

20TH CENTURY'S MOST IMPORTANT

The people nominated as the most important Assyrian personalities in the last century have three things in common: they demonstrated resilience despite much hardship, they succeeded in inflaming the fires of Assyrian nationalism and hope, and each instigated a change in the status quo like never seen before. They led the people through mass exoduses, wrote poetry and love songs, inspired the future generation, and met with the leaders of Middle Eastern and European nations to bring closer unity among the disparate factions of this rapidly dispersing nation. Often ill-equipped to compete with their social and political foes, they succeeded in surpassing the expectations of their flock and fans.

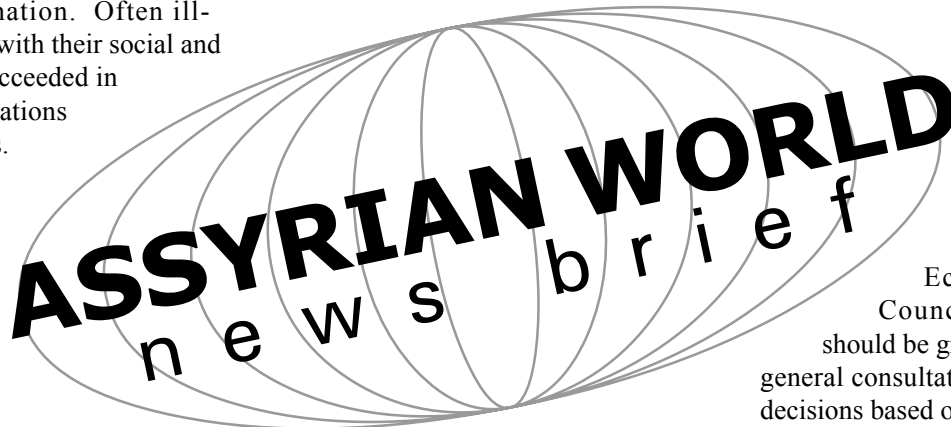
The most important Assyrian persons of the Twentieth Century according to the Zinda Magazine readers are:

1. Agha Petros d'Baz (-1932); commander of Assyrian armies from 1915 through 1920's
2. Mar Benyamin Shimmun (-1918); 117th Patriarch of the Church of the East
3. Naum Faiq (1868-1939); political activist and journalist
4. Dr. Freidoune Atouraya (-1924); political activist, author and poet
5. Malik Yacub d'Malik Ismail (1894-1974); commander of Assyrian armies, author, political activist
6. Mar Ishai Shimmun (1908-1975); 119th Patriarch of the Church of the East
7. William Daniel (1903-88); music composer, author, poet, social activist
8. Yosif Malik (1899-1959); political activist, journalist, author, delegate to international conferences
9. Dr. Sargon Dadesho (1948-); activist, author, radio-television commentator
10. Ashur Bet-Sargis (1949-); musician, vocalist, poet

ANCIENT ARTIFACTS DISCOVERED IN SOUTHERN BET-NAHRIN

(ZNDA: Baghdad) Earlier this month, according to the Iraq News Agency, an excavation team at the Department of Antiquities and Heritage of the Ministry

of Information and Culture has unearthed 397 artifacts dating back to the middle of the third millennium B.C. in Basmyia (ancient Adeb), southern Iraq. The pieces found include pots, cups, jars, clay tablets with cuneiform and Sumerian writing, and a number of cylindrical seals. One of the seals depicts a pastoral scene and a tall man with horns, possibly King Gilgamesh or Enkidu of the Epic of Gilgamesh. Other finds include weapons of different sizes, round and open clay sewers, animal-shaped toys, wheels, carriages and miniature humans. The excavation began in November of last year and will continue until 2002.



ASSYRIANS IN IRAN CELEBRATE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION

(ZNDA: Tehran) According to the Islamic Republic News Agency, the Assyrian communities in Iran have agreed to participate in a ten-day ceremony marking the 21st anniversary of the Islamic Revolution. In a joint statement with other religious minorities- Zoroastrians, Armenians, and the Jewish groups— Assyrians announced on Saturday that they are “ready to participate massively in the special ceremonies.” The statement also congratulated the leaders of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei and President Mohammad Khatami. The statement read: “As the citizens of the Islamic Republic of Iran, all minorities voice their strong determination to participate in the construction of the Islamic Iran... and despite the foreigners’ hostile propaganda against Iran, the Islamic Republic has always been the messenger of peace, friendship and freedom for people across the globe.”

