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*By Mayor Annise D. Parker*

# Planning for Houston's Future a blueprint for Promoting Houston's

***I am*** proud to announce that philanthropist Philamena Baird and Project Row House Founder Rick Lowe have agreed to serve as co-chairs of the effort to create a new cultural plan for Houston.

Houston has changed dramatically since the last cultural plan in 1994. We are more diverse economically and ethnically. The number of arts and cultural organizations has grown, and our artist community has become one of the most exciting in the country. It's time for a new plan that will position Houston as a leader and destination for arts and culture.

Rick Lowe is a strategic thinker who is tapped as a consultant on cultural projects around the world. He was selected by President Obama to serve on the National Council on the Arts. His most recognizable local project, Project Row Houses, is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Under his leadership, the organization has hosted more than 300 artists' installation, performances, readings and other related activities. He and his team have also developed affordable housing initiatives and brought new life to the El Dorado Ballroom.

Philamena Baird has a lengthy resume that includes serving as president of numerous organizations including the Moore's School of Music Society, The Houston Ballet Guild and The Jung Education Institute. She has chaired the prestigious Hunting Art Prize Event, the Shell Houston Open Eagle Awards Charity Gala, the Houston Ballet Dinner, the Miller Outdoor Theatre Advisory Board Gala, the Consular Corp Gala and the Texas Bowl.

A study released last year by the Houston Arts Alliance and the University of Houston found that the arts, culture and creative businesses, generate almost \$10 billion in annual economic benefit within the 10 county region, with the potential to double that number.

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Baraa Al-Hafez, M.D. is a fellowship trained neurosurgeon at Mischer Neuroscience Associates. He is fluent in both English and Arabic, and sees patients at three convenient locations throughout the Greater Houston area—Katy, Memorial City, and Sugar Land.

To schedule an appointment, please contact us at 713.242.4410.

## هل تعاني من آلام الظهر؟

يفد المرضى إلى ميشر أسوشيتيس للعلوم العصبية من أجل تشخيص وعلاج آلام الظهر الناجمة عن أسباب متعددة مثل الرضوح، ومرض تنكس غضاريف الفقرات، والتشنوهات، وتخلخل (هشاشة) العظام، والكسور المرتبطة بالإجهاد.

يجري مستشفى ميموريال هيرمان سنوياً جراحات العمود الفقري أكثر من أي مستشفى آخر في هيوستن. وتساعدنا تبعا لجامعة تكساس ومعهد ميشر للعلوم العصبية التابع لمستشفى ميموريال هيرمان، بمركز تكساس الطبي، في توفير أحدث الابتكارات والأجهزة للمرضى، وإجراء التجارب السريرية وفقاً لأحدث ما توصل إليه العلم.

الدكتور/ براء الحافظ هو جراح أعصاب مدرب وفق زمالة ميشر أسوشيتيس للعلوم العصبية. وهو يجيد التحدث باللغتين الإنجليزية والعربية، وينظر حالات المرضى في ثلاثة مواقع مختلفة يسهل الوصول إليها في منطقة هيوستن الكبرى — وهي: كاتي وميموريال سيتي وشوجرلاند.

لحجز موعد، الرجاء الاتصال بنا هاتفياً على الرقم: 713.242.4410.

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# لقاء الأحيبة



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## A Unique Partnership

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The University of St. Thomas and Houston Methodist Research Institute celebrated the launch of Houston's first Master in Clinical Translation Management Degree Program on September 17, 2014. After the blessing of Fr. Mike Buentello, Dr. Robert Ivany and Dr. Mauro Ferrari signed the agreement at the event in the presence of highly respected guests including Dr. Dominic A. Aquila, Dr. Beena George, and Ms. Vickie Alleman. The new program provides students with the opportunity to obtain the business skills required to move innovative treatments into clinical use. Lebanon Times Magazine congratulates the University of St. Thomas for its continued success in educating leaders of faith and character. Here are some snapshots: (Photo: Julia Nader)







