



TRIANGLE LEBANESE ASSOCIATION

February 2006

NEWS

Reporting on the Thriving Lebanese Culture in the Triangle

Happy Birthday TLA!

It was 20 years ago around this month that the TLA was founded to participate in the International Festival in Raleigh. Twenty years later, our Association is still strong and still acts as the main link between the Lebanese culture and other cultures in the Triangle. We should all be very proud!



Dear Friends,

I would like to thank all the TLA members and friends for their support to our organization last year. As I proudly reflect on the past accomplishments of the Triangle Lebanese Association, I am honored and excited to lead our way to a continuous success for the year 2006. I am privileged today to have taken the role of President of the TLA. Thanks to everyone who has supported the Executive Committee and me. This is truly your association.

The triangle Lebanese Association is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote and preserve the Lebanese culture and heritage. We will continue to strengthen the link between the Lebanese and American cultures and keep proudly representing the wealth of the Lebanese heritage and contribute to the cultural diversity of the United States.

Well, we are off and running; the Executive Committee met enthusiastically on Jan. 14 to plan our year. We set goals and planned events, and affirmed our support for education and the growth of the Lebanese Education Center. We consented to stabilize the financial status, committed to enhance public awareness through continuous newsletter publication, and to continue our membership growth.

I am a strong believer in the power of a group of people working together to achieve a goal. The TLA continues to reach out to people in the community who want to do their part and make the TLA a better association. It has been through the joined effort that the TLA has more than 20 years of success. We invite you to be part of this great organization. We would like you to renew your membership or become new members. Use the membership form to tell us about your interests or contact one of the Executive Committee members for more information.

I hope that you will browse our website www.tlanc.org and enjoy our monthly newsletter for scheduled events and community news. Mark your calendar for our annual Hafle on March 18.

With best regards,

*Noha Nasrallah
TLA President*



TLA Exec. Committee at 2006 planning meeting

Rami Khouri Speaks Eloquently at NCSU

by Akram Khater

On the afternoon of Monday January 30th Rami Khouri—a leading journalist from Lebanon—spoke to an overflowing audience of some 400 people on the campus of NCSU. His specific topic was *Media and Democracy in the Middle East*, but his wide-ranging comments covered US-Arab relations, the rise of Islamist groups in the region, and the failure of US media and administration to fully comprehend the historical dynamics underlying all these elements. Mr. Khouri spoke eloquently and passionately of a history of Western colonial domination coupled with failed and repressive Arab regimes that together gave rise to overwhelmingly young and frustrated Arab societies. He argued that it is this history and its fruits which explain the rash of extremist and moderate Islamist groups that have arisen in the region in the past 20 years. Moreover, he contended that it is also these same historical dynamics which explain the series of electoral victories enjoyed by hard-line Islamist groups from Iran to Egypt.

He also noted that the success of new media in the Arab world, like *Al-Jazeera* and *Al-Arabiyya*, was due to the very same factors. These news outlets provide relatively free platforms for Arabs to express their frustrations and fight back against their own governments and what they perceive to be an onslaught of American imperialism. Mr. Khouri contended that it is only by understanding these realities that the US can effectively deal with the

region in a peaceful manner that recognizes and respects the dignity and aspirations of Arab peoples. For example, rather than interpret the recent landslide victory of Hamas as a rejection of the peace process with Israel, he argued that we should see it as the rejection of the corruption and ineptitude of Fatah. Such an understanding would lead to a policy of engagement with Hamas that will help to moderate its extremist views even as it recognizes the perfectly peaceful and constructive role it has played in ameliorating the lives of ordinary Palestinians. Equally, rather than dismissing and lambasting *Al-Jazeera* or wasting money on ineffective propaganda tools such as *Al-Horra* (the American funded Arabic TV station), the US media and administration should be encouraging the growth of the free press in the Middle East.

After speaking on these topics for about 45 minutes, Mr. Khouri answered questions from the audience for another 45 minutes. In attendance were a good number of TLA members who were able to speak to Rami after the lecture. Overall, the response of the audience was very positive, and there were many individuals who asked if we can bring Rami again next year. The TLA can certainly be proud of being a part of this highly successful event. ■

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### Editor's Note

You can read more of Khouri's opinions and about events in the Middle East at the online website of the Daily Star [www.dailystar.com](http://www.dailystar.com)

## A Young TLA Member Comments on Rami Khouri's Presentation

by Loyal Nasrallah

On Monday January 30<sup>th</sup>, I had the privilege to attend the world-known political columnist Rami Khouri for his speech on Democracy in the Middle East at NC State University. It was a great honor to be part of this audience because I walked away from his speech amazed at how much I learned about the past and current issues the Arab nations are facing. Rami Khouri is a man of extreme magnitude. No words can justify his success and continuous impact he has upon all who have the opportunity to hear him. The vast intellect of his language, the ability to connect with his audience, the capacity of his knowledge, and most importantly the truth of his words, all add to his powerful presence. Khouri's impact in the media is of one of great fortune to the Arabs because he spreads knowledge of truth and defense for our people, not only with his extreme awareness on global affairs, but also with this passion in his expertise. There is no doubt that the Middle East embraces a rich culture, vast history and deep international affairs, and for this reason I believe that as Lebanese Americans we should take every opportunity to increase our understanding of all these aspects that make us proud to be from a country of infinite beauty and unbreakable unification. ■

# Mark your calendars for Our *SPRING HAFLE*

*Dance and  
Dabke Till  
Midnight!*

*Lebanese  
Dinner*

*Live Music  
With Saher  
and His Band*

*Belly Dancer*

*Performance  
By the TLA  
Dabke Groups*

*Raffle Tickets*

*On Its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
The Triangle Lebanese Association Invites You to Its*