Due to such public display of satisfaction with the government’s treatment of the Iranian Christian minority groups, the governments of Austria and Pakistan are refusing to issue visas to the hundreds of Assyrian refugees abandoned in Vienna

and Islamabad

ANC NOT ACCEPTED TO U.N. CONSULTATIVE STATUS

(ZNDA: New York) Last Thursday, the United Nation’s Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations decided to recommend that the Economic and Social Council not accept the application of the Assyrian National Congress for consultative status. At the request of the representative of the United States, the Committee voted on Lebanon’s proposal to reject the application, approving it by a vote of 11 in favor to one against (United States), with six abstentions (Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, France, Ireland, Romania). The Committee is charged with making recommendations to the

Economic and Social Council on which groups should be granted roster, special or general consultative status. It makes its decisions based on the criteria set out in the provisions of Council resolution 1996/31, and considers issues such as groups’ capacity to contribute to the work of the Council and support the aims of the United Nations Charter, as well as matters such as membership and financial regimes.

ASSYRIANS PROTEST at the HOLOCAUST CONFERENCE IN SWEDEN

(ZNDA: Stockholm) Last week an international conference on the Holocaust was held in Stockholm, Sweden. The purpose of this conference was to “galvanize efforts to educate others about the extermination of two-thirds of European Jewry in World War Two.” The gathering came amid a number of related developments, including a prominent trial in London involving a notorious Holocaust-denier, several official inquiries by European states into their nation’s role during the Holocaust, and the possibility of a xenophobic right-wing party’s entry into the ruling coalition in Austria. The Assyrian community of Sweden, majority of whom are Suryoyo-Assyrians, protested the disregard for the occurrence of other genocides in the past century—namely the 1915 massacre of the Assyrian and Armenian populations in Turkey.

NAOUM FAIK

70TH ANNIVERSARY

ܡܘܨܝܘܢܐ ܡܠܟܘܒܐ ܕܡܪܝܡ ܦܝܟܝ

to church liturgy.

He started teaching in Diyar Bakar in 1888. He was to remain a teacher for the most part of his life at various postings in the Middle East, including various assignments in Turkey, Lebanon and Syria.

Faik established the 'Al-Entibah', a religious association in 1908, and then published 'Kawkab Al-Sharq' (Eastern Star) newspaper.

Having experienced previous attacks on Christians living under Ottoman rule, at the age of forty-four, Faik fled to the United States, in 1912. There, and in 1916, under the name of N.E. Palek, he continued publishing his most widely read periodical, Bet Nahrin magazine in Syriac, Arabic and Turkish until his death.

In 1921, he was appointed Chief Editor of the 'Huyada' (present Hujada) published by the Chaldo-Assyrian National Association, which he did until it stopped.

Sanharib Balley, a friend of Faik's, once wrote saying: "Before Naoum Faik many people came, but they all took from the Assyrian culture and translated it to other languages but he distinguished himself by translating from other languages to Assyrian, thus while others were exchanging our heritage he was adding to it."

In the US, The Naoum Faik Assyrian Book Fund is a library endowment fund intended for the use of Columbia University in Building and maintaining a collection of material related to Assyrian history and culture during the Christian era.

Faik is also credited with writing the Lebanese National Anthem.

Throughout his life, Faik preached about the necessity of schools, printing presses, and



magazines as tools for survival and building nationalistic understanding in the youth. Naoum Faik believed that the interest of the Assyrian nation should always be put ahead of personal interest. He was born poor, but because of his beliefs he lived poor and died poor, but what he left is a wealth money cannot buy. He left an awakening in the Assyrian nation, an awakening which is taking roots in us as people of one origin with distinct heritage and culture and the right to shape our own identity.

Naoum Faik passed away on February 5th, 1930, after a prolonged illness. ■

Reference:
-Zinda Magazine, 26 Jan, 2000.
-Assyrian Forum, Fred Aprim;www.aina.org/bbs.

No sooner had the millennium-Bug hype has settled, I heard someone comment that the real test is yet to come. Apparently, the 29th February will pose some problems for computer systems - being the extra day of the leap year, which is coinciding with the new millennium.

