



Egyptian Lotus

A Journal of the Baltimore / Luxor / Alexandria Sister City Committee

Volume 2 - Summer 2005

Message from Abdelwahab Elabd

Chairman of the Baltimore / Luxor / Alexandria Sister City Committee



Abdelwahab Elabd

I am proud to report about the many accomplishments our committee has achieved in the past six months, and the promising future that is in store for the Baltimore/Luxor/Alexandria Sister City Committee (BLASCC). To date, the BLASCC has submitted two grant requests to obtain funds with positive expectations. The first grant, in the amount of \$200,000, was submitted to Sister City International with the goal of promoting tourism in the city of Luxor. The second grant in the amount of \$10,000 was submitted to the Egyptian American Community Foundation. This grant will provide consultation and training programs for Egyptian health care professionals associated with the 'Hands For Future' Hospital in the city of Alexandria. Additionally, BLASCC committee member, Dr. Jean Creek and staff from the Luxor International Hospital initiated a Diabetes Treatment and Prevention Partnership. Dr. Creek, through BLASCC, gifted the Hospital \$31,000 for this important medical collaboration. This generous donation was used to purchase furniture for classrooms, audio-visual equipment and two dialysis machines for the Hospital.

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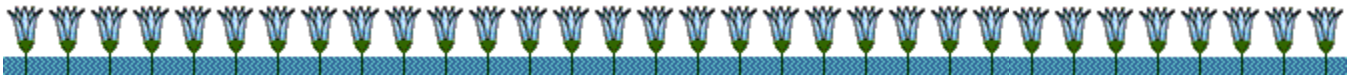
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BLASCC members celebrate with visiting doctors from Egypt





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Message from Abdelwahab Elabd



*Abdel-Salam
El-Mahgoub*

The Governor of Alexandria, Abdel-Salam El-Mahgoub, recently established an Alexandria/Baltimore Sister City Council that will serve as our counterparts on his behalf. The intent is to have in place, an informed staff that will interact with our committee members in moving forward with Sister City projects. Several projects currently being implemented include the establishment of Sister City schools to promote understanding. Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and Alexandria Zahran High School are the first of such partners. Plans are being made to have students email each other and work on projects together. Future endeavors include an exchange program for students and teachers.

The BLASCC has also formed a partnership with "Hands Along the Nile Development Services", to focus our joint efforts on improving health care in Luxor and raising the quality of life for Egyptians. Several projects are being pursued for implementation at this time.



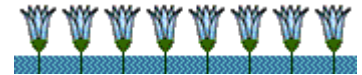
Projects initiated from the trade mission in April 2004 are moving forward. BLASCC is in the process of assisting Alexandria in developing a Marine Environmental Center and an Aquarium in combination with a hotel and conference center. Additionally, a Baltimore corporation is introducing the advance technology of processing refuse-derived fuels from municipal solid waste, to make useful added value products for Alexandria. BLASCC is working with the City of Luxor to assist in the development of a Cultural Center. BLASCC committee

members are also working on developing a Sister City college partnership between the Medical School of the University of Maryland and the Medical School of Alexandria University.

In November of this year, the BLASCC will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of our Sister City relationship with Alexandria. The BLASCC has planned numerous activities to mark this occasion. The celebration will include a series of lectures about Alexandria, an art exhibit, a business seminar focusing on business ventures in Egypt, and an IMAX presentation of "Mystery of the Nile" at the Maryland Science Center. To top off these festivities, a gala event will be held at the Walters Art Museum on November 18, 2005 that will include Egyptian food, music, folklore dancing and an Egyptian Bazaar.

I would also like to personally congratulate the committee members for a job well done and to welcome all the new members who have recently come on-board.

Abdelwahab Elabd



The Alexandria Carry - On



Theo Bleckmann - The Alexandria Carry-On

Wanting to end the year on a high note, the Art and Culture committee, in conjunction with the Walters Art Museum, presented an outstanding program of art, music and history on November 12, 2004 at the Museum.

In addition to the performance of the "The Alexandria Carry-On", several noted scholars joined Dr. Regine Schulz, Curator of Ancient Art at The Walters, as she presented a lecture program entitled "Ancient Libraries and Alexandria".

