



THE TUCSON MED CLUB



# ZUROUNA زورونا

www.tucsonmedclub.org

A publication of the Tucson MED Club

Issue 44

Spring 2016



## Message from the MED Club President

Dear fellow members and friends of the Tucson Med Club:

Greetings and best wishes to all of you. With the New Year just beginning I would like to personally wish everyone a very healthy, peaceful and prosperous new year!

2015 was a productive year for us at the MED Club. To name a few activities we had the joint picnic with the Center for Middle Eastern Studies of the University of Arizona, the Halloween picnic party, the September party at the Skyline Country Club and of course, the New Year Eve's Party at Loews Ventana Canyon resort!

On behalf of the MED Club, I would like to thank all the wonderful people who have worked so hard to make sure that every activity was a real success! To these fine individuals we offer our sincere appreciation!

We also had our Annual Members Lunch meeting on Feb. 20 at 1pm that was held at the Brandi Fenton Park. The meeting was well attended and had good discussions and plans for the coming year. Below is a few of the planned activities:

1. Family Picnic on March 12, 2016 was very successful and well attended.
2. Syrian Music Concert, planned for April 27, 2016 jointly with the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at The University of Arizona.
3. Many other activities like Fun Game Night, Halloween party, Family Night Party, and a family trip. Check your emails for announcements about these activities.

We have elected new board members for 2016: George Sahyouni (President), Marlene Touchan (Vice President), Mary Shalfoun, Mona Brewer, Rhea Morales, Samir Kseif, Salim Hariri, Hassan Hijazi, and Lydia Sahyouni (Treasurer).

As we move forward with these planned activities, I like to urge you all to help us to continue serving our MED Club community and achieve our mission to preserve our traditions, and heritage through social events and community involvement in the spirit of friendship and love.

Sincerely,

George Sahyouni, Tucson Med Club President



*I am the descendant of a people that builded Damascus, and Byblos, and Tyre and Sidon and Antioch, and now I am here to build with you, and with a will.*  
**Kahlil Gibran**





## MED HUMOR



**A Homsí went shopping in Lebanon. He went to a store and said, "Do you have 'Beirut-boo'?" The clerk replied "Sorry, I've never heard of it". So he went into a second store and asked, "Do you have 'Beirut-boo'?" The clerk again replied "Sorry, I've never heard of it." The Homsí said "What do you mean you don't have 'Beirut-boo'. How do you wash your hair? In Syria we have 'Sham-boo'!!!!"**

### Hungry Lebanese Man Visits Egypt

The Lebanese man is visiting Egypt, and he is very hungry. He sees a fruit and vegetable stand up ahead. When he arrives, the vendor man asks him, "Sir, you look hungry. What would you like to buy from me?"

The Lebanese says, "Do you have an apple?"

The Egyptian sets a small, yet perfect, apple on the table, "Here, this is an apple."

"In Lebanon, THIS is an apple!" says the visitor holding his hands out wide. "Do you have a potato?"

The Egyptian sets a potato on the table, "Here, this is a potato."

"In Lebanon, THIS is a potato!" says the visitor holding his hands out wide. "Do you have a tomato?"

The Egyptian sets a red, ripe tomato on the table, "Here, this is a tomato."

"In Lebanon, THIS is a tomato!" he says holding his hands out wide.

Frustrated by the visitor, the Egyptian says, "So, pick something out that looks good to you."

After a few minutes, the Lebanese points to a watermelon and asks to have that.

"Sorry," says the Egyptian, "that's an olive, not ripe yet."

### One Homsí to Another ...

**- Hey, man, can you check if my car blinkers are working or not?**

**- yes, no, yes, no, yes, no, yes, no...**



**ou know you are Arab if...**



You go to Arabic restaurants, tell the owners you're Arab, and think you're going to get free food.

You have to constantly remind your American friends to take off their shoes when they enter your house.

You flip out when someone mistakes you for a Mexican or Indian.

You say "bolice" instead of "police".

You inherited or will inherit land in your country.

You brag about your kids even if they are bad.

You pity anyone who is not an Arab and think all other cultures are morally corrupt.

You have fruit trees in your backyard and when they are in season you live off them.

You don't use the word "tease" in English cause you feel weird.

**You feel proud when someone famous or a celebrity has any Arabic blood in them.**

You teach your American friends Arabic words (mostly bad ones) and get happy when they use them in normal conversations.

