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***By Mayor Annise D. Parker***

# Let's Stop Underage Drinking

*Each year*, as the school year winds down and the annual prom and graduation festivities begin, parents everywhere are holding their breath that what is supposed to be a very happy time does not turn to tragedy. They fear the dreaded news about the teen with a bright future who is seriously injured or killed due to an alcohol-related accident. We all hope and pray it doesn't happen to our kids or their friends. Unfortunately, it does happen.

According to the Texas Department of Transportation, there were 343 motor vehicle accidents blamed on drunk driving by teens during April and May of last year. In all of 2014, there were nearly 2,000 drunk driving related crashes involving underage drivers in Texas. These accidents were responsible for 91 deaths.

As a parent and as the mayor of Houston, I want our city to lead in preventing underage drinking. That's why I am joining with Mothers Against Drunk Driving® (MADD) and TxDOT to launch the first-ever *Power of Parents*® Mayors Challenge. As a community, it is up to us to end underage drinking and its often deadly consequences.

I urge all Houston parents to download the free [\*Power of Parents Handbook\*](#) and start talking with their children about alcohol. I have also challenged my fellow mayors in Texas and across the country to join me in the effort to prevent underage drinking.

We can stop this dangerous – and often deadly – behavior. Houston can show the nation that underage drinking prevention should be a priority for all of us. Please, think about Alejandra and the family she left behind. Together, we can make a difference and save lives – helping all Houston parents breathe a little easier.

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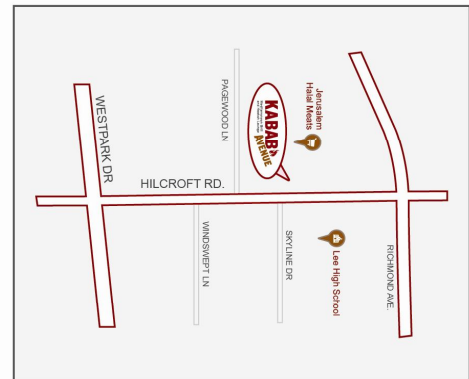
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# لقاء الأحيبة

## The Houston Chapter of the Arab American Medical Association (AAMA) Lecture Dinner

A Lecture by Jay M. Shenaq, MD, FACS founder of Plastic Surgery of Houston and Executive Director of Westside Surgical Hospital Breast Center held at the Houstonian Hotel. Dr. Shenaq talked about the latest Advances in Reconstructive Surgery for Breast Cancer. that grabbed all the attention of the attending medical professionals. Dr Nizar Tannir, president of AAMA, introduced Dr Jay Shenaq. The lecture was very successful. Here are some snapshots by Julia Nader:







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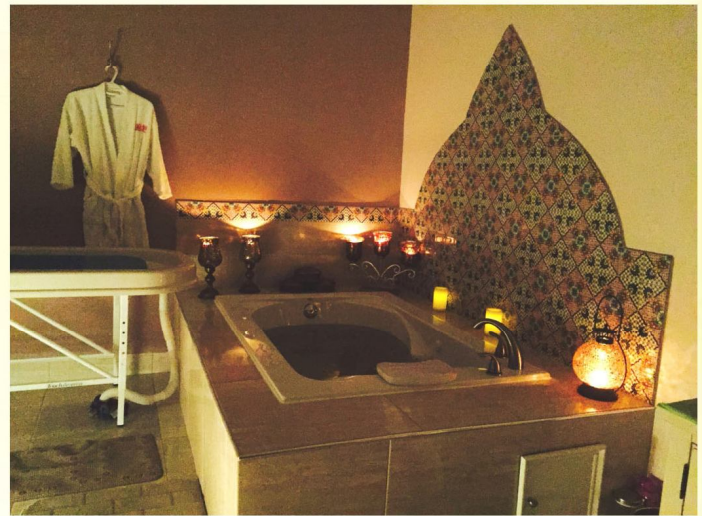
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## Turkish Airlines: Houston Star Agency Partners Awards Ceremony

Turkish Airlines, one of the world's fastest growing airlines, hosted a dinner bringing together travel partners including travel agents and wholesalers in Houston at the Hilton Post Oak. This celebration of continued growth and success is reflected with Turkey welcoming approximately 42 million tourists in the year 2014. Turkish Airlines has successfully won the award of best airline in Europe four years in a row. Currently, a new airport is being constructed in Istanbul with an expected completion date in 2018. After completion of the first stage, the airport will be able to serve approximately 90 million passengers. Upon finalization of the second stage, the airport will have a capacity of over 150 million passengers. The program highlights included the presence of Mr. Ferhat Alkan (Turkish Consul General - Houston), Mr. Afzaal Mahmood (Pakistani Consul General - Houston), Mr. Adem Ekmekci (Turkish Airlines General Manager - Houston), and Mr. Jamal Hamza (Turkish Airlines Regional Marketing Manager). A token of appreciation was awarded to Turkish Airlines by Council Member Richard Nguyen and the event was presented by Cynthia Cisneros of abc13. Pictures of the enjoyable evening.: by Julia Nader :







c'est si bon  
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# لقاء الأحيبة

