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Introduction

The Baltimore-Luxor sister city relationship began in 1978, with an official agreement signed in 1982. In 1995, Baltimore also paired with Alexandria, Egypt. A committee of volunteers was formed, and works under the direction of Baltimore's Office of the Mayor. The Baltimore/Luxor/Alexander Sister Cities Committee (BLASCC) develops and sponsors numerous projects that cover a wide range of disciplines, including: culture and art, education, health care, humanitarian aid, government and public policy, waterfront development, low-middle income housing, transportation and tourism, science and technology, information technology, and the environment. In July of 2004, the newly appointed Governor of Luxor, Dr. Samir Farag, reiterated a continued and particular interest in having Baltimore City work with Luxor City on developing tourism. The following is a brief overview of the existing city-to-city partnership activities and ongoing projects.

A. Technical Assistance

Urban Planning

In 1984, the BLASCC chairperson, Dr. Mohamed El-Menshawy, with degrees in architectural engineering and urban planning developed a Technical Assistance Program (TAP) for Luxor that focused on the areas of urban management and municipal planning through the year 2000. TAP initially was supported by a community grant from SCI, and a SCI technical adviser participated in the projects. In 1986, USAID awarded a technical grant for BLASCC to assist with waterfront and city planning, including designs for a waterfront plaza. BLASCC also submitted plans for low-middle income housing, which were subsequently used to construct housing.

Science & Technology

In collaboration with the U.S. Department of Commerce and the State of Maryland's Department of Business and Economic Development, the BLASCC organized a successful "Information Technology Partnership Conference," which was held in Egypt in 2002 and out of which three business agreements were signed. A second IT conference is planned for Baltimore in 2005.

Arts and Culture

The BLASCC has sponsored and supported many activities in conjunction with Baltimore institutions like the Science Center, the National Aquarium, the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the World Trade Center, the Myerhoff Symphony Hall, City Hall art galleries, the Baltimore School System, local colleges and universities, and the Egyptian Embassy. Activities have ranged from exhibits of photography and modern and traditional Egyptian art to Egyptian folk dancing. Other events include plays and performances by renowned Egyptian singers and musicians, galas and bazaars, lectures and seminars, classes in hieroglyphic writing, and exhibits of artifacts. The BLASCC often collaborates with the Walters Art Museum to sponsor exhibits, dinners, lectures, and performances at the museum.

Health

A health-planning model, which included health education and medical screening and developed as a component of TAP, received SCI's Special Achievement Award for Technical Assistance in 1988. Medical literature, hospital supplies and equipment was given to the Luxor hospital over the years as well as the donation of 11 EKG machines. Egyptian physicians have studied in Baltimore and our doctors have volunteered time as instructors in Egypt. Presently, the BLASSC health sub-committee is very active in assisting hospitals in Luxor through modernization of facilities, medical training, and donations of equipment and supplies.

B. Tourism, Education and Student Exchange

Recreational tourism

BLASCC recognizes that tourism drives Luxor's economy. In 1996, the Committee planned its first annual two-week tourist trip to Egypt that was advertised to the public at a very reasonable cost. The trip included visits to archeological sites in various locations but mainly in Luxor.

Education Programs

Culinary education and chefs' exchanges were arranged for the Baltimore International College, the University of Maryland's Hotel and Restaurant Management program, and the Tourism Institute of Luxor.

Student Exchange

The Baltimore/Luxor Committee received SCI Awards for its overall youth program in both 1987 and 1988. In 1986, SCI granted the Baltimore program a youth exchange challenge grant to support a three-week outbound exchange of six high school students to spend one week traveling in Egypt and two weeks living with host families in Luxor. SCI awarded another grant to the Committee for an inbound exchange of five students who visited in the fall of 1998 for three weeks. Sister schools, both in Luxor and Baltimore, planned numerous programs based on the culture of each country. Baltimore's Chinquapin Middle School held a weeklong Egyptian festival, which included lecture and slides of Egypt. Other programs included field trips, Egyptian Bazaars, lectures, and a community picnic sponsored by Egyptian-American children.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

1978-1979

Dr. and Mrs. Hieronimus visit Egypt under the sponsorship of the Egyptian embassy and the encouragement of Mayor W. D. Schaefer. A documentary and slide presentation is prepared about Luxor.

May 20, 1981

Mayor W. D. Schaefer communicates with Mohamed Hakki, Minister/Counselor, Press and Information, Embassy of Egypt, to lay the groundwork for the proposal to have Luxor as Baltimore's sister city.

February 18, 1982

Abdullah Fouad, Counselor, Press and Information Bureau, Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Karen Little, Sister City Coordinator, that the governor of Quena Governate has accepted the mayor's offer of sistership between the city of Luxor, Egypt and the City of Baltimore, MD.

March 1, 1982

Mayor W. D. Schaefer responds to Ambassador Hafez's acknowledgment of Luxor's agreement to join Baltimore in a sister city relationship.

September 7, 1982

Mayor W. D. Schaefer extends an invitation to Abdul Halim Al Seidi, Governor of Quena, and Abo Amrah Hassan Embaby, Mayor of Luxor, to visit Baltimore to participate in the ceremonial signing of the sister city proclamation.

September 13, 1982

First meeting of the Baltimore-Luxor Sister City Committee.

