



# Egyptian Lotus

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

Volume 1 - Summer 2004

## Message from Abdelwahab Elabd

*Chairman of the Baltimore / Luxor / Alexandria Sister City Committee*



Abdelwahab Elabd

**T**he concept of the Sister City programs launches peoples' diplomacy in practical terms into the spirit of the 21st century. It stems from a belief that cooperation among peoples would be more complete if it successfully combines, in a practical manner, the cross-city exchanges of individuals and groups through social and business opportunities. The Baltimore / Luxor / Alexandria Sister City Committee has launched initiatives that promote cooperation and economic development between the American City Baltimore, Maryland and the two historical Egyptian cities, Luxor and Alexandria. This approach has proven to be advantageous for all three cities, as it benefits our young men and women and brings business to both Baltimore and Egypt.

**I** am pleased to say one of the most significant accomplishments the committee has made since our new start last January is sponsoring a trade mission to Egypt in April 2004. The delegation consisted of twenty-three professionals from a wide range of fields of interest and expertise. The delegation was offered opportunities to meet with the Governors of Luxor and Alexandria, relevant government officials and private sector leaders. Delegation members visited local neighborhoods, schools, orphanages and hospitals to expand upon the ongoing cooperative effort in the areas of education, health care, culture and art, tourism, information technology and business development.

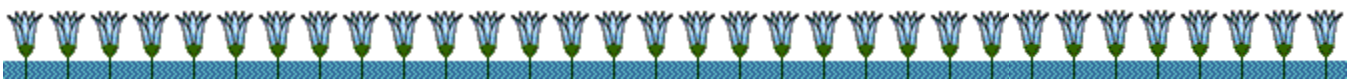
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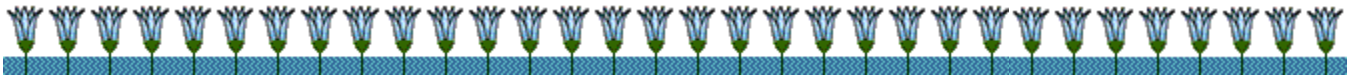
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Sharon Ball with Egyptian students





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The mission was extremely fruitful and the Baltimore delegates came back with very exciting projects. Business opportunities abound, as the Baltimore delegates were able to make contacts with their Egyptian counterparts. Some of the specific projects and goals are:

#### **In Alexandria**

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- Design and build a world-class Aquarium with retail space and restaurants
- Development of the West Harbor for recreation, tourism and economic growth
- Process refuse derived fuels from municipal solid waste to make useful added value products
- Chemical and energy recovery from processing waste products for a pulp and paper plant that will secure more jobs, clean the environment and support expansion of the plant
- Implement Blue Flag campaigns at beaches (environmental management, such as waste management and coastal planning and protection)

#### **In Luxor**

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- Build an IMAX Theater with retail space and restaurants
- Develop a training center for doctors, nurses, and community health workers to address health care issues
- Donations of equipment, furniture and new technologies for local hospitals and training center

The momentum of this mission will pave the way for open dialogue for future collaborations, exchanges of new technologies, educational opportunities and most important, the building of friendships.

**T**he future is bright for the Sister Cities. Our collaborative efforts will lead to students in Baltimore schools communicating with students in Luxor and Alexandria through the internet; student exchanges; donations of medical equipment and supplies; and physicians from Baltimore in different specialties will volunteer at medical facilities in Luxor to assist and advise physicians there. We also are expecting music and dance troupes from the Cairo Opera House to be performing in Baltimore; exchanges between Baltimore and Egyptian sports teams, as well as many diverse activities among our Sister Cities.

The Baltimore / Luxor / Alexandria Sister City Committee has received great support from the Mayor's office for all of these wonderful initiatives. In particular, Ms. Judy Orlinky, Director of International Affairs, a dynamic person, whose diligence and commitment made all of this possible. Additional support was provided by the State Department as well as the American Embassy in Cairo. I want to personally thank Ambassador David Welsh for his support and for hosting a marvelous reception for the delegation.

I am looking forward to participating in the amazing future ahead of us and I thank all the committee members for their valuable contributions to our successful programs.

# Discover Egypt in 2005



Travel to Egypt with representatives from the  
Baltimore / Luxor / Alexandria Sister City Committee

Mr. Mokhtar Kamel has arranged for a 13-night-14 day trip to Egypt for the incredible price of \$2,450. (Additional single supplement \$450).

**Departure date is January 30, 2005**

The price includes:

- International and domestic flights
- All transfers and domestic transportation
- (13) Breakfasts, (10) Lunches, (13) Dinners
- Nile cruise with stops in Edfu and Kom Ombo
- Visit to famous sites in:
  - o Cairo, Sakkara and Memphis
  - o Luxor and the Valley of the Kings and the Queens
  - o Aswan
  - o Abydos and Denderah
  - o Hurghada
  - o Alexandria

To reserve your space, a deposit of \$300 is required  
before November 22, 2004

Checks should be payable to:

**Baltimore / Luxor / Alexandria Sister City Committee**

and mailed to:

Mr. Paul Trattner

2221 Clove Terrace, Baltimore, Maryland 21209.

For more information, please contact:

Mokhtar Kamel (703) 528-2184, email: mokhtarkamel@comcast.net or

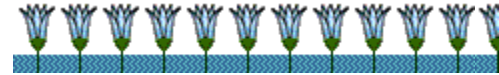
Abdelwahab Elabd (410) 354-8525, email: aelabd@qis.net.



