

JACKSONVILLE

Correspondent: Julia Farhat

Newborns

Baby Boy Alexander James born to Mr. and Mrs. Anthony and Tammy Hassan Megas. His proud grandparents are Anthony Megas and Debbie Benkert, and Mr. and Mrs. Mike and Jamileh Hassan.

Congratulations to the proud parents and grandparents!

Graduations



Andrew Jonathan Bateh, son of Mr. and Mrs. John J and Grace Bateh of Jacksonville, Florida graduated from Douglas Anderson High School. He received the Florida Bright Future Scholarship and will continue his education at Florida State College.

Dylan Mark Rukab, son of Mr. Mark Rukab and Ms. Kerri Tierney was accepted into Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida and he will begin attending this summer.

Congratulations to all of our graduates and God bless them for continued success and happiness.

Weddings

Amanda Rose Mousa to Phillip Bader Gazaleh
Congratulations to the Newlyweds!

50th Wedding Anniversaries



Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Vera Hishmeh who celebrated 50 years on February 5th.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Aziz and Samira Farah who will celebrate 50 years on April 16th.

Spotlight Articles

The internationally renowned Dr. Norman Finkelstein, Professor of Political Science and author made a special appearance as University of North Florida's guest lecturer on Monday evening, January 24th. Our own Janice Farhat had the honor of introducing him. We thank Mimi Salameh Bajalia, Joy Batteh-Freiha, donors and supporters for planning the event.

50th Wedding Anniversaries

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Vera Sahourieh Hishmeh who celebrated 50 years of marriage on February 5th, 2011. They celebrated their anniversary with a dinner party with their family. In addition, they plan to take a European trip.

Aziz and Samira Farah will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on April 16, 2011. They were married in Ramallah in 1961 and immigrated to Jacksonville, Florida in 1963. They have two daughters, one son and four grandchildren. Their children will be sending them to Ramallah in May, where the couple will be renewing their wedding vows in the church where they were married. This will be their first trip back to Ramallah together. Mabrook and best wishes on this milestone of their lives. God bless them for many more healthy and happy years together.

Club News



On Super Bowl Sunday, approximately 200 people watched Super Bowl XLV on our club's revamped high definition projection big screen. They also enjoyed a variety of wonderful food, beverages, fellowship and an excellent game. Congratulations to the Green Bay Packers who defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers 31-25.

RBPN News

Our RBPN plans to film more videos for the "Ramallah Memory Project" at our annual spring picnic being held on Sunday, April 3rd. In addition, our RBPN is planning their annual welcome event at The Casbah in our historic Avondale area.

Youth Club News

Approximately 15 of our Youth Club members participated in a lock in on Friday evening, March 11th. They enjoyed games, food and fellowship. A big thank you goes out to Mrs. Suha Bateh, Mrs. Ghada Batteh, and Mr. and Mrs. David and Tania Hanania for chaperoning the event.

Children's Club News:

Our RCCJ representatives are planning an Easter Party in conjunction with our annual spring picnic being held on Sunday, April 3rd.

Church News

Outlined below are our new Officers and Parish Council for 2011:

Ladies Auxiliary Officers:

President: Mrs. Hiyam Odeh
Vice President: Mrs. Sue Rafidi
Treasurer: Mrs. Lamis Anki
Secretary: Mrs. Helen Tannous

Fellowship of St. John The Divine Officers:

President: Sbdn. Nadeem Tannous
Vice President: Miss Beverly Michael
Treasurer: Sbdn. Eric Bateh;
Secretary: Mrs. Brenda Nasser Messink

Fellowship of SJD:

Sbdn. Nadeem Tannous

Parish Council:

Chairman: Mr. Easa Mousa
Vice Chairman: Mr. Sam Kalil
Treasurer: Mr. Ken Joseph
Financial Secretary: Dr. David Hanania
Recording Secretary: Miss Beverly Michael

Parish Council serving a 3 year term:

Mr. Nader Farhat
Dr. Frank Gazaleh
Mr. Ameen Hakim
Mr. Sam Kalil JR.

Parish Council serving a 1 year term:

Miss Beverly Michael
Miss Leila Mousa
Dr. Anne Rafidi

Parish Council continuing to serve:

Mr. Nick Bajalia
Mr. Eric Bateh
Mr. Mike Cassis
Mrs. Nadya Farah
Dr. David Hanania
Mr. Ken Joseph
Mr. Farris Lyons
Mr. Easa Mousa

Teen Soyo Officers:

President: Lauren Hanna,
Vice-President: Hannah Hanania
Treasurer: Kristen Mousa
Historian: Caroline Bateh
Secretary: Leana Farah

Congratulations and God Bless them for much success.

St George Sunday school held its First Annual Sunday School Month in February. Students served in the church reading the Epistle, collecting the trays and attended activities. A highlight of the month was the First Annual Godparents Sunday on February 13th. FR Kamal led the Godparents & Godchildren in a special prayer service following a reception. In addition, on Saturday, February 19th, children & parents gathered in the Church kitchen to learn how to make Holy bread and were taught what the Holy seal means. The Holy bread was then offered the next day at Sunday service. Much gratitude goes out to teachers Ghada Batteh, Brenda Messink and Poline Salameh, and Superintendent Jane Lyons and Co Superintendent, Khourieh Ranwa.



Our Teen SOYO had a fellowship event at Latitude 30 on Sunday, February 27th. They enjoyed lunch, and arcade games, as they discussed the goals and ideas for 2011. Twenty two teens attended and many thanks go out to Eric Bateh for organizing this event.

Sympathy

The Jacksonville Community extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to the following families:

The Shunarrah family for the loss of Misahdeh Shunarrah

May their memories be eternal.