October 26, 1982

Ceremonial signing of the Baltimore-Luxor Sister Cities proclamation by Egyptian Ambassador, Ashraf Ghorbal, and Mayor W. D. Schaefer at City Hall with a reception immediately following To celebrate Baltimore's sister city union with Luxor, Egypt, the Walters Art Gallery presents -- Egypt's Golden Age: The Art of Living in the New Kingdom (1558-1085 BC) Exhibition.



Ambassador Ashraf Ghorbal and Mayor D. Schaeffer signing Baltimore/Luxor Sister City Agreement

October 19-November 5, 1982

Egypt-Baltimore, 1982: Paintings and Photographs by R.R. Hieronimus, Ph.D., City Hall Galleries.

November 3-December 3, 1982

An Exhibition of Art by Egyptian Children, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Central Division.

November 4, 1982

Egypt 1982: A slide presentation by R.R. Hieronimus, Ph.D., Maryland Art Institute.

November 6, 1982

Alchemy and magic, Paul Trattner and John Rekus: A show for children on the Ancient Arts of Egypt, Maryland Science Center.

November 7, 1982

Festival of the Nile: An Egyptian Company of Forty Singers, Dancers, and Musicians performed at the Myerhoff Symphony Hall.

November 20, 1982

A taste of Egypt: Egyptian Cuisine by Nagwa Khalil, Culinary Arts Institute co-sponsored by Sister Cities Program and Morgan State University. Egyptian Art Exhibit showcasing the talents of the native artist, Nazli Madour, at Morgan State University. A component of the Baltimore-Luxor Sister City celebration.

December 13, 1982

Egypt 1982: A slide presentation by R.R. Hieronimus, Ph.D. presented at the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

December 15, 1982

Hieroglyphic writing: An introductory course for Adults, Paul H. Trattner, M., F. A took place at the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

January 21, 1983

Mayor Embaby of Luxor extends to Mayor Schaefer an invitation to visit Luxor and thanks him for

his recent gifts of books to Luxor.

January 21-February 2, 1983

Sister City member tour to Luxor. Mr. Paul H. Trattner (educational sub-committee chairman) spoke directly with members of the educational system in Luxor in order to initiate needed programs.

March 1, 1983

Abdelwahab Elabd reports to the Sister City Committee about his meeting with the Mayor of Luxor.

June 10, 1983

The Sun paper highlights the comments of the Mayor of Luxor regarding his enthusiasm in discussing plans for cultural and educational exchanges between Luxor and Baltimore.

August 16, 1983

Luxor Education subcommittee notified of the name of sister school -- Luxor Secondary and Primary School for the Girls.

October 11-16, 1983

Weeklong Egyptian festival celebration at Chinguapin Middle School which included lecture and slides of Egypt by Dr. Hieronimus; a field trip to the Walters Art Gallery-Egyptian Bazaar; lecture by an Egyptian-American; and a community picnic sponsored by Egyptian-American children in the community.

October 21, 1983

"Thousand and One Egyptian Delights" held at the Baltimore Hilton. Mayor Schaefer and the Baltimore-Luxor Sister City Committee sponsored this gala event. Abdelwahab Elabd chaired this event. First anniversary of the Baltimore-Luxor Sister City affiliation. Galal El-Rashidi, Minister of Press and Information, served as the Egyptian ambassador's representative.



Mayor D. Schaefer given speech at Thousand and One Egyptian Delights gala event

January 10-12, 1984

Abdelwahab Elabd, Sister City Committee member, visits Luxor and speaks to Mayor Abo Amrah Hassan Embaby.

Mr. Elabd has the opportunity to converse with two of Luxor's committee members, Houssein El Nouby, General Secretary of Tourism and Abdul Raheem Moustafa, a former teacher of English, whose interest is the Student Exchange Program.

Mayor Embaby hosts the Baltimore tour group at a reception at the Winter Palace Hotel. They are presented with a modern guide to Luxor and a key chain with an emblem of Luxor on it. Mayor Embaby is presented by Mr. Elabd with a model ship and a book about the City of Baltimore.



Abdelwahab Elabd presenting the ship model to the Mayor Embaby of Luxor

March 13, 1984

Mr. Mohamed El-Menshawy writes a letter to Ashraf Ghorbal explaining the technical assistance program and the cooperative efforts needed from both cities to implement the plan.

April 9, 1984

Baltimore-Luxor Sister City Technical Assistance Program (BL-TAP) in the areas of urban management and municipal planning developed by Mr. Mohamed and Mrs. Dorreya El-Menshawy, approved by Sister Cities International. Community grant from SCI to send the El-Menshawy to Luxor on a fact-finding tour.

August 10, 1984

Mr. El-Menshawy visits Luxor, meets with Mayor Abu Amra and the Luxor Committee to discuss ways and means for implementing technical, educational, and cultural exchange programs and establishes bases for communication between the subcommittees.

August 14-16, 1984

Mr. El-Menshawy, along with Dr. Hudson and Mrs. O'Hara from the Baltimore committee, meet with full Luxor committee.

May 13, 1985

Abdul Raheem Mostafa, senior receptionist, Movenpick Hotel, and member of Luxor committee,

visits Baltimore.

May-June, 1985

Raffle tickets sold to offset the cost of Sister Cities International Conference, in July.

June 10-17, 1985

Visit to Abdul Raheem M.T. Ayoub, Luxor member of Sister City Committee and senior receptionist at Jolie Ville Hotel.

June 14, 1985

Dr. Carol Lewis proposes a Health Planning model for Luxor as a component of the Technical Assistance Project and submits it to Baltimore-Luxor Sister Cities Committee.

July 10-13, 1985

Sister City International Conference: Baltimore Program presented with Top overall Award.

