



Children Ushered in Christmas With Joy



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On Saturday, December 19, the Board of Education of Haigazian Armenian School organized their traditional "Breakfast with Santa" event which was very well attended.

A sumptuous Mediterranean breakfast was prepared and donated by ARS members. Der Nerses blessed the tables and Anita Hovsepian, the chairlady of the Board welcomed all and indicated that the income of the day will be allocated to our school. After breakfast, Santa arrived with a bagful of gifts.



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On Sunday, December 20th, after Badarak, our Sunday School and Haigazian school students staged in the church the traditional Christmas Pageant with a churchful of parishioners in attendance.

This year there was something magical in the air; baby Jesus' role was played by three months old Aren Artinian, son of Kevork and Talene. He was so nice and peaceful looking. He stole the heart of all. Baby Aren in his arms, Der Nerses wished Mery Christmas to all.

Thank you Aren. Xoxo



Board of Trustees Report

Angela Aghajanian, Secretary



Soon the Armenian Church will celebrate the holy birth (Soupr Dznount) of Jesus Christ. In Armenian tradition, this day commemorates not only the birth of Christ, but also His baptism by John the Baptist. The baptism is remembered through the "Blessing of Water" ceremony, which follows the Badarak on January 6. Originally all Christians celebrated Christmas on January 6th. However, by the end of the 4th century, Christmas in Rome was celebrated on December 25. The Greek-speaking Christian world switched to this date as well soon after, but Armenians have always withheld this original tradition.

Tradition is rich in the Armenian Church, as well as in the St. Gregory's Community. We will once again come together for Christmas Eve on Tuesday, January 5th, when the Board of Trustees will be sponsoring our annual dinner. The Christmas service will then take place on Wednesday, January 6th. We hope to see you all there during this important time in our church.

We had very successful events this the fall, such as the annual Golf Outing at Waynesborough Country Club on October 12th. It was a great time for all of the participants. Thank you to the organizers of this important event. Also, once again our Ladies' Guild outdid themselves. They held a greatly successful Church Food Festival. The traditional Armenian food was so amazing that many of us left each night with very, very full stomachs. Thank you to the Ladies' Guild for taking on this huge task for our community year after year.

We've had many great events to help celebrate this joyful time. On Saturday, December 12th, a Christmas Advent Concert was held, which included our talented organist Ara Eloian, our talented Choir director Maroush Nigon, and soprano Emily Movsesian. The concert was dedicated to the memory of our beloved Jeanette Nazarian. The Men's Club held their annual Steak and Egg breakfast the next morning on Sunday, December 13th. On Saturday, December 19th, the Haigazian School children enjoyed "Breakfast with Santa," and on Sunday, December 20th, our Sunday School children held their annual Christmas Pageant. These were all great events where we could celebrate Christmas time together.

It's important to remember that Christmas is about spreading peace and helping others. As 2015 comes to a close, we are grateful for all the gifts that the year brought to the church and our parishioners who embodied just what Christmas is about. The Men's Club and Ladies' Guild have worked tirelessly, and we are thankful to them and all of the Altar Guild, choir members, Sunday School teachers, Haigazian School teachers and the many volunteers who help the church meet the community's spiritual needs.

Thanks for a great 2015. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a very happy 2016!



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Turn on your Christmas lights

- Rise and shine in Your Community -



Twenty-eight years ago, when my family and I first set foot on this blessed land of America around Christmas time, the first thing that grabbed my attention was the Christmas lights. It was a magical moment for someone like me who had never been exposed to this tradition.

The cold and snow-filled streets were festooned with colorful and glittering lights heralding the arrival of Christmas. I bought a set for my family and we still use them to this day.

It is that time again. By the time you read these lines probably your Christmas lights will be down. But before you do that I would like to bring to your attention a few words about the significance of light in Christianity.

It is significant that, in the story of creation described in the Book of Genesis, the first thing God created was the light. “Let there be light,” was God’s command in Genesis 1:3. That was in the beginning. That command has reverberated through the entire Bible inviting God’s people to live in light and to be light.

Light in the Bible evolved into a symbol of mainly three things: life, wisdom and salvation.

- A. **Life.** In our physical world, as you know, light is a source of life. Nothing will grow on this earth without the ultraviolet rays of the sun. If that is true in the physical world, it is true as well in the spiritual world. God is light and He gives us life and sustenance. The Psalmist says: “For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light,” (Ps. 36:9) or “Light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death.” (Ps. 13:3)
- B. **Wisdom.** Light or illumination is synonymous with wisdom in the scholarly world. Light, in the spiritual realm, is indicative of divine wisdom. The Psalmist says: “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Ps. 119:105) The author of proverbs echoes this same thought by saying: “For the commandment is a lamp and teaching a light.” (Prov. 6:23)
- C. **Salvation.** Above all, light in the Bible is a symbol of salvation. “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?” (Ps. 27:1) It

was our Lord, the savior of humankind, who had proclaimed: “I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12) The same Evangelist, speaking about the incarnation of Jesus, portrays him as “The true light, which will enlighten everyone, was coming to the world.” (John 1:9)

The Armenian Church hymnal as well is replete with the idea of light and illumination. Jesus is portrayed as “Sun of righteousness,” and his mother, St. Mary, as “Mother of light.” The first stanza of the Blessing of Water ceremony hymn goes: “Light from light, you were sent and incarnate through the Holy Virgin in order to rejuvenate the corrupted Adam.”

That the divine light gives us life and wisdom and ushers us to his salvation is well and good. But the light doesn’t stop there. It should glow through each and every Christian. After receiving the light we are instructed to be luminous and shining. Jesus had said to his disciples and continues telling us: “You are the light of the world.” (Matt. 5:14) What he is telling us is that we ought to shine through our lives the same light as colorful and as glittering as we can. He instructs us to not stop shining for “No one after lighting the lamp puts it in the cellar or under a bushel, but on a stand, that those who enter may see the light.” (Luke 11:33)

Dear brothers and sisters, when you decorate your homes and trees with Christmas lights, I want you to know that you are proclaiming that Jesus, the light and salvation of the world, is being born in your heart and in your neighborhood, or is he?

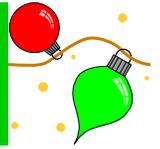
Secondly, far important than the first, if you are proclaiming the birth of the light, how are you taking the saying of Jesus that you are the light of the world? As the light of the star of Bethlehem lead the three wise men to the manger, is your life a reflection of the divine light and leading people to Jesus?

After you bring down your Christmas lights, remember: “You are all children of light, children of the day.” (1 Thes. 5:5)

Please, don’t stop shining! Merry Christmas

Archpriest Fr. Nerses Manooqian

According to the wish of a parishioner we reprinted this Pastor’s message written in Christmas 2010. Der Nerses.



Վառեցե՛ք Ձեր Ս. Ծննդեան Լոյսերը – Ծագեցե՛ք եւ Փայլեցե՛ք Ձեր կեանքին մէջ – (Վերատպում)



Քսանութ տարիներ առաջ, երբ ընտանիքս եւ ես ոտք կոխեցինք այս օրհնեալ երկրէն ներս Լատինական Ծննդեան օրերուն, առաջին բանը որ ուշադրութիւնս գրաւեց եւ հմայեց գիս, Ս. Ծննդեան գունաւոր լոյսերն էին: Կախարդական պահ մըն էր ինծի պէս մէկու մը համար, որ ծանօթ չէր այս երկրի աւանդութիւնն – ռուն: Տուրտ ու ձիւնով

բեռնաւորուած փողոցները զարդարուած էին լոյսերով, աւետելով մօտալուս գալուստը Քրիստոսի Սուրբ Ծննդեան: Կը յիշեմ որ, ես ալ իմ ընտանիքիս համար գնեցի ձեռք մը գոյնգոյն լոյսեր գոր մինչեւ հիմա երկիր– դածութեամբ կը վառեմք ամէն տարի:

Հիմա այդ պահն է դարձեալ: Երբ այս տողերը կը կարդաք, հաւանաբար շատերդ արդէն վար բերած էք ձեր լոյսերը: Բայց նախքան այդ ընելը, կ'ուզեմ ձեզի հետ բաժնել որոշ մտածումներ, փորձելով բացատրել լոյսին կարեւորութիւնը Քրիստոնէական կրօնքին մէջ:

