



# newsletter

YEAREND 2011 | ISSUE 6

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Roundtable Breakfast with Neemat Frem



Roundtable Dinner with Nicolas Tamari and Marwan Shakarshi



London Mix & Drinks with Spiro Youakim

**CONNECT**

## Holiday Season Events

### LIFE London

It was with great pleasure that more than 100 LIFE members and friends attended the Holiday Season Open House generously hosted by our Chairman, Paul Raphael and his wife Kathryn. Discussions, laughter and networking were all happening in an informal and warm atmosphere.

### LIFE Geneva

Our members in Geneva started their holiday season in an informal setting at Le Salon des Théophiles gathering more than 30 members and friends around drinks, networking, meeting new members and being introduced to the LIFE environment.

### LIFE Senior Breakfast

It was on Friday the 9th of December that 17 LIFE members gathered around a breakfast with Mr. Neemat Frem, President & CEO of

INDEVCO Group, a Lebanese-owned and based manufacturing group employing over 8500 people worldwide. He is also currently the President of the Association of Lebanese Industrialists (ALI), an independent economic entity that focuses on developing, promoting and nurturing the industry and the industrial companies of Lebanon.

The main discussion was around the best ways and approaches for LIFE to help improve the conditions of the industrial sector in Lebanon and how to best support the economic environment of the country through realistic short-term and medium-term prospects.

### London – Mix & Drinks

A new concept for the Tuesday Mix & drinks was launched during the first event on Tuesday, November 8th at Home House in London where one of LIFE's prominent senior members, Spiro Youakim, was our guest speaker. Spiro is a partner at Lazard, heading the Global Metals, Minings and Materials Investment Banking business. Spiro shared his views on the

Investment Banking and lead an interesting Q&A session with the 15 junior and senior members who attended the event.

### London – Senior dinner

Commodities, and namely Gold and Coffee were the very interesting topics discussed with our main speakers who came especially from Geneva: Marwan Shakarchi, Chairman of MKS Finance, one of the leading suppliers of gold worldwide and Nicolas Tamari Director-General of Sucafina, a Geneva-based coffee trading house, producing in countries across Africa, Asia and South America. An exciting Q&A session took place with these 2 inspiring Lebanese businessmen who encouraged LIFE's mission and congratulated our initiative of gathering efforts to help our country.

### Paris Drinks & Mix

Around 25 members gathered on October 4th and on November 10 for the monthly LIFE rendez-vous at Hotel Napoleon – Salon en Façade for drinks and

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networking in a chilling atmosphere between the most senior and junior members.

### Dubai Mix& drinks

Our LIFE senior and junior members met on October 5th at Caramel for the usual “First Wednesday” drinks where interesting discussions were shared in a smooth and lovely atmosphere.

### New York Dinner with Mr. Riad Salameh – Central Governor of Lebanon

On Monday September 26th, the New York committee held a Senior dinner with the Governor of the Central

bank of Lebanon, Mr. Riad Salameh. The dinner took place at the Casa Lever restaurant in New York, – where Mr Salameh gave his views on the state of the Lebanese Banking System and how the expat community can be a positive influence. The discussion took place in a very relaxed atmosphere.

Geneva Cocktail with Sami Kanaan on October 3rd Sami Kanaan, a new member of the board of the city of Geneva, was delighted to be LIFE's guest at a cocktail with LIFE members at la Societe de Lecture on October 3rd 2011.

Sami introduced himself and his background ever

since he left Lebanon in the 1980's and went to Switzerland where he pursued the route to his political career. He stressed on the importance of the networks and praised the Lebanese group of LIFE. Sami also presented the city and canton of Geneva, their characteristics, specificities, the challenges of the financial, trading and watch industries and for the cultural landscape and projects. More specifically, he commented on the different projects of cultural links between Lebanon and the Mamco (Musé d'Art Moderne et Contemporain) in Geneva as well as the exchanges between the Museum of Beirut and Geneva.

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## NURTURE

### Scholarships

This year, LIFE significantly expanded its scholarship program. We currently have 16 students, 4 of which are rolling over from last year. LIFE scholars are top students from top tier universities in Lebanon, the UK, France and the US ( AUB, USJ, LSE, Oxford, Cambridge, CASS, LBS, ESSEC, ESCP, Sciences Po, Chicago Booth). The LIFE scholarship recipients benefit from having a dedicated mentor, a senior finance profes-

sional, as well as access to internship opportunities. They are also invited to join the LIFE Circle of Giving which helps them contribute to helping the next generation.

For students' referrals, please contact us at [scholarships@lifelebanon.com](mailto:scholarships@lifelebanon.com)

### Marketing

The Nurture Committee launched a marketing initiative to introduce and promote LIFE at the best uni-

versities in Lebanon. In the coming months, senior LIFE members will be presenting LIFE, its mission, vision, and the different ways we can help the next generation succeed in the finance industry. They will also explain to the students the recruitment process and provide guidance and tips on how to successfully apply for jobs in what is a challenging market. A brochure has also been prepared and will be distributed during events and on campuses.

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## PROMOTE

The promote committee formally launched its 2012 program and expanded its ranks to include senior policy advisors from various private organizations in Lebanon. The objectives for this upcoming year will entail i) researching and

proposing to the government and the private sector options to create new industries in Lebanon that would ultimately create jobs and contribute to diversifying the Lebanese economy and ii) publishing views and recommendations on critical domestic financial

issues that arise during the year. Contacts with key people in Lebanon are being established to get all the required support for LIFE's mission.