



# Annual Newsletter

Winter 2008-09

## The ALAA 25th Anniversary Gala & Scholarship Awards Banquet



2008 ALAA Scholarship Recipients

*Photo courtesy of The Lawrence Eagle Tribune*

Andover, MA—On Saturday, June 14, 350 local Lebanese-Americans gathered at the Wyndham Hotel to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the American Lebanese Awareness Association. The organization awarded another talented group of students with \$44,500 in scholarship aid, carrying on a near three-decade tradition of awarding almost \$1 million to eight hundred deserving students from the New England region.

The evening included a cocktail reception, a brief program on the history of the ALAA, the scholarship awards, a four-course dinner, and dancing to the music of “The Arabic DJ” Marc Nehme. In addition, ALAA founders, volunteers and donors in attendance were publicly recognized for their significant contributions to the organization.

*Additional photos and information on page 2.*

Look for 2009 scholarship applications to be available in local high schools after January 1, 2009.

*Applications are due by Wednesday, April 1, 2009.*

To receive an electronic copy, please e-mail [amerleb@comcast.net](mailto:amerleb@comcast.net)

### ALAA Officers, 2009

Shaker Asmar, *President*  
Richard Beshara, *Vice President*  
Roy Rossi, *Treasurer*  
George Kalil,  
*Recording Secretary*  
Atty. Scot Gabriel, *Clerk*  
Barbara Zraket,  
*Corresponding Secretary*

### Board of Directors

Roy Bistany  
Ramona Bou-Mitri  
Leila Eid  
Rev. Fr. Leonard Faris  
Michael Faris  
Loubna Garozzo  
Steven Kfoury  
Elias Khoury  
Eileen Salhab  
Susan Veilleux

### Committee Chairpersons

Nicola Ramy, Charitable  
Scot Gabriel, Scholarship  
Michael Faris, Scholarship  
Leila Eid, Social  
Frances Shibel, Membership  
Joanne Nahil, Membership  
Joseph Hatem, Community Liaison  
Pamela Yameen, Public Affairs  
Vivian Sawaya, Public Affairs  
Edward Zraket, Finance  
Nancy Erban, Publicity

# 25th Anniversary Gala & Scholarship Awards Banquet



*Photos courtesy of The Lawrence Eagle Tribune*

**2008 ALAA Scholarship Recipients** (in alphabetical order): Nicholas Abdelahad, Christopher Azar, Mia Berni, Marianne Bou-Habib, Amanda Britt, Alexander Coury, Elias Elachi, Ronald Ead, Robert Farrah, Samantha Farrah, Bryan Farris, Philip Fazioli, Emily Foley, Catherine George, Devon Haddad, Christine Harb, Ryan Harb, Christopher Hashem, Alexandra Hatem, Zaynab Jaber, Henry Jamijian, Steven Kfoury Jr., Ashley Korbey, Patricia Letayf, Nicole Mason, Danielle Miles, Hayley O'Riordan, Samantha Ota, Gianna Padavano, Leah Rizkallah, Alexandria Rodriguez, Ashley Shaheen, Laura Beth Solomon, Thomas Somi, Matthew Wood and Salim Zerriny. *Congratulations and best wishes from the ALAA!*

**The ALAA would like to thank its donors for their continued generosity and support.  
Without it, the organization would not exist.**

## Endowed Scholarship Donors

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Kellan and Family Memorial Award  
Riscalla "Ross" Abdinoor Memorial Award  
George and Lillian Naddif Award  
Delia Moses Abdinoor Award  
Charles A. Zraket Memorial Award  
Bert J. Samia Memorial Award  
Abraham D. Bashara Award  
James and Daniel Yameen Award, Butcher Boy Inc.  
Dr. Fred and Emily Arrigg Foundation Award  
Shahadi and Nellie Batal Memorial Award  
Dr. Michael J. Kannan Memorial Award  
Louis M. Kelly and Budron Scholarship  
George W. Hajjar Memorial Award  
Fred B. Kfoury Sr. Memorial Award  
Sada Kfoury Memorial Award  
Ann F. Yameen Memorial Award  
Sadie Bashara Memorial Award  
Claire M. Savio Memorial Award  
Carpenter Family Trust Award  
Sadie Jowdy Memorial Award  
Thomas Mansour and Anthony Ramey Award  
Msgr. Semaan Farris Memorial Award  
Elias Abdinoor Memorial Award  
Sam Jowdy Memorial Award