I really think that our imagination gets the better of us at times. I truly cannot comprehend the logic behind that person's comment. But what strikes me about this is our infatuation with the end of our world.

We always talk of Dooms Day, a nuclear third World War, and many other ideas which have turned into movies that we have watched with anticipation.

There is a bigger problem than the catastrophic future we keep on predicting for ourselves. The present is a concept that we have forgotten about; in a book that tells you how to be happy, I read that we would be happier if we enjoyed the Now, and not constantly anticipate the Future.

There is also the matter of Truth. History is very vague, and we cannot be sure of all the facts that we are presented with in history books. And the future is only a dream. So we can find the greatest amount of Truth in the moment we are currently living.

I think we should leave the past where it is, and let the future happen without predicting it, and ruining the plot for everybody. Right now there are wars being fought, and there are millions of people experiencing many hardships - poverty, abuse, homelessness, etc.

At times it seems that we are on our way to Dooms Day, but it really is not that bad if we all do our bit. If the "end of the world" comes about, we are all at fault, not just the evil, the good is to blame as well.

Committing an evil act is a wrong, but the greater wrong is when the good allows the evil act to take place.

I tried to explain this concept once, but I was answered with: "But what can I do?"

No one has to do much. If every Australian citizen gave ten cents, 1.8 million dollars can be collected. Ten cents is a small sacrifice, but when there are many people involved, a big difference is made.

Good will only lead to better. We are part of this world, and it is in our hands to make it better. All we need is for everyone to sacrifice their ten cents. ■

Sennacherib Warda

editor's note

Australia Day

immigrated 40,000 years ago, or the English 200 years ago or the Assyrians 30 years ago, we are all descendants of immigrants. This nation has welcomed with open arms people from all four corners of the globe, including Assyrians. Assyrians through their turbulent history have been through so much tragedy and devastation, and many that have made this country home, it is only now that they are experiencing their first taste of peace and

harmony. They are enjoying the rewards of being Australian, that is an excellent system of democracy, social welfare and a high standard of living.

On this Australia day we must reflect back, especially as Assyrians, were we came from, and where we are now, and never forget the debt that is owed to this beautiful country of ours, we call Australia!!! ■

U Say

"U Say" is an on going discussion on issues that affect us.

DISCUSSION 1

Have we forgotten about our people who still remain in the Middle East?

DISCUSSION 2

Is it right for an Assyrian guy/girl from the West to travel to the Middle East to marry an Assyrian guy/girl?

DISCUSSION 3

What is our "Culture", and what are our "Traditions"?

▶ No, Assyrian guys should not go to the Middle East and marry Assyrian girls. The girls are pretty and young and most don't know any English or have an education. The guy brings them here, gets them pregnant and ruins their life. he makes them stay home all the time cook, clean, and look after his kids. The guys shouldn't have such high expectations if they are losers!

Ninawa/ 15/ Melbourne, Australia

◀ In response to your ad. I would like to point out that I believe it is only natural for an Assyrian guy/girl to choose their own partner. I understand that our girls/guys from the West are finding it difficult to accept this. Some reasons I believe that may cause this are:- lack of communication between Assyrian guys and girls - lack of social gathering - family restrictions for an Assyrian guy/girl to choose their own partner - lack of parental education ie. Facing the facts of life.- lack of trust within themselves eg. an Assyrian guy travels to the East to choose his partner in order to find a woman who as yet has not been "around".

He believes he can teach and train her in his way of life. But at that moment he is not fully aware of the consequences he will face later in his life. ie. he will be fully committed to her both financially and socially. I also believe I should make you aware that a girl hardly travels or travels at all to the Middle East to choose her partner. This is because it is obvious that a male will choose his partner. Girls cannot confront a male and ask for their hand in marriage. If this has ever happened I personally have never seen or heard of a situation as such. I would like to make you aware that luck plays a big part in life. At the end it is all destiny.

Thanking you,
Jacob Haweil

Forward all responses to: nakosha@hotmail.com - Nakosha, P.O.Box 948 Merlynston, Victoria, 3058. Australia

From page 1

The Untold Holocaust

a video review

-Nicholas Al-Jeloo-Production Assistant and Pictorial Research;
-Shamiran Shahen-Researcher and interviewer of Survivors; and
-Philimon Darmo-Narrator.

