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XLVI #12 DECEMBER 2008

## Kahlil Gibran Memorial Restoration Committee Makes Major Inroads in Washington, D.C.

In late October 2007, Donald Hanna, D.D.S., chairman of the Federation's Kahlil Gibran Memorial Restoration Committee, and committee members Norma Hanna and



*Dr. Donald Hanna (left) at a Washington, D.C. reception in honor of Lebanon Ambassador Antoine Chedid (right).*

(continued on page 14)

## Celebrating 37 Years of Outstanding Service



Each year, ACCESS of exemplary community members. The celebration takes the time to reflect on the impact contributions to the community and to recognize the hard work

(continued on page 10)

## ACCESS

### Construction Begins on Access Youth & Family Services Center



After much planning, preparation and community consultation, construction has begun on a brand new 32,050 square foot facility that will become ACCESS' Youth & Family Services Center.

From its location in the south end of Dearborn, the Center will be strategically placed to serve youth throughout Dearborn's large and diverse Arab American community. The Center will also present a unique resource for thousands more youth throughout the metropolitan area.

The Center was

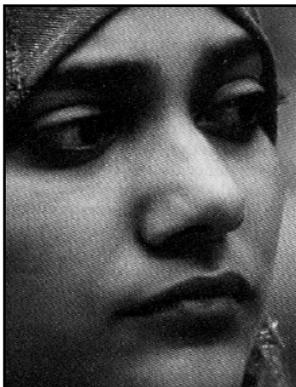
conceptualized in response to the rapidly growing demand for ACCESS' Youth & Education Department programs. This nationally recognized department has come to serve thousands of community members through its will provide a much-needed location to integrate ACCESS' diverse programs and services into a strong and effective whole.

Most importantly, the Center will create a plethora of new opportunities for the more than 3,200 youth under

(continued on page 10)

## Islam's Secret Army? Hizb-ut Tahrir, the transnational party whose declared goal is to establish an Islamic superstate, is causing growing concern in capital cities around the world.

For years, Western governments paid little heed to an Islamic organization called Hizb-ut Tahrir (HT, or Party of Liberation) dedicated to setting up a worldwide caliphate, restoring the religious and political



(continued on page 9)

## 2009 Mid - Winter Conference In BATON ROUGE January 29 – February 1

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## Kay Kafe Grand Opening



On June 19, Sterling Jewelers Inc. and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital officially opened the new Kay Kafe. The new cafeteria was funded by a \$16 million gift from Sterling Jewelers. Among those celebrating the ribbon cutting were Marlo Thomas and Tony Thomas.

## Mimi Bajalia: Mission of Compassion for New Orleans



For Mimi Bajalia, raising funds for Brad  
(continued on page 11)



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## Jacksonville News

### Weddings

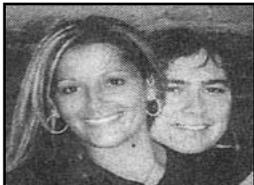
#### Saoud-Ashourian



Laura Ashourian and Raja Saoud were married at 4 p.m. Saturday in St. George Antiochian Orthodox church.

The bride, daughter of (continued on page 11)

#### Shirley-Wahidi



Safia Wahidi and Paul Shirley, both of Jacksonville Beach, were married at 6 p.m. Friday at the Casa Marina Hotel & Restaurant.

(continued on page 11)

#### Shami-Dekle



Alison Dekle and Constandi Shami were married at 3 p.m.

Saturday in St.Ephrem Catholic Church.

The bride, daughter of Marilyn and Bob Lanier, Blairsville, Ga., and

(continued on page 11)

#### 50th Wedding Anniversary The Osis



Jackie and George Ossi celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception with family and friends at San Jose Country Club. They were married Sept. 28,1958, in Baghdad Iraq. She is the former Jackie Jazrawi.

Their children are Raymond Ossi, Natalie Coutros and Richard Ossi, all of Jacksonville; and Cindy Lodise of Princeton, N.J.

The Osis have eight grandchildren.

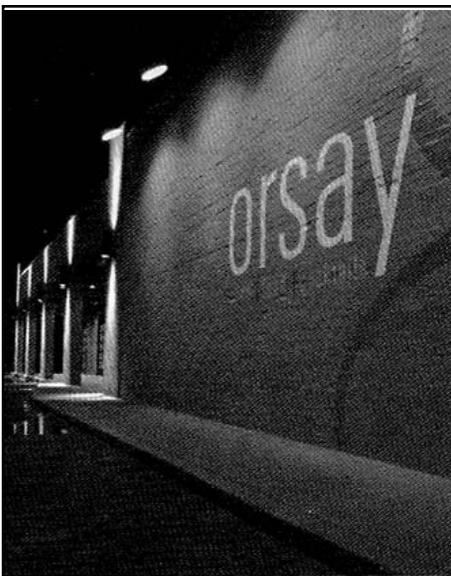
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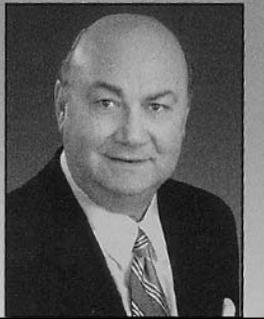
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# VERY TRULY YOURS



By John P. Moses

Once again we've had a tremendous year of fundraising. Kudos to the greatest staff in America! This year more than \$660 million was raised in order to support the research and treatment at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. This result is not only due to a great and dedicated staff, but to devoted volunteers around the country who commit many hours of their lives to ensure that Danny Thomas' dream stays alive. We had an incredible summit this June with employees from NEO and all across the country.

They received an update on our programs and a status report on our strategic plan, and left Memphis energized and committed to meeting our goals for 2009. We also want to thank Joyce Aboussie, the retiring Chair of ALSAC, for an outstanding tenure in office. Under her caring leadership, ALSAC enjoyed the greatest fundraising growth in its history. We give our best wishes to the newly elected ALSAC officers, who are Chair Richard C.

(continued on page 12)

## Understanding the Eastern Christian Church

The Patriarchal Principle

Western dominance in thought and practice makes the Orthodox fear Rome would try to assimilate them into the Western system, thus causing the loss of their whole system, tradition, and identity. They respect the fact, however, that Westerners are entitled to their own religious mentality and customs as are the Easterners. The



By Brother John Samaha, S.M.

Orthodox are not convinced of the papal

(continued on page 12)

## Understanding Islam (Part 5)

By Bassam M. Chedid

What is the modern religious themes and Islamic fundamentalism and socio-political discontents, as we shall see in the following historical brief sketch.

The Oxford Dictionary succinctly defines fundamentalism as a "Strict adherence to traditional orthodox tenets... opposed to liberalism and modernism." Perhaps the first vanguard of Islamic fundamentalism, and still the most influential today, was Jamal Al-Din Al Afghani(1838-1897). His call for the Pan-Islamic unity against the imperial conquest of the West, particularly after the Napoleonic invasion of Egypt in 1882, became very popular among Muslims. He infused Islamic religious themes in his political activism, appealing to

(continued on page 12)

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# From the Grapevine

## Hamra Enterprises Announces New CEO

Hamra Enterprises is pleased to announce that, Michael K. Hamra has been promoted to President and Chief Operating Officer of Hamra Enterprises. Mike previously served

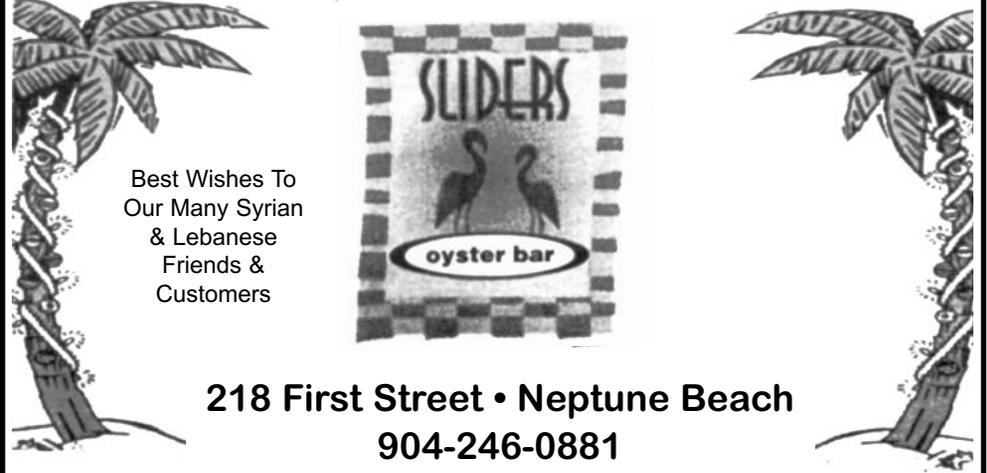
as President and COO of Boston Bread, LLC and Chicago Bread, LLC, which are panera Bread franchises operating under the Hamra organization.