## Annual Scholarship Donors

Dr. Barbara A. Hajjar Award  
James N. and Patricia P. Salem  
Memorial Scholarship Award  
The Fred B. Kfoury Jr. Award (Central Paper Co.)  
Charles and Ann Nahil Memorial Scholarship  
Shaheen Family Award (Shaheen Bros. Inc.)  
Samuel J. Ameen Family Scholarship Award  
Vivian Ramy Memorial Scholarship Award  
Mr. Fred Saliba Award IMO Lucille Saliba  
Fred J. Ganem Family Memorial Award  
Mary (Erban) Boshar Memorial Award  
In Memory of (IMO) James G.  
and Nellie Tarshi Award  
The Zraket and Shibel Family Award  
Dr. and Mrs. George Abou-Ezzi Fund  
George P. Habib Memorial Award  
Cedars Mediterranean Foods, Inc.  
IMO Charles and Frieda Samia  
Louis J. Zraket Memorial Award  
Bagel Boy Scholarship Award  
Joseph and Yvonne Ellis Memorial Award  
Knights of Columbus (Methuen MA.)  
IMO Gerald G. Kalil  
IMO of Dorothy Hajj

# Get involved with the ALAA today!

## Become a Member

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Business Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

## Annual Membership Types

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual ..... \$25.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Family ..... \$50.00

All annual memberships will be due on July 1, 2009

*If you are already a member, please encourage other family and friends to join.*

## Make a Contribution

I would like to make a contribution to the:

General Scholarship Fund ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Charitable Fund ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Other ways to get involved

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in volunteering

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like information on serving as a member of the Board of Directors

*Please make checks payable to ALAA*

P. O. Box 292 - Lawrence, MA 01842

# *ALAA Commemorative Program Book 2009*

## Advertisement Sponsorship Application

*(Business ads, personal & family notes, In Memoriam, etc...)*

### Advertisement Specifications

\*All advertisements will be in grayscale, sizes noted below. (Please select size)

**Full Page** (5 ½" X 8") \$200

**Half Page** (5 ½" X 3 ¾") \$100

**Quarter Page** (2 ¾" X 3 ¾") \$50

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Message (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

(For example- "Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients!" OR

"Best wishes to the ALAA on 26 years of success!")

### Form Submission and Payment Information

*Please make check payable to:* American Lebanese Awareness Association

*Mail check and this form to:* ALAA Promotions Committee

PO Box 292

Lawrence, MA 01842-0592

*Please e-mail your company logo to:* ALAAScholars@hotmail.com (Must be a .bmp, .eps, or .jpg file)

\*\*If you need assistance with this page, or with creating your advertisement,  
please e-mail or call us at (781) 801-3529, or ALAAScholars@hotmail.com

**Deadline for submissions is April 30, 2009**

# Special thanks to our 2008 program book sponsors!

## FULL PAGE

Central Paper Co./Fred Kfoury  
G&Z Pizza  
Pleasant Dental  
Senator Steven Baddour  
The Arabic DJ.com  
Dr. Azar Korbey  
Bagle Boy  
Cape Arundel Inn  
Cedars Mediterranean Foods  
Charles Abdelahad  
Daher Motors of Kingston  
Dr. William Edwards  
Elias & Louma Khoury  
Methuen Getty  
Michael's Function Hall  
North Andover Getty  
Sovereign Bank

## HALF PAGE

7 Genies Auto Care  
Chaya Brothers  
Ed & Barbara Zraket  
Elaine's Pizza  
George Khoury  
Home Inspection Asspciates  
James D. Salem and family  
Jihad & Hilda Rizkallah  
Joyce Najjar  
Lawrence History Center  
Maroun's Auto Sales  
Nancy Carpenter  
New England Cardiology  
NESC Federal Credit Union  
Roy & Marie Bistany  
Shadi's Restaurant  
Shaheen, Guerrera and O'Leary  
Staffing Now

## QUARTER PAGE

Artisan Gift Baskets  
Design Lighting and Electrical  
Dewhirst Funeral Home  
Fred & Elaine Simon  
George's Bakery  
Judy Foley  
Kathleen Khoury Rahme  
Leila Marie Event Production & Design  
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Ramey  
Marwan & Carla Sabbouth

## *Save the Date!*

The 26th Annual  
Scholarship Awards Banquet & Hafli

*Saturday, June 20, 2009*

Michael's Function Halls  
12 Alpha Street - Haverhill, MA

Featuring Lebanese and American music and dancing!  
Tickets- \$45 per person and includes  
a 4-course dinner and entertainment.

