

JACKSONVILLE

Correspondent: Julia Farhat

Newborns

Baby Girl Rose Miadora born to Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Nancy Elias Harrison. Her proud grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Larry and Connie Harrison, and Mr. and Mrs. Edward and Rima Elias.

Club News

Florida Governor Rick Scott met with Ramallah Club President Nader B. Farhat and members Joy Batteh-Freiha and Dr. Ronald B. Salem during a business trip on August 4th to discuss the Governor's trip to the Middle East and his familiarity with Ramallah people and the West Bank. He was interested in hearing about our varied contributions in our adopted homeland. The group personally invited Governor Scott to our upcoming events at the Ramallah Club and he was genuinely receptive to attending when his schedule permitted.

On Sunday, August 5th, the President presented a check for \$1,000.00 to Big Brothers of Northeast Florida for their continuous hard work for the children.

Our club hosted a viewing party and steak night at the Ramallah Club on Saturday night, September 15 for the Gators/Tennessee game. Water and sodas were provided and the community provided covered dishes. Everyone had a great time. Huge thanks go out to the Board for organizing the event.

RBPN News

The RBPN hosted their 1st guest speaker, Dr. David Bateh, former Federation President, to speak about his pharmacy profession with the goal to educate and network our about this industry. Huge thanks go out to Mitri Akel and Eric Bateh, President and Vice President of RBPN in organizing the event.

Youth Club News

Hannah Hyde, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie and Helen Kazaleh Hyde returned from Cape Town, South Africa, where she participated in Mercer on Mission. Hannah was one of a dozen students selected to work with students of all ages in one of the poorest townships, teaching and providing them with therapeutic activities. Welcome back, Hannah! We are extremely proud of you!

On Sunday, September 9th, our Youth Club served a Spaghetti Dinner to our attendees at the General Assembly Meeting in honor of Grandparents' Day. Many thanks go out to Sireen Bateh, Tania Hanania and their volunteers for preparing a delicious meal.

Church News

On Sunday, August 5th a Fish Luncheon was held. Numerous plates were sold and everyone had a good time. Huge thanks go out to Marcelle Akel and Suad Salameh for coordinating the luncheon. In addition, a Blood Drive was held and it was very successful.

The Ladies' Auxiliary gathered at Athens Café on Friday evening, September 14 to hold a meeting and to have dinner. Approximately 15 ladies attended and everyone had a good time. Huge thanks go out to Sue Rafidi for organizing the dinner meeting.

The Teen Soyo gathered at Mr. and Mrs. Sammy and Ghada Batteh's house on Saturday afternoon September 15 to watch the Gators versus Volunteers game and enjoyed hamburgers and hotdogs. Approximately 15 members came and everyone had a good time. Huge thanks go out to Mr. and Mrs. Sammy and Ghada Batteh for welcoming the Teen Soyo into their home.

St George gathered to feed the homeless on Saturday, September 15th. More details to come in our next set of news.

Sympathy

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

The Farhat family for the passing of Elias Salem Farhat.

May his memory be eternal.

Wedding Song CDs Available

The Jacksonville Community has CDs containing Wedding songs for the Bride and Groom for sale. They were compiled by the Jacksonville Community and the CDs are \$15.00 each **excluding** shipping costs. If you are interested please contact Aileen Farhat at Aileenfarhat@gmail.com.

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Sisters & Aunt On The Move

Miss Debbie Farah, daughter of the late Nackleh Hanna Farah and Suad Bajalia Farah was named one of "150 Women who shake the World" by Newsweek-Daily Best in 2011 for her work with women globally through Bajalia International. In addition, Bajalia International has recently been named a finalist in the Florida Companies to Watch in 2012.

Debbie, a Social Entrepreneur, is CEO and founder of Bajalia International Group and Bajalia Trading Company (www.bajalia.com). The two companies are a collaboration of for-profit and non-profit based in Winter Park, Florida working in 22 countries around the world. Bajalia International is an import company who designs and distributes designer quality products serving the high-end retail mass market with their brand, and the specialty and big box retail mass market through their private label products with 70% of their production workforce being women in developing countries. The for profit lead sales and marketing efforts assist the non-profit in excelling in entrepreneurial training and development workshops, while incubating businesses in emerging economies. Bajalia International is being lauded as one of the fastest growing brands on HSN.

Prior to starting Bajalia International she held executive advertising, design, product development and strategy roles for major fortune 500 companies and retailers including Bloomingdales, Richs, Neiman Marcus, Macy's, Marshall Fields, Dell, Southwestern Bell, Coco-Cola, UPS, Celebrity Cruises and Ritz Carlton. Miss Farah also serves on several non-profit advisory including the Business Council for Peace (www.bpeace.org) and is also a graduate of Athena Powerlink program. Congratulations Debbie! We are so proud of you!

Donna Farah Ghanayem, RNC, MSN, is the Director of Community Grants and Programs at Shands Jacksonville in Jacksonville, Florida. Donna was recognized in *Health Source Magazine, July 2012* "Celebration of Nurses 2012" as a nurse of distinction because of her work in the community with underserved women and children. Donna has a passion for people and needed to work where she could do the most good. Nursing is her second career. Once her youngest daughter went to school she felt a strong calling to give back to her community.