"He has demonstrated strong leadership in building and operating Panera Bread franchise (continued on page 13)



Julia Lalil Collins and Phyllis A. Joseph

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## A Brief History of Maloof Origin



Maloof

The Ma'loof family origin has been traced to the Bani Al Azad (the Children of the Lion) clan of the tribe of Ghassan, who originated in the Yemen region of ancient Arabia and migrated to what is now the region that includes Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine, becoming rulers and

chiefs of the lands they settled. The subsequent conquerors of the land-Romans, Greeks, etc.-rewarded the Ghassans' for their loyalty by making them guardians and overseers of the region, and, in recognition of their own abilities as conquerors, the royal Ghassani

household and its lords were given the name Ma'yoof, which meant "exempt," denoting exemption from paying taxes on their wealth and property, or tributes from their flocks. The Ghassani (continued on page 14)

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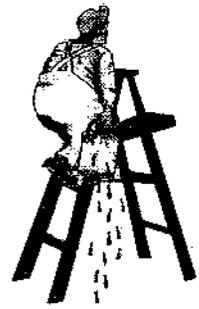
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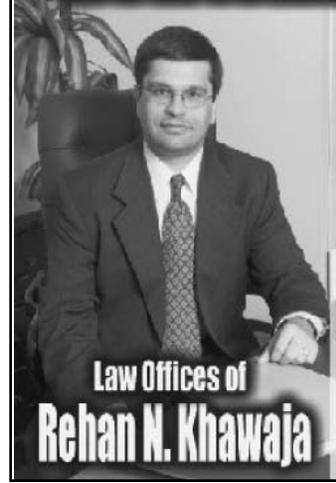
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## Federation Club News: Florida and Louisiana

### Salam Club, Miami

With membership up and meeting attendance growing, members of the Miami Salam Club nominated their officers for a second term. Nominated, and agreeing to serve were: Albert Shaheen, President; Ronald Isriel, Jr., Vice President; Michal Lawrence, Second Vice President; June M. Thomas, Corresponding Secretary; Patty

Lawrence, Recording Secretary; and Camille Gilbert, Financial Secretary.

### The Bzebdine Club

The Bzebdine Club of New Orleans has been reconstituted and has joined the Federation. Club members are the children and grandchildren of the late past president of SFSLAC Ellis Abide and his wife, Margaret Abide.

## Saudi Arabia: Bucking the global trend?

How resilient is (OECD) economies, growth in Saudi Arabia to though a faltering US a global downturn? The dollar is adding to energy rich kingdom, inflationary pressures. Economic analyst MOIN SIDDIQI examines the kingdom's unique situation. THE FOUNDATIONS OF current expansion in the kingdom are much stronger (unlike previous slowdown in western

(continued on page 19)

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### Secret Army

(continued from page 1)

authority through which the Ottoman sultans ruled an empire that stretched from Europe to Asia for more than 500 years.

Even though this secretive, highly disciplined Sunni Muslim organization espouses overthrowing the governments of Arab and Asian states, as does Osama bin Laden, who also

calls for the return of a caliphate based on Islamic religious Shari'ah law, HT was not seen as a particular threat in the West. But these days, bolstered by the belief that following 9/11 the West has declared war on Islam, the transnational party is increasingly seen in many quarters as the ideological vanguard of radical Sunni Islam.

Hizb-ut Tahrir professes to be non-violent, but its

(continued on page 15)

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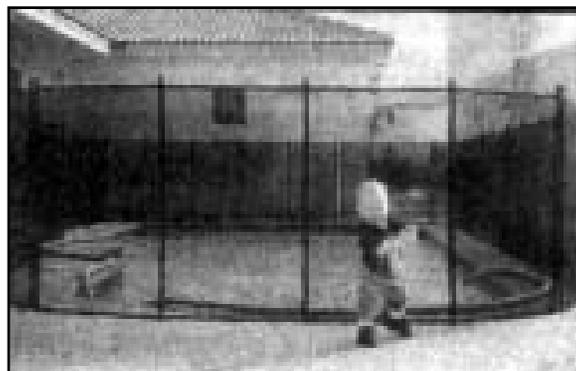
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(continued from page 1)  
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their lives to serving the community.

The first ever "Making an Impact" award went to Russell Ebeid for his philanthropic efforts within the Arab American community. ACCESS co-founder and former executive director, Ismael Ahmed, received the Arab American of the Year Award for his years of dedicated service to the local and national Arab American communities. The program concluded with a special tribute to Congressman John Dingell for his dedication

**Access**  
(continued from page 1)  
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(continued on page 15)



(continued on page 15)

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# FLORIDA

## Bajalia

(continued from page 1)

Pitt's Make It Right home-building project in New Orleans is both an act of compassion and an expression of cultural pride.

That's why she is calling her effort to raise \$150,000 by the end of 2010 The House That Palestinians Built.

Bajalia, whose maiden name is Salameh, was born in the United States, but she spent much of her childhood in Ramallah, where her father was born and most of her mother's family still lives,

including 16 of her first cousins.

According to the Web site of the American Federation of Ramallah, Palestine, there are now about 30,000 Palestinian Christians in America who can trace their family origins to the town.

ian Christians in America who can trace their family origins to the town.

Bajalia met her future husband, Mousa, at an annual convention for Ramallah Americans.

When she moved to Jacksonville in 2000, Bajalia joined a

(continued on page 15)

## Saoud

(continued from page 2)

Robin Ashourian and Elaine and Mike Ashourian, graduated from the University of South Carolina and is employed by Ash Properties Inc.

The groom's son of Hikmat and Edmond Saoud graduated from the

University of Florida and is employed by the Stellar Group as a director.

The bride's sister, Ashley Ashourian, was the maid of honor.

The groom's brother, Joe Saoud' was the best man.

Following a trip to Fiji, the couple will live in Jacksonville.

## Shirley

(continued from page 2)

The bride, daughter of Angie and Shahid Wahidi, Jacksonville, graduated from Sandalwood High School, Florida State University and the Florida Institute of Ultrasound. She is employed by Baptist Beaches Medical Center as an ultrasound technician.

The groom, son of Pamela and Gary Wetherhold, Jacksonville Beach, and Candy and Paul Shirley, Jacksonville, graduated from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts and is employed by Twisted

Martini as a bartender.

Jane11 Markle was the matron of honor, and George Georgallis was the best man.

Following a trip to Hawaii, the couple will live in Jacksonville Beach.



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## Shami

(continued from page 2)

William Nordin, Jacksonville, graduated from Bishop Kenny High School and the University of North Florida.