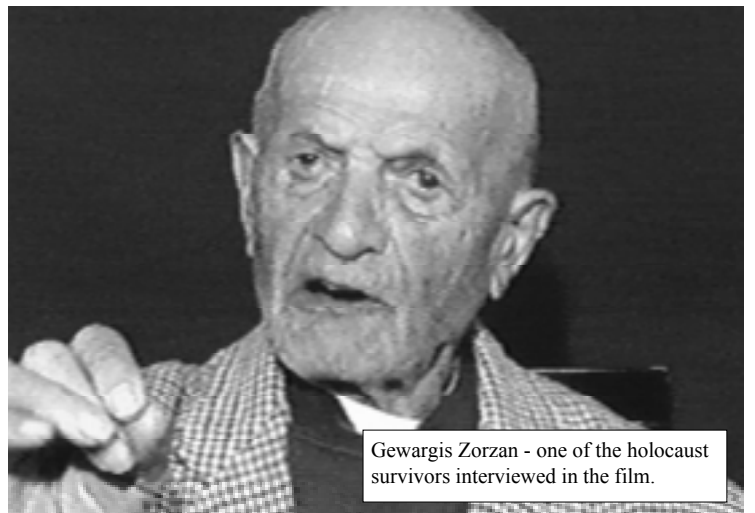
I did not have the opportunity to attend the Conference, but I was fortunate enough to obtain a copy of the documentary and view it. I must admit that a short while through viewing the documentary, I became subject to a myriad of emotions including sadness, anger, depression and the like. The documentary is set against a backdrop of war, famine and devastation. This is certainly a positive feature in context of the Assyrian massacres, as it clearly depicts and conveys to the viewer the horrifying tragedy experienced by thousands upon thousands of innocent Assyrians. Moreover, the very professional fashion in which the documentary is produced is worthy of much praise. The film includes very detailed graphic accounts from many eyewitnesses, newspapers and books from the period. In addition, it contains interviews conducted with survivors of the massacres of the Assyrian people in Turkey.

It must be mentioned that during this dark period in Assyrian history, over 750 Assyrian villages were destroyed and over two-thirds of the Assyrian population died during the brutal and merciless

attacks on Assyrian villages, by Ottoman forces. Those lucky enough to be spared, became destitute and had to march for days on end without any food and very little water.

Some people in the audience, at the conference were moved to tears by the film, while one young Assyrian present, burst, remarking, "it makes you hate your life".

Claudette Ichayagouri commented, "We had a factual basis... eyewitness accounts from those that had seen the genocide with their very eyes and experienced it, documents from the British and Russian government archives and newspapers- all fact and all used to prove that this dark and sad period in our history actually happened! It was sad," she continued, "when our case was not accepted by such an assumedly enlightened, open minded academic", referring to Dr. Sonyel, the person responsible for presenting



Gewargis Zorzan - one of the holocaust survivors interviewed in the film.

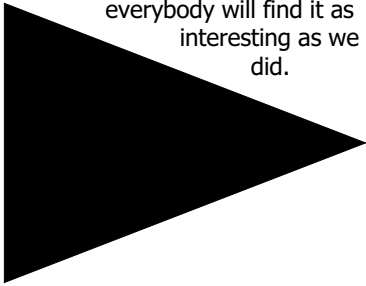
the Turkish viewpoint about the massacre.

This documentary is a unique source of information on the Assyrian massacres in the early quarter of the twentieth century, backed with fantastic visuals. TAAAS, alongside the many people involved in the production of "The Untold Holocaust", ought to be commended for a job well done!!!

Reference: Purely Academic Magazine

LETTERS

When conducting last month's survey, we received this reply. We thought it would be a shame to scale it down and include it as part of the survey answers. So we have included the full letter, and we hope that everybody will find it as interesting as we did.



