

IN MEMORIAM

May God Rest Their Souls and May Their Memory Be Eternal

If you would like to have a family member listed, simply call the AABA office at 617.323.2722 or email the name of your departed to: daryag@aabausaorg



2023-2024

Carleton Peters
Linda Hakar
Jordan Yazbek
June M. (Saba) David
Florence Esper
Madelaine (Resha) Alizio
Lillian R. Shaheen
Mary (Najjar) Bosworth
Laurice (Kawan) Karrell
Louise (Howdy) Buccieri
Joseph Barber
Jordan E. Yazbeck
William K. Kinan



Continued from Pg. 1

AABA's Board of Directors is made up of thirty (30) active voting members [15 elected each year for a 2-year term], as well as retired active members who served at least ten years of service to AABA and have been elected as Director Emeritus. Throughout the years Board members have come from our eight (8) supporting sister churches: Our Lady of the Annunciation Cathedral in Roslindale, Our Lady of the Cedars of Lebanon in Jamaica Plain, Saint John of Damascus Orthodox Church in Dedham, Saint George Orthodox Church in West Roxbury, Saint Matthew's Syrian Orthodox Church in West Roxbury, Saint Mary's Orthodox Church in Cambridge, Saint George Orthodox Church in Norwood and Saint Stephen's United Methodist Church in West Roxbury. In addition, we have representation from our supporting sister organizations: Nicholas G. Beram Veterans Association, Nicholas G. Beram Ladies Auxiliary, Syrian-Lebanese Women's Club, and the Lebanese-Syrian Ladies Aid Society.

Through the years, AABA, through its dedicated Board of Directors, has continually increased assistance to the community. First and foremost, Cheriton Grove Apartments was constructed in 1985, with occupancy by our seniors in 1987. Long before AABA became an official organization, many in our community wanted a senior housing complex for our elderly. It was a motion by Louis Kfoury Jr., which passed unanimously on February 12, 1974, that designated a committee to study the feasibility of obtaining or constructing a home for the aged as the first consideration of AABA. Thirteen years later, through careful planning, hard work, and long hours by a committee originally chaired by George Sabbag, Cheriton Grove was built on land very generously donated by the Saegh brothers, George and Ted. Many in our Arabic community have taken advantage of this facility. Our second senior residence, The James M. Salah Family Housing at Cheriton Heights was built on the same parcels of land and completed in 2013 with occupancy beginning in 2014. AABA has continued its commitment to the community and today, AABA Village is one of the best operating housing complexes in the City of Boston.

Stay tuned for the next installment - We will name all of the founders, past presidents and more!

1974



2024

AABA NEWS



Volume 36 February 2024

AABA OFFICERS

President
Linda Ayoub
Vice President
Maurice Daaboul
Clerk
Mary Winstanley O'Connor, Esq.
Treasurer
Ken Raffol
Asst. Treasurer
Darya Gamel
Recording Secretary
Nicole Kfoury
Corresponding Secretary
Lisa Salemi
Board of Directors
Checrallah Abichaker
Elias Audy
*John Byda
Gabriel El Massih
David Franciosi
*Marilyn Ganame
*Louis S. Hadaya
Albertina C. Hajjar, Esq.
Louis M. Kfoury III
*Loretta Merageas
Basem Metri
*Shelby Mudarri
*Dr. Jerry Owen
Alain Pollak
Elaine Sabbag
Charles Sacre
*Michael G. Saegh
Lisa Salemi
Steven Salhaney
*William Seaver
Rosanne Solomon

* Emeritus

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor
Darya Gamel
Staff
David Franciosi
Steve Salhaney

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

AABA is 50 years old! Over the course of the next year we will be bringing you not only the history of this amazing organization, but where we are today and where we hope to be in the future. We hope you enjoy this series!

Although the thoughts, ideas and dreams of many in our Arabic community date back many years ago, AABA's true focus came about in 1974, when a group of American-Arab public-spirited citizens became aware that the needs of the American-Arab community in the Greater Boston area were not being met. These individuals, led by George Haddad, decided to form a Steering Committee, which met over the course of several months to formulate plans.

The Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from various churches, civic and fraternal organizations within the Greater Boston American-Arab community, was put in place to study the feasibility of creating an Organization, which would promote charitable, cultural, benevolent and educational endeavors within our ethnic community.

On February 12, 1974 the Steering Committee held its first meeting in the St. George Orthodox Church Rectory in West Roxbury, MA with the following individuals: Reverend Father George George, Reverend Father Joseph Lahoud, Reverend Nifon Abraham, Nicholas Abraham, John Byda, Ernest T. Chadie, Alice Easa, Emily Eknoian, George Haddad, Yvonne Hample, Judith Jabaily, Louise Jabaily, Thomas Jabaily, Louis Kfoury Jr., Monsour Laham, Dr. Jerold Owen, George Sabbag, Labeebe Saquet, Camille Sarrouf, and Dr. Samuel Thomas. This is considered to be the first formal meeting, which lead to the official formulation of AABA.

