



**WATERING OUR LAND,
NURTURING RESILIENCE**

Evening Program

October 8, 2023



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EVENING PROGRAM

5:00 pm COCKTAILS

6:00 pm DINNER

Welcoming Notes

Norma Haddad, SEAL Executive Director

Piano Performance

Shaun Agostine

SEAL 2023 Achievement Award

Sarah Beydoun - Sarah's Bag

SEAL Update

Rula Tamer, SEAL Board President

Live Auction and Call for Action:

Keith L. McLane, Professional Auctioneer

Tonight's wine is generously donated by Daou.



SARAH BEYDOUN

2023 SEAL Award Recipient

Sarah Beydoun is a Lebanese social entrepreneur whose vibrant and distinctive bags encapsulate the essence of Lebanese cultural elements. In May 2000, Beydoun launched Sarah's Bag with the aim of empowering underprivileged

women and female prisoners in Lebanon. Her inspiration originated from extensive field research during her graduate studies in sociology at the Université Saint Joseph in Beirut. While collaborating with Dar Al Amal, a local non-governmental organization dedicated to rehabilitating at-risk women and female ex-prisoners, she recognized the critical need to provide these women with opportunities for employment and financial independence. The stories of resilience she encountered deeply resonated with her, propelling her into action.

Empowered by the connections she formed with the prisoners, Beydoun embarked on a mission to provide tangible support by teaching incarcerated women embroidery skills. She initiated training programs in traditional embroidery and hand-beading crafts. Collaborating with a skilled handbag artisan, she breathed life into these canvases, skillfully transforming them into luxurious handcrafted bags. Notably, she established a groundbreaking system that enabled the women prisoners to offer training and employment to their friends and family in their hometowns after their release, thus creating clusters of artisans led by former prisoners. This innovative approach not only elevated their status but also facilitated their successful reintegration into society.

Drawing inspiration from Beirut's iconic graffiti, pop culture, 1970s psychedelic art, and vibrant prints, Beydoun's creations have gained widespread recognition. Her designs have been featured on prestigious platforms like Net-A-Porter and Matches Fashion. Influential figures including HRH Queen Rania of Jordan, Beyoncé, and Amal Clooney have elegantly adorned her designs.

In 2016, Sarah Beydoun received the prestigious "Business for Peace Award" in Oslo, honoring her significant contribution to trust, stability, and peace-building through her business endeavors. This recognition underscored her unwavering commitment to peace.

Amidst the challenges posed by the Lebanese economic collapse in 2019 and the Beirut Blast in 2020, the international luxury fashion house Chloe sought a collaborative partnership with Sarah's Bag. This alliance not only demonstrated the brands' shared commitment to social empowerment but also solidified their dedication to the craft.

Beydoun's journey stands as an inspiring testament to those who aspire to effect meaningful change through their passions and pursuits. Her impactful approach serves as a guiding light for anyone seeking to make a positive impact on the world. Beydoun's achievements have played a transformative role in the lives of more than 250 Lebanese underprivileged women, showcasing the enduring power of compassion.



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SHAUN AGOSTINE Entertainment

Shaun Agostine, a globally acclaimed pianist and composer, has captivated audiences with his extraordinary musical creations since a young age. Nicknamed "The Chopin of This Century" and "The Next Beethoven" by international media and critics, Shaun's musical journey began at three years old with piano lessons, and he composed his first piece at eight. By ten, he was performing his original compositions at the World Classical Series, followed by a stunning performance at the Natural History Museum in London

at thirteen, where he unveiled his debut album, "Letters to My Mom (Vol. 1)".

TEDx invited thirteen-year-old Shaun to speak about his aspiration to compose soundtracks that mirror life's stories, and he showcased his talents with live performances, earning recognition on the TEDx YouTube channel. Shaun's accolades expanded to prestigious events, including performing for the Lebanese National Museum's reopening and the Brazilian Governor's Palace, as well as receiving the Catholic Medal from Cardinal Patriarch Al Rai. Notably, he released six self-composed albums before turning 15 and led the Almaty Symphony Orchestra in playing his acclaimed pieces.

