



# NEWSLETTER

*International*

November 2014

DRUZE ORPHANS & CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

VOL. 15

## Beit el-Yateem Milestone 75 years of Service

Beit el-Yateem, the Druze Orphanage in Abey, Lebanon, turns 75 years old this year. We wish a Happy Anniversary to an institution that has helped the Druze community through very difficult times as evident by the story as told by the late Aniseh Assaf.

Every Druze should be very proud of the accomplishment of the Orphanage and of the teams of dedicated individuals who have, in many cases, served this institution their entire lives.

The continued success of Beit el-Yateem is heavily dependent on generous donations from the Druze community worldwide.

Here, at DOCO, we cannot but be greatly thankful to our donors who have rallied behind the noble cause of helping our fellows. Every donation counts, and no matter how small, is always appreciated.

As DOCO serves multiple Druze charities, the donations go where you, the donors, direct them to go, as is reported in our newsletters.

DOCOC's annual Eid al-Adha campaign is as strong as ever. It is already a tradition at Beit el-Yateem where the students joyfully anticipate their pocket money from year to year. Thank you for bringing the smiles to their young faces regularly.

We also would like to thank the Rotary Club in Aley, Lebanon, for distributing food to impoverished families, in time to celebrate Eid al-Adha.

Finally, the entire DOCO team wishes you the best for the coming holiday season. May the New Year bring you and your loved ones all the blessings of good health and happiness.

**Farid Muakkassa, MD, FACS  
President**

## The Beit el-Yateem Story

As told by the late Aniseh Assaf

*By Kathy Jaber Stephenson*



*Late Aniseh Assaf*

The year was 1939. Aref Nadadi, a very distinguished and devoted Druze community leader, decided to establish a Druze orphanage in Lebanon as at that time, there was not one for Druze children, although, one was desperately needed. Nakadi called for a general meeting with other community leaders and workers. They quickly responded and upon hearing his idea, gave their total support.

I attended that meeting along with numerous other ladies. Many of us volunteered to accept the tasks involved to turn this idea into a reality. One of our major duties was to collect donations throughout the Druze community.

The Adul-Khalik family in Beirut contributed their private Majlis (house of prayers) to be the first facility to house the orphans. As the word spread, the number of volunteers grew. Many of them journeyed to the Druze villages in search of the orphaned, poor, or needy children with the intentions of bringing them to their new home.

The Druze community began to respond with offers to help with whatever



*Aref Ameen el-Nakadi: 1887-1975, a former justice minister in Syria and head of the Literature Academy there, founder of Beit el-Yateem, the Druze Orphanage in Abey, Lebanon*

was needed to make Nakadi's dream come true. They donated money, clothing, food, books, furniture, toys and even their time to care and teach the children. Meanwhile, the fund raising efforts continued and grew. I was sent from Lebanon as a representative of the young orphanage, to appeal worldwide to Druze in other countries. Together with numerous lady volunteers in those countries, we raised thousands of dollars from generous Druze and good wishers. Then the Lebanese government began to supply funds for the orphanage.

Finally, after some fourteen years, Beit el-Yateem housed 250 children in a fully equipped four-story building located in Karakool-al-Druze in Beirut. However, during 1955, the facility was turned into an elementary school, while the orphans were transferred to Aref's hometown, Abey in the Shahar region, for a better and more convenient location at the suggestion of the Ministry of Social Security.

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# Letters to DOCOC

*Dear Dr. Muakasa,*

Please be informed that we are in receipt of your kind contribution in the amount of \$30,000 in support of Druze students who are studying in universities in Lebanon.

May I take this opportunity to thank, on behalf of our Board of Trustees, Rabitat al-Amal represented by Mr. Wassim Rasamny, for their generosity and continued support.

Yours Sincerely,

**Ghazi Jounblat**

Assistant Secretary

Druze Foundation for Social Welfare

Lebanon, October 5, 2014

*Dear Dr. Sabar,*

With great pleasure and on behalf of the ladies of the Secondary Schooling for Orphans (SSO) I wish to convey our sincere thanks and express our deep gratitude for your support and interest in our organization.

Thank you for your generous contribution. We wish to acknowledge the receipt of a check in the amount of (\$ 3500.00) three thousand and five hundred Dollars to benefit our students.

We are truly grateful for your support, and the support of all the DOCOC contributors. Your donation is an investment in helping the orphans in their education and their future.

God Bless you and your family.  
Sincerely,

**Amal Shantouf**

President SSO

July 31, 2014

*Mrs. Afif Masri,*

We are blessed having you as Mother of the Orphans.

Love to you,

**Boby Jaber**

Long Beach, CA

*Acknowledgement/ Receipt*

This is to certify the receipt of a check in the amount of seven thousand US Dollars (\$7000.00) delivered to us by Sheikh Anis Khalil al-Moughawish for the support of the needy.

This is in addition to the sum of one thousand US dollars (\$1,000), delivered earlier on behalf of Sheikh Anis al-Moughawish, in our presence, to Sheikha Betla Amer.

We reiterate our thanks and gratitude, hoping that God may reward and bless you. May you always continue on the path of charitable giving.

Sheikh al-Akl al-Muwahiddun al-Druze

**Hammoud Yehia al-Hinawi**

Swaida, 5/7/2014

**إشعار**

نفيدكم بأن الشيخ أنيس خليل المغوش قد سلمنا ما تفضلتم به من مساعدات لذوي الحاجات المستحقة وفوضنا بذلك. وقد بلغت القيمة النقدية سبعة آلاف (7000) دولار أمريكي بالإضافة لمبلغ ألف (1000) دولار أمريكي جرى تسليمه من قبل الشيخ أنيس المغوش بحضورنا الى الست بتلة عامر.

نكرر شكرنا الجزيل وأنا لكم الاجر والثواب من رب العالمين، ودمتم للبر والاحسان.

شيخ عقل طائفة الموحدون الدروز  
حمود يحيى الحناوي  
السويداء/ سهوة البلاطة  
7 آذار 2014



*Continued on Page 3*

## Educational Support

### Creates Community Wealth

If the prospects of an individual are inauspicious, can they be changed? Yes, they can, but only through education.