The star-studded line up included:

- Dr. Dimitrios Yatromanolakis, Assistant Professor
Department of Classics, Johns Hopkins University
- Dr. Richard Jasnow, Professor of Egyptology
Department of Near Eastern Studies, Johns Hopkins University
- Dr. Sabine Albersmeier, Assistant Curator of Ancient Art
The Walters Art Museum

The Walters also presented an interesting Focus Show of wooden figures called "Carved for Immortality". Most of the statues came from tombs and represented the owner, his relatives or servants; others from a ritual or profane context and depict deities, kings or animals. Originally, these carvings were brightly painted or gilded to be as lifelike as possible.

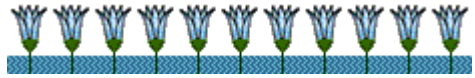
We were treated to a fine Egyptian dinner that was catered by Astor International Catering of Washington, D.C. The food and informal conversations were enjoyed by all.

Following the dinner was the performance of "The Alexandria Carry-On". This is an original solo music-theatre piece, written by Laurie McCants, and tells the story of a curious slave in Ancient Egypt (played by avant garde jazz performer, Theo Bleckmann) who repairs the precious papyrus scrolls stored in the Library of Alexandria. He teaches himself to read and discovers what has been hidden from him: the tantalizing possibility of knowledge, freedom and love.

After this marvelous performance, Theo Beckmann and Laurie McCants met with the audience to answer questions about the performance.

Submitted by Paul H. Trattner

Milestone for Sister City



Anniversary of the Baltimore and Alexandria Sister City Relationship

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Baltimore and Alexandria Sister City relationship. The BLASCC will partner 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 scheduled for the Fall of 2005. The following events are being planned to coincide with this anniversary:



Film Lecturer

The Walters Art Museum will host an Egypt and film lecture that explores the worldwide fascination with mummies presented by Christine Foessmeier, art historian and Egyptologist. This lecture is scheduled for September 17, 2005 at 2:00 PM in Graham Auditorium.

Business Seminar

The Mayor's Office and the BLASCC will host a business seminar with the World Trade Center Institute, the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Egyptian Embassy. The seminar will present a comprehensive overview on how to do business in Egypt. The seminar is scheduled for November 17, 2005 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the World Trade Center.

Art Exhibit

The BLASCC will host an art exhibit comprised of work from local artists from the Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. areas, as well as from Egypt. All art work will be displayed in the Gallery of Baltimore City Hall during the month of November 2005.

Lectures on Egypt



The Maryland Science Center will host a lecture and IMAX presentation. Dr. Farouk El Baz, Director, Center for Remote Sensing, Boston University, will lecture on "Egypt at the Crossroad of Continents, Cultures and Civilizations". Afterwards, guests can view the IMAX film "Mystery of the Nile". This event is scheduled for November 13, 2005 at 6:00 PM.

Lectures on Alexandria

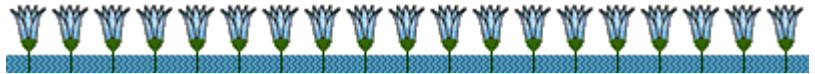
The Walters Art Museum will host a series of lectures on Alexandria, Egypt presented by prominent scholars in the field of Egyptology. The lecture topics will span time covering Ancient Alexandria, Greco Roman, Christian and Islamic, European, and Modern periods.

Gala Dinner

The BLASCC and the Walters Art Museum will co-host a gala dinner event on November 18, 2005 at 7:00 PM at the Walters Art Museum that will embrace Egyptian food, folklore, dancing and music, and include an Egyptian bazaar.

A media campaign announcing each of these events will be released at the appropriate time. Please visit the BLASCC (www.BaltimoreEgypt.org) and the Walter Art Museum (www.thewalters.org) websites for more information.

Bulletin Board



Mayor O'Malley

Mayor Martin O'Malley has designated January 14, 2005 as "Baltimore Day Of Remembrance And Caring" in tribute to the memory of those who perished in the December 26, 2004 earthquake and tsunami in the Bay of Bengal. The BLASCC made a donation to the tsunami relief effort designated to help those in need and alleviate continued suffering.

The BLASCC has offered two college students from Egypt, an opportunity to come to Baltimore to work in creative positions during the summer of 2005. Ms. Nardeen Gaddis whose background is in public relations, advertising and mass communications, has been offered a position in the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts. Ms. Noha Sorial, whose background is in interior architecture, design and procurement, has been offered a position in the firm of R.D. Jones and Associates, Inc.



