

What's On

PET PALACE

people & their pets

Look out for the Arab Times series, the Pet Palace, and read about how people and their animals enrich each other's lives.

The Palace welcomes submissions by our readers. If you'd like to tell the world about your pet, send us a photograph and accompanying article for publication.

— Editor



By Iddris Seidu
Arab Times Staff

Rashida's neighbor, Wilma, knocked on her door one morning asking if she could keep an eye on a lost terrier she found roaming around the local elementary school. Rashida agreed to watch the dog, but told Wilma it would only be for the day. The two women took photos of the dog and printed off 4,000 found fliers, stuffed them in mailboxes and also placed an ad on a local website.

In the meantime, Rashida went to the dollar store and bought some pet supplies, warning her two sons not to fall in love with

the dog. At the time Rashida's son Hamza was 10 years old, and Hussain was 21 years old. Hussain has Down syndrome and an assortment of other ailments, and had recently undergone heart and kidney surgeries.

Four days later Rashida was still looking after the dog, who they had started to call Riley. When she arrived home from work, the dog flung himself against the screen door and barked madly at her. As soon as she opened the door, Riley sprinted into the boys' room where Rashida found Hussain in the middle of a violent seizure. Riley ran over to Hussain, but as soon as Rashida bent over to help him the dog went silent.

"If he hadn't come to get me, the neurologist said Hussain would have choked on his own blood and died", Rashida said. At this point, no one had called to claim the dog so Rashida decided to keep him.

The next morning Wilma got a call; a man named Randy recognized his lost dog and called the number on the flier. Wilma started crying, and told him, "That dog saved my friend's son".

Randy drove to Rashida's house to pick up his dog, and saw Hamza crying on the porch and Hussain in the window. After a few moments Randy said, "Maybe Odie was supposed to find you, maybe you should keep him".

Kuwait

click

General

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and to consider taking the first steps to establishing a more formal organisation. This association is voluntary. It is designed to create a forum for Ugandans in Kuwait to foster a sense of community, to communicate more effectively with each other and to encourage Ugandans out here to work together. We are also planning a celebration to mark 50 years of Uganda's Independence this year. If you have any questions regarding this association or if you are interested in registering, then please send us an email at ugandansinkuwait@gmail.com. We hope to hear from you soon.

IPC GCSE Arabic Course: CAMS Training Center arranges a training course for Edexcel GCSE International Certificate of Arabic as a second language. Applicants should complete 4 Levels of Arabic and with English fluency.

The class will be twice a week for 8 months starting on Sept 13, 2015. Only for ladies.

For information and registration:
Ladies: IPC Rawdah- 22512257
Email: maria@alnjat.com.kw

Jannah Crew Tarbiyah program:

Jannah Crew is pleased to present the 'Tarbiyah Program 2015-2016' for teenage Muslim girls to help learn the deen in a fun and interesting way. The program includes Islamic teachings such as Aqeedah, Fiqh, Tafseer and Seerah. It also include various activities such as art & crafts, painting, cooking, jewelry making, sports, public speaking, cake decoration and much more!! The Students will be taken to outdoor trips twice a year.

The total duration of the program is 4 years (every Saturday, from 1-6 pm) starting from Sept 5, 2015 and it will be held in Enlightenment into Islam Center (Revival of Islamic Heritage Society, Qurtoba)

For more details contact: 65714754, 66071058, or email us at jannahcrew@gmail.com

Note: The candidate's Civil ID copy, Passport size photograph and her presence is necessary during registration at the center.

Bridge game: Bridge tournament is being held every Sunday and Wednesday at 20:00 hours, played at the Graduates Club, next to Kuwait Engineering Society. Interested Bridge pairs or individual players please contact Mohammed Merchant, Tel: 24815622, 24841158, 99612287.