Education is the best tool to bring a positive change in society, to develop a generation of responsible individuals and contribute to the development of descent human beings.

The fundamental purpose of education is to gain knowledge. It is the means to develop oneself physically, mentally and socially and to develop the mind so that the individual can make good choices in life, make sound career decisions and begin pursuing his/her goals.

A good education should give one the courage to rise after every fall and to turn failure into success. It provides the key that not only opens doors to a better future but gives students tools to solve the various problems they are likely to face during their lives.

This is the reason that the Charitable Organization (DOCO) has focused its efforts on supporting education.

DOCO believes that investing in education will positively impact the overall success of our communities, society in general and indeed the whole world.

**Sahar Muakasa, Ph.D.**  
Editor

*Continued from Page 2*

Dear Dr. Sabar,

We hope that you and your family are enjoying good health and prosperity along with the DOCO team. We wish you all progress and success. The organization of the University Student Resident (USR), strives to insure the best services for our student residents, helping them to achieve a future strongly supported by a good education and good Druze moral values.

One of our annual activities is a fundraising breakfast. We would like to inform you that we held this event, under the auspices of Mrs. Nora Jumblatt, on Wednesday August 13th at the Ameer-Amine Hotel in Beit-el-Edeen. It was attended by 422 ladies and honored the ladies of Abu-Dhabi, who work like the unknown-soldiers to insure all kinds of support to our organization.

Finally, we sincerely thank you and your donors for helping us to achieve our goals.

**Farida Al-Rayess**  
President

University Student Resident  
Beirut, Lebanon, August 28, 2014

Dear Afifi,

Thank you for your dedicated heart in helping our Druze orphans and others in need.

You are a special child of God. He has blessed you with your good and pure heart.

I love you  
**Kathy Jaber Stephenson**  
Rancho Mirage, CA

Dear Sabar,

Thank you for your commitment to the Druze orphans. Thank you for writing and publishing their stories for our community. You and Afifi Assaf Masri have kept the fire burning in Druze hearts for our people in Lebanon and Syria.

The Beit-el Yateem Story in this issue reminds us of the great work you have done, the support you continue to give, the noble work you have been chosen to do.

May God continue to bless your efforts and give you success in this worthy cause.

Love  
**Kathy Jaber Stephenson**  
Rancho Mirage, CA

**Note:** Translation of the letter from Mrs. Farida Rayes is in the center column

عزيزتي الدكتورة سحر المحترمة

أمل ان تكوني وعائلتك الكريمة بخير وعافية  
وأن تكون أسرة مجلة الدوكو على خير ما  
نرجوه لهم من تقدم وازدهار. ان لمساعدكم  
في دعم جمعياتنا كل التقدير ولمبرات  
الخيرين من اهلنا الذين يتواصلون معكم كل  
الشكر. ونحن من قبلنا في جمعية بيت الطالبة  
الجامعية نسعى دوما لتأمين افضل الخدمات  
لطالباتنا عسى أن نحقق ما رسمناه من خطط  
لمستقبل زاخر بالعلم والمناقب الحميدة  
لفتيات طائفنا الكريمة.

ولما كان من ضمن نشاطاتنا السنوية اقامت  
ترويقة خيرية . نود ان نعلمكم اننا احيينا هذه  
المناسبة برعاية وحضور السيدة نورا  
جنبلات . وذلك يوم الأربعاء 13 اب في  
اوتيل المير امين في بيت الدين وقد كان عدد  
الحضور 422 سيدة . وكعادتنا في كل عام  
نكرم خلال هذا الحفل لجنة سيدات أبو ظبي  
الواتي يعملن " كجندي مجهول " في تأمين  
كل انواع الدعم لبيت الطالبة. وأخيرا نتقدم  
من خالكم بالشكر العميق لكل من ايدنا  
وساهم في دعم اعمالنا .

وفقكم الله  
فريدة الرئيس

بيروت في 28 اب 2014

Dear Mrs. Afifi Masri,

Thanks for your year-end card to us and for all the good work you do all year long for our community.

I am enclosing a check for \$200. Please donate to any of the Druze charities that you choose on our behalf. God bless you and Happy New Year.

**Roger Shaar**  
Shadow Hills, CA

Dear Mrs. Masri,

I hope this card finds you well and enjoying the remainder of the summer.

When I spoke with you over the summer, I told you I wanted to sponsor a child at the orphanage. Could it possibly be a little girl? I am hoping this donation will help. I am making this contribution in honor of my mother Nezema Simpson from my sister Janella Simpson and myself. Thank you for your untiring efforts to improve the lives of all the young children.

Sincerely  
**Patience Simpson**  
Bellflower, California

# The Druze Foundation for Social Welfare

Letter to Editor continued from page 3

## Excellence in Educational Achievements

The Druze Foundation for Social Welfare was founded in 1983 in order to take care of the relief work in the war zones of Lebanon during the unfortunate events of that time.

Later on, it took the responsibility of supporting the Druze families of the martyrs and the disabled. Over a period of twenty years a total amount of USD 7,500,000 was disbursed to accomplish these goals.

**The Druze Foundation for Social Welfare – Scholarship Fund at the AUB (American University of Beirut)** was established in 2002, to provide scholarships to academically qualified and financially needy Druze students, who are seeking university education at the American University of Beirut.

### Purpose of the Scholarship Fund at AUB:

The value of quality Education that the AUB offers.

Being a graduate of a reputable university in Lebanon Provides a better chance of finding a proper job.

All donations that go to the Fund are generously matched by the AUB.

Education is one of the gates to knowledge; and that knowledge is a gateway to freedom of thought, of choice, and of action. We believe that by being exposed to the best a good education can offer, students will acquire wisdom which will enlighten them and guide their steps to become assets to their families, communities and society.

Your contribution is your commitment not to any education, but to the ideals of liberal education, of which American University of Beirut is a fountain.

