



TRIBUTE TO OUR GRADUATES



On Sunday, June 12, 2016, for the 48th year, St. Gregory's Church held the Graduates' Communion and Breakfast program, under the leadership of Sandra Selverian. A group of high school and college graduates came to church with their parents, took communion and enjoyed a nice breakfast and were recognized for their academic achievements

Bill Arthin, Board chairman, welcomed the graduates on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Dr. Raffi Chalian, our main speaker of the day, gave a powerful message to them. (Find the transcript on page 9.)

Seen in the above picture are, left to right, clockwise: Jane Frances Bedrosian, Nancy Lynn Key-tanjian, Alyssa Soorikian, Dr. Raffi Chalian, speaker of the day, Gregory Bohdjelian, Michael Vahan Selverian, Derek Dervishian, Meredith Anne Miller and Jordan Elizabeth Heaton. At the center, His Grace Bishop Anoushavan Tanielian, Vicar General of the Prelacy who was visiting, and Der Nerses Manoogian, pastor.

Read the graduates' CV on pages 5 - 8

Board of Trustees Report



Antranig Baronian, Secretary

Soon after the March publication of the Illuminator, we officially welcomed the newly elected members of the Board of Trustees: Bill Arthin, Glenn Papazian, Harout Aghajanian, Kirk Karagelian, Esq., and Kurk Selverian. Under the direction of our new Chairman, Bill Arthin, we intend to continue to build upon the strong foundation established by previous trustees and contribute to the future success of our parish. On Sundays during divine liturgy, you should find at least one Board member present in the office. The door will be open, and we invite our church members to ask any questions or voice any concerns, so that we may adequately serve you as we have been entrusted.

The Board also extends our sincere gratitude to the outgoing Board members, Bearg Miller, Michael Injajian, Hratch Arzoumanian, and Dr. Ara Chalian, for their invaluable service and leadership.

Over the last three months, we have transitioned from spring to summer.

In April we observed the 101st commemoration of the Genocide. While we mourned the family members who were not fortunate enough to survive during this great crime, we continue to find hope and inspiration in our capacity for re-birth and rebuilding new Armenian Diasporan communities, like ours in Philadelphia. Another example of inspiration and pride are our students. Sunday School and the Haigazian

School completed another successful school year. Congratulations to the students and teachers and thank you for perpetuating our faith and culture. We encourage you to spend some time during the summer to keep up with your studies.

June provides us an opportunity to once again recognize the achievements of our older students, who have graduated from high school and college this year, during our annual graduate luncheon. Congratulations to all of our parish's school graduates and their parents.

The summertime offers many activities for fun and learning, such as the Davev Institute Summer Program. Sponsored by the Prelacy's Armenian Religious Education Council (AREC), the Institute provides an intensive weeklong program of Christian formation through Bible studies and discussions, prayer and worship services, communal activities, and fellowship. All those interested in attending should contact the Board for more information.

We wish everyone a relaxing and safe summer and invite everyone to attend the annual Grape Blessing Picnic that will take place on Sunday, August 14. Also, don't forget the Annual Golf Outing in the Fall. The Board is actively accepting sponsorships and encourage all those interested in playing to sign up now.



Seated: Jim Walter, Gary Papazian, Der Nerses, Bill Arthin and Angela Aghajanian
Standing: Glenn Papazian, Kurk Selverian, Noubik Arakelian, Kirk Karagelian, Esq. Harout Aghajanian and Antranig Baronian, Esq. missing Cindy Stambouljian

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Contributors

- Antranig Baronian
- Doreen Yeremian



Our Pastor, Der Nerses, resides at
1370 Spruce Street, Blue Bell, PA 19422
Home Phone: 610 -277- 9958
Cell Phone: 610- 308- 6305
e-mail: dernerses@aol.com



Nerses Manoogian

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Armenian Apostolic Church
8701 Ridge Avenue,
Philadelphia, PA 19128
Tel. 215 482 9200
Fax. 215 482 7460
e-mail: stgregphil@aol.com
www. saintgregory-philly.org
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Archpriest Fr. Nerses Manoogian
Pastor

THE PLACE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH IN THE FAMILY OF WORLD CHURCHES

- ◆ We call our Church Apostolic because our history is traced back to the Apostles of Jesus, Sts. Thaddeus and Bartholomew who evangelized Armenia in the first century. This means that:
- ◆ Up to this day we profess the same faith that was passed on to us by the Apostles.

Apostolic authority conferred to the Armenian Church through the bishops whom they ordained as their successors. We continue today the Apostolic mission.

Where is the place of the Armenian Church in the family of the Churches of the World?

- ◆ The Armenian Apostolic Church belongs to the family of the Oriental Orthodox Churches who are: Armenian Church, Syrian Church, Coptic Church, Ethiopian Church and Indian Malankara Church

Are we Orthodox or Apostolic?

- We are both Apostolic and Orthodox. How?
 1. We are Apostolic because we trace our genesis to the Apostles.
 2. We are Orthodox because our Church's dogma is not heretical, but always based on the teachings of the Apostles and the early Church Fathers. The word Apostolic speaks about our history and Orthodox about our dogma.

About the history of formation of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

- The two Apostles who evangelized Armenia were martyred in Armenia because Christianity was a forbidden religion. It remained so for almost 3 centuries.
- In 301 A.D. our patron Saint, St. Gregory the Illuminator upon baptizing the Armenian king Tiritad, Christianity was proclaimed the state religion.

- Our mother Church, the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin was built in 303 and it still stands today on the same location.
- St. Gregory evangelized as well Georgia and Caucasian Albania.
- In the fifth century, a cleric called St. Mesrob Mashdotz invented the Armenian Alphabet and subsequently was able to translate the Bible into Armenian in 405 A.D. based on the Greek Bible mainly, and also Syriac.

The belief of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

- Our belief is encapsulated in the "Nicene Creed" which we proclaim every Sunday after the reading of the Gospel.
 1. *We believe in one God, creator of heaven and earth.*
 2. *In one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, of the same nature of the Father. Who for our salvation was incarnate; who died for our sins on the cross, buried and risen on the third day.*
 3. *We also believe in the Holy Spirit.*
 4. *We also believe in only one, universal and apostolic Holy Church.*
 5. *In one baptism.*
 6. *In repentance and in forgiveness of sins.*
 7. *We believe in the resurrection of the dead.*
 8. *In the everlasting judgment of souls and bodies.*
 9. *In the kingdom of Heaven*
 10. *In the eternal life.*

Continued on p. 4



Archpriest Fr. Nerses Manoogian
Pastor

THE PLACE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH IN THE FAMILY OF WORLD CHURCHES

The Armenian Church is sacramental church. She has seven sacraments:

1. Baptism
2. Chrismation
3. Communion
4. Marriage
5. Penance
6. Ordination
7. Last Unction

We practice infant baptism and it is done by immersion.

- Immediately after immersion, the infant, is chrismated by Holy Muron and receive their first communion.
- The sacrament of marriage always takes place in the Church.

Armenian Clergy

Our Church has two kinds of priests:

1. Celibate; who can be elevated to the rank Bishop.
2. Married priests who serve the parishes and cannot be elevated to the rank of Bishop.

Today, the Armenian Apostolic Church is governed by four hierarchical centers:

- Catholicosate of All Armenians, in Etchmiadzin, Armenia.
- Catholicosate of Cilicia in Antelias, Lebanon.
- Patriarchate of Jerusalem in Holy Land.
- Patriarchate of Constantinople in Istanbul, Turkey.

Armenian Apostolic Church and Ecumenical Councils

The Armenian Apostolic Church adheres to the resolutions adopted by the first three Councils:

1. Nicea, 325, where the Church Fathers affirmed the Divinity of Jesus Christ and anathemized Arius, a heretic who

acclaimed that Jesus created by the Father and was therefore neither coeternal with the Father, nor consubstantial. He was a a creation of God and was adopted as son of God at his Baptism and not at birth. The Council incorporated the word homooousios (“of one substance”) into a creed (the Nicene Creed) to signify the absolute equality of the Son with the Father.

2. Constantinople, in 381, where a heretic called Macedon was anathemized because he was denying the existence of the Holy Spirit. This is why the council added the part of the Holy Spirit to the Creed.