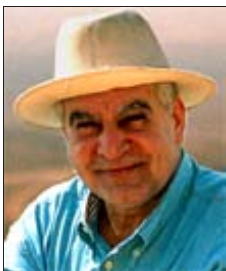
The complete itinerary can be found at the  
Baltimore / Luxor / Alexandria Sister City Committee web site:

**[www.BaltimoreEgypt.org](http://www.BaltimoreEgypt.org)**

# At The Walters Art Museum



## World-renowned archaeologist Dr. Zahi Hawass at the Walters



Dr. Regine Schulz, Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Walters Art Museum and Chairperson of the 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. The lecture coincides with the release of Dr. Hawass' latest book "Hidden Treasures of Ancient Egypt: Unearthing the Masterpieces of Egyptian History". The book highlights a treasure trove of rarely seen Egyptian antiquities that span 3,000 years of history. Following the lecture, Dr. Hawass answered questions from the audience, and then mingled with the crowd and signed some of the many books he has authored. Kudos to Dr. Schulz and the Walters staff for a wonderful evening.

## T.G.H (Harry) James at The Walters Art Museum



On May 18, 2004, Dr. Regine Schulz hosted a reception and lecture for T.G.H. (Harry) James, an international authority and one of the most highly regarded Egyptologists in the world. Mr. James was the Keeper of Egyptian Antiquities at the British Museum from 1974 to 1988 and has worked on excavations at Saqqara (including epigraphic projects at Saqqara), Thebes and Gebel es-Silsila. Mr. James has published two books on Howard Carter, as well as many other books on Ancient Egypt.

Mr. James has lectured widely in Europe, Australia and America on Howard Carter. James' illustrated lecture covered the high points of Carter's life from his youth in Swaffham, Norfolk England to his death in London in 1939. Following is a segment from Mr. James' lecture:

### "Howard Carter: Artist into Excavator"

"The understanding of the life of Howard Carter is dominated by his discovery in 1922 of the tomb of Tutankhamun. But by then, he had already spent almost thirty years in Egypt, most of it in archaeological activity other than excavation. He went to Egypt in 1891 at the age of seventeen, employed by the Egypt Exploration Fund as an artist, a "tracer" of tomb scenes, even though he was at that young age already a talented watercolorist."



"He was fortunate to work in Egypt when excavation, epigraphy, and other forms of fieldwork were becoming professional. Although he had relatively little formal education, his practical work in Egypt served to teach him the basics as well as the finer points of the emerging science of Egyptology. He was not an easy person to know; a man of complex personality and strongly upright character."

*Submitted by Paul Trattner*

## Upcoming At the Walters

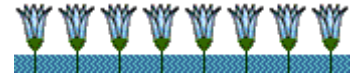
The Walters and Sister City Committee members are working to sponsor a symposium of scholars to discuss the history of the famous Library of Alexandria. This is in conjunction with The Alexandria Carry-On presentation scheduled for November 12th in the Graham Auditorium.

The Walters in cooperation with the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE-DC) is in the development stages of producing a lecture series that will be held at various locations in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. The lecture series will begin in the Fall of 2004.



Dr. Regine Schulz

# At The Walters Art Museum



## Eternal Egypt: Masterworks of Ancient Art from the British Museum



**O**n January 9, 2004, the Baltimore / Luxor / Alexandria Sister City Committee attended a reception and special viewing of the outstanding exhibit "Eternal Egypt: Masterworks of Ancient Art from the British Museum" at the Walters Art Museum.

The members gathered at the home of William and Henry Walters, which is annexed to the museum, for some light refreshments. This was the first official function of the committee for some time and gave many a chance to meet and mingle with fellow members.

Dr. Regine Schulz and Christianne Henry were our gracious hosts and guides for the exhibit. Dr. Schulz explained that this was one of the world's most important exhibitions of ancient Egyptian artwork. The exhibit featured 144 stunning treasures that revealed the beauty and the astounding variety of Egyptian art. Spanning more than 3,000 years, Eternal Egypt included works that ranged from colossal sculptures and architectural pieces to intricate jewelry and figurines. It was the largest exhibition of Egyptian culture ever to come to Baltimore and the most important presentation of Egyptian art through the ages the world has seen in 30 years.



**E**ternal Egypt comprised masterworks in a variety of media, including stone, wood, terra-cotta, ivory, gold, glass, bronze, and papyrus. The exhibition included a 6,000-pound red granite lion that guarded a Nubian temple in the 14th century B.C., papyrus sheets from the Book of the Dead, a stone head of King Amenhotep III that stands more than four feet high, the gilded mummy mask of a lady from the royal court, and many more spectacular works of art.



It was a real treat to have Regine and Christianne, two outstanding scholars, to guide us through the exhibit. Their excitement and passion for the art of Egypt was very contagious and every one left that evening much richer for the experience. This was a great evening of wine, fellowship and an outstanding exhibit of Egyptian art. Wow! What a way to begin the year.

*Submitted by Paul Trattner*

# Milestone for Sister City



## A Merging of Ancient Waters at the Walters

The Mediterranean and the Nile flowed, flowered, and merged in creativity - sharing one commonality ...CELEBRATION! On the evening of November 2, 2002, East meets West, we celebrated the dedicated years of Baltimore's sister city relationships to Piraeus, Greece and Luxor, Egypt; proud to have endured twenty years. It was a pleasurable experience to be welcomed into the atmospheric opulence of the Walters Art Museum, an artifice in perfect tempo for the night; where the heart's spirit could freely and highly soar! We thank our most gracious host.

Anticipating the performance to come, we feasted on tasty Mediterranean foods in the upper portico, leisurely visiting displays of art treasures and travel exploration of Egypt and Greece. Further embellishing the evening, magician Paul Trattner, performed the ancient rites of "Heka" of Egypt, to amaze and amuse, through mysterious displays of the impossible.



Ceil Martin, in charge of special events for the Walters, utilized her talents to emcee our event, whom we hold in our grateful esteem. The historic legacies of Greece and Egypt were introduced and expanded through an enlightening presentation of slides by Dr. Regine Schulz, Curator of Ancient Art, at the Walters Art Museum. The Chairpersons, Professor Georgia Economou for Greece, and Raouf Boules for Egypt presented the history and concept of the purpose and value of a Sister City union.