The following is an excerpt from AUB President Dr. Peter Dorman's speech, at DFSW Annual Dinner 2009:

*“These men and women graduate from AUB with a deep and profound appreciation for the opportunity they had to pursue their educations at a university where tolerance is actively fostered, where responsibility is encouraged, and where diversity is celebrated. Proceeds from the DFSW – Scholarship Fund are being used to provide scholarships for academically qualified and financially needy Druze*

*students. I am very grateful for your increasing support for Druze students at AUB, and note that your annual donation the American University of Beirut is proud to match.”*

The Scholarship Fund has granted 372 scholarships in the amount of USD 1,600,000 since its inception. Each dollar contributed to the Fund has been matched by the AUB. Your kind contribution will be highly appreciated by our beneficiaries.

Thirty students benefited from the Druze Foundation for Social Welfare – Scholarship Fund, at the American University of Beirut for the academic year 2013 – 2014.

These students enrolled in Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior classes. They pursued majors in Business Administration, Biology, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Computer Science, Civil Engineering, Computer & Communications Engineering, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Environmental Health, Mathematics Education, Medical Laboratory Sciences, Nutrition & Dietetics, Philosophy, Physics, Sociology and Anthropology.

DFSW's contribution to the Fund was \$115,797.09 which was matched by the AUB for a total of \$231,594.18.



The children of  
Beit al-Yateem wish you  
a Happy New Year 2015

Dear Dr. Muakasa,

Please be informed that we are in receipt of your transfer in the amount of USA 3, 200 (Three Thousand Two Hundreds US Dollars), which is a donation by Dr. Bedri Zeineldeen in support of the student Mr. Karem Zahreddine tuition fee at Notre Dame University in Lebanon.

May I, take this opportunity, to thank Dr. Zeineldeen for his generosity and support to the needy and qualified Druze students who are seeking university education in the Lebanon.

Yours Sincerely,  
**Ghazi Jounblat**

Assistant Secretary General  
Druze Foundation for Social Welfare  
Lebanon, May 21, 2014

## Give While You Shop

We are excited to announce the affiliation of DOCO with AmazonSmile.

When you shop at **smile.amazon.com**, make sure you select Druze Orphans and Charitable Organization as your charity of choice. **Amazon will then donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to DOCO.**

AmazonSmile is simple and automatic. It's the same Amazon you know; same products, same prices and same service.

To donate to Druze Orphans and Charitable Organization, you need to start each shopping session at the URL <http://smile.amazon.com>, or type the link of DOCO on your browser:

[smile.amazon.com/ch/13-4067139](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/13-4067139)

We appreciate your patronage

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You shop. Amazon gives.



## حضرات الأخوات والأخوة الأعزاء حضرات المحسنين الكرام

تحية تقدير واحترام وبعد من وطننا الغالي لبنان  
أحبيكم أجمل تحية وأهديكم أحر السلام سائلة المولى  
تعالى أن تكونوا جميعاً بخير وسلام متمتعين بتمام  
الصحة والسعادة التي أرغبها لكم على الدوام.

كما يسرني بمناسبة عيد الأضحى المبارك أن أتقدم  
منكم فرداً فرداً بأحر التهاني وأطيب التمنيات سائلة  
المولى تعالى أن يعيده عليكم باليمن والخير والبركات  
والعيش الرغيد، إنه السميع المجيب وكل عيد وأنتم  
بألف خير، ولا بد لي هنا إلا أن أتقدم من الجميع بالشكر  
العريق النابع من القلب على ما نلقاه منكم من نيل  
العواطف وصدق المشاعر والرغبة الأكيدة في دعم  
مؤسسة بيت اليتيم لتبقى الحضن الدافئ الذي يحتضن  
أبناءنا الأعزاء من أيتام والحالات الإجتماعية الصعبة،  
تحميهم من شر الجهل والتشرد والحرمان، وتؤمن لهم  
الحياة الكريمة وتعددهم نحو مستقبل مشرق واعد،  
مزودين بالعلم والمعرفة والأخلاق الحميدة.

ولولا اللقطة الكريمة والدعم الدائم من المحسنين  
الكرام في الوطن والمهجر لما تمكنا من  
الإستمرارية في ظل الظروف الإقتصادية الصعبة  
التي نعيشها، فلنكم منا ومن أبنائنا الأعزاء في  
المؤسسة الشكر الدائم مع الدعاء لكم بالعلم الطويل  
متوجاً بالتوفيق والنجاح.

مع العلم أن المؤسسة مضى على تأسيسها 75 عاماً،  
تخرج منها العديد من الشباب والصبيا الذين شقوا  
طريقهم ونجحوا في حياتهم ومنهم من وصل إلى  
مراتب مميزة في الوظائف.

وفي الختام نهدىكم أخلص السلام مع الأمل بأن  
تبقى لكم لقطة كريمة على هذا البيت الذي يضم  
بين جدرانه حوالي الخمسمائة بين يتيم ومعوذ،  
يتأمن لهم كل شيء من الإيواء والكساء والتدفئة  
والطبابة والدواء، إضافة إلى التعليم من مرحلة  
الروضة حتى البكالوريا القسم الثاني مهني مع  
تقديم الكتب والقرطاسية. " وأن الله في عون  
العبد ما دام العبد في عون أخيه."

وتفضلوا بقبول الإحترام،  
أختكم المخلصة  
حياة هرموش النكدي  
لبنان - عبيية 2014/28/9

Dear ladies and gentlemen, generous donors,

Please accept my greetings with sincere appreciation, from our precious country Lebanon. May the almighty grant you good health and happiness.

It is with pleasure that I wish you a happy and prosperous Eid-al-Adha, hoping that you may enjoy its abundance. I thank you deeply for your noble passion and genuine desire in supporting Beit al-Yateem so it can remain the warm environment for our dear orphans, and impoverished students, while preparing them for a brighter, more promising future, supported by a good education and good moral character.

Had it not been for the generous support of philanthropists in Lebanon and abroad, it wouldn't have been possible for us to continue our mission in the current economic situation.

