



THE TUCSON MEDICAL CLUB

# ZUROUNA زورونا

www.tucsonmedclub.org

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Winter 2004



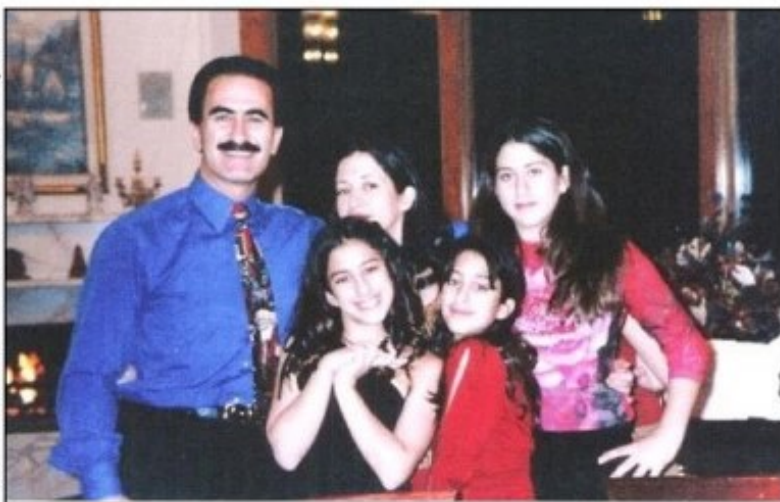
## My Family's Story

By Renee Moussa

One of the great things about my family is how fortunate we are to be able to do the things that we do. We go scuba diving, skiing, wakeboarding, boating, rollerblading, and hiking. We go on trips, and as many of you know my dad is what you would call a "car collector".

However, if it weren't for my parents' persistence, we would not be able to do even half the things that we do on a regular basis.

My dad started out in an elementary school in the back of someone's house in Syria, and from that with a lot of hard work, he has become the doctor he is today. He was a very dedicated student all of his life and graduated from the Medical School at Aleppo University, Syria, and then came to the United States in



1982. He has had his own practice ever since he worked as a doctor, and has worked many long strenuous hours. However, he definitely has had his share of tough times. He went through times when he was a pizza delivery boy, although he already had his Medical Doctor degree. He sometimes had to get cheese from the Salvation Army, and even went to Safeway Supermarket at the end of the day to buy the loose grapes from the vine for a cheaper price. Without my dad's strong determination, he would have never amounted to anywhere near what he is today. My mom was always there for him, managing the money, working in his office, and on top of that being the best mother that she can be to three kids.

My mom was born in Syria, but spent most of her childhood in Lebanon. She was there during the Lebanese civil war and saw people getting shot right and left.



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



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## My Family's Story, by Renee Moussa (continue from page 1)

You'd think it would be very hard to take in as a 12 year old, but it has only made her more knowledgeable about what really goes on in the world. She came to the US when she was about 14, and started college at 15. From there she went on and became a Pharmacist, and married my dad.

Without all of these aspects of our life, we would not be so fortunate. I thank God every day for all the things he has given us. My parents have raised us with the knowledge of what goes on in the world, and have shown us all sides of it: the rich, the poor, the healthy, the unhealthy, the fortunate, and the unfortunate. But the most important thing I have learned is that anything is possible if you set your mind to it.



## Reflection on MED Activities in 2004

Salim Hariri, MED Club President

As the year closes, it is the time of the year, where we look back at the year activities and accomplishments. The Club is about to finish a year of learning experiences, and growth. We are pleased to be involved in many successful activities to achieve the Club main goals: To be a positive role model for our children and grandchildren so that they will continue to share their Arab-American roots, heritage, and traditions with future generations so that the common values and history of their ancestors will be carried on and cultivated.

