

Arab American Journal

الجورنال العربي الأمريكي

The Voice of Arab American - Established in 1995 عام تأسست
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Merry PALESTINIAN CHRISTMAS

**Jesus of Nazareth
is a Palestinian
Born and Raised**

By Emily Deveraux
Arab America Contributing Writer

Arab American Journal
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منحة بحث دراسية \$500 Research Study Grant

The Khair Foundation in Memory of Juma'a Mousa Khaireddin, offers \$500 to any college student who would research and prepare a detailed study of the history of the Arab and Muslim Americans in the State of Colorado.

Historical monuments and artifacts reflect that a huge number of Lebanese of Arab heritage have lived in Colorado since the 19th century. They were brought to Colorado as part of the U.S. expansion of the national railway system. It's believed that they helped in building part of the Santa Fe rail in the Southern Colorado—Northern New Mexico sector.

They ultimately settled in Southern Colorado. The 2000 Census Bureau reflects that there are close to 18,000 Coloradans who reported they are of Arab origins. It is more likely that most of them are of that wave of settlers.

The study requires documented evidence that can support the research like newspaper/ magazine articles, pictures, statements by persons who have first hand knowledge of the evidence claimed.

If you are or know somebody who might be interested in this research study, an email to: Grants@KhairFoundation.com an outline of personal information as well as the means planned to use.

The Khair Foundation was founded in May 16, 2003 after the passing away of Juma'a Mousa Khaireddin, May his Soul be Blessed. He left behind nine children (Eight Males and One Female): Mousa, Marwan, Mua'awia, Mazen, Mahdi, Muneer, Maysoon and Mohammed. They all got married and have children and grandchildren. For further info, check: www.KhairFoundation.com



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The Voice of Arab Americans صوت العرب الأمريكيين

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Mission

The Arab American Journal is published to reflect a true picture of the Arab American communities in the USA and Canada. It is available both in print and online to satisfy its readers. Our aim is to dissipate the stereotyping of Americans of Arabian origin and to recognize and promote their achievements. It is designed as a support network.

Letters/ Emails Policy

The Arab American Journal occasionally publishes letters and emails from readers. All letters and emails must include name, phone number and address. Materials will be published as space allows and the discretion of the editors.

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Publisher's Corner

"To decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the later."

3rd U.S. President Thomas Jefferson
1801-1809



زاوية الناشر

"إذا وجب أن نقرر بين وجود حكومة بلا صحافة، أو صحافة بلا حكومة، لا شك أنني أختار اللاحق."

الرئيس الأمريكي الثالث توماس جفرسون

1809-1801

Peace Be Upon You All!

I have been asked by many friends and readers as to why all my publications include the above statement by the 3rd U.S. President Thomas Jefferson?

Well, first of all, I am a Jeffersonian in my thinking and believes based on my admiration and appreciation for President Jefferson and his influence on our U. S. Constitution. His vision, wisdom and writings has led our founding fathers of the US to debate over and over again every article in the Constitution that created a forever lasting document that every American treasures and the world admire.

Second, Jefferson's belief in the Freedom of Speech gave us the First Amendment of Speech that has and is still giving the media the freedom and protection it needs. Our American media is considered the fourth branch of government and of equal importance to the Executive, Judiciary and Legislative branches.



السلام عليكم!

سؤلت من بعض الأصدقاء و القراء عن سبب وجود فقره الموجوده في الأعلى للرئيس الأمريكي الثالث توماس جفرسون في كل ما أنشر؟

في الحقيقة، أولاً، الجفرسونيه هي طريقتي في التفكير والإعتقاد معتمده على إعجابي وتقديري للرئيس جفرسون وتأثيره على دستور الولايات المتحدة. رؤياه، حكمته و كتاباته جعلت أباؤنا المؤسسين للولايات المتحدة إلى العديد من المحاورات حول كل جزء من الدستور فأنتجت وثيقه دائمه يقدرها كل أمريكي ومعجبه في كل العالم.

ثانياً، إيمان جفرسون بحرية الكلام أعطتنا أول إضافه للدستور التي أعطت وماتزال تعطي وتحفظ ما تحتاجه حرية الإعلام. الصحافة في أمريكا تعتبر رابع جزء من الحكومه مساوياً في الأهميه للأجزاء التنفيذية، المحكميه و التشريعيه.

What went wrong?

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- (1) **Everybody** (2) **Somebody**
(3) **Anybody** (4) **Nobody**

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Everybody thought that **Somebody** would do it, but **Nobody** asked **Anybody**, therefore it was not done. Yet, **Everybody** blamed **Somebody**, when actually **Nobody** asked **Anybody** to do it!

ماذا حصل خطأ؟

هذه قصة أربع أشخاص:

- (1) كل شخص (2) بعض الأشخاص
(3) أي شخص (4) لا شخص

كان هناك شغل مهمه يجب عملها. كل شخص كان متأكداً أن بعض الأشخاص سيعملها. أي شخص كان ممكن أن يعملها، لكن لا شخص عملها.

