

## SCHNELLER ALUMNI AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

### Minutes of June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 get-together in Niagara Falls, Canada

- Aziz Shalaby thanked the **attendees** from Germany, Australia, Canada and the United States. Special thanks went to Emil Odeh for his happy presence. Aziz thanked Rafic Elfar and the Events Committee for arranging the meeting place. We all thank **Rita Dahdaly and Lamia Haddad, Rafic Elfar and Charles Stephan, Emil Odeh and Nick Neaimi** for the delicious food and drink...
- We took a moment of silence and prayer for those who **passed away**, may they RIP: our great friend and alumnus Ramzi Otaki, Boutros Abi Fakhr, Marie (Umm Issa) Shalhoub and Camillia ElFar.
- Aziz Shalaby relayed **greetings** from all who wished to be with us and sent us some messages: Martin Schneller, Carl Schankweiler, George Haddad, Fuad Khouri, Najm Haddad, Yeghia Yeghiayan, George Naim, and Ghassan Shehadeh.

Basil Rischmaui led us in singing the **Schneller Hymn**

Hartmut Brenner led us with the beautiful **invocation**.

**Friends** were introduced.

Aziz Shalaby made the following **announcements**:

1. Thank you letter from George Haddad
  2. Official recognition of the Rabita by the Lebanese Government
  3. Letter from Yeghia Yeghiayan to honor Hartmut Brenner
  4. Uwe Graebe, Executive Secretary of EMS, successor to Andreas Maurer
- Aziz presented the **treasurer's report** by supplying the attendees with copies of the financial statements for fiscal 2011. Alumni and friends contributed \$5,713.74 of which \$2,370.64 (Izdihar's Wish Fund) has been sent to the school, the rest is applied to the Endowment and Schneller Foundation.
  - The group decided to apply the **membership dues**, donations, of last year to the Endowment.
  - John Dahdaly is the chair for the newly established **Membership Committee**. It is our objective to reach out for more alumni and friends.
  - We decided to keep the **Events Committee** composed of three individuals

Basil Rischmaui was the **Keynote Speaker**: He presented three major ideas:

1. **Alumni contributions** are not reflected in any records. Aziz Shalaby will send a summary of Alumni activities and donations to Basil to present in an upcoming meeting.
2. **Schneller Foundation**: Financial current status and contributions to Schneller Institutes in Lebanon and Jordan. The Foundation Core value of teaching **tolerance and peaceful coexistence amongst different religions and traditions in the Middle East**.
3. The feasibility of erecting a **water fountain** for the children.

Every **participant in the group** voiced their opinion and feelings about several subjects:

1. Remarks about our get- together were positive.
2. There was a heated discussion about the composition of the student body. Some accepted current policies and practices other want more balance between religions.
  - **Collection and pledges** amounted to US\$ 2,729.89. Thanks for all your generous contributions. US\$1,750.00 was designated for Izdihar's Wish Fund. The balance was for the Endowment.
  - Meeting is **adjourned**.

After the meeting we honored **Rev. Dr. Hartmut Brenner**, for all what he has done, in all the capacities, for his dedication, service, and contribution to the Schneller Mission. Nimer Haddad, Master of Ceremonies, thanked Rev. Brenner for his commitment, read several letters from Nasser Dahdal, Najm Haddad and Ghassan Shehadeh. Nimer made slide presentation that took us back to the Schneller days; we saw ourselves, our teachers, and our friends. Nicholas Neaimi recited a poem that elicited many laughs and loud applause. Aziz Shalaby presented Bruder Brenner with a plaque from SAFA. The celebration ended with group photos and a pouring of love and appreciation for Bruder Brenner.