Յատկանշական է, որ ստեղծագործութեան պատմութեան մէջ, առաջին բանը որ Աստուած կ'ըստեղծէ՝ լոյսն է.– «Եղիցի լոյս» հրամայեց Աստուած Ծննդոց գրքի մէջ: Այդ հրամանը շարունակեց արձագանգել ամբողջ Ս. Գրքին մէջ, հրաւիրելով Աստուծոյ ժողովուրդը որ ապրի լոյսի մէջ եւ ինքն ալ ըլլայ լոյս:

Լոյսը Ս. Գրքին մէջ դարձած է խորհրդանշիչը հետեւեալ երեք բաներու.– կեանք, իմաստութիւն եւ փրկութիւն:

Ա. Կեանք.– Մեր ֆիզիքական աշխարհին մէջ, ինչպէս գիտեք, լոյսը կեանքի աղբիւրն է: Այս երկրի հողին վրայ ոչինչ կը բուսնի առանց արեւի ճառագայթներուն: Եթէ ասիկա ճիշդ է ֆիզիքական աշխարհին մէջ, ճիշդ է նաեւ հոգեկան աշխարհին մէջ: Աստուած որ լոյս է, կեանք կու տայ մեզի: Սաղմոսերգուն կ'ըսէ.– «Դուն ես կեանքի աղբիւրը. լոյսովդ է որ մեմք լոյսը կը տեսնենք»: (Սղմ. 36:9)

Բ. Իմաստութիւն.– Լոյսը կամ լուսաւորութիւնը մտաւորական աշխարհի մէջ հոմանիշ է իմաստութեան: Իսկ հոգեկան աշխարհի մէջ լոյսը հոմանիշ է աստուածային իմաստութեան: Ինչպէս Սաղմոսերգուն ալ կ'ըսէ.– «Խօսքը նրազ է քայլերուս, լուսաւորող՝ ճամբաներուս»: (Սղմ. 119:105): Իսկ Առակաց Գրքի հեղինակը արձագանգ հանդիսանալով սոյն Սաղմոսին, կ'սէ.– «Պատուիրանը յապտեր է իսկ ուսումը լոյս:» (Առակաց 6:23):

Գ. Փրկութիւն.– Ս. գրքին մէջ, լոյսը ամենէն աւելի խորհրդանշան է փրկութեան: «Տէրն է իմ լոյսս եւ փրկութիւնս որմէ՞ պիտի վախնամ ես» կ'ըսէ Սաղմոս 27:1–ը: Սրդարեւ, երբ եկաւ ժամանակը, աշխարհի փրկիչը, մեր Տէրը ըսաւ.– «Ես եմ աշխարհի լոյսը: Ով որ ինծի հետեւի՝ խաւարի մէջ

պիտի չհայէ, այլ պիտի ունենայ կեանքի լոյսը»: (Յովի. 8:12) Նոյն Աւետարանիչը, խօսելով Քրիստոսի մարդեղութեան մասին, զինք կը ներկայացնէ որպէս «Ճշմարիտ լոյսը որ աշխարհ գալով՝ կը լուսաւորէ ամբողջ մարդկութիւնը»: (Յովի. 1:9)

Հայ եկեղեցւոյ շարականներն ալ լեցուն են լոսի եւ լուսաւորութեան գաղափարներով, յատկապէս Ս. Ծննդեան եւ Աստուծածնայ նուիրուած շարականները: Քրիստոս շատ անգամներ կը ներկայացուի որպէս «Արդարութեան Արեգակ», իսկ Ս. Աստուծածինը՝ որպէս «Մայր Լուսոյ»: Այս տեսակետէն շատ բացայայտ է Ջրօրհնէի արարողութեան ընթացքին երգուող «Լոյս ի Լուսոյ» շարականը.– «Լոյսէն լոյս, որ Հօրմէն ծագեցար եւ Ս. Կոյսէն մարմին առիր, որպէսզի նորոգես ապականած Ադամը»:

Թէ լոյսը մեզի կու տայ կեանք եւ իմաստութիւն եւ մեզ կ'առաջնորդէ դէպի փրկութիւն, լաւ եւ բարի: Բայց լոյսը հոն կանգ պէտք չէ առնէ: Այլ պէտք է ցոլայ իւրաքանչիւր Քրիստոնեայի մէջէն: Յիսուս ըսած էր իր աշակերտներուն եւ կը շարունակէ ըսել մեզի այսօր հետեւեալը.– «Դուք էք աշխարհի լոյսը»: (Մատթ. 5:14) Այսինքն, կ'ուզէ ըսել մեզի, որ պէտք է մեր կեանքի ընդմէջէն նոյն այդ աստուածային լոյսը՝ նոյնքան գունագեղ եւ նոյնքան պսպղուն փայլի: Մեզ կ'ըզուշացնէ որ երբեք չդադրինք լոյս տալէ, որովհետեւ, կ'ըսէ ան, «Ոեւէ մէկը նրազը վառել էք սրբապատիւ կաթսային տակ չի դնելը այլ աշտանակի վրայ կը դնէ, որպէսզի ներս մտնողները լոյսը տեսնեն»: (Լուկ. 11:33):

Սիրելի եղբայրներ եւ քոյրեր, այս Ծննդեան օրերուն երբ կը զարդարէք ձեր տուններն ու ծառերը, կ'ուզեմ գիտնաք թէ, այդ արարքով դուք կը յայտարարէք թէ Յիսուս, աշխարհի լոյսը ծնելու է ձեր հոգիներուն եւ ձեր ապրած ընկերութեան կեանքին մէջ: Երկրորդ, ինչ որ աւելի կարեւոր է, երբ դուք կը յայտարարէք լոյսի ծնունդը, արդեօք ինչպէ՞ս կ'ընկալէք Յիսուսի այն խօսքը որ դուք էք աշխարհի լոյսը:

Եթէ Բէթղէեմի լուսաւոր աստղը երեք մոգերը առաջնորդեց դէպի Քրիստոսի մտուրը, արդեօք ձեր կեանքը որ պարտի ըլլալ Քրիստոսի լոյսին ցոլացումը՝ ուրիշները կ'առաջնորդէ՞ դէպի Քրիստոս:

Ձեր Ս. Ծննդեան լոյսերը վար բերելէն ետք եւ ամէն օր, երբեք մի մոռնաք, որ դուք «Լոյսի գաւակներ էք եւ ցերեկուան որդիներ» (Ա. Թեսաղ. 5:5) եւ պարտիք որպէս այդպիսին ապրիլ ամէն օր:

Վառեցե՛ք ձեր լոյսերը եւ դուք ալ փայլեցե՛ք որպէս լոյս:

Շնորհաւոր Նոր Տարի եւ Ս. Ծնունդ:

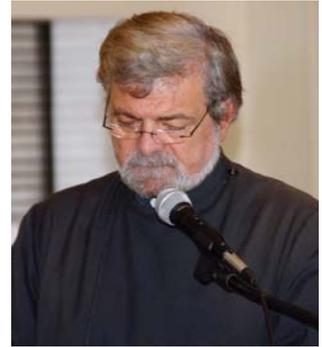
Նիկոլայ Աւագ Քիւլ, Մատակոս

Ընդառաջելով ծխականի մը փափաքին վերատպեցինք այս պատգամը գոր գրած էինք 2010-ին: ՏՆՍ

Clergy Conference



Our Lecturers in the order of their lectures.



Hyr Muron Aznigian



Der Nerses Manoogian



Der Karnig Koyounian



Hyr Zareh Sarkisian

Advent Concert

By Arlene Jilozian

On Saturday, December 12, 2015, St. Gregory's church choir proudly presented its 2nd annual Advent Concert and caroling night. Organist Ara Eloian, along with vocalists Maroush Paney and Nigon and Emily Movsesian, graced our church with their glorious God given talents for all to enjoy. A lovely selection of Christian songs and classical musical pieces helped to put everyone in the Christmas spirit and it was a blessing to experience the sights and sounds of this very special evening in our sanctuary.

Der Nerses Manoogian greeted, welcomed, and thanked everyone for taking the time from everyone's busy schedule to focus on the real meaning of this joyful season. He also announced that this concert was dedicated to the memory of our dear sister-in-faith, Jeanette Nazarian, who spearheaded the first Advent Concert last year and who will always be with us in spirit. A moment of silence was held in her honor. And, it was delightful to see so many faces from the various Armenian churches in our community, as well as guests, and to especially have the presence of visiting clergy, Badveli Nishan Bakalian from Armenian Martyrs Congregational Church and Der Hakob Gevorgyan from Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church.

