



THE TUCSON MED CLUB

ZUROUNA زورونا

www.tucsonmedclub.org

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The Hijazi Family

By Jenny Hijazi

I think I can safely say that my family is pretty normal. We go on summer vacation, we argue about directions, we help each other with work and school, and we do pretty much everything else encompassed within the 'family' job description. What makes us different, is our cultural blend of Italian/Polish and Arabic cultures.

My dad, Hassan Hijazi was born and raised in Baalbeck, Lebanon. He was raised there with seven brothers and one sister. One day, it all became too much for my grandparents and someone was movin' on out (I honestly don't blame them). My father was one of them and he, along with a one other brother, were sent to boarding school. This is where I hear all the stories about how, "When I was your age..."

and all that jazz. I guess I should feel lucky that I wasn't stuck in a boarding house with a bunch of guys. But he got through it and ended up here, in the U.S., to attend college at the University of Arizona. There he did two very noteworthy things: he got a Masters in International Relations, and was an extra on *Revenge of the Nerds*. I didn't find out about the latter until recently and when I did, needless to say, I felt compelled to rent the movie.



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

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After college it was off for a job and after a while he came upon the office of Congressman Jim Kolbe, and found employment there for thirteen years. After leaving that office, he ended up where he is now, at the University, working as Assistant Director of Federal Relations. So there's the Arabic side. "But where's the Italian?" you ask. Well, that's where my mom comes in.

My great-grandparents, Felix and Susanna Benedetti were both only-children from *Italia* (which was strange back then because most Italian families were very large). However, the fact that they were both from small families must have been fate, because when they immigrated to America, they were married. They made their first home on a farm in Ohio with eight children, one of them being my grandmother, Susan. They had a very traditional household, in fact my great-grandparents probably didn't speak a word of English. But by the time my grandmother had kids of her own, the language was lost....but the food wasn't. My mom, Florence Hijazi, was born in Tucson, Arizona and could out-cook any chef, at any restaurant, at any time(I just wish I was included in that cooking gene-pool). She attended Cholla



High School and spent her childhood in suburbia. She has one brother living in Sonoita, Arizona, and one sister, who lives in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania with my grandma, uncle, and cousin Erin. In 1980 she began working at the job she's still at now.

Moret Advertising as the Art Director. And then....there's the kids (dun-dun DUN!!).

I have one brother, Jamil. He's 13 years old and enjoys video games and has a passion for sports. He goes to Orange Grove Middle School and has participated in just about every sport there is. He plans to attend the University of Arizona as a basketball player; if that doesn't work out, he wants to be a drummer (and when he's famous...I can say he's my brother!). And then there's me. I'm Jenny Hijazi and I go to Catalina Foothills High School. I love to listen to and sing opera. I want to major in criminal law, and minor in vocal arts. I plan to go to the University of Arizona to study English and my dream is to attend Harvard or Oxford to study law.



In 1996 our family took a trip back to my dad's roots, back to his hometown of Baalbeck, Lebanon. Upon arrival, what looked like 100 people were standing at the doors of the airport hailing our arrival. None of us, save my dad, had met them, but their generous welcome made any barriers fall away. We spent three weeks touring the Lebanese countryside. Among the sites were the sparkling Mediterranean Sea shores, the majestic caves of *Jeita*, and the age-old mysteries of the Roman ruins. After sightseeing the real parties began. True to any Arabic culture across the Middle East, life really started after 10:00pm. Family dinners were abundant, family stories were exchanged, and we were treated by numerous cousins and family members as though we lived right next door, rather than across the Atlantic.

Connecting with our family overseas was the experience of a lifetime. Meeting all of my cousins, uncles, aunts, and grandparents was cultural eye-opener. At first, one would think that two such different cultures would hardly be related, but the bond we shared during this trip disintegrates all misconception. So, I guess my family is a little more than normal, but only in the sense that our family shares bonds, not only with ourselves, but with other countries around the world.



Reflection on MED Activities in 2005

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. I am very pleased to let you know your MED Club has been involved in many activities and striving to be the positive model for our Arab Americans in Southern Arizona. We are working hard so we are all can be proud of who we are, proud of our roots, heritage and traditions. Our hope is to establish a strong foundation for our 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 2005:

Provided two MED Scholarship Awards to encourage our youths to pursue higher education. The recipients of the 2005 awards were, Christopher Callan and Carment Moussa, who both joined The University of Arizona for 2005-2006 academic year. In addition, a Travel Scholarship was given to Sarah Malaika to study Arabic at the American University in Cairo (AUC), Egypt. Sarah received a Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship to study at AUC during the summer of 2005.. For further information about the 2006 MED Scholarship application, please contact Adel Ziady, MED Scholarship Program Chair at ziadyad@msn.com or by phone.: 520 299 9369.