This year we celebrate the 75th anniversary of our institution, which has provided hundreds of young ladies and gentlemen with the tools needed to make it in their professional and social lives.

Today we have five hundred orphans and needy students. They enjoy the safety of a warm shelter, and everything they need in their daily lives, as well as good education starting from Kindergarten till the Vocational Baccalaureate part II.

Respectfully  
**Hayat Harmouche Nakadi**  
Executive Director  
Beit al-Yateem  
Abey, Lebanon, 9/28/2014

Dear Mrs. Masri,

As per your request, I visited Beit al-Yateem in Abey, Lebanon several times this year and hand delivered DOCO checks to Mrs. Hayat Nakadi, on behalf of the Druze Orphans and Charitable Organization, in the amount of \$37,430.00 as follows:

Check #102, dated 10/12/2013 for the amount of \$12,000.  
Check #104 dated 8/4/2014 for the amount of \$13,100.  
Check #143 dated 8/20/2014 for the amount of \$12,330.

Sincerely,  
**Majd Abou-Ezzideen**  
DOCO Representative  
Beirut - Lebanon, October 15, 2014



Members of Rotary Club of Aley distributing Boxes of Food during Eid al-Adha

*We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.* Winston Churchill

Dear Sabar,

In my name and the name of The Rotary Club of Aley, I would like to thank you and your donors from the bottom of my heart for taking part again in our 2014 annual Adha food distribution.

Thank you DOCO for your recent generous gift of \$1000.

Our food boxes are \$36 each and contain: rice, lentils, beans, pasta, chickpeas, bulgur, cooking oil, olive oil, powdered milk, sugar, tea, flour, cheese boxes, Tuna cans, raisins and nuts and zaatar.

Your donation helped purchase 28 boxes thus helping 28 needy families.

DOCO has been a constant source of support and comfort for needy druze individuals and families in Lebanon. They are always there to clothe, feed, heal and lend a helping hand.

May God bless you and give you courage and strength to continue this road of relentless giving.

Warmest Regards

**Lina Shehayeb**  
ICC Lebanon - USA -  
President 2014-2017  
The Rotary Club of Aley,  
Past President, 2013-2014

DOCO Newsletter  
is also, available as a  
PDF file for anyone who  
wishes to read it or  
share it, on our website  
druzecharity.org

Note: A condensed translation of the above letter from Beit al-Yateem is in the center column



*Aref Nakadi seated with the ladies of the Committee of the Druze Orphanage during the mid 1950's. Left to right: Mrs. Hazik Hamdan, Princess Zabia Arislan, Aref Nadkai, Princess Amina Arislan, Mrs. May Muzher and Mrs. Adma Joumblat. Standing fourth from right is Aniseb Assaf with teachers and staff members*

Nakadi decided to relocate the orphans in buildings which were available around the Shrine of Assayed Abdallah, planning on building another Beit el-Yateem in the area as soon as he possibly could. Abey had been the home of his family for hundreds of years.

According to (the late) Professor *Dr. Sami Nassib Makarem*, **the village of Abey itself was a town of piety during the reign of the Tanoukhs (ruling Druze emirs). There were many shrines there. The Shrine of Sayyed Abdallah is the tomb of the Prince, Emir Jamaladeen Abdallah Tanoukheh, the most learned commentator on Druze scriptures. He lived during the Fifteenth Century and is said to have been the most pious of sheikhs (Druze religious leaders) to appear after the Dahwah (accepting the Faith). The tomb of his son is in the same building. This holy place is very much revered by the Druze.**

As if Providence decreed it, money from donors flooded in as news to build the institution reached Druze throughout the world. In 1963, with financial aid from the Druze community, and with the great help from the Social Security Ministry in Lebanon, a modern and well-equipped orphanage was built next to the holy burial site of Sayyed Abdallah. During 1982, over 500 orphans between the ages of four to sixteen years of age lived in Beit el-Yateem, in addition to 100 needy children. The facility expanded to include a technical school so that the orphans could get a higher education and learn a trade or profession.

Some years back, Nakadi began publishing a magazine from the orphanage. It was called "Al Mithack." In it, every contributor's name was listed. Often, instead of money, people would donate special services or clothing, food, fresh produce, olives, olive oil, even sheep. Everything that was given to the orphanage was itemized and published in "Al Mithack". In addition, Aref Nakadi made sure that every penny spent was accounted for. In this way, he was trusted by the donors.

From the beginning days of the orphanage, Shakeeb Nakadi worked side-by-side with his cousin, Aref. He was always there to be counted on. So during 1975, when Aref Nakadi died at the age of 88 (after tutoring the orphanage, as if to say 'farewell'), the heavy burden of carrying the tasks Beit el-Yateem fell on Shakeeb's shoulders and some devoted and loyal employees along with Shakeeb's active and kind wife, Hayat, who was his right hand (and is still directing the day to day operation of the orphanage).

The civil war in Lebanon exploded during the late summer of 1975. As factions fought factions, villages and towns were bombed, shelled and leveled. There was no one area untouched by the fighting. Refugees were rampant throughout the country. Some found shelter at Beit el-Yateem.



*Children helping to rebuild their school*

The orphanage, the shrine, indeed, all of Abey were shelled and bombed more than once during the civil war of 1975. At one time, a large bomb dropped on top of the roof crashing into the section where the orphans slept. Fortunately, the area was unoccupied when the damage occurred. That night and for 23 days and nights after, orphans, employees, refugees, Shakeeb Nakadi and everyone in the institution took shelter under the ground-floor of the building.

Throughout these years, the orphanage was shelled periodically. Through some miracle, no one was ever killed or seriously wounded. And the orphanage buildings proved stable and strong by resisting any serious damage. Fearing the worst, Shakeeb Nakadi sent all of the orphans and everyone in the institution away, making arrangements



*The Sayyed Abdallah Shrine after it was destroyed*

for children to stay with close or distant relatives. He, along with his family of five, remained in his home in Abey.

