



The Ramallah Club of Birmingham invites all of you to join us at our next meeting on Sunday, February 7. Meetings are held the first Sunday of the month at the home of Reyad and Ghada Shunnarah (736 Rockbridge Rd Vestavia, Al 35216). Refreshments will be served. The Board meeting will begin at 1:00 pm and all are welcome to come. The general meeting will begin at 2:00 pm. Please join us! We'd love to hear your suggestions for social events, family activities, fund raisers etc.

Membership fee is only \$35.00 year!

2016 Officers:

President	Jo Ann Shahid
Vice-President	Cleo Shunnarah
Secretary	Ghada Shunnarah
Treasurers	Fadwa Shunnarah and Reyad Shunnarah

2016 Board Members:

Marie Salem	Helen Mills
Dina Shunnarah	Nadim Shunnarah
Richard Shunnarah	Siham Shunnarah

2016 Committee Chairs:

Social Events	Ghada Shunnarah
Charity Events	Elizabeth Shahid
Meeting Programs	Cleo Shunnarah

Federation News

Mid-Year Meeting

All Ramallites and their families are invited to the American Federation of Ramallah, Palestine Mid-Year Meeting. Meeting will be held March 3-6. Many wonderful plans have been set by the Ramallah Community of New York. Events include a wine country tour, New York sightseeing tour and more! For hotel information and registration visit the federation web site AFRP.org.

So you think you can dance?

A Dabke contest between all cities will be sponsored by the Federation at the Mid-Year Meeting. All young adults and youth are encouraged to participate. The contest is set for March 6. Each group may consist six to ten dancers under the age of 24 years old. The Federation will subsidize up to \$400.00 dollars for travel expenses per dancer. A group registration form must be filled out and mailed to the federation by January 31, 2016. Anyone interested in forming and/or teaching a group please contact *Jo Ann Shahid* at 205-447-4954. Visit AFRP.org for rules and detailed information.

Attention Young Adults and Youth – The Federation is working for you!

Check out all of the wonderful programs and social events the Federation has to offer! Visit AFRP.org and find out about Project Hope, Outstanding High School Senior Award, Leadership Ramallah and more.

President's Note

In with the New!

A belated Happy New Year to you all! As many of you know, I am the newly elected President of the Ramallah Club of Birmingham. It has been a long time since I've been involved with the Ramallah Club, much less any other Arab American organization, thus I was a bit apprehensive. However, after listening in on a Federation board meeting through a conference call, all of my fears diminished!

As I heard club presidents, officers of the federation and committee chairs greeting each other with "Ammoo" and "Auntee", I felt right at home. As these "cousins" expressed heart warm wishes of "Happy New Year" and expressed sincere condolences to those who lost a loved one, I realized I missed being a part of the larger Ramallah family. Sure, there were passionate moments of opinions well expressed, but the American Federation of Ramallah Palestine gets the job done! Led by the President Ken Harb, the Ramallah Federation is an organization to be proud of. We are one of, if not, the largest Arab American organizations in the United States. The Federation has developed wonderful educational, cultural and charitable programs that speak volumes of our hard work and commitments to our heritage. I encourage you to visit AFRP.org and see the work the Federation has done for you!

I joined the local Ramallah Club because I miss my extended family and it's almost vanished traditions. Whether it's the Sunday family visits, or the music of the nay or mijwiz played by my grandfather and uncles, or the countless times my grandmother baked khubz taboon, I miss it all! Perhaps joining the local club won't bring back old traditions but it may be an opportunity to see the faces of our families and perhaps start new traditions.

Last year's president, Helen Mills did an excellent job of reorganizing the club of Birmingham. She and the officers and committee chairs worked hard to plan events and become better connected with the Federation. Communication gaps between all of us within Birmingham were closed via the newsletter, facebook and our new web site. Kudos to Helen and the 2015 officers!

Since there seems to be a lack of interest in the Ramallah Club and its events, we plan on changing our agenda for the year. Rather than having monthly events we will plan two exciting events a year with an additional charity event or two. Please come and encourage your children and grandchildren to come! We would love to see your faces, reminisce about old times and catch up with your family news!

If you're interested in becoming a member of the Ramallah Club of Birmingham, attend the next monthly meeting. Membership dues are only \$35.00. Meetings are held the first Sunday of the month at the home of Reyad and Ghada Shunnarah. Our next meeting will be Feb 7th. You will soon receive a quarterly news flyer with all the information. I hope to see you there!

Wishing you all a healthy and prosperous New Year!
Jo Ann Shunnarah Shahid



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