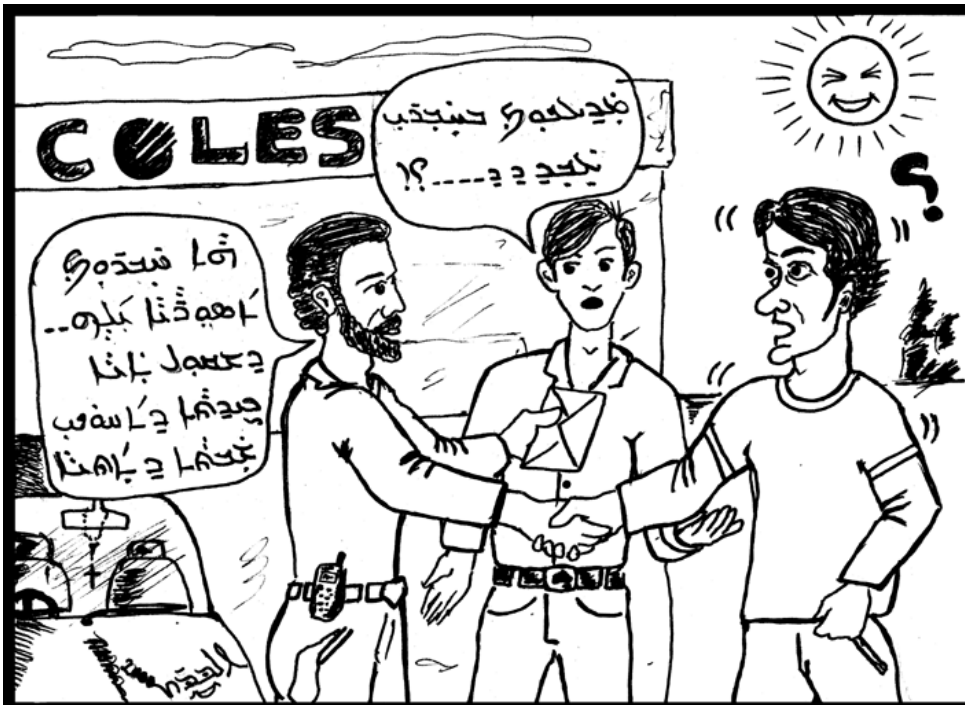
Unfortunately my information will not be of help to you since I am not a teen-ager and I am a father of two. However, I can contribute to what I, as a father, see one of the problems in communication of parents and children. I am 47 Year young Assyrian Father of two; I was born in Baghdad, Iraq and I live in San Jose, California, USA for 30 years now. I have a teenager in my home that I've raised under very loving, understanding, trusting and friendly conditions. It is understood that I am a father but I am also a friend; that I can joke around, share silly thoughts and games, spend times talking about things that are important to my teenager, spend time going out together to places and things we both like and appreciate. But there is also the time, when I am the father and I am the authority. I am very sensible in my judgment, and my rules, conditions and judgments are fairly weighed, they are clearly explained and supported by facts and reality issues; and the consequences of disobedience are also

explained and clear. With all this said and done; although at times my teenager does not agree or like what I say or make a judgment on; eventually, it comes back to saying "Dad, you were right about what you said", "Dad, now I understand what you wanted was better for me" and such responses that indicate a trusting, friendly, but authoritatively respected relationship between parent and child. My teenager has been assured that nothing, no matter how awful or ugly that can be done, is worth keeping a secret. That our love for our children is not conditioned on specifics, and if those are not met, love is taken away or lost! That should never happen; My Teenager, always comes to me and to Mom, depending on what the issue is and then all of us finally discuss and resolve the issue at hand in a lovingly fashion. I hope this will help.

Regards,
Esha Tarmas

Have you ever been invited to an Assyrian wedding in which you didn't know either the bride or groom?

- ▷ Male/26/Melbourne
- ▷ NO
- ▷ Female/18/Melbourne
- ▶ Of course!! and sometimes you have to go, it seems more like "politics!" than going and sharing a special day with someone. now tell me that's not ridiculous?!!
- ▷ Female/ 21/Canada
- ▶ NEVER was invited/ attended an Assyrian wedding.
- ▷ MALE/22/Sydney
- ▶ YES
- ▷ Female/21/Sydney
- ▶ Yes
- ▷ Female/24/Sydney
- ▶ Yes I have been invited to assyrian weddings where I didn't know the bride or the groom..... There are times that I been to a wedding I only knew one or two people.
- ▷ Male/16/A|Sydney
- ▶ Hell yeah! But at least its better than staying at home. Plus, back in the villages, the whole village would be invited even though many people didn't know each other (especially in