With your continuous support, the Club is pleased to report the following achievements in 2004:

1. Provided three MED Scholarship Awards to encourage our youths to pursue higher education. For further information, please see Adel Ziady, MED Scholarship Program Chair article on page 3 calling for our senior high school students to apply to the MED Scholarship Award.
2. Corporate Sponsor of the Malcolm Kerr Scholarship Fund at the University of Arizona. This scholarship was established in 1994 to provide outstanding undergraduate students from Middle Eastern with a scholarship to study at the University of Arizona.
3. The quarterly publication of Zurouna newsletter. In the last three issues, we featured the family histories of the Kalil's, Hariri's, and Lahood's families. Zurouna's editors are eager to share with our community your family history in the new world, your articles, and achievements. Please help making Zurouna the Arab American community newsletter of southern Arizona.
4. Received two awards from the Southern Federation of the Syrian Lebanese American Clubs ([www.sflslac.org](http://www.sflslac.org)) for the continue growth in membership.
5. Maintain the Club website at [www.tucsonmedclub.org](http://www.tucsonmedclub.org) where we publish online all the previous issues of Zurouna. Please visit the Club website and provide us with ideas to enhance and enrich the website with more information, links to exciting websites of interest to our community.

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## Reflection on MED Activities in 2004 (continue from page 2)

6. Fun and social activities. We have organized Two Family Fun Nights at Aladdin and Phoenician Restaurants, and a New Year's Eve Gala at the Westin La Paloma. These activities are meant for us to take a break from our busy daily activities and enjoy an evening with old, new friends and Arabic music entertainment. We invite you to join us in the 2005 New Year Eve Party (see announcement on page 6).

Whether you are a founding member, a relatively new member, or if you are thinking about joining, you and your family are an important and integral part of the club; it could not happen without you. Please continue your support of the club's goals and objectives by completing and returning the enclosed Membership Form for 2005. The board members and I look forward to working with all of you and welcome your ideas and feedback. With your support, the year 2005 will be another successful year that will be full with achievements and many wonderful stories about our Arab American community in Southern Arizona.

Best wishes to you and your family for a happy and blessed Holiday Season.



## MED Scholarship Program

By Adel Ziady, MED Scholarship Committee Director

It is a great pleasure to bring up the subject of scholarship awards. Most of Zurouna readers will very likely remember our scholarship recipients of last year. For those who forgot, the winners were Sheza Nicole Al Houssni, Sami Sahyouni, and Kristina De Ann Callan. All three have successfully embarked on their college career.

These outstanding individuals no doubt possess the basic prerequisites and qualities which will help them succeed in life. Frankly, it was a singular pleasure to read their applications and resumes and what it meant to them to receive the MED scholarships. Reading the applications and noting the applicant's accomplishments renews ones faith in the young generation.

The number and value of these non renewable scholarships, the screening and selection of the winners are determined by the MED Scholarship Committee, based on applicants pool and the available funding. The Committee members reviews and grades each application on basis of General Point Average, Class ranking, SAT Score, Career aspirations, Character, Need, Honors, Received, Leadership, Community Services, and other involvements such as Outside Employment.

We want this program to continue and encourage both, parents to support it and students to participate in it. We started the MED Scholarship program in 2001, since then, nine scholarships have been awarded to highly deserving students. We also want every graduating MED high school senior to apply and compete for these scholarships by submitting a simple application. The only conditions for submittal are: 1) Applicant or parents must be a MED member, 2) Applicant must be graduating from high school, and 3) Must be continuing his/her education in a college or a university.

Application forms can be obtained by phoning, writing or E-mailing:

Adel Ziady, 4600 E. Ina Rd., Tucson, AZ. 85718, E-mail: [ziadyad@msn.com](mailto:ziadyad@msn.com), Tel: 520 299 9369

All graduating MED's 21th graders are encouraged to apply.