Jim O'Leary

In conjunction with the BLASCC, Mr. Jim O'Leary, Director of the Planetarium and IMAX, at the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore, has arranged for two engineers from Alexandria to participate in a four week intern program starting in September 2005. The internship is sponsored by the Maryland Science Center, and offers a diverse curriculum in a variety of programs. Both engineers are currently working at the Planetarium Science Center in the Alexandria Library. Mohamed Khamis currently heads the Programs and Events Unit and Ayman El-Sayed currently heads the Design and Fabrication Unit.

Ten scientists were selected by the Minister of Health in Egypt to attend a two-month certificate course in Research Ethics in Baltimore. Dr. Henry Silverman of the University Of Maryland School Of Medicine, was the principal investigator in obtaining a grant from the National Institute of Health entitled "Health Research Ethics Training Initiative in Egypt". The University Of Maryland School Of Medicine is hosting this course. The candidates are from: Alexandria University (1); Ministry of Health and Education (1); National Hepatology and Tropical Medicine Research Institute in Cairo (1); Cairo University (2); Ain Sham University (1); Suez Canal University (1); Mansoura University (2); and U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit # 3 in Cairo (1). The candidates, who arrived in Baltimore on May 30, 2005, are very enthusiastic, highly professional and fluent in English. The candidates were delighted to learn about BLASCC's activities and expressed a desire to interact with BLASCC members and other American Egyptians during their stay.

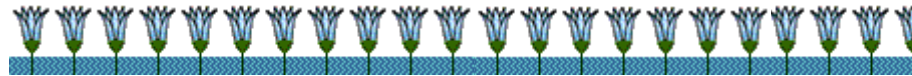


Dr. Henry Silverman

Friends of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina have announced that their annual meeting of the International Friends will be held the first week of November 2005 in Alexandria, Egypt. Please visit the BLASCC (www.BaltimoreEgypt.org) and Bibliotheca Alexandrina (www.bibalex.org) websites for more information.



Health Matters



The BLASCC Health Subcommittee is currently working on several projects. A brief summary of these projects follows:

Facilitating timely delivery of donated medical equipment into Egypt

Dr. Louis Elias has successfully established a system for admitting medical equipment from U.S. donor institutions into Egypt. The BLASCC will utilize this system in the future when donating medical equipment to hospitals in Luxor and Alexandria.

Recruitment of volunteer physicians and other health care professionals

The Health Subcommittee and Hands Along the Nile Development Services, are working to recruit volunteers from the U.S., for consultation and training activities for Luxor and Alexandria's main hospitals and health care centers. Building on past experience for enrolling and maintaining this program, all volunteers will be screened to ensure highly qualified and dedicated professionals are selected.

Clinical Trials Research Center in the Alexandria University Hospital



*Dr. Salwa
El-Gebaly*

Dr. Salwa El-Gebaly and Dr. Abdel Aziz Belal, Dean of the Alexandria University School Of Medicine, are working to establish a state-of-the-art Clinical Trials Research Center in collaboration with the University Of Maryland. A pilot clinical study with both the Alexandria University Faculty Of Medicine and Luxor International Hospital was successfully completed in June 2005. Based on the professional cooperation and accuracy in conducting the pilot study, a second study with the Alexandria University will be implemented.

BLASCC is in the process of applying for a \$15,000 grant as seed funds for this initiative. If approved, Alexandria University School Of Medicine will send two staff members to Baltimore to be trained as research coordinators. After training, staff members will move forward to establish a Clinical Trials Research Center in Egypt.

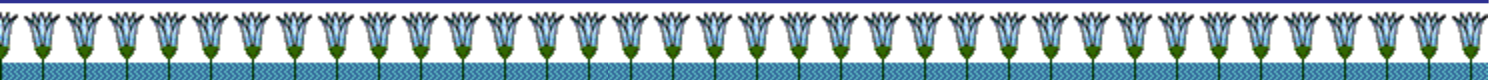
Fundraising activities for Cancer Centers

Proceeds will go toward the treatment of underprivileged cancer patients at both the Alexandria University Oncology Department and the outpatient cancer center at the Hands For Future Hospital.

