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The Assyrian-Australian Youth Publication

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**Feature Report on the Conference PP 4 & 5**

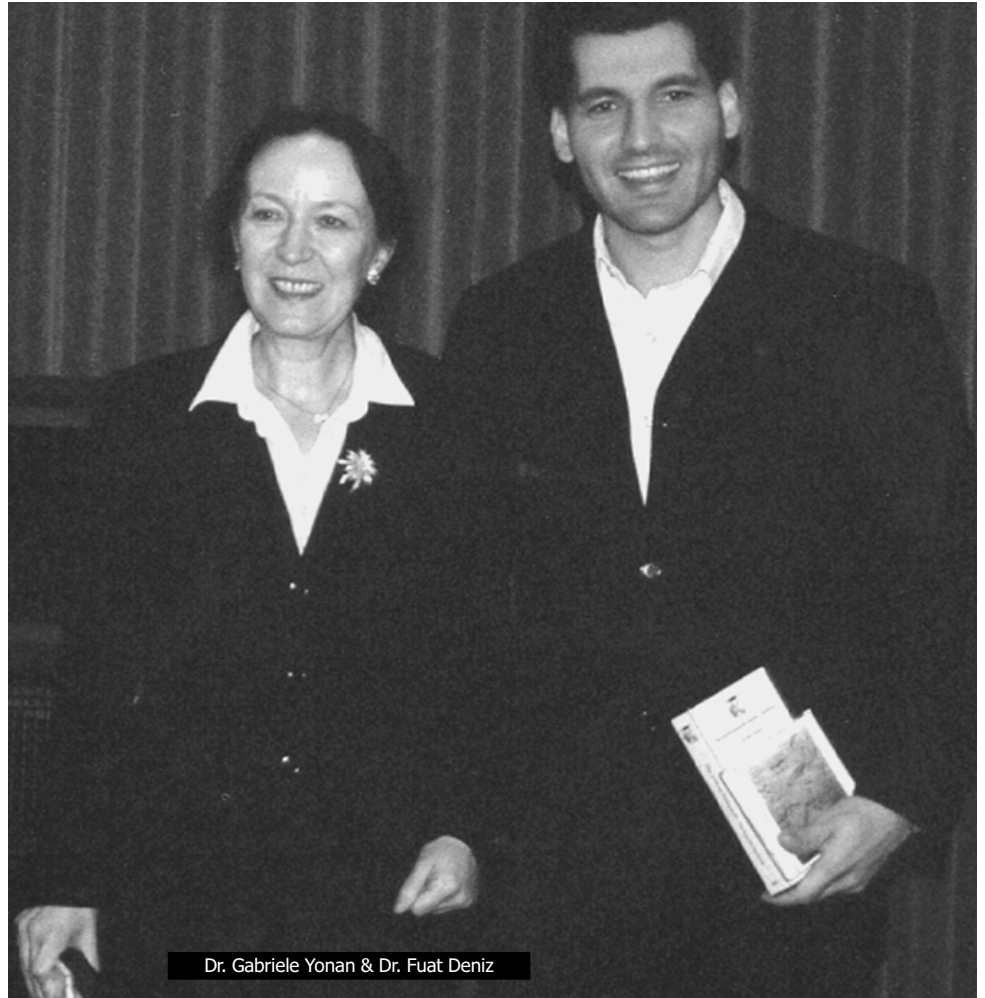
# You've Come a Long Way Baby...

Fairfield Community Arts Network  
Media Release, 15 July 2000

**Y**es, two young Assyrian people will be seen by millions of viewers around the world during the Medal Ceremonies in the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. Nahren Al-jeloo and Sargon Karim have been chosen to take part in presentation of Medals, Flowers and Flags, by the 2000 Olympic games organisers.

Fairfield Community Arts Network (FCAN) was approached by the Medal Ceremonies committee and asked to encourage young people from the community to apply for Medal presentation positions, during 2000 Olympic games. Few young people from Fairfield community did so.