3. Council of Ephesus, in 431, where a heretic called Nestorius, the Patriarch of Constantinople, was anathemized because he was claiming that Jesus was born as a human being and later acquired his divinity. In other words Mary did not give birth to the Son of God. The council negated him and coined the word “Theotokos,” which means the one who gave birth to God (Asdvadzadzin in Armenian.)

Today, some people erroneously label the Armenian Church as monophysite, as if we confess only one nature in Christ following the teaching of the heretic called Eutyches who was anathemized by all churches in the fourth Ecumenical council of Chalcedon in 451. Oriental Orthodox Churches also condemned Eutyches even though they did not participate in the Council of Chalcedon.

When it comes to the dogma of the two natures of Christ, we follow the teaching of Cyril of Alexandria who coined this following dogmatic statement: “**One nature of the Incarnate Word**” with the understanding that both human and divine natures are completely unified in one person of Christ.





High School

Full Name: **Gregory Bohdjelian**

Parent's Name: Aram and Linda Bohdjelian

Name of High School: Upper Dublin High School

Activities: Winter and Spring Track

Honors & Awards: Partial scholarship to Elizabethtown College

Further Education: Elizabethtown College, majoring in Engineering

Full Name: **Derek Dervishian**

Parents' Names: Chris & Lilit Dervishian

Name of High School: Marple Newtown High School

Activities: Hi-Q Team (Sophomore to Senior); Renaissance Club (Freshman to Senior); Wrestling (Freshman to Senior); Track & Field (Freshman to Junior); Cross Country (Junior & Senior); Soccer (Freshman & Sophomore);

High School Senior Project – Derek completed his senior project at Dr. Jack Kazanjian's office – Premier Orthopedics and Sports Medicine in Havertown, PA. Derek gained first-hand insight into the medical profession and particularly the orthopedic practice and surgery by accompanying Dr. Kazanjian and observing patient appointments, surgeries, and physical therapy sessions. Volunteer at Dolphins of Delaware Valley; CIT (counselor in training) at Camp St. Vartan – Summer 2014 & 2015; Secretary – St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Church ACYOA Juniors

St. Gregory The Illuminator Armenian Church Altar Server; Participated in ACYOA Juniors Sport Weekends, AYF Juniors Winter Games, and 2013 Homenetmen Games; Plays basketball at Armenian Basketball League & MNBA

Honors & Awards: Pennsylvania's 7th Congressional District's "Good Citizenship Award" presented by US Congressman Patrick Meehan for outstanding character and leadership (Senior Year); "Recognition Award" for outstanding contribution to Marple Newtown High School presented by the Parent Teacher Organization (Senior Year); National Honor Society (Junior & Senior); Scholar Athlete Award (Sophomore); Distinguished Honor Roll (All 4 years of high school); Raise the Bar Award for best representing the high schools six pillars of character (Junior year); 2nd place at Viking Winter Invitational Wrestling Tournament (Senior) 2nd place at Haverford Invitational Wrestling Tournament (Sophomore)

Further Education: Purdue University - College of Engineering

Full Name: **Jordan Elizabeth Heaton**

Parent's Name: Jeffrey and Lisa (Terhanian) Heaton

Name of High School: Plymouth Whitemarsh High School

Activities: Manager Varsity Boys Lacrosse team, Bowling team, Cancer Awareness Club, Art Club, Wellness Club, Best Buddies, Meghry Dance Group

Honors & Awards: Selected as Freshman Orientation leader, Varsity letter Bowling

Further Education: Attending Bentley University in Waltham, Mass.

Majoring in Marketing and International Business



High School

Full Name: **Nancy Lynn Keytanjian**

Parent's Name: Alice and Frank Keytanjian

Name of High School: Methacton High School

Activities: Methacton Warrior Marching Band, Indoor Percussion, Key Club, Kids Against Crisis Club, Winter Track and Field, Active volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House and the Salvation Army, Participated in the Minithon as a dancer.

Honors & Awards: Recieved the Methacton "M" Award all four years for having high academic success. Won the Winning Warrior Award. Received the Methacton Music Award all four years. Recieved Distinguished Honors each

Further Education : Temple University Fox School of Business, Majoring in Business Management

Full Name: **Emily Shakay Selverian**

Parents' Name: Richard and Melissa Selverian

Name of High School or College (Major or degree) : Emily graduated with honors on June 9, 2016, from Wissahickon High School in Ambler, PA.

Activities: Interested in pursuing business, Emily participated in the highly selective University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business Leadership in the Business World Program last summer where she created and presented a business plan to area executives.

A longtime Girl Scout, she enjoyed creating her Gold Award project, a documentary film for the homeless that airs in shelters throughout Philadelphia. She also coordinates an annual clothing drive at St. Gregory Church. An avid actress, Emily has been pleased to play many lead and supporting roles in theaters throughout the area. Her latest performance was as Anne in the "Diary of Anne Frank" at the Spotlight Theatre in Swarthmore.

A four-year student and graduate of the St. Gregory of Datev program, she has enjoyed serving on the St. Gregory Church altar and being a member of the Sunday School for many years. She is also active in many Armenian youth organizations.

An athlete since she was very young, Emily played travel soccer and was a Varsity member of her high school's field hockey team.

Emily was a leader of her school's Ambassadors and No Place for Hate initiatives, local and statewide campaigns to promote acceptance, respect and inclusion of new and disenfranchised students and of all students. She was a founding student leader of her school's student-recognition campaign, gathering and creating a video and helping coordinate a reception to advertise the good work of students in school, home and the community.

Honors and Awards: Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards, Girl Scouts of America; President's Volunteer Service Award; Emergency Aid of Pennsylvania Founders Award; Emergency Aid of Pennsylvania Elizabeth McNamara Scholarship for Service, Character and Leadership; Wissahickon High School Ambassadors Scholarship; Philadelphia 76ers Hero Among Us Service Award; Student of the Week, Montgomery Newspapers; National Alliance on Mental Illness Service Award; Girl Scouts National Young Woman of Distinction Nominee; Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania Silver Award Ceremony Guest Speaker; Girl Scout Representative to the Pennsylvania Conference for Women; Wissahickon High School Representative to the National Constitution Center Regional Leadership Forum; National Honor Society Member; Wissahickon High School Spanish Award; Wissahickon High School Math Award.

Further Education (major) or Employment: Emily has accepted an offer to attend Pennsylvania State University, University Park, in its Smeal College of Business Sapphire Honors Program.

Curriculum Vitae of our Graduates

High School

Full Name: **Olivia Ovsanna Stepanian**

Parent's Name: Richard and Michele Stepanian Jr.

Name of High School: The John Carroll High School

Activities: Captain of the Mock Trail Team; Member of the John Carroll Girls Lacrosse Team; Member of the John Carroll Moot Court Competition Team; Student Government Representative; Head Coach of the Churchville Girls Lacrosse 7-8 Team; Member of 2016 Elite Lacrosse Club; John Carroll Diversity Ambassador; Administration Appointed Master of Ceremonies for all School Assemblies

Honors & Awards: Honor Roll; Member Mock Trial Country Championship Team; 2016 High School Mock Trail All Star; Member Mock Trial County Championship Team; Semi-Finalist in the Maryland Moot Court Invitational Championship

Further Education: Washington College.

College



Full Name: **Lia Rose Arakelian**

Parent's Name: Niki and Lydia Arakelian

Name of College (Major and Degree): Drexel University- LeBow College of Business

MBA in Finance (June, 2016); BS in Business Administration with concentrations in Marketing and Finance (June, 2015)

Work Experience: Urban Outfitters, Inc. – Project Accounting Assistant (June, 2015 – present); Bimbo Bakeries USA – Marketing Coop - Intern on Sara Lee Brand Management Team (September, 2013 – May, 2014)

Activities: Semester at Sea Program – shipboard education program for global study abroad which included course work, field labs and independent travel to 15 countries and 18 cities around the world; Vice President of the Drexel University Student Alumni Association; Fundraising and Athletics Chair of Phi Sigma Sigma Sorority ; Vice President of the Drexel University Armenian Student Association

Honors & Awards: Graduated Magna Cum Laude; Dean's List; 2015 Drexel University Outstanding Coop Student of the Year Award ; A.J. Drexel Academic Scholarship

Certificate of Merit – Drexel University Career Management/Professional Development

Further Education or Employment: Pursue a career in Corporate Finance or Brand Management

Full Name: **Jane Frances Bedrossian**

Parent's Name: Mr. Barsoom John Bedrossian and Ms. Mary T. Bedrossian

Name of College (Major and degree): University of Virginia, School of Engineering & Applied Science, Bachelor of Science in Systems Engineering; University of Virginia, McIntire School of Commerce, Business Minor. May, 2016.

