



(L to R) Mrs. Anne Solomon, Ambassador Richard Solomon, Mrs. Shannon Fairbanks, Mr. Frank Islam and Ms. Debbie Driesman at the home of Mr. Islam and Ms. Driesman in Potomac, MD. Photo credit Margot Schulman.

## On the Road with Layalina Productions

On October 6th, a distinguished group of guests gathered in Potomac, MD at Norton Manor, the home of Frank Islam and Debbie Driesman, who co-hosted a fundraising reception with Layalina Vice Chairman Ambassador Richard Solomon and his wife, Anne. The Honorable Buck Chapoton of Layalina's Board of Directors and his wife Sally were in attendance, as well as Layalina's Chairman Emeritus The Honorable Dick Bodman and his wife The Honorable Karna Bodman.

On October 26th, Team Layalina traveled to Houston, Texas where J.B. and Marita Fairbanks hosted a fundraising reception at their beautiful residence. We are grateful to our hosts for their hospitality and for introducing us to new supporters of Layalina's efforts.

We look forward to holding similar events in Washington, DC, Los Angeles, Miami and New York in 2015.



Guests mingle at the home of J.B. and Marita Fairbanks in Houston, TX. Photo credit Chris Bailey.



## Chairman's Message

Dear Friends,

At this somber time of chaos throughout the Middle East with the export of violence by Jihadist extremists to Pakistan and ... even here to the U.S. and with the Syrian crisis entering its fourth year, we are more determined than ever to counter ISIS propaganda with compelling programs of hope for Arab youth through popular programs which promote entrepreneurship opportunities.

We are thus pleased to announce that *Yemeniettes*, our most recent feature documentary on entrepreneurship was awarded Best Documentary at the Chelsea Film Festival in New York in October. Additionally, our multiple award-winning television miniseries, *Generation Entrepreneur* aired on Alhurra in November. 2014 has been Layalina's most successful year to date, with *Yemeniettes* and *Generation Entrepreneur* garnering an astonishing total of 13 industry awards.

Beyond our ongoing ability to create provocative and popular TV programs for the Arab world, we have initiated a cross-country effort in the US to explain our mission and our past success, and to build a broader financial base of support. Most recently we were delighted to reunite with old friends and meet new supporters of our efforts in Potomac, MD and Houston, TX (both events in October) and we are now planning similar presentations for the coming year in Los Angeles, Miami and New York, where we look to have you more deeply engaged in our work. Our next major event is an Awards Gala to be held at the Gallup World Headquarters in DC on March 18, 2015. We will contact each of you about this exciting partnership event after January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Given the increasing turmoil in the Middle East, we need your help to scale up our efforts to meet the MENA region challenges of today. Indeed, our efforts can only advance through the generous support of people like you. We thus hope you will consider Layalina in your end of year giving.

With my best wishes and warm regards,



Shannon Fairbanks  
Chairman of the Board



(Left) Mr. Frank Islam addresses his guests.  
Photo credit Margot Schulman.



(Above, L to R) Mrs. Shannon Fairbanks, The Honorable Barbara Hackman Franklin, and Mrs. Sally Chapoton.  
Photo credit Margot Schulman.



(Right) Ms. May Rihani and Mr. Zuheir Al-Faqih. Photo credit Margot Schulman.

(Left, L to R) Ambassador Solomon and his wife Anne with Layalina Chairman Emeritus The Honorable Dick Bodman. Photo credit Margot Schulman.







(Top, L to R) Marita, Shannon, and J.B. Fairbanks. (Bottom, L to R) Mirna and Jake Mumm, Phyllis Chesley, Rayya Salem, Leon Shahabian and Tanya Rahall. Photo credit Chris Bailey.



(L to R) Dr. Philip Salem with wife Widad and daughter Rayya. Photo credit Chris Bailey.



(L to R) Mr. J.B. Fairbanks, Mrs. Tani Sanchez, Mrs. Shannon Fairbanks, and Mr. Tony Sanchez. Photo credit Chris Bailey.

## Generation Entrepreneur Airs on Alhurra TV

We are pleased to announce that *Generation Entrepreneur* aired on the Middle East Broadcasting Network's Alhurra TV in November. The broadcast coincided with the Global Entrepreneurship Week and the 5th Global Entrepreneurship Summit, which took place in Marrakech, Morocco with the participation of Vice President Biden and Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker.

*Generation Entrepreneur* embodies the spirit of the Summit, which brought 3,000 young entrepreneurs together with government officials and corporate leaders and provided a platform for emerging entrepreneurs to promote innovative projects and ideas.

"We welcome this opportunity to partner with Layalina Productions. The *Generation Entrepreneur* miniseries is a great complement to Alhurra's extensive coverage of the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Morocco," stated Brian Conniff, President of Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Inc. (MBN). "We hope we can continue this successful relationship with Layalina well into the future."

# Yemeniettes wins Best Documentary at Chelsea Film Festival

We are delighted to announce that *Yemeniettes*, Layalina's most recent feature documentary, won the Best Documentary Award at the Chelsea Film Festival on October 19th in New York City.



The festival, which aims to “empower the work of risk-taking storytellers,” ran from October 16-19, 2014 in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan under the patronage of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

A large crowd attended the screening of *Yemeniettes* at SVA Theater in Chelsea on the closing day of the festival. Layalina's President and the film's Producer, Leon Shahabian, provided remarks after the screening as well as during the closing ceremony and accepted the jury's award on behalf of Team Layalina. The film was also nominated for Best Cinematography at the festival.



Leon Shahabian with Chelsea Film Festival co-founders Ingrid and Sonia Jean-Baptiste.  
Photo credit Paula Rey Jimenez.



Leon Shahabian accepts the jury's award at the Chelsea Film Festival closing ceremony. (L to R) Jury members Jacky Ido, Susan Batson, Agnieszka Wójtowicz-Vosloo and Kiki Lambden. Photo credit Paula Rey Jimenez.

*Yemeniettes* also had its California premiere at the LA Femme International Film Festival during the same weekend.

The film has won eight awards to date and was official selection to five other film festivals, including the top tier Cleveland International Film Festival (CIFF) earlier this year.

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