For the caroling part of the program, a select group of people were asked to read passages from the Bible prior to each of the Christmas carols and everyone joined their voices in praise of our Lord and Savior for this special time of year. The songs included the familiar and adored, O Holy Night, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Angels We Have Heard On High, Joy To The World, and O Come, All Ye Faithful. The last song was Silent Night, Holy Night and everyone participated in having a Candlelight caroling. Between the altar beautifully decorated with poinsettas, the candles glowing while the lights were dimmed, Ara's eloquent accompaniment, and the congregation joyfully singing along under the expert leadership of both Maroush and Emily, one could easily feel the warmth and spirit of peace and goodwill fill the sanctuary as well as our hearts.

Terhanian Hall was also beautifully decorated with poinsettas and a lovely reception of sweets and treats followed the program. Everyone had a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the beautiful concert and to participate in fellowship with family and friends. A sincere and heartfelt thanks and appreciation goes to Ara, Maroush, and Emily as well as to Der Hayr and the choir members for making this evening possible.



Ara Eloian, on organ



Our soloist Maroush and Emily



Candlelight caroling



Maral Kaloustian, Choir chailady, Emily, Ara, Maroush and Der Nerses

Sunday School Corner

“Helping Hands”

By Lisa Bass

Serving others and how we can change the world with our own two hands. One of our older students read the verse below, Ephesians 2:10: *“For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

Jesus didn't come for others to serve Him, but to serve and help others. Our motivation for serving must come from a love for God and others and our desire to be more like Jesus. We can see examples of serving in Scripture. Serving isn't something that we should dread doing. It should be something that brings us joy! We don't have to wash feet as Jesus did to be serving.

As children, we can serve by helping our parents with chores around the house. We can help out at church by opening a door for an elderly person.

Serving is possibly one of the easiest of the disciplines to practice – IF we have the right attitude about it. There are always ways to serve and help others.

Another way to serve is to pray for others. Instead of only praying for our own needs, we can be servants by praying for those around us.

Serving is basically about others and not ourselves! When we serve, we should strive to be more like Jesus, caring for those around us more than we do our own needs and wants.

Your hands are two of the most complex and useful parts of your body. You use them for almost everything, from simply grasping your breakfast spoon to writing letters.

Hands come in all different shapes, sizes and colors and some are even not real.

I showed the students photos of different hands and how unique they are.

I asked the children to take a look at their own hands and asked what do you see?

Then I asked them to take a look at the hands of the person sitting next to them and to hold hands and asked how do they feel? Are they bigger, stronger or smaller?

I then asked can you name what things you can do with your hands?

Here are some Good deeds you can do with your hands:

When you leave today, if you see trash in the Church parking lot, you can pick it up with your hands. Or the next time you come to Church, if there is trash in the parking lot, pick it up and bring it into church to throw away.

Or the next time you come to Church, if there is trash in the parking lot, pick it up and bring it into church to throw away.

For the older children you can ask the ladies in the kitchen if they need the trash taken out, you can help them by taking it outside.

How about if you help your parents rake the leaves or if you have a neighbor that is elderly you can help them rake the leaves or take out their trash.

What about praying hands. Can you show me what you do with your hands when you pray?

You are never too young to do a good deed for someone. As we grow older and our hands get bigger we can do BIGGER deeds. This is what God wants us to do but we must learn this as we are little children.

Example: I need a big person and a little person. Put a big person and a little person together and ask them if they can lift the same trash can as each other. No, since one is bigger and stronger.

You can you make a card for someone who is sick. That is also a good deed. It could be a friend, neighbor or family member.

We are now going to make a fun project with our hands. This will be hung in the hallway to our classrooms so you can look at it every time you come to church and say “Hey those are my helping hands”

It will be fun to see how much your hands have grown come May when it is our last day of Sunday school.



Sunday School Corner Halloween in our Schools



Sunday School Corner

Children's Sermon Series

Der Nerses, following the request of Sunday School teachers has started his Children's Sermon series in October.

1. Bread

The first one of the series was on this saying of Jesus: "I am the bread of Life." (John 6:35)

Der Hyre taught the children about "God's Bread". Der Hyre had his props of flour, water and a loaf of bread. He taught from John 6:35 "I am the bread of life." As he pointed out the importance of bread in everyday life for survival, he made very clear that, in order to grow up as God wants us to do, we need to feed our souls with the words of our Lord Jesus. He shared with the children how love and the cross equal Jesus. Der Hyre challenged the children on how we become bread for others following the lead of the first letters of the cross:

- C**aring
- R**especting
- O**bedying
- S**erving
- S**acrificing



On Sunday, November 15, 2015 Der Nerses gave his second children's sermon. His subject was "Helping the Homeless." He brought a real bird's nest and said that as a bird needs a nest, every human being needs a home to live in this world. But unfortunately, he added, there are a lot of people who for some reason lost their homes and they live on the streets, and it is the duty of each Christian to help the homeless, as for years the Sunday School has been organizing the collection of food, coats and blankets and reaching out to them through the Salvation Army.

Der Nerses, after describing with real pictures how hard it is for the homeless to live on the streets, sometime having a mere cardboard box as a means of protection, he asked a volunteer to get into an empty box to see how it feels. Armen Semerjian volunteered. From an empty nest to cardboard box the Sunday School children's imagination was captivated and they learned that they need to appreciate what they have and learn to help the ones who do not have. During the sermon, children read verses from the Bible about giving.



St. Gregory Church Sunday School Students Make Life Better for Homeless

By Emily Selverian

The St. Gregory Church Sunday School children and families generously donated clothing and blankets on Sunday, Nov. 15, to help keep the homeless warm again this year. Some of the supplies were donated to a formerly homeless man named Frank Camps, with whom student Emily Selverian worked to create a video to help the homeless in Philadelphia. The video was part of Emily's Girl Scout Gold Award Project. The rest of the collection was donated to the Salvation Army for distribution to the area needy.



After gathering up the donations, Emily gathered with the children in the small hall to discuss the meaning of giving on the Sunday School's Day of Service. The children told Emily what they think homelessness means. Answers included the words "lonely," "hungry" and "cold." Emily commended the children for their insights and encouraged their interest in giving back to the needy.

Describing her experience working with the homeless, Emily said she had the privilege of interviewing many homeless men and women on the streets of Philadelphia, and she discovered that they need love and attention as much as food and clothing. She credited Ms. Lisa Bass and

her daughter, Abbie Bass, for volunteering their time and resources to the homeless and for leading her to an understanding of and relationships with them.

The children asked many questions, including why the homeless were not working and had no home. Emily said that she learned something she did not know before spending time with the homeless. She said that many times, the homeless have no one to help them when they lose their jobs or get sick; so they have no place to go and no way to

earn money. Many people think that people become homeless because they abuse drugs; but Emily said that this is not always the case. Often, the homeless turn to drugs and alcohol out of desperation because they are alone and feel helpless and hopeless.

Emily asked the children what they thought they could do to help the home-

less. Answers included giving clothes, food, money and their time. The children discussed how visits to soup kitchens can be all year long, not just at the holidays. Emily added that there are special centers that look for the homeless and pick them up with vans. She said other shelters show her video, which tells the homeless where to go for food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and, most of all, moral support. Her video, named "Power of the Flower" after the flower that Abbie Bass offered to Frank Camps when he was homeless on the streets one cold Valentine's Day, can be seen at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hoo_GAkLGig.

Emily Selverian stars in compelling 'Diary of Anne Frank' Dec. 4-12

Emily Selverian of Blue Bell, PA, a senior at Wis-sahickon High School in Ambler, PA, will star as Anne in a historic production of "The Diary of Anne Frank" at the Spotlight Theatre, formerly MN Players, in Swarthmore, PA, Dec. 4-12. The theater is celebrating its 75th year in the Philadelphia area.

Show times for this riveting play capturing the first-person experiences of a young Jewish girl in hiding in the throes of the Holocaust are Friday, Dec. 4, and Saturday, Dec. 5, at 8 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 6, at 2 p.m.; Thursday, Dec. 10, and Friday, Dec. 11, at 8 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 12, at 4 p.m. Tickets are available at spotlighttheatrepa.org or by calling the theatre at 610-200-4479.