The groom, son of Mouna and Mike Khoury and Marlene and Elias Shami, all of Jacksonville, graduated from Bishop Kenny High School, Johnson & Wales University and the University of Central

(continued on page 16)



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# FLORIDA/GEORGIA

## Truly Yours

(continued from page 3)

Shadyac, Jr.; First Vice Chair Camille F. Sarrouf, Jr. and Second Vice Chair T Zaydon.

The new St. Jude officers are Chair Camille F. Sai Sr.; First Vice Chair Dr. Steve Tamer and Second Vice Dr. Robert Breit.

We are sure that under their leadership, both ALSAC and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital will continue to grow and meet the needs of the sickest children in the world.

It has also been a very busy summer for all of our fundraisers. In July, the AutoZone Liberty Bowl held a golf tournament honoring its 50th anniversary. Football celebrities from the last five decades attended the event and heard the message of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Once again, our friends at ESA did a remarkable job at raising more than \$10 million! I attended their convention and assured them of our thanks and appreciation for their continued

dedication to our mission.

Kappa Alpha Psi continues to be one of our strongest new partners. This great fraternity has raised more than \$378,000 this year alone for the children of St. Jude, far surpassing their goal of \$100,000! I attended the Southeastern Convention in Atlanta and welcomed them as true members of the St. Jude family.

Once again, the Run from Memphis to Peoria was a great success. This group of committed volunteers has constantly showed their devotion to the children of St. Jude. Each year, their fundraising continues to grow.

We welcome two new members to the ALSAC Board of Directors and the St. Jude Board of Governors. They are Dr. Christopher George of Tampa, Fla., and Sheriff Mike McCoy of Peoria, IL.

I hope you had a wonderful summer. We look forward to continuing our efforts to finding cures and saving children.

## Islam

(continued from page 3)

the growing resentment against foreign domination. He also called for overthrow of rulers who are submissive to foreign power.

Another influential fundamentalist is Hasan Al-Banna (1906-1949). He was influenced by Al Afghani's thought. However, he founded a new movement in Egypt, still in operation today, named: "The Society of Muslim Brethren", it became the first modern strict and militant fundamentalist movement. They

engaged in a series of assassinations including none-Muslims and Judges, plus an attempt on the life of Egypt's president, Jamal Abdul Nasser. Al-Banna himself was killed, and Abdul Nasser suppressed the Society of Muslim Brethren ruthlessly. They continued, however, to operate in Egypt and other countries in the Middle East.

One more extremist and combative leader in Egypt was Sayyed Qutb. After the death of Al-Banna, he assumed the leadership role and

(continued on page 16)

## Church

(continued from page 3)

declarations made time and again that the Catholic Church has no intention of changing Eastern tradition. For the facts indicate otherwise.

This statement of Pope Pius XII exemplifies the earnestness of papal intent: "Each and every people of the Eastern Church should enjoy legitimate freedom in all matters pertaining to their history, their special bent, and their character. ... All may rest completely assured that they will never be forced to change their own rites and ancient institutions for Latin rites and institutions. Both should be held in equal esteem and honor because they surround our common Mother the Church with a regal diversity. Even more, in keeping intact and inviolable what many

regard as ancient and precious, this diversity of rites and institutions is not in any way opposed to true and sincere unity."

On the opposite side of the question, Latin Catholics balk at the patriarchal principle of local, self-governing churches -- a point of major consequence with the East. Undoubtedly, theological issues between Catholicism and Orthodoxy are, in the abstract, more important. But in the concrete, the patriarchal principle is equally important to Eastern Orthodoxy. Governance is the uppermost concern. This is the crux of the matter.

The Orthodox Church in Greece is not a patriarchate, but it is autocephalous. It is patriarchal in fact but not in name. With the Russian church, it is the most

(continued on page 16)



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# CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

## Grapevine

(continued from page 4)  
 organizations in Boston and Chicago and I'm very proud of him for all that he has accomplished. His record of exceeding development commitments and breaking national operating records places him in unique category of leaders in the restaurant industry," says Sam Hamra, founder and CEO of Hamra Enterprises. In his new position Mike will oversee all of Harnra Enterprises restaurants, hotels and real estate projects. Hamra Enterprises is headquartered in Springfield, MO and includes five companies, with 300 employees in four states.

Mike is a member of the Harnra-Homra Club.

## Barbara Aide Shaheen - Student

After she was

honored as one of five distinguished women in twenty-two Georgia counties -the only one without a college degree -Barbara Aide Shaheen returned to college. Now a student of American Literature and Art, she is on the Dean's List.

## The Midwest Federation

The Midwest Federation of American Syrian Lebanese clubs honored two people we see at our Southern Federation Conventions. The Midwest Foundation presented their Club of the Year Award to the National Federation of Syrian Lebanese American Clubs in recognition of the National's efforts to further knowledge of and recognition

of our heritage by promoting a United States Postal Stamp in honor of Kahlil Gibran, and by exploring the means to restore the Kahlil Gibran Memorial Garden in Washington,

D.C. This award was presented to Phyllis A. Joseph, the President of the National Federation.

The Midwest Federation presented their Woman of the Year Award to Julia Collins in recognition of her efforts in writing many letters to the United States Department of Parks to clean up and attend to the Kahlil Gibran Memorial Garden. Julia and her husband, the late Paul V. Collins, attended many Conventions of the Midwest Federation in addition to their membership in the Southern Federation and their attendance at the Southern Federation Conventions.

(continued on page 17)

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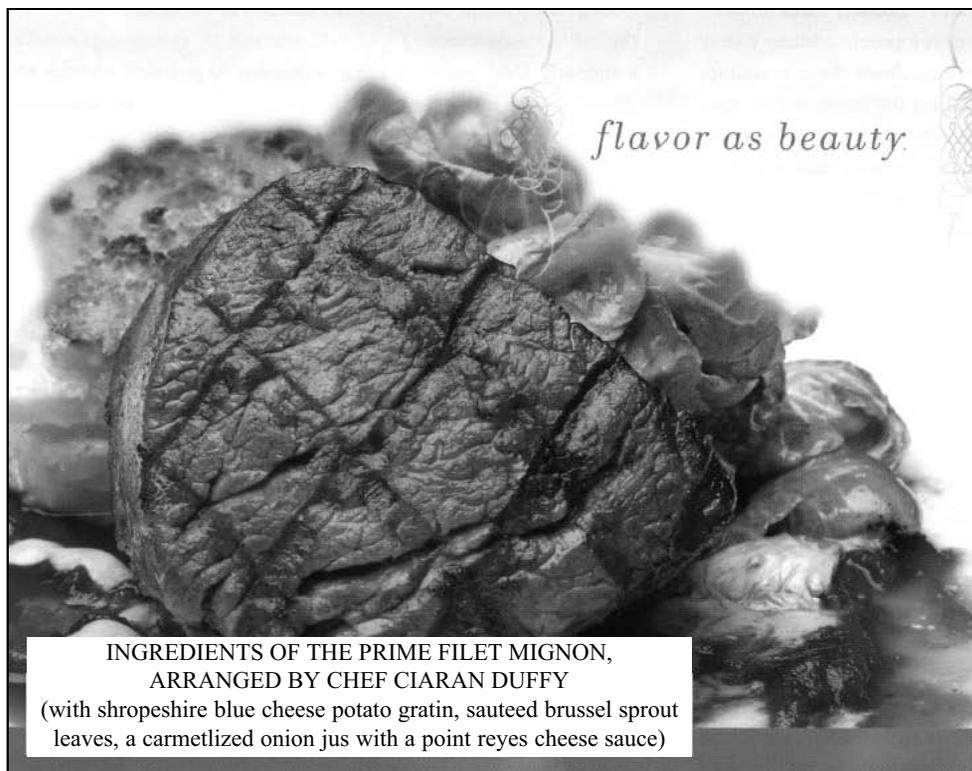
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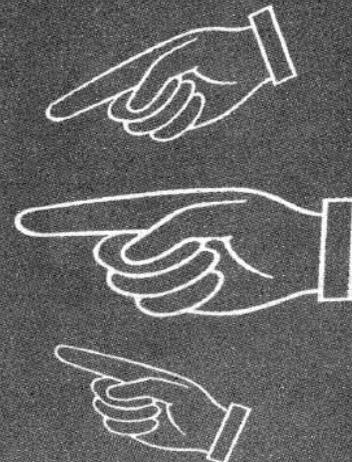
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# CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

## Maloof

(continued from page 6)

Ma'yoofs ruled the areas frimo ca. 37 to 537 ad, becoming some of the first Christian kings of the region. In 244, Amyres Qays, son of a Ghassani chief, ascended to the Roman throne and took the title of Emperor Marqus Julius Feyrus Philippus, and became known as "Philip the Arab." Members of the emperor's clan continued to be known as the Ghassani Ma'yoof, even during the rule of the Rasheedi Caliphs, and the Amawis and Omayad conquerors, who allowed them to pursue their own way of life unfettered.

