

ENLIGHTENER

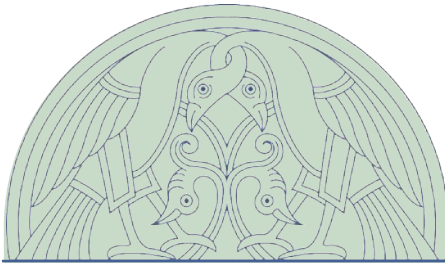
quarterly edition

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ST. GREGORY THE ENLIGHTENER ARMENIAN CHURCH | 1131 NORTH STREET, WHITE PLAINS, NY 10605 | WWW.STGREGORYWP.COM
REV. FR. MESROB HOVSEPYAN, PASTOR | Տեր Մեսրոպ Քհնյ. Յովսէփեան, Յոգեւոր Յովիւ



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LET'S BUILD UP THE BODY OF CHRIST

Dear Parishioners,

“We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of another.” (Romans 12:5)

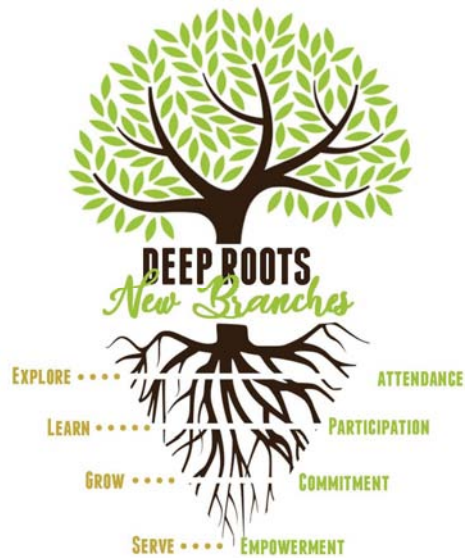
It is hard to believe that summer is winding down. I hope you all have had an enjoyable time with your families. By now the children have started the new academic year, some of our younger parishioners have moved to their colleges, and most of us are back to our normal schedules.

As you know, the church attendance drops significantly during the summer months, which has become a common occurrence within many Armenian communities. This is a busy and exciting season especially

for many families with young children, some of whom are attending camps, traveling or spending time with their grandparents.

During the beautiful sacrament of Baptism the families choose godparents whose main responsibility is to guide their godchildren in the pathways of spirituality, exposing them to the Divine Mystery, things that the children cannot still fully grasp but will understand once they grow up. Similarly, an

important component of education for us as parents is exposing our children to things they perhaps do not yet understand but will build up an



FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

important connection later on.

While our traditional Divine Liturgy, the beautiful hymns and prayers of our *Badarak* might be difficult to understand due to their deep theological meaning or because of the language barrier, and may sound *meaningless* at times for our children and even for us, the adults, we can take the time to live through it, to teach our children patiently and help them create a great foundation for regularly attending the *Badarak* and being part of this sacred service that continues inspiring not only us Armenians but also many non-Armenian faithful people throughout the world.

At the beginning of this year, His Holiness Karekin II Catholicos of All Armenians declared the year of 2019 as the Year of the Family.

“Emphasizing the importance of the value and fundamental mission of the God-blessed family in our national, state and public life, we proclaim 2019 to be the Year of the Family” (from the message of His Holiness on the celebration of the Nativity and Theophany of Christ, 01.06.19).

St. Gregory the Enlightener is our parish and our family,

it belongs to each member of this wonderful community. Let us lead our children through example, and show them the importance of being together as one family. *“The body does not consist of one member but of many”* - says St. Paul (1 Corn. 12:14).

WE ARE the Body of Christ. Let us continue building up the Body of Christ together with our attendance and participation in order to grow deeper roots and bring up new branches.

“ WE ARE the Body of Christ. Let us continue building up the Body of Christ together with our attendance and participation in order to grow deeper roots and bring up new branches. ”

As the first step, we can make a commitment as families, couples or individuals to worship our Lord and participate in the Divine Liturgy at least once a month with our church family. Our attendance will help us gain spiritual gifts that will last

for a lifetime.

I pray that our Lord bestows His generous blessings upon all of us.

Please remember that I am always available and will be happy to hear from you any time you need me.