- your own culture.
- ▷ Male/42/Brit. Columbia
- ▶ Well, the answer to your question is :Yes/ No. Yes, because when I was younger and in our homeland country "Iraq", I used to go with my parents/ relatives to wedding parties of bride/groom and I did not know. As, I got older, then I am going to weddings of bride and groom that I know ONLY!!.
- ▷ Male/21/Chicago, IL
- ▶ YES ONE TIME.
- ▷ Male/ 22/Sweden, Sodertalje
- ▶ No, not yet.
- ▷ Female/19/Melb, Aust
- ▶ Yes, we have been

the larger villages) because it was a chance for them to practice their culture... The more young Assyrians meet and hang out with other Assyrians the better we can stick together as a nation. Things like this, whatever the circumstance, give you the opportunity to practice and learn all about

invited to an Assyrian wedding not knowing either the bride or the groom. I find it very strange that u can be invited to a wedding not knowing who the people are, that's so ridiculous, all Assyrians do is if they say hi to u then they will invite u to the wedding and I think that's wrong.

The Fast of the Ninevites

Bawoota D'Ninwaye

The 'Fast of the Ninevites', also known as 'The Rogation of the Ninevites', is a holiday that will be commemorated by Assyrians worldwide this year from the 14th to the 16th of February. However the true origin, significance and meaning of this holiday have been forgotten by today's generation. This article will attempt to explain this holiday's origins and provide a window into an age-old Assyrian holiday.

The duration of the holiday, along with its name have both been derived from the Old Testament's book of Jonah. "And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights". "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

However, the true origins of the holiday itself point to the time of the bubonic plague pandemic, also known as the 'Black Death', which ravaged Europe, as well as the Middle East, between 1347 and 1351, taking a proportionately greater toll of life than any other known epidemic or war up to that time. The Assyrians of the Middle East, who were then part of the Persian empire, were also struck down by this murderous disease during this period.

The spiritual leader of the Assyrians at the time was Mar Sobrisho the metropolitan-bishop of Beit Slokh.

According to tradition, after Mar Sobrisho had finished praying to God he was divinely inspired to proclaim a fast and make petition, so that the plague would end.

He commanded that all the people assemble with him at church; and after the first day of petitioning and prayer, which was a Monday, the few deaths that occurred were attributed to those who had already been afflicted by the plague prior to the commencement of the fast.

After the sixth day of the week arrived, which is also known as the 'Day of Preparation', the people believed in the miracle that they had witnessed and considered that they were pardoned and sanctified. This is understandable as none of the newly afflicted plague victims inside the Church died of the disease.



Due to this miracle the fast was commemorated every year, and it has continued to be handed down throughout the centuries right down to our present generation.

Traditionally the fast required the abstinence from food, or specific types of food, for a duration of three days and three nights, while some only went without eating meat or dairy for the same period.

Of those who totally abstain from food for three complete days, there are some that take it upon themselves to do this for either three or seven consecutive years, which is known as *Qawelli*.

After the three day fast was complete, traditional Assyrian women used to make a type of flour called *Poukhen* which was created by roasting and grinding several kinds of beans together. This flour was then rolled into a dough with a dab of butter, a pinch of salt, and sugar for taste which were then rolled into concave balls. Another form of pastry called *Rijya* saw this flour prepared in a pan with butter and a little salt until it was mixed into a runny paste before being baked.

The *Poukhen* could also be added to a pan with melted butter and mixed into a paste before being spread into *Lawasheh* bread and folded into triangles.

These foods were then baked and eaten by the members of the household, usually with tea, after the fast was over.

Tradition has it that the dry form of the *Poukhen* flour also saw single Assyrian girls mix it with salt and before sleeping they take their thumb and dab it into the flour and eat it. This is repeated seven times, apparently to imitate the Prophet Jonah who ate sand when he was thrown out of the whale and landed on the beach. They then drink water and fall asleep hoping to dream. That night whichever male the girl sees offering her water, in her dream, apparently becomes her future husband.

History and tradition aside, the 'Fast of the Ninevites' should serve the purpose of not only connecting the modern Assyrians to their Assyrian ancestry, it should also serve to remind us of an important piece of our Assyrian identity that has been preserved throughout the ages. ■

David Chibo

Special thanks to Atoureta, Raman & Hanna for assistance in completing this article.