"The Diary of Anne Frank" is based on the personal journal of a Jewish girl who lived with her family and others in a cramped attic in the top floors of an office building annex in Amsterdam, Holland, to escape the horrors of the Nazi regime during World War II. Anne addresses her diary as 'Dear Kitty' as she lightens her burden through free expression. Anne's father, Otto Frank, who had lost his entire family in the Holocaust, published the journal at the end of the war. A Pulitzer Prize-winning stage play version by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett opened at the Cort Theatre on Broadway in 1955 and was later turned into an Academy Award-winning film in 1959 directed by George Stevens.

The youngest daughter of Otto and Edith Frank, Anne is a lively, curious girl of thirteen as the play begins. She remains optimistic throughout the months they are in hiding, always making the best of the situation despite the terror surrounding her. As her diary reveals, she is introspective, creative, and highly imaginative. Her words capture the innocence of youth and project hope for humanity.

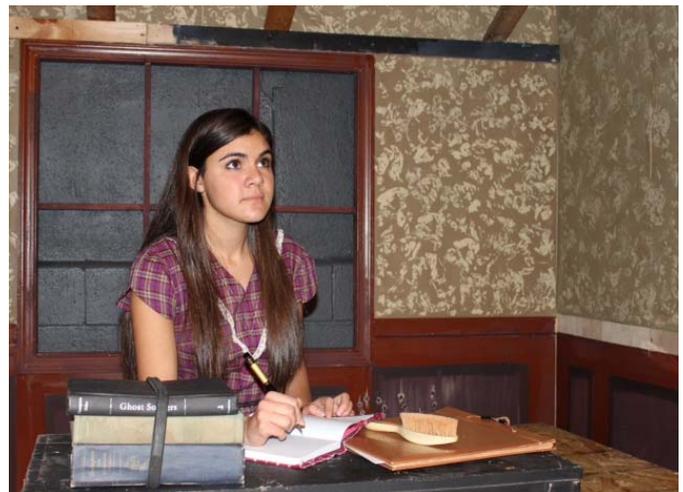
Selverian shares the stage with a seasoned cast including Charles Hoffmann of Media as Otto Frank, Anne's comforting father; Ilana Brookshier of Narberth as Edith Frank, her nervous mother; Angela Robb of Philadelphia as Margot Frank, her reserved older sister; David Cashell of Springfield as Putti Van Daan, her father's irritable former business partner; Diane (Dinky) Lowenthal of Haverford as Petronella Van Daan, Putti's critical wife; Garrett Huber of Glen Mills as Peter Van Daan, the couple's quiet son; C.C Sumerfield as Jan Dussell, a difficult family friend; Elizabeth Balabayev as Miep, Anne's father's life-saving secretary; John Huber as Mr. Kraler, a faithful friend; and Charles Summerfield as a German officer.

Josh Gosselin directs this Goodrich and Hackett adaptation produced through special arrangements with

Dramatists Play Service. The producer is Roz Gosselin. The stage manager is Sue Oldham. Stage crew include Susan Summerfield and Abbey Oldham. The German language consultant is Bettina Haydn-Summerfield. The prompter is Susan Summerfield. Set design is by Josh Gosselin and Sue Abl. Set construction is by Jack Gallagher. The scenic artist is Sue Abl. Costumes are by Roz Gosselin. The seamstress is Elizabeth Balabayev. Lighting design is by Andrew Montemayor. Sound design is by Josh Gosselin. The light board operators are Sue Abl and Roz Gosselin. The sound board operator is Josh Gosselin. Hospitality is by Liz Girshick McCallum. The program is by Rich Russell. The photographer/lobby board is Dani Kennedy. Publicity is by Jess Stinson. The theater is located at 129 Park Avenue in Swarthmore.

Selverian has performed in dramas, comedies, and musicals since she was very young. She has enjoyed roles in numerous productions, including that of Diana in "Anne of Green Gables" for the Town and Country Players, Alexandra in "The Little Foxes", Becky Walton in "(The Waltons) Homecoming: A Christmas Story," and the young Carol Burnett in "Hollywood Arms" at Spotlight Theatre. She has performed in her high school production of "Rent" and in several productions of the Young Stars Theater Company including "Working," "Into the Woods," "Hair," and "Footloose." She has also performed in improvisational productions at the Montgomery Theater and in multicultural theatrical, dance, and choral performances. She has studied theater, music and dance at the Walnut Street Theater, at other area theater and dance companies, and with a private tutor, Katie Romano, of Conshohocken, PA.

Our congratulations to Emily



NEWS FROM HAIGAZIAN ARMENIAN SCHOOL

Մեր Աշակերտները կը գրեն



Դեպի Եռակայ
 Նկատելով շարքա ընկերուհիս
 եւ ես յիշարժ շուկայ գայի՛՛՛՛՛՛՛՛
 որգնում՝ ԸճԵ՛՛՛՛՛՛՛՛ ես կրեսայ շար գեղեցիկ
 Խաղաարձեր: ԱՄենայ Էստե կողիկներ
 որ շար սուղիք: Ես յիսայ ԿԵԶ՝՝՝
 գեղեցի իսկ ընկերուհիս վերարկու՛՛՛՛՛՛՛՛:
 Վերջը ԻՐՈՒՐՈՐԱ պաշտպանակ կերան՛՛՛՛՛՛՛՛ ու
 շար սրահ վերարարձան՛՛՛՛՛՛՛՛ ԿՐԱԷ:՝
 Մեր Յոժուհիկան



Նոր հանդիսան
 Նյէտար
 Լիբանան իր գեղեցիկ փոփոքր ունի:
 Նյէտարը այդ փոփոքրն յճկն է:
 Նյու փարի անքան յճե՛՛՛՛՛՛՛՛ Լիբանան
 Եւ անբորդեցիք: Երբ հասանք Նյէտար շար
 անուղիկ փոփոքրաններ կային: Նյգիներ
 պարզեցանք: Կանաչ ծառերը լեցուած էին
 կարմիր իւնչորներով, Էսպնջագոյն զնդներով,
 դեղին փունջերով եւ շար սրիզ համեղ
 պարզներով: Եսր Նոր ընկերներու ծանօթացայ:
 Իրենց հետ պոփոքրուն յճը շար արեւն շուքին
 քակ հանգիստ Էսպնջանք ու վայելեցիք բնութիւնը: Եսր
 հատելի էր յեր պոփոքր եւ անհամբերե՛՛՛՛՛՛ յեր յարգ
 պոփոքրն շէտ Նյէտար:

Ի՞՞՞՞՞՞ Նկատելի Անէնակա
 Ի՞՞՞՞՞՞ փոքրիս ՏՅԳ ի՞՞՞՞՞՞ սեւեակա անճե՛՛՛՛՛՛՛՛
 անուղիկ ու կանն: Անէնակա ունի
 Խերճակ դուռ եւ շար շար պարթաւներ
 վարդագոյն եւ Խերճակ պարեր եւ
 փայլուն գորգ: Ի՞՞՞՞՞՞ գնա՛՛՛՛՛՛ Էկարներ
 պարերուն վրայ ե՛՛՛՛՛՛: Նիսքեան ակայ
 որ անկողինն էլլէ՛՛՛՛՛՛:
 Եսր կը սիրե՛՛՛՛՛՛ ՏԵՄ: ու իւրազ
 ի՞՞՞՞՞՞ սեւեակիս ՏՅԳ:
 Պար Յոժուհիկան

Մեր Աշակերտները կը գրեն



ԴՏ ՇԵԿԵՐՈՒՄ

ԴՏ ՇԵԿԵՐՈՒՄ առ ծաղեր ու լար
 եւ բայ կաճաջ աջ թեր: Այս
 ՇԵԿԵՐՈՒՄ ծարպատ 5 եւ
 պատէրպու խաշառու արեւ ուր
 կոտրեց: ԴՏ ՇԵԿԵՐՈՒՄ շար
 աշխարատ և աչիւ 5: Դոգ
 40 տարի իր ՇԵԿԵՐՈՒՄ: Դոտր
 շար 40 տարեւ իրեւ: Դո
 աւուր Ծուշի 5: Ես ալ շար
 40 տարեւ իրեւ:

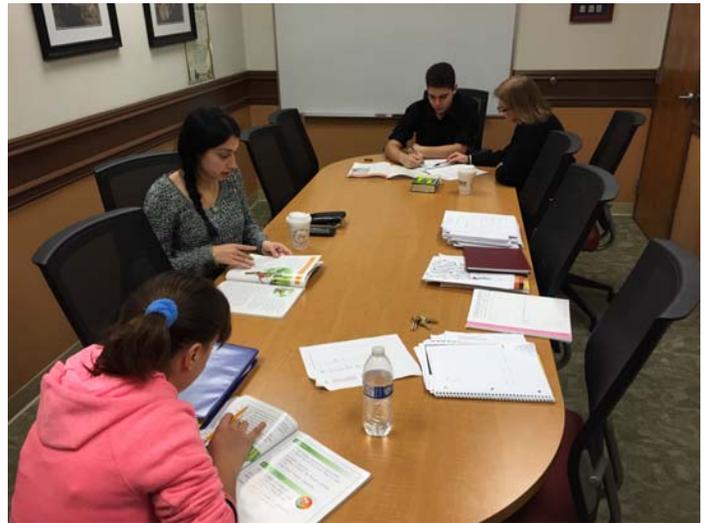
Դպատէ Զտեւաջ



ՍԵՒԳԱ ԶՏԵՎԻՄ

Ես տարեւ երկու տարեկան արայ
 եւ: ՍԵՒԳԱ ՍԵՒԳԱ 5: Դպրոցի
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 խաշառ: ԴՏ ՍԵՒԳԱ եւ խաշ
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 ՍԵՒԳԱ խաշառու ՍԵՒԳԱ
 կ'տեւ: Դպատէ ԴՏ ՍԵՒԳԱ 5:
 ՍԵՒԳԱ երկու տարեւ: ԴՏ խաշ
 ՍԵՒԳԱ կ'աշխարհի: ՍԵՒԳԱ Կրու
 կի խաշառու Դպրոց կ'տարեւ:
 Ես տարեւ Զուր: ԴՏ ՍԵՒԳԱ
 ՍԵՒԳԱ Դպրոց շար 40 տարեւ:
 ՍԵՒԳԱ խաշառու ԴՏ ՍԵՒԳԱ
 ՍԵՒԳԱ Զուր:

NEWS FROM HAIGAZIAN ARMENIAN SCHOOL





A UNIQUE FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



This year, on November 28, is our parents' 50th Anniversary.

On their 25th, 30th and 40th anniversaries, we celebrated by throwing them big parties. Those memorable moments were captured on photos and videos. Some of you were with us physically and some of you were with us spiritually. We thank you. Those memories will forever be relived in our minds and cherished in our hearts. This year we won't be celebrating their anniversary in a big way, but we wish that you continue to celebrate their unshaken love of 50 years with a quick thought and prayer on November 28 in their honor.



Mom is continuing to battle this devastating brain disease called dementia. This has been especially difficult for my father who continues to re-

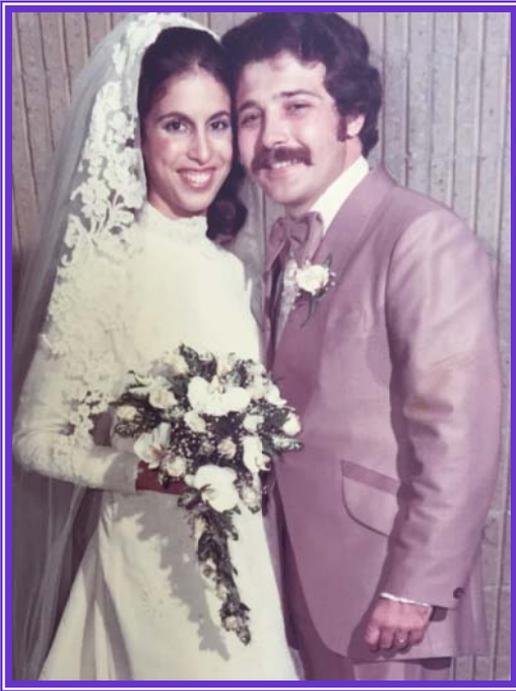
mind mom of their upcoming 50th anniversary. He makes her promise to be his date on that day. Even though mom has severely declined mentally, she somehow still remembers dad and only asks for him. Everyday, their reunion is momentous and infectious for everyone watching. Their love for one another inspires us all and leave us with sheer awe and amazement. Mom, who once was the backbone of our family, can't take care of us anymore. Although she continues to teach us great life lessons, while dad exhibits true love in his own way with dedication and deep devotion, as if they are still a young couple who met in high school in 1952.

So, on November 28, please join us by making a toast for our personal heroes, Hrach and Achkhen "...to timeless and unconditional love".

We thank you for all your love and support
Yours truly, Maria & Avo



FORTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



On November 13, 2015, Mr. & Mrs. Gregory and Cookie Vosbikian were treated by their children with a surprise 40th anniversary party. Der Nerses prepared a special renewal of the vows service and prayer at the occasion. The cake was hand made with love by their khnami, Ann Terkianian.



Dear Gregory and Cookie, by the will of God you have come to this place to renew your vows in presence of your children, grandchildren, family members and friends. We all pray that our heavenly Father continues blessing you and helping you to continue loving each other with the same intensity with which you have weaved your marital life up to this point. We are all witnesses that you gave to each other nothing but perfect love and remained loyal to each other and will continue the trend despite many challenges which the world throws in your way.

Gregory, will you continue to love and cherish Cookie your wife for the remainder of your life which the Lord will grant you?

And you Cookie, will you continue to love and cherish Gregory your husband for the remainder of your life which the Lord will grant you?

May God always be with you that you may not be shaken nor weakened and may He continue increasing your special love for each other. Amen.

Our Congratulations



CONCERT DEDICATED TO THE CENTENNIAL OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia, Hamazkaine Armenian Cultural Organization of the Eastern United States organized several concerts featuring the well acclaimed and popular Armenian singer Nune Yesayan in different cities of the East Coast dedicated to the centennial of the Armenian Genocide. Our local chapter of the Hamazkaine planned one for the Philadelphia region for October 17, 2015. Thanks to the exceptional work of the committee members headed by Ani Aghajanian, over 300 Armenians attended the concert which was held at Plymouth-Whitemarsh High School. It was a festive and emotional night for all who attended. Nune mesmerized the audience with well-known songs. The background videos definitely enriched the ambience. Prior to Nune, to warm up the audience, our local

talented singer Kevork Artinian entertained the audience with his unique style.

What was more exciting, our local dance group called Meghry danced on the stage while Nune was singing. The troupe, which is under the sponsorship of the Hamazkayin Cultural and Educational Association, was founded a few years ago, and has grown and significantly matured thanks to the herculean efforts of Lena Streeter Ohanessian who has played a critical role in the establishment and growth of Meghry, devoting countless hours and resources for the troupe. Much credit should be given as well to the instructor and choreographer Tovmas Harutyunyan who travels every Sunday from North Jersey to Philadelphia to train our dancers. (Read more about Meghry dance group and Tovmas on page 20)



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MEGHRY DANCE GROUP AND ITS INSTRUCTOR

Meghry Dance Ensemble was established in 2011, under the auspices of the Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Association of Philadelphia. The group excels in traditional and modern Armenian dances. They also perform a few non-Armenian cultural dances, such as Moldavian and Spanish. During the last 4 years, *Meghry* has developed a rich portfolio and has performed at many events in the Greater Philadelphia, New Jersey and New York areas. These include: *One Nation, One Culture*, 2015; a Multi-cultural dance event at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, 2013 and 2015; *The International House of Philadelphia Annual Gala*, May 18, 2014; *Inga and Anoush* dance concert in Northern New Jersey; and a Multi-cultural event, 2014.



Meghry is comprised of some 24 enthusiastic young dancers. Under the direction of their artistic director and choreographer, Tovmas Harutyunyan, and through their consistently vibrant performances, they serve to perpetuate and strengthen our Armenian culture, preserving our music and dance, and have fast become a vital part of the Armenian spirit in the Philadelphia community.

For further information about upcoming concerts and events, please contact Lena Ohannesian.

