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The Nativity of Christ – 2014



SHRINE MARKING THE SPOT OF THE MANGER IN BETHLEHEM

To our friends Nabil and Julia and all the readers of the Lebanon Times:

I greet you with a holy kiss and the joyous festal proclamation:

**CHRIST IS BORN**  
**المسيح ولد**

May God the All-holy Trinity grant you and your households the happiest of Feasts and a New Year graced with His peace throughout the world. With assurance of my prayers and blessings, I remain

In Christ the Incarnate Word of God,

+ Bishop Basil

+Bishop Basil

# الى مطعم الصيد سير



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*By Mayor Annise D. Parker*

# Come Join The Holiday Fun

*I want* to personally invite everyone to ring in the season with the 95th Mayor's Holiday Celebration and Tree Lighting Presented by Reliant on Friday, December 5 at Hermann Square outside City Hall; 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. This spectacular, FREE event is a holiday tradition of music, fireworks and family fun.

This year's headline performers are Angie Stone and Chanté Moore, both Grammy nominated R&B vocalists and television stars. Angie Stone has delivered four Top 10 albums and has sold over 1.4 million albums in the U.S. and more than 5 million worldwide. Many will recognize her from her hit singles, "Sometimes" and "Baby." Chanté Moore has released seven R&B albums and produced 20 charting singles and collaborations with Prince, R. Kelly, Boys II Men, and The Isley Brothers, just to name a few. Both artists star on the hit TV reality show, R&B Divas.

I always look forward to hosting this event. There's no better way to kick-off the happiest time of year than with friends, family, lights, fireworks, and performances that will bring down the house.

The public is invited to bring a new unwrapped toy to one of the Reliant booths at the Celebration to help make the holidays brighter for a child this season. Everyone who brings a toy will receive a light-up Santa hat from Reliant. The annual toy drive benefits the Salvation Army Greater Houston Area Command through Dec. 9.

Event sponsors include: Reliant an NRG Company, Cigna, TDECU, Southwest Airlines®; Silverleaf Resorts, Houston Downtown Management District; Houston Parks and Recreation Department; and the Houston Public Library Foundation. The celebration is produced by the Mayor's Office of Special Events.

Public parking is available in the Theater District. For more information, please visit [www.houstontx.gov](http://www.houstontx.gov) or [www.houstonspecialevents.org](http://www.houstonspecialevents.org).

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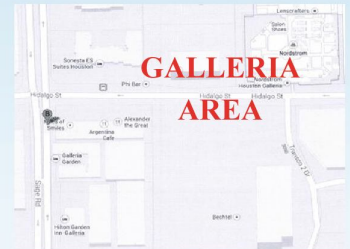
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**Best Wishes from  
Sheriff Adrian Garcia  
To Lebanon Times Magazine  
and to the Lebanese and  
Middle Eastern communities**

In this holiday season, my family and I wish to extend to Lebanon Times Magazine and the Lebanese and Middle Eastern communities in Houston continued success, unity, health, and happiness!

I am honored and humbled that this beautiful community has always made me feel welcomed, and as if I am a member of your family! I would like to remind everyone that they have a brother they can count on called Sheriff Adrian Garcia.

For 2015 I invite the Middle Eastern communities to join me in helping and volunteering in the community, and of course become a member of the Sheriff's Office! Our rich and beautiful diversity is our greatest resource!

By working together, we can all contribute to the success of our community. By being involved we ensure that our amazing and beautiful city and county stay prosperous, safe, and the place where people of all walks of life can come together to start a business, raise a family, and be successful!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrian Garcia".

Adrian Garcia, Sheriff



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# سهار بعد سهار

## A.U.B. ALUMNI Houston Chapter Halloween Party

Alumni of the American University in Beirut celebrated Halloween at Café Byblos wearing intriguing masquerades. The surprise was the celebration of Dolly Baaklini's birthday. The celebration lasted till early dawn with the presence of the star Jabbour. Here are some Stills. (Photo: Julia Nader).