Der Mesrob Hovsepian



HOME BLESSING

From the earliest times, the home was a sacred place, the center of family and ritual life. It is the most basic of all social structures, where we are born and live many years, a place where great family events transpire. Here we break bread, share joys and sorrows, pray, celebrate, and worship. Here God is present in the loving relationships that transcend fragile human existence. Every family is a miniature of a “Little Church—Ecclesia” and in this “Little Church” the inexhaustible love and the very generous blessing of God permeates. According to the sacred traditions of the Armenian Church, God’s blessing is asked for homes on different occasions, like on the Nativity and the Resurrection of Christ, as well as on the joyous occasion of moving into a new home.

During the Home Blessing the priest blesses the bread (which symbolically represents the Word of God), the water (which is the most essential element of life and figuratively represents cleanliness) and the salt (which seasons and purifies). These three fundamental elements are essential life-giving gifts for human life. In the prayer the priest asks for purity and abundance of the three gifts, blesses the home and all its dwellers, and asks God to keep them away from visible and invisible enemies, and protect them under His powerful right hand, granting them health of soul and body.

Today, more than ever, we need the presence and blessing of the Lord in our homes and lives. The revival of this centuries old custom will certainly bring us close to our Lord.

Schedule your Home Blessing with Der Hayr: directly at (804) 405-9399 or email: fr.mesrob@yahoo.com.

Խաչի տոներից այս մեկը ամենահայեցին է. կապված է ազգային ավանդույթի հետ: Այս տոնը հայ եկեղեցին տոնում է Խաչվերացից 15 օր հետո՝ սեպտեմբերի 25-ից մինչև հոկտեմբերի 1-ը հանդիպող կիրակի օրը: Ինչպես վերը նշեցինք՝ Պատրոնիկե թագուհին, Խաչափայտից մի մասունք վերցնելով իր հետ՝ Երուսաղեմից բերում է Հոմ: Այդ մասունքը մնում է թագուհու քրիստոնյա ժառանգների մոտ, հետո ժառանգաբար անցնում նրանցից մեկին՝ Հռիփսիմե իշխանուհուն, ով իրեն Աստծոն նվիրելով, մտնում է կուսանոց, որի մայրապետը սուրբ Գայանեն էր: Սուրբ Խաչի այս մասունքը կույս Հռիփսիմեն միշտ կրում էր իր պարանոցին, որը նրան պահում էր չարի ամեն տեսակի ներգործություններից: Երբ Դիոկղետիանոս կայսեր ժամանակ սկսվում են հալածանքները քրիստոնյաների դեմ, վանքի կույսերը խմբով գալիս են Հայաստան, բնակվում Վանի գավառի Վարագա լեռան մոտ: Սակայն շուտով նրանք այստեղ հանդիպում են իրենց հալածողներին, և Հռիփսիմեն, վախենալով որ Խաչափայտը կարող է ընկնել վերջիններիս ձեռքը, այն թաքցնում է Վարագա լեռան քարայրներից մեկում ու մյուս կույսերի հետ ուղևորվում Վաղարշապատ: Հայաստանում դարեր շարունակ գիտեին սուրբ մասունքի՝ Վարագա լեռան վրա պահվելու մասին, սակայն գտնվելու ստույգ վայրը հայտնի չէր: Խաչափայտը հայտնաբերվում է 7-րդ դարում՝ շնորհիվ երկու ճգնավոր հոգևորականների, որոնց Վարագա լեռան վրա երևում է մի պայծառ լույս՝ ճաճանչափայլ խաչի տեսքով, շուրջը 12 լուսեղեն սյուներ: Մինչ կրոնավորները վայելում էին այդ հրաշքը, խաչափայտի մասունքն իր մասնատուփով հանդերձ, ելնում է վեմից ու վեր բարձրանալով գալիս ու մտնում է Սուրբ Նշան եկեղեցի: Այստեղ մտնելով հոգևորականները տեսնում են այն՝ սուրբ սեղանի վրա, լույսով պարուրված: Այդ լույսը 12 օր շարունակ մնում է եկեղեցում:

Ներսես Տալեցի կաթողիկոսը, իմանալով այդ մասին, գալիս է Վարագ ու այն վայրում ուր երևացել են 12 սյուները, կառուցում է Վարագավանքի Վերին ու Ներքին եկեղեցիները, որոնցից Ներքինում պահվում էր Խաչափայտի մասունքը, մինչև 1021 թվ-ը, երբ Վասպուրականի Սենեքերիմ Արծրունի թագավորը, գաղթելով Մեքաստիա, իր հետ տանում է Խաչափայտի մասունքը, որն ամփոփում է Մեքաստիայի Սուրբ Նշան եկեղեցում: Երեք տարի անց սուրբ մասունքը վերադարձվում է Վարագ, հետո տեղափոխվում Խոշաբ (Նոր Վարագավանք), իսկ 17-րդ դարում վերադարձվում է Վան ու տեղ գտնում սուրբ Տիրամոր եկեղեցում: 1915 թվ-ի Եղեռնից հետո, ցավոք, Տիրոջ խաչափայտի այդ մասունքի հետքերը կորսվեցին:



Հովնաթան Հովնաթանյան, Մ.Հռիփսիմեն, 18-րդ դար

Վարագա սուրբ խաչի հետ կապված գործ ունի Հովնաթան Հովնաթանյանը (18-րդ դար): Այս աշխատանքը լրացնում է նկարչի՝ Էջմիածնի տաճարում արված, սրբերին պատկերող դիմանկարների շարքը: Հռիփսիմեն այստեղ պատկերված է լուսապսակով, ձեռքին մի մեծ խաչափայտ, իսկ պարանոցին՝ Տիրոջ խաչափայտի այն մասունքը, որը միշտ ուղեկցում էր իրեն ու պաշտպանում և որն էլ նա թաքցրեց Վարագայում: Այստեղ պատկերված հրեշտակն ասես հուշում է կույսին, որ այդ մասունքը թողնի Վարագա լեռան քարայրում:

GREETINGS FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Greetings from your Parish Council! Since 1979 The St. Gregory Award has been presented to a deserving member or members of our church community. Prior recipients of the award meet to vote on candidates who have demonstrated dedicated service, consistent involvement and the spirit of Christian giving.

This April, Chris and Adriane Keleshian Bonfiglio were chosen to be the 2018 St. Gregory Award recipients. Chris and Adriane have been longstanding parishioners of St Gregory and continue to be active in many, many aspects of church life. Their service, whether on Parish Council, Women's Guild, Men's Club or the Picnic (to name a few!) has always been greatly appreciated and has added to the success of our endeavors. The luncheon to honor them is scheduled for Sunday, November 3rd. please mark your calendars and plan to join in the celebration of two highly valued volunteers.

We continue to work on enhancing our security for the church campus. Recently, security locks were installed in the classrooms. The doors can now be locked from inside the classrooms adding a level of safety for our students and teachers. Fire drills for the Sunday School

and the church community as well as the Bridge Club will be scheduled for the fall.

In the beginning of May, a productive and well-attended Diocesan Assembly was hosted by St James in Watertown, Massachusetts. Among the issues discussed were women in the diaconate, the approach to future plans for Cathedral Plaza and issues related to Stewardship and Membership. Our Diocesan Delegate, Lisa Kouzoujian, was elected Vice Chair of the Diocesan Council and Der Mesrob was elected to the Nominating Committee. We await a full report when the minutes are available.

Parish Council continues to discuss Stewardship and Membership on a parish level. We will update our approach to both with the goal of increasing participation.

It was a busy spring and I am sure our organizations will each be reporting on their various activities and accomplishments in this newsletter.

As always, all Parish Council members are available to all parishioners in any way we can be of help.

Ellie Krolian
Parish Council Chairperson

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

WHO IS A MEMBER? All parishioners ages 18 and older are eligible to become members at St. Gregory. As a member, you will have a voice and vote at our annual Parish Assembly and you will be able to run for leadership positions.

HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER?

- In person: stop by the church office during the week or fill out a membership card on Sunday. The membership forms can be found in the narthex of the church.
- Mail: send in a membership form with your payment
- Phone: call us at 914.428.2595.

MEMBERSHIP DUES
(by age)

18-25: \$50.00
26-69: \$100.00
70 and above: \$50.00

Your membership MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

ACYOA JUNIORS: A YEAR IN SUMMARY

The year 2018 was another great year for our church's youth organization. As a group of 22 active members, we were able to continue our celebrated traditions and also host new events. Over the past year, the ACYOA has worked to successfully up-



hold the five circles of the cross: worship, education, service, fellowship, and witness. We worked to create a new position on our executive board: Diocesan Liaison. This role includes being the link between the Diocese and

our local ACYOA, forming relationships with Diocesan delegates and presenting that information to our ACYOA.

We began the year in October with our juniors heading out to Sports Weekend, where we connected with other chapters throughout the east coast and strengthened our far-away friendships.