And then, Greece opened her ancient columned archways with a beautiful song of invitation to "Piraeus" by Shannon Angelakis. Greece revealed the variety of instruments and styles of song and dance to include the piano solo of Chryssie Nanov, as well as Zephyros, and the voice of Maria Pearce.

The beautifully costumed dancers of the Greek-American Folklore Society Dance Ensemble transported us to another time adrift in ancient memories. Dr. Ayman Fanous highlighted the evening through his sensitive, creative blend of Spanish Flamenco with Greek instrumentation. Also included were selections of piano by Peabody artists and Greek instrumentalists.

And then, the lotus unfolded, as the jewel of Cairo opera, Miss Dalia Farouk lulled us into her spell, emotionally binding, and yet lifting us to the beauty of the soul of "Aida", as never heard before tonight.

She further enhanced our flavor of the East with her Arabic renditions of song and joy accompanied by

Emil Kasses playing the oud, and George Haddad on tabla hand

drum. Then, Sacred Pharaonic dance released a mystic time warp of slides and slithers interpreted by El Raks Sai'd Troupe. The troupe became enlivened and empowered with progressively paced percussion, the all-women drumming chant adding spice and mirth to the Egyptian menu.



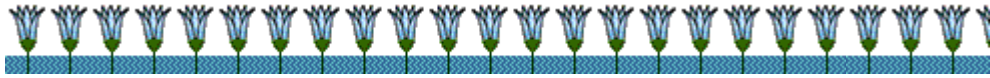
Perhaps, it is the creativity therein, that is the root strength and embodiment of these two rich cultures that is what will endure, as stated by the Great Socrates, facing his own demise. Knowledge brings us understanding; but behind this, we must discover the essential - in the creative intuitive ways, because it is the residue of all the beauties

of the inner qualities of our lives that will remain. And, so it is the job of each of us to share our humanity of these true elements with each other. This is what makes life worth living; and brings immeasurable joy!

Perhaps it is in our magnification of continued interest in these two splendiferous cultures; in their continuing exchange to the community at large through creative opportunities that we feel truly alive in our quest, which makes life's expansion of friendship absolutely necessary.

*Submitted by Bernadette F. Trattner*

# Trade Mission



The trade mission to Egypt created opportunities for growth and prosperity for both Baltimore and Egypt. Below is a sample of the many successes that resulted from the cooperation and goodwill that was demonstrated by all participants. These first steps will lay the foundation for future endeavors.

## Architectural Internship



One of the many positive results to come from the Sister City trade mission was an offer to sponsor an Egyptian architectural intern by Mr. J. Stryker Sessions, Project Architect at Peter Fillat Architects. Mr. Sessions presented a rare opportunity for one of the many talented architects in Alexandria to come to the United States to work for a period of three months. The goal is to enhance the candidate's knowledge base, which in turn, would provide future business opportunities upon returning to Egypt.

The candidate chosen was Amr Raafat and he will be working on numerous sites in the Baltimore area. Specific projects are the expansion of existing space in old warehouses as well as the design and construction drawings for loft housing. Working in this capacity will expose Amr to large-scale projects complimenting his abilities and adding valuable experience to his craft. Additionally, Amr will get an opportunity to design with materials not normally used in Egypt (i.e., drywall and sheet rock as opposed to brick and plaster).



**A**mr was thrilled to see Baltimore's Inner Harbor and believes it is a great magnet for tourism. Amr stated that "the local government utilizes the Inner Harbor as an economic seed for future prosperity" and that he anticipates being part of the team who will shape the future redevelopment of Alexandria's harbor. When Amr returns to Egypt, he will be working on the revitalization of housing and retail areas, and the conservation of monuments located in Alexandria.

## Diabetes and Hypertension Treatment In Villages Near Luxor



Dr. Jean Creek, a member of the Sister City Committee joined the recent trip to Egypt, and 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. In a partnership Dr. Creek developed between the Luxor International Hospital and villages of Kalabsha and Al Madeek, the hospital will serve as a "hub" for the training of nurses and doctors who will provide continuous quality care. After visiting the villages during an extended tour of local facilities, Dr. Creek made a commitment to support the project by coordinating the acquisition of new furniture and audio-visual equipment for the hospital's four classrooms, organizing a medical technology tour of Baltimore by five Egyptian doctors, and the purchase of a dialysis machine. Dr. Creek stated "This is more than just a health mission; it is also a goodwill mission between Baltimore and our friends in Egypt." The Kunz Company of Baltimore has already contributed all of the audiovisual screens for the classrooms. This project is depending upon contributions of new furniture, new LCD projectors, a new dialysis machine, and a sponsor of the medical tour. "I am confident that we will be successful because Americans and Egyptian Americans are the most generous people in the world", Dr. Creek said. The project is also assisted by the Luxor Sister City Committee.

*Submitted by Dr. Jean Creek*

## Clinical and Nursing Services

**A**s part of the Sister City trade mission, the Baltimore delegates who represented the medical profession evaluated the clinical and nursing services currently being offered at several hospitals in Luxor and Alexandria. The Baltimore / Luxor / Alexandria Sister City Health subcommittee have been meeting regularly to identify improvements in services that will advance health care, and at the same time, make a positive impact on the surrounding communities. It was agreed that the following projects presented opportunities to make a considerable difference.