Nahren and Sargon are honoured and feel very proud to be selected for these positions. This is a special celebration for the Assyrian community, because most probably this is the very first time that two Assyrian young people have been given this opportunity. So look for these beautiful young people during the 2000 Olympic Games and salute them.■



Dr. Gabriele Yonan & Dr. Fuat Deniz

## ASSYRIANS

• AFTER

## ASSYRIA •

Persecutions & Massacres of the Syriac Speaking Christians

# TUTORIALS

Being such a nice bunch at the AYGV, we have gotten together a few University qualified tutors who will be available every Sunday to assist you with your studies. The tutors can help with classes, study techniques, time management, and other academic needs.

They will be held every Sunday from 6-8pm, at the Coburg Library (Rear Meeting Room) Cnr. Victoria and Lousia St., Coburg

The tutorials are organised for Semester 3, starting from Sunday, 16th July, 2000 to Sun 10th September, 2000

### IRAQ BUYING BACK MESOPOTAMIAN ARTIFACTS

(ZNDA: India) After decades of turning a blind eye, officials in charge of Iraq's rich heritage of antiquities are trying to save what they can. Instead of threatening the artifact pilferers with prison, financial rewards are being offered for the safe return of treasures taken. "The size of the reward depends on how rare the items are and the extent of any damage," said Donny Gerge Youkhanna, director of the official antiquities documentation centre.

Buying back stolen antiquities is part of a programme by the Iraqi leadership to halt organised artifact crime. Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein awarded the campaign top priority after several incidents when up to 200 men armed with machine-guns attacked and plundered burial sites. "This kind of thing never used to happen," said Youkhanna. "It used to be sufficient to post just one guard at an archeological dig."

Archeologists in Iraq say the drain on the country's heritage is considerable. Amid the chaos caused by the 1991 Gulf War, 11 museums in provincial capitals were either destroyed or ransacked. Around 4,000 pieces are missing. "A lot must have been hidden away in Iraq during this period," said the official.

### ASSYRIANS JOIN MIDEAST LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IN THE U.S.

(ZNDA) According to a Mideast Newswire report on June 29th, 13 ethnic organizations in the United States including Copts, Lebanese, and Assyrians have formed a Mideast Christian Leadership Conference.

A Press Release by Freedom House international issued in Washington DC stated that "leaders of Mideast Christian organizations in the United States formed a national conference, named MECHRIC (Middle East Christian Conference). The new conference will raise the profile, in Washington, of the concerns of the various Christian communities in the Middle East."

The announcement was made at a meeting convened at the U.S. Capitol by U.S. Senator Sam Brownback, Chairman of the International Relations Subcommittee of Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, and Freedom House's Center for Religious Freedom.

The meeting focused on the special historical role of Christian communities in the Middle East and the importance of the spiritual,

intellectual and cultural contributions of Christians in the Middle East both to Christianity itself and democracy in general.

### ASSYRIANS @ AUSTRALIA'S CELEBRATION 2000

Brothers and sisters, On Saturday June 10th, 30,000 Christians from every part of Australia arrived at Stadium Australia, to sing, dance and parade as a part of Celebration 2000 and the Global March for Jesus. It was fantastic to see representatives of the Assyrian Nation standing together around the track in



Iranian Parliament or Majlis, recalled that "revelation" was the common element of all divine religions and observed that Islam puts great emphasis on peaceful coexistence with followers of all religions.

The Iranian president said that the status of affairs in Iran and its fate equally affected all its nationals, regardless of their religion, and highlighted the need to prepare appropriate living conditions for the followers of all

religions.

