

# NORTH CAROLINA'S HIGH COUNTRY

## Southern Federation Club News Texas

At their January 10th meeting, the 2010 officers of the Cedars of Lebanon Club of Tyler, TX pledged their commitment to their members, led by the installing of officer Jim Plumb.

The officers are Adele Johnson, President - Gene Gilboe, Vice President -

Yvonne Kamel, Treasurer and Marnie Joseph, Secretary.

The 2010 Board of Directors are Rodney Kamel - Shirlye Kamel - Pat Manziel - Charlene Martel - Mimi Plumb - Amelia Procell - Danny Saleh & Gloira Saleh.

## Georgia News

From the State Vice-President

There is no doubt the biggest news coming from the Peach State this week is that the Cedar Club of Atlanta just hosted a hugely successful Mid-Winter Conference. Although Mid-Winters are not as large in numbers of attendees as Summer Conventions, they can be every bit as much fun and have just as much of a cultural impact.

This one was certainly two days filled with hospitality, games, dancing, shows, tours and exhibits. Mark Haddad and Sami Nassar did an outstanding job of planning and executing an exceptional as well as profitable Conference. There were over 500 in attendance on Saturday night despite the worst winter weather Atlanta has had in several years. The Club and Federation Officers were concerned that the ice and snow would keep the one night sales at a minimum. It may have kept some away but for the first time in years we actually had to turn people away.

The weekend started on Thursday evening with a testimonial to our Federation President Mike Hiffa. Friday, the day was filled with tours to Centennial Park. The buses let people off in

proximity to the World of Coke, The Georgia Aquarium, CNN, the Children's Museum and the Patriotism Museum. Meanwhile, back at the Hotel there was a Khalil Gibran Exhibit organized under the leadership of Albert Johary, a Lectura by Historian Paul Hudson and a DVD presentation by Edward Karam of the Cultural Committee, on the life of Gibran.

Friday evening began with a cabaret show featuring local entertainers: Charlie Fellingham, Karen Melissis, Stevie Jones and Michael Scarborough. Of course, the Arabic music and Dabke dancing lasted into the morning hours.

Also in 2010 the Cedar Club of Atlanta is celebrating its Centennial Anniversary. The Souvenir Program book was dedicated to the Anniversary and featured a history of the Club. In addition, Cedar Club members were invited to write histories of their families. About 15 families took advantage of the opportunity. It made this Conference Program Book one of the most important we've produced and will be a keepsake for years to come. Now it's on to St. Louis for an outstanding Summer Convention.

## Michigan

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included Dearborn's sprawling Rouge complex, used for manufacturing since 1917.

As those jobs dwindled, more immigrants opened their own businesses with the help of extended family. Many of those mom-and-pop shops are represented at the city's annual Arab International Festival, a three-day event along 14 blocks on Warren Avenue, scheduled for June 18-20 this year. It typically draws about 300,000 people and features food, merchandise booths, entertainment and carnival rides.

It's your typical fair in many respects, but one where you can smell the sizzling kafta, see women in traditional hijabs, or head scarves, and hear the sounds of Arab and Arab-American musicians.

Still, automaking is inextricably linked to the community: Ford has employed Arabs across all positions, from lineworker to executive.

Visitors can get a firsthand look at the refurbished Rouge complex through public tours operated by The Henry Ford organization, which includes the nationally recognized Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village and receives more than 1 million visitors annually.

Another must-see museum on the Mideast in the Midwest tour is the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn. It's the first national institution of its kind and documents the collective Arab-American story through interactive exhibits and other programs. The domed structure featuring a

traditional Arab fountain opened five years ago and drew 56,000 visitors last year.

"People don't understand to what extent world cultures feed and learn from each other," said Anan Ameri, director of the museum. "America is a country of immigrants. It has been shaped by these immigrants and the immigrants have been shaped by living in America."

Even Dearborn's local Walmart has

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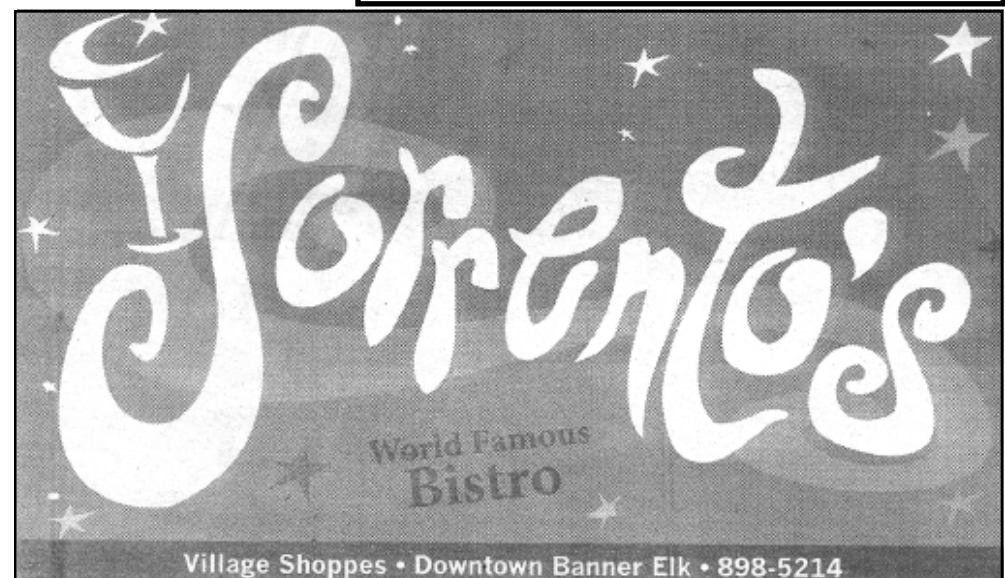
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