Activities: International Council on Systems Engineering, Secretary of University of Virginia Chapter; Alpha Omega Epsilon, Professional Engineering Sorority; Madison House at the University of Virginia, Community Service Volunteer; Undergraduate Research, University of Virginia School of Medicine.

Honors & Awards: Dean's List of Distinguished Students; Dr. H. Kruger Kaprielian Memorial Scholarship Recipient

Further Education (major) or Employment: Pfizer Pharmaceutical, Business Technology Associate

Curriculum Vitae of our Graduates

College

Full Name: **Meredith Anne Miller**

Parent's Name: Bearge and Anne Miller

Name of College (Major and DEGREE): Towson University Exercise Science B.S.

Activities: Member of Phi Sigma Pi Honor Fraternity (held positions as Initiate Advisor and Alumni Chair)
Inter-mural co-ed soccer and volleyball player, and volunteer coordinator to the Big Event

Honors & Awards: Dean's List recipient

Further Education (major) or Employment: Unknown

Name: **Michael Vahan Selverian**

ParentsName: Jeffrey and Tracy

Name of College (Major and Degree): Swarthmore College, B.A. Economics & Psychology

Activite & Honor: Phi SI Fraternity; Captain of Men's Lacrosse Team- Team won the ECAC Championship 2016; Centennial Conference Academic Honor Roll; 23014 Hall of Fame Most Improved Player Award; 2016 ranked 29th in the nation for most Lacrosse face off wins

Employment: Credit Suisse Bank of New York as an Analyst

Name: **Alyssa Soorikian**

ParentsName: Edward and Hilda Soorikian

Name of College (Major and Degree): Rutgers University, BS Biology

Further Education or Employment: Salas University, MS – Occupational Therapy

Name: **Tiffany Nicole Yousef**

Parent's Name: Lina Arslanian

Name of College (Major and Degree): Emory University, Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration (Marketing)

Further Education: Looking into graduate school





We proudly publish the transcript of the speech delivered by Dr. Raffi Chalian to our graduates

Welcome to the 2016 Graduates communion and breakfast. It is a great honor to be here with our graduates, their families and parishioners to celebrate this huge milestone with you. I have attended several of these graduation communion breakfasts at our church and always felt this celebration is an extremely meaningful one. This event highlights the importance of your achievements in an intimate setting by a community that supports their members. This event embodies the spirit of our religion and the supportive Armenian community at St Gregory's. I am extremely proud to be a part of this wonderful community.

Since we are celebrating education, one must ask themselves why education is so important. What does years of schooling do to make such an impact? This is a question which I have mullied in my mind for years and I found the answer on the door of a university in 1997. I was at the Armenian forum which was a 2 week trip that educated Armenian youth about their Armenian heritage, culture and history. During one of my afternoons off, I decided to visit the American University of Beirut where so many children of Genocide survivors received their first college degree in their family. As I walked in through the gate I saw a quote which said "To live a life abundantly". That phrase resonated with me then and as more time passes from that faithful day my belief in the accuracy of that quote is reinforced further. Live your life abundantly, make the most of it.

Our Armenian churches and Armenian communities have provided Armenians all over the world with the tools and resources to create thriving communities in extremely hostile environments throughout the world since the beginning of time. Hard working Armenians have given the tools to their friends, children and grandchildren to build, create and preserve our beautiful way of life and language. The Armenian Church has been our religion, gov-

ernment and community organizer for generations. We have been so successful that even after 500 years of persecution and occupation we the Armenian people created a republic and fight until today to maintain our sovereign country.

We are the only Christian nation left in the middle eastern basin all the other Christian communities have no sovereign state. Armenians have forged through and built a country with institutions that will perpetuate the Armenian spirit well in to the centuries to come. So many people have come and gone the Romans, the Hellenes, the Ottomans but we the Armenians are still here and will remain here for the future. People. Think about this. We are still here, same name, same people, and same language. The only thing that has changed is the year.

This is who you are and we are together. This is the strength of our Armenian community, church and Christian faith.

You are part of a successful movement the Armenian communities and Armenian churches of the world. Do not forget how great your roots are when you leave our church and community. Our strength is admired by sociologists and anthropologists in academic circles where we are studied for our success. Let me use my experience here as an example, I moved to Philadelphia like many people before me to attain a graduate degree, I received my education but what made my tenure here so meaningful was my welcoming Armenian peers, whose only connection between myself and them is our ancestral bond and Armenian Christian faith. Through this community I never felt alone, I felt supported and it felt like home even though home was 5000 Miles away. I also got married and have two beautiful children which make my life whole.

Now that we have established that we are part of this great and successful movement we must distill down the most important habits that have

brought us so far.

I would like to share with you my 4 core habits that will serve everybody in this room graduates, parents, parishioners alike. Hard work, honesty, big dreams and the belief that we can make a difference. These habits sound familiar right ?, they are core ideologies which are congruent with our Christian beliefs and our Armenian community.

Hard work is the fuel source of our life, with hard work you can do more. You can work harder, be more honest, dream bigger and make a bigger difference. Nothing can beat hard work, nothing can persecute hard work, and nothing can stop hard work. Every biography of a famous person denotes their endless energy and incredible ability to work hard. It develops talent, it brings meaning to life and creates a feeling of wellbeing and wholeness.

Be honest and truthful to your friends, family, community and loved ones. After all the truth never changes. But most importantly be truthful to yourself. Ask yourself, have I really done my best? Have I really made a positive impact? Only with complete honesty can you develop past what others expect from you and forge a path which you want to be on.

Dream big and make a difference, the sky is the limit, do not fear failure, persevere and let you dreams guide you and along the way touch peoples' lives in a positive way, let them say how great it was to meet you. These are the values of our Armenian community, church and faith, they have worked hard for you, they have been truthful to you and they have dreamed for you.

As you step in to the exciting unknown, always remember how these core values have helped and molded you and never forget that you are part of something exciting and powerful. The St Gregory's Armenian Church and community of Philadelphia. Best of luck Class of 2016



Dear Parishioners, as you all know, St. Gregory's Church has decided to start a Youth Ministry and has been searching for a suitable candidate to fill the position of "Youth Director." We want to start a new chapter in our Church community by taking care of the spiritual needs of our youth. Therefore we are very happy to announce that, after a long search, we have identified and offered the position to our own Talene Yeremian, Artinian, who has grown through our Sunday school system; served the Sunday school for two years as a teacher to the toddlers' class and is now ready to jump-start this very important educational endeavor.

Talene is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Peter and Doreen Yeremian. She is married to the well known singer Kevork Artinian. Together they have one precious son, Aren.

Talene holds a bachelors degree in pre-med from Drexel University and a Masters degree in Education.

This position was made available through the Dadourian Foundation.

My name is Talene Artinian and I have been a member of our church for 27 years. I love our church very much and I especially love working with the children at Sunday School. I am so excited to serve the youth this year as future leaders in Christ! The children and youth are surrounded by an amazing church family and I am very excited to create a program directed towards our youth. I want to impact them in positive Christian ways which is the real key to true happiness and success!

Throughout my experiences at Drexel University in the pre-med program, and then listening to God and changing my career to become an educator and complete my Masters in Education, has taken me through the many experiences that our youth face today. My faith in Christ and the influence of our Church on my life truly have led me to be the woman that I am in Christ today! I am very excited to share with the youth my experiences from childhood, as a teenager, as a young adult, and how God's plan for me was the perfect plan even though it originally was not my plan. I am even more excited to listen to our youth about where they are in their lives. This is a very important time in our youths' lives and it is the privilege to have the opportunity to touch them and be part of propelling them towards their future. It would be an honor to serve our Lord and our amazing youth!