July 10, 1985

Baltimore-Luxor Sister City participated in hosting the national sister cities convention by presenting an Egyptian buffet to the delegates, at the Aquarium.

September 21-October 1, 1985

The Deputy Mayor of Luxor, Mr. Hussein Elnouby, and the Director of Engineering, Mr. Salah Abdelwahab visited Baltimore.

February 21, 1986

Senator Mac McMathis visits Luxor.

April 2, 1986

Report to Mr. James Ekstrom from Mr. El-Menshawy re: progress of the Baltimore-Luxor Sister City Technical Assistance Program.

May 2, 1986

Letter sent to General Zakareya Fadle from Mayor Schaefer about Mr. El-Menshawy upcoming visit to Luxor in June to provide technical assistance to planned projects.

May 27, 1986

Dr. Carol Lewis expands on the initial proposal for the technical assistance project re: Health Planning for Luxor. She receives a Letter of Agreement/Co-operation from Dr. Mohamed Hassan Bolok of Luxor Hospital.

Summer, 1986

Mr. M. El-Menshawy travels to Luxor on a U.S.A.I.D technical grant to assist with waterfront and city planning and to serve as technical advisor to SCI.

June 3, 1986

Dorrey El-Menshawy has completed the final drawings for the Luxor low-middle income housing and M. El-Menshawy has done the plaza drawings for the waterfront in Luxor.

August 28, 1986

SCI/National Youth Program granted Baltimore-Luxor Sister Cities Program a youth exchange challenge grant of \$2,409.00 to support the three-week outbouxchange of 6 youths to Luxor, Egypt.

October 20-November 10, 1986

Baltimore High School students spent one week traveling in Egypt and two weeks living with families in Luxor. Dr. Spilman, chairman of the Sister Cities Education Subcommittee, accompanied them. The trip stressed friendship.

September 11, 1987

SCI/National Youth Program grants a youth exchange challenge grant in the amount of \$3,000 to support the three-week inbound exchange of 5 youths from Luxor. "Egyptian Day" program at Jemicy School in Owings Mills.

September 21, 1987

The Reader's Digest Foundation presents the 1987 Sister Cities International Award to Luxor, for its overall youth program.

December 1, 1987

Mohamed El-Menshawy presented with a citation from Governor Schaefer for his contributions to the City as the Chairman of the Baltimore-Luxor sister city committee.

January 7, 1988

Dr. Carol Lewis visits Egypt (12/31/87 - 1/15/88). Meeting and dialogue with Dr. El-Bolok. A list of items needed by Luxor Hospital, given to Dr. Lewis.

April 1988

Educational reading material, especially medical literature is collected for shipment to Luxor Library.

May 19-30, 1988

Sister Cities Film Festival. Gala Reception. Native cuisine from each sister city featured. Luxor's screening occurs on 5/30/88 and showcases the movie "The Mummy".

June 15-30, 1988

Mr. Mohamed El-Menshawy visits Luxor to again provide technical assistance.

July 21, 1988

Dr. Carol Lewis, Technical Assistance Project, Health Planning and Medical Education, makes arrangements to have an Egyptian M.D. visit Baltimore on an academic basis.

July 20-24, 1988

Annual Sister Cities International Conference presentation of the Overall Youth Program Award sponsored by the Reader's Digest Foundation to Baltimore/Luxor Sister City Committee and a Special Achievement Award for technical assistance is presented to Luxor Committee for medical education and health screening.

August 14-18, 1988

Dr. Overton, Chairman of the Baltimore-Luxor Sister City Committee, and Dr. Wolf travel to

Cairns, Australia, representing Baltimore at the International Sister Cities Conference and World Forum.

November 1988

Cardiovascular Disease and Medical Library Project visit to Luxor.

December 18, 1988

Top of the World -- International Holiday Bazaar.

March 13, 1989

United Support against Multiple Sclerosis. Annual Fundraiser.

July 21-23, 1989

Award for Best Sister City Program for cities with populations more than 300,000. Marjorie Shaxted and Dr. James Hudson accepted the award on behalf of the Mayor and all 9 committees in Portland, Oregon.

September 17-October 7, 1989

3 students from Luxor attend school in Baltimore as the second part of the student exchange program, escorted by Deputy Mayor Hussein El-Nuby of Luxor, and 3 middle school students.

October 12-21, 1989

The Third Annual Sister Cities Film Festival is held. Luxor's entry is "The Land".

November 5-17, 1989

Governor W. D. Shaefer and members of his cabinet visit Egypt. Special activities and receptions are planned in Luxor.

April 3, 1990

Ethnic Fair displays at Fort Garrison Elementary.

May 4, 1990

The Luxor Committee participated in the Silent Auction at the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health International House.

May 24, 1990

Exhibits at 4H Window into the Future, International Night, Towson State University.

November 1990

The University of Maryland Hospital gave 11 EKG machines to the Committee to be sent to Luxor for use in their Hospital.

October 1991

Mr. Mohamed El-Menshawy went to Luxor to do a Technical Exchange project through a Sister Cities International Technical Assistance Grant. This project concerned housing for low and limited income families. He demonstrated some of the benefits of improved coordination techniques to government officials/private businessmen.

February 29, 1992

Luxor Committee joined with the Egyptian American Society of Maryland for an evening of Egyptian cuisine, dancing, singing and an Egyptian Bazaar at the Marriott Hotel BWI.

