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A MONTHLY BILINGUAL ARABIC - ENGLISH MAGAZINE

أول الكلام

عظيمة انت يا اميركا

دائماً اتساءل ما سر قوة اميركا ؟ ولماذا الله يبارك تلك الاراضي الشاسعة التي تدعى اميركا ؟

فهي نموذج للاكتفاء الذاتي من البترول الى الذهب الى القمح الى المعادن الى وفرة بالماشية الى الاورانيوم الى سيدة البحار وسيدة الفضاء الى اكبر قوة بالعالم. فالكل يلهث وراء الدولار الاخضر .. عظيمة انت يا اميركا بل اصبحت حلم كل انسان على وجه الارض حيث تتردد تلك العبارات على كل شفة ولسان The American Dream.

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وبالصدفة استمعت الى وعظة احد الكهنة الذي قال : ان اميركا مباركة وقوتها تنبع من عيد الشكر لأنها تشكر الله، فهي البلد الوحيد التي تشكر فيه الرب علناً في عيد رسمي حيث تقفل جميع المؤسسات وتجمع شمل العائلة ليتكاتفوا ب صلاة واحدة للرب شاكرين نعمه . من هنا تستمد اميركا قوتها فهي الوحيدة في العالم التي تقول للرب : شكرا لك.

وبالشكر تدوم النعم .. عظيمة انت يا اميركا .

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By Mayor Annise D. Parker

City of Houston Launches Open Data Policy

In our continued commitment to transparency and government accountability, the city of Houston has instituted an Open Data policy to allow for greater public access to City data. Houston joins a growing number of local, state and federal government agencies across the country that are putting in place formal Open Data policies.

Under the Open Data Administrative Procedure an Enterprise Data Officer (EDO) and an Open Data Advisory Board will be appointed to work with city departments to catalog datasets, establish standards and refresh guidelines for the City's open data portal, which hosts government information in open, machine-readable formats while also ensuring privacy, confidentiality and security. The EDO and Advisory Board are also responsible for working with the public to identify important, high-value datasets.

First and foremost, this is about increasing transparency. It is also about citizen engagement and increasing the pace of innovation in our City. We want to engage the talents of our strong science, technology, engineering and math community to help us solve the challenges of the 21st century.

This portal will enable civic technologists, entrepreneurs, innovators, researchers and others to use the data to generate new products and services, as well as build businesses and develop community resources in partnership with government to better serve the public. We want to know what the public wants to see that isn't already available.

The City's Open Data Initiative ensures that we continue to move towards Government 2.0. Citizens expect their government to work for them but they are also often willing to propose ideas and solutions to help us tackle our diverse challenges. I'm immensely proud of our innovative community for stepping up over the past few years to help civic innovation thrive here in Houston. This is an important first step.