Shakeeb Nakadi and his family had to flee Abey and took refuge in the Capucine Convent which was converted to an orphanage, near Beit el-Yateem. The nuns there hid him and his family as they had become good friends during the years of civil war, sharing food and necessities. That same day, a group of Capucine nuns placed a petition on the door of Beit el-Yateem. It read: **Do not destroy this building. It is an institution. The people are our friends.**

Hidden safely, the Nakadis remained with the nuns for seven days. Through the eight-year-old civil war, they had remained close and dependable friends, these orphanage keepers. **"I will share with them, until the last sack of flour I have!"** Nakadi was heard to have said, referring to his Christian friends.

After hearing of his travails, the Islamic Center for Orphans in Beirut sent word that they were willing to take the Druze orphans – no matter how many and at no cost. "We are brothers in our work," they said. Nadkadi was ecstatic. He immediately left for Beirut.

Over 100 of the Druze orphans were received in Beirut. Making out as best they could, the others stayed in the Mountains as traveling to Beirut was very dangerous. A friend, Mahmoud Hasanini, offered Shakeeb Nakadi an office in Beirut. He accepted. And he continued to publish the Beit el-Yateem magazine, "Al Mithack." Through this magazine, he kept the many orphanage



*Beit el-Yateem as it stands today*

supporters informed as to what had happened in Abey and on the condition of the orphans, as well as he could.

It was February 14, 1984. The Druze came back to their villages. They found four villages had been particularly hit hard. Kfarmatta, Bennay, Bawerta and Abey. Every house in Abey had been hit with shells. Many were blown up with TNT. Everything was destroyed even the Sayyed Abdallah Shrine.

Shakeeb Nakadi was among the first people to be allowed to re-enter Abey. But Shakeeb knew he had to go. He had to see what had happened to the orphanage. And so there it stood, Beit el-Yateem, a blackened shell. Nakadi stepped inside. As he walked through the structure he saw that everything had been ransacked and destroyed: classroom desks, kitchen equipment, bedroom furnishing torn apart, shredded and mutilated. The technical school was the same: what was not looted was ripped apart and mangled. There was nothing left of Beit el-Yateem, except a shell of a building filled with debris and chaos.

He walked to his home. His house (a historical site) and every Nakadi abode had been blown up: leveled. They had lost everything. Every material possession they owned in Abey was destroyed. Aref Nakadi had collected a library of rare and choice books and manuscripts during his lifetime. Many of them dealt with the history of the Druze in Lebanon, and some were a distinctive accumulation of religious material on the Druze. A writer, he had many manuscripts ready for publication. They were all destroyed.

"You cannot imagine how sad I am," Shakeeb Nakadi wrote a friend. "The memories, the hundreds of years of memories in my house and those of my family and Beit el-Yateem; all those years of hard and continuous work, are lost, but I cannot leave this job that my cousin entrusted me to continue. I shall continue to do it as long as I live."

Shakeeb Nakadi sent word throughout the Druze community about what had happened to their beloved orphanage. "Whosoever is willing to help, will you please do so?" The response was overwhelming. People came to Abey from villages throughout the Shouf Mountains.

"We are ready to help, to build, to give our time, whatever we can do or whatever we can afford." And the Druze from around the world, emotionally distraught, began sending donations for the orphaned, even before they were asked for it. From Venezuela, Nigeria, Liberia, Australia, the



*During the '50's, some of faculty and staff gathered for this picture on the rooftop of the orphanage. Third from the left is Afifi Assaf Masri next to her sister late Aniseh Assaf*

U.S.A. and especially the Arab countries, funds were sent across the seas and over the skies to rebuild what had been destroyed. In every one of those countries, women's committees rose to the call to raise funds.

**Like the fabled Phoenix, Beit el-Yateem rose again from its own ashes to live and thrive once more.**

*This article first appeared in Kathy Jaber Stephenson's publication, Our World Magazine, News and Views from the World Druze Community, Summer 1985. It is a tribute to the resiliency of the Druze people, their commitment to "safeguarding the brethren" and to the memories of Aniseh Assaf, called "Mother" by the Druze orphans. And it is dedicated to the memories of Aref al-Nakadi and his cousin Shakeeb al-Nakadi. They set the bar for the true Druze by dedicating their lives to the orphans. May God rest their souls.*

**Our deepest gratitude to: Aniseh Assaf and her sister, Afifi Assaf Masri for providing the details for the Biet el-Yateem Story, and to Leila Masri and Nabila Aboulhosn for translating Aniseh's Arabic to English during the taped interview.**

**DOCO:** Today, thousands of orphans and needy have passed through its doors and many have graduated and became successful members of the community.

## Meet Our Role Model

# Nathalie Rayes

**National Public Relations Director of Grupo Salinas  
Executive Director of Fundación Azteca America**



*Nathalie and her mother Mrs. Nada Abdul-Malak Rayes*

Nathalie Rayes is the U.S. National Public Relations Director for Grupo Salinas. A Mexican conglomerate with US\$6 billion in annual sales and 100,000 employees in Mexico, the United States, and Central and South America, and with operations in the broadcasting, retail, banking and financial services, telecommunications and internet.

Nathalie is also the Executive Director of Fundación Azteca America that seeks to improve the quality of life of Latinos by partnering with existing nonprofits to empower, create awareness and motivate change on social and civic issues.

Previously, Nathalie served as Los Angeles Mayor James K. Hahn Deputy Chief of Staff, directing the Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Relations, serving as chief liaison to federal, state and regional governments and to the Los Angeles City Council, International Trade, Protocol, Immigrant Affairs, as

well as Mayor's appointments to City commissions and boards. Prior to that, she was Senior Policy Advisor to Los Angeles Councilmember Mike Feuer, heading all aspects of Councilmember's activities with respect to citywide legislation and ordinances impacting the Fifth Council District.

Nathalie also served as a Department of State Fellow in the Economic/Political Section of the United States Embassy in Cairo, Egypt.

