



# American Arabic Benevolent Association, Inc.

*The Leading Provider of Social Services and Educational Opportunities to Our Arabic Community*

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January, 2012

Dear Members and Friends:

Happy and Healthy New Year to all! Winter has quickly approached and your AABA Board is diligently working to provide various activities for your enjoyment during the coming year.

On August 8, 2011, AABA sponsored a very successful golf tournament at the LeBaron Hills Country Club, chaired by William Seaver. The day started off magnificently until the dark clouds and rain joined the players. Although we were "partially rained out", everyone had a most enjoyable time.

On October 1, AABA sponsored a very successful and unprecedented event-- "Dancing with the AABA Stars". Seven dancers each representing one of our sister churches raised funds from their families, friends and business associates, put on their dancing shoes, and gave one magnificent performance. In addition, "Dancing" was a true reflection of the solidarity of our community making the dream of a second senior housing a reality. AABA stands proud of this and of the 550 individuals who attended and to those who donated. Those attending were from each of our sister churches, along with their respective clergy. "Dancing" was not only a fun evening, but a financial success -- a profit of \$69,381.27 was realized--all proceeds going to the construction of the James M. Salah Family Housing at Cheriton Heights.

On November 26 at the N.G. Beram Veterans' scholastic achievement luncheon, AABA presented two \$1,000 Scholastic Achievement Awards. The Community Service award, presented each year in memory of George Haddad - the founder of AABA, was awarded to Yasmine Owen. The 2nd award, in honor of Dr. Jerold Owen, the first president of AABA, to Marcelle Abi-Esber. In May, we will once again sponsor a \$1,000 award to the Syrian Lebanese Women's Club of Greater Boston. Total scholastic achievement awards given by AABA have exceeded \$55,000 since the scholarship program began.

Last November we again distributed food certificates to our sister churches, which enables the needy of our parishes to purchase groceries so that they had a wonderful and plentiful Thanksgiving dinner. In March, we will once again distribute food certificates to insure that the needy will have a wonderful Easter. The total amount of food certificates given by AABA has exceeded \$100,000 since the program began.

AABA once again was a Parkway Youth Soccer Team sponsor and will be again this year.

In the spring, AABA, through the American Red Cross, will sponsor our second annual Blood Drive, being held at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Annunciation Church hall.



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AABA will be sponsoring another summer season of four-day senior trips. These trips have been subsidized by AABA with special thanks to the AABA Board of Directors.

The Arabian Nights Radio Program is on every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. on 1330 AM and can also be streamed on the Internet at [www.aabausa.org](http://www.aabausa.org) - click on AABA Radio and then click on Listen to AABA Radio. New sponsors are welcomed. If you want to wish someone a “happy birthday”, “happy anniversary” or acknowledge a noteworthy celebration, let the Radio Committee know, and the announcement will be made at no cost to you.

AABA will be offering “Arabic Lessons” which will be given at Cheriton Grove evenings. Further information on this will follow by a separate mailing.

On April 27, the young people of our community are sponsoring a Hufli to benefit AABA. The Chair, Erica Zahka, has gathered representatives from our sister churches who want to “give back” to AABA. Further information will be in your church bulletin.

AABA looks forward to expanding our affiliations with other Arabic organizations in addition to the N. G. Beram Veterans’ Association, the Lebanese-Syrian Ladies Aid Society and the Syrian Lebanese Women’s Club of Greater Boston to better serve our ever-growing Arabic population. We have started our marketing campaign to promote AABA throughout the six New England States, which will enable us to expand membership growth. There are many other exciting programs that will soon be realized.

Cheriton Grove—AABA has upgraded our 60-unit Cheriton Grove Senior Housing Complex, which will be complete by the end of January. To date, the community room has been renovated and has been furnished with new tables, chairs, carpeting and a state of the art entertainment center. The kitchen has been fully remodeled and has all new cabinets and appliances. The laundry room and handi-cap bathroom on the first floor have also been remodeled. Each unit has been furnished with new windows, new kitchen cabinets and appliances and new bathrooms. The handi-cap units have also been fully renovated for upgraded handi-cap access. Additional improvements, which will soon be completed are – a second elevator, an enclosed four-season room in the rear and an emergency generator so that Cheriton Grove will never be without electricity, the entire property has been landscaped and now reflects a magnificent area of greenery, lighting and a place for enjoyment by our residents.

The James M. Salah Family Housing at Chertion Heights – During the last week of December the preliminary construction of Cheriton Heights began. Trees were removed and the parcel cleared for preparation of blasting and the full-blown construction the beginning of 2012.

Although HUD has awarded us funding, AABA needs to contribute two million dollars towards the development of Cheriton Heights to complete and furnish the Community Room, Main



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Lobby, Library, Technology Center, Gourmet Kitchen, Health Resources Center, 5 Common Area Lounges and our own permanent headquarter offices. \*For information on named-gift opportunities, please call me at (617) 694-9783 or go to our web site [www.aabausa.org](http://www.aabausa.org).

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT NOW more than ever before. AABA owns and operates the only HUD subsidized 202 senior housing in West Roxbury. Reflect on what AABA has done for our own Arabic senior population by providing safe and affordable/subsidized housing at our 60-unit Cheriton Grove. Let us join together and build Cheriton Heights – a senior housing complex so desperately needed.

View our web site at [www.aabausa.org](http://www.aabausa.org) for detailed information on all upcoming events, community news, how to become a member and much more.

All of the above endeavors of AABA cannot happen without your continued and faithful support. We ask that you renew your AABA membership for \$10 per person, consider a donation no matter what the amount may be, tell all your family and friends what wonderful programs AABA provides for our Arabic community and encourage them to join. Enclosed is a membership application so that you may renew your membership. Please help us continue the dream that the founders of the AABA have passed to us.

*Olivia A. Waishek*

Olivia A. Waishek, President