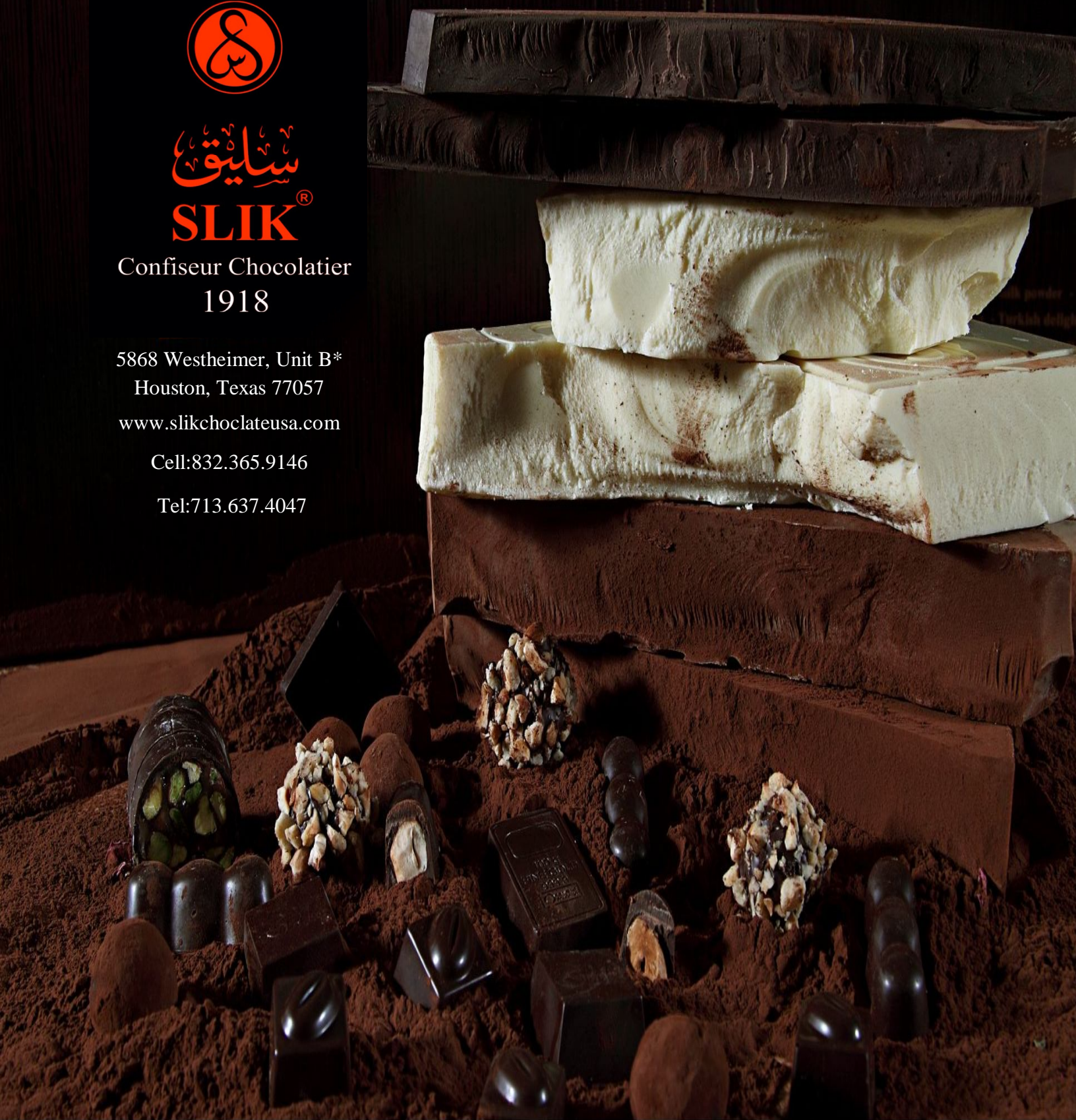
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Season Holidays at the Mayor's residence

Every year Mayor Annise Parker opens the doors of her private residence to celebrate the end-of-the-year holidays with her team, the media and friends .When we arrived at her stately home, we were impressed by the Christmas decorations and the lights outside and inside. Mayor Parker received our warmest wishes for Christmas and the New Year. *Lebanon Times* presented her the Christmas card we distributed to the community with the Lebanese flag pin. The Mayor pinned it on the heart side of her shoulder. *Lebanon Times* appreciated her gesture of acceptance and thanks her very much. Our best wishes for the New Year, esteemed Mayor Parker.

Photos: Julia Nader





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بمناسبة العيد الوطني لدولة قطر، اقام القنصل العام لدولة قطر الشقيقة في هيوستن محمد احمد الحميد حفل استقبال في فندق Hilton Houston Post Oak حضره بعض القناصل المعتمدين في هيوستن وبعض المسؤولين الاميركيين وحشد من الجالية القطرية والعربية الذين تمنوا لدولة قطر الازدهار وهذه بعض اللقطات: (تصوير: جوليا نادر)



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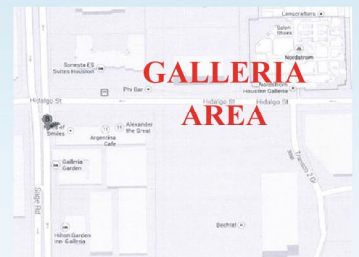
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لقاء الأحيبة

Nassar family unites hearts on Thanksgiving

For Thanksgiving Dr. George Nassar, M.D. and his wife Amal invited family members and close friends .The entire festive dinner was prepared by Amal, who, along with her husband, welcomed the guests with a smile. *Lebanon Times* wishes the Nassar family many happy holidays to come.

Here are some stills:(Photos: Julia Nader)





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Snow in Sugar Land


Snow fell in Sugar Land at the Church of the Forty Holy Martyrs during a Christmas program arranged by Rev. Father Gabriel Karam. Santa Claus was present with his sleigh along with several fun games for children and adults. Thank you Father Karam, and the Parish Council. Here are some stills: Photos: Julia Nader

اقامت كنيسة الاربعين شهيداً في Sugar Land برعاية الاب المتقدم في الكهنة كيريال كرم حفل عيد الميلاد حيث امطرت السماء ثلجا بوجود بابا نويل الجالس على عربته مع العاب ترفيهية للصغار والشباب والكبار. فشكرا للأب كرم ولجميع الذين عملوا جاهدين لإنجاح هذا الحفل وهذه بعض اللقطات: (تصوير: جوليا نادر)