# Take a look at last Family Fun Night at the Phoenician

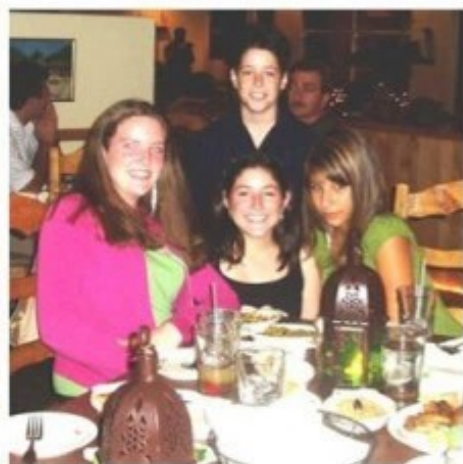
As always, it was full of fun, every one had a wonderful time











## New Year Eve Party!

Friday, December 31, 2004. Radisson Hotel (Speedway and Wilmot)

7pm: Reception 8pm: Sit Down Dinner Live Music

\$85 Adult members \$95 Adults non-members \$40 Kids 12 and under

After December 20, \$100 per person

For more information please contact

Sonia Moussa 577-0491, Kamal Moukabary 797-9083 or Hassan Hijazi 751 -4420

Please make your check payable to: Tucson Med Club and mail to

Tucson Med Club, P.O. Box 43024, Tucson, AZ 85737-3024







## FAST FACTS

BY LANA HARIRI

- \* The oldest man that ever lived was Methuselha who lived 969 years old.
- \* Google receives daily search requests from all over the world, including Antarctica.
- \* **THE FASTEST....**
- \* Land animal: Cheetah (70 mph)
- \* Dog: Greyhound (45 mph)
- \* Fish: Cosmopolitan Sailfish (68 mph)
- \* Insect: Dragon Fly (36 mph)
- \* Reptile: Spiny-tailed Iguana (21 mph)
- \* Coldest temperature recorded: -129 degrees F in Antarctica.
- \* There are more than 6,800 languages in the whole world.
- \* The exact rotation of earth takes 23.9345 hours.
- \* The largest city in the whole world is Seoul, South Korea (10,231,217 people)
- \* White cats with blue eyes are usually deaf.
- \* There are more chickens in the world than people.
- \* Cows have four stomachs.
- \* A shrimp's heart is in its head.
- \* Small dogs usually live longer than bigger dogs.
- \* Spiders have been on the earth for 400 million years and have had little change.
- \* An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- \* Pigs are smarter than most dogs.
- \* The catfish has over 27,000 taste buds.
- \* Cats respond better to woman than men because woman have a higher pitched voice than men.



## Technology Update: MP3 Players

By GJ Hadeed

The advent of the internet has spawned a new era to the world as we know it. People around the world are surfing the internet and taking advantage of the vast amounts of information and ability to talk to anyone in real time. The rise of broadband internet brought near instantaneous downloads which have led to spectacular websites and access to any type of media. One of the most notorious has been the MP3. An MP3 is a computer format that is used to compress any type of audio medium (CD, Tape, Video) into a smaller and less memory intensive file that can be stored on your computer. Though the legality of converting a CD to MP3 is hazy, the technology nonetheless is astounding.

One particular industry that has taken advantage of this technology has been the Electronics industry. We have all heard of the Apple iPod and with the rock band U2 endorsing their product and relentless advertising, how could you not? The iPod is a portable audio device that can store thousands of MP3's on its mini hard drive, allowing anyone to take over 200 CDS anywhere, without ever having to lug around a CD case. The great part about the iPod is that it is so small that it can fit easily into any pocket. The IPOD comes in different sizes depending on how much media you plan to store on it. You can buy anywhere from 5GB to 60GB. The battery life on these units is typically 12 hours with its own built in battery, which only needs to be recharged at the end of the day.

The iPod is not the only of its kind out on the market. As a matter of fact, the market has been flooded with similar devices such as ones by Creative, Sony, and iRiver offering the same great product at much less cost to the buyer. Most of these devices all work the same, however when purchasing an Mp3 player, it is important to evaluate your wants and desires of the mp3 player. For example, Do you want more features or do you want more hard drive space? Do you want a built in FM Tuner or a Voice Recorder? Do you want a bulky unit or a smaller unit? The more features a device has, the most costly it typically is.

The MP3 player is a very useful tool for any music lover. You can take hours of songs anywhere without ever having to bring a CD. You can listen to it at school or at work. You can even listen through you care stereo

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## Roses for a Dime

Contributed by Lana Hariri



Bobby was getting cold sitting out in his back yard in the snow. Bobby didn't wear boots; he didn't like them and anyway he didn't own any. The thin sneakers he wore had a few holes in them and they did a poor job of keeping out the cold.