However, when the Persian-supported

Abbaasi nation came to power, the Ghassani were not spared from the fate of other Arabs of influence. They, too, were stripped of their noble titles. Also, the Abbaasi chief began to tax the Ma'yoofs, and, to add insult to injury, changed their name to Ma'loof, connoting "those already fattened or well fed."

In spite of these reversals, the Ma'loof family grew and prospered, becoming so populous that it was confusing to identify an individual without using the name of the father as a middle name.

In spite of these reversals, the Ma'loof family grew and prospered, becoming so (continued on page 17)

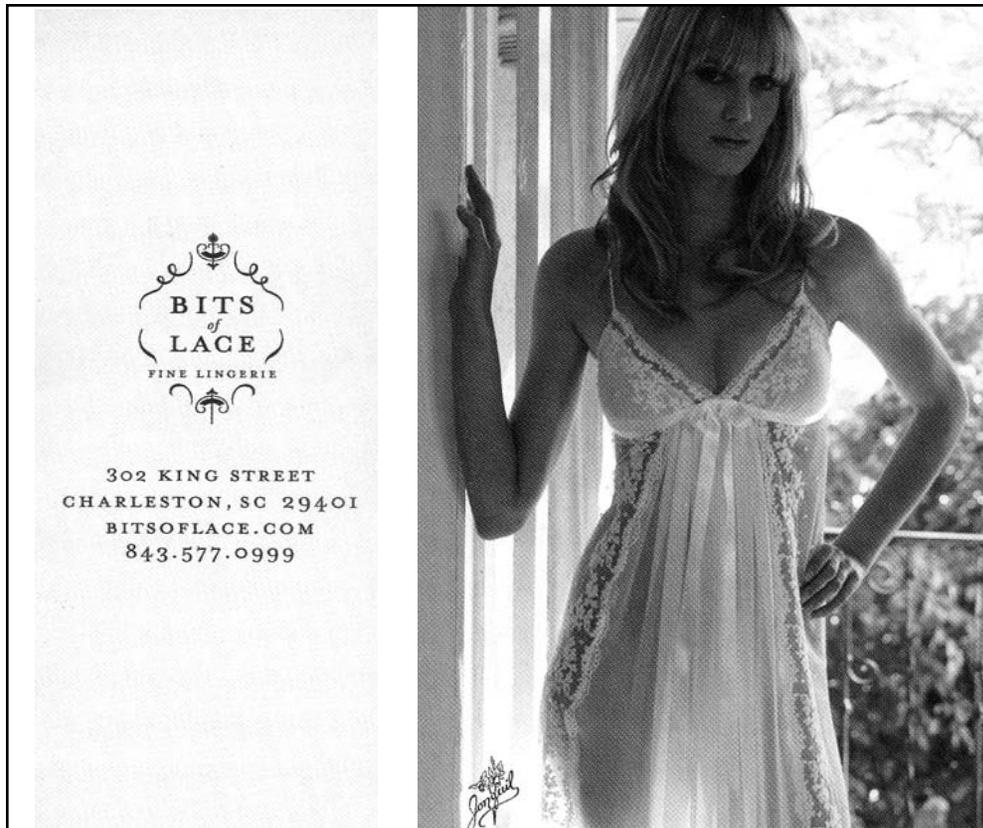
## Gibran

(continued from page 1)

Albert Johary, M. D. were in Washington, D. C to gather information needed to devise a strategy for the fulfillment of the committee's mission: to reverse the damage to the meditation garden, which in recent years had fallen into disrepair due to a lack of maintenance expenditures by the National Park Service.

The Hannas and Johary were joined in Washington and accompanied to the memorial site, located in Rock Creek Park, by Brittany Bennett, Director of Administration of the Bryan J. and June B. Zwan Foundation, and local Federation members Ruth Ann Skaff, Michelle Forzley, Michael Baroody, and Helen H a t a b - S a m h a n . There they happened upon several people who related to them how Gibran's writings had influenced their lives; one couple had even woven timeless words of Gibran into their wedding vows.

Robert Tilson, of (continued on page 18)



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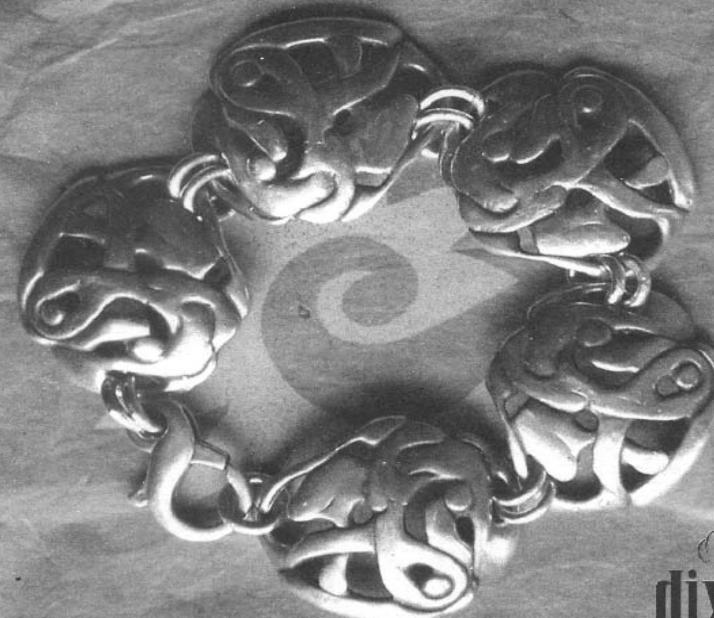
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# CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

## Secret Army

(continued from page 9)

doctrine is virulently anti-western. It openly calls for the elimination of Israel, its adherents "to kill Jews", the "peaceful" overthrow of pro-western "puppet regimes" in the Middle East and the expulsion of all western interests from the region. It envisions achieving these goals through mass action, but eschews involvement in regional politics.

Some former members and sympathizers have been arrested in several countries in recent months on terrorism-related charges. This has raised fears that the party's hardliners have become impatient with what many have perceived as its gradualist approach and long-term strategy. That is a concept that has little appeal for the growing number of young, dispossessed Muslims radicalized by events since 9/11. Some of HT's members have been linked to Al Qaeda, and western governments are becoming increasingly alarmed.

Zeyno Baran, director of the International Security

and Energy Programmes at the Nixon Centre, a rightwing think-tank in Washington DC, has branded the party "a conveyor belt for terrorists. It indoctrinates individuals with radical ideology, priming them for recruitment by more extreme organizations where they can take part in actual operations."

Hardline US right-wing institutions such as the Nixon Centre and the Heritage Foundation are demanding a crackdown on HT, but authorities in Britain and other western states fear that banning the party will simply drive it underground, making it more difficult to monitor.