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## Swedish recognition and a Palestinian 'Thank you!'

The Palestinian Council in the US paid a visit of thanks and gratitude to the Swedish Consulate in Houston to thank the government and the people of Sweden for their courageous decision and the public support to recognize the State of Palestine.

The Palestinian delegation also raised several points, the most prominent of which were the right of return for six million Palestinians, the cessation of the attacks on the inhabitants of Palestine and particularly Jerusalem. The delegation also noted that the recognition of Palestine by Sweden is also the fruit of the efforts of hundreds or even thousands of supporters of freedom, justice, the end to the occupation and the right of the Palestinian people to establish an independent state on their national soil.

The delegation presented a Palestinian shawl to the Swedish Consul and a shield and a letter of thanks to the King and Queen of Sweden and the Swedish government and the compassionate Swedish people.

The Consul promised to deliver the message to the Royal Palace and give the shield to the Ambassador and Consul General in Washington, DC.

Along with its congratulations, *Lebanon Times* extends its wishes that other countries will follow suit.



## اعتراف سويدي وشكر فلسطيني

قام المجلس الفلسطيني الامريكي في زيارة شكر وعرفان للقنصلية السويدية لشكر الحكومة والشعب السويدي لقرارهم الشجاع بالاعتراف بدولة فلسطين.

تجاوبت الجالية الفلسطينية في الولايات المتحدة مع قرار الحكومة السويدية الاعتراف بدولة فلسطين حيث قام المجلس الفلسطيني الامريكي بزيارة للقنصلية السويدية في هيوستن لتقديم الشكر والعرفان للموقف الشجاع والسباق الذي اتخذته الحكومة السويدية وبتأييد جماهيري بالاعتراف بالدولة الفلسطينية.

ولقد أثار الوفد الفلسطيني ايضا عدة نقاط، من ابرزها حق العودة لستة ملايين فلسطيني ووقف الاعتداءات على الشعب ومقدساته وفي مقدمتها القدس المحتلة، ونوه الوفد ايضا ان اعتراف السويد بفلسطين هو ايضا ثمرة جهود لسنوات طويلة لمئات بل آلاف من انصار الحرية والعدالة وللمؤمنين وبانهاء الاحتلال و بحق الشعب الفلسطيني باقامة دولة مستقلة على ترابه الوطني.

وقام الوفد بتقديم حطة فلسطينية للقنصل و درعا ورسالة شكر لملك ومملكة السويد والحكومة السويدية وللشعب السويدي الصديق.

ووعدت القنصل بايصال الرسالة للقصر الملكي ورفع الدرع للسفير والقنصل العام في واشنطن العاصمة.

اما تعليق ليبانون تايمز فهو : مبروك وعقبال جميع الدول.

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# لقاء الأُحبة

## Loving Friends at the Charaf El-Dine House

Dr. Nizar and Hala Charaf El-Dine held a dinner event in their home in Pearland. The guests were mostly doctors and leaders of organizations. The surprise was the celebration of Sean Ghaoui's birthday with a cake and the melodic theme of 'Happy Birthday'. Here are some stills. (Photo: Julia Nader).



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# لقاء الأجابة

## The Impact of Local and Global Economy Boosting Healthcare Expansion in Houston

American Turkic Business Council and Texas Turkish American Chamber of Commerce hosted a Luncheon Forum “The Impact of Local and Global Economy Boosting Healthcare Expansion in Houston” in its headquarters in Houston, TX. Mr. Chris Siebenaler, Regional Senior Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital, was the keynote speakers. According to Mr. Siebenaler “the amount of money we are spending is too much” he provided national data that showed how much we are spending on healthcare. Here are a few stills. (Photo: Julia Nader)



## Dare to Be Unique

Sean Ghaoui held a welcome event in his business location *Gawee Fine Jewelry and Timepieces*. Invitees were lovers of rare gold, diamonds, and watches of famous international brands. The event was held over a three day period. Here are a few stills:

(Photo: Julia Nader)