Dr. Louis Elias

- Luxor International Hospital, Luxor. Working to establish a volunteer program of Egyptian American doctors who are willing to volunteer their services 2 to 3 weeks per year to assist and train medical and nursing personnel. Dr. Louis Elias, Chairperson of the Health subcommittee estimates that 30 to 40 doctors would be needed to successfully implement and maintain a volunteer program.
- Ras-el-Tin General Hospital, Alexandria. The hospital buildings have recently been remodeled; however, the burn unit is not furnished and is unable to treat patients. Due to the lack of equipment, the hospital only receives trauma cases two days per week and many cases are transferred to the University Hospital in Alexandria. As a result, hospital staff is deprived of proper training and surgical experience. The Health subcommittee is looking for funding that would supply the hospital with trauma equipment and beds.
- Oncology "Hands For Future" Hospital, Alexandria. Abdel-Salam El-Mahgoub, Governor of Alexandria has kindly allocated land in the Alexandria International Garden area to build the hospital. The hospital will provide cancer-treating processes for patients who are unable to afford the cost of treatments and medications. The hospital requires funding and donations of Chemotherapy chemicals and Radiotherapy instruments. Additionally, the Health subcommittee is looking for oncologists, therapists and administrators to volunteer to train and assist hospital staff.
- Nursing services, Egypt. The Baltimore delegates toured several facilities to review nursing protocols in Egypt. Dr. Marcella A. Copes and the Health subcommittee are working to establish a partnership with hospitals in Egypt that would support workforce development to establish and maintain nursing standards. Additionally, Dr. Copes will be writing a nursing curriculum for the Luxor International Hospital. The Health subcommittee is exploring a faculty and student exchange program. This program would encompass nurses volunteering to go to Egypt, and more importantly, Egyptian nurses coming to Baltimore to gain hands-on experience and health education. The Health subcommittee is looking for funding and donations to support these initiatives.



Dr. Marcella Copes

# Trade Mission

## Engineering Internship

**D**r. Momtaz Mansour, Chief Executive Officer of ThermoChem, Inc. and a member of the Baltimore delegation to Egypt, encouraged Mr. Salam Saad Abdalla Abdel-Mesih to come to the United States for the summer to work as an intern. Mr. Abdel-Mesih, a mechanical engineering student from Alexandria, expressed interest in working at ThermoChem to gain hardware and experimental experience. Mr. Abdel-Mesih is currently working at ThermoChem on a project that is devoted to steam reforming (reacting a feedstock with steam) of biomass for production of a hydrogen-rich product gas. This product gas will further be used to make ethanol.



More important than work knowledge are the personal experiences Mr. Abdel-Mesih will gain from working with other interns at ThermoChem. The friendships that have been established as a result of the internship are ultimately, the fundamental objective of the trade mission. Who knows what this could lead to when they grow older!



## Proposals Submitted

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Abdel-Salam El-Mahgoub, Governor of Alexandria requested proposals from the Baltimore delegates for the design of a world-class aquarium and for a study of waterfront development for both the Eastern and Western Harbors. The proposals are currently under consideration and final submissions will be made shortly.

Additionally, Desouky El Bana, Governor of Luxor and other major Luxor developers are in discussions with the Baltimore delegates for a proposal to assist them in building an IMAX Theater with retail space and restaurants near Luxor Temple.

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Students in Hafez Ghanem Prep School for Boys in Alexandria

## Employment Opportunity at Phillips Seafood Restaurant

While in Luxor, Bill Gilmore, Executive Director of the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts, presented an employment opportunity to the members of the Luxor Sister City Committee. Mr. Gilmore, on behalf of the Baltimore / Luxor / Alexandria Sister City, offered a summer-time position in a famous Baltimore restaurant for one student from Luxor. Without hesitation, the Luxor Sister City Committee forwarded the resume of Youssef Wardy to Mr. Gilmore, who in turn, contacted the Director of Human Resources at Phillips Seafood Restaurants. Mr. Wardy will be working at the restaurant during the summer of 2005.



Bill Gilmore

## Sister City Outreach to the Muslim and Arab World



Sister Cities International has announced a new initiative designed to strengthen relationships and communications between the United States and the Muslim and Arab World. The goal is to create partnerships that promote increased understanding and international cooperation. These partnerships will be the conduit for sharing knowledge, ideas, culture and resources to promote peace, prosperity and goodwill.



Heidi Fincken

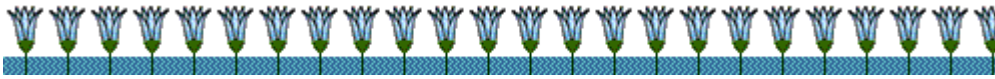
The U.S. State Department also supports this initiative, and was well represented during the trade mission to Egypt. Ms. Heidi Fincken observed that "the Baltimore-Luxor/Alexandria Sister City Committee embraced the idea of reaching beyond traditional audiences and achieved great success in implementing grassroots public diplomacy activities during a recent 10 day mission to Egypt. The delegations or "citizen diplomats" visited local neighborhoods, schools, orphanages and hospitals to establish a dialogue and promote a better understanding of America - - American values, American culture and the American people."

Sister City committee member and Baltimore delegate, Dr. Samia Elias, is initiating dental programs in Luxor and Alexandria that will promote better dental care through education. While in Egypt, Dr. Elias supplied the orphanages with tooth brushes and spoke to children regarding the importance of dental hygiene. Dr. Elias will be working to establish a treatment program and is looking to provide dental materials for fillings and other procedures.



Dr. Samia Elias

# Trade Mission



## Reflections of Egypt

**T**he Baltimore delegation that visited Egypt in April 2004 were asked to articulate their impressions and experiences in Egypt. After reviewing these submissions, it became obvious that delegation members were captivated by the magic that Egypt and its people have on all visitors. Sharon Ball stated, "Egypt is a beautiful country. I found the people to be very hospitable, friendly and courteous. I saw the cities of Cairo, Alexandria and Luxor, and found each to have a unique hold on me. Cairo - for its impressive historical significance and its hurried and busy bazaars; Alexandria - for its new educational and architectural initiatives, and Luxor - for its seductive culture and civilization." Additionally, Nancy Haragan said the experience "... combined insights into contemporary Egyptian business, society and culture with immersion in the breathtaking ancient civilization that informs it, has been with me every day since returning a month ago."



Aside from the numerous advantages and incentives the trade mission presented, delegation members seem more dedicated and driven to make a difference in the lives of the Egyptian people that they met and befriended. Nancy Haragan said it best "I do not know if all saw the mission as a success, but on a personal level it was rich beyond my anticipation. I would be pleased to facilitate projects of interest from our friends in Egypt in the future."