## *A Rose Teaches the Roses*

An expert in arrangement of flowers and owner of *Lexis Florist*, Sue Habib, hosted the lovely ladies of Blossom River Oaks Club. The participants were eager to learn the art of flower arrangement. Each corner of Lexis Florist was filled with the fragrant scent of flowers. A rose was teaching the roses of Blossom River Oaks Club as they spent a wonderful afternoon surrounded by beautiful flowers. Each unique bloom means something as one conveys the message for a lover, a brother, a friend, or for mom. Here are some snapshots by Julia Nader:



The Houston Metropolitan Chamber, led by President and CEO Peggy Wilson, hosted a reception at SkyHouse Houston Rooftop welcoming the North African Trade & Investment Mission to the United States. The goal of the delegation is to meet companies interested in investment opportunities, identifying partnerships in the public and private sectors, and gaining insights from programs that support small and medium sized companies. Here are some pictures by Julia Nader:





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# لقاء الأُحبة

## هوشعنا في الاعالي في كنيسة الأربعين شهيداً

وارتفعت الشموع وأغصان الزيتون امام كنيسة الاربعين شهيداً ومشى المؤمنون وراء راعي كنيسة الاربعين شهيداً المتقدم بالكهنة غبريال كرم في زياح الشعانين وبصوت واحد كان تتردد كلمات : هوشعنا بالاغالي مبارك الاتي باسم الرب وهذه بعض اللقطات :



## Saint BARBARA Melkite Greek Catholic Mission – Houston Palm Sunday

وارتفع نور الشموع في زياح الشعانين لدى طائفة الروم الملكيين الكاثوليك حيث كانت الفرحة فرحتين، الاولى بدخول السيد المسيح الى اورشليم والفرحة الثانية اعلان تثبيت الارسالية للروم الملكيين الكاثوليك بإشراف الاب فادي الميماس وإعلان تسمية الكنيسة في هيوستن باسم القديسة بربارة للروم الملكيين الكاثوليك .. وبشفاعتها ستبنى الكنيسة . وهذه بعض اللقطات عن زياح الشعانين :



## أحد الشعانين في كنيسة هيوستن الانجيلية العربية

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# لقاء الأُحبة

## عيد الفصح في منزل د.جورج وأمل نصار.. وحقا قام

اقام الدكتور جورج وعقيلته امل نصار حفل غداء في منزلهما بمناسبة عيد الفصح وتميز الغداء وتنسيق الطاولات والزينة والبيض الموزع خارج المنزل وداخله ببصمات جمالية من امل نصار، وفي النهاية اجريت مباراة تفقيس البيض بين المدعوين وهذه بعض اللقطات: (تصوير جوليا نادر).







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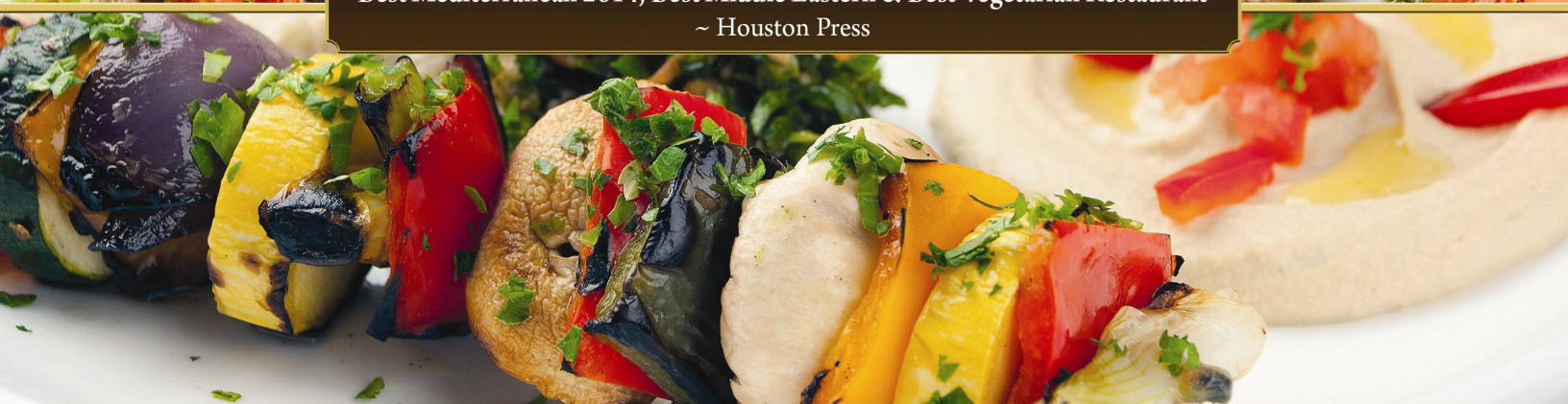
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# لقاء الأحيبة