Prevention programs for chronic diseases

The Health subcommittee is working to establish sustainable prevention programs for chronic diseases, particularly diabetes and hypertension. The subcommittee is exploring the possibility of acquiring and distributing blood pressure cuffs and diabetes glucose monitors to rural health care centers; and to providing free follow-up health care for patients.





Ethics Committee for Alexandria University Hospital

Dr. Samer El-Kamary and Dr. Henry Silverman met with Dr. Abdel Aziz Belal to discuss the establishment of an Ethics Committee for Alexandria University. The Ethics Committee would oversee all research being conducted in the Faculty Of Medicine at the Hospital. Funding for this effort was obtained through a training grant from the National Institute of Health.

Dr. Samer El-Kamary



Dr. Samia Elias

Dental disease prevention program

Dr. Samia Elias is planning to establish a dental disease prevention program to train and assist Egyptian dentists in reducing the burden of dental disease in Egypt.

Submitted by Dr. Samer El-Kamary



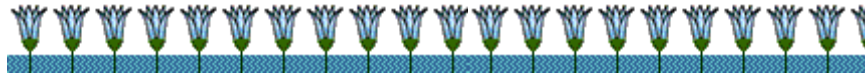
BLASCC's Photo Album



People and Places of Egypt



Health Matters



George Washington University Hospital Sponsors Training Program



In September 2004, a team of twenty physicians and nurses from Egypt visited the George Washington University Hospital to receive specialized training from the Division of Newborn Services. The purpose of the visit was to study the different management techniques utilized in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Training concentrated on respiratory support with an emphasis on resuscitation and stabilization of newborns, as well as, the use of Central Line management to reduce infection. At the end of the training session, all physicians and nurses become certified for neonatal resuscitation.

The annual visits are sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development (US-AID), and are part of a collaborative effort with the Department of Health in Egypt. Both agencies are committed to improving the health care of mothers and infants. The US-AID began this initiative in 1999 and provides funding for all travel and training expenses.

Dr. El-Mohandes, Professor of Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Preventative Medicine, and Dr. Hany Aly, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, frequently travel to Egypt to conduct site visits at local hospitals. These visits provide the opportunity for follow-up with the physicians and nurses who attended the training sessions.

Faculty from George Washington University, continue to support this effort by way of an interactive distance learning program, which is conducted through a series of teleconferences with Egyptian physicians in the field of infant and obstetrical care.

Submitted by Dr. Hany Aly





Dr. Jean Creek

Diabetes and Hypertension Project

Dr. Jean Creek is continuing with her efforts to help the underprivileged in Egypt with the prevention and treatment of diabetes and hypertension. To date, Dr. Creek has graciously donated funds for a new dialysis machine for the hospital in Nasser City in Aswan; and 200 pieces of furniture and audio-visual equipment to furnish the medical training center at Luxor International Hospital. In addition to the monetary contributions, Dr. Creek has worked tirelessly to bring this project to fruition.

In June 2005, Dr. Creek was invited to Luxor to witness the opening of the new training center at Luxor International Hospital. Twenty-five health professionals from the village of El-Madeek, traveled 200 miles to Luxor to participate in the first training workshop in the treatment and prevention of diabetes and hypertension. Realizing the difficulties of the trip, Dr. Creek generously provided stipends to cover transportation, meals and incidentals for all participants.

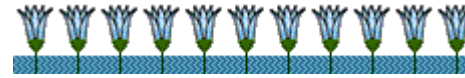


Dr. Kamil Bishara Gour, Dr. Jean Creek, Gov. Samir Farag, Mr. Tarek Hamza

In a show of appreciation, Samir Farag, the Governor Luxor, arranged for a televised press conference, where he presented Dr. Creek with the esteemed Luxor Governor's Award. In the past, this award has only been given to Heads of State or international organizations. Dr. Creek is the first person to receive this award for individual efforts and contributions. In accepting her award, Dr. Creek was resolute in stating that the gifts donated to Egypt were on behalf of the citizens and Mayor of Baltimore, through the BLASCC.

In September 2005, Dr. Creek will sponsor a medical tour of Baltimore for five doctors from Luxor International Hospital. While in Baltimore, the Egyptian doctors will visit Mercy Hospital, Johns Hopkins University, and other medical institutions to observe the latest procedures in diabetes treatment and prevention. During this time, Councilwoman Helen Holton will host a presentation for Dr. Creek at Baltimore's City Hall in recognition of her compassion, diligence and financial donations to Egypt through her association with the BLASCC.

