
Bienville House Center for Peace and Justice

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Winter 2016

***Arab Voices* radio show brings leading voices for peace and justice to a Gulf Coast audience**

Arab Voices is a weekly radio program featuring the politics, culture, history and society of the Arab world, the Middle East, and Arab-Americans. The program airs live Wednesdays at 7:00pm local time in Houston, originating from KPFT, 90.1FM Houston Pacifica Radio and streaming online worldwide at www.arabvoices.net

Through the efforts of several Bienville House members, you can now also hear *Arab Voices* every week here in Baton Rouge. *Arab Voices* rebroadcasts Thursday mornings at 8:00 a.m. on Baton Rouge Community Radio, WHYR-LP, 96.9FM.

Many of the topics Bienville House focuses on are frequently featured on *Arab Voices*. Many critical voices on U.S. and Israeli policy, on Islamophobia in America, the Syrian civil war, religious freedom and civil rights, and on the history and culture of the Arab world and Arab Americans appear on the program.

Check out *Arab Voices*' show archive and calendar of events through its website (arabvoices.net) or listen in the Baton Rouge area on 96.9FM or streaming at whyr.org every Thursday at 8:00am.

--Brian Marks

Your Bienville House contributions supported two LSU students' travel to the National Students for Justice in Palestine (NSJP) 2016 Conference

Bienville House has a long history of supporting speakers visiting Louisiana and assisting Louisianians engaged in international justice work. In the 1980s, many of us traveled to Central America during the U.S. counter-revolutionary wars in that region. In recent years, we've supported students traveling to Washington, D.C. and to the School of the Americas (SOA) Watch vigil outside Fort Benning, Georgia.

In November, Bienville House helped fund the travel of two LSU students to the National Students for Justice in Palestine conference at George Mason University. Watch for their report back from the conference in the next newsletter. And remember your contributions make our efforts possible.

2016-2017 Reich-Henderson Writing Competition invites essays on student engagement in social justice

In honor of Bienville House members Robert Reich and Paula Henderson, we are once again holding our annual high school student essay competition. This year, students are given the following writing prompt:

Write an essay in which you describe a social justice problem that you have observed in your community, either first-hand or indirectly. How have you, or our community, responded to this problem? If you have been directly involved in addressing the problem, describe your experience. What has/hasn't worked? Why/why not? Given your observations and experience, reflect on possible ways in which you, as an individual, can help to ameliorate the social justice problem that you have discussed.

The competition is open to all high school students in Louisiana. Essays are a maximum of 1,000 words and submissions are due April 30th, 2017. Complete instructions and entry forms for the Reich-Henderson Writing Competition are online at the Bienville House website (www.bienvillehousecenter.org).

Bienville House elects new officers

Earlier this year, the members of the Bienville House Center for Peace and Justice voted for officers at our regular monthly meeting. Bienville House meets every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the East Baton Rouge Parish Main Library on Goodwood Boulevard. Meetings are open to the public.

Bienville House's new officers are: Brian Marks, President
Julie Sukkar, Treasurer
Jessica Eberhard, Secretary



You are cordially invited to the annual
Bienville House Center for Peace & Justice
Holiday Open House and Silent Auction

6 - 9:00 p.m., Sunday, December 11th

at the home of Hassan & Soumaya Ghosn

636 Bancroft Way, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

An informal pot-luck dinner will be served with desserts and drinks.

You are invited to bring "treasures" for the silent auction (auction items may also be dropped off in advance at Hassan's house; leave them on the porch.)

Spread the love - bring your friends!

Dr. Clovis Maksoud, former Arab League Ambassador and 2014 Bienville House speaker, dies at 89

Clovis Maksoud, emeritus professor at American University and former Arab League Ambassador to the U.S. and UN, died on May 15th in Washington D.C. He was 89.

The Bienville House Center for Peace and Justice hosted Dr. Maksoud as a guest speaker in November 2014. During his visit, he gave four talks in Baton Rouge and New Orleans to the general public and university audiences, and made several media appearances. Subjects for his talks included the paradox of globalization and fragmentation in the contemporary Arab world, his recently published memoir *From the Confines of Memory*, and his commitment to a democratic, secular, one-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Many Bienville House members had the

opportunity to speak with Dr. Maksoud during his time in Louisiana and enjoyed hearing about his extremely active and varied life experiences and his charming personality.

Born in the U.S. in 1926, Dr. Maksoud became the Arab League’s Ambassador to India and Southeast Asia in 1961. He later served as Arab League Ambassador to the U.S. and UN from 1979-90. He also served as senior editor of *Al-Ahram*, one of the largest circulation Arabic-language newspapers in the world. He founded the Center for the Study of the Global South at American University in 1992 and taught International Law there until his retirement in 2013.

--Brian Marks



We must fight against extreme poverty, empower women, expand the zone of peace and enhance the chances of freedom. While we should continue to import knowledge, we should, however, subordinate it to produce knowledge.

-Dr. Clovis Maksoud
1926-2016

The Bienville House Center for Peace and Justice is online!

Check out our website:
<http://www.bienvillehousecenter.org>

And find us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/BienvilleHouseCenter

Please join Bienville House, or renew your membership, using the form on the last page of this newsletter. Whether you are a member or not, you are welcome to attend our monthly meetings, which are held at 7:30 p.m. every third Wednesday of the month, at the East Baton Rouge Parish Main Library, 7711 Goodwood Blvd, Baton Rouge.

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P.O. Box 4363
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

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*The work of Bienville House is totally membership supported.
Your financial support is very important, and it will be put to meaningful use.*

To join Bienville House or to renew your membership

Please complete the following information and mail your check to:
Bienville House Center for Peace and Justice, P. O. Box 4363, Baton Rouge, LA 70821.
Donations are tax deductible.

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 Individual - \$30 Newsletter only - \$15 Low income - \$7

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