## تيار المستقبل في هيوستن يكرم ميرنا منيمه

اقام تيار المستقبل في هيوستن حفل عشاء في مطعم Fadi's Dairy Ashford تكريما للمنسق العام لقطاع الاغتراب في تيار المستقبل ميرنا منيمه بمناسبة مرور عشر سنوات على اغتيال الشهيد الرئيس رفيق الحريري حيث القت ميرنا منيمه كلمة بالمناسبة ثم افسحت المجال لأسئلة الحضور حيث تركت اثرا طيبا في نفوس الحضور وهذه بعض اللقطات: (تصوير: جوليا نادر).



## The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Houston Palestinian Festival

The Palestinian American Cultural Center (PACC) held their fifth annual festival downtown at Jones Plaza for 2 days to highlight the culture and customs of the Palestinian heritage. Activities included folkloric dance, delicious food, and wonderful entertainment by the renowned singers Ayman Alkhatib, Dalal Abu Amneh, Aladdin Alhayek, and DJ Ashraf. Here are some pictures:





# Brian Mirza, MD, FACS

## Weight Loss Surgery

Dr. Mirza is a leading provider of weight loss surgery in the area. He has been voted as Top Surgeon by H Texas Magazine three years in a row. He is fellowship trained in minimally invasive Bariatric Surgery at the world-renowned CLEVELAND CLINIC FOUNDATION.

Brian Mirza, MD, FACS offers laparoscopic surgical weight loss procedures including:

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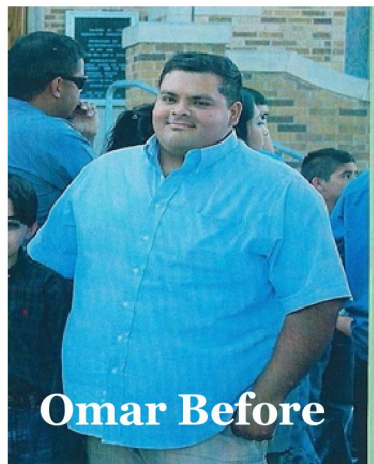


Carrie Before



Carrie After

At 310 pounds on the scale, I knew it was time for weight loss surgery. I went on the internet and did some researching, which is where I came across Dr. Mirza. I asked around and after hearing great things my decision was final, so I made my appointment. The staff was nothing but caring and compassionate throughout my entire experience and remains so to this day. Since losing 132 pounds my life has finally started. Before, I never wanted to go out with my friends and would only work out in my garage. Now I am out and about, and have no problem going to the gym. Recently I tried on some clothes that I wore in the eighth grade, and they were too big! I couldn't be happier with the results and would highly recommend Dr. Mirza to anyone looking into weight loss surgery. I have said it before and I will say it again....I'm a brand new person!



Omar Before



Omar After

I have always struggled with my weight. Being 345 lbs., I was a prisoner inside my own body. Simply put, I was miserable and felt my life was passing me by. When I came to Dr. Mirza's office in April 2011, I knew I was in good hands. Since the surgery I have lost 175 lbs! I have literally shed a whole other person! My days of suffering quietly and feeling terrible about myself for who I was, and what I had become are way behind me... they are now my PAST! Now I feel healthier than ever and I can enjoy life with my loved ones and live life to the fullest! Dr. Mirza is a great surgeon, a great listener and a great person in general. I trust Dr. Mirza so much I have recommended him to many others including my own sister!

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# لقاء الأحيبة

## Bonjour Bebe

By invitation from Mrs. Hadi (Sophia) Elhage, friends & relatives of Maria Hanna Darido came to wish her and her upcoming baby 'Health & Happiness' at the residence of Dr. George and Claudine Boutros on Winrock Blvd. See Julia's snapshots of the Baby Shower below:



## Dominique Dyck Baby Shower

Janette Shaar held a Baby Shower to celebrate the expected birth of the first child of her daughter Dominique Dyck. She invited friends and relatives to wish mother and her baby health and happiness. Here are some pictures by Julia Nader:





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