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The American Arabic Benevolent Association would like to start a partnership with our Lebanese and Syrian owned businesses. Let us promote your business through our website, radio program and newsletter. Now you, as a business owner, can reach thousands of people of your own culture and background by letting AABA relay your message to the vast Arabic speaking community. For a small fee per year, we at AABA will advertise and promote your message on our radio program, which airs weekly on 1550AM @ 10 AM on Saturdays and in our quarterly newsletter which reaches thousands of Syrian and Lebanese people. As a bonus we will add your name to our website as a sponsor of AABA, so that any person that views our site will see your business card or any ad you wish to post for the latest information. You also will be able to change your ad weekly on our radio program and quarterly in our newsletter to offer specials to your listeners. So if your business is a restaurant, variety store, gas station, car dealership, home business or any other business, experts will tell you to offer a coupon or a deal and watch how many new customers you will acquire. What better feeling knowing that you are bettering your business and supporting a charity that works diligently to provide for the Arabic Community. So get started immediately by calling or texting:

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AABA NEWS



AABA presents this article in honor of Khalil Gibran.

Volume 24 August 2019

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CONTACT INFORMATION

18 Cheriton Road
West Roxbury, MA 02132
617-323-2722
E-Mail : daryag@aabausa.org



Gibran Khalil Gibran was born January 6, 1883 in the town of [Bsharri](#), which sits in the [Mount Lebanon Mtasarrifate, Ottoman Empire](#) (modern-day [Lebanon](#)), to Khalil Gibran and Kamila Gibran (Rahmeh). His mother, Kamila, daughter of a priest, was thirty when he was born; his father, Khalil, was her third husband. Gibran received no formal schooling during his youth in Lebanon, however, priests visited him regularly and taught him about the Bible and the Arabic language.

Gibran's father initially worked in an apothecary, but with gambling debts he was unable to pay, he went to work for a local Ottoman-appointed administrator. Around 1891, extensive complaints by angry subjects led to the administrator being removed and his staff being investigated. Gibran's father was imprisoned for embezzlement, and his family's property was confiscated by the authorities. Kamila Gibran decided to follow her brother to the United States. Although Gibran's father was released in 1894, Kamila remained resolved and left for New York on June 25, 1895, taking Kahlil, his younger sisters Mariana and Sultana, and his elder half-brother Peter. After arriving in the United States he studied art and began his literary career, writing in both English and Arabic. In the Arab world, Gibran is regarded as a literary and political rebel. His romantic style was at the heart of a renaissance in modern Arabic literature, especially prose poetry, breaking away from the classical school. In Lebanon, he is still celebrated as a literary hero.

A member of the [New York Pen League](#), Gibran is the third-best-selling poet of all time, behind [Shakespeare](#) and [Laozi](#). The Prophet has been translated into as many as [110 languages](#). The Gibrans settled in Boston's [South End](#), at the time the second-largest Syrian-Lebanese-American community in the United States. Due to a mistake at school, he was registered as 'Kahlil Gibran'. His mother began working as a seamstress peddler, selling lace and linens that she carried from door to door. Gibran started school on September 30, 1895. School officials placed him in a special class for immigrants to learn English. Gibran also enrolled in an art school at [Denison House](#), a nearby [settlement house](#). Through his teachers there, he was introduced to the avant-garde Boston artist, photographer, and publisher [Fred Holland Day](#) of Norwood, who encouraged and supported Gibran in his creative endeavors. A publisher used some of Gibran's drawings for book covers in 1898.

Gibran's mother, along with his elder brother Peter, wanted him to absorb more of his own heritage rather than just the Western aesthetic culture he was attracted to. Thus, at the age of 15, Gibran returned to his homeland to study at a [Maronite](#)-run preparatory school and higher-education institute in Beirut, called "[al-Hikma](#)" (The Wisdom). He started a student literary magazine with a classmate and was elected 'college poet'. He stayed there for several years before returning to Boston in 1902, coming through [Ellis Island](#) (a second time) on May 10. Two weeks before he returned to Boston, his sister Sultana died of [tuberculosis](#) at the age of 14. The year after, Peter died of the same disease and his mother died of cancer. His sister Mariana supported Gibran and herself by working at a dressmaker's shop.

Gibran was an accomplished artist, especially in drawing and watercolor, having attended the [Académie Julian](#) art school in Paris from 1908 to 1910, pursuing a symbolist and romantic style over the then up-and-coming realism. Gibran held his first art exhibition of his drawings in 1904 in Boston at Day's studio. During this exhibition, Gibran met Elizabeth Haskell, a respected headmistress ten years his senior. The two formed an important friendship that lasted the rest of Gibran's life. Haskell spent large sums of money to support Gibran and edited all his English writings.