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Brian Mirza, MD, FACS

Weight Loss Surgery

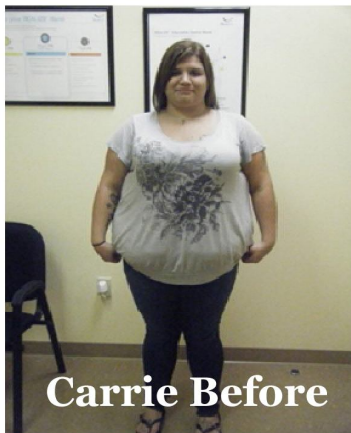
Dr. Mirza is a leading provider of weight loss surgery in the area. He has been voted as Top Surgeon by H Texas Magazine three years in a row. He is fellowship trained in minimally invasive Bariatric Surgery at the world-renowned CLEVELAND CLINIC FOUNDATION.

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

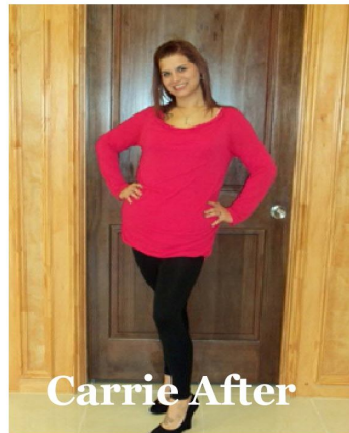
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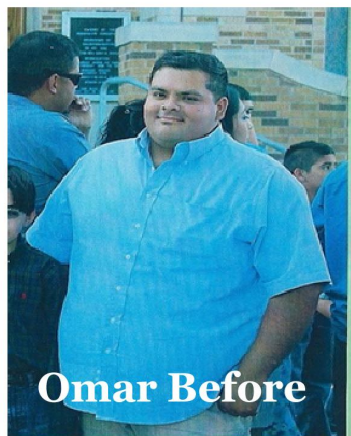


Carrie Before

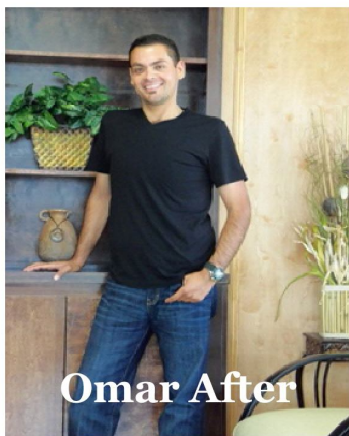


Carrie After

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!

For more information and
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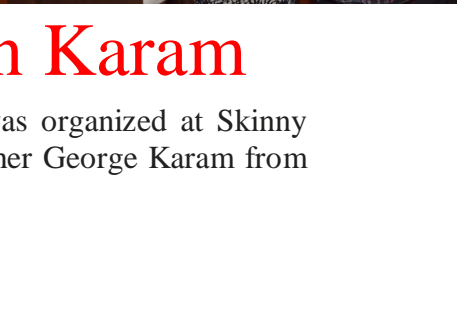
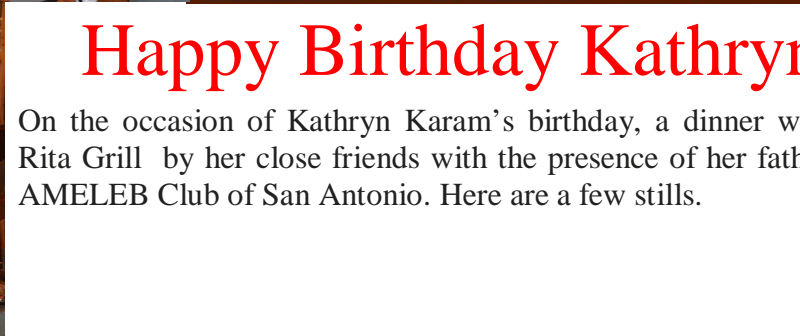
Happy Birthday Luna Mirza

Congratulations to Luna Mirza for celebrating her 4th birthday with a party with her parents and family. Blue and turquoise colors dominated the event. *Lebanon Times* wishes her many happy returns under the protective wings of her parents. Here are some stills:
Photos: Julia Nader



Happy Birthday Kathryn Karam

On the occasion of Kathryn Karam's birthday, a dinner was organized at Skinny Rita Grill by her close friends with the presence of her father George Karam from AMELEB Club of San Antonio. Here are a few stills.



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