In 2023, Shaun marked a historic moment by performing at UC Berkeley's commencement ceremony and releasing a piece called "Light The Way." From sold-out concerts to performances worldwide, including Las Vegas and Milan, Shaun's musical prowess continues to receive international acclaim.



KEITH L. MCLANE Auctioneer

Keith L. McLane, BAS, is one of the country's preeminent fundraising auctioneers. Since 1995, he has specialized in conducting charity and fundraising auctions for schools, charitable organizations, and nonprofit groups.

Keith holds an MBA from The UCLA Anderson School of Management and is a graduate of the world-famous Missouri Auction School. He is also one of only a small number of auctioneers in the country--and only 20

auctioneers in California--to have achieved the National Auctioneers Association's prestigious Benefit Auction Specialist (BAS) designation.

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BENEFIT DINNER COMMITTEE

Natasha Abdel Massih Byrne • Shireene Bazzi Mourad
Jeanette Hajjar • Maya Labban • Tala Mazloun

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Dolly Chammas • Hani Daou
Jocelyne Khouri-Haddad • Antoine Nasr

The beautiful invitation, program cover and table
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WATER CHALLENGES

FUND A NEED

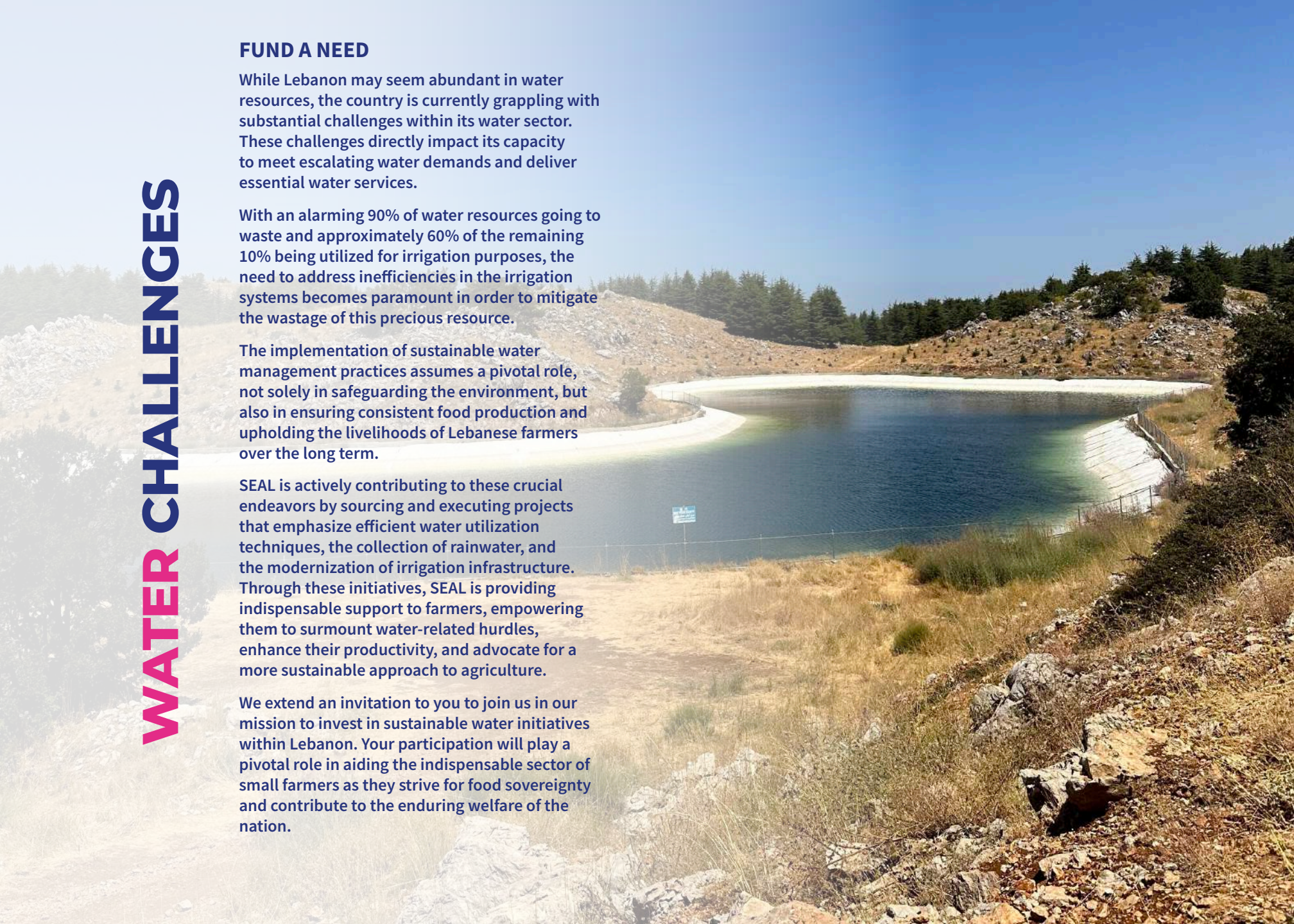
While Lebanon may seem abundant in water resources, the country is currently grappling with substantial challenges within its water sector. These challenges directly impact its capacity to meet escalating water demands and deliver essential water services.