كل شخص إعتقد أن بعض الأشخاص سيعملها، لكن لا شخص طلب من أي شخص أن يعملها، لذلك لم تعمل. مع ذلك، كل شخص لام بعض الأشخاص، في الحقيقة لا شخص طلب من أي شخص أن يعملها!

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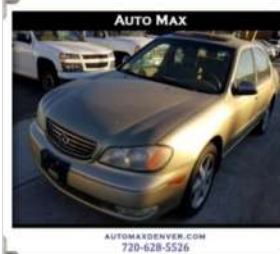
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Jesus Christ is a Palestinian ...

By Emily Deveraux/ Arab America Contributing Writer

This Christmas season, let's reflect on Jesus' life and the historical areas of that far away land. While there is a debate about who is Jesus, still, there is some evidence of his Palestinian heritage. He especially represents Palestinian culture in many of his teachings and actions.

Bethlehem is a small town, only ten kilometers south of Jerusalem; it's

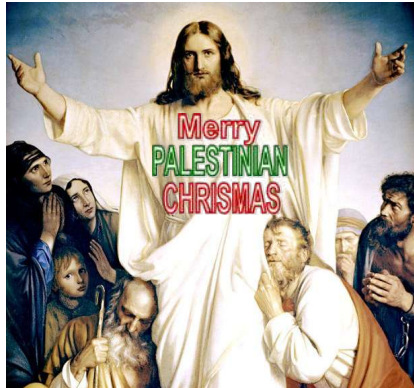
Born in Bethlehem

the town where Jesus Christ was born to the Virgin Mary and was laid in a manger. He was born in the heart of what is called "The Holy Land". Around the second century (AD), believers constructed the Church of the Nativity. It was built over this specific cave because it's believed to be Jesus' birthplace.

Bethlehem is religiously significant due to Jesus' birth. However, today the city is at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It's Palestinian families who lived and still living in Bethlehem. However, around 2001 violence between Israel and Palestine escalated. The Palestinians in this region faced restrictions and lived in fear of violence. However, Bethlehem isn't simply a hostage city of this conflict. It is a historic city where Christ was born, the earliest sculpture was crafted, and the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered.

However, Jesus did not grow up in Bethlehem. If you are unfamiliar with the birth of Jesus, check out this online article that explains Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem for the census, where Jesus was born! Following Jesus' birth and some time in Bethlehem, the family traveled to Egypt to ensure Jesus' safety from danger.

<https://www.whychristmas.com/story/birth.shtml>



Nazareth

Upon the return from Egypt, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph resettled in Nazareth in northern Galilee, the home village of Mary, where she received the news of giving birth to the Messiah. Here, Jesus grew up among his family and eventually grew up to become a carpenter. He learned his carpentry skills from Joseph, who treated him as his very own son throughout Jesus' childhood. Jesus, who was Jewish, grew up and attended the synagogue each Sabbath day in Nazareth. This region, which was regarded in the Bible as a smaller community, became the site of many remarkable milestones in Jesus' life. Today, Nazareth is a beautiful city!



Is Jesus Christ a Palestinian?

Jesus' heritage isn't discussed often. He is commonly called Jesus of Nazareth but because countries

were not named the same as their modern names at this point; although Jesus did not discuss Palestinian heritage or Arab heritage, we still know that Jesus spoke Aramaic, which is a language sharing roots with Hebrew and Arabic. Additionally, we know for sure that Nazareth, where Jesus' human familial line is from and where he lived, was in Galilee which was recognized in Palestine. The establishment of Israel as a state has sparked controversy. However, since the land was formerly part of Palestine, it is more likely that Jesus was a descendant from the Palestinian culture, that has resided there longer. Nazareth is in the northern corner, and it is right outside of Lebanon and not too far from Syria.



Jesus' Palestinian Customs and Traditions

In their culture, the family is the core of the Palestinian experience. Because of inconsistencies within the government, the primary safety net for many Palestinian people is family. Additionally, the family is important in forming and maintaining identities. Children typically grow up with a sharp sense of responsibility to their family and

(Continued on page 8)

Jesus
Pales
Raise



The Fashion Corner ...

By Samiha Badran

Tamara Nasr, a Lebanese international fashion designer extraordinaire is currently visiting the US as part of her international business expansion. She collaborated with Salwa Owens' Fierce in the City 4 fashion show where Tamara presented her collection of Evening Dresses—see opposite page.

Tamara studied fashion design and marketing. She received her masters in Florence, Italy. She attributes her design collections to the opportunity she had to work with Maison Valentino in Paris at age 25. Ten years ago she started her own Maison De Couture in Beirut, Lebanon in collaboration with renowned Lebanese international designers. Her small business grew to become international. She opened her Pret a Porter shops in Paris and Dubai. Upon

building her brand name, she consolidated all her businesses under "Tamara Nasr Couture".