South Kuwait Toastmasters meet:

South Kuwait Toastmasters Club (SKTM) is a non-profit educational organization that operates for the purpose of helping members, improve their communication, public speaking, interpersonal and leadership skills. Membership in South Kuwait Toastmasters is open to all people, aged 18 and above, wishing to improve their communications and leadership skills. People below the age of 18, wishing to join toastmasters, are served through gavel club programs. Club meetings are scheduled during 2nd & 4th Mondays of every month between 1900 hours and 2100 hrs followed by a dinner. SKTM organizes the meeting at Apartment 4, Floor-2, Villa # 690, Street No. 171, Block 1, Mangaf, Kuwait. For more details to participate as guest in our meetings and to enquire about the membership feel free to contact Ganesan R. (President @ 9720 9910), Jinesh N. R. (Vice-President Membership @ 9713 0229) or Shibu Pallickal (Vice-President Public Relations @ 9985 2331). South Kuwait Toastmasters Club sponsors 4 gavel clubs and a toastmasters club. Gavel Clubs focus on improving the Communication, Public Speaking, Interpersonal and Leadership skills among teenagers. Gavel Clubs operate on every Thursday, from 1730 hrs to 1900 hrs and every Friday, from 1600 hrs to 1730 hrs. For more details on Gavel Club activities and joining formalities, please feel free to contact Kannan Ravi @9789 2835.

Sports

Kwt-Brits football supporters: A new football supporters website for British expats living and working in Kuwait has been set up by an Everton supporter, Trevor Powell. The Kuwait Brits Football Supporters Association (KBFA) site aims to provide contact information for supporters of each other's whereabouts and also in the future hopes to organise social events such as quizzes and even five-a-side matches on a home international teams basis. We need expats to register their support and hence we can then start to cast around for a suitable meeting venue. The site can be accessed at www.kbfa.co.uk.

Free fitness classes: Free fitness
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Kuwait City's skyline ever so beautiful.

KUNA photo - Ghazy Qafaf

New Look

He sees hope in new generation of Kuwaitis

Ghanim humble, unpretentious Kuwaiti official

Today's article takes a look at Ghanim Abdullateef Al-Ghanim, a humble Kuwaiti official of noble descent with a Master's Degree in International Business. — Editor

By Lidia Qattan
Special to the Arab Times

Ghanim Abdullateef Al-Ghanim is a cultured, educated Kuwaiti of noble lineage; his forefathers were part of the group of families, the "Atub" stemming from the great Aniza tribe, who left Nejd, their homeland in Saudi Arabia due to hard conditions that threatened their survival. Seeking a new land in which to settle and make it their home the Atub engaged in an odyssey that lasted over 50 years of wandering, during which time they were first welcomed by their cousins in Qatar. There they learned and mastered the arts of ship-building and seafaring; with their ships they began engaging in commerce, but their growing prosperity began causing jealousies. Feeling no longer welcomed the Atub left Qatar in search of a new land in which to settle. Sailing north of the Gulf they landed at Basra, but the Ottoman authorities denied them asylum; moving south they first landed in an area that is now Kuwait City, but soon left and moved to the nearby island of Failaka, then returned to their original landing site to settle, that was about in 1716. At their arrival in the area there were some fishermen; other settlers were practicing some form of cottage farming where ground water was discovered.

From a small settlement built with material available in the area: coral rocks from the sea and mud for mortar, a new town grew up, Kuwait that soon began to be known throughout the Gulf for its intrepid sailors and merchants. Al Ghanim clans became part of the elite merchant class engaged in commerce and trade by sea.

Prosperity

Within few decades the town had expanded with a population of about

10,000 people, a large fleet of sea-going ships engaged in commerce and trade through the Gulf and a chain of caravans carrying goods to and from Damascus contributed to its growing prosperity. It was at this time around 1756 that Al-Ghanim and the other elite merchant families: Al-Bader, Al-Ibrahim, Al-Khalifa, Al-Jalaima and the others felt the need of a leader among them to govern the community. The unanimous choice fell on Sheikh Sabah Bin Jaber, everyone trusted for his integrity, good leadership qualities, strong character, and benevolent nature; other prominent families contending for the leadership were Al-Khalifa and Al-Jalaima. When Sheikh Sabah became the ruler to Al-Khalifa was given the responsibility of sea-going commerce and trade and to Al-Jalaima the responsibility of commerce to and from Damascus by caravans.

Sheikh Sabah Bin Jaber was destined to become the founder of the Sabah ruling dynasty; for at his demise the choice of a new leader went to Sheikh Abdullah his fifth son, so Al-Khalifa left for Bahrain where it established its own kingdom with the help of the Kuwaitis, and Al-Jalaima went to Iraq, nothing more was heard of its destiny.