Nathalie serves as a United States Presidential appointee to the Board of Trustees of the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, as well as the Advisory Board of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute and on the Boards of Directors of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute, Los Angeles Universal Preschool, U.S. – Mexico Chamber of Commerce, and is a founding member of the Public Policy

Alumni Council at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Nathalie is the recipient of UCLA Masters in Public Policy Alumna of the Year 2014, Santa Monica College Distinguished Alumna Recognition Award for Outstanding Professional and Community Service Achievement of 2013, and 2012 "Mujeres Destacadas Award" a recognition given annually by El Diario La Prensa to the most outstanding women in our community.

She is also a Fellow of the Asia 21 Young Leaders Initiative, the leading cross-sectional leadership development program in the Asia-Pacific region.

Nathalie has a Bachelors of Arts in Sociology cum laude and Masters in Public Policy with concentration in International Relations and Education from the UCLA.

She is fluent in Spanish and conversational Arabic. She resides in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts with her husband, Dr. Tarek Samad, and their young sons, Julian and Alexander.



*Nathalie with her husband, Dr. Tarek Samad, and their young sons, Julian and Alexander.*



## Meet Our Role Model

# Fellowship Conferred Upon Farid F. Muakkassa, MD, FACS 60th Distinguished Physician



*Farid F. Muakkassa, MD, FACS*

It is with great honor and distinct pleasure that we, the DOCO Team, congratulate our own Dr. Farid F. Muakkassa of Akron General Medical Center (AGMC) in Akron, Ohio, who was recently inducted into the Society of Distinguished Physicians as the 60th member on Friday, the 26th of September, 2014.

This is doubly special as Akron General Medical Health Systems celebrates its 100 years of excellence. The Distinguished Society was established to recognize members of Akron General's Medical Staff for outstanding service to Akron General Medical Center and to the community. Inductees are selected by their peers for exemplary patient care, research, medical education, and community activities.

Farid's vision, leadership and determination helped AGMC to become the first American College of Surgeons accredited Trauma Center culminating in acquiring the highest Level 1 Trauma verification. Dr. Muakkassa was also a pioneer in establishing, directing and running the only consultative Surgical Intensive Care Unit at AGMC and Summit County in Ohio.

Dr. Muakkassa is a Professor of Clinical



*L to R: Camille, Dr. Rima, Dr. Farid, Linda, Kareem & Ryan Muakkassa*

Surgery at Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) and is the Program Director of Wound Care at Select Specialty Hospital. Since joining Akron General in 1993, Dr. Muakkassa has been involved in many committees, including serving as Chairman of the Trauma Performance Committee and Co-Chair of the Intensive Care Committee. He also serves on the Quality Improvement Committee, Mass Casualty Incident Committee, Surgery QI Committee, Neuroscience QI Committee, Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, Nutrition Committee, Neuroscience ICU Committee and Respiratory Therapy Committee. He is also a member of the Northeastern Ohio Regional Trauma Network and The American College of Surgeons Ohio Committee on Trauma.

He was named "Physician of the Year" for AGMC in 2007 and given the "Off Service Teacher of the Year Award" by the ER residents at AGMC in 2001. Dr. Muakkassa also received the "LifeBank Oscar Award" in 1998 and "Outstanding Volunteer Faculty Award" at NEOMED in 2003.

He is a member of many professional societies, including the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma, the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma, Society of Critical Care Medicine, Neurocritical Care Society, Association for Academic Surgery, American Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition, American

Academy of Neurology, Cleveland Surgical Society, University of Mississippi Surgical Society, Nathan Womack Surgical Society, Southeastern Surgical Congress and Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Born in Beirut, Lebanon, Dr. Muakkassa completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and received his medical degree from the American University of Beirut School of Medicine. He completed his General Surgery residency requirements at St. Francis Medical Center in Trenton, NJ and a fellowship in Surgical Critical Care/Trauma at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

He was an Assistant Professor of Surgery and Anesthesiology and Director of SICU at the University of Mississippi in Jackson, MS before joining Akron General. He is active in research and has given over 60 national and international presentations. He has been published in over 30 peer-reviewed publications, four medical textbook chapters and other research publications and projects. He is board-certified in General Surgery, Surgical Critical Care and Neurocritical Care.

Dr. Muakkassa lives in Bath Township, Ohio, with his lovely wife, Dr. Rima Muakkassa, and their four children: Linda a senior, Camille a sophomore, Kareem a freshman, all attending Walsh Jesuit High School. Ryan is in 8th grade at St. Hilary School in Fairlawn.

# Congratulations



*L to R: Lina, Fady, Myrna and Diana Malak*

**D**iana, daughter of Fady & Lina Malak, graduated from the University of Delaware with a Bachelor of Art Degree in Criminal Justice and a minor degree in Biology in 2014. She was offered an internship with the Delaware Public Defenders Office as an intake investigator. She will gain first-hand experience in the Criminal Justice System and will serve as a focal point for the Public Defender's Office. The Public Defender's Office is voted one of the Top Workplaces in Delaware, ranking 11th for mid-sized organizations, as published in the Delaware News Journal.

Sister Myrna, also graduated from Stevenson University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in 2014. Myrna was offered a job at the prestigious Critical Care Nurse Residency at Christiana Care Health Systems. This unique program integrates educational components with preceptor-led clinical experiences, to ease the transition to critical care nursing. Christiana Care is one of America's Top 15 Major Teaching Hospitals.

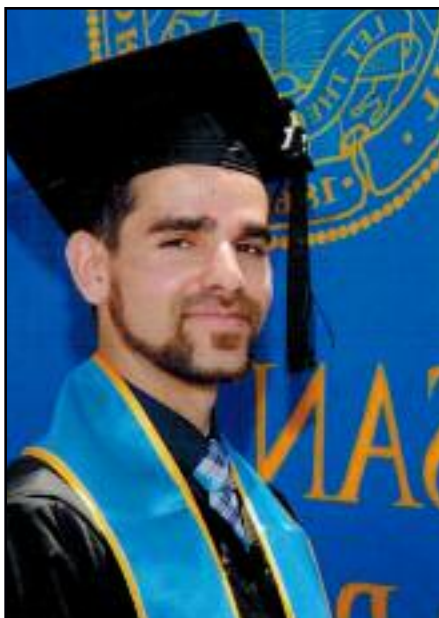


**S**amer, son of Nabil and Joumana Assaf, of La Crescenta, CA, graduated with Dean's Recognition for Junior/Senior Continuum from the Keck School of Medicine of USC on May 17, 2014.