*For advance tickets, please call*

*Shaker Asmar: 978.258.2120, Barbara Zraket: 978.683.6271*

*or e-mail [amerleb@comcast.net](mailto:amerleb@comcast.net)*

## ALAA honors Lebanese victim of 1912 Bread & Roses Strike

Methuen, MA—In September, as part of the Bread & Roses Festival, members of the ALAA, along with the family of John Ramey, dedicated a memorial stone to Lebanese victim of the Strike of 1912. John Ramey, a young musician, was one of the three people killed in the strike, which was an international incident. For more information about the dedication, search the archives of The Eagle Tribune or the Boston Globe. Special thanks to Abbas Sadek of New England Cable News (NECN) for producing a wonderful video piece about the dedication which was shown on the news channel.



Continuing the tribute to the Strike of 1912 victim John Ramey, Bread and Roses Festival organizers invited Christiane Karam and her band, ZilZALA to perform on the festival's main stage on the Lawrence Common. Christiane, originally from Lebanon, is now a Boston-based vocalist/arranger who interprets classical, traditional and Arabic folk music. ZilZALA has headlined at Ryles Jazz club, the Berklee Performance Center, Club Passim, The Zeitgeist Gallery and Tagine in New York City. The band was nominated in the Boston Phoenix Best Music Poll 2007. For the festival they performed songs from Lebanese legendary singer Fayrouz. For more information on ZilZALA, visit <http://www.christianekaram.com>.

# A Letter from the ALAA President

Dear ALAA members,

I am very pleased and honored to have served as president of the ALAA for the past year and for this upcoming year. It has been an extremely rewarding experience to work with a great team of volunteers who strive to keep this great non-profit organization going strong.

It is with great pride that I report that over the past 25 years, this organization has given 799 students \$812,000 in college scholarships. In addition to tuition aid, this past year alone, the ALAA has given \$3,100.00 in donations to local charities and people in need. In September, the ALAA donated \$1,500 for a memorial stone for the late John Ramey, a victim of the 1912 Bread and Roses strike. The stone was dedicated on Labor Day in a ceremony that commemorated the historic strike. This ceremony was attended by Lawrence's Mayor Michael Sullivan, Monsignor Peter Azar of St. Anthony Maronite Church, ALAA members, Ramey family members, and the Historical Society of Lawrence. This past June, 350 local Lebanese Americans gathered to celebrate the silver anniversary of the ALAA scholarship banquet with dinner, Lebanese and American music and dancing to commemorate twenty-five successful years, with the hopes of many, many more.

In these tumultuous economic times, it is more important than ever to support non-profits like the ALAA - we rely 100% on donations from ordinary people who believe in our cause. It is possible in any economy to give of yourself for this worthwhile organization. For just \$25 a year, you can continue to support the ALAA through membership. For a bit more you can place an advertisement in the annual banquet program book. You can also give your time by joining a committee or volunteering at an event. Most importantly, we need scholarship donations – no gift is too small! The ALAA encourages business owners and the general public to establish or sponsor scholarships in their names, or in memory of their loved ones. Remember, all donations are 100% tax deductible, as all funds donated go directly to scholarships.

Over the next several months the Board of Directors and I will continue to come up with fresh ideas to attract new members and donors to the ALAA in order to maintain its future existence. As we approach the organization's 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary, let us all join hands—spread the word to our family and friends to support this non-profit organization so that it can continue to provide community support and college scholarships that will help to ensure the success of future generations.

Please mail back the form in this newsletter if you would like to get involved in the many ways described. I welcome your questions, thoughts and ideas on how to improve the ALAA. Please e-mail me your comments at: [asmar@comcast.net](mailto:asmar@comcast.net).

Sincerely yours,

*Shaker K. Asmar*

Shaker K. Asmar



P. O. Box 292

Lawrence, MA 01842-0592

E-mail: [amerleb@comcast.net](mailto:amerleb@comcast.net)