syria.
- The first city in the world to have a population of more than one million was Rome.
- Tourism is the world's biggest industry, affecting 240 million jobs.
- If you stack one million US \$1 bills, it would be 110m (361 ft) high and weight exactly 1 ton.
- Today there are more than 1.5 billion TV sets in use.
- China has the most TV sets (500 million).
- US citizens watch the most TV. By age 65, an American would have watched the equivalent of 9 years uninterrupted screening, viewing more than 20,000 TV commercials per year.
- In the US there are more TV sets than telephones.
- 2 billion videos are watched per day on YouTube
- Lady Peseshet of Ancient Egypt (2600-2100 BC) is the world's first known female physician.
- There are about 5,000 prince and princesses in each Saudi Arabian royal.

New Year Party 2010 at Westin La Paloma



New Year Party 2010 at Westin La Paloma





The Tucson MED Club Invites You To



Little Fox DJ

Family Fun Night &

Graduation Party!

Friday, April 29, 2011
DJ Arabic and English Music



- **6:30 Cocktail reception**
- **7 pm Dinner**

*** Skyline Country Club ***

Med Club Information: Please Join or Renew Your Membership for 2011

- If you are already a member, please renew by sending a check payable to: Tucson Med Club

Fees: Family Membership: \$70

Individual Fee: \$35

Donations: MED Scholarship Fund

- If you are not a member, you can download the application form from our website at www.tucsonmedclub.org or contact Hassan Hijazi, MED Club President, at (520) 955-3657, hhi-jazi@email.arizona.edu, or Kamal Moukabary, MED Club VP, at 520-245-9225, kamal@moukabary.com

Please note that to be officially a member, according the MED bylaws, the board must discuss and approve the application.

Tucson MED Club is a member of the Southern Federation of Syrian Lebanese American Clubs.

<http://www.sflac.org/>

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Kahlil Gibran

"You should be proud of being an American, but you should also be proud that your fathers and mothers came from a land upon which God laid His gracious hand and raised His messengers."

TUCSON MED CLUB

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[Http://www.tucsonmedclub.org](http://www.tucsonmedclub.org)

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Zorouna Editor**زورونا**