July 1992

11 EKG machines were sent to Luxor Hospital via transport given by KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. University of Maryland Hospital donated them to the Committee for Luxor.

July 30-September, 1992

Congratulations went to Luxor, A. R. Egypt, on the Decennial (10th) Anniversary! During the month of August, the South Courtyard Gallery featured the committee's collection of artifacts, pictures and garments set against light murals of the native landscape. Egyptian food and dancing were featured at a gala reception on July 30.

September 18-19-20, 1992

Luxor participated in the Charm City Fair. One Thousand and One Egyptian Delights event, chaired by Abdelwahab Elabd, was held at Scarlett Place in the Maryland Room. Proceeds from the exciting dinner/dance, attended by Mayor Schmoke, benefit the Committee's student exchange.



Mayor Schmoke and Abdelwahab Elabd at One Thousand and One Egyptian Delights event

December 12, 1993

Trimmed a special tree with ethnic items and dressed in ethnic dress for the Mayor's Christmas Open House. The theme this year is Baltimore, An International City.

August 12-29, 1994

Embassy of Egypt Press and Information Office and Luxor-Baltimore Sister City Committee, under the auspices of His Excellency Ahmed Maher El Sayed, Ambassador of Egypt, presented "Egyptian Modern Art Exhibit" at the Top-Of-The-World, which opened with a Gala Reception with the Ambassador attending.

June 1995

Dr. Margaret Shabka completed committee mission statement.

August 1995

Dr. Louis Elias visited Alexandria and met with the Governor of Alexandria.

October 1995

The Baltimore-Alexandria sister city agreement was signed in City Hall by Mayor Kurt Schmoke and the Egyptian Ambassador in USA, Mr. Ahmed Maher El Sayed, on 19/9/95. A dinner/dance fundraising party celebrating the signing of the sister city agreement with Alexandria took place in the Baltimore Convention Center on 10/21/95. The party was well attended (+350 persons).



Egyptian Ambassador Ahmed Maher & Mayor Schmoke signing Baltimore/Alexandria Sister City Agreement

March 1996

Dr. Louis Elias, Dr. Samia Elias, and Dr. Nabil Sadek visited Alexandria and met with the Governor of Alexandria and some other officials.

May 1996

The committee brochure was designed and prepared by Mr. Paul Trattner and Mrs. Kathleen Lockhart. Abdelwahab Elabd visited Egypt and met with the Governor of Luxor and the Governor of Alexandria.

June 1996

The committee presented an Egyptian art exhibit featuring the art of Mr. Nabil Makar, Dr. Sihan Osman, Dr. Robert Hieronimus, and Mr. Paul Trattner that was held at the Top-of-the-World Baltimore World Trade Center, from May 22-July 31. A reception for the exhibit was held on June 25th. The reception was well attended and the Egyptian Ambassador was present.

July 1996

The city of Luxor formed a sister city committee consisting of 14 members including official personnel and local businessmen.

December 1996

Mrs. Kathleen Lockhart led a group of 15 persons on a "Discover Egypt" trip. Also on this trip, Abdelwahab Elabd met with the Governor of Luxor and the Governor of Alexandria and initiated

several exchange programs.



Baltimore group with the Governor of Alexandria



Baltimore group with the Governor of Luxor

March 1997

Dr. John Dienhart, Chairman of Hotel and Restaurant Management of University of Maryland, visited Egypt and lectured at Alexandria University in Alexandria and Luxor's College of Tourism in Luxor for two weeks.

May-June 1997

In the second in a series of Chef Exchanges with the Baltimore International Culinary College and Baltimore Sister Cities program, Mr. Mohamed Farouk, Chef Instructor at the Luxor's College of Tourism visited the Baltimore International Culinary College for two weeks and gave demonstrations on Egyptian cuisine. The Baltimore Sun paper wrote several items about the Chef Exchange.

June 1997

General Mohamed Yossef, Governor of Luxor, visited Baltimore to participate in the celebration of 15th Anniversary of Baltimore-Luxor relationship. Fifteen citizens of Luxor including businessmen, folklore dancers, and musicians joined us in this celebration.

The 15th Baltimore-Luxor Anniversary celebration included three days with three main events:

On June 6th: Artwork by Nabil Makar and Rostom and photography by Amr Mounib reflecting the Egyptian culture, ethnic cuisine and entertainment were featured in the Baltimore City Hall Courtyard Galleries. Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke presented honorary citizenship to the visitors from Luxor. Also, Mayor Schmoke and Governor Mohamed Yossef exchanged gifts.



Mayor Schmoke and Governor Mohamed Yossef exchanged gifts



Mayor Schmoke given honorary citizenship to Luxor delegation



Luxor implement the pamper idea for the horse carriage



Luxor Folkloric Troupe

On June 7th: The musical folklore group joined the Egyptian-American folklore group of NY in a musical event with an Egyptian Bazaar at Resort International in Atlantic City.

On June 8th: Another event with dancing, music, and Egyptian Bazaar by the Luxor's folklore group, took place in College Park, University of Maryland.

August 1997

Dr. Emad Gaddis a Luxor businessman visited Baltimore, he is a book publisher, and an agreement was reached between Dr. Gaddis and the committee for the right to sell his books in USA as a committee fundraising project.

October 1, 1997

The Committee established an Internet web site for the Baltimore Sister Cities Program with our own domain "www.baltimore-sistercities.org". Richard Deurer has done an excellent job in designing and maintaining the committee's home page.