**Your parents want you to become a doctor or engineer.**

You use your forehead and eyebrows to point something out.

Your parents drink 6 cups of tea a day.

**You can spot an Arab a mile away and they have spotted you because they keep staring.**



## Beautiful, Harissa, Lebanon Where I visited in September 2001 Rhea Morales

Dear Tucson MED Club,

Exactly a month and week ago today, on February 20th, I was asked of my interest to help edit our newsletter, Zurouna. I accepted and was asked by Salim Hariri to share jokes and write about a place in Lebanon.

In 2001, I was honored to present health related information to help patients quit using tobacco at the Lebanese Dental Association's annual conference in August September at the UNESCO Palace in Beirut. During the conference I enjoyed the hospitality, dancing, food, humor, oh yes, did I mention the food?

Staying an extra three days, I toured much of the country. One of my favorite places was Harissa, where I saw Our Lady of Lebanon. What I loved most about this pilgrimage site was the variety of people there on that very hot day.



I took the picture above, as I literally wept tears of joy. She is too beautiful for words; I won't labor to find them.

From Wikipedia: The **Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon** ([Arabic](#), سيدة لبنان, also known as *Notre Dame du Liban*, is a Marian shrine and a pilgrimage site, honoring the patron saint of the Mediterranean country of [Lebanon](#). The statue and the shrine were inaugurated in 1908.

It is a key Christian pilgrimage site with a shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Lebanon. It belongs to the Maronite Patriarchate who entrusted its administration to the [Congregation of Maronite Lebanese Missionaries](#) since its 1904 foundation. It is one of the world's most important shrines honoring the Virgin Mary.



The shrine is highlighted by a huge, 15-ton bronze statue of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of God. It is 8.5 m high, with a diameter of five meters. The Virgin Mary stretches her hands towards Beirut. The **Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon** draws millions of faithful both Christians and Muslims from all over the world.

The [Lebanese Christians](#) as well as the [Druze](#) and [Muslims](#) have a special devotion to the [Blessed Virgin Mary](#). The [Maronite Patriarch of Antioch](#) named her the "Queen of Lebanon" in 1908 upon completion of the shrine.<sup>[1]</sup> Overlooking the bay of [Jounieh](#), the shrine has become a major tourist attraction where tourists take the [gondola lift](#), the [Téléphérique](#), from the city of [Jounieh](#) to [Harissa](#).

*History* The Statue of Our Lady of Lebanon is a French-made, 13-ton statue, made of bronze and painted white,<sup>[2]</sup> of the [Virgin Mary](#). It was erected in 1907 on top of a hill, 650 meters above sea level, in the village of [Harissa](#), 20 km north of [Beirut](#) in honor of Our Lady of Lebanon. The land was donated by [Cheikh](#) Yousef, of the noble [Khazen](#) family.<sup>[3]</sup> It was made up of seven sections that were assembled on top of the stone base, which had a bottom perimeter of 64m, an upper perimeter of 12m and with an overall height of 20m. The height of the statue is 8.50m while its perimeter is 5.50m. It has become a major pilgrimage destination.



**EVENT: Free and  
Open to the Public**

**Violinist and  
Presenter:  
Fadi Iskander**

**Percussion  
(Derbake):  
Amer Zarif**

**Arabic Guitar  
(Oud):  
Sarmad Yakoub**

**Venue:**

**The University of  
Arizona Education  
Building,  
Room 211,  
1430 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.**

# **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2016 5:00-6:30 PM A JOURNEY INTO SYRIAN MUSIC**

## **Syrian Music Concert**

You are invited to a journey into the music of Syria that largely emanates from the country's capital, Damascus, and the largest city, Aleppo. Syria has long been one of the Arab World's centers for culture and artistic innovation, especially in the field of Classical Arab Music. The city of Aleppo is known for its muwashshah, a form of Andalous sung poetry.

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### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**Ramzi Touchan:**  
520-971-1285

**Megan Young:**  
520-621-4790

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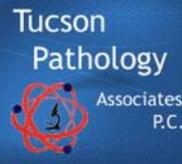


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Kahlil Gibran

*"You should be proud of being an American, but you should also be proud that your fathers and mothers came from a land upon which God laid His gracious hand and raised His messengers."*

## TUCSON MED CLUB

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[Http://www.tucsonmedclub.org](http://www.tucsonmedclub.org)

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