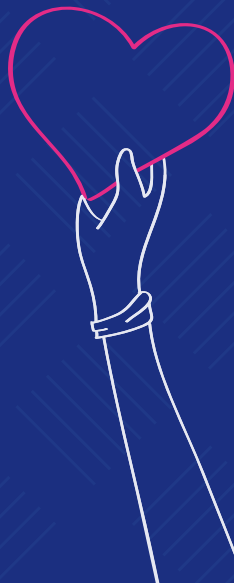
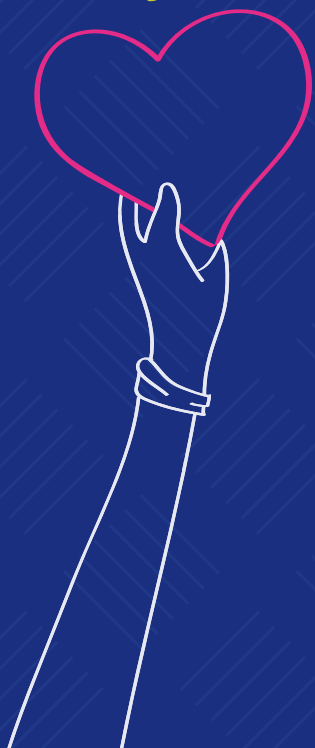


seal

HAND IN HAND
for Lebanon

EVENING PROGRAM
MAY 2, 2022



EVENING PROGRAM

7 pm COCKTAILS

8 pm DINNER

MC & Entertainment

Nathalie Aukar and Dave Merheje

Welcoming Notes

George Bitar, SEAL Board Member & Former President

SEAL 2022 Diaspora Award Presentation

Raymond Debbane, SEAL Advisory Board

George Altirs, Award Recipient

The Future for SEAL

Norma Haddad, SEAL Executive Director

Rula Tamer, SEAL President

Georges Sassine, VP, Large Scale Renewables, NYSERDA

CK Swett, Call for Action: Solar Energy Fund

Tonight's gifts to our guests include MAHA CHOCOLATE, generously gifted by George Altirs, along with a curation of exceptional olive oil and related products from Mejdalaya, North Lebanon, carefully selected by Nadia & Mike Altirs.



GEORGE ALTIRS 2022 SEAL Award Recipient

George Altirs is a self-made entrepreneur, successful businessman and philanthropist. Growing up in North Lebanon, he moved to Brooklyn in the late 1980s, and in 1990 he established GMA Accessories (dba Capelli New York) along with his younger brother Masoud. Currently, George is the Chairman of GMA Group - headquartered in New York City. GMA Group holds the companies of all the businesses that he owns around the world.

GMA Group also owns five manufacturing plants in China and three in Bangladesh, holds licensing agreements with large corporations such as Disney, Skechers, New Balance, Marvel and Head Fitness, and distributes to retailers around the world such as Nordstrom, Walmart, Target, Costco, Amazon, and more.

George manages a large diversified real estate portfolio globally. One of his most recent projects occurred in 2011 when he co-founded (with his wife Elisabeth) Capelli Sport, an innovative sports apparel and fitness equipment company that competes with major sports brands such as Adidas & Nike. He proudly sponsors all Lebanese national teams including basketball & football.

He founded Cedar Stars Academy, a youth soccer club with over 3,000 players in the New York/New Jersey area. George also owns sports complexes and professional soccer clubs for men and women in Germany, Denmark, Monaco and Ghana. George has also established the Altirs Foundation, which provides scholarships to students and supports families and organizations in need in Lebanon.

In 2015, George was awarded an honorary Doctorate in Business and Commercial Sciences from the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) for supporting higher education opportunities for underserved students. He has served as Chair of the USEK Board of Trustees since October 2017 and is a board member of several businesses within the United States.

In addition, George was the recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 2005, TAKREEM award for Outstanding Corporate Leadership in 2013, and tonight he is receiving the SEAL Diaspora Award for his philanthropy and unwavering support to Lebanon. George Altirs lives in Saddle River, NJ with his wife Elisabeth and his seven children.