As the days grew colder, we planned what we would bring into the holiday season, first a heartwarming community service project. We came together one November day and cooked a Thanksgiving meal that we then drove out and delivered to 8 members of our parish. As the Christmas *zankagner* rang in the new year, we hosted a Christmas social with the ACYOA Srs. in January. We played games, ate food, exchanged gifts, and decorated a Christmas tree.

In the spring for the first time, we hosted our ACYOA's Lenten Retreat, a weekend that combined the education about our Christian faith connecting with other youth from New Jersey, Philadelphia, and Bayside Queens. We were lucky enough that members of our community came and helped lead seminars and discussions throughout the weekend and for that we thank you.

In May, we were able to send 18 members to Memorial Day Sports Weekend at St. James Armenian Church in Watertown, MA. Our juniors competed and promoted fellowship. As summer approached, we had our final meeting and looked back on all that we had accomplished this year, while already beginning to plan what the next one will hold. The ACYOA Jrs. are excited to begin another exciting year full of fellowship and friendship. We invite all parishioners ages 13-18 to come to our meetings that usually take place after Badarak. Check for upcoming activities' schedule.

Taleen Postian and Nyrie Ovanessian

ACYOA Juniors—Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan Service Award



We also extend our congratulations to Emma Daw, a member of ACYOA Juniors and a Sunday School teacher, who won Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan Service Award during ACYOA Juniors Sports Weekend, "as an ACYOA Junior who has established programs that incorporate one or more of the five circles of the cross (education, worship, service, witness, and fellowship), and who has made a lasting impression on her ACYOA chapter".



HOLY WEEK & EASTER



HOLY WEEK: WASHING OF THE FEET SERVICE

Fathers and sons during the service

WASHING OF THE FEET SERVICE - APRIL 18, 2019

This year's Holy Week services were held from April 15th to 21st, during which we commemorated the special events that occurred on the last days of our Lord's earthly Ministry. On April 18th, in the evening of Holy Thursday, the parishioners gathered to participate in the Divine Liturgy and the Washing of the Feet Service (Կարգ Ոտնլուայի).

According to the Gospel, when Christ established the

sacrament of the Holy Communion in the Upper Chamber, our Saviour also, as a sign of humility, washed his apostles' feet and said: "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet" (John 13:14). As followers of the apostles, we held this service, rich in its abundance of prayers and spiritual chants, during which Rev. Fr. Mesrob washed the feet of fathers and their sons, commanding them to always be pure and virtuous in spirit, mind, and body.





PALM SUNDAY/ACYOA LUNCH

On April 14th we celebrated Palm Sunday - the triumphant entry of our Lord to Jerusalem. At the end of the Divine Liturgy, after the blessing of the palm branches, all the children who were present at the service were blessed by Der Mesrob, symbolizing the people and the children who welcomed Christ entering Jerusalem. At the end of the blessing, the Opening of the Doors service was held marking the beginning of the Holy Week.



Following the services, all parishioners were invited to celebrate the ACYOA/Youth Sunday. During the banquet everyone enjoyed the singing of the national anthems by Mariam Markarian, a musical performance by Codi Eskandarian, a dance performance by Emma Daw and Ani LeFevre Pahigian, speeches by Michael Giveli-

kian, ACYOA Seniors' chair and Emma Daw, ACYOA Juniors' chair.

We express our appreciation to ACYOA Juniors for serving the food during the luncheon, ACYOA Seniors and Juniors and everyone who helped in organizing this great event.



CULTURAL COMMITTEE UPDATES



The St. Gregory Cultural Committee presented the 17th annual Lionel Galstaun Memorial Concert on Sunday May 19, 2019 at 1:30pm in the Sanctuary. A luncheon was provided by the Cultural Committee immediately after Badarak. Approximately 80 people attended the luncheon and one hour concert.

The concert featured young violinist Haig Hovsepian from Boston accompanied by his mother Ani Shamakhian Hovsepian on piano. Haig brilliantly performed pieces by Komitas, Khachaturian, Ysaye, Bagdasarian and Wieniawski—playing with sensitivity and maturity in a most memorable concert.

John Wolohojian MC'd the event giving welcoming remarks and thanking our loyal supporters. A special thank



you went out to Alice Basmajian for donating her Steinway piano and to the St. Gregory Parish Council for donating the piano tuning and moving fees. We remembered our very dear friend George Omartian who passed away one year ago. Also honored were Anahid Ajemian Avakian — the sister of Maro (Ajemian) Galstaun.

