

Dr. Carol Zaiek, an Argentinean of Lebanese Descent, Visits LERC

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Reported by Elie Nabhan

Mrs. Carol Zaiek an Argentinean lady of Lebanese descent and a lawyer by profession, passed by LERC to present to the Center two black-and-white pictures of her grandfather, Mr. Habib Zayek, who was born in Ghazir, Kesserwan in 1908 and who in 1920 emigrated to Argentina. Mrs. Zaiek's father, Mr. Humberto Nicolás Zaiek, was born in Argentina in 1928, making her a third generation Argentinean.

Mrs. Zaiek's father was a lawyer and also a diplomat who served as Argentina's Ambassador in Lebanon for ten years back in the 1950's.

Mrs. Zaiek, who works at the Asociación de Beneficencia Hospital Sirio Libanés in Buenos Aires, was on a brief trip to Lebanon and came to LERC to learn more about the Center and to donate to the LERC's electronic archives two black-and-white photographs of her grandfather on one of his visits back to Lebanon in the 1950's. Each time he came he gathered around him family and friends for a big party at the St. George Hotel in Beirut, where these two pictures were taken.

Mrs. Zaiek also donated to the Center her family's photos and copies of her Argentinean and Italian passports.

After being introduced to LERC's Director, Mrs. Zaiek was given a brief overview of the aim and activities of LERC, shown the materials LERC collects in its electronic archives, and taken on a visit to the Lebanon Migration Museum at NDU.



Mrs. .L. Haddad explaining on the materials in LERC's electronic archives to Mrs. C. Zaiek (June 2010).

Mrs. Zaiek expressed her delight at the work that LERC is involved in, “so important,” she said, for herself as well as for other Lebanese migrants in other countries. She stated her conviction that if Lebanon was free of political problems and wars, the Lebanese, like members of her family, would not be obliged to emigrate.

Even though Mrs. Zaiek was born in Argentina, every time she visits Lebanon tears come to her eyes as soon as Beirut appears on the horizon. She said that she feels that she is returning home, and that her blood cries for Lebanon.

Mrs. Zaiek promised to maintain contact with the Center when back in Argentina and also to help the Center in its mission, with the help particularly of members of the Lebanese community in Buenos Aires.



Mrs. C. Zaiek at the Museum accompanied by Fr. Antoin Khoueiry (June 2010).