

الرابطة المغربية في هيوستن

جسور

عدد ستمبر

September 2006 Issue

Bridges

Bi-Monthly

Moroccan Society of Houston



جسور

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Bridges

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معاً نبني جسور جالبتنا

Together we build our community bridges

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

بمناسبة حلول شهر رمضان الكريم
الرابطة المغربية في هيوستن تقدم لكم بأحر التهاني
والترحيبات راجيا من المولى عز وجل ان يجعلنا وابدانكم
من صوامه وقوامه وان يعيدنا علينا وعلا سائر المسلمين
بالخير واليمن والبركات

*The Moroccan Society of Houston would
like to give the Moroccan Community its sin-
cerest best wishes for the forthcoming Holy
Month of Ramadan.*

Wishing you the best this month.

Ramadan Mubarak.

Dear MSH members and Friends:

The Moroccan Society of Houston would like to inform you that a special conference on moon sighting was organized by the Fiqh Council of North America (FCNA) on 10 June 2006, in Virginia, attended by a number of jurists, Imams, astronomers and other concerned Muslims. A number of research papers dealing with the juridical and astronomical aspects of the topic were presented and discussed.

After further teleconferences and communications among the members and astronomical consultants it was concluded that the **Holy Month of Ramadan will start on September 23rd, 2006.**





Ramadan is important for Muslims because it is the month during which the Holy Quran was revealed by God to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). (570-632 C.E.). It is also important because it is the month during which the Muslims were ordered to fast, achieving one of their spiritual satisfaction and practice.

Muslims consider the Quran to be the true words of God given to humanity through Muhammad, who is considered the last of the prophets. Muhammed was to call the people to monotheism and righteousness. This tradition of God chosen prophets or messengers is believed to include such figures as Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus.

During Ramadan, Muslims fast from dawn to sunset every day. This means not to eat, drink or smoke during the daylight hours. For married adults, it also includes refraining from marital relations during the hours of fasting (i.e. the daylight hours). The fasting person is expected to do his best to practice self control and discipline, not to get angry easy, refrain from using harsh language or insults and to tolerate, forgive and respect others. Young children, old and sick people are not expected to fast. Older people can feed a poor person for every day they cannot fast of Ramadan. Sick people can compensate by fasting other days when they feel well. Children are permitted to fast only when they are strong enough

physically to tolerate fasting without difficulty.

Why Fasting ?

Fasting has a number of benefits:

1. It allows one to build a sense of self-control and will-power, which can be beneficial throughout life in dealing with temptations and peer-pressure. Through fasting, Muslims learn to control their natural urges such as hunger, thirst and the desire to smoke and thus are able to better resist temptations for things which are not necessary, such as excessive food intake, drugs or other unhealthy or harmful substances and behaviors.
2. It helps one to feel compassion for those who are less fortunate and underprivileged, since each day one will feel greater appreciation for what he/she has as a result of feeling hunger and thirst.
3. It offers a time for Muslims to "purify" their bodies as well as their souls, by developing a greater sense of humility, spirituality and community. Ramadan is a very spiritual time for Muslims, and often they share their experience with their friends and family members. A greater sense of generosity and forgiveness is also characteristic of this time. Giving to the poor and needy and sharing one's fortune with them is expected during this month and encouraged for the rest of the year.

Harira



Harira should be prepared in two times:

1-Bouillon(Bubbling)

The bubbling (tka_taa) is about 1 & half hour of cooking

- 250 g of beef meat cut into little pieces
- 500 g of whole little onions.
- A half coffee spoonful of saffron (half natural and half artificial)
- 1 coffee spoonful of pepper, salt
- 2 table spoons of butter
- 250 g of lentil
- 1 & half litter of water for the bubbling.

Preparation :

Cook the lentil in salted water; incorporate in the juice of 1 citron .Put it apart. Cook the other ingredients in a covered saucepan on a little fire, after boiling; remove the onions when they are cooked to keep them complete.

1 hour later, verify that meat is cooked then remove it from fire, put the lentil and the onions in the same container.

2-Tédouira : 1 hour cooking

- 1 bouquet of coriander and 1 bouquet of parsley
- 1 kg and a half of crushed tomatoes or 1 box of concentrated and mixed tomatoes in 1 liter and a half of water
- 2 liters and a half of water
- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ filled cup tea of lemon juice
- 2 table spoons of butter
- 200 g of flour
- salt

Preparation :

Boil water with the crushed or concentrated tomatoes, add butter, and then boil for quarter an hour, add the bubbling juice over the meat, lentil, onions, etc in the saucepan.