"HT is regarded with some confusion by western analysts because while its goals of recreating a caliphate and then converting the world to Islam by force if necessary are almost indistinguishable from bin Laden's, its methods are entirely different," according to James Brandon, an expert on Islam, in a recent assessment for the Jamestown Foundation, a

(continued on page 18)

## Service

(continued from page 9)

to the Arab American community, and the

## Access

(continued from page 10)

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## Bajalia

(continued from page 11)

community of about 3,500 Palestinian-Americans, of whom about 400 are active members of the Ramallah American Club of Jacksonville.

Bajalia has two daughters, Juliana, 6, and Olivia, 4. She has a master's degree in international finance and business but has given up, at least temporarily, a career in public relations.

But she's found a cause on which to expend her energy and expertise.

The Make It Right project is planning to build 150 environmentally sound, hurricane-resistant homes to replace housing destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

Bajalia said she was struck last spring, while watching a televised fundraiser for Katrina's victims, that Palestinians identify with the displaced residents of the Lower Ninth Ward.

"We understand their pain and suffering,

(continued on page 19)

community-at-large. The evening was a celebration to remember and was a positive outlook toward a bright future.

Arab American children and families by expanding and intensifying these www.accesscommunity.org . To learn how existing programs. The ACCESS you can support the Center, contact Maha Youth and Family Services Center Freij at mjreij@accesscommunity.org.



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# NORTH CAROLINA/SOUTH CAROLINA

**Shami**  
(continued from page 11)  
Florida.  
Jennifer Tegland was

the matron of honor, and the groom's brother, George Shami, was the best man.

**Islam**  
(continued from page 12)  
succeeded in inspiring Islamic Jihad organizations by revitalizing anti western sentiments. Violence at tourist attractions in Egypt in recent years is an

example of the fundamentalist hostility to Westerners, while at the same time an attempt to destabilize what they maintain as a secular government.

Another well known Fundamentalist who was the first successful  
(continued on page 20)

**Church**  
(continued from page 12)

influential in Eastern Orthodoxy.

Unity without Uniformity

The Churches of the East -- those in communion with Rome and those not in communion -- have lived in a state of local autonomy throughout their history. This is not a matter solely of organization; it has religious and theological dimensions, too. This tradition has deep roots. Hence the Orthodox are wary of Latin (Roman) centralization and its past errors.

The Orthodox see in the highly centralized Roman Catholic Church the religious history and mentality of Western Europe, and not a universality of their own concept and tradition. They wonder about the

single structure and system of discipline and administration, the minutely developed canon law, the highly systematized theology, the curia in Rome regulating affairs of the whole Church -- at times, affairs of which they have little real understanding. Over the centuries these characteristics have intensified and spread. Despite promises to the contrary, these Western characteristics and practices have affected the Eastern Catholic Churches.

Among the institutions to which Eastern Catholics attach particular importance are the rites of public worship, yet never was reunion based simply on the preservation of the Eastern rites. Granted the importance of these historic and beautiful rites, it would be an oversimplification to  
(continued on page 20)



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# MARYLAND

## Maloof

(continued from page 14)

populous that it was confusing to identify an individual without using the name of the father as a middle name. Eventually, some family branches constituted the main or whole population of a village or town, and, since it was understood that everyone was a Ma'loof, they began to drop that name altogether, taking the name of their village or town, a name associated with their profession or trade, or the middle name of their mother or father.

When the Ma'loof families began to emigrate to other countries, they kept their adopted names, oftentimes losing the Ma'loof identity altogether; those who kept the Ma'loof name were often at the mercy of officials in foreign lands who changed or altered the name. Therefore, today, the multitude of Ma'loofs go by many spellings, to name a few: Malooof, Malouf, Malouff, Malooff, Mallof, Maaloof, Maalooff, Malloof, Malof, Maloff, Mallof, Maalouf, Mallouf, Maluf, Maluff, Maaluf, Maaluff, Maloufos, Maloufi, Maloofakis, Malov, Mdof, Melof, Meluf, and Molof. In addition, no less than 163 names, from Aazar to Zajjal, have been identified as having Malooof origins. All of these can be found on the Malooof International website.

In 1907, Isa Iskandar Maalouf published in Arabic the most thorough history of any family in Lebanon: Records of Ripened Fruit in the History of the Malooof Children. In 1991, George Hanna Malouf published Malooof, The Ghassani

Legacy, an English translation of Records of Ripened Fruit. In addition to his remarkable translation, he updated the branches of the Malooof family since 1907. It was a daunting task, and virtually an impossible one, considering that Malooofs had emigrated from Lebanon in large numbers after 1907, meaning that the inclusion of a complete genealogy was dependent upon factors beyond George Malouf's control: family members from around the world would have to submit the information to him. The book is certainly of no less value without the inclusion of all the Malooof families worldwide, for it has served as the basis for other Malooofs to continue histories of various branches of the family. Charles Malouf Samaha, an attorney and writer who lives in St. Petersburg, Florida, has done just that.

A History of the Malouf People: of the Min'ern Malouf Sub-Branch, Including a History of Zabbougha, Lebanon, the Birth Place of the Min'em Malouf Progeny (2003), of which a third edition is soon to be released, is the result of more than five years' of research. Besides being a narrative of the Min'em Malouf descendency, the volume includes biographies of three notable Maloufs from Zabbougha: writer and diplomat Nassif Mallouf, attorney and politician Paris S. Malouf, and Archbishop Joseph (Rasheed) Malouf.

Charles Samaha has also published two other books: he edited for republication Nassif Mallouf's translation of Gadaleta's affair, Adalia

(continued on page 21)

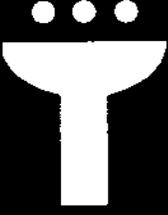
## Grapevine

(continued from page 13)

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The Marguerite Piazza - St. Jude Gala, co-chaired for the last seven years by Anita

Harris of Memphis, raised more than \$825,000 this year. One of the evening's patrons gave a \$10,000 donation for a gallon of Harris' hummos which was served as an appetizer during the fund raising event.



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Marie is a fascinating woman. She went to the University of Liberia West Africa, where she got her degree in Sociology. Marie worked in the Robert International Airport in Liberia. The civil war was active at the time she lived and worked in Liberia, Because she was so familiar with U.S from working in the airport she had the advantage of coming here to the U.S to shop, tour etc. So she left her country and came here and continued her Education, then became a nurse (LPN). She is still in school for her Master's Degree in Nursing with two years left. Once finished she plans to open group homes. She has enjoyed providing health care for the last ten years along with her fifty employees. Her Business Motto is "Care from the Heart". She gets a great example of youth from the Community. We appreciate her skills & care for the quality in Health Care that she and her employees provide.

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# MARYLAND/VIRGINIA

## Gibran

(continued from page 14)

Tilson Construction and Engineering, soon arrived to assess the damage and necessary repairs so he could prepare a quote. Committee members also met with Park Service administrator Adrienne Applewhite-Coleman, who reviewed with them the proper administrative procedures to follow in order for the Department of the Interior to pay for the work.

Pleased to have accomplished the initial phase of their project, The Hannas

and Johary attended a reception in the Rayburn Building to welcome Lebanon Ambassador Antoine Chedid to his post. Also attending were Congressmen Charlese W. Boustany, Jr. (Louisiana), Darrel Issa (California), and Nick Rahal (West Virginia), all of Lebanese heritage and all enthused about the restoration project, each happily agreeing to be an Honorary Board Member of the Kahlil Gibran Memorial Restoration Committee.

On the final day of (continued on page 21)

## Secret Army

(continued from page 15)

US think-tank that specialists in monitoring Islamist terrorism.