Donna's significant patient story occurred on her first clinical day in Labor and Delivery. A patient was being prepared to give birth to a baby that was stillborn. The patient was in position to receive an epidural. She had to give birth and her teaching nurse explained to her about the complications of a c-section and the risk to the mother for a child who has already passed away. The anesthesia student was having a hard time placing the epidural line. Donna asked if the anesthesiologist could please do the epidural as the patient was already in enough pain and was quietly crying. "My heart just broke for her". She knew in that moment that she found a home at Shands and her purpose for being a nurse. Donna has since delivered two healthy, beautiful babies to that same patient. The patient tells the story of what it meant to her that day when a nurse became her own voice and spoke for her when she was unable to.

Donna has been with Shands for 17 years and is happily married to Salem Jalil Ghanayem. They have three beautiful children, Nicole, Joey and Samantha. Donna's proud parents are the late Nackleh Hanna Farah and Suad Bajalia Farah. Congratulations Donna! We are so proud of you!



Jeannette Bajalia, President, Petros Estate Planning and Retirement LLC, and, Founder and President of Woman's Worth, LLC, was honored as one of 20 of Northeast Florida's 2012 Women of Influence at an awards breakfast on September 6 at the University of North Florida University Center in Jacksonville, Florida. She was recognized for her achievements in business and her involvement in the Northeast Florida community over the past year. Jeannette chose estate and retirement planning for baby boomers as her career after seeing the inadequacy of financial advisors in understanding the issues facing baby boomers due to longevity and long term care issues which she discovered while taking care of her mother and great aunt who lived well beyond their 90's.



On August 24, the Jacksonville Friends of the Arab American National Museum (AANM) hosted a reception at the Ramallah-American Club of Jacksonville in honor of the *Patriots & Peacemakers: Arab Americans in Service to Our Country* exhibit.

Jacksonville is the first venue for the traveling exhibit scheduled to open on Friday, November 2, at the Jacksonville Public Library, Main Branch.

The multimedia, interactive exhibit was created to honor Arab Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces, the Peace Corps, and Foreign Service. It reflects the contributions and perspectives of thousands of Arab Americans who have served our nation with dignity, loyalty, and sacrifice. With memorabilia and stories documenting over 100 years of contributions by Arab Americans in our country throughout the years, the exhibit hopes to offset stereotypes and prejudices against those of Arab descent, and affirms the important role we have played in service to our country.

One of our own, Ambassador to Qatar Susan L. Ziadeh, who served in the Foreign Service from 2001 – 2011, is highlighted in the exhibit, as well as other prominent Arab Americans. In addition, Dr. Ramsey B Salem was recognized as he recently retired after 40 years of military service.

Members of the Ramallah-American Club of Jacksonville, the Salaam Club of Jacksonville, and others, are hosting the exhibit.

For more information including sponsorships, please contact Joy Batteh-Freiha (904) 422-7645 or jbfreiha@comcast.net.

Dr. Ramsey B. Salem, who recently retired after 40 years of military service, recognized the military service of those who attended the AANM Patriots & Peacemakers reception at the Ramallah Club.

Nakhleh (Nick) Hanna Farah, Sr.

April 21, 1924 – May 21, 2012

Nakhleh (Nick) Hanna Farah, Sr., 88, passed away on May 21, 2012. He was born on April 21, 1924 in Ramallah, Palestine, moving to Jacksonville, FL in 1950 at the age of 26. His was the story of many immigrants looking to better their circumstances. Nick came to the United States with a twenty dollar bill in his pocket and hope in his heart...hope that he, too, like so many, would be able to call America his home. He became a businessman and restaurateur, owning Farah's Gazebo Café in Arlington for 32 years. He was a charter member of Jacksonville's Ramallah American Club. Nick had an unfailing commitment to his family and friends, touching the lives of the many that knew him. His warmth and kindness are remembered by so many. From the single mother in need of groceries to the exchange student needing a sympathetic ear: he was a staunch member of his community lending a helping hand wherever he was needed.

Nick married the love of his life Suad on January 25, 1952. He held her hand every night from then on until the time of his death. Raising his five children and a second father to three of his grandchildren, he was their Hero; with a strong sense of tradition, guiding hand and wise words, Nick was the nucleus of the Farah family. He will be missed by all. We feel his loss to the very core of our family. He will always remain with us. Generation to generation, he will live on in us. May he smile upon us as the Lord smiled upon Nick throughout his life. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Suad Bajalia Farah, and his 5 children John Hanna Farah, Sumterville; Nick Farah, Jr. and his wife Sayeh, Gainesville; Debbie Sue Farah, Orlando; Donna Ghanayem and her husband Salem, Jacksonville; Denise Sarakbi and her husband Wael, Jacksonville; as well as his 6 grandchildren: Nicole Ghanayem, Lindsey Farah, Joey Ghanayem, Nick Farah III, Samantha Ghanayem, and Samira Sarakbi. He is predeceased by his father, Hanna Elias Farah, his mother, Nijmeh Hassan Farah, and his sister, Badia Farah Farhat. He is survived by his brother, Aziz Farah (Samira), and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. May he forever rest in the arms of our Lord!