

Light to guide us, courage to support us and love to unite us

KINNAIRD COLLEGE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH EAST USA

Alumni Newsletter, October 2015

A Word from the president

Dear friends

We had a very successful fundraising event last month when Mrs Phailbus graced us with a visit. Thanks to a collective effort we raised over \$1,800 for our scholarship program for Kinnaird students.

At our annual reunion in 2015 a lowered interest in fundraising by KCA officers was pointed out to us. As per our bylaws, the primary goal of KCA is to network and socialize with fundraising as a secondary objective.



Generally if annual reunion funds are handled carefully, we can easily raise \$1,000 a year at the reunions, so I don't believe we need to work too hard on having events to raise funds every year. Fundraising is, no doubt a noble cause, however, the constant pressure of making money has digressed us from socializing and just having fun get-togethers. It is possible that this is why we have not had more than 50-60+ attendees at our events (in the last 15 years) and only a handful of volunteers willing to serve as officers. We had this charity event last month, maybe it is time to relax and enjoy our reunions for a few years.

We also need to think very carefully before planning to expand the organizing by incorporating and/or high end fund-raisers. This will increase the workload of the officers and will dissuade others to volunteer. Unless our attendance and volunteers increase considerably, let's just relax and keep our events simple and easy to organize. If the officers WANT to raise funds, no one is stopping them, but no pressure please.

This organization belongs to each and every one of us, so do participate and volunteer to serve as reps, board members and officers. Encourage fellow members to join in as well - that will be most helpful towards growing our organization.

Keep sending us your news and pictures for the newsletter and website. We all love that!

Sincerely,

Eemaan Siddiqi

Minutes of KCA Charity Day, September 19, 2015

Reported by Neelam Muizzuddin, PhD

On Saturday September 19, 2015, we had a Charity day event at Eemaan's house in Monroe Township, NJ. A total of 34 attendees graced the occasion including our beloved MrsPhailbus who was nice enough to take the time to come and visit us. We discussed our scholarship program with MrsPhailbus and she has graciously offered to help us implement it.

It was a fun filled day that included shopping from three vendors with awesome clothes. There was a silent auction which was a huge success with Shama and Farida outbidding each other until finally agreeing to share. We had a fabulous fashion show organized by Sumbul with the most adorable young models. Food was great and we raised a little over \$1,800.

Acknowledgement

Firstly, thanks to our gracious hostess/president Eemaan who hosted the event a day after she returned from a 10 day business trip overseas. She was jet lagged and could not find a maid to help out, but she still opened her home to us AND cooked and arranged some food items AND kept her cool when the oven did not work.

Thanks ShamaHaider and Farida Saeed for quickly jumping in to improvise when the oven did not work.

Hats off to some members who could not come but sent their donations; ShaheenaChaudry, Modiha Bhatti, Sofia Iqbal, NidaMohsin, ArnaazYousafzai and Aneela Arshad. It is extremely heartwarming to see that the spirit of KC-Charity still exists.

The silent auction fetched the most funds. Many thanks to all the donors. Uzma (For Me designs) and Ana Couture donated outfits, MaimoonaManzar donated shoes. Special thanks to my colleagues at Estee Lauder: Wanda, Carol and Manju who donated lots of cosmetics for the two baskets. Paul generously donated the Crème de La Mer jar.

Special mention of my niece Mehvish who printed out MrsPhailbus's cake picture using her edible printer- for free (it would have cost me \$30). Also special mention of my niece Sanila for making (donating) the channas AND delivering them to my house at 7:00am on Saturday.

Nadia Zar took leadership of registration task and kept perfect accounts; thanks Nadia. The count of \$\$ and checks came out perfect. Nadia was very vigilant of late comers and made sure everyone paid.

Sumbal put up a great fashion show and took care of the audio aids. Thanks Sumbal for your hard work and also special thanks to the lovely models. The Fashion show was the highlight of the event- it was so much fun.

MrsPhailbus is lovely as ever, it was very sweet of her to make the effort to take time away from her family to spend time with us. I think she had a good time. It was a hectic weekend for her, but she LOVES being around her "girls". She has promised to look into the scholarship program and be our liaison at Kinnaird for our scholarship program. Hopefully by our next reunion in May we will have some good news. We want to specially thank Farida Saeed for picking her up from Washington DC and hosting her in NJ and DureShahwar Afzal for driving her back to Washington DC. Farida also generously paid for Mrs P's gift (day at the spa).

Financial statement

Charity Day 2015	
	Dollar amount
Registration	\$540.00
Donation	\$400.00
Silent auction	\$945.00
Vendors	\$300.00
Total collected	\$2,185.00
Expenses	
	Dollar amount
some food items Food	\$100.86
Cable for sound system	\$10.69
Some non food items	\$100.00
Kabaabs	\$36.00
Cleaning service	\$100.00
Total expense	\$347.55
Grand total - less expenses	\$1,837.45

Scholarship program:

We discussed our scholarship program with MrsPhailbus who offered to help us by acting as a liaison for us at Kinnaird. She suggested assigning one of the members of the scholarship committee to communicate directly us. So far we have directly communicated with DrRukhsana David, the principal who is extremely busy and is thus unable to address all our concerns.