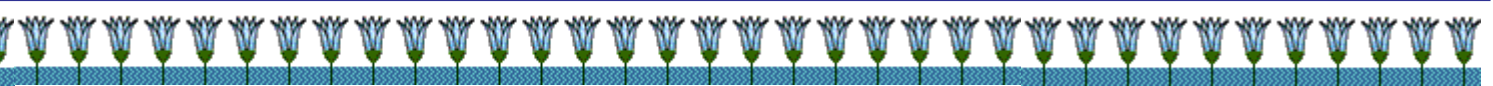


Heidi Fincken from the U.S. State Department fostered the grassroots public diplomacy activities of the trade mission. Heidi stated "The Baltimore / Luxor / Alexandria Sister City mission in April represented a unique opportunity to increase understanding and friendship between the people of Egypt and the citizens of Baltimore. The warm welcome we received from our Egyptian friends encouraged fruitful dialogue, a healthy exchange of ideas and a spirit of cooperation that set the stage for a long term mutually beneficial relationship."



**J**udy Orlinsky, Director of International Affairs in the Mayor's office not only supports each of the Baltimore delegates, but is actively working to advance the projects that resulted from the trade mission. Judy stated that "As far as the city's mission, I could not even have imagined how successful, in all aspects, it would be." However, on a personal level, Judy said "Having traveled twice to Egypt for the City of Baltimore, it is difficult to describe the experience. The wonders of that civilization, both the ancient and the new, and the impact on all the senses are almost mystical. As captivating as the country are the people - warm and generous, welcoming and hospitable. There is an openness which makes visitors feel thoroughly at home. Egypt is not a country you can visit only once and I look forward hopefully to returning."





# Special Interest



## The Alexandria Carry-On

**T**he Alexandria Carry-On, a new music-theatre piece about an inquisitive slave, who is in charge of maintaining and repairing the precious papyrus rolls held in the dark, honeycombed shelves of the great, vanished Library of ancient Alexandria. The slave teaches himself to read and in doing so, the slave learns to name his longings -- for knowledge, for freedom, for love. The slave's awakening and revelation is revealed through a series of songs, adapted from texts, both Greek and Egyptian, which were in all likelihood held in the Library. The song lyrics are drawn from such diverse sources as mathematical formulae, love poems, mechanical diagrams, and cosmological ponderings. The collaborators are composer and performer Theo Bleckmann; scenographer F. Elaine Williams; and writer/director Laurie McCants who brings to the piece the skills in researching, assembling, and dramatizing historical materials that she has acquired in her many years creating original works.



All performances are followed by a post-show discussion with the artists, and sometimes with scholars and librarians. Since the piece has to do with the loss of the ancient Library, the conversation usually will deal with questions regarding the preservation of the written word. An illustrated program provides historical information about the Library of ancient Alexandria and the texts that are the inspiration for the lyrics. There will also be sections on the fate of libraries at various times in various cultures, the process of creating the piece, and the new library in Alexandria.

**P**remiering at the Bloomsburg Theatre in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania in March 2004, The Alexandria Carry-On is now scheduled for worldwide touring. Two stops on the tour include the new Alexandria Library in Alexandria, Egypt the

Bibliotecha Alexandrina on October 9, 2004 and the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, Maryland on November 12, 2004.



Ms. McCants can be reached at (570) 784-5530 or [btensemb@ptd.net](mailto:btensemb@ptd.net).



Theo Bleckmann

## Baltimore Friends of the Alexandria Library

**A**t the annual meeting of the International Friends of the Alexandria Library, Abdelwahab Elabd and Ayman El-Amir, Director of Communications at the Alexandria Library, discussed the need for an individual proficient in the English language to train Library staff with writing and editing skills. Mr. Elabd presented this prospect to Ms. Kathleen Hines and she agreed to take up the challenge. Ms. Hines is currently in the middle of her three month term in Alexandria and provided her perspective on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity below.



Over dinner with a friend several months ago I mentioned that I was thinking about looking for a new job. She was not surprised. She knew that looming layoffs made my position within my organization tenuous at best, but she also knew that I had never considered it the right fit to begin with. I had been working for five years as a medical writer and editor, but had always known that my writerly interests and ambitions lay elsewhere. It was time to go. She asked me what I had in mind, and I confessed that I did not have a clue (this is not unusual, sadly, for the average, and relatively unfettered, American twenty something). Armed with a shiny new master's degree from Johns Hopkins University, I told her I was ready for a drastic change. I suspected I had any number of options, but did not really know where or how to begin to exercise them. I knew only a couple of things for sure. I knew I wanted to work on my skills as a writer, and I knew that I wanted to travel. Although landing a gig as a globe-trotting travel writer might be a respectable objective, we both agreed this was unlikely to happen in the short term.

**T**he following day she called me and said she had a fantastic idea. She knew someone affiliated with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, the newly minted successor to the legendary Alexandria library, and thought that its publications team might welcome some additional help from an experienced English-language editor. Before I knew it, I was on the phone with Abdelwahab Elabd, Chairman of Baltimore / Luxor / Alexandria Sister City Committee, agreeing to a three-month stint as a volunteer in the Library's communications department. I took a leave of absence from work, paid a few bills in advance, turned the keys to my life over to family and friends, and set off to discover Egypt.

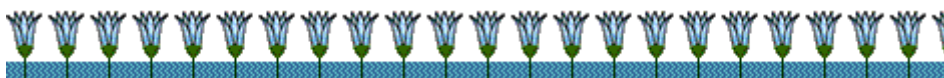


As I write this, I have been in Alexandria six weeks, and I have begun to dread the day six weeks from now when I will board a plane back home. There simply is not enough time-in three months, or three years-to experience everything this library, this city, and this country have to offer. Just coming to work is a thrill. It is difficult to tire of a morning commute along the Mediterranean, and the mere sight of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina complex as it comes into view inspires me daily. Built to evoke a rising sun, the Library itself is a marvel. It gleams on the edge of the Mediterranean, on the Eastern Harbor, a stone's throw from the site where archaeologists believe the ancient library once stood. It would take far more than three months to explore every corner, but with the help of a warm and welcoming staff and many new friends, I am learning my way around and taking in as much as I can.