Out of fire, pour the mixed flour in 1 liter of water, while shaking it fast to avoid having clots .Put it back on fire, then shake the mixture till boiling.

Add the parsley and coriander cut to little pieces or crushed with mortar with the necessary quantity of salt for condiment.

Dilute with 1 liter of water, and pour into the marmite, keep shaking (We can also crush them in a mixer full of water).

Verify the condiment and remove it from fire when the soup is very hot.

Beghrir (Tulle pancake)

Ingredients:

- 375 g of fine semolina
- 125 g of flour
- 1 coffee spoonful of salt
- 1/ 2 liter of milk
- 1/ 2 liter of water
- 3 eggs
- 40 g of yeast (bakery)
- 4 soup spoonful of honey
- 1/ 4 liter of water
- 50 g of butter

Preparation:

Dilute the yeast in water slightly sugary. Sift the yeast and the flour in a big bowl together.

Make the milk and water tepid, salt, beat the eggs and insert them to the liquid. Pour the half of liquid in the semolina gradually while kneading. Beat vigorously to the hand the gotten dough in order to air it and eliminate the curds. After 10 min, insert the remainder of liquid then cover with a clean cloth and let to raise at least 1/ 2 h, sheltered from air.

Heat 2 or 3 stoves slightly oiled mix the dough with a soup ladle then pour the value of 1/4 of soup ladle in every stove Spread out the dough with the back the soup ladle. Cook to soft fire until some holes form to the surface and that all trace of raw dough disappears. Put the crepes on the clean cloth smooth face under until they cool down.

Melt the butter and the honey with water in a pan and let the liquid boil for some minutes.

Dispose the Beghrir in a dish and water them of honey.



Harcha (Pancakes of Semolina)

Ingredients:

- 400 g of fine soaked semolina to water
- 1/ 2 coffee spoonful of salt
- 50 g of sugar
- 100 g of softened butter
- 3/ 4 of a glass of water

Preparation:

Mix the semolina, with salt and sugar then insert the butter. Well mix, knead and wet of some water until getting dough a little soft.

Shape the pancakes of 1 cm of thickness and cook on soft fire in a dry stove for 5 to 10 minutes of each side.



First Moroccan American Conference in Washington



The Moroccan Society of Houston Executive Committee participated in the First Moroccan American Convention that was held in Washington D.C on Saturday, June 24th, 2006. This convention was a product of collective hard work of a number of individual volunteers of Moroccan origin as well as leading Moroccan NGO in the United States of America; all driven by their love for our country of origin, Morocco, and a deep desire to benefit our growing community in the USA.

As promised, the work is continuing and plans to hold a subsequent seminar are in the making. As a matter of priority, our immediate attention has been focused on the completion of the tasks promised to the attendees. A brief overview of the organizing committee's activities thus far and the work in progress are as follows:

Activities held so far:

- ✦ Held three meetings after the event.
- ✦ Reviewed the feedback forms submitted by all of you.
- ✦ Reviewed and categorized your workshop suggestions
- ✦ Identified areas to improve for future events.

The work in progress includes:

- ✦ Finalizing the package to be shipped to all attendees.
- ✦ Electing an official spokesperson for the committee in order to avoid any future misrepresentation.
- ✦ Website related issues:
 - Soliciting volunteers who are able to volunteer their time and expertise in building an official website.
 - Searching for committed sponsor (e.g., Moroccan business owners, individuals)
 - Identifying logistical and the related issues that need to be set in motion in preparation for our next conference.



It has been said that “it takes a village to raise a child.” Similarly, it takes a village – a well organized Moroccan American community in this case – to overcome the kind of challenges facing our community. With that in mind, most participants renewed their pledge and pleaded for continued commitment, support and understanding. The organizers also assured the participants that they will not rest until we are all engaged and working together for the greater good of our community and that of our beloved country.



MSH Meets Moroccan POWs in Houston



Picture with the delegation during their visit in Houston

Since March 2006, the Evangelical organizations National Clergy Council in cooperation with the “Moroccan American Center” started hosting luncheons across the US to expose the Polisario torture. A delegation of Moroccan Sahraouis started undertaking tours in the United States, including Houston (Texas), where the Reverend Rob Scheck, president of the Council Nation of the Clergy, addresses several leaders of local churches to explain to them the tragedy undergone by the populations detained on Algeria soil.