Tovmas Harutyunyan, artistic director and choreographer, was born in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia. He started dancing at age 9, attending the *Children's Dance Studio* under the guidance of famous

Georgian-Armenian cultural figure, Albert Sarkisyan. Over the next 20 years he established a professional career.

In 1977, Mr. Harutyunyan moved to Yerevan, where he started to dance in the *Kanaz* ensemble, becoming the main dancer in one year. He also performed as one of the principal dancers in the *Song and Dance Ensemble* of the Trans-Caucasian Military Region. In 1981, Mr. Harutyunyan started to dance in the *Armenian State Dance Ensemble*, directed by Armenian National Artist and famous choreographer Vanush Khanamiryan. In 1986, he starred as a bridegroom in the movie *Fire Dance*, a famous and favorite film among the Armenian community.

As one of the main dancers in the *Armenian State Dance Ensemble*, Tovmas Harutyunyan has toured across the former USSR, Europe, and Mexico, performing on many world-famous stages. In 1993, he moved to the US, and since 1996, he has been teaching the art of Armenian Dance to the young generation of Armenian-Americans in New York. Tovmas Harutyunyan was the principal instructor of *Yeraz Dance Ensemble* from 2004 to 2008. Under his direction, *Yeraz* reached its peak and gained the recognition of the Armenian Community of New York.

Lyudmila Harutyunyan was born in Yerevan, Republic of Armenia. In 1967, she attended *Yerevan Choreographic School*. In 1976, after completing her studies, she continued her dance education at one of the world's most famous ballet schools, *Leningrad Vaganova Academy of Dance* in Leningrad (Saint Petersburg), Russia. After graduating, Mrs. Harutyunyan received the title Ballet Artist.

In 1977, Lyudmila Harutyunyan took her place in the troupe of the *Spendiaryan Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet* in Armenia. During her seventeen years with this company, Lyudmila has traveled and performed on many world stages in the former USSR, Europe, USA, and Latin America.

Community Events

Highlights

ARS RAISES FUND FOR A SCHOOL IN STEPANAGERT, ARTZAKH

On Sunday, December 6, the ARS Artemis Chapter of Philadelphia held its annual Christmas party at the home of Sam and Nellie Nalbandian. The event was attended by 60 people, including members, spouses and families. Der Hayr Nerses Manoogian and Yerezgin Nectar Manoogian, Caroline Chamavonian, Chairperson of the Central Executive Board and Talin Daghlian, Chairperson of the Eastern Regional Board were present.

The event was a fundraiser for the Stepanakerd Sosseh Kindergarten Building Project in Artsakh. The current building was in poor condition and was getting to a point where it was unsafe for the children who attend the Kindergarten. The evening's fundraiser was to help raise the funds for the Kindergarten.

The evening began with a prayer from Der Hayr Manoogian, opening the beautiful and delicious buffet dinner. Der Hayr also presented Ungh. Nellie Nalbandian with the gift of a red cross. After dinner, speeches were

given by Ungh. Talin Daghlian, ARS Eastern Regional Chairperson, and Ungh. Madonna Kzirian, Chairperson of the Artemis Chapter, who presented Ungh. Nellie Nalbandian with a small token of appreciation from the chapter for all the hard work she put into preparing for the evening. A few games were played and songs were sung, followed by a beautiful and delicious dessert buffet. It was a very successful and fun evening, with terrific food, great conversation, an exciting football game, and a surprise visit from Santa Claus.

Thank you to Sam and Nellie Nalbandian for opening their home to the Artemis Chapter for this fundraising event. Also, thank you to all the members for their support and making it possible for the chapter to raise the funds for the kindergarten.

On behalf of the Artemis chapter executives, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

By Linda Kakoyan



Ungerouhi Talin Daghlian, ARS Regional Executive, delivering her message



Der Nerses giving the the cross to Nellie Nalbantian



Nelly receiving a gift from Madona Kzirian



The hosts, Mr. & Mrs. Sam and Nellie Nalbantian

40th Day Blessing of Infants



On Sunday, October 18, our newborn baby George Hovsepien was brought to church for the first time by his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Justin and Jacqueline Hovsepien for the traditional 40th day blessing emulating baby Jesus' presentation to the Temple when he was forty days old.

We congratulate his lucky parents and his "big" sister Gabriella and welcome him to the family of St. Gregory's Church.

Cradle News



Tomas Torosian, son of Mr. & Mrs. Michael and Erica Torosian was born on Sunday, October 11, 2015 at 6:35 PM. 6 lbs. 2 oz. 19 ".

Our Congratulations to the lucky parents and grandparents



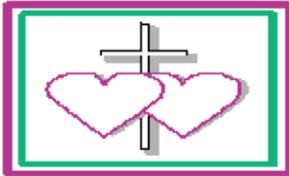


This thanksgiving was a special one for me personally. Upon hearing that my brother in Christ, Archpriest Fr. Moushegh Der Kaloustian, who served the Prelacy for over 50 years as pastor of Racine, Worcester and New York city parishes, now retired, was visiting his sister, Asdghig Kazanjian, I picked up yet another brother, Archpriest Vazken Bekiarian who was visiting his family in the area and went together to greet Der Moushegh and spend some time with him. Upon seeing us a broad smile appeared on his face and for a short period of time he became the old funny and jovial brother of ours. We laughed we drank and cheered him up. It was truly a "Family Thanksgiving moment" for all three of us.

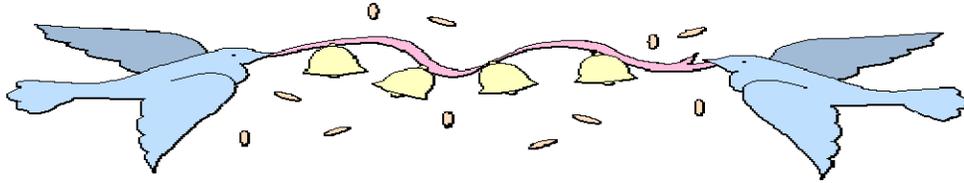
Der Moushegh is suffering from dementia and has a tough road ahead of him. We pray and ask you as well to join your prayers for a clergyman who gave his entire life to the Armenian Church.



LR: Der Vazken, Der Moushegh and Der Nerses



Weddings



Philip Nigon and Alidz Oshagan were married on October 31, 2015, in St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church of Dearborn, Michigan. The Best man was Garen Nigon. Our pastor Der Nerses Manoogian was co-celebrant.



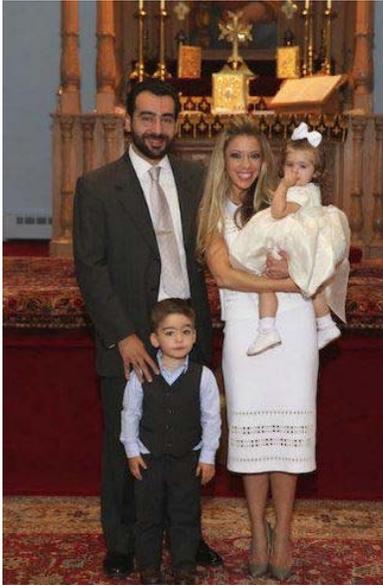
Nerses Semerjian and Elona Ter Simonyan were married on Saturday, December 19, 2015. Bestman was Sarkis Geokchenian



Our Congratulations
 Մէկ բարձի վրայ ծերանաք



BAPTISMS



Vana Maria Komrokian, daughter of Masis and Sara Komrokian was baptized on September 27, 2015. Godfather Mihran Papazian.



David (Tavit) Antranig Kzirian, son of James and Nora Kzirian was baptized on October 4, 2015. Godfather Antranig Kzirian.



Alex Samuel Garabedian, son of Alan J. and Jill Garabedian was baptized on October 10, 2015. Godfather Ross Garabedian.



David Meran Peterson, son of David C. and Julie L. Peterson was baptized on November 14, 2015. Godfather Christopher Dell'Olio.



Eva Katharine Padulo, daughter of Robert and Angel Padulo was baptized on November 15. Godfather Joseph Seamans.



Lucy Seera Stamboulian, daughter of Thomas and Lucinda Stamboulian, Jr. was baptized on November 28. Godfather Kurk Selverian.