Our youth program will be directed towards 6th-12th graders. Our program will serve as an opportunity to develop fellowship, spiritual formation, discipleship, and fun experiences in a safe and

loving community. One of the goals which I find very important would be building relationships of integrity with youth that become the basis of meeting needs, sharing Christ, sharing the traditions of the Armenian Apostolic Church and involving youth in peer ministry with other youth. I also plan to work with our Middle School and High School age Sunday school classes and to review, analyze, and study scripture. I also find that it is really important for youth at this age to reflect on certain topics and discuss which will be part of our activities. One of my favorite parts of growing up included my ministry to people in need. This included going to Armenia and serving children and families in poor villages, going to Gyumri to serve at a medical clinic and as a translator with a physician from America, and as a volunteer at nursing homes and hospitals to serve others. We will plan similar activities with the youth. We will also plan social/recreational outings for youth which will be fun and encouraging for them. Developing safe and healthy relationships is very important and is one of my many goals as youth director. My personal commitment and love for Christ is what really led me to this position. Jesus has shaped my life through our church as a youth. It is an honor to have the opportunity to give back.

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11)

Talene Artinian

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT



Doreen Yeremian, Principal

God continued to be faithful in blessing the 2015-2016 Sunday School year with the number of enrolled students, activities, and commitment on part of the parents, children and staff. What a wonderful year it has been!

The focus of the curriculum itself was based on learning to build a personal relationship with Jesus. Learning was enhanced via interactive, didactic and active participation in the classrooms as well as in the general morning assemblies. Each Sunday the children would rush in with excitement, having fun while learning about the love of Jesus!!

The teens had an exciting year with the ALPHA video series. They enjoyed each week watching a video on their faith, prayer, Holy Spirit... a discussion followed sharing their thoughts and comments from the topic of the week.

The focus of the curriculum itself was based on learning to build a personal relationship with Jesus. Learning was enhanced via interactive, didactic and active participation in the classrooms as well as in the general morning assemblies. Each Sunday the children would rush in with excitement, having fun while learning about the love of Jesus.

The teens had an exciting year with the ALPHA video series. They enjoyed each week watching a video on their faith, prayer, Holy Spirit... a discussion followed sharing their thoughts and comments from the topic of the week.

The following were the highlights of the 2015-16 Sunday school year: Welcome Back to Sunday School

Party, Teachers' Dedication Service, Christian-theme Halloween Party, Christmas Pageant, Winter Clothing Drive, Poon Parekentan Party, Vesper Service,, Palm Sunday Processional, Easter Communion and breakfast, Easter egg hunt, and the End-of-Year Party.

The Sunday school staff extend their heartfelt gratitude to Der Nerses for his guidance and support throughout the year, the Board of Trustees, the Ladies' Guild, and the Men's Club for their ongoing support. Special thanks are also extended to the parents for entrusting us with the religious education of their children and to all parishioners for their assistance, cooperation, contributions, suggestions, words of encouragement and support. Most of all, our utmost thanks and praise are lifted up to our Father, God who led, exhorted and strengthened us to complete another school year all for His glory.



On Sunday, May 15 the Sunday school children and their families celebrated teacher appreciation day. Each teacher received flowers and a gift card as a small token of appreciation for all the hard work they do each Sunday. Thank you to our Sunday school teachers for sharing the love of Jesus each week with the children!



Nancy Keytanjian. Sunday school. Graduate!



Men's Club News

The hard-working members of our Men's club organized successfully a trivia fun night for our parishioners on Saturday, April 23, 7-11 P.M. in our Founders Hall.

This event which was another fund raiser for the Men's Club was very well attended. Over 100 guests had a very exciting and intellectually stimulating night, and enjoyed as well Armenian finger food mezze and drinks.

The Pastor and the Board of Trustees truly appreciate all the hard working members of our Men's Club, who are constantly coming up with creative ideas to raise funds for our church and bring the community together in similar social events. Kudos to our Men's Club.

The next event of our Men's Club will be held on Mother's Day when they will honor all the mothers of the parish with a sumptuous breakfast.



300 Club Winners

1st - \$1,000 - #293 - George and Doris Shamlian
2nd - \$800 - #147 - Manoug Hovespian
3rd - \$600 - #178 - Ladies Guild

4th - \$300 - #006 - Ron Asadoorian
5th - \$200 - #238 - Bob and Diane Paretchan
6th - \$200 - #089 - William Mukalian

101 Anniversary of Genocide



A Vigil Night at UScience

On Tuesday, April 19, the Armenian Students' Association of University of Science of Philadelphia, under the leadership of Sareen Streeter, held a com-

memorative candlelight vigil recognizing the victims of the Armenian Genocide. To this vigil were invited Very Rev. Oshagan Gulgulian and Archpriest Fr. Nerses Manoogian who offered special prayers.

Oh Christ, son of God merciful and compassionate, on this solemn vigil night dedicated to 1.5 million Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide who were massacred by the Ottoman Turks 101 years ago, we the Armenian students of the University of sciences of Philadelphia, together with our parents and friends, come to you once again with hope and total trust, to ask you to strengthen our faith and bolster our resolve to be your ambassadors of justice in this world.

Tonight, as we pause to remember our Holy Martyrs, O Lord touch our hearts and heal our wounds inflicted by the continuous denial of the perpetrators of the Armenian Genocide, and give us the resolve not to rest until justice is prevailed. Walk with us O Lord, the children of the first Christian nation, as we continue our journey with the magnificent slogan of yours, that *"do not fear those who kill the body*

but cannot kill the soul." (Matt. 10:28) and energized with the encouraging words which you uttered before your crucifixion telling your disciples that: *"In the world you will have tribulations, but be courageous—I have overcome the world!"* (John 16:33).

Tonight and every day, we are determined to walk with this mindset until the day justice is served to our Armenian nation and all nations of the world condemned in unison the terrible atrocities which befell on the Armenian nation in 1915.

Thank you Lord. Keep our ranks strong and keep us vigilant, meanwhile we continue marching in this world singing this praise with determined hearts: *"If God is with us who can be against us."* (Rome 8:31) Amen

Philadelphia Armenians Intercommunal's Genocide Commemoration

On Sunday, April 24th, 2016 hundreds gathered at Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church in Cheltenham, PA to commemorate the Armenian Genocide. The program sponsored by the Armenian Inter-Communal Committee of Philadelphia celebrated the theme "Together for Armenia" and featured world renowned pianist Şahan Arzruni.



Şahan Arzruni captivated the audience with his beautiful selection of pieces by Kristapor Kara-Mourza, Komitas, Aram Khatchadourian, Arno Babadjanian and Alan Hovhannes. Spectators traveled with Arzruni through a recent history of Armenian composers and their works. As his fingers brushed the keys they meditated on times gone by, the saga of the Armenian people. Before playing selections from each of the famous composers, Arzruni shared anecdotes about their lives allowing the journey to feel complete. Each composer's musical genius permeated the room as Arzruni revived their compositions. "*Shoror of Moush*" by Komitas captured the essence of Armenian folk music allowing the audience to revel in the daily life of the Armenian villager.

All were mesmerized by Arno Babadjanian's *Elegy (after Sayat Nova)* and were delighted by the "*Potpourri on Armenian Songs*" by Kristapor Kara-Mourza. "*Yenovk*" by Alan Hovhannes was equally entertaining and enchanting. It was however with Arzruni's finale of Aram Khatchaturian's "*Toccata*" that the fortitude and resilience of the Armenian people was symbolized. Each stroke of the keys, each chord that was played echoed the struggle and survival of the Armenian people.

Şahan Arzruni is not only revered as a recitalist and chamber music partner but, he has also received recognition and acclaim as a composer, ethnomusicologist, teacher, lecturer, writer, broadcast personality and impressionist. He has appeared on numerous broadcasts with Johnny Carson, Mike Douglas and has performed as well with Victor Borge. In 1996 he received an encyclical and Sts. Sahag and Mesrob medallion from His Holiness Karekin I. This year he was awarded the Movses Khorenatsi Presidential Medal for promoting cultural ties between Armenia and the Diaspora. The Philadelphia Armenian community was truly honored to have Mr. Arzruni share in the commemoration of the 101st anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.