He is doing his residency in Emergency Medicine at UC Irvine.



**J**ad Aboudiab, son of Salim and May Aboudiab, of La Crescenta, CA, graduated from UC Irvine with a B.S. in Computer Science (Summer 2014) and will be joining Google full-time.



**O**mar, son of Nabil and Iman Masri, of Camarillo, CA, graduated on June 15, 2014, from the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) with a B.S. degree in Computer Science.

While at UCSB, Omar was on the Dean's Honors list in recognition of outstanding scholastic achievement for the spring quarter of 2012.

This Summer Omar got an intern position in computer programming with a company in Copenhagen, Denmark.



**K**areem, the son of Drs. Farid & Rima Muakkassa, graduated in June 2014 from Middle School at St. Hillary School in Akron, Ohio.

Kareem scored in the top 1% on the national high school exam qualifying him for the prestigious Champion Honor Society at Walsh Jesuit High School.

## Meet Our Role Model

### Dr. J. Mehsen Joseph Posthumously Honored by Maryland Department of Health



*Dr. J. Mehsen Joseph*

#### Maryland's Public Health System



#### J. MEHSEN JOSPEH Public Health Laboratory

On July 26th, 2014, Maryland's Governor and other dignitaries participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony of the new **Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**, and the dedication of the new **J. Mehsen Joseph Public Health Laboratory**.

The department previously named its Laboratory facility in 1998, honoring Dr. Joseph in recognition of his many achievements. The late Dr. Joseph was director of the health laboratory for 26 years until his passing in 2003. He was the son of the late Majeed and Bahia M. Joseph of Whitesville, West Virginia.

Dr. Joseph graduated from West Virginia University with an A.B Degree in microbiology and chemistry at the age of 20, and went on to earn his Masters Degree. He then attended Columbia University and the University of Maryland where he earned his Ph.D at the age of 23. He also earned a B.S. Degree in Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the University of Toledo, where he was assistant professor of microbiology.

In 1957, Dr. Joseph began his career with the Maryland State Health Department's Bureau of Laboratories as chief of the microbiology division. From 1959 until 1977 he served as Assistant Director of the Health Laboratories Administration at which time he was appointed Director, a position he would hold for the next 26 years.

Dr. Joseph had served as associate professor at the University of Maryland graduate school. He had also served as senior associate in epidemiology at John's Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, consultant and advisor to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institutes of Health, the National Academy of Sciences, Aid for International Development, and the World Health Organization.

He was also the author of more than 90 scientific and professional publications, and was recognized in **Who's Who Among Men and Women in Science**.

In June 2002, The Association of Public Health Laboratories named Dr. Joseph as recipient of its most prestigious **Lifetime Achievement Award**, for his contributions and dedicated services in the field of public health, both nationally and internationally.

Because he was recognized and so highly regarded as a microbiologist, educator, mentor and public health consultant, the American Society of Microbiology has posthumously named in his honor, its annual national award for leadership in public health microbiology, The J. Mehsen Joseph Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Joseph was characterized by his colleagues as "a person of extraordinary vision who has been a leader in every aspect in the field of public health nationally and internationally". As a result of his leadership, "he transformed Maryland's State Health Laboratories into one of the best in the nation".

"His legacy of leadership, scientific vision and his lifetime of public service, has left a mark on the laboratories administration that will endure well into the future."

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# Entertainment Icon Casey Kasem

1932-2014



American entertainment icon and proud Arab American Casey Kasem, died on Sunday, 15 June 2014, in a Washington State hospital following a long illness. He was 82.

Manal Saab, who chairs both the American Druze Foundation board and the Arab American National Museum's National Advisory Board, was a personal friend of Kasem's. She recalls his dedication to his faith and community. "Casey was different than most celebrities. He always picked up the phone and he never said no to helping. My husband Ghassan and I had a personal relationship with Casey. He was Lebanese, Druze and from Michigan. Casey had the chance to visit Lebanon with his family in 1997 with relentless celebration."

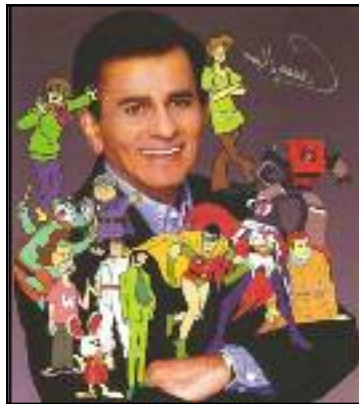
Casey Kasem has long been celebrated as an iconic voice of American radio and music, and is also recognized as one of the most famous Arab Americans. He was born Kamel Amin Kasem in Detroit on April 27, 1932, to Lebanese immigrant father and Lebanese American mother. Like many Arab immigrants to Detroit at that time, Casey's father Amin owned a grocery store.

Kasem was a graduate of Wayne State University in Detroit, where he began his career by performing bit parts in radio dramas. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army who served as a DJ during the Korean War. In the summer of 1970, in collaboration with fellow Arab American broadcaster Don Bustany and other partners, Kasem launched his syndicated radio program, American Top 40, on just five radio stations. Soon the program was heard "coast to coast" on hundreds of stations and later became a TV

show. Classic episodes remain on the air today.

Kasem also had a successful career as a voice-over actor, most notably as an NBC announcer and the voice of Shaggy ("Zoinks!") on the children's cartoon Scooby Doo, Where Are You!

