

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I followed with great interest and appreciation your two articles in the two issues of *Al-Raida* (winter 1997), one on Seza the pioneer journalist-writer in Lebanon and another on "Alicia Ghiragossian: the Trilingual Poet," in the United States, both persons well known to me, the former as a very intimate friend. I congratulate Ms. Azadouhi Kalaidjian for having done justice to both and admire the breadth of her horizon and the depth of her analysis. Seza's article did justice to a true pioneer who kept her voice strong against odds not uncommon to pioneers. She never hesitated to chastise when expected standards were not there be they in community performances or otherwise, and, at the same time, educated the community on past and current issues.

The article is a weighty and fair display of Seza's place in women's history in Lebanon. You are aware that the well known **Armenian Mirror Spectator Weekly** reproduced it from *Al-Raida*, which was a good way of creating awareness of the magazine in our widespread community in the United States. You will be glad to know that the well known journalist Dikran Tospatt had an article on her recently in **Nor Gyank Weekly**, as a person who knew her intimately as brother-in-law and fellow journalist. The article was on the occasion of Seza being honored by the Armenian International Women's Association at their international conference in Paris.

I must confess the article on Alicia was a delightful surprise to me for I was not aware of your interest in the analysis of poetry! I hope you are able to send a copy of *Al-Raida* to her.

Now a few words about *Al-Raida*, which through the years has improved both in content and format bringing credit to us at the international level. It has become the voice of outstanding women in the Middle East and has mirrored their concerns, talents, problems, academic standards, and their world that has remained hidden for the most part. Julinda Abu Nasr must be celebrated for this feat. I consider it a feat, even though I am not surprised for I remember her in my classroom at the College, decades ago, with glittering eyes, always alert, always ready to penetrate the world of ideas, with a dream for the future ... with hard work. I am gratified for this connection.

Best wishes

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