While subsequent meetings would officially approve by-laws, membership dues, committees and meeting dates, it was on March 31, 1974 that the first General Meeting was held at Our Lady of the Annunciation Cathedral. There, the organization approved the name of American Arabic Benevolent Association [AABA] and elected, as its first President, Dr. Jerold Owen.

Since the beginning there have been twenty-one (21) different Presidents of AABA, some individuals serving more than one term, but all charged with the responsibility of leading a group of volunteers to carry out the wishes of the American-Arabic community in compliance with AABA's constitution, charter and by-laws.

AABA's focus since 1974 is the same today and is reflected in our statement of purpose, which has never changed...**to promote charitable, educational, civic, cultural and benevolent endeavors including assistance and support of needy and impoverished people; establish, assist and support homes for the aged, orphanages, schools and charitable institutions with emphasis on providing such assistance and support to the needy, elderly, and otherwise deprived who are of Arabic descent but without discrimination as to race, nationality, color or creed and to do any and all other things necessary or desirable to carry out such purposes.**

The diversity of the AABA Board of Directors has allowed us to create an environment where the well-being of the community is equal to the neediest individual; where those to whom we provide services mean more than the services we provide; and, where the spirit, heart & love of what we do is outweighed by the spirit, heart & love of those we serve.

Continued on



St. Matthews Syriac Orthodox Church

CHURCH COMMUNITY NEWS

- [St. John of Damascus Orthodox Church](#)
- [Our Lady of the Cedars of Lebanon Church](#)
- [St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church - Boston](#)
- [Our Lady of the Annunciation Cathedral](#)
- [St. Matthew's Syriac Orthodox Church](#)
- [St. George Orthodox Church - Norwood](#)
- [St. Mary Orthodox Church - Cambridge](#)

**PLEASE CONTACT YOUR INDIVIDUAL CHURCH FOR THEIR UPDATE .
Each Newsletter will feature a photo of a different Church.**

THE 2023 ROSE RAFFLE

The 2023 "Rose Raffle" winners were chosen on December 19, 2023. They were as follows:

- Tahitian Pearl Necklace Winner- Nabil & Ann Basmaji
- \$500 VISA Gift Card Winner- Odette Daher
- \$250 VISA Gift Card Winner - Elias & Joan Medwar

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

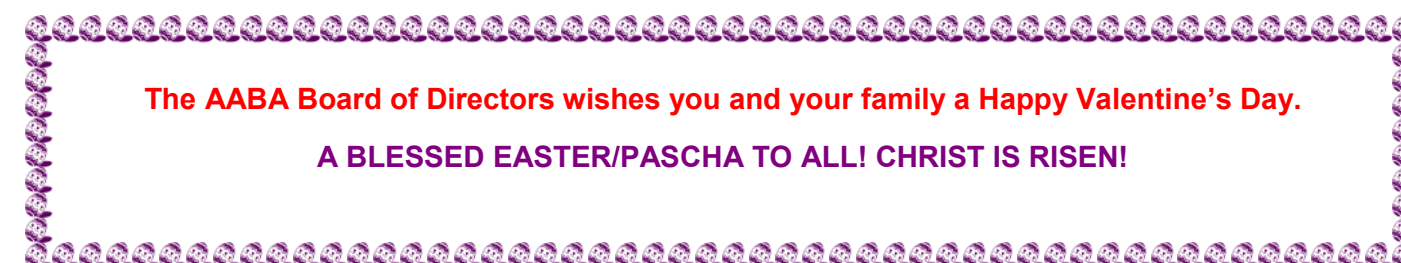


AABA Board of Directors Annual "Gifting" 2023

In 2022, the AABA Board of Directors created an annual charitable giving program that donates funds to worthy charitable organizations and causes, locally, nationally and internationally. The Board's finance committee which consists of Ken Raffol, Linda Ayoub and Darya Gamel, handles the logistics of this outreach effort . The committee presented the names of the recipients at our November 2023 BOD meeting. The recipients were as follows:

The Friends of the House of Hope Shelter	\$ 2,000.00
Lebanese Syrian Ladies Aid Society	\$ 5,000.00
-Cedars Samaritan Care	
-St Vincent de Paul Humanitarian Aid Food Boxes	
-Nazih Fares Global Ministries	
-The White Head Family	
-Baabdat	
Anta Akhi (You are my brother)	\$ 2,000.00
American Friends of Sesobel	\$ 3,000.00
ARID, Inc.	\$10,000.00
International Orthodox Christian Charities	\$ 5,000.00

The total amount that AABA gave in this effort was **\$27,000.00**. Charity toward our fellow man has been and continues to be a major focus for our organization. AABA continues to do good things in your name and it is because of your generosity that we can provide for our own people as well as others.



The AABA Board of Directors wishes you and your family a Happy Valentine's Day.

A BLESSED EASTER/PASCHA TO ALL! CHRIST IS RISEN!



**Photos with Santa
12/18/2023**



**"Byblos Dinner "
Sponsored by Maurice Daaboul & Family
12/21/2023**