I work five days a week, supporting the publications staff, and reviewing English publications and translations. My evenings and weekends leave me free to roam about the city, and I have taken a few extended trips to places like Siwa, Cairo, and Luxor to explore what I can of the country while I am here. Soon enough (too soon!) I will leave Alexandria to return to my life and think about what steps to take next. But what better place to provide inspiration for the journey than this city and this library, at the crossroads of culture and continents, in the very cradle of civilization.

*Submitted by Kathleen Hines*

# Bulletin Board



## Friends of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina

**F**riends of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina have announced their 7th annual meeting of the International Friends to be held October 9 - 11, 2004 in Alexandria, Egypt. Friends of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina submitted the following information and itinerary:

All the International Friends of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA) are invited and encouraged to attend this year's meeting. There could not be a more important time to gather together on behalf of the BA since we are at the beginning of a new fund-raising campaign for the Library's operations and maintenance; and vigorous efforts are being made to become a true center of excellence of international importance. If members are interested in attending, please contact Mr. Abdelwahab Elabd at (410) 354-8525 or email: [aelabd@qis.net](mailto:aelabd@qis.net)

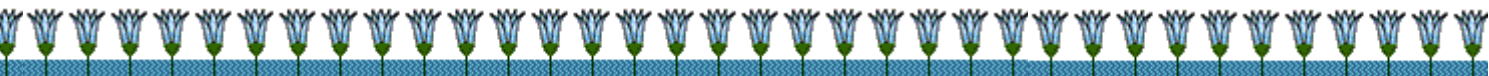
Five sessions will provide information and ideas for strategies and discussions on how our international friends will all work together to build and maintain this unique and growing institution. We will also have some fun during outings to Wadi Natroun and to Alexandria and Montazah Gardens.



The organizing committee members are:

Ismail Serageldin, Taher Khalifa, Sherif Riad, Laila Dowidar, Dahlia Nada, Dina Abdelmoneim, Moheba Abdelsalam (Egyptian Friends), Richard Holmquist (UNESCO), David Wardrop (UK Friends), Abdelwahab Elabd (AEAS Friends), and Lorenzo Montesini (Australia Friends).

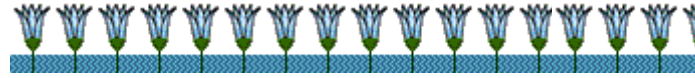
### Meeting Agenda

Friday 8 October	Arrivals Welcome drink and informal gathering at hotel Meeting of the organizing committee at the hotel
Saturday 9 October 10:00	Day out to the Wadi Natroun monasteries organized by the Egyptian Friends Association, International Committee, Moheba Abdelsalam, Chair
Sunday 10 October 9:00	<u>Opening Session</u> Ambassador Taher Khalifa Egyptian Friends Association Bernard Salome, Advisor to the Director on Planning and Fundraising - on special assignment Break
12:00	<u>Session 2: Sharing Experiences by the International Friends</u>
2:00	Lunch with the BA Directors and Managers in honor of the International Friends
3:00-5:00	<u>Session 3:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organization of the International Friends – the Alexandria Key and Logo</li> <li>• Support to the BA: financial and in-kind</li> </ul> Programs to cover Alexandria, Egypt, Arab World, Africa, Mediterranean Region, Euro-Mediterranean, and the World.



<p>Sunday 10 October 5:00 – 7:00</p>	<p><u>Session 3</u> - Continued</p> <p>Tours of Library, Museums, Exhibitions, Planetarium Show Visits to departments until 7:00 p.m.</p>
<p>Evening</p> 	<p><u>Cultural Event</u>: “Alexandria Carry-On” musical theater (USA)</p> <p>Poetry Reading (suggested by California Friends) Each Friend (i.e., each country) would bring a book of poetry (in their own language), read a short poem from it, and then donate the book to the Bibliotheca. This would meet several objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honor the poetic tradition of our countries, and above all recognize the long history of poetry in the Arabic-Middle Eastern culture.</li> <li>• Swell the poetry collection in the Bibliotheca.</li> <li>• Give all the Friends the opportunity of concrete participation in the process of collection development in this specific field.</li> <li>• Give us a chance to know each other better through the medium of this art, and to see each other’s donations.</li> </ul>
<p>Monday 11 October</p>	<p>Day out – see Alexandria Day at Montazah Beach with lunch Free time</p>
<p>Tuesday 12 October 9:00-12:00</p>	<p><u>Session 4</u>: Working Groups in the Library (by sign up) including coffee break (3 hours)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Library</li> <li>2) Heritage (Manuscript Center and Museum)</li> <li>3) ICT and ISIS</li> <li>4) Alex-Med</li> <li>5) Planetarium and Science Museum</li> <li>6) Academic and Cultural Sector Centers (Others)</li> </ol>
<p>1:00-2:00</p>	<p><u>Closing and Adjourn</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Culture of Peace” Musical Play – A. Elabd and Laurie McCants</li> <li>• Resolutions</li> <li>• Dr. Serageldin, Director 2005 meeting proposed dates</li> </ul>
<p>Evening</p>	<p><u>Anniversary Events</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anna Pavlova Exhibition (Russia)</li> <li>• Byzantine Ships Exhibition (Greece)</li> <li>• Jacqueline Mottoule Exhibition (France)</li> </ul> <p><u>Proposed Donation Ceremonies</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Egyptian Friends</li> <li>• Russian Friends</li> </ul> <p><u>Reception and Concert</u></p> 