To re-iterate, we have set up a scholarship endowment fund with Kinnaird College. We sent them a total of \$10,000 which have been deposited in the bank by Kinnaird with the promise that the interest from this amount will be used to pay for a scholarship to educate a bright (but needy) young lady at Kinnaird for four years. This arrangement appears ideal, since the principal amount remains untouched and the scholarship can be awarded for an infinite number of years. It seemed such a fantastic plan; we were enthused to establish 4 funds so we could choose a candidate every year. However, inspite of the theoretically ideal arrangement, there are several challenges that we have had to face since we established the fund; these have been learning experiences for us:

- The bank interest rates fluctuate along with the amount for scholarship for each year. Also, with the rising fees we would have to add to the principle amount in order to have enough to cover the fees; this is do-able.
- Communication with Kinnaird principal and the staff has been extremely poor.
- We handed Kinnaird the complete amount (10,000 USD) in August 2012. So far they have not chosen a candidate.
- Kinnaird has not given us regular financial statement pertaining to our funds.
- Now that we have handed the funds to Kinnaird, we have lost control over them and we are not likely to get them back. MrsPhailbus suggested in future we keep our funds here and send as needed. Maybe that will be a much more productive arrangement although we will no longer support a scholarship with interest with the principle in the bank.
- Even if MrsPhailbus is able to help us establish the scholarship for a while, there is no guarantee that the future staff (10 years from now) of Kinnaird will co-operate with us.
- Now the most controversial point. We all know that taking and giving “interest” (riba) is haram as clearly stated in the Quran. I consulted a scholar about this before we established the endowment fund and he told me that since we are using the interest for a worthy cause it is OK, however, we can not expect reward (sadaqaaria) for it. So in my opinion all this effort and hard work is really in vain if there is no reward for it in the next life.
- In 2006 and 2007 we sent \$1,400 to Kinnaird and MrsPhailbus, then principal chose and gave scholarship to two girls for 2 years each. This was for a 2 year bachelor program. According to the latest information from Kinnaird (which is a few years ago) the most expensive 4 year graduate program would cost roughly \$3,800. This is, on average \$950 a year. If we handle our annual reunion arrangement carefully we could easily raise this amount without even a fund raising effort.
- Although several KCA members are adamant that the Endowment fund is the best way of handling our funds, maybe it is time to re-think and re-evaluate our objectives. Please send your thoughts and ideas.

From the Grapevine

ShamaHaider won local elections

Thrilled to announce that ShamaHaider has been elected to the Council of her hometown Tenafly on the Democratic ticket. Swearing in will be in January 2016.

A Council is basically the governing body of a municipality - like a managing board. It approves the town budget, oversees all the departments which include police, public works etc.

Congratulations Councilwoman Shama!



Charity Day, September 2015



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Mira Phailbus

Prof. Dr. Mira Phailbus
Former Ombudsperson (Mohtasib), Punjab
Protection against Harassment of Women,
Act 2010

Sitara-e-Imtiaz
Principal, Professor Emeritus,
Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore
Former Minister of Education and Minority
Affairs
Caretaker Government, Punjab-2007



Mira Phailbus has made a wide-ranging contribution to women's development and education in Pakistan. She is inspired by the belief that women equipped with higher education contribute to the well-being of society as dignified, intelligent, competent and creative individuals. Over the years her work has had a wide influence in Pakistan and internationally. The recognition she has received include the following:

Honorary Doctorate of Law, Davidson College, USA (1982)
Palme Academiques for Services to French Culture (2002)
Former member Punjab University Syndicate
Former member of the National Commission on the Status of Women
Former member, Federal Education Advisory Board
International Mission Boards
Founding President, Asian Women's institute
Founder-Director, Pakistan Women's Institute
First Chairperson, Pakistan Cricket Board (Women's Wing) (2004)
International Scholar's Award, Committee on Higher Education, Presbyterian Church, USA (1991)
Presidential Award, Izaz-i-Fazeelat (1993)
President's Award for Pride of Performance (1994)
Founder-Chairperson, Programme for Women's Improvement (2002)
Member Syndicate Fatima Jinnah Women's University
Member, Board of Management, Fatima Jinnah Medical College
Author "Kinnaird Remembered" Published 2013

The Dream Team



Emaan Siddiqi
President



Neelam Muizzuddin
Acting Treasurer
Newsletter Editor



Farida Saeed
List keeper



Nida Mohsin Webmaster
AV aids manager
Treasurer Elect
New Jersey Rep



Modiha Bhatti
President Elect &
New York Rep



Mahim Khan
Long Island Rep



Joyce Massay
Upstate,
NY Rep



Tina Khan
Massachusetts Rep



Talat Bhatti
Canada Rep