A small part of the program was dedicated to the youth of our community. The audience was thrilled to enjoy a vocal performance by the students of the Armenian Sisters Academy (Radnor, PA). Guided by the principal Sr. Emma Moussayan, their Armenian teacher Mrs. Tamar Panosian and under the direction of their music teacher, Karinné Andonian, the students delighted spectators with “*Dzidzernagin Poynuh*” by Gh. Aghayian

and Parsegh Ganachian and “*Soorperoo Atchker*” by Martin Aharonyan. Hearing the beautiful voices of the students of the Armenian Sisters Academy singing Armenian songs was a wonderful reminder that the Philadelphia community is fortunate to have such an incredible institution in their midst. These students are reminders that our history is our foundation, our culture and language keeps us unified. The Armenian Sisters Academy stands as a beacon, developing mind, body and spirit of generations of Armenian youth. And, as it forges ahead vigorously, it cultivates the next generation of leaders for the Armenian nation.

The Philadelphia Armenian community celebrates a unique attribute. The Inter-Communal Committee consists of representatives from the five area churches, their clergy and the Armenian Sisters Academy. Throughout the year this committee plans three events for the Philadelphia area that bring the entire community together to celebrate Cultural Month and Vartanantz and to commemorate the Armenian Genocide. When the entire community is encouraged to unify their efforts wonderful things are accomplished. “Together for Armenia” featuring Şahan Arzruni is an example of such an occasion. In appreciation of Mr. Arzruni’s performance the committee will make a donation to the Vanadzor Old Age Home in Armenia. This home is sponsored by the Arzruni family, providing care to over 40 individuals. The Armenian Inter-Communal Committee was honored to host this superb event and was thrilled to showcase Şahan Arzruni’s phenomenal talents. The audience truly enjoyed a wonderful program and the committee thanks Mr. Arzruni for his riveting performance, reminding all those present about the musical giants the Armenian people have produced. Indeed, on Sunday, April 24th music soothed the soul of the Philadelphia Armenian Community.



Committee members with the pianist

Arpy Voskeridjian Minasian
Vice-Chair,
Armenian Inter-Communal
Committee of Philadelphia

HOLY MARTYRS ICON GRACED OUR SANCTUARY



This is the year Armenians worldwide were hoping to savor justice and that the perpetrators of the Armenian Genocide would be punished by the world family of nations. But not only the denial continues by the perpetrator Turkish government but, as we witnessed at the beginning of this month, they encouraged their cronies, the Azeris, to emulate them in Nagorno Karabagh.

We will continue reminding the world of the facts of the Armenian Genocide whenever the opportunity arises.

Coincidentally we were able

to display the icon of the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide in our sanctuary as a permanent reminder to us all and as a source of blessing. We now have a relic on our side altar and an icon on our right wall warming our hearts and filling our universe.

I would like to thank Noubar Yeremian for spearheading the project of hanging this enormous icon, (98" x 56") with the help of Raffik Stepanian, Hagop Handian and Danny Babaian.

This icon is a memorial item. If you wish to sponsor it, please call Der Nerses.

2016 NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Eastern Prelacy's National Representative Assembly, hosted by St. Sarkis Church, Douglaston, New York, concluded last Saturday. Clergy and lay delegates deliberated on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, to review the past year and to prepare the agenda for the forthcoming year.

Archbishop Oshagan set the tone of the Assembly with his keynote address which was devoted to service, in keeping with the "Year of Service" declared by His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia. Elected to serve as co-chairmen were Jack Mardoian from Chicago and Aram Hovagimian from Philadelphia. Elected to serve as secretaries were Melanie Mesrobian and Very Rev. Fr. Sahag Yemishyan.

This week we present the Prelate's keynote message in Armenian and English. Next week's Crossroads will be devoted to other aspects of the Assembly, including the Armenian Religious Education Council (AREC), Armenian National Education Committee (ANEC), Conference of Yeretzgins, the National Association of Ladies Guilds, and Friday evening's "Banquet of Recognition." (Crossroads)



Our NRA members with Der Nerses. Aram Hovagimian, Andrew Kzirian, Noubar Megerian, Arsine Oshagan & Bearg Miller



Our two members, Bearg Miller and Noubar Megerian with the Ambassador of Armenia, H.E. Grigor Hovhanissyan standing to the left of Archbishop Choloian



Archbishop Choloian flanked by his "soldiers"



Group photo in front of St. Sarkis church of Douglaston, NY, the host parish.



Der Nerses delivering the Religious Council report



Hamazkayin Armenian Cultural organization's Annual Convention in Philly

Hamazkayin Eastern Region's Hamakhmpoum was held on May 6th and 7th in Philadelphia. On Friday night a cultural night was hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Harout and Anny Aghajanian. The guests included Der Nerses and Yeretsgin, Unger Hovsep Avakian, ARF central committee member, Unger Hrair Baronian, Hamzkayin central committee member, Unger Zaven Torigian the chief editor of Hairenik weekly, the regional committee members, Eastern chapters delegates, Philadelphia executive committee and

hamakhmpoum committee members. During the event the annual awards were announced.

On Saturday the 7th, the annual one-day meeting was held in St. Gregory where the Regional committee and the chapters gave their annual reports, also discussed new motions and projects for the upcoming year. The Philadelphia chapter's Hamakhmpoum committee served breakfast and lunch to the delegates. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

The group in the foyer of Founders Hall



The group was hosted at Harout and Anie Aghajanian's home



ARS Essay Contest Winner

As in the past years, this year as well a few of the Haigazian School students participated in an Essay contest organized by the ARS Eastern Region. The subject of the Essay was "Motherland, If you had the chance of visiting your motherland Armenia, what would you like to see." If you have already had the chance to visit your motherland Armenian, what has impressed you the most?

The contest was open to students in grades 3 through 8.

We are happy to announce that one of our own, Talar Hovsepian won the first place. Below is her essay.



Talar Hovsepian receiving the prize from Anita Hovsepian, chairlady of Haigazian School board.

Read the Essay



I went to Armenia before when I was very young. I remember visiting several places except Sartarabad. We didn't have a chance to see it. If I ever go to Armenia again, I would like it very much to see Sartarabad. I have several reasons why I would like to see and be in Sartarabad.

First, last year when we were remembering the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, my teachers at the Armenian School taught us about the battle of Sartarabad and we learned the story and song about it. I loved the song very much. This made me curious about seeing the place where my ancestors were fighting to save our country from the Ottoman Empire.

Second, after learning the history of the battle of Sartarabad, I found out that it holds a special place in the Armenian history. The battle took place near Sartarabad (modern day Armavir) from May 21-29, 1918. The battle not only stopped the Ottoman advance into the rest of Armenia but also prevented the complete destruction of the Armenian Nation.

In conclusion, I want to be on the land where my ancestors fought like heroes and died, so we can now today have a free independent Armenia.

Talar Hovsepian

NEWS FROM HAIGAZIAN ARMENIAN SCHOOL

Ընդհանուր Չարգացման Մրցոյթ

Կիրակի Մայիս մեկը սովորականէն տարբեր օր մըն էր Հայկազեան Վարժարանէն ներս: Այդ օրը եօթը աշակերտներ մասնակցեցան Համազգայինի կազմակերպած Հայկական Չարգացման մրցումին:

Շնորհակալութիւն Համազգայինի ղարձեան այսպիսի առիթ մը ընծայեց բոլոր Հայ աշակերտներուն:

Այս առիթով կ'ուզեմ շնորհաւորել մեր մասնակցող աշակերտներուն (Աբօյին, Ալեքսին, Իգապէլին, Անիին, Զամիլին, Դալարին ու Արեգին), իրենց ցուցաբերած խանդավառութեան, կամքին ու փափաքին մասնակցելու եւ սորվելու նոր գիտելիքներ իրենց Հայրենիքի ու ազգի պատմութեան եւ միակոյթին մասին: Մեծ էր իրենց հետաքրքրուելիքը բոլոր սիւթերուն վերաբերեալ: Անոնք շատ լուրջ եւ հետեւողական աշխարանք տրին ոչ միայն գերազանց արդիւնքներ բերելու համար, այլ նաեւ մօտէն ծանօթանալու իրենց ազգային պատմութեան:

Սրտանց կը շնորհաւորեմ զիրենց եւ մեծապէս կը գնահատեմ իրենց հայկական ու հայ մնալու ոգին: Շատ հպարտ եմ ձեզմով:

Հազար ապրիք իմ սիրելի աշակերտներ:
Ուսուցչուհի՝

Անոյշ Յովսէփեան

Haigazian School students represented Philadelphia in the first round of 2016 Armenian Knowledge Bowl (AKB) competition organized by Hamazkayin Eastern Regional Board on May 4, 2016. The younger group consisting of Camille Kakoyan, Talar Hovsepian and Arek Handian and the older group consisting of Isabelle Esenyan, Alex Esenyan, Apo Handian and Ani Hovsepian, competed in a Jeopardy-style event against Washington DC's Hamasdegh School via skype. It was a great round and both teams were well-prepared and were very enthusiastic. Haigazian School's younger group lost with one question and Washington DC's Hamasdegh group was declared as the winner to proceed to the next round. The teams for the older group went to overtime and ended up in a tie. Per decision by the AKB committee Philadelphia Haigazian School's older group will proceed to compete against New Jersey team for the next round.