October 11, 1997

Mayor Schmoke was invited by the Governor of Luxor to attend the opera Aida in Luxor. The Mayor's schedule did not permit him to go to Egypt, but he sent Marjorie Shaxted, Sister City Coordinator, to represent him. Abdelwahab Elabd, Murry Bentley, Rotterdam's committee Chairperson, and his wife Linda Clark, and Nabil Sadek, business committee Chairperson, accompanied Marjorie Shaxted. While in Egypt, the group had a meeting with the new Governor of Alexandria and toured the new Alexandria Library "Bibliotheca Alexandrina".



The Baltimore delegation meeting with the Luxor committee at Gaddis Hotel in Luxor

February 1998

Mohamed Aly Kassim, vice president of Memnon Tour, visited Baltimore for a medical procedure by Johns Hopkins Hospital to his toughter. Abdelwahab Elabd accompanied him during his visit and built a relationship with him preparing for the Committee' "Egypt Trip".

April 4-19, 1998

The Committee conducted the second annual trip to Egypt. During the tour, trip participants met

with the Governors of Luxor and Alexandria and visited three schools. The trip was a great success. The accommodation and the quality of service with an incredible price arranged by Memnon tour were memorable. Dr. Joyce Jennings, tour member, sent English books to one of the school we visited upon her return to Baltimore. Also, Mr. Bill Kinch, tour member, has signed up for the coming Egypt trip in March 1999 by saying he enjoyed it so much that he want to do it again beside some referrers signed for the trip. Abdelwahab Elabd led the tour.



Baltimore group at the City Hall in Luxor, Egypt

April 22, 1998

The committee had participated in the “Global Village Festival” held at the World Bank. Sohier ElAlaily and Evelyn Rophael represented our committee by selling our books in this event. Proceeds were for the benefit of the International Program Committee of the Special Libraries Association, which helps librarians residing in developing countries.

April 29, 1998

The Committee and the Egyptian tourist Authority office in NY joined together in an Egyptian booth about in the annual Embassy Day Luncheon and Trade Exhibition. The event was organized by Baltimore World Trade Center Institute and was held at the Hyatt Regency, Baltimore Inner Harbor. Ten ambassadors and 110 foreign diplomats based in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. were among the 550 persons who attended. Abdelwahab Elabd represented the committee in this event. The Egyptian display booth attracted many people.

May 1998

The Committee furnished a display at the Baltimore World Trade Center lobby as part of the World Trade Week. Mrs. Evelyn Rophael arranged the display, which included photos, flags, and maps.

June 11, 1998

Kathleen Lockhart organized “The new member Celebration Orientation” at the City Hall. Lecture about the connection between Egypt and Mokhtar Kamel provided United States of America. an Egyptian meal was provided to the attendees. Carolyn Phillips, Dorreya Elmenshawy, Ali Fadl, Nabil Makar, Paul Trattner, and Richard Deurer helped in the organization.

June 19-20, 1998

The Committee participated in the Baltimore International Festival. Laurel Gray and her group volunteered by performing Pharaonic dance and Artemis Mourat performed oriental dance. Abdelwahab Elabd, Mokhtar Kamel, Hassan Azzazy, Mohamed Elmenshawy, and Diane Carliner represented the committee in this event. Egyptian souvenir was sold in the amount of \$ 88.00.



Egyptian Folkloric Troupe at the Baltimore International Festival

July 1998

Mr. & Mrs. Abdel Hamid Yahya of Luxor Committee, Dr. Badawy Hussain, Dean of Tourism Institute of Luxor visited Baltimore for three days. During their visit on July 27th they met with Mrs. Carol Wohlleben and Mr. Steven Solomon of Baltimore International College to discuss a future chef exchange between Luxor and Baltimore. Dr. Hussain invited a chef and a staff member from Baltimore International College to visit his institute for two weeks. Abdelwahab Elabd and Marjorie Shaxted attended this meeting.

September 1998

El Elabd attended the International Friends of the Alexandria Library annual meeting in Athens, Greece on behalf of the Committee. Abdelwahab Elabd gave remarks explaining the committee plan for establishing Baltimore Friends of the Alexandria Library and its future planned fundraising activities.

October 1998

Kathleen Lockhart set up "All eyes in Egypt" an educational interpretive photographic exhibit comprised of text and candid, photographic snapshots pertaining to Egypt. The exhibit was held at the Administrative building of the Baltimore city public school for month duration from September 2nd to January 5, 1999. The exhibitors were; Richard Deurer, James Hudson, Linda Kamel, Kathleen Lockhart, Evelyn Rophael, Samia Abdel Wahed, Marjorie Shaxted, Craig Spilman, Zenobia Thomas, Paul Trattner. Richard Deurer, Carolyn Phillips, Paul Trattner, Fadwa Mostafa, Laurel Gray, Ali Fadl, and Dorreya Elmenshawy helped in organizing the exhibit reception on 10/7/98.