Future Plans for Alexandria



Aquarium and Expansion of the Eastern Harbor



As a member of the delegation to Egypt last year, the task at hand was to explore the possibilities of developing an Aquarium and the expansion of the Eastern Harbor in Alexandria. Given that my colleagues and I designed the Aquarium in Baltimore's Inner Harbor and more recently designed the current expansion; we could easily apply that experience for the revitalization of the ultimate harbor of antiquity, and create a new landmark that will become a magnet for tourism.

Dr. Mohamed Awad, Director of the Mediterranean and Alexandria Research Center, escorted us on a tour of the Eastern Harbor to explore possible sites. It became apparent, that the proposed Aquarium should be situated at the opposite end of the Eastern Harbor. The famous Qaitbey Citadel and promenade at one end, and the Aquarium at the other end, would have enormous potential as an international destination. Office buildings along the promenade contain the offices of the Oceanographic Institute, the Ocean Science Department of a University, the Yacht Club, and the docks and market of a working fishing port.

Dr. Awad and Abdel-Salam El-Mahgoub, the Governor of Alexandria, both agreed with the site that was selected. The Aquarium will act as a new bookend for the entire panoramic sweep, joining the Library of Alexandria which is already playing that role at the opposite end.

The Aquarium will be linked to the Library at the water's edge by the Corniche where new hotels, housing and offices will emerge. The Corniche will become more alive with the addition of roadway crossings, terraces and plazas, cafés and kiosks, lighting and sitting places, and a wider promenade, as demonstrated in Baltimore.

The Aquarium as both Economic Engine and Cultural/Scientific Forum

Attracting large numbers of residents and tourists, the Aquarium will create new jobs, tax revenues, real estate development; and will increase land values and tourism, all urgently needed in Alexandria. As in Baltimore, an Aquarium in Alexandria has the potential to generate a significant amount of new income that will benefit the local and regional economy.

Equally important, the Aquarium will become a cultural and scientific center, a resource for dialogue and learning, as well as a center for environmental education and conservation. The bio-geographic themes proposed for the Aquarium's exhibits will give it a unique identity and role among the great Aquariums of the world.



Aquarium and Hotel/Conference Center



*Gov.El-Mahgoub, Abdelwahab
Elabd, Peter Chermayeff,
Dr. Mohamed Awad*

Integrating a new hotel and conference center with the Aquarium would allow the concept of a Marine Environmental Center to take hold in Alexandria. This international venue would combine resort tourism with business amenities and serve as an environmental forum and as a place for business, conferences and recreation.

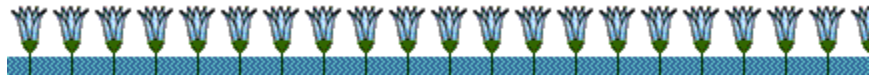
Submitted by Peter Chermayeff

FOOTNOTE: Mr. Chermayeff has successfully negotiated with the Egyptian Government to get this project started. Mr. El-Maghraby, the Egyptian Minister of Tourism, has agreed to finance a three month study for the Aquarium, Hotel/Conference Center and Marine Environmental Center. The study will include the overall design and associated costs, and can be utilized as a business presentation for financial institutions.



*Dr. Ismail Serageldin
Director of BA*

Special Interest



National Council on Economic Education

The Baltimore / Luxor / Alexandria Sister City Committee (BLASCC) have scored another success in promoting mutually beneficial public diplomacy between Egyptians and Americans.

The National Council on Economic Education (NCEE) has been partnering with educators in 21 countries through their international program called Economics International (EI). The goal of NCEE is to support the multilateral exchange of ideas to build economic education infrastructures. The EI provides professional development for teachers and teacher trainers, develops instructional materials, and advises on the development of standards and curriculums. Since 1995, EI has educated 6.4 million students under its "Train the Trainer" program. The Train the Trainer program consists of 4 one-week seminars that are held during the course of one academic year. Upon successful completion of this program, the graduates are expected to deliver training to teachers in their own countries.