## *Annual Spring Hafle*

*When: Saturday, March 18, 2006, 7:00pm to Midnight.  
Dinner will be served at 8:00pm.*

*Where: Cardinal Gibbons Highschool  
1401 Edwards Mill Road, Raleigh, NC 27607*

*Admission: \$35 non-members  
\$30 members and students  
kids 8 and under free*

*For Tickets call Arwa  
Karame at 919 325 9810*



## MEMBERS' CORNER

MANY THANKS to those who have renewed their membership for 2006, a total of 36 households already. Renewing members are (with only one first name for brevity):

Abdallah Malouf, Doumit Ishak, Samir Yehya, Joseph Saba, Habib Lawandos, Wael Masri, Walid Dakduk, Charbel Hamaty, Chaoukat Nasrallah, Amer Nasrallah, Monif Aoun, Mounir Saleh, Rifaat Masri, Ghada Rabah, Amal Dabaghi, Gloria Salim-Brown, Farazdak Haidar, Hisham Al Zour, Talaat Nasrallah, Elie Dabaghi, Lawahiz Eckhart, Adel Chaya, Elie Batouli, Khaled Jaouhari, Abed "David" Itani, Moise Khayrallah, Samir Ishak, Tony Saab, Samar Alayll, Ghazi Al Zoor, Theresa Davis, Ranya Hahn, John Lucas, Ali Alaouie, Georgette Saliba Wehbie, Elizabeth Gregory.

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If we don't have up to date membership information for you, you were sent a membership envelop with a form containing the information we have. Please take a moment to update your information and mail back the form with your membership dues. Membership dues are minimal and they help your Association fulfill its mission.

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The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on March 9 at 7:00 PM at the home of Walid and Amal Dakduk, 7305 Stonecliff Dr. Apt. 2, Raleigh, NC 27615. All members are invited to attend these meetings and participate in planning the activities of the Association.

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Happy February Birthdays! Walid Dakduk, George Ishak, Maroun Ishak, Hassan Hanna, Betty Saleh, Wadia Saba, Siham Chaya, and David Kenney.

CALENDAR

- ◇ Our Arabic classes continue to be held on Saturdays from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at Method Park in Raleigh. Upcoming classes will be held on February 18 and 25, and March 4, 11, and 25. Tuition is \$10.00 per month for TLA members and \$15.00 per month for non-members. If you need further information, please contact Noha Nasrallah at 380-1054 or by email at nohasn@aol.com.
- ◇ Don't forget to join us for an evening full of music, fun, food, and dancing at our Annual Spring Hafle on March 18. A flyer in this issue of the TLA News provides more details. This year's event coincides with our 20th Anniversary and promises to be a blast. See you there!
- ◇ Our 8th Annual Lebanese Festival will be held this year on Saturday, May 6, at our now usual venue, the Kerr Scott Building on the NC State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. This year, we will have evening hours as the Festival will extend until 9:00 PM. In addition to the excellent food, dancing, and music we are putting together another forum that will discuss issues of current concern to Lebanese and Lebanese Americans. Stay tuned for more details in upcoming newsletters.

Advertise in the TLA News

We invite our members and friends to advertise for their business or events in the TLA News. This newsletter will be mailed regularly (estimated 10 issues per year) to a current mailing list of 200 addresses, with plans to increase the readership. Our readers reside mainly in the Triangle area of NC but the newsletter reaches other towns in NC, including Charlotte, Goldsboro, and Wilmington, and as far as Colorado, Virginia, New Mexico, and Minnesota.

E-mail your ad to info@tlanc.org, or mail it to our address in Raleigh. Our rates are:

1/8 page:	\$15
1/4 page:	\$25
1/2 page:	\$50
1 page:	\$100

(if you purchase a series of 10 consecutive ads, you will receive a 20% discount on the total package)

We accept camera-ready layout, all image formats. or message that we format for you.



Triangle Lebanese Association Membership Application – 2006

**Please renew your membership using this application form.
If you are not a member, consider joining the TLA by completing this application.
Membership dues help the TLA accomplish its mission.**

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Birth month: _____ Renewal: ___ New membership: ___
 Address: _____

 Phone: Home _____ Work _____
 Email: _____

Family Information	Relationship (Spouse, Child, Parent, etc)	Birth month
Name: _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Tell us about yourself and your family:
 Occupation: _____
 Hobbies & interests: _____
 Reasons for joining TLA: _____
 Events and functions you are willing to volunteer for:
 ___ Culture ___ Cooking ___ Arabic teaching ___ Events/Functions ___ Fundraising ___ Dabke Dance
 ___ Other: _____
 Additional Information & Comments: _____

Circle Category and Type:	1-Year Membership	Type of Membership
	Family \$25	Voting <i>(Lebanese by birth, ancestry or marriage)</i>
	Single \$15	
	Student \$10	
Additional Contribution:		Associate <i>(Non-voting, open to all friends of the Lebanese culture)</i>
Total Donation:	_____	

Check payable to: Triangle Lebanese Association. Mail to: P.O. Box 40935, Raleigh, NC 27629-0935

The mission of the Triangle Lebanese Association (TLA) is to preserve and promote the Lebanese culture and heritage, and provide an exchange of information between the Lebanese, American, and other cultures through social, cultural, and humanitarian endeavors.

The Lebanese Educational Center (LEC) is a non-profit, educational center of the TLA. It seeks to implement the mission of the TLA via educational activities and outreach.

Be on the lookout for our improved website www.tlanc.org. Coming soon!

This newsletter is published by the Triangle Lebanese Association, Moise A. Khayrallah, Editor.
Please mail your comments to the address below, or e-mail us at info@tlanc.org.

Triangle Lebanese Association/
Lebanese Educational Center
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