Khatami underscored the heavy responsibility of Majlis deputies who represent religious minorities and expressed hope that all Iranian minorities would cooperate to deal with their own affairs. In

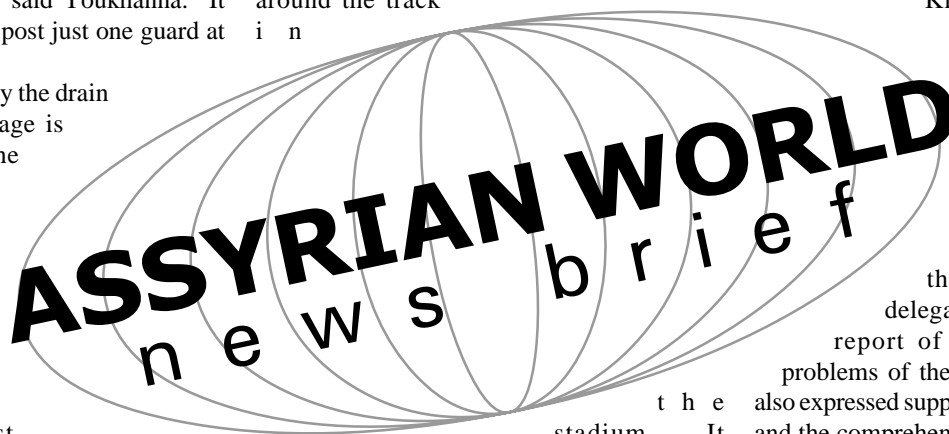
the meeting, the Assyrian delegates presented Khatami a report of the current status and problems of the Assyrians in Iran. They also expressed support for the reform programs and the comprehensive development plans of Khatami's administration.

### ASSYRIAN-SURYOYE DEMONSTRATORS OCCUPY GOVT BUILDING

(ZNDA) According to a report published in Beth-Suryoyo-Othuroyo, on July 24, nearly one hundred members of the Patriotic Revolutionary Organization of Beth Nahrin (PROB) entered the governmental building in Lausanne, Switzerland to attract the attention of the media and the Swiss government officials toward the precepts of the Treaty of Lausanne, ratified in 1923. An official statement was presented to the Swiss government and the European Parliament. According to the report a lawsuit against the Treaty of Lausanne will be filed.

The demonstrators forced their entry into the government building where the historical Treaty of Lausanne was signed. Last month the city of Lausanne had previously denied permission for their peaceful demonstration. The Treaty of Lausanne granted almost no rights to the Assyrian people. The Assyrian-Suryoye activists demanded an increased improvement in the treatment of the Assyrian-Suryoye people by the Turkish Republic.

Report compiled by Matay Arsan, Holland.



brought tears to my eyes to see the unity and the love of God showing through the Assyrian group. The many colours in the Assyrian customs and the magnificent FLAG had a great visual impact on those watching. Many people commented on how lovely the Assyrian group was and what an impact it had on the audience.

We have had so much positive response towards the Assyrian group. Thank you all for your commitment, your love and for being part of this once-in-a-lifetime event - Celebration 2000. May God bless the Assyrian Nation all around the world.

Shoshan Homeh, Australia

### KHATAMI RECEIVES ASSYRIAN REPRESENTATIVES

Courtesy of Iranian News Agency IRNA; Tehran, 4 July 2000

(ZNDA: BBC) Iranian President Hojjat ol-Islam Mohammad Khatami on Tuesday, 4 July 2000, said that followers of several religions had throughout the history peacefully coexisted with each other in Iran and stressed their contribution to the development of the Iranian-Islamic civilization.

President Khatami who was meeting the deputies of the religious minorities in the

# SYMPOSIUM SYRIACUM



Members of the Mandaen community with Dr. Erica Hunter

**S**ydney University hosted the Eighth International Congress for Syriac Studies. Between 26 June 2000 and 1 July 2000, over 120 eminent scholars from all parts of the world gathered to hear the latest revelations and news regarding the Syriac field of study.

Highlights included a report on a new project of creating an encyclopedia of Syriac heritage, which was presented by Dr. George A. Kiraz. Yet to be edited, Kiraz explained how the Encyclopaedia, which was still unpublished, was aimed at scholars and students of Syriac studies, and would include pictures, maps, diagrams and tables.

A handful of the other lecturers included, Dr. Gabriele Yonan, who spoke about Theodor Noldeke's Unpublished New Aramaic/ Syriac materials. Dr. Edward Odisho, who spoke about the orthographic impact of gutturalisation on the transliteration of loan-words in Aramaic. Dr.