The regular publication of Zurouna newsletter. In the last three issues, we featured the family histories of the Sam Moussa's, Chalfoun's, and Abdelatif's families. Zurouna's editors are eager to share with our community your family history in the new world, your articles, and achievements. Please helps making Zurouna the Arab American community newsletter of southern Arizona.

Maintain the Club website at 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.

Fun and social activities. We have organized Two Family Fun Nights at Aladdin and El Parador Restaurants, and a New Year's Eve Gala at the Radisson Hotel. We had one Family Picnic at the Tucson Racquet Club. 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 that will be held at the Westin La Paloma (see attached announcement).

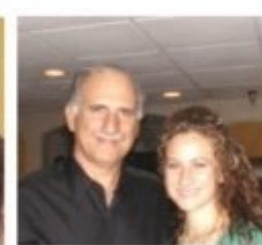
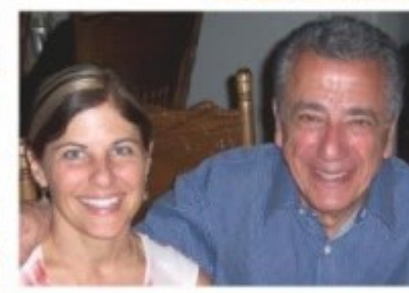
On Sunday, December 11, we held our first Annual Membership meeting at Sinbad Restaurant. The meeting discussed MED activities and plans for next year and beyond. The meeting was very successful and also elected the new MED Board members: Salim Hariri, Hassan Hijazi, Ferial Malaika, Nick Mansour, Kamal Moukabary, Sonia Aramleh-Moussa, Margaret Saad, Ziad Safi, and Adel Ziadi. Please join me in congratulating the new MEM Board members and to wish them success as we all work together to move our MED Club to a higher ground and level of achievements.

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 MED 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 2006 by January 30th. The board members and I look forward to working with all of you and welcome your ideas and feedback. With your support, the year 2006 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.

Let's Look at the MED Family Night Party!







The Rise of Empires 2300-2000 BC

By: Kamal Moukabary

The basic family structure remains the same, 2-3 children was the average. Breast-feeding lasted as long as 3 years as a method of contraception. Older brothers and maternal uncles were in leading the family. Monogamy was the norm except for kings and other rich men who had polygamous families. **King Suli** had 9 wives. All children were legitimate. Women occasionally reached high status, but usually because of the influence of their brothers or father. The most powerful of the royal ladies was **Enheduana**, the first occupant of the post of high priestess of the moon god at Ur and the goddess of love and war at Uruk. She is considered the first female poet in the world. Women could testify in court. Daughters did not inherit if there were sons, but they received gifts from the estates. Widow could inherit some assets. Administrators heavily exploited lower class women, especially when they were helpless. Working women received lower pay than men. There was no established welfare system for widows and orphans, women and children were dedicated to be employed in weaving and processing wool.

Governors were chosen from among the local worthies, but generals that accompanied them were definitely creatures of the king. Royal officials were the ultimate controllers of the public institutions of their cities. The officials had an impact on the economy in many ways. One presumably got to become an official mainly through inheritance; many officials were able to pass on their posts to their sons. This led inevitably to a lack of flexibility in the bureaucracy and eventually limited the kings' power over their supposed servants. This was one important cause of the breakdowns in the imperial system.

KFM

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Saturday, December 31st, 2005

Westin La Paloma

3800 E. Sunrise Dr. Tucson AZ 85718

(520) 742-6000



7pm * Reception

\$65 for Adults

8pm * Sit Down Dinner

\$35 Children (12 and under)

For more information please contact

Sonia Moussa 577-0491, Hassan Hijazi 751-4420

Kamal Moukabary 797-9083, Margaret Saad 245-5987



Take a trip with me to my Beirut

Ziad Safi email: zys3014@yahoo.com

Beirut, with its million-plus inhabitants, conveys a sense of life and energy that is immediately apparent. This dynamism is echoed by Capital's geographical position: a great promontory jutting into the blue sea with dramatic mountains rising behind it. A city with a venerable past, 5,000 years ago Beirut was a prosperous town on the Canaanite and Phoenician coast.