Obituary



Janette (Shadoyan) Tabrizi, born in Aleppo, Syria in 1932 passed away from this life on Thursday, October 8th, 2015 at the age of 83 after a long illness. Among the youngest of 6 children, she always took an active role in her family life, often caring for her older siblings and as she grew up,

caring for others. This was a quality that was ever present throughout her life. In every aspect of her life, she gave of herself, put the welfare of others before herself and expected nothing in return. Saying that she was a selfless person would be an understatement.

As a young lady in Syria, she worked in the family business in textile production. Though her family owned the business and had many employees, Janette never shied away from hard work. When not working, she spent her time taking care of her family at home, both older and younger siblings, and caring for needy members of the community. Eventually, she married Garabed Tokmakdjian, had children of her own, but always continued to help others in need.

She later moved to Beirut, Lebanon with her daughter, Majda, to start a new life with her family and escape the war in Syria. There, she continued to care for her family and single handedly raise a daughter in uncertain times. While in Beirut, she became even more involved in community-based volunteering and activism. She served as a volunteer or a member in various organizations, organizing and promoting cultural events for the Armenian community. In addition to all of this, she still found the time to organize and help to run a local school for deaf or mute children, by donating and volunteering her time and efforts to raise funds for the school.

At the outbreak of the Lebanese civil war, Janette and her family moved to the United States. Here, she continued to participate in the local community as a member of the Armenian Relief Society. She helped to organize and volunteer in events directed at promoting the welfare of the local community as well as those less fortunate in Soviet Armenia.

In addition to all of this, Janette became a grandmother three times over. She took an incredibly active role in the care and raising of her grandchildren, from baby-sitting to helping with homework and always being there with encouraging words and wisdom from the childhood and into the adulthood of all her grandchildren.

Janette's life is defined by her incredible selflessness, the positive change she made wherever and whenever she could, and the wisdom she shared. She is survived by her sisters, Lucy and Madlen, daughter, Majda, grandchildren, Mikael, Garen, and Sareen, and great-grandchild, Garen Jr.



Malena Sarhadian (1932 – 2015)

Malena Sarhadian was born in Philadelphia on February 14, 1932. She was a Valentine's gift to her parents Kerop Der Avedisian (b. in Ersinga) and Amalia Hagopian (b. in Gaghesvan near Kars). Malena grew up in Springfield, Pennsylvania, where she attended Central Elementary School, and Springfield Junior and Senior High Schools. Malena had a beautiful singing voice and she was asked to sing at her High School graduation ceremony.

Malena received a BS degree in Chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania. After graduation, she pursued a career in chemistry at Rohm & Haas Pharmaceuticals for two years. She was then intrigued by the field of computer sciences, being one of a few women in that industry at the time. Thus ensued a career as a systems analyst in the following companies: General Electric, Lockheed, Boeing, McDonnell Douglas and Cal Comp.

Malena married Sarhad Sarhadian in 1972. They had one child – Sassoun. In 1975 she became a single mother and tried to raise her child in the best way possible. She retired in 1989.

Malena continued her love of singing by joining the Knar Choral Group in Philadelphia as well as singing in the choir at St. Gregory's Church in the past. She was also a member of the Ladies Auxiliary in the Armenian Sisters' Academy. She had a deep faith in God and joined a Bible study class since she always had a yearning to learn about Christ and spirituality. She had a great love for humanity and always tried to help others in every way possible. Malena was best known to be a good and true friend.

She thrived on intellectual and stimulating conversations and loved to laugh. She traveled extensively throughout the world. She died on October 9, 2015. Malena was loved by most everyone that knew her and she will be sorely missed.

May She Rest in Peace

Obituary



George Mukalian passed away peacefully in his sleep at age 92 on October 16, 2015. George was born in the Tacony section of Philadelphia in April of 1923. He was the son of Garabed and Nartouhi (nee Varjabedian) Mukalian, He was the brother of Mary Mukalian of Philadelphia. George was the brother-in-law of Mary

(Harry) Injaian of NJ & FL and the late Haig Torigian of Philadelphia. George served in the Navy during WWII on the USS Steinaker and Daniel T. Griffin ships providing service ferrying supplies across the Atlantic to Ireland.

After his return from military service, George attended West Chester University completing his Bachelor's Degree in 1949 and receiving his Master's Degree from Temple University in 1954. As a young professional, he began his Physical Education teaching career at the Mary Devine School in Bristol Township in 1952, He married the late Varsenia (Shaké) Torigian in December 1952. George continued teaching in Delhaas High School, Benjamin Franklin Middle School, to finally retiring from the former Wilson, now Truman High School in 1987, after 37 years of teaching. The couple had four successful children, the late Marcina (Marcy) of Delran NJ, Melinda (Mindy) of Philadelphia, Dr. Gregory, (Dr. Wendy) of Mt Laurel, NJ and Michele of Radnor, PA, George and Varsenia were blessed with three beautiful grandchildren, Thomas, Kimberly and Pamela who brought them joy and love as they grew.

After retiring from his teaching career, George continued with his love of sports and being active. He refereed basketball games for local high schools, small colleges and the Sonny Hill League. He also served as a PIAA official for volleyball games, track and swim meets. In his retirement he attended local basketball games, seeing the Temple Owls in action. George made time for many games of golf and, in later years, his new sport of BINGO. His biggest passion was his golf game and getting a hole in one on the golf course. He played in the Armenian Golf Tournaments with his son Greg and stayed in touch with some of his long time college friends who shared the same passion for the sport of golf. It didn't matter the state, he was ready with shoes and clubs in hand. Most recently, George spent time, relaxing, taking it easy and completing cryptograms and other puzzles.

Memorial Service was at St. Gregory's on Friday, October 23. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to St. Gregory's Armenian Church or to the US Veterans.

Jirair Hovagimian passed away on October 25th. He led a full Armenian life. He was the beloved husband of Anahid of 41 years. Loving father of Aram (Sosi), Seta, and Raffi. Dear grandfather of Vrej. Loving brother of Hrant and Keghanoush.



Jirair was born in Baghdad, Iraq on July 1st, 1943. After losing his father Dikran at an early age, he immersed himself in the local Armenian Community, frequenting the Agoump and becoming a member of Homenetmen and later the Armenian Revolutionary Federation – of which he was a lifelong member. He worked and supported his family in his youth, and attended Al-Mustansiriyah University in Baghdad before emigrating to the United States on February 10, 1972. From there he established himself in Boston and later Chicago. He married Anahid Rashidian on August 10, 1974 in Beirut, Lebanon. They returned to Chicago eventually settling in Philadelphia, PA where they started a dry cleaning business. Jirair became a U.S. citizen on July 20, 1977, which he proudly referred to as his “second birthday”. He served his country from 2004 through 2006 as an English-Arabic translator in Qatar and later Abu-Ghraib.

Philadelphia quickly came to be Jirair and Anahid's second home where, like in Iraq, he immersed himself in all aspects of community life. He served for many years on the local ARF Gomideh and Homenetmen Executive, and on countless committees. He served on the St. Gregory Board of Trustees from 1985-1989. A proud member of the Philadelphia Armenian Community “Amo Jiro” could be found every weekend at the Seroonian Community Center on Friday night, a community function on Saturday night and at St. Gregory church on Sunday. In later years he was a fixture on the Armenian Heritage Cruise with his tri-color tracksuit and also being crowned Tavlou Champion in 2011. He was proudest of his family though – his wife Anahid, three children, nieces and nephews and, especially, the light of his life - his grandson Vrej.

In Lieu of flower donations in his memory are for Church, Seroonian Community Center, ARF and HOMENTMEN.

Obituary



Sara Bedrossian Stepanian (1939-2015)

After a brief and brave battle against pancreatic cancer, Sara Bedrossian Stepanian found peace on Monday, November 23, 2015, surrounded by loved ones near her home in Maryland. Sara will be most remembered for her abundant

kindness, wise words and sassy humor. Yet she was overwhelmed by people who took their time to reach out to her during her illness, whether it was a kind note, cherished blessings, lively visits, beautiful flowers, delicious food, it humbled her to be so embraced with love, prayers and well wishes.

Sara was the youngest of four children born to Barsoom and Ovsanna Bedrossian. She was indeed a surprise to her mom who went to the doctor feeling poorly. Convinced it was a tumor, Ovsanna did not understand when the doctor chuckled and said "oh it's a tumor alright, with arms and legs and it will be here by the end of the year."