Robert Hoyland, who gave a lecture assessing early Syriac writings on the prophet Muhammad. Dr. Erica Hunter, who spoke about the conversions of Turkic tribes. Also, Dr. Coakley discussed the important manuscripts of Mushe of Nisibis. Reverend Dr. Anthony Vallanathara, from India's Church of the East, who spoke about the Saint Thomas Christians, and east Syrian missionary activities in the early and Middle Ages. Rabbi Tarmida Hathem Saed, from the Mandaen tradition lectured on the Christian and Mandaen perspective on Baptism and Mr. Robert Gabriel from Lebanon spoke about Syriac Relations with Crusaders in the 12th and 13th centuries.

Besides the fact that the conference was being held outside of Europe for the first time in 32 years, the concentration of some of the world's best Syriac scholars also helped attract an audience, of more than 150 people, for this unique and informative conference. ■

## Assyrian Relief Fund

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It is a very fine line that separates scholastic reasons, from propaganda. In the past two months there have been a few conferences that discussed the grim history of the Assyrians living in the Middle East, at the time of the Young Turks' movement.

Many people have interpreted the reasons, and the motives behind these conferences in various ways; sadly feelings of anger, and revenge are easily provoked in such situations.

I do not believe that any of the organisers were aiming to anger the Assyrian people against the Turks. In my mind all the conferences held scholastic aims, and were conducted to prove, and document a part of our history.

It does worry me when people take the wrong idea, and are upset with the images, and stories presented at these conferences. I do not blame any person for feeling angry, I did as well - humans should not treat each other in such a horrific manner. But I do hope that no one was left with the feeling of revenge in their minds. History should be learned, and understood so it is not repeated again. It should not be studied so old grudges are kept fresh in our minds.

So how should we use this newly found information? Unfortunately the situation for the Assyrian people, and other minority groups has not improved much in the past century. There is great political unrest in the region, and the grunt of it falls on the minorities. By bringing such historical facts to the world, we are insuring that such atrocities will not occur again.

I guess it's all a message of peace. I don't think we should be angry at the Turkish government. I think we should reconcile with them, to better the future of both parties.

The Assyrian Remembrance Day was commemorated only a few days ago, and I hope we all joined in the spirit and lit a candle in memory of all who have fallen victims to the harsh times of our history.

On another note, on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2000, Nakosha is presenting its first Open Day. We are hoping that many of our readers will attend the day. We are going to present the ideas, and ambitions that drive Nakosha, and we are looking for the readers opinions, and thoughts.

Following Melbourne's open day, a second open day will be conducted in Sydney on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2000, and we are hoping that we get to meet our audience up there.

The conferences that took place in Sydney and Melbourne have taken up most of this issue, and we hope that we have done our job proper, and have covered all aspects of the gatherings. ■

editor's note





# Cartoon on Life

## If you were granted just one wish, which could only be used for the Assyrians, what would you wish for?

**M/17/Sydney**

▶▶ Hmmm....  
I would wish that all Assyrians wake up and look beyond religion as their ticket to national identity! I would wish as a result for them to unite and work together with Assyrians of all different religions (Church of the East, Syriac Orthodox, Chaldean Catholics, Syriac Catholics, Maronites, Melkites, Yezidis, Mandaean, Muslims, Mhallmoje, Alevis, Jews, etc.) for one common goal, that is autonomy, and possibly a Sovereign Assyrian State within the boundaries of our ancestral homeland. It does not matter! We are all born Assyrian before we are initiated into different religions and may keep our culture and language, whatever our religion - they all lead to God and are a private affair between a person and the divine. We

MUST NOT let religion be an obstacle in our national goals and must build up our relations NOW so that we may work together and NOT leave "them" to come join "US" once we achieve our own goals. Their dead are our dead, their language is ours, we are them and they are us! We hear our politicians say, "let us clean our own house first and then go on to others." But wouldn't these other people, as Assyrians, be members of the same house as well?? - PLEASE LET US FORGET THE NAME ISSUE - it will get us nowhere!!!