NCEE and EI currently have partnerships with educators in Central and Eastern Europe including the former Soviet Union, and are looking to expand to other countries. EI introduces itself to new partners by extending invitations to qualified candidates, to act as observers of the Train the Trainer program. This enables the candidates to meet with EI staff and learn more about the EI approach to teacher training.

In October 2004, Dr. Patricia Elders, Vice President of EI, contacted the BLASCC to extend an invitation for a qualified Egyptian national to participate as an observer of a Train the Trainer seminar to be held in Minsk, Belarus. Dr. Elders explained that the qualified candidate should have an established and respected voice in the field of education and specific involvement with universities that offered teacher training. Ideally, the candidate would be in a position to identify potential Train the Trainer participants from Egypt.



Ahmad Habashy

The BLASCC briefed Dr. Elders regarding the dynamic working relationships established with the cities of Alexandria and Luxor, and offered to find a qualified candidate from Alexandria. The BLASCC promptly contacted Abdel-Salam El-Mahgoub, the Governor of Alexandria, who selected Mr. Ahmad Habashy, Director of the Western District of the Alexandria Governorate Schools, to attend the seminar as an observer.

Mr. Habashy was so impressed with the EI program, that he invited four members of EI to visit Alexandria as part of a scheduled trip to Egypt in February 2005. The delegation spent four days in Alexandria where they visited schools, met with teachers, supervisors, and Kamilia Higazi, Director of the Alexandria School System. The visit also included a group meeting with Mr. El-Mahgoub who invited EI to conduct a workshop in Alexandria in August 2005.

Thanks to the cooperation between EI and the BLASCC, the road is now open for a new chapter of economic education in Alexandrian schools. If successful, these economic educational programs could be made available in other regions throughout Egypt.

Submitted by Mokhtar Kamel

Center for Documentation of Cultural and Natural Heritage



Egypt's heritage is of great interest and importance due to its continuity over a period of more than 7,000 years. This wealth in archaeological sites, architecture, arts, folklore and natural beauty needs to be accurately and purposefully documented. To that end, the Center for Documentation of Cultural and Natural Heritage (CULTNAT) was established in Egypt. CULTNAT makes effective use of the most up-to-date innovations in information technology and telecommunications. CULTNAT is affiliated with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and is supported by the Egyptian Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

CULTNAT's mandate is to document the various aspects of Egypt's cultural and natural heritage; and to increase the public's awareness through the dissemination of information using all available media. Special projects and funding have been collaborations with national and international organizations such as the European Commission, IBM Corporation and UNESCO.

CULTNAT has developed eight programs that illustrate this prolific and diverse heritage. The programs are:

- **The Archeological Map of Egypt** - is the first complete inventory of all archeological sites and documents the archeological and geographical details of each monument.
- **The Archeological Heritage of Egypt** - documents the architecture of the 19th and 20th century. This includes photographic documentation, published materials for each inventoried building, historic documents, maps and archival materials.
- **The Egyptian folklore** - documents traditions and includes folktales, traditional feasts, celebrations, legends, customs, architectural and agricultural traditions, music, dance, arts and crafts, in addition to national costumes and jewelry from all over Egypt.
- **The Natural Heritage of Egypt** - documents all available data on protected areas and diverse habitats to include flora, fauna, geological formations and related cultural features.
- **The Musical Heritage of Egypt** - focuses on the collection, analysis, documentation and research of Egyptian songs and musical compositions from the 1920's through the 1970's.
- **The Photographic Memory of Egypt** - is a photographic database that includes archeology, excavations, local architecture, landscaping, social life, daily activities, and a photography portfolio from museums and private collections.
- **The Scientific Islamic Manuscripts Heritage** - documents early Arabic and Islamic manuscripts regarding mathematics and the sciences.
- **Eternal Egypt on the web** - showcases Egypt's treasures and cultural heritage on the Internet. The website covers four different eras of Egyptian civilization and contains descriptions of events and characters, museum objects, historical sites, images of artifacts, virtual tours and panoramic views of many sites. Visit the Eternal Egypt website at www.eternalegypt.org

For more information, visit the CULTAT web site at: www.cultnat.org

Submitted by Hala N. Barakat

Other Organizations



A Meeting of Egyptian Minds

The biannual conference of the Association of Egyptian American Scholars (AEAS) convened this past December at the National Research Center (NRC) in Giza, Egypt. The theme of this year's conference was "The Role of Science and Technology in the Future of Egypt". Welcoming remarks from AEAS President, Dr. Ayman El-Mohandes and NRC President, Dr. Hany El-Nazer were followed with presentations from various government and international institutions including the World Bank and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

During the next two days, scholars from North America and Egypt presented lectures on the topics of Medicine and Health, Business, Economics and Finance, Political and Social Sciences, and Engineering and Technology. The result was mutual understanding between scholars on both sides of the Atlantic.

