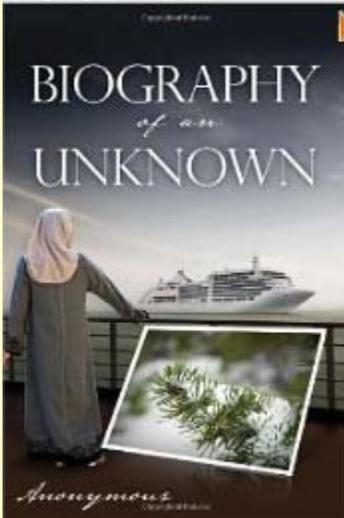


*See inside:*

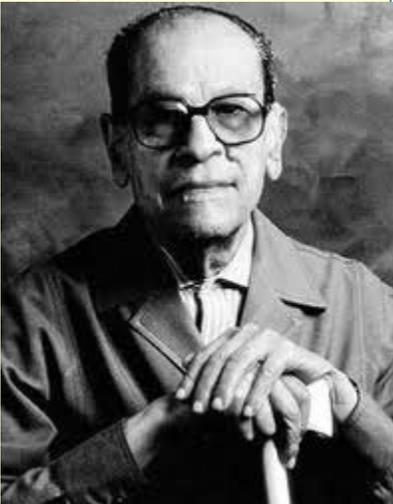
- *Ancient Egyptian city Discovered...*



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# Egyptian American Report



Web: [www.eaous.com](http://www.eaous.com)

May 2013

## 2013 EAO Outstanding Achievement Award

The Egyptian American Organization hosted its annual gala dinner at the UCLA Faculty Club on Saturday February 16, at which the Outstanding Achievement Award for 2013 was presented to Mr. Mahfouz Doss. Mr. Doss is a past president and chairman of the board of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which produces the Golden Globe Awards. His career spans over sixty years and is truly remarkable. As journalist, film critic, administrator, chemical engineer and community supporter, Mr. Mahfouz left his imprint locally and around the world.

For many years, Mr. Doss served as a board member of St Mark Coptic Orthodox Church, St Peter, and St Paul Coptic Orthodox Church in Los Angeles, California. He served as a Vice President and board member of the National Association of Arab Americans, Los Angeles chapter. He was the President of the Advisory Board of the (AATV) Arab American Television. He was the chairman of the Advisory Board of OCTV and President of the Egyptian Pharaohs Club. He is known to be a world traveler, and has visited 113 countries and circled the world several times.



Mr. Mahfouz Doss and family with the members of the EAO Board 2013

## Ancient “Mythical” Egyptian City Discovered



Like the lost city of Atlantis the legendary Egyptian city of Heracleion, rumored as an extraordinarily wealthy port and major center of commerce, had been for ages taken to be simply that—a legend. However while surveying the coast for French warships lost in the 18<sup>th</sup> century battle of the Nile, scientists uncovered this lost city sitting nearly 150 feet underwater near the present day Bay of Aboukir. Believed to have been built around the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC, the port city of Heracleion (also named Thonis in some of the few ancient manuscripts remaining describing it) had a strategic location at the intersection of the Nile and the Mediterranean. The many marvels that archeologists have painstakingly uncovered thus far from the site of ancient Haracleion merely scratch the surface of what may still lay underneath. Over 64 ships, gold coins, weights for trade transactions, Greek and Egyptian stone inscriptions, dozens of sarcophagi, hundreds of god statues, and over 700 ship anchors have so far been found. Leading the excavation, Dr. Gaddio says they will “probably have to continue working for the next 200 years for Thonis-Heracleion to be fully revealed and understood.” More information can be found at: <http://www.franckgoddio.org/projects/sunken-civilizations/heracleion.html> .



## The Legacy of Living Stories

On May 12, we are all celebrating the gift of the first of family ties: that of mother and child. Humans are the members of the only species that maintains the ties connecting the offspring to its parents for life. And perhaps that is what makes us human--because, it seems to me, our happiness and our success in this world (and the next?) depend on our love for others, our interest in the things beyond our selfish needs, our commitment to the welfare of larger and larger communities--from that contained in a bubble of comfortable self-identification, in which we live with our parents and siblings, to the ever-widening spheres of the whole world.

I woke up very early today thinking of my mother. I had slept with the window wide open, and the morning breeze brought in the smell of early summer, with the sun painting on the wall the shadowed dimness of my blinds and curtain. Something in my memory was triggered by this combination of light and warmth, and I saw in my mind's eye her bedroom, with the windows hugging three walls, bringing in the strong light and sense of openness I always felt when I was in her room. Her morning smile and the soft serenity in this room of lavender soap and feather pillows reassured me that the world was safe.

I think of my mother now and I look back at this sunlit room with three walls of windows and the feathered pillows where her lavender scented head had left a trace of tenderness that I devoured as I hugged her pillow when she was not there. And I miss my Egypt.