Apart from that I would wish for Assyrians to standardise things so that we know what we believe, what we are and what we want from the world! We always talk about it but why don't we actually work together and do something for our nation - let us not be our own enemy...

**F/25/Sydney**

▶▶ My only wish, hope and dream for us Assyrians is to become one. One people working together, moving towards the future. Sure everyone has their own opinions but is it really that hard to



compromise with one another, remembering this is for the sake of the Assyrian pride. It seems to be a hard act to follow for some Assyrians because to work together is to give a little and also take a little. I know we Assyrians have a way of subjecting our selves from all that: we are not used to it. If each following generation is not used to it there will be no generations left; can anyone imagine a non-existence of Assyrian culture? We should work together to keep our heritage alive especially in our youth, they are the ones that need to be nurtured and will nurture the ones to come.

**F/21/Sydney**

▶▶ If I had one wish for Assyrians, it would be for them to be successful, resourceful citizens in their country of residence.

**M/12/Sydney**

▶▶ For everyone in the world to acknowledge who the Assyrians are and their history.

**Female/19/Melbourne**

▶▶ If I had one wish, I would wish that all Assyrians would get a "Millenium Brain" because they are all too old fashioned and need to realise that it is the millenium.

**F/34/American Continent**

▶▶ If I had the chance to wish for something now I would say a national homeland for the Assyrians, complete recognition of our legitimate rights to be free in our own homeland and be our own decision makers.

I know that this may seem far fetched to many, but wasn't the Berlin Wall one of the impossibles, but it crumbled so did Communism.

As in many communities we will have people who will doubt our ability to have our own homeland, but struggle is part of the whole equation.

I have to say that this is a dear wish to my heart to see an Assyrian homeland with its flag standing proud amongst the flags of the World and its anthym playing for all to hear.

Wishes are many but dreams are even bigger, i hope that some of the Assyrian wishes will come true.

# SORRY!!

# SORRY!!

*In last month's issue of Nakosha a couple of mistakes were published.*

1. Thea Halo, as stated in 'Not Even My Name' is actually not married to an Assyrian man, as she has never married. Only her mother, Sano Halo, has married an Assyrian man.
2. The date given for this year's Norsardel was June 30, when it should have been July 30.

*we are only human*



# ملف لغوي

# كلمة لغوية

هأدا	yuawo	wish	yuawa	هأدا
هأدو	sawro	hope	sawra	هأدو
هأدا	rithmo	pronunciation	rithma	هأدا
هأدا	beth sawbo	university	beth sawba	هأدا
هأدا	beth arko	library	beth arka	هأدا
هأدا	beth khoshyo	jail	beth khoshya	هأدا
هأدا	beth deyno	court	beth deyna	هأدا
هأدا	beth glakho	exhibition/gallery	beth glakha	هأدا
هأدا	beth nusayo	laboratory	beth nusaya	هأدا
هأدا	beth kreehe	hospital	beth kreehe	هأدا

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[www.atour.com/~women](http://www.atour.com/~women)



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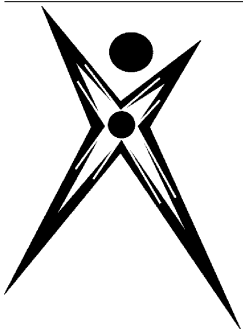
- Features -
- Assyrian Women's Conference
  - Assyrian Women's Network Archives

## ASSYRIAN MUSIC GALAXY

**LATEST UPDATES???**

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[WWW.ASSYRIANGALAXY.CJB.NET](http://WWW.ASSYRIANGALAXY.CJB.NET)



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

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## Paul's HAIR Port



**LADIES & MEN**

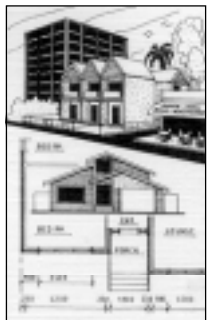
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