Haigazian School students and teachers deserve our big thanks for the wonderful representation of Philadelphia in Armenian Knowledge Bowl contest.

Anita Hovsepian, Haigazian School Chairlady



Senior class contestants: John Kakoian, Isabelle Essenyan, Alex Essenyan, Apo Handian and Ani Hovsepian



Junior class contestants: Camille Kakoian, Talar Hovsepian and Arek Handian. Behind them jury members



Contestants with their teachers

ARLINGTON CEMETERY TOUR



A crowd aged 11 to 91 gathered at Arlington Cemetery in Drexel Hill on a May afternoon to experience a walk through Philadelphia's Armenian history. While many of our early churches and landmarks no longer exist, Arlington has served as the resting place for thousands of local Armenians since 1907, making it an outdoor museum for exploring the people who shaped our community. This tour was

created by Paul Vartan Sookiasian to share his research and stories of these important figures, and is part of a growing trend in recent years of Armenian-Americans rediscovering their history. Thanks to the digitizing of records online and the ability to connect through the internet, new information about the immigration and life of our early Armenian ancestors in America has come flooding to amateur sleuths and historians, and the first ever Armenian Genealogy Conference was held in Watertown, Massachusetts this April.

The Arlington Tour was the first in a series of planned tours to be led by Paul. Among the figures on the tour was Rev. Harutune Jenanyan, the first Armenian buried there in 1907. Rev. Jenanyan was the founder of St. Paul's Institute of Tarsus in Cilicia and traveled throughout the United States giving a speech called "The Suffering Armenians" about the Hamidian Massacres of 1895. He raised money and hosted many refugees at his Philadelphia home.

In the years that followed his death, numerous Armenians followed Rev. Jenanyan's example by choosing Arlington, resulting in the huge number of Armenian graves that are seen there today. Other graves visited included Dr. Mihran Kassabian, a pioneer of x-ray studies who alerted the world to the danger of radiation exposure, which he died of in 1910 due to his studies. Found just a few steps from each other are the graves of Dr. Lucy Gulezian, humanitarian and one of the first female Armenians to get a medical degree in the United States, and that of Karapet Sital, an author and folklorist who was popular in Soviet Armenia, best known for his epic "The Heroes of Kasht." The tour stopped by the grave of our former pastor Rev. Arsen Hagopian, who is buried in the middle of what he called "the Armenian section," at the intersection of the Woodlawn, Grove, and Silverbrook sections.

The tour also explored unique stones, such as the cemetery's oldest stone with Armenian lettering from 1913, and one with the figure of mythical hero Sasuntsi Davit carved on it. The group also learned that many of Philadelphia's earliest Armenians are buried there in unmarked mass graves, because as poor immigrants many could not afford lots. A special part of the tour was dedicated to notable non-Armenians who lie amongst the Armenians, including Miss America 1924 Ruth Malcomson, whose career was launched by Armenian photographer John Ivazian. Next to her is the grave of Henry Blank, a wealthy jeweler who survived the sinking of the Titanic, an event which has captured the imagination of the world for over a hundred years. Surrounded by Armenians in Grove Section is Urbanus Baughman, chief of the U.S. Secret Service under Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, and Kennedy. The Armenians of Arlington Cemetery made a place in history and are surrounded by history there as well.

The tour ended with a reception featuring delicious Armenian delicacies made by Varteni Ghazarian of Rosie's Authentic Mediterranean Cuisine. The success of this Armenian Tour has created interest for more such events. Another historic Philadelphia cemetery, West Laurel Hill, is planning an Armenian Tour of its own this fall, where Armenians can be found buried amongst the graves of Philadelphia's most elite and prestigious families. Arlington is also planning for more Armenian Tours due to the demand. Paul is also available to lead private tours for groups or organizations who are interested in experiencing Philadelphia's Armenian history first-hand. Through such initiatives, it is being brought to light for new generations, making sure their stories will remain alive.

Paul Sookiasian



40th Day Blessing of Infants



Newly-born Nareg Tomassian was brought to church by his parents, Serouj and Zepure Tomassian on Saturday, May 7, 2016 to receive his 40th Day blessing.

We congratulate his lucky parents Serouj and Zepure as well as two sets of grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Shant and Alidz Beremian and Mr. & Mrs. Anto and Lena Tovmassian.

WE WELCOME NAREG
TO OUR COMMUNITY

Cradle News



It's A Girl!



Lori Yeremian was born on memorial day, 5/30/2016 at 8:26 am. Weight 7 lb. 14 oz. and 20" tall. Congrats to lucky parents Krikor and Vartee Yeremian, and grandparents.



It's A Boy!



George Gerald Rodgers III, Born Feb 1, 2016. Parents: Nina (Vosbikian) Rodgers and George Rodgers Jr. Congrats to lucky parents and grandparents.

Parishioners in news



Haigazian School Alumni News

Gary Hovsepian, former Haigazian Student, successfully completed his second year at George Washington University (GWU) with a 3.85 GPA, majoring in Biological Sciences with minors in Chemistry and Psychology. He was accepted into GWU School of Medicine's early selection program and was invited to join the Doctor of Medicine program starting in the Fall of 2018. For the summer of 2016, he is doing research work in GWU School of Medicine laboratory, assisting in research studies involving fruit flies' response to infection with both humoral and cellular immune defenses. In addition, he will be doing 6 weeks of volunteer work in Yerevan, Armenia in a pediatric hospital.

Parishioners in news

Six Selverian Brothers to be Honored

On June 29th the six Selverian Brothers, Richard, Jeffrey, Mark, Gregory, Arthur, and Kurk will be inducted into the South Jersey Football Coaches Hall of Fame. They will also receive the first Vince McAneney Special Award. The boys played football at Pennsauken High School located in New Jersey during Pennsauken's "Golden Years" of football under the legendary coach Vince McAneney and his staff. McAneney passed away this past January.

During their 16 consecutive years from 1978 through 1993 they earned All Group IV, All Conference and All State awards. The 1984 undefeated team was named Courier Post Team of the Century and the 1986 undefeated team was named number one in the state by the Newark Star Ledger and ranked 7th in the

nation.

Eight of their teammates went on to play in the NFL, 3 played in 7 Super Bowls .

The induction banquet will take place at Masso's Caterers in Glassboro, New Jersey. The event will be followed the next day by the East-West All-Star game at Rowan College when the boys will be recognized at halftime

The brothers continued their football careers at Swarthmore College where they earned several All-League, All-Conference and All-Academic honors. Jeffrey holds several college records including most points scored in a single season and was inducted into the Swarthmore College Athletic Hall of Fame. Sister Lucinda was inducted into the Pennsauken Athletic Hall of Fame in 2014.

They are the children of Stephen and Sandra Selverian of Merchantville NJ.



From left: Kurk, Arthur, father Stephen, Adam Taliaferro, mother Sandra, Gregory, Mark, Richard, and Mrs. V. McAneney. Missing is Jeffrey. Proceeds of the East - West game support the Adam Taliaferro foundation which benefits those with spinal injuries.

Photo taken at the press conference on April 10th and appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer.





Engagements



Stephanie Tashjian and Michael Boyan were engaged on Sunday, May 15, 2016 in Saint Gregory's Church.