Anita and John Wolohojian donated centerpieces for the luncheon and graciously offered them to our loyal supporters. Approximately \$1,000 in good will donations were accepted—helping the Cultural Committee defer event costs.

SPECIAL APPRECIATION



We express our heartfelt and special appreciation to Alice Basmajian for donating her Steinway piano to our church.

Alice Basmajian moved to Florida last year to be close to her daughter. The piano will be used for many great events within our community and reminds us of her.

SPECIAL PRAYER FOR MOTHERS AND MOTHERS-AT-HEART



On Sunday, May 12th, a special prayer was offered by Fr. Mesrob at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. He blessed all the mothers in our parish, as well as grandmothers, aunts, mothers-at-heart, and all women who unselfishly devote their love and time for the betterment of others. May God bless all mothers and mothers-at-heart, watch over them and grant them health and happiness.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF ST. MARY AND BLESSING OF THE GRAPES SERVICE - SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

ST. NERSESS SEMINARY'S SUMMER CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS AT ST. GREGORY - SUNDAY, JULY 28



CLERGY CONFERENCE & 117TH DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

APRIL 28-MAY 5, 2019



The Annual Clergy Conference of the Eastern Diocese took place at the Babson Executive Conference Center in MA from April 29th to May 1st. The conference, attended by 48 clergymen, was presided over by the Primate, Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan. During the conference, the Primate presented his visionary report, urging all clergymen to continue serving their parishes, raising Christian's spirit and faith, and strengthening the unity of the Church in Christ. During the meeting, both ecclesiastic and secular speakers presented various reports. In particular, they highlighted a number of important theological, religious, doctrinal issues, preaching, spiritual care, and mission issues. The conference concluded with the celebration of Badarak on Thursday morning, May 4th, at St. James Armenian Church, with all clergymen present. Following the Clergy Conference, all clergymen came to the Marriott in Burlington, MA for the start of the Annual Diocesan Assembly.

The 117th Diocesan Assembly, hosted by St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA convened at the Marriott in Burlington, MA from May 4th to 6th with 131 de-

legates present. Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, Primate, presented the theme for this year - Christ's Healing in a Broken World. "Healing is the basis of the Christian faith - people have always suffered - when Jesus picked the Apostles He set them out to help heal. Bringing healing to those who are not well is our work - it is our core as Christian Armenians. We should be agents of healing and



purveyors of hope and workers of reconciliation - we should be disseminators of faith - we are leaders of the body of Christ - we have the responsibility to a higher cause," said Fr. Daniel (paraphrased). In addition to prayer sessions and social activities, the delegates heard reports from various departments of the Diocese, reviewed the annual budget and deliberated over new proposals. The delegates were also assured that there was no contract for the sale or lease of the Diocesan building or its air rights.

One of our delegates, Lisa Kouzoujian was elected to serve on the Diocesan Council and Fr. Mesrob Hovsepyan was elected to serve on the Nominating Committee.

CONSECRATION OF THE PRIMATE



On May 12th, 2019 our Primate was consecrated as Bishop! With great joy, the Eastern Diocese was pleased to announce that His Holiness Karekin II, the Catholicos of All Armenians, consecrated our Diocesan Primate to the episcopal rank, in a stirring and solemn ceremony at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. The services of calling and consecration took place on May 11-12. On May 13th, the new Bishop Daniel Findikyan celebrated his first Divine Liturgy as a bishop, at the historic Church of St. Gayane.

The newly consecrated Bishop Daniel Findikyan celebrated his first episcopal Divine Liturgy at St. Vartan with the faithful of the Eastern Diocese on Saturday, May 18th. Hundreds of worshippers filled New

York's St. Vartan Cathedral to welcome the Diocesan Primate back to America. Dignitaries from the worldwide Armenian Church and ecumenical arena, community leaders, Armenia's ambassadors to the United States and United Nations, along with clergy and faithful from throughout the Eastern Diocese came out to honor Bishop Daniel, following his ordination as a bishop of the Armenian Church a week earlier.



In a heartfelt sermon, Bishop Daniel reflected on this turning point in his ministry, and on the larger meaning of the bishop's vocation as articulated through Jesus Christ's homily on 'The Good Shepherd' in St. John's Gospel. Thousands of viewers watched the live broadcast of the May 18th Badarak on the Eastern Diocese's YouTube and Facebook platforms.

