

Notable Arab American Figures

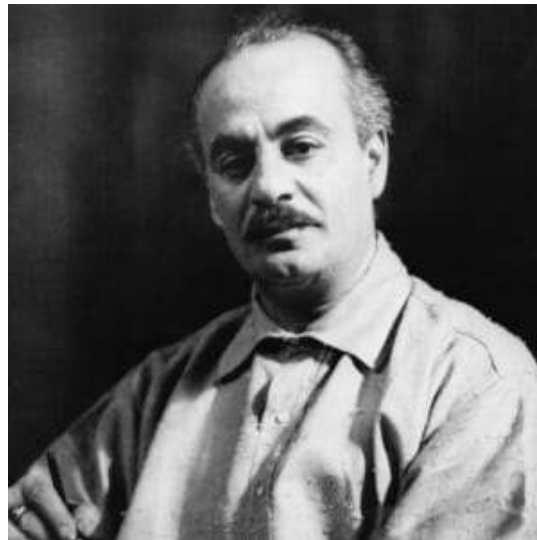
Farouk El-Baz – Science



Geologist Farouk El-Baz has conducted field investigations in every major desert on earth and searched for ground water in arid lands using space images. He's credited with discovering groundwater resources in Egypt, Oman, Somalia, Sudan, and the United Arab Emirates.

Born in Egypt, El-Baz served as NASA's lead geologist for the Apollo space program from 1967 to 1972. Following that, he launched the Center for Earth and Planetary Studies at the National Air and Space Museum. He went on to serve as science adviser to Anwar Sadat, then the president of Egypt. Today, El-Baz is a professor and director of the Center for Remote Sensing at Boston University.

Gibran Khalil Gibran -- Literature



Kahlil Gibran, known in Arabic as Gibran Khalil Gibran, was born January 6, 1883, in Bsharri, Lebanon, which at the time was part of Syria and part of the Ottoman Empire. Kahlil Gibran moved to the United States in 1895 and was exposed to Boston's artistic community. Initially showing promise as an artist, he also began writing newspaper columns and books in Arabic, drawing attention for his prose poems. After moving to New York City, Gibran began writing books in English, including his most famous work, *The Prophet* (1923). The popularity of *The Prophet* endured well after the author's death in 1931, making him the third best-selling poet of all time.

Tony Shalhoub – Actor



Anthony Marc Shalhoub, is an American actor. He played Adrian Monk in the USA Network television series Monk. He is widely recognized for his work, having won a Golden Globe Award for Best Actor – Television Series Musical or Comedy, six Screen Actors Guild Awards, and four Primetime Emmy Awards. For his work on Broadway, Shalhoub has received four Tony Award nominations. He has also provided voice work for the Cars franchise (2006–2017) and other productions. Tony was born and raised in Green Bay, Wisconsin. His father, Joseph Shalhoub, emigrated from Lebanon to the United States as an orphan at age ten. When Tony was six, he was introduced to the theater, in a school production of "The King and I". He graduated with a bachelor's degree in drama from the University of Southern Maine before progressing to the Yale School of Drama, which he left with a Master's degree in Fine Arts.

Jacques Nasser – Businessman



Jacques A. Nasser AC is a Lebanese Australian American business executive and philanthropist. Known for a management career at Ford Motor Company spanning several decades and continents, from 1999 to 2001 he served as Ford's CEO and president.

Nasser was named 'Automobile Industries Man of the Year' in 1999 by the Retail Motor Industry Organization. In 2002 he was named an officer of the National Order of the Cedar, the highest honor in Lebanon. The National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO) awarded Nasser the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, which pays homage to contributions made to America by immigrants.