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the AABA office at 617.323.2722.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

St. John of Damascus Orthodox Church

Sunday, September 8th – New Church Year Cookout

Fri, Sat, Sun, November 1-3 – Annual Bazaar

Saturday, December 7th – Annual Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 8th – Feast Day Celebration with Bishop John; extended coffee hour to follow

Sunday, December 22nd – Christmas Pageant

Our Lady of the Cedars of Lebanon Church

LEBANON October 2-16, 2019 Sponsored by the Saint Maron Society

14 days /13 nights \$3,200.00 per person + airfare

For full pricing, itinerary and registration details, please contact:

therese.abouzeid@yahoo.com or 617-331-2747

rosannesolomon@gmail.com or 617-327-1317

Saturday, November 9th – Raffle Extravaganza

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church - Boston

Friday, September 27th - Adult Fellowship Lobster Supper 5-7 PM. Pricing to follow.

Fri, Sat, Sun, October 18-20 - 43rd Annual Bazaar & Food Fair

Our Lady of the Annunciation Cathedral

Bishop Nicholas' 30th Anniversary

Thursday, October 3rd - Divine Liturgy 5PM, Banquet 7PM

St. George Orthodox Church, Norwood

Sunday, October 27th - Ladies Centenary Luncheon

Sheraton Four Points Norwood

2019 AABA GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, September 16, 2019

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AABA office at 617.323.2722

Eagle Scout Project at AABA Village



Boy Scouts Luncheon July 12, 2019



**90th Birthday Celebration
May 8, 2019**



(Gibran Continued from page 1)

The nature of their romantic relationship remains obscure; while some biographers assert the two were lovers but never married because Haskell's family objected, other evidence suggests that their relationship never was physically consummated. Gibran and Haskell were engaged briefly but Gibran called it off. Gibran didn't intend to marry her while he had affairs with other women. Haskell later married another man, but then she continued to support Gibran financially and to use her influence to advance his career. Gibran went to study art in Paris for two years. While there he met his art study partner and lifelong friend [Youssef Howayek](#). While most of Gibran's early writings were in Arabic, most of his work published after 1918 was in English. His first book for the publishing company [Alfred A. Knopf](#), in 1918, was *The Madman*, a slim volume of aphorisms and parables written in biblical cadence somewhere between poetry and prose. Gibran also took part in the [New York Pen League](#), also known as the "immigrant poets" (al-mahjar), alongside important Lebanese-American authors such as [Ameen Rihani](#), [Elia Abu Madi](#), and [Mikhail Naimy](#), a close friend and distinguished master of Arabic literature, whose descendants Gibran declared to be his own children, and whose nephew Samir is a godson of Gibran.

Gibran died in New York City on April 10, 1931, at the age of 48. The causes were [cirrhosis](#) of the liver and [tuberculosis](#) due to prolonged serious alcoholism. Gibran started drinking seriously during or after publication of *The Prophet*. Several years before his death, he locked himself in his apartment, away from visitors, drinking all day. Gibran expressed the wish that he be buried in Lebanon. This wish was fulfilled in 1932, when Mary Haskell and his sister Mariana purchased the [Mar Sarkis Monastery](#) in [Lebanon](#), which has since become the [Gibran Museum](#). Written next to Gibran's grave are the words "words I want to see written on my grave: I am alive like you, and I am standing beside you. Close your eyes and look around, you will see me in front of you."

Gibran willed the contents of his studio to Mary Haskell. There she discovered her letters to him spanning twenty-three years. She initially agreed to burn them because of their intimacy, but recognizing their historical value she saved them. She gave them, along with his letters to her which she had also saved, to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library before she died in 1964. Excerpts of the over 600 letters were published in "Beloved Prophet" in 1972.

Mary Haskell Minis (she wed Jacob Florance Minis in 1923) donated her personal collection of nearly one hundred original works of art by Gibran to the [Telfair Museum of Art](#) in Savannah, Georgia in 1950. The future American royalties to his books were willed to his hometown of [Bsharri](#), to be "used for good causes".

A few quotes from Gibran:

"But let there be spaces in your togetherness and let the winds of the heavens dance between you. Love one another but make not a bond of love: let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls."

"I am not a politician, nor do I wish to become one" and "Spare me the political events and power struggles, as the whole earth is my homeland and all men are my fellow countrymen."

"Half of what I say is meaningless, but I say it so that the other half may reach you".

"You have your Lebanon and I have mine"

"You are my brother and I love you. I love you when you prostrate yourself in your mosque, and kneel in your church and pray in your synagogue. You and I are sons of one faith—the Spirit."



Wards Berry Farm June 12, 2019



**Area 5 Recruits at
Bingo**

June 13, 2019



**THE ARABIAN NIGHTS PROGRAM
ON WNTN 1550 AM EVERY SATURDAY FROM 10AM-11AM**

AABA has its own radio program, where we bring you the best in Arabic music. AABA radio broadcasts The Arabian Nights Program every Saturday morning from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM on [1550 WNTN](#) on the AM dial. The program includes paid advertisers, Arabic music, community news, and personal messages. The program is broadcast in English and features both new and old-time favorite music of the Middle East. We work with our supporting churches and organizations in announcing their events and festivities. The Arabian Nights Radio Program is the oldest and longest running ethnic radio program in the country. We're proud of our disc jockeys and thankful for our sponsors.

The Arabian Nights program was created by the late Charles Shagoury in 1937 and had been faithfully carried on by his daughter Nancy and then by Tom Jabaily for many years. Now it is the pleasure of the American Arabic Benevolent Association to carry on with this long-standing happy tradition.