# Other Organizations



## The Egyptian American Community Foundation

**T**he newly established Egyptian American Community Foundation (EACF) is a non-profit 501(c) (3) charitable organization that supports humanitarian and social causes in Egypt and the United States. The EACF works with the Egyptian American community to promote charitable giving, community programs and outreach to organizations in Egypt. In May 2004, the EACF created a new grant-making committee to support vital work projects in healthcare services, childhood education and cultural communications. Grant making opportunities are evaluated by the EACF Grants Committee and the Board of Directors. If Sister City members are interested in applying for grants please contact David A. Spinale at (202) 467-8333; Fax: (202) 467-3079 or [dspinale@cox.net](mailto:dspinale@cox.net). The address is EACF, 1250 24th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20037

### GRANTS



## The United States - Egypt Friendship Society

**T**he United States - Egypt Friendship Society (USEF) is a new initiative that seeks to increase understanding and awareness of Egypt in the United States by bringing together leading members of the two nations to forge closer ties on personal, academic, and business levels. USEF's unique role is to present a more complete picture of Egypt and her people by providing forums for discussing various aspects of economic and political development, culture and society, science, and history. The forums encourage a range of viewpoints to reach out to old friends and make new friends for Egypt across the policy spectrum. Although USEF generally supports closer ties between the two countries, it is not an advocacy organization, nor does it have any formal link with the United States or the Egyptian Governments. For information about membership opportunities and future USEF events, please contact Louise Langhoff-Roos (202) 289-8347 or email: [louiselr@kenan.org](mailto:louiselr@kenan.org).

Visit the USEF web site at: [www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/KI/kiWashington/usef.cfm](http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/KI/kiWashington/usef.cfm)



## Association of Egyptian American Scholars

**T**he Association of Egyptian American Scholars (AEAS) was established in 1974 to promote and improve Egyptian American cultural and scientific relations. The goal is to develop and implement programs of interest and value to the cultural and scientific development of Egypt. The mission of AEAS is to create a forum that facilitates dialogue and promotes partnerships with Egyptian counterparts to implement scholarly endeavors that are beneficial to all.

Over the years, AEAS has made significant contributions to the scientific and cultural development of Egypt, and to the academic collaboration of its members in America. These achievements include:

- Maintaining strong ties with Friends of Egyptian Scholars Abroad in Cairo
- Donations of books, scientific periodicals and microfilms for several libraries in Egypt
- Donations of computers to Egypt's Ministry of Education
- Grants and research fellowships for college graduates in Egypt
- Donations to the Egyptian Minister of Scientific Research for cancer treatment research in Egypt.

In May 2004, the AEAS held a very successful conference in celebration of the association's 30th anniversary at George Washington University Hospital. The theme of the conference was "The Role of Science and Technology in the Future of Egypt in the New Millennium".

AEAS plans to hold its next conference in Cairo, Egypt in collaboration with the Egyptian National Research Center. The conference will be held December 29-30, 2004.

For further information visit the AEAS website: [www.eascholars.org](http://www.eascholars.org) or email at: [info@eascholars.org](mailto:info@eascholars.org)



Dr. Ayman El-Mohandes  
*AEAS President*



# Other Organizations



## Nahdet El Mahrousa - A Responsibility Towards Egypt

**E**stablished in November 2003, its members share a fresh view for Egypt where young educated Egyptians are active catalysts towards positive change. Nahdet El Mahrousa is an organization where new ideas become realities. The members actively pursue financial support, human resources and contacts to further their goal of project development.

Their mission is to provide support for the formulation of innovative and creative ideas, and helping project teams to become independent and successful in order to contribute to Egypt's development. To accomplish this, strategies include volunteerism, networking, creating awareness, teamwork, diversity and social responsibility.

Nahdet El Mahrousa leads a number of diverse programs through youth capacity building, promoting research and development, economic development, reviving Egyptian cultural heritage, and promoting tolerance education. Current projects include:

- *Mentoring For Leadership* - The concept is to match successful young Egyptians with university students or recent graduates in a long term mentoring relationship.
- *Youth Book* - Aimed at Egyptian youth, presents case studies and success stories as a practical guide demonstrating problem solving tools that assist in achieving goals.
- *The National University Scholarship* - A national university organizes a competition to stimulate excellence among distinguished student groups. The focus of the competition is research and development.
- *Small and Medium Enterprises* - Assists Egyptian industry by supporting those who attempt to establish small factories through conducting field and secondary research on small industrial projects. Provides small industries with consulting services.
- *Transfer of Technical Knowledge of Expatriate Nationals* - Allows Egyptian expatriates to support and participate in Egypt's development by volunteering their skills and expertise.
- *Egyptian Culture* - Aims at educating children aged 10 to 15 years about their Egyptian heritage. Offers opportunities for children from diverse backgrounds and religions to interact. Value is placed on tolerance and cooperation in a constructive and productive manner aimed at developing Egypt.

For more information, please contact Ayman Ismail at [info@nahdetmasr.org](mailto:info@nahdetmasr.org) or visit the Nahdet El Mahrousa website at [www.nahdetmasr.org](http://www.nahdetmasr.org).



## Egyptian American Cultural Association

The Egyptian American Cultural Association (EACA) is a non-profit, non-political and non-religious association established in the early 1970's. The mission is to focus primarily on promoting greater interaction among the Egyptian-American Community to:

- Engage young generations not only as participants but also as decision makers
- Maintain and celebrate the rich Egyptian culture
- Provide the community with social and cultural activities where a sense of belonging and unity are strengthened
- Build alliances with other organizations
- Promote mutual understanding with the community at large
- Continue to build bridges to strengthen ties with Egypt

For more information visit the EACA website at [www.eacaonline.org](http://www.eacaonline.org)

EACA has scheduled the following events:

Labor Day Picnic Sunday September 5, 2004	Cabin John Regional Park Group Picnic Area 7701 Tuckerman Lane Cabin John, Maryland	Activities including sports, games, tournaments, sheehsa, and great food.
"Everything is Gonna be Alright"  A Film By: Tamer Ezzat  Date: to be announced 7:00pm Tickets: \$7.00 (sold at the Visions Box Office)	Visions Cinema and Bistro 1927 Florida Avenue Washington, D.C. 20009	A filmmaker turns his camera on himself and fellow Egyptians in New York City. Filmed during a trip to New York from September 11th and onward, this film captures the views of four Egyptian friends who live in New York. They discuss the influence of September 11th and its aftermath on their personal lives.
Annual Gala Night  Date and Time: to be announced at a later date	Location to be announced at a later date. Check web site for more details.	A Formal Evening including Dinner, Music, Folklore Dancing and more



[www.TheFezMonkey.com](http://www.TheFezMonkey.com)

To place an order contact:  
Paul Trattner 410-664-6240  
Email: [itsmagic@earthlink.net](mailto:itsmagic@earthlink.net)

**Baltimore / Luxor / Alexandria Sister City**  
**Egyptian Fine Gifts and Objects of Art**  
Profits from all sales directly support BLASCC

31334

A trio of Tuts make up this Egyptian design oil warmer. Alabastrite. Tealights only. 5 1/4" x 4 1/4" x 4 3/4" high. \$11.95



31335

Reminiscent of the temple cats of ancient Egypt, these three felines support an oil warming dish to add fragrance to your home. Alabastrite. Tealights only. 5 1/4" x 5 1/4" x 4 1/2" high. \$12.95



31437

The treasures of your past...and present...will rest peacefully in this sphinx-style treasure box. Alabastrite. 7 1/4" x 3 1/4" x 5 1/2" high. \$12.95



29578

A sarcophagus, the final resting place of King Tut, is recreated in alabastrite with gilt and bright colors for this Egyptian-inspired incense storage box. 3 3/8" x 2 3/4" x 9" long. \$15.95



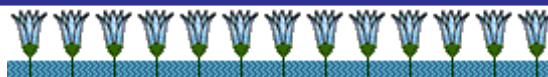
33616

Like messengers from the Pharaoh himself, these three monkeys in Egyptian garb bid all to see, hear, and speak no evil. Antique-finish alabastrite. 5 1/2" x 2 1/2" x 4 1/2" high. \$7.95



**\*Profits from all sales directly support BLASCC\***

# Program in Transition



Mayor Martin O'Malley is in the process of appointing an Advisory Council on International Affairs that will serve as the Board of Directors for all of the Baltimore Sister Cities programs. The Advisory Council will then create a non-profit Sister City Association to draft new by-laws and establish criteria that will stabilize the Sister City program as a whole. Below are the contacts during this transition period:

**Judy Orlinsky, Director**  
 Mayor's Office of International Affairs  
 Sister Cities Program  
 Work: (410) 396-3190

Judy.Orlinsky@baltimorecity.gov



## Baltimore Sister City Committee Officers

**Abdelwahab Elabd, Chairman**  
 Home: (410) 768-0821  
 Work: (410) 354-8525  
 aelabd@qis.net

**Paul Trattner, Treasurer**  
 Home: (410) 664-6240  
 itsmagic@earthlink.net

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## Baltimore Sister City Subcommittee Chairs

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<b>Education</b>	Dr. Joyce Jennings	JJennings@bcps.k12.md.us
<b>Culture and Arts</b>	Dr. Regine Schulz	RSchulz@thewalters.org
<b>Information Technology</b>	Dr. Ahmed El-Haggan	AelHaggan@coppin.edu
<b>Tourism and Public Relations</b>	Mr. Mokhtar Kamel	MokhtarKamel2002@yahoo.com
<b>Health</b>	Dr. Louis Elias	LsElias@erols.com
<b>Baltimore Friends of the BA</b>	Ms. Kathleen Hines	kathleen_hines821@yahoo.com
<b>Urban Planning</b>	Mr. Mohamed El-Menshawy	Mohammed.El-Menshawy@baltimorecity.gov



# Web Sites



## Baltimore / Luxor / Alexandria Sister City - On the Web

**T**he Baltimore / Luxor / Alexandria Sister City Committee has launched its web site. The 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 and the upcoming trip to Egypt. If you would like to contribute to the web site please send an email to [info@BaltimoreEgypt.org](mailto:info@BaltimoreEgypt.org). Visit our home page at:

[www.BaltimoreEgypt.org](http://www.BaltimoreEgypt.org)

## Additional Sites On the Web

Al-Ahram Weekly: <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg>

The Egyptian Embassy in Washington D.C.: [www.egyptembassy.us](http://www.egyptembassy.us)

The American Research Center in Egypt, Washington D.C. Chapter: [www.arcedc.org](http://www.arcedc.org)

Sister Cities International: [www.sister-cities.org](http://www.sister-cities.org)

US-Egypt Business Council: [www.us-egypt.org](http://www.us-egypt.org)

Egypt State Information Service: [www.sis.gov.eg](http://www.sis.gov.eg)

Arabic Music: [www.aramusic.com](http://www.aramusic.com)

Bibliotheca Alexandria: [www.bibalex.org](http://www.bibalex.org)

Arabic Poems: [www.arabicpoems.com](http://www.arabicpoems.com)

American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt: [www.amcham.org.eg](http://www.amcham.org.eg)

Egyptian-American Cultural Association: [www.eacaonline.org](http://www.eacaonline.org)

Eternal Egypt: [www.eternalegypt.org](http://www.eternalegypt.org)

The Walters Art Museum: [www.thewalters.org](http://www.thewalters.org)

Baltimore City: [www.ci.baltimore.md.us](http://www.ci.baltimore.md.us)

Luxor Sister City: <http://blascc.lxr.com.eg>

Association of Egyptian American Scholars: [www.eascholars.org](http://www.eascholars.org)

US-Egypt Friendship Society (USEF): [www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/KI/kiWashington/usef.cfm](http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/KI/kiWashington/usef.cfm)

Nahdet El Mahrousa: [www.nahdetmasr.org](http://www.nahdetmasr.org)



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