In addition to his numerous accolades and awards, including a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame (1981) and induction into the Radio Hall of Fame (1992), Kasem was genuinely proud of his Arab heritage. "Whenever I can," he said in a 1983 interview, "I like to let people know that I am Lebanese, that I am Arabic, and that's my heritage. I'm an American first, but at the same time I feel strong ties going way back."



Casey - Kasem  
*Saturday Morning Cartoon - Shaggy*

Several obituaries recount how Kasem's entertainment career was inspired by listening to his older relatives' one-upsmanship style of storytelling as a kid.

Throughout his career, Casey Kasem fought against media stereotyping of Arabs and Arab Americans, and always encouraged young Arab American media producers. He gave selflessly to many Arab American causes, including the Arab American National Museum, lending his sonorous voice to its 'Making An Impact' permanent exhibit and donating multiple items for display, including his Hollywood Walk of Fame plaque and the American Top 40 sign that hung on the program's Ventura Boulevard studio in Los Angeles. Kasem has been an honorary member of the AANM's National Advisory Board since the Museum opened in 2005.

Casey Kasem's legacy also includes the new \$2 million Post-Doctoral Fellowship in

Druze and Arab Studies at Georgetown University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, a first-of-its-kind program.

Casey's daughter, Kerri, also a great friend of the Arab American National Museum, is following in her father's footsteps professionally and through her community involvement.

A memorial service was held to celebrate his life at the American Druze Society's cultural center in Eagle Rock, Calif. It was attended by many Arab community leaders and friends who came to pay respect to the Kasem family. Kasem was an active member of the Druze community. He was a founding member of the American Druze Foundation and played an integral role in establishing the Society's Southern California cultural center.

*Note: DOCO wishes to thank the Arab American National Museum for allowing us to use an excerpt from their tribute to Casey*

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## Donations Received in Memoriam 2013

Donor Name	In Memory of	Amount
Muakkassa, Mrs. Rola	Memory of Dr. Kamel Fuad Muakkassa	1,000
Israwi, Salim, Samir, Suhail, Sawfat, Salma, & Siham	Memory of Dr. Munem Nasserddine	500
Halaby, Hayat S.	Memory of her husband Samir Salim Halaby	300
Muakkassa, Mrs. Rola	Memory of Im Ghassan Baz	250
Boukzam, Ashraf	Memory of Ameen Boukzam	200
Israwi, Salim & Barbara	Memory of Raja Nasserredine	200
Assaf, Mounah & Diana	Memory of Adel Jamil Assaf	200
Masri, Mrs. Afifi	Memory of Adel Jamil Assaf	100
Muakkassa, Drs. Farid & Rima	Memory of Adel Jamil Assaf	100
Noueihed, Hayat Assaf	Memory of Adel Jamil Assaf	50
Assaf, Mounah & Diana	Memory of Akram Al-Zoor	100
Boukzam, Fahima	Memory of Rashid Hussien al-Masri & wife	100
Aboulhosn, Nabil & Elham Aboulhosn, Amal,	Memory of Mayor Hassib Naim Aboulhosn	100
Leila & Sami Nabil Aboulhosn	Memory of Mayor Hassib Naim Aboulhosn	100
Makarem, Dr. Anis	Memory of his wife Samira Abdel-Khalek	100
Assaf, Mounah & Diana	Memory of Samira Abdel-Khalek	100
Anonymous	Memory of Samira Abdel-Khalek	90
Noueihed, Hayat Assaf	Memory of Samira Abdel-Khalek	25
Fakhereddine, Nadia	Memory of her Husband Suleiman Fakhereddine	100
Assaf, Mounah & Diana	Memory of Hassib Richani	100
Muakkassa, Drs. Farid & Rima	Memory of Jamil Anis Muakkassa	100
Assaf, Mounah & Diana	Memory Nahid Assaf (Im Rabih)	100
Assaf, Mounah & Diana	Memory of his father Afif	100
Joseph, E. M.	Memory of Hussen & Se Meig Joseph	50
Barkinian, Sally	Memory of her mother	5

## العمل الصالح

ما أروع أن يعمل الإنسان خيراً، فيكسب وجهه نوراً، وقلبه بياضاً. كيف نصف هذا العمل الإنساني في الأيام المباركة، أيام عيد الأضحى، حيث انتم المحسنين والمحسنات تقدمون المساعدة والمعونة للمحتاجين أو خرجيه تنبع الفرحة والابتسامة والسعادة من قلب يتيم. فهي جميعها أعمال صالحة تجلب الفرحة الى القلوب البائسة. فبالى الامام دوما نتكل على الله. فمن توكل على الرحمن ما خاب - فأسعي دوما لعمل الخير واعمل الخير يكافئك الله عليه.

كما نشكر جميع المحسنات والمحسنين فرداً فرداً، جزاكم الله خيراً على ما تبذلونه في سبيل عمل الخير لإعانة الأيتام والمحتاجين والمسنين والصم والبكم والمعاقين وغيرها من الجمعيات الخيرية. كما نشكر المحسنين الذين يعلمون أولادنا في المدارس والجامعات فيتبرعون بالقسط المدرسي السنوي لإتمام دراستهم الثانوية أو الجامعية. كثر الله من أمثالكم وزادكم من بركاته ونعمه.

يسرنا بالإصالة عن نفسي وبالنيابة عن أعضاء مجلس الإدارة أن نتقدم بأسمى آيات التهاني والتبريكات لأعضاء مجلس أمناء بيت اليتيم الدرزي في عيبة والإداريين والمعلمين والعمال لمرور 75 سنة على تأسيسها واحتفالها باليوبيل الماسي بالغ تقديراً واعتزازنا بالدور المميز في مسيرتها الإنسانية والمشرفة سائلين المولى أن يعيدها عليهم سنين عديد بمزيد من الاستمرار.

وبمناسبة حلول العام الجديد أتقدم منكم بأحرى التهاني وأطيب التمنيات بالصحة والسعادة والهناء وكل عام وأنتم بألف خير أعاده الله عليكم باليمن والبركات.

مندوبة بيت اليتيم في المهجر  
عفيفة عساف المصري

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