Historical Heritage

Beirut stands on the site of a very ancient settlement going back at least 5,000 years. Its name appeared in cuneiform inscriptions as early as the 14th century B.C. In the first century B.C., Berytus, as it was then called, became a Roman Colony and under Roman rule was the seat of a famous Law school which continued into the Byzantine era.

But the power and the glory of Berytus were destroyed by a triple catastrophe of earthquake, tidal wave and fire in 551 A.D. In the following century Arab Muslim forces took the city and in 1110 it fell into the Crusaders. Beirut remained in Crusader hands until 1291 when it was conquered by the Mamlukes. Ottoman rule began in 1516, continuing for 400 years later until the defeat of the Turks in World War I. The French Mandate Period followed and in 1943 Lebanon gained its independence.

Beirut remains a party central for anyone wishing to experience the true essence of the Mediterranean style nightlife.

Often compared to the likes of Ibiza and New York City in terms of its social scene, Beirut and its people exhibit an overwhelming thirst for life that is rarely witnessed elsewhere. Perhaps most unique to this city is the endless options to choose from within the social scene as well as the fact that every night is comparable to a Saturday night.

With an endless venue of trendy places to select from, it inevitably comes down to the individual's own personal taste and mood that will determine his or her night. Those hoping to participate in the city's supreme nightlife experience may ultimately hit Beirut's famous hot spots such as Monnot Street, Downtown Beirut, Ain el Mreisseh, or even Sodeco.

Evening activities often begin in the local pubs and restaurants whereby those wishing to enjoy a great selection of music to sing and dance to will head to Zinc, Red, or Lila Braun while those wishing to enjoy a more relaxing evening complete with the largest and best selection of concocted drinks in town will stop by Pacifico, [Centrale](#), or Bar Louie. For those hoping to enjoy the best and most mouth-watering food in the city, [Salmontini](#), famous for its delicious freshly made salmon, remains an obvious choice. Furthermore, a must-see spot for anyone seeking a more unique nighttime experience would be to head over to Sky Bar where friends can enjoy the exquisite cuisine and drinks while lounging under the city's starry sky.

However, this is not to say that typical Lebanese nights end early, for those desiring to continue the evening dancing and clubbing to some of the best music and DJ's in town will head over to Crystal or BO-18 to enjoy a combination of class and a dance-like atmosphere that will guarantee visitors the ultimate clubbing experience.

In addition to the clubbing scene it comes as very little surprise that one of the most guaranteed fun spots remains [Casino du Liban](#). Directed towards an older crowd, the recently built casino guarantees all visitors an incredible time often compared to the likes of the Vegas scene.

With this in mind, all party-goers are recommended to go out and be part of a nightlife scene that has Beirut coined as the party city of the Middle East.





UPGRADE TO LOVE

Contributed by Sonia Hariri

"Is THIS CUSTOMER SERVICE?"

"Yes, how can I help you?"

"I want to upgrade my system to a better version of LOVE. Can you help me with that?"

"Why certainly. First you'll need to locate your heart and open it."

"I've found it. Does it matter that there are programs already running?"

"It depends. What programs are in use at this time?"

"Well, it looks like **LOW-ESTEEM.EXE**, **PAST-HURTS.EXE**, **GRUDGE.EXE** and **RESENTMENT.EXE**"

"As soon as you install **LOVE**, **LOW-ESTEEM**, and **PAST-HURTS** will automatically reconfigure to **SELF-WORTH.EXE** and **SELF-LOVE.EXE**. But **GRUDGE** and **RESENTMENT** are viruses and you're going to have to do a manual overdrive on those."

"I hope it's not too complicated — I'm not technically savvy."

"You don't need to be. You just need to go to your start menu and find **FORGIVENESS.EXE** and double click on it. Your **GRUDGES** and **RESEMENTS** will surface one at a time. Then all you need to do is delete each one as it appears. You may have to run this program more than once to make sure you cleaned out all traces of both the **GRUDGE** virus and the **RESENTMENT** virus. Is there anything else I can help you with?"

"No I think I understand how this program works now."