November 1998

The committee has established a subcommittee called "Baltimore Friends of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina"; Hassan Azzazy was elected director of this group. Two very successful events took place and were covered by the news media; also the mayor and the committee chairman received several thank you notes. These events were:

November 12: A Bibliotheca Alexandrina Conference was hosted in Baltimore City Hall and organized by the Executive Board of the Baltimore Sister City Program that included several presentations on the history of Bibliotheca Alexandrina, current status of this project, and the importance of the cultural, educational, and scientific significance of this international project. H.E. Ahmed Maher the Egyptian Ambassador, H.E. Alexander Philon the Greek Ambassador, and Hon. Senator Sarbanes were among the participants. Speakers included Mr. Richard Holmquest, the UNESCO Liaison for Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Dr. Richard Jasnow of the Johns Hopkins University, and Counselor Dr. Osama Zaki, the director of the Cultural and Educational Bureau of

the Egyptian Embassy who offered a unique gift (desk clock engraved with the “Bibliotheca Alexandrina”) to all the attendants. Also, The Egyptian Ambassador provided a dinner buffet and the Greek Ambassador provided the wine. Guests from industry, academia as well as private companies were also invited to attend this event that focused on attracting all individuals interested in supported the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Also, during this event Chairman Ismail Osman of the Arab Contractor and Mr. Peter Bowe, president of Ellicott International signed a license agreement to build Ellicott dredges in Egypt for the Middle East and North African markets. This new alliance will create additional jobs opportunities in Baltimore and Egypt.

November 13: A fundraising party organized by our committee with collaboration of the Enoch Pratt Free Library to support Bibliotheca Alexandrina took place at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore. Organizers were Deborah Dhillon, Hassan Azzazy, Mokhtar Kamel, Laurel Gray, and Paul Trattner. Counselor Dr. Osama Zaki, Consul Hazem Khierat of the Egyptian Embassy, and Engineer Ismail Osman, Chairman of the Arab Contractors (who constructed 55% of the library building) were among the guests. The party included a Middle Eastern dinner, Pharaonic dance, a magician, and displays of Egyptian art work. Excellent performances by Paul Trattner and Laurel Gray were noted. Also, Deborah Dhillon and Hassan Azzazy were noted to be outstanding organizers. Several committee members were among the attendees. Many of the attendants donated several books to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.



March 1999

Ron Wade led a group of 22 American on the committee annual trip to Egypt. Tour members visited the Library of Alexandria and donated some valuable books to the library.



Baltimore group donating books & some rare books to the Library of Alexandria

April 1999

Chef instructor Mr. Franck Ostender of Baltimore International College visited Luxor for two week demonstrating different recipes of American cuisine.

September 1999

The Baltimore Friends of the BA organized a fundraising event at the Maryland Science Center. The event included a reception with Egyptian food, lectures, and Mysteries of Egypt IMAX performance. 225 people attended this event.

October 1999

The committee organized an Egyptian evening at the Baltimore Museum of Art on October 16th. The event included reception, Egyptian folklore dancing and music and magic show performed by Paul Trattner.

Tragically, the four Luxor high school students and chaperon, who spent two-weeks with Baltimore host families, were killed when their plane crashed on the return trip. Dunbar senior high school organized this student exchange.

November 1999

Kathleen Lockhart organized a trip to Virginia Museum of Fine Art, Richmond to visit the “Splendors of Ancient Egypt” exhibit. 22 participated in this visit.

The Baltimore Luxor Alexandria Sister City Committee in conjunction with Port Discovery assisted in a two day Egyptian Festival. There were exciting performances by “Silk Road”, an Egyptian Dance Troupe and an Egyptian Magic Show by the amazing Prof. Paul H. Trattner. There were lectures to learn all about Egypt and careers in Archaeology, as well as a real mummy. Artists help participants create musical instruments as well as Egyptian toys, dress, and artifacts. Kathleen Lockhart and Paul Trattner of the BLASCC Art and Culture committee coordinated the event.

January 2000

Alexandria Governor and delegation of 8 people visit Baltimore for a week program. The program included visits, seminars and discussion on School-to-Work, waterfront development and medical issues with Johns Hopkins International medicine.



Gala Event for the Alexandria Governor & his delegation at the Peabody

February 2000

Ron Wade led a group of 21 American on the committee annual trip to Egypt. Tour members visited the Library of Alexandria and donated some valuable books to the library.

March 2000

The Baltimore Friends of the BA partner with the Egyptian Embassy in Washington, DC in organizing a fundraising event included participation in first lady of Egypt Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak at the Library of Congress. The event resulted in nearly \$1million in corporate sponsorship for the Library.

October 2000

The committee organized an Egyptian evening at the Baltimore Museum of Art on October 16th. The event included reception, Egyptian folklore dancing and music and magic show performed by Paul Trattner. 230 people attended this event.

February 2001

The Baltimore Friends of the BA partnered with the Rotary Club of Lake Ridge, VA purchased Braille equipment (\$8K) and donated to BA.

March 2001

The committee participated in the Flower Mart and presented an Egyptian flower arrangement.

April 2002

Abdelwahab Elabd attended the 4th International Friends of the BA meeting in Alexandria, Egypt.



International Friends of the BA

May 2002

Sent Sharon Leu, master degree in biotechnology, to work at the BA as intern for three months.

In collaboration with the US Department of Commerce and the State of Maryland's Department of Business and Economic Development, the BLASSC organized a successful "Information Technology Partnership Conference," which was held in the Alexandria Library, Egypt and out of which three business agreements were signed. H. E. Dr. Ahmed Nazif, then the Minister of Communications and IT and recently named Egypt's Prime Minister, supported and participated in the conference. A second IT conference is planned for Baltimore in 2005. See attached report.



**Members of the IT conference with the Alexandria Governor
October 2002**

Abdelwahab Elabd and Raouf Boulis attended the inaugurations of the Library of Alexandria Egypt.

November 2002

20th Anniversary celebration of Baltimore-Luxor sister city relation. The committee organized a Gala dinner with Egyptian folklore dance, music and singing performance at the Walters Art Museum. HE Nabil Fahmy, Egypt Ambassador to US attended the function.



