

Mexican-Lebanese Mrs. Martha Trabulse de El Khouri calls upon LERC

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Reported by Elie Nabhan

Mexican-born Lebanese, Mrs. Martha Trabulse de El Khouri paid a visit to LERC. She is the daughter of film maker, author and poet, Mr. Antonio Trabulse Kaim, who was honored with the LERC Acknowledgement Award in December 2009 for outstanding service to the Lebanese community in Mexico and in recognition of his endeavors to strengthen the relations between Mexico and Lebanon especially on a cultural level.

Mrs. Trabulse de El Khouri graduated from the Universidad Anáhuac in 2007 with an honors degree in International Administration and then worked at Pepsico International, Mexico, attending to all communications to the sales force. In 2010, Mrs. Trabulse de El Khouri became the General Manager of the newly established NGO the Lebanese Archives of Mexico, which is attempting to document and save materials related to the Lebanese in Mexico, very much in the same manner that LERC documents the Lebanese diaspora worldwide.

Mrs. Trabulse de El Khouri is now married to another Mexican-born Lebanese, Mr. Nizam El Khouri Nader, who accompanied her to the Center. Mr. El Khouri studied International Relations and then worked with the Mexican government in the tourism sector. He went on to work with his father, Nizam Mikhael El Khouri, in the child garment industry.



The Trabulse de El Khouri family members at the Lebanon Migration Museum at NDU (April 2011).

Both the Trabulse de El Khouri family members met with LERC Director Ms. Guita Hourani and discussed the objectives of both institutions and ways of cooperation. Mrs. Trabulse de El Khouri explained that the first collection of her new NGO will be that of her father's, i.e. the materials of the Mexican-Lebanese Cultural Institute and will be funded mainly by Mr. Alfredo Harb Helou. LERC offered to act as an expert and a verbal agreement was reached to exchange digital material.

The couple were then given a presentation of all the materials collected by LERC in its electronic archives, something that was of great interest to the Lebanese Archives of Mexico, NGO, and taken on a tour of the Lebanon Migration Museum at NDU.

Mrs. Trabulse de El Khouri was impressed with the LERC team and LERC's scope of work and hoped for more collaboration in the future. Her husband also wished for future cooperation stating his delight with the opportunity to talk about migration matters and to view the materials collected by LERC.

Before leaving, Mrs. Trabulse de El Khouri presented to LERC as gifts from the author the script of EL-VUELO, a play authored by her father Antonio Trabulse Kaim, performed at the Lebanese Club Theatre in Mexico City, Mexico, in 1993, and a beautifully illustrated hard cover book *Dos Pueblos, Un Espiritu Libaneses en México*.