



UNITED TAYBEH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

(714) 240-6676

www.taybeh.org

February 20, 2011

Dear Taybeh Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you and your families are in the best of health and spirits and wish that 2011 will bring you happiness and blessings.

I hope that you have had a chance this past holiday season to celebrate with us at the Christmas and New Year Eve events that our UTAA regions held. The UTAA's West Coast and East Coast regions held a Christmas party each on December 18, 2010. The Midwest and Southern regions held a New Year Eve party each. All four events were very successful and were enjoyed by all those who attended. I would like to thank all those who worked very hard to make these events the success they were. The credit goes to our wonderful regional directors and all the volunteers who helped make these holiday events successful. Remember these events came about as a result of a UTAA General Assembly decision at our wonderful and remarkable convention in Taybeh in 2010. I look forward to making this event an annual tradition of our great organization in keeping with its stated goals of nurturing the ties among Taybeh natives in the United States.

As you may know, a decision was made at the general Assembly this past year to hold our annual convention for 2011 in Guatemala City. Unfortunately, the worsening security situation on the ground in Guatemala has forced us to reconsider. Ever since this past summer when this decision was made in Taybeh, the security situation has substantially changed in Guatemala due to many factors, chief among which, is the fact that this year is a presidential elections year. Typically, during presidential elections in Guatemala, lawlessness and crime go on the rise and this year has proved no exception so far. As a result, and after careful consideration and deliberation and after consulting with our brothers and sisters in Guatemala, and following their honest advice, the Board of Directors made a decision to cancel the planned convention for 2011. I know many of us enjoy our annual tradition and look forward to attending, however this year's exceptional decision was made to ensure the safety of all of us which comes ahead of other considerations. We will do our best this year to ensure that we continue to get together on a more local basis in the four regions with events throughout the year such as the holiday events we held this past holiday season. We will determine the place and date for the convention for 2012 and inform you as soon as it becomes available. I would like to thank our brothers and sisters in Guatemala for their open arms invitation to us, which they have kept open for us in the future, and also for their concern for our safety and security.

Please find enclosed a UTAA Calendar for 2011 highlighting our convention in Taybeh this past Summer. I hope you will enjoy it. Also, please find an invoice for the 2011 UTAA membership dues. As you know, the dues is our main source of funding so we may continue our great work and maintain the support of our programs such as our annual scholarship. This past year, we saw a record collected amount of our annual membership dues despite the tough economic conditions. Our total collected reached \$7,550.00. I would respectfully ask each and every one of you to do our part this year so that, for 2011, we can even exceed the amount collected last year. I sincerely thank you for doing your part in keeping our organization strong and active.

I would like to let you know that your board of directors is active and working on your behalf meeting via teleconference every first Monday of the month with an organized agenda and meeting minutes which we will be posting to our website. If you have any issues that you would like to bring to our attention, please feel free to reach out to me at (714) 240-6676 or to any of our board members, especially to your regional directors who will bring the issue or topic to the board's attention during our monthly meetings.

Also, please let us know if you would like to order a copy of the video set, a total of 7 DVDs, of the entire convention in Taybeh. We still have copies available for purchase.

Thank you all for your support and let us continue to work together to achieve our goals as an organization for our members in the United States and for our beloved Taybeh.

For more information, please visit UTAA's website www.taybeh.org and also join the UTAA – United Taybeh American Association group on Facebook.

Sincerely,

Wadie George Jaser
UTAA President