



UNITED LEBANESE ORGANIZATION

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JANUARY

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The Star of Betrayal

If you had a chance to follow the fortune tellers in Lebanon on New Year's Eve, you must have noticed that the consensus was one: they were all against the Arab revolutions we are currently witnessing- the same ones they could not predict a year ago. They were just like all the political analysts and journalists who were all taken by surprise, and still are.

The Arabs surprised themselves, more than the rest of the world. But the fortune tellers' surprise was even bigger, and only equal to that of some analysts, who voice their objections to what is taking place but are indeed so scared of the future. Fear was the common factor among the fortune tellers and analysts, who were predicting a 2012 full of blood and wars that would lead to the end of the world. The same predictions Nostradamus had, only to find out later it was only mere hallucination. Indirectly, these fortune tellers agreed that the Arab revolutions were catastrophes: that they were the make of people who took advantage of old corrupted regimes and will only lead the world to destruction. Citizens will then miss their old dictators, and will hold on to support the few remaining. It looked like those tellers were simply revenging the fall of those dictators, or the ones who are about to fall. They were simply making fun of the people who are determining their fates. Their utmost prediction was that Arabs will be facing yet the bloodiest year yet in 2012.

It seemed the stars they were gazing at, or the crystal ball they were watching simply made fun of them, just as it did from the start of this century.

WWW.UNITEDLEBANESE.ORG

PHONE: (412) LEBNANI

INFO@UNITEDLEBANESE.ORG

ISSUE NO. 014

ULO 2012 New Year's Celebration



Good times and great music overflowed in Anaheim Hills Golf Club on New Year's Eve as over 300 hundred people celebrated the start of a new year.

The celebration that started at 8:00 PM and ended at the early hours of the New Year was highlighted by the traditional Arabic music and dances, with delicious food and elegant family environment.

ULO president, Fadi Ghattas addressed the crowd highlighting United Lebanese Organization 2011 key achievements and upcoming activities and wishing them the best in 2012. Vice President, Ahmad Shamroukh, and Treasurer, Rawaa Shamroukh presented valuable raffle prizes to the winners, and awarded Mrs. Sana Sultan with the 2011 Most Committed Member.



UPCOMING EVENT

[ULO Soccer & Lunch Group on Sunday Jan. 29th](#)



UNITED LEBANESE ORGANIZATION

DID YOU KNOW...

On your next trip to Lebanon: "Ice Skating Rink, Beirut"



Under a towering remnant of a Civil War-era structure, the glittering Beirut Souks and a massive banking building, Downtown developers are trying something different this winter: an ice-skating rink, outdoors and uncovered.

Beirut Souks opened the city's first outdoor ice-skating rink last month in the recently developed Beirut Central District with a performance by local figure skaters. The rink is the first skating arena in the Greater Beirut area for nearly a decade. Families and couples made their way to the ice as a welcome diversion during the cool and rainy winter. LL20,000 buys skate rental and around two hours of ice time. The rink's scheduled hours are 12 p.m. to 12 a.m. and the facility is supposed to remain open until the end of February, if you are planning a visit before then!!

Valentine's Day – festival of love

In 391AD, Emperor Theodosius I declared Christianity as the official religion of the Rome. The fertility festival was celebrated until 496AD when Pope Gelasius replaced it with a similar celebration. For patron saint of the celebration, he chose the "lovers" saint, St Valentine. He also moved the date of the celebration from the 15 February to the date of St Valentine's death, 14 February. Through the centuries, Valentine's Day became to be remembered more as the festival of love instead of a religious day. In 1969 it was dropped from the Roman Catholic calendar as a designated feast day.

BOOK REVIEW

America – by Rabih Haddad

At a very young and tender age, a poor and beautiful Mertha Haddad travels from Mount Lebanon to New York in 1913 looking for her husband. Years later, you find her in Pasadena, California, wealthy and surrounded by her kids and grandkids. Through many interesting characters and stories, this novel takes us to America, the West Coast, and to Siberia. Through WWI, the forgotten flu, the golden years, the Great Depression, followed by more lavish years and then WWII. Through all of that, Mertha lives, and so do the readers. Dar Al-Adab, Beirut. ISBN # 978-9953-68-397-2

ULO 2012 New Year's event Survey

Please take 2 minutes of your time and fill in ULO Ramadan survey at www.unitedlebanese.org or click the below link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dDFSzczdqUt6ZzIBTG1MVjB3TI9haVE6MA>

COMMUNITY TALK

WHAT'S NEW

In The Spotlight



United Lebanese Organization Valentine's event on Sat. Feb. 11th.

Buffet Dinner, DJ Said, and Layla Lotus Dancers group.

State of The Union address



President Obama warned in his State of the Union address Tuesday that the

Nation's middle class is at risk because of growing economic inequality, and argued that the government must do more to preserve the basic American dream.

In a speech that is likely to set the theme of his 2012 re-election bid, Obama said "the basic American promise" that hard work can allow one to own a home and support a family are at risk if the government doesn't do more to balance the scale between the nation's rich and poor.

"The defining issue of our time is how to keep that promise alive. No challenge is more urgent. No debate is more important," Obama declared. "We can either settle for a country where a shrinking number of people do really well, while a growing number of Americans barely get by. Or we can restore an economy where everyone gets a fair shot, everyone does their fair share, and everyone plays by the same set of rules. What's at stake are not Democratic values or Republican values, but American values. We have to reclaim them."