



## e-Council Connection

Arab American and Chaldean Council (ACC)

July 2008

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### **Greetings!**

In observance of Independence Day ACC offices will be closed on Friday, July 4, 2008.

ACC wishes you a fun and safe holiday weekend!



*Community Shows Support for Education*

## ACC Scholarship Awards Dinner - June 4, 2008



On June 4 about 200 friends and supporters came together at Shenandoah Country Club in West Bloomfield for the Arab American and Chaldean Council's (ACC) Sixth Annual Golf Outing & Scholarship Awards Dinner. The annual event raises funds for ACC Scholarship Awards Program.

After a day of golfing, guests participated in a silent auction reception and an awards dinner. United Way for Southeastern Michigan's Chairman Reginald Turner served as the event's honorary chair while the event co-chairs were Gerard van Grinsven, President and CEO for Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital, Brenda Schneider, Senior Vice President for Comerica, and Jerry Shannon General, Manager for Country Fresh. Following the reception ACC conducted a live auction for an Executive Suite at Comerica Park for the Detroit Tigers.

The following students were selected as this years scholarship recipients, Lawrence Namait from Stevenson High School, Tamara Rabban from Southfield-Lathrup H.S., Ali Sobh and Hadi El Hussein from Fordson H.S., Rachel Abouzaid from Cousino H.S., Joseph Habib from Salem H.S., Candice Yousif from Utica H.S., Brandon Perry from Pershing Tech H.S., Fatima Mansour from Warren Lincoln H.S., and Russul Al-Shimary from Star International Academy.

Thank you to our sponsors: Central Intelligence Agency, Country Fresh, Charity Motors, Comerica Bank, General Motors, D&B Grocers, Audette Office Equipment, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Beaumont Foundation, Wayne County Vision Fund, Henry Ford Health System, DTE Energy, MFBA / MBPA, Guardian Alarm, Ameriprise Financial Services, Gold Corp, Dr. Haifa Fakhouri, Mr. Abe Munfakh, Avery Hasler & Associates, Atlas Oil Company, Artistic Outdoor Services, Great Lakes Wine & Spirits, Greektown Casino, United Wholesale, Clark Hill PLC, Detroit Marriott, Coca-Cola, UAW International Union, Midwest Auto Auction, Anheuser-Busch, Falcon Management, Gateway Community Health, Exclusive Reality/1500 Associates, Michigan Republican Party, Mosaic Design Group, Johnny's Electric, International Carpentry, Fairlane Town Center, Health Care Administrators, Allstate Insurance, Optech,

## ACC Poster Presented at Summit



ACC's Public Health Research and Education department's abstract poster on "Prevalence of Hepatitis C Among Arab & Chaldean Americans in Southeast Michigan" was chosen for the National Minority Aids Council's (NMAC) 2008 HIV Prevention Leadership Summit. The summit was held June 11- 14, 2008 at the Detroit Marriott Hotel at the Renaissance Center in Detroit. ACC presented its poster on Thursday, June 12 and Friday, June 13.

This year's Summit featured institutes, workshops, roundtables and other sessions that were primarily intended for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grantees and had a major focus on CDC-funded HIV prevention efforts. The goal of the meeting was to bring together leaders in HIV prevention to disseminate and exchange information to enhance program planning and management.

In addition, the abstract titled "Hookah Use among Arab, Chaldean and Caucasians community in SE Michigan" has been selected for Poster presentation during the 136th APHA Annual Meeting & Exposition (October 25-29, 2008) in San Diego, CA. The abstract was selected from a large number of submittals and was judged to be of high quality and interest.

The poster is scheduled to present at the following session: Tobacco Issues in Immigrant & Other Populations, scheduled for Monday, October 27, 2008 at 4:30 PM.

[View Poster](#)

## Citizenship & Immigration Director on ACC radio show



ACC Ma Aljalia Radio show featured Mr. Mick Dedvukaj District Director of Michigan Citizenship & Immigration Department. Before coming to Michigan to assume his responsibilities as director Mr.

Dedvukaj spent ten years with the asylum office in New York serving as deputy director. During the one hour live interview, Mr. Dedvukaj discussed the issues related to his department as well as addressed the critical immigration and naturalization concerns which are of primary importance to the community. During the interview he announced that the USCIS will be relocating to a new building, which is currently under construction, in January next year. He stated that this move will create ample space for both his staff and clients leading to better and more proficient services.

Mr. Dedvukaj offered his personal insight regarding the citizenship test, that the new

test will greatly educate test takers on America's history and the significant events that took place in American Society. Mr. Dedvukaj stated that his department is no longer handling the medical waiver and that it has become strictly in the Jurisdiction of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). He also addressed questions which included topics such as back ground checks, adjustment of status, biometrics and other immigration issues.

Mr. Dedvukaj praised ACC's efforts in educating and reaching out to help the community and expressed his interest in working together with ACC and provide a question and answer session to the community.

### ACC Races for the Cure



ACC joined hundreds of metro Detroit corporations and families for the 17th Annual Komen Detroit Race for the Cure, presented by the Karmanos Cancer Institute on Saturday, May 31, 2008 at Comerica Park to raise funds to fight against breast cancer.

In addition to serving as a sponsor ACC had a team of 16 individuals. Thank you to everyone who supported ACC in its efforts to make a difference.

[Read More](#)

### LEBFEST '08

#### **LEBFEST '08 - The 2008 Lebanese Festival**

*A Vibrant World-class Celebration of Heritage, Culture & Art*  
Shain Park in Downtown Birmingham.

The two-day weekend event - also known as a 'Mahrajan' - will take place on Friday, August 1 from Noon - 10PM & Saturday, August 2, from 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM and feature: specialty food booths offering tasty Lebanese cuisine & American fare; Artisans, Crafters and Lebanese merchandise tents, a Children's Fun & Play area, a live concert with Mediterranean and American Music & Cultural Dance, Middle Eastern Bellydancers, a traditional Ethnic Bazaar & Market, and the nearby Community House Outdoor Terrace Café with fine wine & dining.

Admission is free as are the first two hours of structure parking. Guests are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on to enjoy the concert.

CONTACT: JOHN AKOURI @248.320.7300 FOR MORE INFORMATION



Making a Difference

ACC 29th Annual Gala - Sept. 13th

Arab American and Chaldean Council (ACC)  
29th Annual Civic & Humanitarian Awards Gala  
Saturday, September 13, 2008  
Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center

For additional information contact Kimberly Salem at (248) 559-1990.

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