Bobby had been in his backyard for about an hour already. And, try as he might, he could not come up with an idea for his mother's Christmas gift. He shook his head as he thought, "This is useless, even if I do come up with an idea, I don't have any money to spend." Ever since his father had passed away three years ago, the family of five had struggled. It wasn't because his mother didn't care, or try, there just never seemed to be enough. She worked nights at the hospital, but the small wage that she was earning, could only be stretched so far. What the family lacked in money and material things, they more than made up for in love and family unity. Bobby had two older and one younger sister, who ran the household in their mother's absence.

All three of his sisters had already made beautiful gifts for their mother. Somehow it just wasn't fair. Here it was Christmas Eve already and he had nothing. Wiping a tear from his eye, Bobby kicked the snow and started to walk down to the street where the shops and stores were. It wasn't easy being six without a father, especially when he needed a man to talk to. Bobby walked from shop to shop, looking into each decorated window. Everything seemed so beautiful and so out of reach. It was starting to get dark and Bobby reluctantly turned to walk home, when suddenly his eyes caught the glimmer of the setting sun's rays reflecting off of something along the curb. He reached down and discovered a shiny dime.

Never before, has anyone felt so wealthy, as Bobby felt at that moment. As he held his new found treasure, a warmth spread throughout his entire body and he walked into the first store he saw. His excitement quickly turned cold when salesperson after salesperson, told him that he could not buy anything with only a dime.

He saw a flower shop and went inside to wait in line. When the shop owner asked if he could help him, Bobby presented the dime and asked if he could buy one flower for his mother's Christmas gift. The shop owner looked at Bobby and his ten cent offering. Then he put his hand on Bobby's shoulder and said to him, "You just wait here and I'll see what I can do for you." As Bobby waited, he looked at the beautiful flowers and even though he was a boy, he could see why mothers and girls liked flower.

The sound of the door closing, as the last customer left, jolted Bobby back to reality. All along in the shop, Bobby began to feel alone and afraid. Suddenly the shop owner came out and move to the counter. There, before Bobby's eyes, lay twelve long stem, red roses, with leaves of green and tiny white flowers all tied together with a big silver bow. Bobby's heart sank as the owner picked them up and placed them gently into a long white box.

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## Two Friends

Contributed by Richard Michaels

A story tells that two friends were walking through the desert...

During some point of the journey they had an argument,

And one friend slapped the other one in the face.

The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand: **TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SLAPPED ME IN THE FACE.**

They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him. After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone: **TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SAVED MY LIFE.**

The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, you write on a stone, why?"

The other friend replied "When someone hurts us we should write it down in sand where winds of forgiveness can erase it away.

But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it."

**LEARN TO WRITE YOUR HURTS IN THE SAND AND TO CARVE YOUR BENEFITS IN STONE.**

They say it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but then an entire life to forget them.

### Roses for a Dime (Continued from Page 8)

"That will be ten cents young man." the shop owner said reaching out his hand for the dime. Slowly, Bobby moved his hand to give the man his dime. Could this be true? No one else would give him a thing for his dime! Sensing the boy's reluctance, the shop owner added, "I just happened to have some roses on sale for ten cents a dozen. Would you like them?" This time Bobby did not hesitate and when the man placed the long box into his hands, he knew it was true. Walking out the door, that the owner was holding for Bobby, he heard the shop keeper say, "Merry Christmas, son."

As he returned inside, the shop keepers wife walked out. "Who were you talking to back there and where are the roses you were fixing?" Staring out the window and blinking the tears from his own eyes, he replied, "A strange thing happened to me this morning. While I was setting up things to open the shop, I thought I heard a voice telling me to set aside a dozen of my best roses for a special gift. I wasn't sure at the time whether I had lost my mind or what, but I set them aside anyway. Then just a few minutes ago, a little boy came into the shop and wanted to buy a flower for his mother with one small dime. "When I looked at him, I saw myself, many years ago. I too, was a poor boy with nothing to buy my mother a Christmas gift. A bearded man, whom I never knew, stopped me on the street and told me that he wanted to give me ten dollars. When I saw that little boy tonight, I knew who that voice was and I put together a dozen of my very best roses."