Private discussions among peers covered individual scholarly activities; how scholars can work together; and the implications for Egypt. Additionally, scholars from both regions were able to forge new collaborations and encourage the continuation of their research efforts.



The many collaborations and relationships formed will no doubt be mutually beneficial and will hopefully encourage further communication in the future. The AEAS holds two conferences annually, alternating conference sites between Egypt and North America.

Submitted by Norann A. Zaghloul



Hands Along the Nile Development Services

Hands Along the Nile Development Services (HANDS) is an American organization that supports Egyptian communities in their efforts to raise the quality of life in small villages and urban areas. By pursuing effective initiatives in health, education, economic development, agriculture, housing and infrastructure, HANDS brings Egyptians and Americans closer.

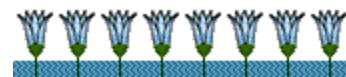
One of the major successes for HANDS, has been the development of "Village Partnerships". American organizations successfully partner with Egyptian villages to provide comprehensive solutions for community development. This includes health campaigns, improvements in agricultural techniques, education programs, building repair and leadership development for local organizations.

HANDS have several other projects in place to strengthen Egyptian communities. These projects include:

- Cultural exchange "Insight Trips" to Egypt
- Volunteer opportunities in the U.S. and Egypt
- Sale of handicrafts made in Egyptian villages
- Partnerships with health care centers, orphanages, geriatric centers, schools for the disabled, and other social service institutions in Egypt

For more information, visit the HANDS web site at: www.handsalongthenile.org

Sister City Advisory Council



Judy Orlinsky

Change is inevitable and with the transition of staff and unpredictable funding, Baltimore decided to evaluate the Sister Cities program to determine its future direction. In looking at the structure of programs in cities around the United States, Baltimore decided to adopt a model that would create a non-profit Sister Cities Association, with a Board of Advisors to assist the various Sister City committees. We are now moving forward to implement some changes.

The committees are appropriately asking what the changes mean for the Sister City programs and how it will directly affect them. My hope is that it will give the program a much needed boost. By becoming a non-profit entity it makes it far easier to raise funds, and although nothing is ever totally out of the realm of politics, privatization effectually removes the Sister Cities program from the whims and winds of political change.

Probably the most important aspect of becoming a non-profit Sister Cities Association is that an Advisory Council will now be appointed by Mayor Martin O'Malley. These are citizen leaders, whose stature in the community, knowledge, contacts, energy, creativity and experience will be extremely helpful to the committees as they plan and strive to undertake projects.

We are particularly delighted that Ms. Amal Mansour, the Chairman and CEO of Manufacturing and Technology Conversion International, Inc., a Baltimore City business, has agreed to lead the group. She and her husband, Momtaz, CEO of ThermoChem, Inc., joined us on the April 2004 mission to Egypt, were born in Egypt, and have been very active in philanthropic activities over the years.



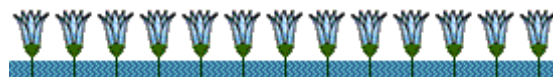
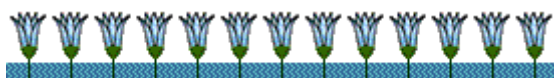
Ms. Amal Mansour

As we move into this next phase for the Sister Cities Program, the Baltimore /Luxor /Alexandria Sister City Committee can be proud it has maintained a high level of productivity and creativity in spite of the past two years of uncertainty. I expect it will continue to flourish and to achieve even more under the new order.

Submitted by Judy Orlinsky



www.BaltimoreEgypt.org



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Baltimore / Luxor / Alexandria Sister City Web Site

The Baltimore / Luxor / Alexandria Sister City web site contains useful information about Sister City programs as well as the Committee's mission statement. There are additional links on the web site for news items, Sister City initiatives, contact information. Visit our home page at:

www.BaltimoreEgypt.org

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