"Although HT members sincerely believe that the caliphate will be recreated soon, HT's real significance is likely to be its increasingly important role in radicalizing and Islamising the Middle East. For example, HT's ideologies also fuel the increasingly common view that the present conflict between western democracies and Islamists is not a resolvable dispute over land, territory and temporal politics, but is rather an inevitable clash of civilizations, cultures and religions."

Hizb-ut Tahrir was founded as a secret society in 1952 in what was then Jordanian-ruled East Jerusalem by Sheikh Taqiuddin an-Nabhani, a Palestinian judge of the Shari'ah Appeal Court.

He had studied at the prestigious Al Azhar University in Cairo and joined the Muslim

Brotherhood, founded in Egypt in 1928 and the forerunner of modern radical Islamic groups. But he broke with the Brotherhood when it moved towards cooperation with the secular authorities in Cairo. While the Brotherhood became a potent opposition force in Syria and Egypt, HT took a more subversive path.

Nabhani died in 1979 and Abad Al Qadim Zalum, a Jordanian religious scholar who had also studied at Al Azhar, took over as leader and remained so until his death in 2003. The current leader is Sheikh Ata Abu Rashta, a Palestinian-Jordanian scholar about whom little is known. He is believed to live in secret in Lebanon, one of the few Arab states that tolerate HT

Nabhani's writings remain HT's guiding principles--they pour scorn on "depraved democracies" imposed on Muslims by the West and advocate "a single state over the entire Muslim world". One of Nabhani's most important texts says it

is obligatory to militarily overthrow "every single Muslim government, then forcibly unite them into one military state even if it means killing millions of people".

According to Pepe Escobar, a writer who has travelled extensively in the Muslim world, Nabhani

"clearly equates Islam with a permanent global revolution. Leon Trotsky meets the Holy Koran." Escobar says that while the HT "is far from being the same thing as Al Qaeda it's fair to say that it is not so far apart from the worldview of Al Qaeda."

HT's followers are

"willing to wait 1,000 years to annex the West to a caliphate," Escobar says. "But recent pamphlets confiscated in Tajikistan

already detect a change in tone. Apart from declaring the US a global threat that can only be cured by the (continued on page 21)

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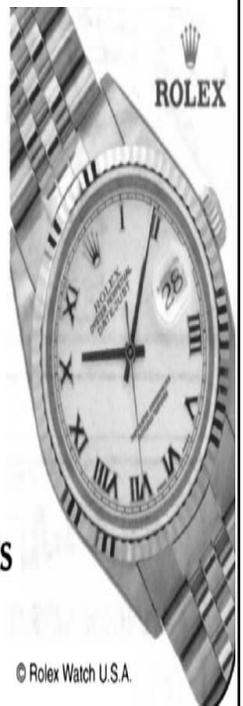
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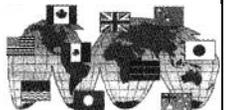


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# ALABAMA/TENNESSEE

## Bajalia

(continued from page 15)

although I understand the circumstances are different," she said.

She said she wanted her fundraising to be a Palestinian project so as to "shine a positive light on our culture that has long struggled with hurtful stereotypes and misguided perceptions."

Thus far, she's done more planning than fundraising, and has received \$1,640 in pledges. Pledges can be

made by going to [www.makeitrightnola.org](http://www.makeitrightnola.org), clicking on the "Donate Now" button, clicking on the "View Team Homes" button, then clicking on the button marked "Team Homes: \$1,000 to \$2,000." Bajalia can be contacted at [mimisalameh@hotmail.com](mailto:mimisalameh@hotmail.com).

"I have great visions of watching a family walking up the front stairs of their new home and knowing I helped make that possible," she said.

infrastructural and spokesperson for Saudi-industrial projects based Jadwa Investments (including building new economic cities) across the country. A noted: "We now perceive the growth driver shifting

(continued on page 22)

## Saudi Arabia

(continued from page 8)

boom-bust cycles) reflecting buoyant private sector activity, prudent macro-policies, liberalization of the

financial sector and foreign direct investment (FDI) regime thanks to World Trade organization (WTO) accession in December 2005, as well as a spending spree on

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# LOUISIANA

## Islam

(continued from page 16)  
 revolutionary is  
 A y a t o l l a h  
 Khomeini(1902-1989).  
 He emphasized  
 revolution to overthrow  
 secular Islamic  
 governments. His  
 seizure of the US  
 embassy in Teheran and  
 the capture American  
 hostages was an  
 indication of his deep  
 resentment to Western  
 values. He understood  
 that the conflict with  
 the West, led by  
 America, is more than  
 political. It is rather  
 religious and cultural  
 based on the idea that  
 they represent the real  
 enemies of Islam.

After the 1967 Six  
 Days War, a shameful  
 defeat of Arabs at the  
 hands of Israel, Islamic  
 f u n d a m e n t a l i s m  
 flourished. They turned  
 defeat into their  
 advantage. They were  
 able to move the masses  
 by appealing to their  
 history and deciphering  
 their frustration.  
 F u n d a m e n t a l i s t s  
 contended that the

Arabs had lost the war  
 because they had lost  
 their faith in Islam.  
 The real reason was  
 secularism and  
 departure from the true  
 Islam that characterizes  
 most Arab regimes.

Fundamentalists are  
 ardent in their emphasis  
 that the Allah of Islam  
 is the Allah of absolute  
 power. The very  
 makeup of Islam is  
 power. They assert that  
 the reason Islam has  
 lost its glory and power  
 is because they have  
 lost their religious  
 bearings. They insist  
 that the only way of  
 survival is return to a  
 system of beliefs based  
 on the Islamic Shariah  
 (law) as taught in the  
 Quran and implemented  
 by Muhammad. For  
 them, Islam supplies  
 the only answer.  
 Recapturing the lost  
 power and sense of  
 history, necessitates  
 true Jihad based on  
 total religious  
 commitment and  
 sacrifice, including  
 martyrdom.

(continued on page 22)

## Church

(continued from page 16)  
 hinge unity on this single  
 point. To consider our  
 Eastern Catholic  
 Churches as merely users  
 of different liturgical  
 ceremonies and languages  
 would be a gross  
 misunderstanding.

One outstanding  
 spokesman for the East's  
 cause was Melkite  
 Catholic Patriarch  
 Maximos IV Sayegh, the  
 late Patriarch of Antioch  
 and of all the East, of  
 Alexandria and of  
 Jerusalem. His zealous  
 representation of the East  
 (continued on page 23)

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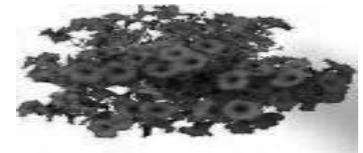
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# TEXAS

## Malooof

(continued from page 17)

1859, or, Correspondence regarding complaints against her Britannic Majesty's vice-consul in that port, compiled, edited, translated by Nassif Malloof (Istanbul: Isis Press, 2002), which is

soon to be released in its third edition; and he wrote Sketch of the Abi-George Saliba Sub-branch of Bteghrine (2005). Also to be released this year is his Nassif Malloof (1823-1865), Dragoman and Orientalist (Istanbul: Isis Press, 2008).

## Secret Army

(continued from page 18)

caliphate, they are more viscerally anti-American, calling for a jihad against the West."

Long considered by western governments to be a quirky and ineffective organization with a Utopian objective, Hizb-ut Tahrir has metamorphosed into an increasingly popular movement, highly organized and disciplined, with media-savvy national leadership that have considerable autonomy.

The party is outlawed in most Muslim states, including the former Soviet republics in Central Asia--one of HT's key target zones--and in Russia and Germany. But its membership has swelled in the post-9/11 turbulence amid growing anti-US sentiment in the Muslim world, with the spread of its ideology accelerated by the

Internet, a communications tool used to great effect by Al Qaeda.