With an alarming 90% of water resources going to waste and approximately 60% of the remaining 10% being utilized for irrigation purposes, the need to address inefficiencies in the irrigation systems becomes paramount in order to mitigate the wastage of this precious resource.

The implementation of sustainable water management practices assumes a pivotal role, not solely in safeguarding the environment, but also in ensuring consistent food production and upholding the livelihoods of Lebanese farmers over the long term.

SEAL is actively contributing to these crucial endeavors by sourcing and executing projects that emphasize efficient water utilization techniques, the collection of rainwater, and the modernization of irrigation infrastructure. Through these initiatives, SEAL is providing indispensable support to farmers, empowering them to surmount water-related hurdles, enhance their productivity, and advocate for a more sustainable approach to agriculture.

We extend an invitation to you to join us in our mission to invest in sustainable water initiatives within Lebanon. Your participation will play a pivotal role in aiding the indispensable sector of small farmers as they strive for food sovereignty and contribute to the enduring welfare of the nation.



LIVE AUCTION ITEMS

For the Wine Enthusiast

Thanksgiving and the holiday season are just around the corner! Are you prepared? Don't worry, we have you covered with two exquisite selections of wines.

LOT 1

The first lot is a rare collection of two vertical sets, each containing 6 bottles of Chateaux Saint-Pierre. This highly acclaimed grand cru classé hails from the esteemed Pomerol region, spanning the vintages of 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. Every set is elegantly presented in a wooden coffret, making it an ideal gift or a delightful addition to your own collection for sharing with cherished guests.

Value: \$1,000

LOT 2

The second lot features a carefully curated case of exceptional bottles bound to delight even the most discerning wine connoisseur..

- One bottle of 2007 Chateau Haut Brion (donated by Atherton Wine Imports)
- Two bottles of 2020 Lynch Bages (donated by Fine Wines International)
- One bottle of 2000 Lynch Bages (donated by Ruth & Tony Abdulmassih)
- One bottles of 2018 Silver Oak Napa (donated by Joseph George Fine Wines)
- One bottle of 2018 Silver Oak Alexander Valley (donated by Joseph George Fine Wines)
- One bottle of 2018 Far Niente (donated by Joseph George Fine Wines)
- One bottles of 2018 Giacomo Conterno Francia Barolo (donated by Ruth & Tony Abdulmassih)
- One bottle of 2009 Giacomo Conterno Cascina Francia Barolo (donated by Dolly and George Chammas)
- One bottle of 2005 Louis Jadot Clos de la Roche Grand Cru Burgundy (donated by Dolly and George Chammas)
- One bottle of 1997 Louis Jadot Grands Echezeaux Grand Cru Burgundy (donated by Rula and Ford Tamer)
- One bottle of 2008 Mongeard-Mugneret Grand Echezeaux Grand Cru Burgundy (donated by Rula and Fuad Tamer)