Tamara's collections include Wedding and Formal Evening Dresses. She has a line of Accessories. She just started her men's coats line which will be formally launched in New York for the winter season. Tamara's Collaboration with Salwa Owens is their first in many more to come.

There has been four yearly successful Fierce in the City fashion shows in the Denver area. Salwa Owens shows are leading Denver to become a hub for national and global fashion designers. Salwa is also a Fitness curator known for her inventive moves.

I can be reached at: Samiha@ArabAmerican.us



Tamara Nasr Wedding Dress Collection Designed and Tailored in Beirut Lebanon. Available in Beirut, Casablanca, Denver, Dubai, London, Los Angeles, New York, Paris



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Tamara Nasr and Salwa Owens Collaboration Collection Presented at the Fierce in the City 4 Fashion Show at the Halcyon Hotel in Cherry Creek, Denver on December 15, 2019

(Continued from page 5)

maintain this responsibility with age. Jesus exemplified strong family values, specifically in coming to do his Father's will. Additionally, Jesus expanded his scope of family throughout his time on earth, by seeing Apostles, friends, neighbors, and others as his family. At the time of the Crucifixion, Jesus dedicated his mother, Mary, to the disciples, who she took as sons. This demonstrates Jesus' strong family values by unifying his friends and mother as family.

Similar to treating neighbors as family, everyone is welcomed warmly. This ties into a Palestinian value of hospitality. Arab culture in general typically upholds a strong

sense of generosity and hospitality. Jesus displayed hospitality among many people, whether it was his closest friends, the poor, the tax collector or the lepers. He kept all different people as a company and offered help to all regardless of their religion or ethnicity. At the Wedding at Cana, Jesus turned water into wine for all of the guests. He demonstrated hospitality by providing all guests with wine.

Lastly, Jesus acted with great honor, like many Palestinian people. Jesus acted modestly and he remained chaste. Additionally, he upheld education in religious teachings and carpentry skills. He also served his community and his Palestinian neighbors. These are all acts of honor in Palestinian culture.

Jesus emulated such values in nearly all of his teachings, and he acted with honor when he performed the miracle of healing lepers. He did a great service to his leper neighbors and did not turn a blind eye as many others have.

Many people can see Palestinian culture through the teachings of Jesus. Many people also draw on the current historical parallels, specifically regarding the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. He was displaced and had to flee to Egypt, however, he still returned to Palestinian land. Throughout his life, he fought for human rights for all, especially the poor and disadvantaged.



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أعضاء الجاليات العربية بحمل العلم الأمريكي مع أي علم آخر في أي إحتفال أو مظاهره. للعلم، السفير زاحم من مواليد لبنان ويتكلم ويكتب العبيه ومن قراء ومشجعي هذه المجله "الجورنال العربي الأمريكي". لحسن الحظ كان لناشر هذا الجورنال الشرف بتقديم شهادة "عربي كلورادو" لعام 1998. للمزيد من المعلومات عن عربي كلورادو زوروا موقعنا على الإنترنت قسم التثريف:

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بالمنسبة أتمنى لكم أعياد سعيدة وكل عام وأنتم بخير.

جداً. أحد أعلام الجاليه من أصل لبناني المحامي السناتور الأمريكي السابق جيمس أبو رزق/ ديموقراط من ساوث داكوتا 1973 - 1979 أجاب على هذا السؤال بصعوبة وبعد محاورات مع باقي المؤسسين عندما أسس "المجلس الأمريكي - العربي لمكافحة التمييز" عام 1980

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الخلاف كان حول التسميه "الأمريكي العربي أو العربي الأمريكي". سناتور أبو رزق كسب الحوار و سميت "الأمريكي العربي". للعلم، المجلس مازال موجوداً وله مركز مهم في واشنطن وفروع في عديد من الولايات. موقعها على الإنترنت

أهمية هذا الموضوع ركز www.ADC.org عليها السفير الأمريكي السابق في البحرين د. سمير "سام" زاحم (1983 - 1986) عضو

الحزب الجمهوري كلورادو) في العديد من اللقاءات والاجتماعات. السفير زاحم كان و مازال ينصح

أهلاً بكم جميعاً وأتمنى أن أستطيع في هذه المقالة أن أبدأ معكم الحوار في هذا السؤال الذي يطرح نفسه بنفسه علينا نحن الموجودين في كل وقت ... سواء كان ممن نتعامل معهم من عامة الأمريكيين أو المسؤولين الحكوميين بالإضافة إلى أعضاء الجاليه... خاصة بين المهاجرين بعضهم البعض أو مع أولادهم وبناتهم المولودين في أمريكا. طبعاً المعتق الديني له تأثير كبير!!

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