PH.13 17 60
24 HR SERVICE

BATTERY WORLD PRESTON

Independently owned and operated by
Michael Younan

Michael & Simon Younan

Managers

497 Plenty Rd.

Preston, Vic. 3072

Phone: (03) 9471 2655 Fax: (03) 9471 2699

Mobile: 0414 474 000

Email: service@batteryworld.com.au

www.batteryworld.com.au

ARBIL KEBAB



Fine Middle Eastern Food.
Dips, Salads, Kebabs, Felafel &
Hot Bread Daily.
Stuffed Lamb & Chicken
We cater for all occasions

345A High St. Preston.
Ph: (03) 9470 1752 Mobile: 0413 816 926
Open 6 days a week - 10am to 8.30pm

ملف لغوي

كلمة لغوية

اَلْاِسْتِغْنَاءُ.....	aa-lee-so-eeth.....	necessity.....	aa-lee-sa-eeth.....	اِسْتِغْنَاءٌ
صَبْرٌ.....	san-doo-go.....	box.....	san-doo-qa.....	صَبْرٌ
مَوْلَاةٌ.....	yor-thoo-tho.....	possession.....	yar-too-tha.....	مَوْلَاةٌ
مَدِينَةٌ.....	mdee-no-yu-tho.....	civilisation.....	mdee-na-yu-tha.....	مَدِينَةٌ
سَبَبٌ.....	el-tho.....	cause.....	el-tha.....	سَبَبٌ
بَيْتٌ.....	beth-saw-bo.....	faculty.....	beth-saw-ba.....	بَيْتٌ
مِثْلٌ.....	mes-o'-yo.....	middle.....	mes-aa-ya.....	مِثْلٌ
مَدِينَةٌ.....	maa-den-ho.....	east.....	maa-den-kha.....	مَدِينَةٌ
مَدِينَةٌ.....	shaw-to-pho-tho.....	community.....	shaw-ta-poo-tha.....	مَدِينَةٌ
هَيْئَةٌ.....	hai-yo-u-tho.....	identity.....	hai-ya-u-tha.....	هَيْئَةٌ

learn your
language

JACK YACOUB & ASSOCIATES

Certified Practising Accountants

Jack L Yacoub

A.A.S.A., C.P.A.

Suit 4, 2A Brunswick Rd, Cnr Nicholson St, East Brunswick, 3057.
Tel: 9387 8111 - Fax: 93801018

A1 BAKERY



Elias Farah
Manager

PH/FAX: (03) 9386 0440

643-645 Sydney Rd.
Brunswick, Victoria. 3056

BABYLON CABINETS

Specialising in:
Kitchens, Wall Units & Shop Fittings

Fac. 3, Lot 13 Barrie Rd.,
Tullamarine, Vic. 3043
Melway Map 15, H4

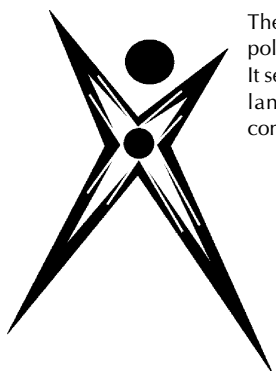
Phone: (03) 9335 1598
Mobile: 0416 151 413
Fax: (03) 9335 1596

GOLDEN HAIR Salon

Latest Hair Fashions

We speak Assyrian

Tel: 9386 9973 - 122 Sydney Road, Coburg
Present this voucher, and receive a 30% discount



The Assyrian Youth Group of Victoria is a non-political, non-religious and non-profit organisation. It seeks to promote the Assyrian culture, history and language, as well as the Assyrian name and community, bringing it to the world stage.

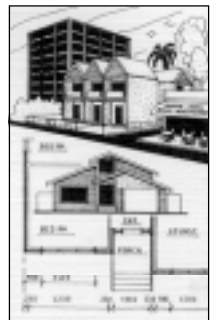
AYGV

P.O. BOX 948 Merlynston, Victoria,
3058. Australia.
nakosha@atour.com
www.atour.com/aygv

Edward Ivano

Architectural Design & Drafting Services

Preliminary Sketches, Permit Plans, Working Drawings for all types of Buildings - Residential & Commercial - New Buildings, Extensions, Renovations



Suite 317, Royal Domaine Corporate Building, 370 St. Kilda Rd.
Melbourne, Victoria 3004 - Mobile: 0408 180 887 Fax: 03 9686 2604