Kim Jehanian and Garo Ghazarian were engaged on Sunday, May 15, 2016 in Saint Gregory's Church.

Thirtieth Wedding Anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. Kirk Karagelian celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of their wedding with family members and friends on Friday, April 22, 2016.

Our congratulations





BAPTISMS



Aren Missak Artinian son of Kevork and Talene Artinian was baptized on May 21, 2016. Godfather Kaspar Artinian.



George Alexander Hovsepien son of Justin and Jacqueline Hovsepien was baptized on June 4, 2016. Godfather Alexander Santerian III.



Brielle Emma Bayard daughter of Brad and Sommer Bayard was baptized on June 5, 2016. Godfather Rand Bayard.



Talar Victoria Deese, daughter of Anthony and Anny was baptized on June 11, 2016. Godfather Shant Aghajanian



BAPTISMS



On the occasion of the baptism of his granddaughter, Talar Deese, poet Avik Derentz of Boston Massachusetts, read the poetry printed below during the luncheon in Founders hall.

We proudly publish this poetry in our publication with the permission of the author and wish him a productive literary life.

Avik has already several poetry books published in Armenian of which one, “Reflections on Life and Man” is translated into English by Tatoon Sonentz.

ՄԵՐ ԹՈՌՆՆՈՒՀՈՒՆ

*Ախր այսքան անուշ բալիկ,
Դեռ չի ծնվել ողջ աշխարհում,
Որք որպես չգրված երգ,
Միշտ դայլայլի մեր հոգում:*

*Ախր այսքան քնքուշ ծաղիկ,
Դեռ չի եղել այս աշխարհում,
Որ ինչպես վարդ եղեմական,
Ծաղկազարդվի մեր հոգում:*

*Ախր այսքան թանկ ու անգին
Դեռ չի եղել ոչ մի էակ,
Որ ինչպես մի՛ աստղ լուսատու
Շողա անվերջ մեր կրծքի տակ:*

Ավիկ Դերենց



Hamparsoon “Hambarts” Boghosian of Norristown, PA, has passed away on April 29, 2016 at the age of 88. He was born on March 28, 1928 in Esfahan, Iran. At the early age of 16, he went to work for the National Oil Company to support his family. He worked for the same company for over 40 years.

On September 21, 1961 Hambarts married Rozik Khachatoorian of Esfahan, with whom he had 3 children – Hamo, Hamlet and Hildret. After the breakout of Iran-Iraq war, his family had fled Iraqi bombardments for the safety of Esfahan, while Hambarts continued working. By 1987 he retired and moved the family to Tehran. In 2002, following their children, Hambarts and Rozik left Iran and rejoined their children in the United States, in the Greater Philadelphia region. Hambarts and Rozik split their time among their children and their families, playing a crucial role in the care and upbringing of their 4 grandchildren and showering them with love and attention as only grandparents can.

Hambarts always had a curious mind, loved to read and followed the world affairs; however, a few years ago he was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s, and since then the family and friends were forced to watch with heartbreak and desperation as his mental state declined, slowly at first, but increasingly faster as this cruel disease progressed and robbed him of his memories and personality. In the end, Alzheimer’s, combined with other health issues, has claimed his life.

Hambarts will always be remembered as a kind, caring, honest man with an unwavering moral compass who deeply loved his family and was ready to sacrifice himself for their well-being. He is survived by his wife, Rozik Khachatoorian, sons Hamo Boghosian with wife Kari Ghezarian, Hamlet Boghosian with wife Naira Vardapetyan, and daughter Hildret Boghosian with husband Serjik Estepanian, grandchildren Derik Boghosian, Narek Boghosian, Hayk Boghosian and Lilit Estepanian, and sisters Balik Alexanderian and Maro Aghajani. Preceding in his death was his brother, Davit Boghosian.

Իմ Պապիկը սիրով լի, աշխատասեր է և ընտանիքին կապուած անձ մըն էր: Նա, իր ընտանիքը միշտ իր անձէն առաջ դրած է: Պապիկս բառատուն հինգ տարիներ, առանց զանգատի, օրնի բու, երկար ժամեր աշխատած է որպէսզի իր կինն ու երեք զախակները հանգիստ ապրեն:

Պապիկս 14 տարեկանին կորցրել է իր հայրը և այդ օրունէ իր եղբոր հետ միասին աշխատել է, իրենց երկու քոյրերուն պահելու համար, իսկ իրենց մայրը հաց թխելը ընտանիքը կերակրելու և պահելու համար:

Փոքր տարիքէն աշխատած ըլլալուն ան չէր կարող վայրկեան մը, պարապ նստել: Ամէն օր, պապիկս թերթ կը կարդար որպէսզի տեղեակ ըլլար աշխարհի լուրերուն: Ան կը սիրէր քալել և բնութիւնը վայել:

Վերջին քանի մը տարիներուն, պապիկս անհանստանալէն ետք, տատիկս՝ ինչ որ իրեն ձեռքէն եկել է, արել է իմ պապիկսի հանգիստ ու առողջ պահելու համար և ևս վստահ եմ որ պապիկս այնչափ շնորհակալ է տատիկսի բոլոր ըրախներուն համար:

Երբ ևս պապիկս մահուան լուրը իմացայ շատ ազդուեցայ և տխրեցայ: Շատ ցաւալի է կորսնցնել այդպիսի

Poem for Grandpa

Listen please listen especially you,
Grandpa I will never forget you,
And so won't you.

When I get older,
I want to be like you,
Older or younger,
Just always nice and true.

I love you grandpa,
Truly I do,
You will always be on my mind,
Especially when I hear about you.

I will never forget,
The days together,
We always held hands,
And that will stay close to me forever.

I remember now,
You took me on walks,
When I was a baby,
Rolling on sidewalks.

You swung me on swings,
And loved me forever,
I will never forget,
You never ever.

20 or 80 or a 100 too,
You will stay with me until I bloom,
Older and older I will get,
But you won't come off me ever yet.

I know it was hard,
But you went all the way,
Today and Forever,
We will always pray.

Your favorite color was blue,
I always loved you,
I will never stop to love,
Because I will look above.

This is the end,
So promise to me,
That you will never give up,
Especially on me.

Your granddaughter
Lilit Estepanian

բարի և հոգատար պապիկ: Ցաւս քիչ մը բարատած է, որովհետեւ զիտեմ որ պապիկս այլևս չի չարչարում և տարիներով որ եղբոր կարօտը տանելէ ետք հիմա, իրա մօրը վերադարձեր է: Ես յոյսով եմ որ պապիկս ուրախ և հանգիստ է իրա յաւերժական կեանքում:

Այսօր մենք՝ նրա 4 թոռնիկները շատ բախտաւոր կը զգանք մենք զմեզ որ մենք, մեր պապիկին տեսել ենք և իրա սերը զգացել ենք և ջերմ յիշողութիւններ ունենք իրա հետ ապրած ու վայելած մեր ժամերուն վրայ:

Դերիք Պօղոսեան



Shoushan Manoukian

1925-2016

Shoushan (Manoukian) Rashidian died peacefully on May 26th, 2016 at the age of 91.

Shoushan is survived by her sons Albert Rashidian with wife Margaret, with daughters Arev Rashidian, Anahid Hovagimian, Angele Shidiaq with husband John Shidiaq, Ardemis DerZarian with husband Vahe DerZarian, and son Avedis Rashidian; grandchildren Kegham Manoukian (Toronto), Aram Hovagimian with wife Sosi Hovagimian, Hrant Manoukian (Toronto), Seta Hovagimian, Raffi Hovagimian, Rafi Rasheedian, Rita Jarkejian with husband Hovig Jarkejian and Paul Rasheedian; great-grandchildren Vrej Hovagimian and Lucine Hovagimian. She is preceded in death by her husband Paulis Rasheedian, daughter Arousiag Manoukian (Toronto), son-in-law Armen Manoukian (Toronto) and son-in-law Jirair Hovagimian.

Shoushan was born in 1925 in Kirkuk, Iraq. She married Paulis Rashidian and lived in Kirkuk until 1952, when they moved to Basra. In 1963, with their growing family, moved to Baghdad in 1963. In 1982, her husband moved to the United States, where he remained for 10 years until 1992 when Shoushan and the remaining family members in Baghdad moved to the United States. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother who was extremely devoted to her family.

