

# Celebrate Lebanon!

A unique cultural and educational exploration of Lebanon, U.S. relations with Lebanon, and the accomplishments of Lebanese Americans.

Co-sponsored by the Peoria Area World Affairs Council,  
St. Sharbel Parish, and the Itoo Society

[www.celebratelebanon.net](http://www.celebratelebanon.net)

## **The Homecoming** Friday, November 12

Itoo Hall, Farmington Road, Peoria. Doors open at 5:00 pm.

**6:00 pm:** Zaffee Dance and Dabke Dance with Grand Entrance  
Multi-course traditional Lebanese feast

**8:00 pm: Keynote address: "Lebanese Americans: Key to U.S. Relations with Lebanon"**

*Dr. James Zogby, President, Arab American Institute*



**9:00 pm: Music and dancing**

## **The Symposium** Saturday, November 13

Lebanon Day at Hotel Pere Marquette, Peoria Doors open at 8:00 am



**9:00 am: First Plenary Session (Ballroom)**  
**"Governing Lebanon: A Balance of Interests"**

*Ziad Baroud, Interior Minister of Lebanon*

### **10:30 am: Break – Out Sessions**

- Lebanon's Economy: Consul General Bashir Tawk
- Religions in Lebanon: Panel
- St. Sharbel: Fr. Faouzi Elia
- Itoo Heritage: Randy Couri
- The Legacy of the Phoenicians: Rita George
- Foods of Lebanon: Semaan Trad

**12:15 pm: Luncheon** (Ballroom – American Food)

**1:00 pm: Plenary Session II (Ballroom)**

**"Allies and Adversaries: The Importance of U.S. – Lebanese Relations"**

*His Excellency Antoine Chedid,  
Ambassador of Lebanon  
Ambassador Jeffrey Feltman, U.S.  
Department of State*



**2:30 pm: Break out sessions** (same as morning)

**3:30 pm: Recess until evening program**



Proceeds from this event will benefit St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, with affiliates in Peoria, Illinois and Beirut, Lebanon. Sponsorships are available.

## **The Gala** Saturday, November 13 (continued)

Doors open at 5:00 pm. General Public reception and cash bar.

**5:30 pm:** VIP Reception (Donors and Sponsors)

**6:30 pm: "Lebanon: From the Middle East to the Mid West"**

*Welcome comments by The Honorable Ray LaHood, U.S. Secretary of Transportation* (Banquet served)



**7:30 pm: Parade of Descendants**

**8:00 pm: Cultural Program**

*Performance by Khaled TheComic*  
Music, dancing, other performances

## **The Spiritual** Sunday, November 14

St. Sharbel's Church, Peoria. Doors open at 10:00 am.

**11:00 am: Mass**

Participants may join in mass or view from Parish Hall.

**12:15 pm: Procession to the Shrine of St. Sharbel**

**1:00 pm: Luncheon**

Traditional Lebanese cuisine will be served in Parish Hall.

**4:00 pm: Conclusion of Celebrate Lebanon!**

**Full Program Tickets:** \*General Public \*\* Sponsoring Organizations Members

Premium Ticket: (Includes all events except VIP Reception) \$ 190\* / \$170\*\*

Global Donor Ticket: (Includes all events plus VIP Reception) \$ 300

**Partial Program Tickets:**

Homecoming Ticket: (Includes Friday evening only) \$ 50\* / \$45\*\*

Symposium and Gala Ticket: (Includes all Saturday events except VIP reception)

Individual Ticket: \$ 135\* / \$130\*\*

Table of Eight: \$1,000.00 (special rate)

Gala Ticket Only: (Includes Saturday evening events except VIP Reception)

Individual Ticket: \$ 125\* / \$120\*\*

Table of Eight: \$1,000.00

Spiritual Ticket: (Includes all events on Sunday only) \$ 25\* / \$20\*\*

For more information and to register, contact PAWAC at (309) 677-2454 or [www.pawac.org](http://www.pawac.org). Seating is limited. Register by November 5.