Sara arrived the day after Christmas and has always been considered the family's best gift. She was the little girl who proudly ran to her dad's barbershop to deliver hot soup for lunch each day. The favorite babysitter of her nieces and nephews. The first to graduate from high school. And, the fashionable teenager who danced on American Bandstand and was idolized by her cousins from overseas who moved to America.

Sara was a lifelong member of St. Gregory's, first at 16th and Oxford then on Ridge Avenue. Her family took great pride in their heritage and faith, all serving in different ways as members of the ARF, Ladies Aid, AYP and Choir. As a young girl, Sara confided in her dearest friend Aznive that she had a crush on an altar boy, who was also her Sunday School teacher's son. Through the years, times together at church gatherings grew into Richard courting Sara with dinner, dancing and movie dates. Through high school and his time in the service, Sara and Richard were a couple. She married the love of her life on May 6, 1962. A traditional Armenian celebration complete with family, friends, food, music and traditions lasted into the wee hours. Their union, almost 54 years strong,

created a family to which they together passed on their heritage and faith.

In 1971, Richard's career took them to Maryland. But, the family's roots stayed firmly planted in Philadelphia and with St. Gregory's. Weekends and holidays were spent with family in Philadelphia and Haddonfield, New Jersey. Not to mention the many reunions with her sorority sisters and dear friends from Mutter Street and AYP.

The move to Maryland provided the family with many opportunities---a family business now in its second generation; Sara's career as a dental office manager that filled her days with talking to patients and sharing laughter with dear colleagues who are still friends; strong educations for her children; the Barresi family who welcomed the Stepanians into their hearts and homes and by the fortuitous meeting of son Richard and his wife Michele; and Sara's later in life talent as a painter. Best of all, Maryland is the birthplace of her precious granddaughters Olivia Ovsanna and Abigail Angeline.

Sara's funeral was held on December 1, 2015 in St. Gergory's Church and interment at Lakeview memorial Park in Cinnaminson, NJ. The family requested that memorial donations in her memory be made to St. Gregory's Church.

On behalf of the Pastor and Board of Trustees, as well as the entire parishioners we extend our heartfelt sympathies to the Stepanian family and ask our heavenly Father to keep them in His love and heavenly care.



"Have mercy upon those who build up your church, those who give thanks, those who bring their gifts, those who serve and those who sleep under the shadow of your holy church."

(Book of Hours)

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<p><u>For Janette (Shadoyan) Tabrizi</u> Majda Garabedian and Family Mr. & Mrs. Raffi Atamian Nancy Carlin Mrs. Loucine Dekermenjian Mr. & Mrs. Ara Eloian Alice Endrigian Margaret D. Garabedian Haigazian School Arthur Handfinger Anita and Vahe Hovsepian Mr. & Mrs. Hagop Ishkhanian Karen M. Jehanian Rose Jehanian Robert and Linda Kakoyan Marie Kakoyan Asdghig Kazanjian Kaloust and Shnorhik Karakelian Vartan and Haigoush Karakelian Mr. & Mrs. Haroutune Kazandjian Georgette Kazanjian Keshishian Family Berg and Hasmik Khatchadrian Mr. & Mrs. Antranig Koumrigian Andrew and Madonna Kzirian Lapchenko family Zack and Ossanna Manauelian Richard and Gay Mukalian Noubar and Anie Megerian Mr. & Mrs. Berge Miller Samuel and Nellie Nalbandian Dr. & Mrs. Michael Nalbatian Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Nigon Arsine Oshagan Armine Papazian Gary Papazian Elizabeth Pilbosian Mark and Silva Santerian Hasmik Selverian Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Selverian George and Ani Semerjian George and Doris Shamlan Mr. & Mrs. Michael Shamlan Mr. & Mrs. Kevork Shirozian Mr. & Mrs. Sarkis Shmavonian Tom and Lucinda Stamboulan Lena Ohannessian Rosely and Wally Stronski Seda Tarzian Dikranouhi Tomasian Hagop and Maria Vartivarian Marian Yeremian Rose and Armen Zartarian Total \$2,315</p>	<p>Bill, Armine and Julie Arthin Arthur Babaian Nadia Bazirgianian Susan Bently Tamar & Levon Der Ohannessian Margaret D. Garabedian Helen Guveyian Shirley Hajinian Mary and Pearl Jamgochian Rose Jehanian Rosie Kaloustian Vartan and Haigoush Karakelian Anahid and Maryann Karagelian Kirk and Michele Karagelian and family Mrs. Elizabeth Kasparian, Mr. & Mrs. Adom and Arshalouys Aghjayan Georgette Kazanjian Marge Keshgegian Rita Khachadourian Noubar and Anie Megerian Gloria Meghriegan Michael and Queenie Mullian Dr. & Mrs. Michael Nalbantian George and Clara Nenezian Anahis Odabashian Arsine Oshagan Ann and Glenn Papazian Armine Papazian Elizabeth Pilbosian Therese and Ovsanna Sajonian Merle Santerian Harry and Sona Selverian George and Ani Semerjian Raffi & Annie Setrakian Mr. & Mrs. George Shamlan Maritza Shamlan Mr. & Mrs. Michael Shamlan Mr. & Mrs. Richard Shelengian Rose Shelengian Rosely and Wally Stronski Kathleen Tashjian Araxy Tatavian Frank and Diana Wood Mariam Yeremian Mr. & Mrs. Armen Zartarian Total \$2,975</p>	<p>Gary and Marilyn Fenton Injaian Gerald Injaian family Marie T. Hess & Family Mr. & Mrs. Harry V. Injaian Mr. & Mrs. Mike Injaian Henry and Gail Kussay Lourdes Medical Center of Burlington County – Medical Staff Nartouhi Mkhalian Mr. & Mrs. Karnig Mukalian Richard and Gay Mukalian Rick and Naomi Mukalian Robert Mukalian Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Mukalian Mr. & Mrs. William Mukalian Mark Nessel Sallee Rush John and Seerapy Santerian Keane and Doreen Serposs Harry and Mary Lou Shaboian Russ and Maggie Tandourjian Betty, Brian and Margie Tavakalian John Varjabedian Helen Weber Mr. & Mrs. Armen Zartarian Total \$5,820</p>
<p><u>For Malena Sarhadian</u> Paul and Sonia Akian and family Shakeh Ajemian Dorothy Arakelian Mr. & Mrs. NiKi Arakelian</p>	<p><u>For George Mukalian</u> Gregory Mukalian Melinda Mukalian Michele Mukalian Mary Mukalian John and Emelia Bush Cheri Cowperthwait Mr. & Mrs. Jacques Derderian Samuel S. Devedjian Alice Endrigian George and Ana Endrigian and family Daniel and Emma Fleming Roupén and Marge Gureghian</p>	<p><u>For Alice DeRose</u> Bahian and Khatchadourian families Total \$30</p> <p><u>For Harry Deirmengian</u> Karen M. Jehanian Marge Keshgegian Terri and David Mears Bearge and Anne Miller Dikranouhi Tomasian Total \$205</p> <p><u>For Samuel V. Hagopian</u> Mark and Dorothy Hanamirian Thomas and Mary Harper Total \$100</p> <p><u>Anahid Garabedian</u> Edward and Helen Kaye Total \$50</p> <p><u>Alice Aydjian</u> The Ajderian Family Total \$500</p> <p><u>For Jirair Hovagimian</u> Harout and Ani Aghajanian Shant and Angela Aghajanian Anonymous Anonymous Johnny and Noushig Alexanian Garo and Stephanie Ayanian Haroutioun Aydjian AYF of Philadelphia Garbis Aydjian Mr. & Mrs. John Bedrossian Nancy Carlin</p>



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Misc. Donations

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Additional Christmas Greetings

Charles and Jovia Keytanjian
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Thank you

Our special thanks to Blake Florist for donating the centerpiece 25th anniversary banquet of Der Nerses

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 1635 Kiwinning Court
 Palm Harbor, FL 34684

Renita Esayan
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 Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

God Bless your New Homes

Ladies Guild Food Festival Cash Raffle Winners:

Noubar and Roubina Yeremian \$500
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On Sunday, October 11, 2015, after the Badarak, the teachers of Sunday School and Haigazian Armenian school congregated in the chancel of the church for the annual traditional Teacher's dedication ceremony.

We thank all our teachers for their dedication and love. May God bless them all.

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