

# Saidnaya Reunion: 2012

June 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and July 1<sup>st</sup>

Ramada Plaza  
3333 28<sup>th</sup> Street SE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49512  
Phone: 616-949-9222 Fax: 616-949-3841  
Website: [www.ramadaplazagr.com](http://www.ramadaplazagr.com)

Rooms: \$71.00 per night  
King bed or two double beds  
Hotel reservations can begin immediately  
This price is available before & after the reunion should people desire to vacation in Michigan.



## Schedule of Events

### **Friday: June 29<sup>th</sup>**

Hors D'oeuvres/Cocktails 6:30pm  
Walking Tour of Saidnaya  
Dinner & dancing

### **Saturday: June 30<sup>th</sup>**

Pool Party 10am – 12 noon  
Cultural Activities 1:30pm – 4:30pm  
Children & Adult Activities  
Hors D'oeuvres/Cocktails 6:30pm  
Evening: Dinner & dancing

### **Sunday: July 1<sup>st</sup>**

Business Meeting 10:00am  
Breakfast 11:00am

Please feel free to call or write with any questions

Mary Shaheen

821 Covell nw

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504

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**Learn more: [www.saidnayareunion.com](http://www.saidnayareunion.com)**

All activities will take place at the Ramada Plaza Ballroom.

## Cultural Program

Children's Program  
Age 12 – under

**Animals of Syria:** A volunteer from John Ball Zoo will bring three representative animals of Syria. She will discuss the habitat, diet, characteristics, predators, and ecology of the animals. Children will be allowed to pet the animals.

**Mosaic Boxes:** An ancient Syrian craft of finely hand carved wood inlaid with geometric pieces of various woods, ivory, and mother of pearl. The children will make their box out of mosaic pieces of colorful wood, paper, and crystal.

**Mamoul:** These are cookies filled with dates and nuts then pressed into hand carved wooden molds. This activity would be like playing with play dough – only with edible results.

**Henna Tattoos:** Henna is a flowering plant used since antiquity to dye skin, hair, fingernails, leather, silk, and wool. It is used as a temporary tattoo on a person's skin. The patterns are intricate and can represent blessings, luck, joy, and beauty. The children may choose their tattoos – with parental permission.

**Saidnayan Heritage:** Events leading to the founding of Saidnaya will be told in the form of a Children's Story.

Age 13 – Adults

**Dance Seminar:** Dance in Syria has long been performed by men, women, and children to represent joyous occasions. A women's seminar on Folkloric and Eastern Dance will be taught by Joette Sawall from the West Michigan School of Middle Eastern Dance. Ms. Sawall is also a faculty member of Western Michigan University where she teaches in the Gender and Women's Studies Department. She is a powerful and exciting performer, a motivational and articulate instructor who will help you capture the essential spirit of the Near Eastern dance.

**Arabic Alphabet:** This is an introduction to the Arabic Alphabet. The participants will learn to write the independent form of each letter along with learning the name and sound. Ms. Fairouz Kamal will teach this class. She has an associate degree in social work and education from Al-quds University. Ms. Kamal has been a teacher and translator for over 20 years and has worked for various companies such as Language International, Associated Language Consultants, and Liaison Linguistics.

**Derbudka:** This is a Middle Eastern drum. The seminar will teach basic derbudka rhythms for folk dancing.

**Understanding Arabic Music:** The different musical instruments will be reviewed along with an explanation of the distinct format used in Arabic music.

**Registration Form**  
**Due Date: June 1, 2012**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of children: \_\_\_\_\_

Ticket Prices: Friday: \$50.00 Saturday: \$50.00 Sunday: \$25.00

Saturday Meal: Choice of sirloin steak \_\_\_\_\_, chicken marsala \_\_\_\_\_, or stuffed pork chop \_\_\_\_\_.

Children under 10 (if ordering from the children's menu) are \$20.00 per meal.

Children 6 and under are free of charge and may order a child's meal.

Please indicate the number of children's meals by each selection:

Friday's dinner: chicken fingers & French fries \_\_\_\_\_.

Saturday's dinner: spaghetti & meat balls \_\_\_\_\_.

Sunday breakfast is \$20.00 with the same items as the adult breakfast buffet.

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Saidnaya Reunion, Inc. and mail with registration form to:

Mary Shaheen

821 Covell NW

Grand Rapids, MI 49504 USA

**Saturday Program**

Will your child be participating in the Children's Program: Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children participating: \_\_\_\_\_ Ages: \_\_\_\_\_

Will your family be participating in any of the cultural events: Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all that apply:

\_\_\_\_\_ Women's Dance Seminar: Number participating: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Derbudka Class: Number participating: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Arabic Alphabet Class: Number participating: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Understanding Arabic Music: Number participating: \_\_\_\_\_