Med Club Membership Information

If you are already a member, please renew by January 30th 2005. If you are renewing your membership, you do not need to fill the form unless there are new changes. If you like to become a member, please download the application form from our website at www.tucsonmedclub.org. Make your check payable to **Tucson Med Club**

* Fees: Family Membership: \$70 individual Fee: \$35

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 (<https://www.sflac.org/>)

MED Community News

Congratulations to the Moukabary Family



Thomas Moukabary was borne on 5/25/2005. Adel Nasif, Thomas grandfather, wrote a beautiful poem entitled Arizona for Thomas' baptism on 5/25/2005.

شعر عادل ناصيف

أريزونا

ومن حديقة عمري الشمس والقمر
 وللرسم على الجدران والصور
 فبنت نخولك كالخجاج وحتيما
 وكيف لاد؟ وخوادي فومها انظر
 وما قعدت شدي فيا ولا شجرا
 ولا مغانن أجواء ولد سمر
 ولن تلبتي على الأيام لي وطيرا
 كانوا هم الصيف لي والثلج المطرا
 غدا سينشرف بيديك الذررا
 نقاساني بها المخدم والظرا
 أكلهم الله في عينيهما وأرى
 وماغزوت مياة البحر والجزرا
 كالدم كوني وردي عنهما الخرا
 واستغيتي الصخر في أيرها شرا
 فلا أرى رمل فيها ولا حجرا
 حتى اتهم عليه العين والجزرا
 ما صممتي بعدها لانه لأم قصرا
 ترش فوق جيبني ما وما الطيرا
 عند أرى بها الدنيا بشرا
 للوالدين ويقص عليهما الضرا
 ١١/١٤/٠٥ تومن عديت

سرقبت مني جمال اللحن والوتر
 وما تركت لعيني ما أضمن به
 نليف أوصيت لهذا اليوم حاضري
 قالوا: تطير إليها؟ قلت: والعجب
 رما رحلت إليها فالهوى طابني
 ولدا ابتغيت مساء أقصا غنجا
 فأنشد يا أريزونا لست لي صدفا
 زينة أهدد وأبناء وأحفدة
 على مدار جلك الخرساء بعض دفي
 زبي الحديد أسرى بي إلى بلد
 علقن سمرها ليقومنين عني
 لولاها ما جعلت الربيع ناقتي

بالله يا أريزونا إن دعيته فدا
 وفوق درهما شقي الزاب نرق
 «تومن» وأشعرا أنت البعد مزهرة
 قد كان قلبني إلى لقيانه باصري
 لما حملت ذاب العمر في جدي
 كأنما جنت الدنيا قد انفرجت
 ملكة عينا وفي الأضواء أنوار غفا
 زبي سألته أن يجعلها سندا

Happy Events

January

Jennifer Hijazi 2nd
 Courtney Callan 4th
 George Moussa 5th
 Valerie Hobeich 6th
 Asma Hadeli 8th
 Alif Sarah, 17th
 Alisa Basila 28th
 Gabriel Katrib 28th
 Christine Moussa 30th

February

Osama Abdelatif 1st
 Hadeel Areny 1st
 Sonia Moussa 6th
 Kamal Moukabary 6th
 Marth Nafeh 8th
 De Sarah 10th
 Sally Aboud 14th
 Paul Hobeich 14th
 Magdellen Moussa, 14th
 Lana Hariri 18th
 Debbie Chalfoun 21st
 Natalie Lahood 21st
 Hala Moussa 21st
 Magdi Nafeh 21th
 Salim Hariri 24th

March

Mena Aldulaimi 4th
 Chris Callan 5th
 Sosan Moussa 6th
 Lydia Sahyouni 15th
 Mona Brewer 15th
 Ola Moukabary 21st
 AJ Sahyouni 22th
 Sam Moussa 25th
 Aaron Brewer 25th
 Lana Moussa 26th
 Michael Aboud 29th
 Nadia Acra 30th

Anniversaries

Nader and Marie Chalfoun, Jan 22nd
 Nabeeh & Elham Lahood Feb. 11th
 Osama & Rory Abdelatif Feb. 14th
 Aaron and Mona Brewer Feb. 17th
 Karen & Kelly Callan March 5th
 Hassan and Florence Hijazi 22th

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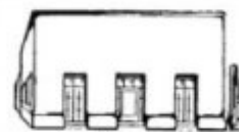
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Kahlil Gibran

"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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