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# لقاء الأُحبة

## خير خلف لخير سلف

أقام أبناء طائفة الروم الملكيين الكاثوليك في هيوستن بحضور الآباء الياس رفاع وفادي الميماس وحشد من آباء الطائفة الأرثوذكسية حفل تكريم للأب الياس رفاع الذي سلم الأمانة لراعي الطائفة الأب اللبناني فادي الميماس في صالة "The Bougainvilleas" تخلل الحفل كلمات عن خدمات الأب رفاع وإخلاصه وتفانيه في خدمة الطائفة مع شكر الأب الروحي سيادة المطران أبو سمرا . ثم القى الأب فادي الميماس ترنيلة صلاة بصوته الملائكي وكان شعار الحفل خير خلف لخير سلف. أما مفاجأة الحفل هو إعلان عيد ميلاد ماريّا عبيد حيث تفاجأت صاحبة العيد بالقبيلات تنهال على خديها مع قوالب الكاتو وأغنية سنة حلوة يا ماريّا بصوت نجم هيوستن جبور الذي أشعل باحة الرقص بأغانيه وبصوته العذب و كان معه مسك الختام ، وهذه بعض اللقطات:





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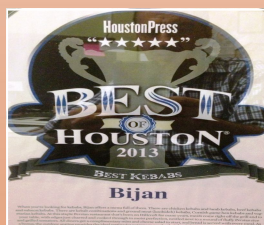
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# لقاء الأحيبة

## St. Anthony The Great Orthodox Church Celebrated their Annual Banquet

St. Anthony The Great Orthodox Church celebrated its eighth annual Mediterranean Night Gala at the Woodlands Resort & Conference Center with the presence of parishioners and the presence of Father Anthony El-Baba as well as all the loving and loyal friends. The program was filled with a silent auction, raffle prizes, and the wonderful entertainment of the evening was a solo by the talented Simone Sarkis of the Al-Awtar Zaffa Group. Here are some stills: (Photo: Julia Nader)







## Brian Mirza, MD, FACS Elias Darido, 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.

Dr. Darido is a fellowship trained laparoscopic bariatric surgeon. He has extensive experience in the surgical treatment of morbid obesity and a strong record of safety.

Dr. Mirza and Dr. Darido offer laparoscopic surgical weight loss procedures including:

- \* Sleeve Gastrectomy
- \* Gastric Bypass
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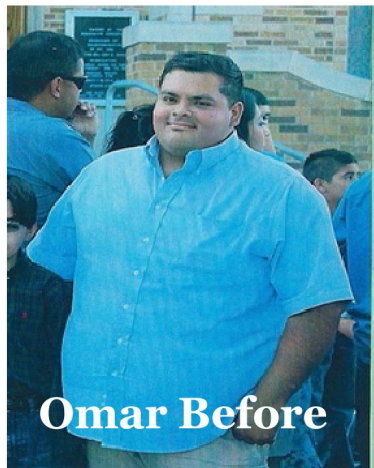


**Carrie Before**



**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!

For more information and  
success stories visit our site!

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# لقاء الأُحبة

## بالمجد والكرامة تكللا

في جو من الفرح والبهجة تم إكليل الشاب جورج أبو خليل على لين حداد في مطرانية الروم الملكيين الكاثوليك في بيروت لبنان وكان الاشبين جو شويري والاشبينة ليا حداد. وبعد الإكليل انتقل المدعون إلى فندق Le Royal صالة Azurea Ballroom حيث دام السهر والرقص حتى الصباح . ومجلة ليبانون تايمز تتمنى للعروسين السعادة وبالرفاه والبنين وهذه بعض اللقطات:  
(تصوير: جوليا نادر)







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# لقاء الأُحبة

## 2 Days with Lara Khadour

Over a two day period, Dr. Housam Khadour and Lulu Khadour celebrated their daughter Lara's tenth birthday. The first day was celebrated around the pool with twenty of Lara's friends followed by a slumber party. The next day a limousine drove the birthday girl and her friends to Arcodoro Restaurant where each guest baked their own pizza. Lebanon Times wishes Lara and her parents a very healthy and successful life. We wish all of their days to be full of happiness and celebration. Here are some stills: (Photo: Julia Nader )





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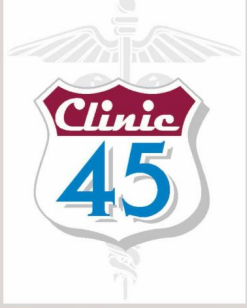
## The AMERICAN LEBANESE CULTURAL CENTER (ALCC)

launched its program during a celebration at Café Byblos. Sheriff Adrian Garcia was among over 300 people in attendance. Following the national anthems performed by flag waving youngsters, Dr. Issam Raad, and Dr. Philip Salem delivered two heart-warming speeches focusing on the Lebanese heritage and encouraging support for the ALCC. Thanks to the men and women who make up the ALCC's Board of Directors, this organization has become a reality.

(The Photos are from ALCC)







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