Value: \$3,000

Worn, Weary, Torn and Teary



30 x 34.6 inches
2022

LIVE AUCTION ITEMS

Donated by Lebanese artist Hiba Kalache, this exquisite piece originates from her 2022 series "Worn, Weary, Torn and Teary". The series was created in San Francisco, where Kalache relocated after the 2020 explosion in the port of Beirut. The highly politicized nature and history of the Lebanese landscape have figured prominently in her work, and in the aftermath of the explosion, Kalache has become more attuned to the sonic effect of trauma, how it is carried through society and how it can be translated into painting.

Kalache's canvases, layered with soft washes of acrylic ink and passionate, intuitive bursts of color, reveal references to landscape or the body.

Kalache's work has been in Group exhibitions in renowned venues worldwide such as the Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France; The Boghossian Foundation, Brussels, Belgium; California College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA; and the San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA.

Kalache has an upcoming solo exhibition in November at the Altman Siegel Gallery in San Francisco.

LIVE AUCTION ITEMS

Join the Pickleball Mania

*Get Ready to Dink, Smash,
and Serve at the Ultimate
Pickleball Showdown!*

Calling all pickleball enthusiasts, it's time to put your skills to the test and have a smashing good time! Get your paddles ready for the most thrilling pickleball tournament of the year!

Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting out, there's a bracket for everyone, ensuring guaranteed fun for all skill levels. Advanced players, showcase your moves in a challenging yet friendly atmosphere. Beginners, come learn from the pros and elevate your game. What better way to socialize, make new friends, get fit, and support SEAL's work all at once!

Winners will not only earn bragging rights but also take home fantastic prizes. The Gifted Basket will provide the first-place team with gift baskets brimming with goodies (including a fine wine bottle, sweet & savory snacks, chocolate, and more) valued at \$175 each. Second and third-place teams will also receive exciting prizes.

How does it work?

This is a pay-to-play event. Simply sign up, and you'll receive an email from the organizers inquiring about your playing level and whether you have a partner. If you don't have a partner, one will be assigned to you at your skill level.

- The organizers will allocate brackets and share the contact information of all the teams in your bracket.
 - You'll have 5 months to schedule and complete your games, and you can choose any public pickleball courts for your matches.
 - After each game, submit your scores.
- The organizers will tally the scores and then announce the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.
- Winners will be celebrated and crowned at next year's event.

\$150 per person

A Glimpse of Hope

Golden Oasis Evening Cape



Meticulously crafted from the finest cashmere, this floor-length cape from Sarah's Bag, is a singular work of art designed to make you stand out effortlessly.

The design draws its inspiration from their Oasis collection, paying homage to the Orient and the modern Middle Eastern woman. It bears the motif of palm trees, which symbolizes hope and represents the rich, opulent, and generous heritage of the Arab world.

The cape was meticulously and painstakingly hand embroidered with a tapestry of hundreds of lustrous gold and bronze glass beads. The result is an intricate design that spans the entire length of the garment, a labor of love that demanded four weeks of dedicated artisanal work.

Crafted by talented underserved Lebanese women, the cape showcases their exceptional skills and dedication, and stands as a symbol of their empowerment.

Made in Lebanon! Wear it with pride!

LIVE AUCTION ITEMS



Social and Economic Action for Lebanon

seal-usa.org

seal-usa@seal-usa.com

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[sealforlebanon](https://www.instagram.com/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.