



November 2008:

The Women's League Bulletin

Website: www.aub.edu.lb/~webleague

Love which is the essence of God, is not for levity but for the total worth of man.

Emerson

From the President

My dear members!

I welcome you all and hope that the summer months have given you pleasure and relaxation in our fall season. I am sure that we can have a successful year with the support, cooperation and the help of the executive board members. I am looking forward to meeting each one of you. The tree leaves are changing in many colors by now as each day we face is a new challenge. We must always expect a greater tomorrow and never be satisfied with today. It is not enough to put out a good product in our daily life, there must be a constant effort to improve it. The key to progress is to always achieve something better than the last for nothing is ever so good that it cannot be improved upon.

It is true that without change there is never progress. It is firmly founded on values which are changeless such as character, honesty, responsibility and a desire to serve people. Victor Hugo said: "Progress the stride of God".

Let us remember that we have responsibilities towards ourselves and towards others and that is to laugh and to make others laugh.

PS: the league's variety show is a good opportunity to enjoy

Thank you

Christel Bikhazi

MERY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Women's league Annual Christmas Lunch 2008

Date : Wednesday December, 3, 2008

Place : Crown Plaza Hotel --- Hamra Street

We hope you can join us to enjoy the Christmas Carols, music and the tombola.

Tickets will be available on November, 3rd during the General Assembly

A GERMAN LADY IN THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE



The Women's League Members having lunch in the house of Mrs. Leila Ghantous

She was born in Berlin to grow up and meet Dr. Khalil Maasri, a veterinarian whom she married and gave him five sons. She is Mrs. Lilo Maasri.

In the Year 1964 – 1965, Lilo joined the Women's League as a member and in 1992 she was elected president; during that time she witnessed the celebration of the 75th. Anniversary of the Women's League. The general meetings used to take place in Irwin Hall in L.A.U. Lilo, with high spirits, dedication and enthusiasm is working assiduously towards upholding and maintaining the objectives of the Women's League which are summarized below.

- 1- To enrich our knowledge about our beloved country, Lebanon.
- 2- To get more knowledge about the Lebanese and their culture, which could be obtained and gathered from the monthly trips and cultural centers' feed back as an out come from events? Pertaining to exhibitions of paintings, stage dance, poetry and musical festivals and lectures.
- 3- To have more togetherness and to socialize; to be more exposed to society in order to exchange ideas.
- 4-To attend the monthly meeting regularly, not forgetting to have informal meetings among the League's members in small or large groups and for the new comers.

For Lilo, the Women's League is a really tangible social set-up. It was-as it is still an important entity with members ranging between 200 and 250 of 22 different nationalities at that time. She remembers the morning and afternoon coffee and tea meetings. Further, Lilo remembers the Gourment Club where the members were "enthusiastic" about introducing their different ways of cooking; each introduced her back-home way of cooking. The food cooking demonstrations by the ladies were held at the Danish Food Center in Ras Beirut.

Presently, Lilo is an active member of the League as she has always been.

OCTOBER 15, 2008 TRIP TO FARAYA

The trip was planned by the Women's League and organized by Ms. Lamia Kawar who was keen to choose the most conspicuously was known as important places that all visitors should not miss.

Our visit to Faraya started with a good visit to the museum of the famous Lebanese poet Elias Abu Shabkeh after which we visited Chabrouh Dam. Unfortunately, we could not reach the ruins of Faqra due to the foggy weather. Actually, the museum was inaugurated in January, 1997 under the auspices of the municipality of Zouk Mkayel. Originally, it was the home of the late poet Elias Abu Shabkeh who lived there most of his life. One would see the poet's furniture and curtains; the same old ones. However, when it was transformed to a museum some changes and designs were made in order to accommodate exhibitions that display paintings, photographs and artistic events.

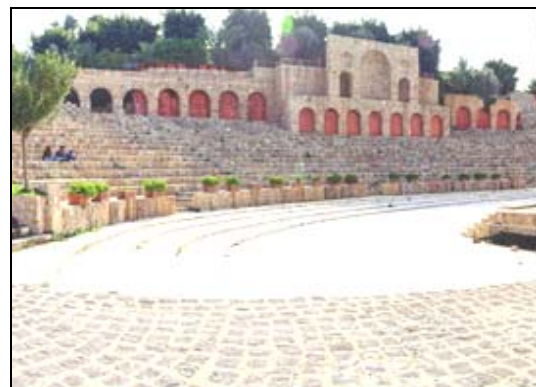


Abu Shabkeh

The City of Zouk Mkayel



Statue of Abu Chabkeh Facing the Museum



The Roman Amphitheater

The late poet was born in the United States in the year 1903 during the time his parents were paying a visit to the said country. He finished his Elementary Education in Kisirwan. At the age of 16, he met Olga Saroufim and both were wedded in 1931. Although he was married he met several women who inspired him. He fell in love with Leyla Adem, to whom he wrote his most beautiful poems ever. Among his writings were patriotic poems as well. He died in 1947 leaving behind him a rich legacy of written poems and translated works. It was also a very interesting experience when the League members strolled down the old Zouk Mkayel Souk which is well-known for many artisan products, including woven silk textiles. UNESCO chose the city of Zouk Mkayel as the City of Peace for the Arab Region. It is noteworthy to mention that in 1998-1999 UNESCO offered Zouk, a prize, honoring the city's efforts to fight poverty, deprivation and security instability. In a nice restaurant overlooking the Roman Amphitheater which was built in 1997-1998 in a Roman style, which can



hold 4000 people for great events. Breakfast and coffee were served amidst all of the beautiful gardens. Before our return we had a great lunch at Al 'Aarrab Restaurant in Faraya with a fire place inside while foggy, cloudy and rainy weather outside, which made the atmosphere cozy even stimulating the ladies to dance and have a lot of fun.

The ladies around the fire place

Destined to miss the interview



Silvia and keys of her parent's house in Jerusalem

Silvia Sneige was born in Jerusalem on Dec 9, 1932 and passed away on Friday October 24, 2008. An interview was planned but she was destined to miss it. She left Jerusalem in 1948 and moved to Cairo where she continued her schooling. Her family later moved to Beirut, Lebanon, where she met her husband Michel Sneige. She had four children and 9 grand children. She was a very energetic and productive person and kept herself employed throughout her life in many firms until she decided to render her services to the British Embassy until her retirement.

For her services, Silvia was awarded the status of honorary member of the British Empire [M. B. E.] on March 21st, 2003. She joined the Women's League, where she was an active member. It is worth-mentioning that she was elected the Vice President in 1997-1999 to become the President in 2000-2002.

Silvia's patriotism towards Palestine was manifested in her outcry advocating the Palestinian's right to return. She was one of those families who are keen on keeping the keys to the original homeland houses and passing them on from generation to generation as a symbol of the right to return to the homeland Palestine.

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