GEORGES SASSINE

VP, Large Scale Renewables, NYSERDA

Georges Sassine is the Vice President for Large-Scale Renewables at the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). He leads NYSERDA's work in advancing both land-based renewable energy and offshore wind resources. Prior

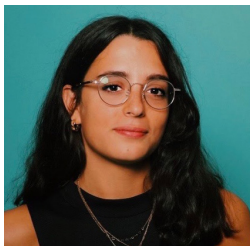
to joining NYSERDA in September 2021, he spent nearly ten years at General Electric (GE) where he took on a wide scope of responsibilities including strategy, scenario planning, product management, innovation, marketing and business development. He started his career in engineering and policy analysis roles with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in the Middle East and at a couple of think tanks in Washington, DC. Georges has also worked with several multinational corporations driving policy analysis, investment and business strategy including Deutsche Bank's Energy & Climate Change Advisors team in New York and Man Group's energy private equity fund in London. He is also the founder of a non-profit that advocates for transparency and good governance in the energy industry.

Georges sits on the board of the Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA), a non-profit platform for states and public agencies to collaborate to advance clean energy in the United States. He holds a Bachelor in Engineering in Mechanical Engineering from the American University of Beirut, and a Master in Public Policy from Harvard University.



CK SWETT Auctioneer

CK Swett, formerly of Christie's and Phillips auction houses, has raised more than \$100 million for charity as an auctioneer over the last decade. When he is not convincing bidders to raise their paddles just one last time, he is often found Wordle-ing, playing chess on his phone, or singing enthusiastically off-key.



NATALY AUKAR Stand-Up Comic

Nataly Aukar is a Lebanese-born and raised stand-up comic based in New York City. She's opened for Gad El-Maleh, Mo Amer, Ramy Youssef, and Hasan Minhaj. Nataly also starred in *Sofa So Good*, a comedy short film by Noa Osheroff, featured on the *New Yorker* and selected at the Lower East Side Film Festival 2020,

Aspen Shorts Fest 2020, and the Woodstock Film Festival 2020 amongst others. Recently, Nataly appeared in HBO's "Pause with Sam Jay."



DAVE MERHEJE Stand-Up Comic

Dave Merheje is considered to be one of the most original stand-up acts on the comedy scene today. His multiple award-winning acts have gained a loyal following across North America with his "no fear" approach on stage, as well as a comedy style best described as "aggressive in-your-face funny".

Dave has made appearances on Comedy Network's *Match Game*, he co-stars in the comedy series *Ramy* on Hulu and his most recent comedy special, *Beautifully Manic*, can now be seen on Netflix as part of *Comedians of the World*, right now.

THE POWER OF SOLAR

The electricity crisis in Lebanon is escalating at a rate that will impose catastrophic damage to the already fragile country. With less than two hours of electricity each day, there is an imminent need to help ensure basic electricity needs to underserved communities. Through access to solar energy, SEAL strives to provide its beneficiaries with the energy needed to bring their businesses back to life.

The proliferation of solar energy increases social and economic equity and ensures security for entire communities. With 300 days of sun, Lebanon is an ideal environment for solar power. However, the cost of installing solar systems is prohibitively high for many who are suffering from one of the world's worst economic crises.

**Please join us tonight to help build a brighter future for Lebanon.
As a non-profit organization, SEAL is reliant upon its generous
donors to fulfill its mission.**





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YOUNG PROFESSIONALS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

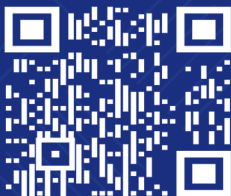
Chaouki El Rassi • Rhea Kairouz • Sabrina Tager

Social and Economic Action for Lebanon

seal-usa.org

seal-usa@seal-usa.com

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Please scan the above QR code to access seal-usa.org/donate

Venmo: @SEALforlebanon

SEAL is a 501(c) 3 non-profit, non-political, and non-sectarian organization. It was founded in New York City in 1997 to assist underserved Lebanese communities facing severe social and economic hardships in post-war Lebanon. SEAL focuses on community-driven economic development and funds projects in all geographical locations in Lebanon.