Following the Divine Liturgy all guests enjoyed the welcoming fellowship hour which was coordinated by a committee from our parish. The executive committee was chaired by Dn. Greg Guroian and included Mike Guroian, Chris and Adriane Keleshian Bonfiglio, Arsen Yelegen, and George Marutian. Many of our parishioners helped with the setup and serving during the fellowship luncheon.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL GRADUATION



On Sunday, June 9th, the Sunday School celebrated the graduation of four students: Marcus Arakel Tiratsuyan, Nyrie Mariam Ovanessian, Pete Klanian Blonkvist, and Taleen Marie Postian. The luncheon following the Divine Liturgy was sponsored by the Sunday School in honor of the graduates.

We pray that all of our graduates feel proud moving forward and enjoy sharing their achievements and knowledge with family and friends.

ARMENIAN SCHOOL GRADUATION



On Sunday, June 2nd, the Armenian School celebrated the graduation of the Kindergarten and Seventh Grade students. Kindergarten Graduates were: Mary Ayvazian and Olivia Yammine. Seventh Grade Graduates were: Nickolas Cehreci, Isabel Ohanissian, Sarin Bozuklu, and Gregory Postian. We congratulate all the graduates of this year and encourage them to cherish everything they have learned. Fr. Mesrob offered blessings upon the students and asked for the Lord's guidance as they enter the next stages of their lives.



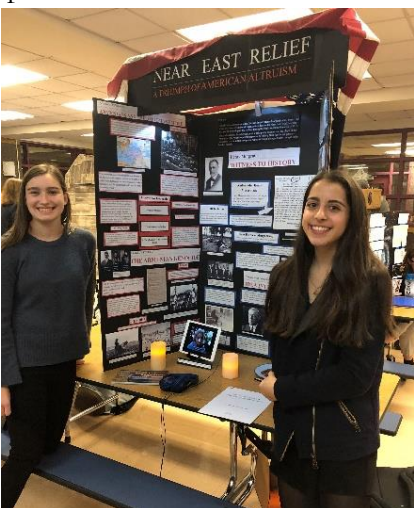
FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

On Thursday, May 30th, in recognition of the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ (Hampartzoom), Fr. Mesrob Hovsepian celebrated Divine Liturgy at the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs. Fr. Abraham Malkhasyan, the pastor of the Holy Martyrs also participated in the service and delivered the sermon. Following the delicious luncheon sponsored by the Women's Guild, the traditional *Vijag* was drawn. It was a lovely day filled with gratitude, love and blessings.

NEW YORK STUDENTS WIN STATE ACCOLADES FOR HISTORY PROJECT THAT HIGHLIGHTS ARMENIAN GENOCIDE TESTIMONY

Two students in New York state have risen through the ranks of the National History Day Competition with a project that highlights one testimony from USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive.

After being selected as finalists from their high school early this year, freshmen Lily Jebejian and Alice Vranka of Bronxville High School north of New York City placed second in the Lower Hudson Regional Competition in March. They'll go on to compete in the New York State Competition in late April, after fine-tuning their display commemorating one segment of the American response to the Armenian Genocide.



Lily Jebejian and Alice Vranka of Bronxville High School north of New York City with the first phase of their school project.

“As we dug deeper into the Armenian Genocide, we found a hidden triumph in the story of Near East Relief and the many unsung heroes of the genocide,” Jebejian and Vranka said in a statement to USC Shoah Foundation. Addressing this year's National History Day theme of “triumph and tragedy in history,” the girls looked into the work of American charity Near East Relief, which sent humanitarian aid and raised millions of dollars to help those affected by the Armenian Genocide. The organization set up refugee camps, clinics and hospitals to attend to those displaced by the genocide, and is credited with having cared for 132,000 Armenian orphans from Yerevan, Constantinople, Beirut, Damascus and Jerusalem, among other places in the Near East, a region that includes western Asia, Turkey and Egypt.

“We felt that the triumph of the work of Near East Relief during the horrific tragedy needed to be shared in this year's contest,” the girls said.

Part of their project, which displays a sample of the typical meal eaten by an orphan in a Near East Relief orphanage, features a clip of testimony from Arpine Terlemezian, who worked as the director of an orphanage in Kirovakan (now Vanadzor) shortly after Armenia was established in 1918. Terlemezian's story is preserved in USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive.