A private funeral service was held with the family on May 31, 2016 in St. Gregory's Church.

In lieu of flowers donation can be made to St. Gregory's Church.

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE



FUNERAL OF FATHER AND SON



Edwar A. Arslanian, 81, of Sewell, on Wednesday, March 16, 2016.

Beloved husband of Anahied (nee Aprahamian). Devoted father of Lina (Fiance Mark White), Peter (Lisa) Arslanian and the late Johnny (Tara) Arslanian. Dear brother of Arpine, Zvart, and Santought. Loving grandfather of Jennifer, Tiffany, Michael, Connor, Chloe, Julianna and the late Adam.



Johnny Arslanian, 40, of Sewell, on Wednesday, March 16, 2016.

Beloved husband of Tara (nee Petrovia). Devoted father of Chloe and Julianna. Loving son Anahied and the late Edwar Arslanian. Dear brother of Lina (Fiance Mark White), and Peter (Lisa) Arslanian. Loving uncle of Jennifer, Tiffany, Michael, Connor and the late Adam.

The funeral of father and son was held on Holy Wednesday, March 23 in Colestone cemetery of Cherry Hill,,NJ.

In Lieu of flower donations may be made to St. Gregory's church.

- ♦ **Anthony Panosian**, son of Mr. & Mrs. Manuel and Elizabeth Panosian entered into his eternal rest on June 2, 2016. His funeral was held on June 6. ILOF to Church.
- ♦ **Hrant Missak Mampourian** entered his eternal rest in Florida. Internment Arlington Cemetery on Tuesday, May 3, 2016.



ILOF Donations for

<p><u>Anna Vosbikian</u> Samuel G. and Diana D. Vosbikian Peter and Linda Vosbikian, Jessica, Peter and Garo Vosbikian Frank and Tammy Lescas Gregory and Corrine Vosbikian, Christopher, Kristen, Alana and Adam Vosbikian, and Jacob, Gina, Pauly and Shy Terkanian Steve and Linda Vosbikian, Steve, Nyieri, Kirk, Tomas and Victoria Vosbikian, George, Nina and George III Rogers Harout and Ani Aghajanian Alex and Annabelle Alexanian Vaughn and Patricia Alexanian Richard and Paulkette Apkarian Mrs. Dorothy Arakelian Niki and Lydia Arakelian and family Carolyn Arslanian Mr. & Mrs. Bill Arthin Haroutune Aydjian Family Mrs. Dyan Ayjian Michael and Celeste Ayjian John Bahian Mrs. Florence Boyajian Norig Buchakjian Russ and Susan Cannon Mr. & Mrs. Richard Chebookjian Dr. & Mrs. Chris Colopinto Mr. & Mrs. Gary Der Hagopian and family Kim and Larry D. Der Hagopian Larry and Jeanette Der Hagopian Albert and Valerie Der Pilbosian Harry and Jeanette Derderian Richard and Diane Doudoukjian Mr. & Mrs. Ara Eloian George and Ana Endrigian Dr. & Mrs. Garo Garibian Frank and Mary Gorman Ken and Madeine Gureghian Mr. & Mrs. Roupén Gureghian Haig and Gay Hagopian Mr. Jack Hagopian Mr. & Mrs. Vahe Hagopian Michael and Lynn Hajatian Ms. Shirley Hajinian Nazareth and Christopher Hajinian Families David and Nadine Hoplamagian Peter and Theresa Hovnanian Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Hovnanian Aram and Louise Hovsepian Gregory and Maria Javardian and family Ms. Karen M. Jehanian Mrs. Rose Jehanian Hrant and Arlene Jilozian Michael and Lisa Kalaitis Kirk and Michele Karagelian and Family Haroutune and Maxy Kazandjian Mrs. Goergette Kazanjian Miss Marge Keshgegian</p>	<p>Richard and Dori Keshgegian Frank and Tamara Lescas Mr. & Mrs. Zack Manauelian Mr. & Mrs. Henry Mardigian David and Terri Mears Noubar and Anie Megerian Gerald and Lucille Mikaelian Mrs. Gay Mukalin Karnig and VirginiaMukalian, Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Richard Mukalian, III Mr. & Mrs. Ronald D. Mukalian Dr. & Mrs. Michael and Sonia Nalbantian Garo, Rubina, Alina and Alec Nazarian Mr. & Mrs. Y. Nazarian Mr. & Mrs. Ken Nigon Glenn Papazian and Ann Papazian Don and Judy Paretchan Robert and Diane Paretchan Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Peacock Ms. Elizabeth Pilbosian Mrs. Rosette Pyne Mr. & Mrs. Albert Santerian Mrs. Merle Santerian Dr. & Mrs. Albert Sarkessian Lori & Jon Sarkisian Robert and Mary Sarkisian Garo and Bertha Sekdorian Arden and Barbara Selverian Kurk and Rita Selverian George and Ani Semerjian Dawn and Vincent Semola Arman and Kim Shahikian and family Mr. & Mrs. Diran Shakarjian Rich and Alice Shakarjian George and Doris Shamlian Mrs. Rose Shelengian Ed and Hilda Soorikian Mr. & Mrs. Wally Stronski Mrs. Seda Tarzian The James Tashjian Family Betty, Brian and Margie Tavakalian Robert and Carol Temoyan George and Anne Terkanian Nick and Amy Terkanian Michael and Theresa Testa Tom and Fran Torcomian Mrs. Pamela Gureghian Toth Jack and Ramona Vosbikian Mark and LynneVosbikian Michael and Linda Vosbikian Paul and Shirley Vosbikian Mr. Mike Vosbikian Peter and Irene Vosbikian Rose Vosbikian John and Carol Wagner Kim and Gena Willard Jerry and Robin Williams James and Marlene Yadavian Armen and Linda Yepoyan Armen and Rose Zartarian</p>	<p>Total \$7505</p> <p><u>Haig Hagopian</u> Mrs. Gay Mukalian Brian Tavakalian and family Total \$50</p> <p><u>Hamparsoom Boghosian</u> Harout and Anny Aghajanian Clara and Vahik Andonian Daniel and Nora Babaian Mr. & Mrs. Aram Ghazarian Hamazkain Armenian Cultural Association Hrant and Arlene Jilozian Antranig and Sara Kechian Mr. & Mrs. Haig Khararjian Mr. & Mrs. Albert Kzelian Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Kzirian Dr. & Mrs. Michael and Sonia Nalbantian Mr. & Mrs. Rafik Stepanian Noubar and Roubina Yeremian Andre and Rose Zeibari Total \$ 645</p> <p><u>Shoushan Rashidian</u> Hovagimian family Vahe and Ardemeis Der Zarian John Chidiash family Ara and Virginia Der Zarian Asadourian and Melkonian family Harout Aydjian Mr. & Mrs. Hagop Ishkhanian Haroutune and Maxy Kazandjian Georgette Kazanjian Mr. & Mrs. Kris Torosian Total \$ 645</p> <p><u>Edward and John Arslanian</u> Mrs. Lina Arslanian Haroutune and Maxy Kazandjian Total \$150</p> <p><u>Anthony Panossian</u> Mary and Frank Cecco Samie and Hilda Dakko Nora Der Bedrossian Edgar Hermes family Georgette Kazanjian Mr. & Mrs. Zakar Manauelian Joanne Grace, Denice Manawelian Manawel Manawelian Alice Mardikian Krikor and Janice Mardikian Mr. & Mrs. Sevag Parsehian Me. & Mrs. John Sevdalian Total \$ 930.00</p>
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I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to all Ladies Guild members and volunteers for their hard work and dedication over the year. It's a big effort and your support makes all the difference. As we look ahead to the Festival this year, I encourage and invite all of our community women to volunteer their time even if it's just a few hours. Every contribution, large or small, helps. And everyone is welcome to support our work for the Church as membership is not required! For anyone who may be interested in joining the Guild, feel free to come and join us at our next monthly Ladies Guild meeting. You are more than welcome to see what we do.

I will include the calendar for this year's Food Festival in the next Illuminator and the Chronicles.

Thank you again for all you do in support of our wonderful Church community! Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

Haigoush Karakelian Ladies Guild Chairlady

Remember



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in your will
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