According to the Jamestown Foundation, "During the last five years, several branches became large enough and strong enough to transition from their covert gestational phase to a publicly active stage, including those in Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Malaysia, Palestine, Pakistan, Turkey and Bangladesh."

HT claims to be active now in at least 45 countries from Asia to the US, where it appears to be gathering momentum since its first cells were established in the 1980s. Its radical ideology is becoming increasingly popular in Arab countries and has established itself as an influential Islamist opposition group in many regions, including Central Asia and Europe.

It is well established in  
(continued on page 23)

## Gibran

(continued from page 18)

their visit, Johary went to the Lebanon Embassy, where he met again with Ambassador Chedid and his assistant, Marwan Francis, to discuss the Kahlil Gibran Memorial, later joining the Hannas, Michael Baroody, Brittany Bennett, and Bill Anaway at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia Adel A. Al-Jubeir about the Gibran memorial project and inquire about the possibility of funding.

It was particularly helpful to have Bill Anaway engaged in these discussions, since he had been involved with the Kahlil Gibran congressional authorization for the

memorial and, in cooperation with the Department of the Interior, had it constructed.

The Committee members agreed that all their meetings had been informative, and clarified for them the steps necessary to restore the memorial to its original splendor. As a result of that October trip to Washington, each is perhaps more certain than when we pay tribute to Kahlil Gibran we pay tribute to all of humanity, for the universal appeal of his words is due to their representation of those ideals that transcend territorial boundaries of race, nationalism, and creed.

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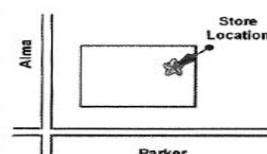
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# HOUSTON, TEXAS

## Saudi Arabia

(continued from page 19)  
to the private sector, marking a new phase in a period of sustained high growth in the Saudi economy."  
An oil-fuelled 'hyperactivity' is having larger multiplier effects on the broader economy, with its nominal GDP [gross domestic product] swelling by three-quarters to \$377bn since 2003, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and is poised to grow by 23% this year. Significantly, real GDP growth (inflation-adjusted) averaged 5.5% per annum during 2003-07, compared with anaemic annual growth of 1.5% in the previous five years. John Sfakianakis, chief economist at Saudi British Bank, said: "This country had stagnated economically, it was a doom and gloom scenario for the kingdom. Within four years, it has had a complete 180-degree turnaround. The difference between Saudi

Arabia and other countries in the region is that the boom is locally based, hence it is more predictable and sustainable."  
Buoyed by spiralling oil prices, the 'twin surpluses' (the government budget and balance of payments) strengthened further in 2007. The current account surplus exceeded \$100bn (the fourth highest after China, Japan and Germany), despite increases in imports of goods and non-factor services. The Energy Information Administration, the statistical arm of the US Energy Department, estimated 2007 Saudi oil receipts at \$194bn, a 'staggering' figure, almost equal to the size of the UAE's economy. Whilst a budget surplus of SR178.5bn (\$47.6bn) was equivalent to 12.8% of GDP, albeit down on 2006-07, due to rising recurrent and capital expenditure in response to ballooning oil revenues.

(continued on page 24)

## Islam

(continued from page 20)

In short, Islamic fundamentalism, which is nourished by appealing to the religious and socio-political sentiments among Muslims, will remain a peril and continue to surge forth

unless real democratic reforms are established in the Arab and Muslim World, the Arab-Israeli conflict is resolved, and perhaps Islam is rethought in a new course, as some Islamic thinkers are trying to do.



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# TEXAS/OKLAHOMA

## Church

(continued from page 20)

was clearly evidenced before, during, and after the Second Vatican Council. Those efforts are being continued by his successor, Patriarch Maximos V Hakim, and by many other church leaders of the East and West.

The Necessary Approach

Archbishop Philip Nabaa, the late Melkite Metropolitan of Beirut, reminded us: "We must remember how close the East is to Western Christianity with which it lived for ten centuries in peace and charity in one faith. If this deep unity was sometimes shattered, shaken, or even broken, this was due to a failure to understand one another rather than to bad faith. It arose not so much from a denial of the faith as through sincere

attachment to truly Christian traditions. The reasons were not so much the religious as the political and psychological factors that led to separate development in East and West. The first result was a division in charity, followed by a division in faith, all of which led to a great rent in the Cutholica."

When in the past five centuries segments of the Eastern Churches reunited with the Holy See, unhappily some peculiarly Western characteristics were extended to these Churches -- another irritating grievance. In such situations Eastern Catholics have reacted vigorously for two major reasons. First, Eastern Catholics want to guard the integrity of the spiritual and cultural

(continued on page 24)

## Secret Army

(continued from page 21)

the UK particularly since the July 2005 suicide bombings on London's transport system in which more than 50 people were killed. These concerns are now being echoed in mainland Europe, where there are growing fears that proliferating Al Qaeda cells among the continent's large Muslim communities are bound to strike at some point.

In Denmark, where Hizb-ut Tahrir remains legal, counter-terrorism officials say a growing number of Muslims are

being drawn to the party. These officials say that the party has played a key role in radicalizing disgruntled young Muslims, but because it functions primarily as an ideological organization rather than a paramilitary one, it is allowed to operate. However, officials warn that it is pushing the limits of Denmark's liberal free-speech laws to an extent that could trigger government action.

Despite the party's expansion and emergence from its traditional secrecy, much about the party's

(continued on page 25)

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# ARIZONA/NEVADA

## Saudi Arabia

(continued from page 22)

This vast accumulation of twin surpluses after the 1990s' perennial deficits has enabled the authorities to reduce national debt and build up foreign reserves at the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA), the central bank. Looking ahead, the combination of robust output growth and soaring exports should see further falls in debt burden and even higher official foreign assets. The IMF estimates Saudi 2008 domestic debt at 16% of GDP (compared with 119% of GDP in 1999) with reserves reaching \$413bn, but private bankers put the total official assets under management with global banks at \$1 trillion.

Meanwhile, inflation has surged in recent months, fuelled by brisk domestic demand (thanks to huge liquidity), supply bottlenecks, rising food import prices and higher rents. Last April, the consumer price index (year-on-year) hit a record of 10.5%, an extraordinary rate for a country used to negligible 1% inflation or less for almost two decades. Price hikes are affecting real incomes of both Saudi nationals and expatriates, which in turn, have increased wealth disparity.

In order to mitigate the impact upon the general public the government has approved ad hoc measures that entail more subsidies for basic commodities (rice and wheat), providing a cost of living allowance (for all state employees and pensioners) worth 5% of their earnings for three years as well as stringent enforcement of consumer protection regulations. Also, a National Housing

Authority is being formed to promote the construction of low-cost homes and to expedite the process of introducing a mortgage finance law.

Hamad Al Sayari, the central bank governor, urges budgetary constraints, saying: "Given the dominance of fiscal policies on the economy, it is necessary to reprioritise spending and programme it to fit the absorptive capacity of the national economy." The authorities, however, are unlikely to cutback investment and social spending, given the dire need for job creation (the unemployment rate is now 15% or higher). The SAMBA Financial Group, the second largest Saudi bank, estimates that total spending will rise by 16% in 2008, up from 14% last year.

More recently, the Agricultural Ministry unveiled plans to invest in farming and livestock projects in overseas countries aimed at building up strategic food reserves, thus controlling future commodity prices. It involves setting up projects of about 100,000 hectares, possibly, in Egypt, Pakistan, Sudan, Turkey and Ukraine, for growing crops like corn, rice, and soybeans, wheat and alfalfa, a feed for livestock. At present, most agri-products are imported. Saudi Arabia is the largest importer of barley and one of the top-five rice importers.