The Moroccan American Center for Policy (MACP) is a non-profit organization whose principle mission is to inform opinion makers, government officials and interested public in the United States about political and social developments in Morocco and the role being played by the Kingdom of Morocco in broader strategic developments in North Africa, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East. It is an initiative of His Majesty King Mohammed VI that focuses on enhancing a broad range of Moroccan-US relations.

On August 3rd, the delegation arrived in Houston and MSH members, Abdel Dinari, Mohammed Boughaba and myself had a meeting with three, recently released POWs after being held by the Polisario for more than 20 years: Ms. Soudani Malainine, Mr. Abdellah Lamani, and Mr. Ali El Jaouhar.

Even though, the three Moroccan citizens have different stories, they all have one thing in common: Sharing humiliation and horrors inflicted by the Polisario militia group.

The details about their respective stories in the next pages:

next page...

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Sadani Malainine

When Sadani was only 2 years old; she was taken from Morocco with her family to the Tindouf Camps in southern Algeria. Sadani's father spoke out against the cruel practices of the Polisario and because of his brave dissent, he was imprisoned. Sadani tearfully recalls that her first real memory was when her father was publicly tortured—before her very eyes—when she was only five years old.

Just before Sadani 11th birthday, she was selected for deportation to Cuba, without her parents' consent. Though she, like thousands of other Sahraoui youth, was promised that she would be educated, have contact with her family and be able to return to the camps during the summers, this was not the case. In fact, the "short" trip turned into a 15 year long struggle to return to the camps and be reunited with her family. When Sadani was finally able to leave Cuba in 2002, she learned that her father had died in the hands of his torturers, the Polisario, in prison.

Sadani's mother had fled the camps 8 years prior to her return, so her struggle continued as she maneuvered her way out of the heavily controlled Polisario Camps, through Mauritania and finally back to Morocco where she reunited with her mother and siblings, some of whom she met for the first time.

Today, Sadani directs an organization dedicated to improving the lives of the Sahraouis in the camps. In fact, Sadani was the first Sahraoui student to graduate with the Premio de Oro (Golden Prize) distinction with a master's degree in sociology. Since her return to Morocco, Sadani has been an active representative of those still held in the camps in international refugee conferences.

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Abdellah Lamani

Mr. Lamani is one of the many civilian prisoners who were either caught or kidnapped during the Sahara war opposing Morocco to the Algeria-backed Polisario Front. He told the "Morocco Times" during an interview that the Polisario has committed the most horrific kinds of violations of human rights against the Moroccan prisoners in the Tindouf camps.

Mr. Abdellah Lamani was captured by the Polisario, while he was on his way to Tata, a locality in southern Morocco, where he was planning to holiday. Mr. Lamani, who has been in Polisario jails since 1980, chose "Horror" as a title for his 112-page book to eloquently express the daily hardship, torture, and ill-treatment the Polisario inflicts on the Moroccan nationals that are still held captive in total defiance of world conventions and of calls by international organizations. For the complete interview of Mr. Lamani with Morocco Times, click on the link below:

<http://www.moroccotimes.com/Paper/article.asp?idr=2&id=11260>

Ali El Jaouhar

[...Ali Jaouhar spent 23 years in a prisoner-of-war camp in the Western Sahara territory run by the Polisario Front backed by Cuba's Fidel Castro.

"They kicked us in our intimate parts.

They spat in our faces," he said. His eyes welled with tears as he described a fellow prisoner being doused with gasoline and burned alive, and another being crushed by a truck because he told his captors he simply couldn't work anymore.

Jaouhar as well as others hope their story will convince the United States to liberate any remaining detainees and discredit the corrupt Communist Polisario Front.

Jaouhar said prisoners seldom received mail, but in one case the Red Cross delivered a letter informing him his wife had died. He missed his chance to raise his daughter, only 8 months old when he, an officer in the Royal Air Force of Morocco, was captured.

His incarceration cost him "my youth; the springtime of life," he said. He got out of the camp two years ago and is now living in the "beautiful, green city of Sefrou, near Fez." But adjusting has been difficult. "It's a different mentality now," he said. "I found the family disintegrated. We can't communicate"]



His majesty king Mohamed VI

It was an honor for our secretary general Mr. Younes Belaiter to attend the commemoration of the seventh anniversary of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI accession to the throne.