The shop owner and his wife hugged each other tightly; and as they stepped out into the bitter cold air to go home for the night, they somehow didn't feel cold at all.





## Postcards from the Levant

By Domingo Cheleuitte

**Palmyra** : Situated in an oasis in the middle of the Syrian desert, Palmyra (or Tadmor) is one of the most impressive and important archaeological sites in Syria and the entire Middle East. Originally a Greek outpost, the city was annexed by the Romans. Following an unsuccessful revolt by Queen Zenobia, the city was torched in AD 273. It subsequently fell into decay, and was finally destroyed by an earthquake in AD 1089. The picture shows the Monumental Arch, the main entrance to the site.



**Cedars of Lebanon**: Proudly displayed in the flag, the cedars are the national symbol of Lebanon. Prized for their strength, durability, and beauty, the cedars provided lumber for housing, ships, and any important construction project in the Eastern Mediterranean. Unfortunately, this led to a sharp decline in the tree population, and only a handful of the old, massive trees survive to this day. Fortunately, a major reforestation program has been undertaken though it will take decades/centuries for the results to be admired. This picture shows a view of the forest.



Domingo visited Syria and Lebanon last summer. He sent us these postcards that he took during his trip. Zurouna's editors thank Domingo for these beautiful pictures .



## Technology Update (continue from page 7)

if you purchase a wireless FM Transmitter such as the Belkin Tunecast (\$39.99). Converting your CDs to MP3s is a breeze as well. Each product contains all the software to start converting your media collection into MP3s. An MP3 player is a great investment to anyone who likes listening to music. However, when buying an MP3 player, always remember to buy a warranty plan; some of these units can break easily if dropped.

## Med Club Information

### Please Renew Your Membership for 2005

- 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](http://www.tucsonmedclub.org)** or contact any board member to get an application form.

Please note that to be officially a member, according to 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/>)**



## Congratulations

For Dr. Bsharah and Jessy Mezher on their marriage on November 23, 2004, in Lebanon.

**Congratulations** for Monah Sarrah for getting her Master Degree of Science in System Engineering from University of Arizona

## Happy Events

### January



Manhal Al-Hafez 1st  
Jennifer Hijazi 2nd  
Courtney Callan 4th  
George Moussa 5th  
Valerie Hobeich 6th  
Asma Hadeh 8th  
Ahmed Halawani 19th  
Soey Borane 24th  
Alisa Basila 28th  
Gabriel Katrib 28th  
Christine Moussa 30th

### February

Osama Abdelatif 1st  
Mary Farage Gyenge 5th  
Sonia Moussa 6th  
Kamal Moukabary 6th  
Pamela Yarnisa 13th  
Paul Hobeich 14th  
Magdellen Moussa, 14th  
Lana Hariri 18th  
Natalie Lahood 21st  
Hala Moussa 21st  
Salim Hariri 24th  
Debbi Al-Houssni 27th

### March

Chris Callan 5th  
Sosan Moussa 6th  
Lydia Sahyouni 15th  
Michael Borane 15th  
Ned Charani 15th  
Leila Charani 17th  
Ola Moukabary, 21st  
AJ Sahyouni 22th  
Sam Moussa 25th  
Aaron Brewer 26th  
Lana Moussa 26th  
Michael Aboud 29th  
Nadia Acra 30th

### Anniversaries

Nabeeh & Elham Lahood Feb. 11th  
Osama & Rory Abdelatif Feb. 14th  
Khalil and Aida Halwani Feb. 14th  
Karen & Kelly Callan March 5th  
Hassan and Florence Hijazi 22th



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David Basila

George Sahyouni

Domingo Cheleuitte

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**HannahSarah**

**Hassan Sultan, Ph.D**

**Adel Ziady**

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 gra-  
cious hand*

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