Suddenly a sense of responsibility overwhelms me. What have we, here in our incarnation as Americans, given to our children from our inherited sense of family and community? I say *THIS inherited sense* because even in my American skin (and my skin has become American), I am aware of the very uniquely *EGYPTIAN* sense of community that my generation grew up in. What we inherit is not ours, but a trust left in our keeping to pass on to our children. To make them strong. To make them happy. We, mothers of first generation Americans, how do we pass on this inheritance? And I realize that we have only one avenue to recreate the spirit of the world we left behind: we have to pass on the stories. This is how, since Plato's time and even earlier, human history has been recorded and passed down: in narratives of remembrance.

At once, I think of the slim volume written with love and in the spirit of passing on the story of her personal life to her off-spring: Dr. Magda Bayar's *Biography of an Unknown*. The book was enjoyed by members of our community, who read it with sympathetic nostalgia. On April 14, the EAO, in the inviting and interesting environment of the Huntington Library, recognized Dr. Magda Bayar's accomplishment. This celebration of an Egyptian narrative was suitably matched with an award presented to Dr. Ahmed Abdallah for his remarkable photographic Odyssey. In the contributions of these two EAO members, we have examples of the legacy that we are by duty bound to bequeath our children. These legacies bear a message to posterity; they tell them: never forget who you are; take from me the best of the heritage that *you* will strengthen, imbuing it with your Americanness, and pass it on to your Egyptian-American community as it, in turns, feeds and strengthens the larger community to which it belongs.

*by an unknown mother*



Drs. Magda and Mahmoud Bayar and family

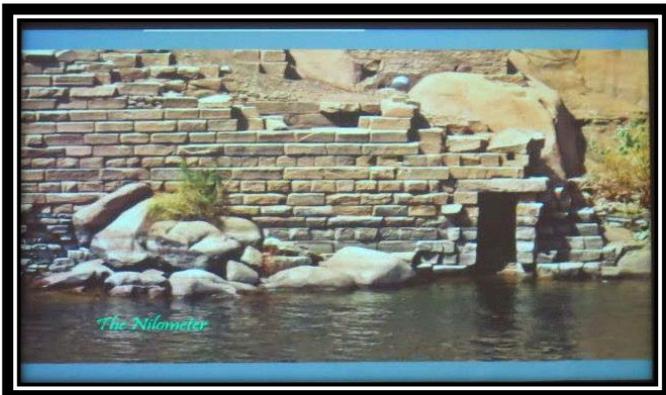
## *Huntington Library Trip - April 14, 2013*

A Day at The Huntington Library exploring literature, photography, art, and touring the magnificent The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino.



*Dr. Magda El Bayar is the author of a new book entitled *Biography of an Unknown*, a story that unfolds her life journey from Egypt to America. This odyssey is written as a gift of memories by Dr. Bayar to her children.*

*You can purchase the book online and download it at [www.dorrancebookstore.com](http://www.dorrancebookstore.com) and [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)*



Dr. Ahmed Abdallah photography



Dr. Ahmed Abdallah and family

## ***The Big Read Program in Los Angeles Honors Naguib Mahfouz***

Starting in 2007, the Big Read Program in LA annually launches a series of activities promoting reading as a center of American culture. The program chose Naguib Mahfouz's novel, *The Thief and The Dogs* as this year's big read subject. Several community organizations, including The Egyptian American Organization, ABC7, the Consulate of Egypt in Los Angeles, the Culinary Historians of Southern California, the Egyptian Theatre, the Levantine Cultural Center, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Los Angeles Public Library, the Los Angeles Unified School District, and many more worked together with the City of Los Angeles in this year's Big Read. Poetry readings, art exhibits, educational programs to further cultural awareness and understanding of the Middle East, musical tours of classical music forms in Egypt, panel discussions on Egypt and the social media revolution, literature and drama group discussions, creative workshops engaging local teens with public libraries to discuss *The Thief and The Dogs* are but a few of the activities organized this year. Especially exciting is the strong involvement of young people from all over LA, several of whom will showcase their original short films about *The Thief and The Dog* at the Media Arts Program Culminating Event to be held June 8, 2013 at 2pm at the CalArts Modular Theatre.

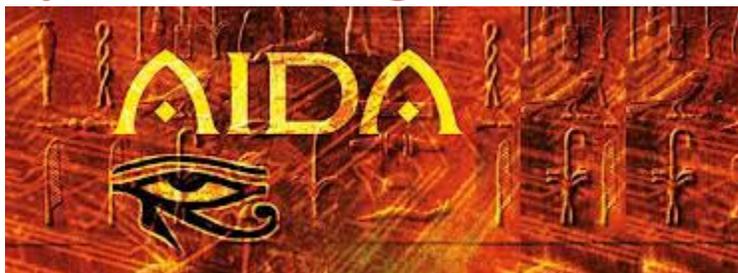


For more information about the Culminating Event, call 661.222.2708; or for The Big Read Program in general, visit <http://www.neabigread.org/books/thethiefandthedogs/>



## ***Upcoming Event!!!***

### ***Opera Aida August 11 at Hollywood Bowl***



Tickets go fast, book now!

<http://www.hollywoodbowl.com/philpedia/music/aida-giuseppe-verdi>