



UNITED LEBANESE ORGANIZATION

2011  
JUNE

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

### *Questions in Weddings*

Of course, weddings are not our top priorities these days, let alone, with all our TV screens filled with blood, grief, and the unknowns. I was not glued to the TV last time when the "Wedding of the Century" took place in London. All I saw was few seconds on the news, but these seconds left me with tons of questions: why do all these people fill the streets of London to attend the wedding of a man and a woman whom they probably knew only in pictures? Why do millions of Arabs take stand in squares asking for change, while a million other happily sing and celebrate traditions that date back to the eighteenth century?

I sure do not know. But these are questions between 2 TV screens: One reporting Arab news 24/24, and the other one showing the coolness of the British, since tens of thousands attending the wedding were just transients, But one thing, they all agree on, is happiness. They recognize that stability needs happiness; rich and poor, whites and blacks. Our people in the Arab world are still afraid of happiness. If they laugh on a Monday, they knock on wood and pray for Tuesday. Some still believe life is a shame, and the solution is in killing. Leaders in the Arab world had taught them that poverty is a must, and wealth is a virtue. And all who went out to celebrate the wedding were people with social security, pension, and unemployment benefits. But in our homeland, people are still afraid of getting sick, given its costs.

In their countries, that were built with hands of sweat of our own people, they are now afraid of one thing: that the poor of our countries, the millions waiting to immigrate, the young, and the unemployed might now flood theirs. What a shame.

[WWW.UNITEDLEBANESE.ORG](http://WWW.UNITEDLEBANESE.ORG)

PHONE: (412) LEBNANI

[INFO@UNITEDLEBANESE.ORG](mailto:INFO@UNITEDLEBANESE.ORG)

ISSUE NO. 012

## ULO Holds its Second Annual Talent Show



Fatima Kabbout was not born when "Fatoum Fatoum Fatoumah" theme song was a hit back in the 70's. But that did not stop this little 9 years old from dancing to its nostalgic music, and asking for more time to dance when it was all over. If you did were in attendance of ULO's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Talent Show held on Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup>, you do not know what you missed, and just like its predecessor, this show was another hit. It started with both the U S and Lebanese National Anthems, followed by opening remarks by Fadi Ghattas, ULO's President who thanked all attendees and members of the ULO governing body, and stressed the need for volunteers to help out with future plans. "With the growing numbers of people joining" Fadi stated, "we need your assistance", and asked interested individuals to get in touch with ULO. And then the show was up in full swing, produced and presented by Jamil Soucar. The Sayyed sisters marveled the crowd with their piano and singing talents, and the magical opera voice of Amani Kabbara sent everyone into stunt silence. Zeina Itani's sensational piece of poetry about friendship brought tears to the eyes of many. Ziad Itani, a future star with no doubt dazzled the audience with his own talent of playing guitar and producing his own video clip. And the list of talents goes on: Nour Swaid, Shireen Takkoush, Tala and Rola Naouchi, Jad & Jana Soucar, Ryan & Dalia Lababidi, and Zeena Joudi.

## UPCOMING EVENT

[ULO Soccer Game is on Sunday June 19th. . Irvine.](#)



UNITED LEBANESE ORGANIZATION

## DID YOU KNOW...

### *Lebanon: a Must See on Your Next Trip: Broumana*



Sometimes, life becomes simple when you find yourself on a spot in the map, where there are less demanding tasks and luxury is found on majestic landscapes and a relaxing slumber at a beautiful garden. That is life at **Broumana**, a city that is proud of how it can make life trouble-

-free and cushy. But regardless of the simple ways, the city continues to boast of some of its major tourist's attractions. Known as a flower city, Broumana is home to some of the world's most beautiful flowers. Moreover, you will also experience the wonderful natural sceneries that the city included in its ecotourism project. You will discover cliffs, mountains, rivers, huge rock formations, and hills that you will not see elsewhere. You can go trekking and hiking in mountain ranges and experience life at the wild. You shouldn't leave Broumana without tasting some of their local dishes. Most of these are lamb or seafood cooking oozing with a different kind of zest.

## KIDS & YOUTH CORNER

### *Flag Day.*



June 14 is Flag Day here in the US. We almost certainly know the significance behind our U S Flag. But did you know that the **Lebanese Flag** symbolizes the national pride of the country?

The Flag of Lebanon has three horizontal stripes, a white band in the middle of two red ones. A cedar tree is at the center of the white band of the Lebanese Flag. Adopted on the 7th of December, 1943, the Lebanon Flag represents the spirit of the Republic of Lebanon. Lebanon adopted various designs of the Flag at different points of time in the past. The Flag ultimately adopted by the Lebanese Government has a significant meaning. The red color in Lebanon Flag stands for the blood of the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the country. The white in the middle of the Lebanese Flag symbolizes the eternity, peace and purity. The green cedar tree is the symbol of Lebanon. It signifies the steady and immortal nature of the country.

## COMMUNITY

## TALK

### In The Spotlight



"United Lebanese Organization has really made it so easy for many families here in Southern California and particularly us"

says Rana Baalbaki, mother of 3 who is an active member of ULO. "It is very critical for our kids to understand their Lebanese culture and values, and thanks to ULO, they are doing just that." Rana, who was born in Houmine Al Tahta and immigrated to the States at the age of 18, takes pride in being a full time employee, mother and a housewife, and being actively involved with her kids' school and extra curriculum activities. Visiting Lebanon every year is also a must for Rana and her husband Naji Kabbout, "so that Mohamad, Fatima, and Ali can keep in touch with their homeland, language, culture, and history", says Rana.

### Irvine Safest City - 7 Years in a Row

Irvine is America's Safest City for a seventh straight year for communities with a population of 100,000 or more. According to FBI Part 1 crime data, Irvine continues to have the lowest violent crime rate in the U.S. The City also has the lowest overall Part 1 crime. For 2010, Irvine had the lowest per-capital violent crime rate in its 40-year history.