The regional 'powerhouse' has entered a second phase of development as oil windfalls are being utilised to ignite a wave of mega-projects. These projects would help achieve the government's goals of diversifying the economy, boosting non-oil exports and balancing

(continued on page 25)

## Church

(continued from page 23)

heritage of their Churches. Second, Catholics of the East are trying to prevent heightening the barrier between Catholicism and Orthodoxy.

What, then, can be (continued on page 26)

done to restore East and West to one faith and one Church? Obviously a reply to this burning question is not easily formulated. History recalls unsuccessful attempts to restore unity. Disagreements from the

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# COLORADO/UTAH

## Secret Army

(continued from page 23)

inner workings remain obscure. Its global membership is not known, but some estimates put it as high as one million. The extent to which its various branches coordinate is also not clear, nor is how the organization is financed.

Traditionally HT has been strong in Europe and Central Asia, but in the last two or three years the party has gained popularity across the Arab world, despite being illegal in most states. It has become noticeably stronger in Palestine, putting tens of thousands of supporters at rallies across the West Bank. This reflects the growing disaffection with the fundamentalist Hamas movement and the Muslim Brotherhood and their failure to reinvigorate the much-battered Palestinian society, as well as a more

general drift towards HT's caliphate ambitions and a Muslim revival.

The party is also believed to be gathering converts among Palestinians in refugee camps in Lebanon, where the army took four months to crush Sunni extremists in the Nahr Al Bared camp outside the northern port city of Tripoli in 2007. Hundreds of people were killed. More arrests have been reported in Syria, where the regime ruthlessly crushed the Muslim Brotherhood in the early 1980s, as well as in Egypt, Tunisia and Sudan.

In Morocco, 14 HT members, mostly well-educated men, were arrested in October 2006 and most were convicted of forming unauthorized associations. Forty HT members are believed to be imprisoned in Jordan, where the party has claimed

(continued on page 26)

## Saudi Arabia

(continued from page 24)

regional growth. The authorities initiated a National Industrial Cluster Development Programme to achieve stated goals.

Planned investments to be implemented under public-private partnerships, mostly in infrastructure, real estate schemes and manufacturing sector, over the medium term are expected to reach \$1 trillion, equal to 215% of today's GDP.

Heavy capital spending by Saudi Arabia should

also contribute to the reduction of global trade imbalances through higher imports of goods and services. National Commercial Bank, the kingdom's largest, explained: "We keep track of a number of projects and it has been rising, and with oil prices remaining high... we will probably see a continuation for this kind of phenomenon until 2015."

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(continued on page 27)

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# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## Church

(continued from page 24)

Middle Ages to modern times has worsened relations. Another irritation is found in the activities of the Latin clergy in the East -- activities which have given Catholicism a flavor too Western -- and this has estranged Orthodoxy. In addition, this latter point is also an annoyance to Eastern Catholicism's effectiveness and growth.

Archbishop Nabaa proposed a sound and balanced approach: "It will not be sufficient to ask our Orthodox brethren to accept our faith and convince them of the truth of our beliefs. We must also meet them in great charity, showing that we respect their great Christian traditions in a catholic spirit. We must show them that Christ's Church is truly catholic and open to East as well

as West. Our actions must show that the catholicity of the Church enables it to include all human institutions, civilizations and national cultures, all Christian traditions and liturgies, without special privileges for any country, church, rite, or person. There are no first-class or second-class citizens in Christ's Church, for all are one in Christ."

This echoes St. Augustine's sage counsel: "In essentials, unity. In non-essentials, liberty. In all things, charity."

From these thoughts one can catch a glimpse of the unique role and vocation of the Eastern Catholic Churches to be the bridge by which the Orthodox Churches will return to communion with the Apostolic Sec. They also give indication of the delicate and complex matters which have divided Christianity.

May Christian unity soon be restored.

## Secret Army

(continued from page 25)

to have inroads into the Hashemite kingdom's military and civil service.

Brandon notes that HT has apparently "failed to gain significant traction in countries like Egypt or Oman whose people are reluctant to see their distinctive historical, ethnic and cultural identities submerged within a caliphate. HT has also floundered in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states where political discourse is often simplistic and clan-based. Gulf citizens recognize that a caliphate would force them to share their oil wealth with the rest of the Muslim world."

But if Hizb-ut Tahrir is failing to win mass support in the wealthy Gulf states, it has made inroads elsewhere. In August 2007, more than 80,000 members

filled a stadium in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim state, to call for the return of the caliphate. It was the party's biggest ever public event. In Pakistan, where HT was established in 2000, the party has accumulated considerable strength and was banned after 9/11 for alleged links to extremist groups.

High-level defectors SOME OF HT'S LEADING lights have begun to abandon the party because they have come to question its ideology and purpose. Maajid Nawaz, a British university student from a Pakistani family who have lived near London for three generations, and who himself was one of HT's leaders in the UK, denounced the party in a high-profile defection in September 2007.

(continued on page 27)

Happy Anniversary from the staff at the Syrian Lebanese Star!



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Rania's been married for 30 years and wants to formally wish her husband Nicola a Happy Anniversary. That's not the only anniversary she has. Happy Anniversary this December for 15 years in the Travel Business – She has four employees including her husband and son; she was drawn to the Travel business to help have affordable travel. She is originally from Syria and her husband is from Beirut, Lebanon.

He moved here along with his brother when he was 17 yrs old, and started a Hairdresser business that he sold just a short time ago, and Rania is pleased to have him with her business. Know. They really enjoy working together. A few years ago she helped many lebanese people get refunds for the air fair and also gave them information and helped them because they did not speak English. She is a very good-hearted person with a great family, her daughter is going to school to be a pharmacist, and her son is a great asset to her business. Rania and her family is great experts of travel info. Rania can arrange a trip of a lifetime for you with world-class accommodations.

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# CALIFORNIA

## Saudi Arabia

(continued from page 25)  
and construction (EPC) companies. Thousands of kilometres of new roads and railway lines; water, sewerage and electricity plants; 4m new housing units; industrial expansion such as the \$22bn-plus Ras Tanura refinery upgrade and petrochemicals complex, steel and aluminium; and the ambitious \$40bn tourism master plan for the Red Sea coastline, among other schemes, will (once fully completed) help meet socio-economic challenges and greatly improve the productive capacity of the national economy. According to the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA), housing investment requirements [alone] through to 2020 could total \$320bn. McKinsey consultancy estimates that infrastructural investment has increased from 17% of GDP to 30-35%. This, in turn, indicates the sheer amount of projects under

construction following a period of sluggish growth during the late 1980s and 1990s.

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(To Be Continued  
in Next Month's Issue)

## Secret Army

(continued from page 26)

Nawaz had been an HT member for 12 years and had been seen as a future leader of the highly active British branch. He claimed the organization "spearheaded the radicalization of the 1990s and cultivated an atmosphere of anger" and said that its ideology inevitably leads to violence. He felt, he said, "duty-bound to redress the phenomenon of politically inspired theological interpretations".

Nawaz, a key recruiter, says he helped establish Hizb-ut Tahrir in Pakistan in 1999-2000. The party sent him to Egypt in September 2001; ostensibly his mission was to study Arabic but in

fact it was to proselytise. He was arrested in Alexandria in April 2002 and spent four years in prison. It was there, he says, that jailed Islamic scholars taught him that HT's ideology ran counter to the true meaning of Islam.

In April 2008, Nawaz and another senior defector, Ed Husain, announced the formation of the Quilliam Foundation, a think-tank named after a 19th century English convert to Islam and dedicated to combating radical Islamist ideologies. Husain said it would promote "pluralistic values free from cultural baggage of the Indian sub-continent and the political burdens of the

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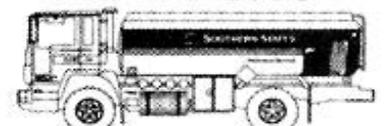
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