

Sculptor celebrates 60 fruitful years

Friends and family gathered on Friday night to help sculptor **Kasso Eloul** celebrate his 60th birthday. His wife is painter **Rita Letendre** and their Cabbagetown home is filled with their work and with plants.

Kasso's sister **Sarah Aynor** had come from Jerusalem for the party and his son **Rohn** was home from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where he is completing his doctorate in anthropology.

Rita normally restricts herself to painting but two examples of her sculpture were present. The first was the backyard fence and the second was a waterfall of wooden blocks which provides moisture for her orchids. She even gave up smoking in order to grow the exotic flower. They have renovated the house beautifully with an open stairway rising to the second floor and with several interior walls removed to give an open, airy feeling to the space.

Downstairs, a comfortable sauna has been installed and in another area there is a fish pond, a winter home for the goldfish who have a summer pond in the back garden. There



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table was covered with delicious food including pate de fois and pate de campagne, homos and fowl, a type of middle eastern dip and of course fruit and cheese. Rita also served a sort of strudel that was stuffed with meat or fish. The birthday cake was a sacher torete, and there was a walnut torte and baba rum.

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Food was also a major attraction on Saturday night when hair dresser **William Saab** invited friends and clients, who are all friends as well, to his home. It is located near Bloor St. and has a two-storey living room. The buffet table was laden with an incredible array of food.

Kibbee, the national dish of Lebanon, is marinated ground beef and it was served both cooked and raw. There were grape leaf rolls, and a tabulee salad of

finely chopped parsley, cracked wheat, tomatoes, and green onions that had taken seven hours to make. Falaffal — ground chick peas with parsley and spices all deep fried — was a popular dish. There was also homos, and bauba ghanooj, and finally melon balls and strawberries.

William had a belly dancer provide entertainment during the evening and she was a great success.

Fashion designers **Marily Brooks** and **Claire Had-dad** were there, and so was **Lorraine Saab**, a distant relative of William's who had helped with the food preparation. The show business community was out in force. **Gordon Pin-sent**, his daughter **Leah** and his wife actress **Charmion King**, comedienne **Barbara Hamilton**, actress **Barbara Chilcott**, actor **Ken James** and his wife **Jill de Wolfe**, all attended.

is also an exercise with a magazine propped up in front of it, an excellent idea for keeping up with one's reading while staying in shape.

The house was full of friends celebrating the happy occasion. Patrons of the arts **Marvin and Arthur Gelber** were there, as was Arthur's wife, **Esther**. Actor **Nehemiah Persoff**, in town for Cold Storage, traded theatre stories with broadcaster and writer **Edie Frankel**. The construction business was well represented. **Al and Gail Green** were there. He's executive vice-president of Greenwin Property Management. Architect **Irving Grossman** attended the birthday bash, as did builder and developer **Buffy Valentine**, structural engineer **Mordon Yolles**, and builder **Klaus Vogel** with his wife, **Anna**.

Cattle breeder **Lorimer** and **Christina Massie** had come from Guelph. Financier **Neville Burston** came with, his wife **Marlene**.

Musician **Michael Tannebaum** attended with his wife, **Chantelle**.

Stephanie Reford was with husband **Robert**. They head the Reford-McCandless International Institute and it was Stephanie who first told Rita and Kasso of the house, which was a rooming house when they first saw it.

The large dining room



Birthday boy: Sculptor Kass Eloul, with help from his wife, artist Rita Letendre, blows out three large candles on his 60th birthday cake.