This occasion was celebrated over a three day period which took place in the capital city Rabat in July 2006.

Some of the highlights were the celebration by the sovereign and his guests of the throne day at the riad palace, a lunch offered by the prime minister MR Driss Jettou at the Dar Essalam Royal Golf Club, The Allegiance ceremony at the Mechouar Square and a seminar attended by the Minister of the Moroccans living abroad Mrs Nouzha Chekrouni and other representatives of the Moroccan Administration and several civil Institutions.

The Moroccan Society of Houston (MSH) would like to congratulate His Majesty For this occasion and to thank all the parties that made it possible for the MSH to attend the festivities.

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Moroccan community members in the United States listen to the king speech

The Moroccan community in the United States celebrated The Throne day, Eid Al Arch on July the 30th, 2006 in Orlando, Florida. The event was sponsored by the Moroccan American Chamber of Commerce in Orlando and other associations among them the Moroccan Society of Houston.

The Moroccan Society of Houston was represented by Mr. Abdelilah Elkhadiri, Mr. Mohammed Boughaba, Mr. Abdelmoumen Dinari and Mr. Karim Drif. Different activities were held during the two day event. A soccer tournament with the participation of the WAC from Washington DC and Atlas lions of Orlando, in addition to a soccer team from New York was organized. The winner was awarded a Throne Trophy.



MSH members meet with Grove of Hope President Mr. Kamal Oudghiri

The Throne Day festivities were held in one of Orlando's palaces. The event was well attended. During the event the Moroccan community and friends of Morocco enjoyed Moroccan music performed by a local band and Guenaoua; a Moroccan fashion show organized by New York Caftan, and a typical Moroccan food.

The members of the Moroccan Society of Houston who attended the event were very pleased with the quality of the organization and have heard nothing but praise from all who attended this great national event. Congratulations to our friends in Orlando for a job well done.

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Moroccan Festival in Orlando

(MAP) Aid Al Arch in Orlando, Florida 2006: Organized by The Moroccan American Chamber of Commerce, Moroccan American Socio-Cultural Center and Orlando Atlas Lions

La diaspora marocaine aux USA salue la prochaine création du conseil supérieur de la communauté marocaine à l'étranger

ORLANDO (MAP) - Les ressortissants marocains résidant aux Etats-Unis ont salué, avec fierté, la décision royale de mettre en place au cours de la prochaine année, le conseil supérieur de la communauté marocaine à l'étranger et de conférer aux MRE le droit de représentation au sein du parlement. La communauté marocaine qui a suivi, dimanche, avec un vif intérêt, la retransmission du discours du Trône lors d'un grand rassemblement organisé dans un palace d'Orlando (Floride), a exprimé aussi sa profonde confiance en un avenir prospère pour le Maroc avec les chantiers

lancés par SM le Roi Mohammed VI pour assurer le progrès social et économique du pays et les importantes réformes entreprises pour la consolidation de la démocratie et de l'Etat de droit. "MSH est confiante en le devenir prospère du Maroc sous la conduite du souverain et enregistre avec satisfaction les changements rapides que connaît le pays à tous les niveaux", a déclaré M. Abdelilah ElKhadiri, président de l'Alliance Marocaine d'Houston (Texas) assurant que les Marocains résidant aux USA nourrissent la ferme volonté de contribuer au développement du Royaume. Ce rassemblement qui a drainé les ressortissants marocains de plusieurs villes américaines, dont Washington, New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Houston, et Miami, est un témoignage du loyalisme de la communauté marocaine au trône alaouite, de son attachement aux valeurs sacrées et aux acquis du pays et de sa mobilisation pour la défense de ses intérêts supérieurs, a assuré M. Abderrahim Aitboukil, président de la chambre de commerce maroco-américaine de Floride.



The Moroccan Society of Houston Scholarship Award was established through support from various supporters and members of the MSH in order to provide financial assistance to outstanding students so that they may complete a college education, and grow to become future leaders. The MSH scholarship is awarded twice a year, at the start of each Academic semester both for the fall and spring. Prizes are awarded to first and second place. To qualify an applicant must be an active member of the MSH, hold a GPA of at least 2.75, and should submit an essay that details future career plans.