Legacy

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah continued the wise legacy of his father maintaining the peace and stability in the country that contributed to its development and prosperity enhanced by promoting and maintaining good friendly relations with his neighbors; such has been the policy of all his successors to this day. Incidentally the benevolent leadership of Al-Sabah inspired many rich families to carry out generous deeds towards the poor, thereby helping to



Lidia Qattan

create a strong sense of belonging and pride in the community; indeed the Kuwaiti community was like a big loving family, everyone feeling for everyone else, helping and comforting one another in time of need. To these days many of those elite families that made Kuwait prosperous and renowned throughout the Gulf in the pre-oil era are still keeping up the tradition of generous deeds, helping poorer families and building clinics, hospitals and specialized medical centers. Al-Ghanim medical center is an example of this legacy.

From the time they settled many of the Al-Ghanim members became intrepid skippers and merchants, the family tradition continues to this day as many are among the most renowned tycoons and successful entrepreneur in this country. Ghanim Abdullateef may not have the stamina or the steam of the merchant, that special disposition to engage in commerce and trade like his forefathers, nonetheless the feeling for business is latent in his genes, perhaps for this reason he chose to have a Master's Degree in International Business.

Commerce

Born in the fifties, during the rule of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, the lovable Father of modern Kuwait, who in barely 15 years transformed his country into a thriving modern welfare state with a diversified economy based on industry, commerce and trade on a global scale. Ghanim grew up witnessing not only the phenomenal economic transformation of his country, but also the dramatic change in the lifestyle and behavior of his people.

In the midst of that change most members of the elite merchant families remained essentially the same: resourceful, hard-working, open-minded and proud, but unpretentious, even humble in their human relations, while all around them people were changing, becoming more self-centered, losing that sense of community and belonging that united them into a family in the



Ghanim Abdullateef

past.

Ghanim was the only boy in his family, he had sisters but no brothers, so he grew up feeling special, however he was far from being spoiled by his parents, like every youngster of the elite merchant class he was brought up to strictly abide to the noble principles of his cultural heritage. His schooling began from the first grade; unlike other children he did not enter the kindergarten. In 1972, at graduation from high school he entered the Kuwait University; in 1976 he got his BA in Finance and started his working career in the government sector to expand his knowledge in the field through first-hand experience. He then got a scholarship to continue his post-graduate studies in the USA; at his return home with a Masters in International Business he continued working in the government sector, then at the Central Bank of Kuwait.

Ghanim is a quiet, unpretentious man; the only time his serene tenor of life was shattered was during the Iraqi invasion, though he and his family suffered no reprisal from the Iraqi Mukhabarat, the whole experience of what he saw and felt remains a painful

memory of betrayal that can never fade away from his mind.

After seven long months of tension and uncertainty, the moment of liberation was a rebirth, an indescribable joy so intense that it overshadowed all his other feelings and emotions. But as he opened his eyes to the new day in a free country and he went around to see what happened to his beloved Kuwait during all that time, the appalling devastation and destruction he saw everywhere shocked him. Remembering the fallen martyrs of his land, the young men and women in the resistance who suffered torture and martyrdom at the hand of the Iraqi Mukhabarat he began thanking God from the depth of his soul that Kuwait was set free at last, and as soon as he could leave he went on pilgrimage to Makkah with his family for thanksgiving.

Support

Incidentally during the invasion Ghanim rejoiced at the return of the old community feeling among his people as they came together for mutual support, helping and comforting one another as in the old days. His expectation of a big change in his country after the liberation was flared by the thought that such a cataclysmic event in the life of his people would have shaken their old spirit into action. But after the liberation, when life began returning to normal, all his expectations were thwarted when he saw his people becoming yet more self-centered and egoistic.

Still he holds his hopes on the new generation of Kuwaitis, those who feel for their country, especially the young engineers, architects, lawyers, entrepreneurs, scientists, artists and others, who are joining forces to overcome the lethargy their country has been suffering for decades. Through their joined activities, while spreading awareness in what needs to be done for the country to be moving ahead, they are also creating a sense of community, a feeling of belonging, which in reaching a critical mass will be of far reaching consequences in the life of the nation.