Egyptian Folkloric Troupe performing at the Walters Art Museum



August 2003

Shipped 200 books (collected donation) to the BA

October 2003

Abdelwahab Elabd and Judy Orlinsky traveled to Egypt and attended the 6th International Friends of the BA meeting. They also, met with the Governor of Alexandria.

**International Friends of the BA****January 2004**

The committee members attended a reception and special viewing of the outstanding exhibit “Eternal Egypt” at the Walters Art Museum.

April 2004

With support from the Mayor’s Office and partial funding from the US State Department, the BLASSC Committee sponsored a successful trade, health, education, culture and public diplomacy mission to Alexandria, Cairo, and Luxor. While in Luxor the group met with the Luxor/Baltimore Sister City committee, local business people, and then Governor Desonky El Bana. During the visit several members of the delegation were asked to comment on their observations of tourist sites and how they were presented to the public. During meetings the group also offered various ways they might help in Luxor’s tourism development. Representing the Mayor’s Office, the US State Department, the cultural arts community leadership, and others, the group observed that improvements could be made in many areas to improve Luxor’s tourism industry.

Kathleen Hines a writer spent 3 months at the Library of Alexandria to train their communication department staff.

May 2004

Dr. Regine Schulz, Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Walters Art Museum and Chairperson of the BLASCC Culture and Arts subcommittee, hosted a reception and lecture for Dr. Zahi Hawass at the Walters Art Museum on May 6, 2004. Dr. Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities and Director of the Giza Pyramid Excavation talked about the ongoing excavations in Egypt accompanied by a slide presentation.

Dr. Regine Schulz, Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Walters Art Museum and Chairperson of the BLASCC Culture and Arts subcommittee, hosted a reception and lecture for T.G.H. (Harry) James at the Walters Art Museum on May 18, 2004. T.G.H. (Harry) James is the erstwhile Keeper of Egyptian Antiquities in the British Museum (1974-1988). He has worked in Egypt on excavations at Saqqara and on epigraphic projects at Saqqara, Thebes and Gebel es-Silsila. Harry has lectured widely in Europe, Australia and America. He is an international authority and one of the most highly regarded Egyptologists in the world.

June 2004

Mr. Abdel-Mesih (engineering student) spent the summer as intern at ThermoChem in Baltimore. Mr. Amer Raafat (architect at the Library of Alexandria) spent the summer as intern at Peter Fillat' architectural firm in Baltimore.

August 2004

The committee issued the first edition of its newsletter "Egyptian Lotus". *See attachment.*

October 2004

Abdelwahab Elabd and Momtaz Mansour traveled to Egypt. They attended the 7th International Friends of the BA meeting and donated \$1000 to the Librarian-In-Residence program. Also, they met with the Governor of Alexandria discussing the process of refuse-derived fuels from municipal solid waste to make useful added value products.

Artists from Bloomsburg Theater performed the musical play of Alexandria Carry-On at the Library of Alexandria during the 7th International Friends of the BA meeting.



International Friends of the BA



Alexandria Carry-on Musical Play at the BA

The committee organized a day celebrating the Library of Alexandria at the Walters Art Museum.

The day featured Lectures about Alexandria and the BA, Egyptian Dinner and the performance of the musical play of Alexandria Carry-On.

November 2004

The committee arranged for Mr. Ahmed Habashy, Director of the western district of the Alexandria Governorate School of Alexandria to attend “Train the Trainees” seminar in Minsk, Belarus from November 16-20 as observer in economic. The National Council on Economic Education based in USA organized this seminar.

January 2005

Abdelwahab Elabd and Peter Chermayeff traveled to Egypt and met with the Governor of Alexandria and the Director of the BA discussing the possibility of building an Aquarium in Alexandria, Egypt.



February 2005

Jean Creek, a member of the Sister City Committee has taken on a mission to improve the treatment and prevention of diabetes and hypertension for people living in two isolated villages in Upper Egypt. Dr. Creek developed a partnership between the Luxor International Hospital and the villages of Kalabsha and Al Madeek, whereby the hospital will serve as a ‘hub’ for the training of nurses and doctors to provide continuous quality care. Dr. Creek coordinated the acquisition of new furniture and audio-visual equipment for the Luxor International Hospital's four classrooms and purchased two dialysis machines. To date she has personally donated \$30,000 and collected an additional \$5,000 for the purpose of this project and wired the money to the BLASCC.

March 2005

Abdelwahab Elabd was invited to be included in a panel discussion about sister cities program with the Islamic countries at the board of director meeting of Sister City International. Abdelwahab Elabd gave a power point presentation about the sustainability of BLASCC’ program.

Louis Elias and Samer El-Kamary visited Alexandria and Luxor to set up the Consultation and Training Program for Health Care Professionals at the Luxor International Hospital and the Oncology ‘Hands For Future’ Hospital in Alexandria, Egypt.

Furniture and audio-visual equipment and a dialysis machine donated by Dr. Jean Creek were

shipped to Luxor.

April 2005

Salwa Elgebaly visited Egypt to establish research projects with the University of Alexandria.

July 2005

The committee issued the second edition of its newsletter “Egyptian Lotus”. See attachment.

August 2005

Abdelwahab Elabd, Dr. Samer El-Kamary and Dr. Salwa Elgebaly visited Alexandria and Luxor, Egypt. The visit included meeting with Alexandria/Baltimore Sister City Council, Alexandria University Medical School and Luxor International Hospital to discuss various cooperation projects.