The Moroccan Society of Houston Scholarship Award for the Fall 2006

This year's awards were presented to Ms. Firdaous El Meriague for a first place prize, and Ms. Meriem Rhiati for second place.

Ms. Firdaous El Meriague is a senior at the Bauer School of Business at the University of Houston. An accomplished student and very active member of two Finance clubs on campus, Ms. El Meriague is also working effectively to promote her knowledge of Finance specifically in the area of energy Risk Management. The ERM Program at the University of Houston enables Ms. El Meriague to work closely and learn from

high-caliber professors, which allows her to build a strong academic career.

Ms. Meriem Rhiati is a senior at the University of Houston-Downtown College of Business. In addition to building a strong academic knowledge at UHD, to advance her social skills Ms. Rhiati is also an active member of different associations on campus among them the International Business association. Meriem's interests are in Financial institutions such as banks, mortgage finance companies, insurance companies, and investment banks. One of her goals is to achieve the Chartered Financial Analyst program offered for finance professionals.

**Congratulations to both recipients,
and many thanks to our sponsors:**

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and
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Atlas Lions Season Schedule

Atlas Lions FC Schedule						MR: Match Report
September 2006						
Date	Time	Home	MR	Away	Location	
Sun Sep 10	1:00 pm	Atlas Lions FC	1:1	CD Houston	Bear Creek Park BC17	
Ⓟ Sun Sep 17	3:00 pm	TFC Elite	3:0	Atlas Lions FC	Bear Creek Park BC26	
Sun Sep 24	3:00 pm	Atlas Lions FC	vs	FC Ankara United	Bear Creek Park BC26	
October 2006						
Date	Time	Home	MR	Away	Location	
Sun Oct 1	9:00 am	Atlas Lions FC	vs	Houston Galaxy	Bear Creek Park BC17	
Sun Oct 8	11:00 am	Atlas Lions FC	vs	Hellas	Bear Creek Park BC26	
Sun Oct 22	1:00 pm	Atlas Lions FC	vs	GC Internationals	Bear Creek Park BC17	
Sun Oct 29	3:00 pm	Atlas Lions FC	vs	FC BD United	Bear Creek Park BC26	
November 2006						
Date	Time	Home	MR	Away	Location	
Sun Nov 5	9:00 am	Atlas Lions FC	vs	HMFC Reds	Bear Creek Park BC17	
Sun Nov 12	11:00 am	Atlas Lions FC	vs	Celtic Bhoys	Bear Creek Park BC26	
December 2006						
Date	Time	Home	MR	Away	Location	
Sun Dec 3	1:00 pm	Atlas Lions FC	vs	TFC Elite	Bear Creek Park BC17	
Sun Dec 10	3:00 pm	CD Houston	vs	Atlas Lions FC	Bear Creek Park BC26	
January 2007						
Date	Time	Home	MR	Away	Location	
Sun Jan 7	9:00 am	FC Ankara United	vs	Atlas Lions FC	Bear Creek Park BC17	
Sun Jan 14	11:00 am	Houston Galaxy	vs	Atlas Lions FC	Bear Creek Park BC26	
Sun Jan 28	1:00 pm	Hellas	vs	Atlas Lions FC	Bear Creek Park BC17	
February 2007						
Date	Time	Home	MR	Away	Location	
Sun Feb 4	3:00 pm	GC Internationals	vs	Atlas Lions FC	Bear Creek Park BC26	
Sun Feb 11	9:00 am	FC BD United	vs	Atlas Lions FC	Bear Creek Park BC17	
Sun Feb 25	11:00 am	HMFC Reds	vs	Atlas Lions FC	Bear Creek Park BC26	
March 2007						
Date	Time	Home	MR	Away	Location	
Sun Mar 4	1:00 pm	Celtic Bhoys	vs	Atlas Lions FC	Bear Creek Park BC17	



جسور

Bridges

Upcoming Events

بمناسبة شهر رمضان المعظم

ننظم الأربطة المغربية في هيوستن فطور مغربي
بالمركز الثقافي العربي
يوم السبت 8 أكتوبر 2006

*The MSA Cordially invites you and your family
to attend our Four @ Dinner Celebrating the
Holy Month of Ramadan
Arab American Cultural Center
Houston, October 8, 2006 at 6:30 PM*

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Together we build our community bridges