Members of BLASCC meeting with ABSCC



Members of BLASCC meeting with Alexandria Medical School Dean and Staff

The National Council on Economic Education (NCEE) based in Washington, DC organized a workshop on teaching economic to 36 Egyptian teachers in Alexandria, Egypt. Abdelwahab Elabd attended the opening and closing ceremony.



NCEE Workshop in Alexandria, Egypt

November 2005

BLASCC organized a series of events for the month of November in celebration of 10th anniversary of the Baltimore and Alexandria Sister City relationship. The BLASCC has partnered with the Mayor's Office, the Walters Art Museum, the World Trade Center Institute, the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Maryland Science Center, to host a variety of celebratory events during November 2005. *See attached 10th Anniversary celebration brochure*



Ambassador Nabil Fahmy, his wife and Abdelwahab Elabd



Egyptian Business Delegation



Anfoushi Folkloric Troupe of Alexandria performing at the Walters Art Museum

December 2005

Abdelwahab Elabd, Drs. Louis & Samia Elias and Dr. Mostafa Fahmy of BLASCC attended the 9th International Friends of the Library of Alexandria meeting in Alexandria Egypt. They donated \$1300 to the new Information Literacy laboratory. Mr. Elabd proposed the idea of having "Egyptian

Corner” placed in different public places in USA. The idea was accepted by the Library of Alexandria.



Baltimore Friends of the BA



International Friends of the BA

Since 2005....

2008 Nursing Project

Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon joined BLASCC President Abdelwahab Elabd and members Howard and Rosemary Koontz on a medical fact-finding trip to Egypt. Howard and Rosemary, both registered nurses, provided a week of nurses training at the University of Alexandria Nursing School and at a women's center. Subjects ranged from CPR, preventive health care for babies, nutrition and much more. Howard concluded that there is great need to continue and expand such nursing exchanges and training.

2011-12 Luxor Water Project

Baltimore Luxor Alexandria Sister City Committee (BLASCC), together with members of the Luxor Sister City Committee in Egypt, successfully administered a grant from the African Urban Poverty Alleviation Program of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Former BLASCC President Amy Riolo applied for a grant in 2011 which paid for the construction of a water pipeline from the Tiba potable water source to Nagaa Village Gad Al Kareem. The water pipeline was constructed by an Egyptian contractor and completed in 2012, providing a clean, steady, source of water for the village's 6,000 residents.

2014 Virtual Book Drive and Garden Party Fundraiser

Karen Leggett-Abouraya and her husband Tharwat Abouraya became co-chairs of the Friends of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina subcommittee within the BLASCC, following publication of Karen's children's book about the 2011 revolution in Egypt, *Hands Around the Library: Protecting Egypt's Treasured Books*. The Friends partnered with the American literacy organization First Book to hold a Virtual Book Drive, followed by a spring garden party in Alexandria, Virginia, where BA Director Ismail Serageldin was a featured speaker. The two events raised more than \$2,000 to purchase books for the BA's Children's Library.



I ♥ books for Egypt
Virtual Book Drive for the great library in Alexandria, Egypt
March 12 through April 27, 2014

- YOUR donation will help build the collection of children's books at Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA).
- Every donation counts – you may select the book you'd like to give from the library's wish list.
- Learn more at www.baltimoreegypt.org.



Donate Now at <http://supporters.firstbook.org/goto/booksforegypt>

Brought to you by:
Baltimore-Washington Friends of the
Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA)



Sponsored by:
Sister Cities
Alexandria-Baltimore-Luxor





Ismail Serageldin, Karen Leggett, guests Susan Wise and Mohamed Elshinnawi, Ambassador Mohamed Tawfik (left to right)



Banner displayed at Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore for Arab American Heritage Month 2014

2015

BLASCC joined other Sister City organizations to host a table at Baltimore's ArtScape festival. One volunteer built a small cargo ship. Visitors used a magnet to lift miniature containers from the ship, receiving a trinket or toy from the country represented by their selected container. BLASCC provided small figurines of ancient Egyptian gods and papyrus bookmarks for this popular game.

Karen and Tharwat Abouraya attended the International Friends of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA) meeting in Alexandria in October, donating children's books related to the Baltimore and Greater Washington, D.C. areas.

Also in October, 2015, a conference on "Informal Education" was held at the BA, Alexandria, Egypt. Baltimore Friends of the BA initiated the idea for this conference which focused on educational opportunities at libraries, museums, sports centers and after school programs. The conference drew an unexpectedly large audience of 650 participants from throughout Egypt, including teachers, librarians and many NGOs working with poor children in Egypt. The BLASCC committed \$2,000 to send Baltimore librarian Paula Willey to the conference; she presented strategies for involving families in early childhood literacy. Karen continues to collaborate with the BA on literacy issues and conference follow-up activities.



Tharwat Abouraya with Ambassador Mohamed Tawfik at 2015 International Friends of the BA Annual Meeting



One of 600+ attendees with her conference certificate



Karen Leggett-Abouraya with Head of BA Children's Library Ingi Abdelkader

2016

BLASCC participated in planning and offering activities at a Girl Scout Thinking Day event focused on Egypt in Elkridge, Maryland, attended by about 150 Scouts and their families.



Karen Leggett-Abouraya and Egyptian exchange student Farah Halaba answer questions at a Girl Scout event.

New officers were elected and BLASCC launched an aggressive rebuilding campaign under the leadership of chairman Tharwat Abouraya.