“Arpine Terlemezian's testimony offered a story of personal triumph and tragedy for our project,” the girls said. “While she witnessed the horrors of the genocide in her work at a Near East Relief orphanage, she helped the orphans learn skills that would benefit them for their entire lives.”

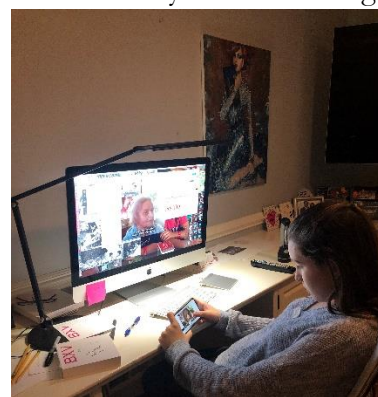
They add that she also found love while working at the orphanage. Dajad Terlemezian was a young war hero and fellow employee of Near East Relief.

“Dajad came to the orphanage every day,” she said in her testimony, which was recorded by the late documentary filmmaker J. Michael Hagopian in the early 1980s. (Hagopian entrusted all of his 300-plus Armenian Genocide interviews to USC Shoah Foundation in 2013.) “He captivated me. So, we got married.”

The girls first heard of the Visual History Archive during an interview with the Chairman Emeritus of the Near East Foundation, Shant Mardirossian. They immediately started scouring the archive for a story to set their project apart.

USC Shoah Foundation Education and Outreach Specialist Sedda Antekelian says she's proud that Jebejian and Vranka have chosen to include testimony from the Archive.

“Testimony is a primary source,” Antekelian said. “It provides value to the historical record and humanizes



Lily Jebejian watches Arpine Terlemezian's testimony.

the experience of tragedy and resilience.”

Antekelian also credited the students for sharing the voice of Terlemezian, who is “a great example of an Armenian survivor who actively worked for the survival of thousands of Armenian orphans.”

Both girls say they are excited to present their project in the next stage of the competition. They say their family connection to the genocide has motivated all of their work. In fact, both were in Armenia during summer, visiting Near East Relief orphanages like the St. Arsenije

Church in the Kazachi Post in Gyumri, Armenia.

“Luckily, our ancestors escaped the persecution of the Ottoman Empire and were able to thrive in America,” they said. “We are so passionate about researching this topic because of our personal connections, and we have discovered so much about our family history through the research process. We hope to share the story of the Armenian Genocide and Near East Relief with as many people as possible, so that our history will not be lost.”

www.sfi.usc.edu



MEN'S CLUB GRILL NIGHT

On Thursday, August 22nd, Men's Club organized the Grill Night. It was a fun evening with enjoyable conversations, friendships, and a great menu!



MER DOON CAMP



In the last two weeks of August, the Mer Doon camp was an excellent way for Armenian youth and children of parishioners to make friends, partake in exciting educational activities and explore their heritage. Whether it be playing soccer in the gym, bouncing in the bouncy castle, baking simit cookies with Yeretzgin Dawn, each day that the children came into camp, they engaged with their culture and friends in exciting ways.

In the morning, kids had music class with Digin Alvard and shook their maracas to the beat of Armenian children's songs. In music class, Digin Alvard helped children learn to recognize the rhythm and count the beats of a song and taught them the importance of practice and participation in order to put on an amazing performance for their parents at the end of the two-week session. After music class, in arts & crafts, kids created dif-

ferent art projects that incorporated Armenian culture. Beatrice Postian, who teaches the arts and crafts lessons, taught the children to make *poorvars* (censers) out of coffee cups, *kushots* (flabellum) out of paper plates, tissue paper flowers with the colors of the Armenian flag, and many more crafts that the children enjoyed. Sometimes,





the children colored or painted pictures of bible stories, such as Noah's Ark, that they heard when they visited the church. As well as participating in activities that allowed the kids to develop a strong sense of Armenian language and culture, every day in church they learned more about the Armenian religion. They learned church etiquette, such as making the sign of the cross and listened to church hymns composed by Komitas. Afterward, Der Mesrob read the children bible stories, teaching them not to be envious through the story of Joseph's rainbow coat and to maintain your faith and trust in God as he read the story of Daniel in the lion's den. Of course, these are just a few activities the kids enjoyed during camp; however, the unanimous favorite, of course, was free time when the kids were able to run, play, and go crazy in the gym.



When I was younger, I attended Camp Mer Doon and remembering what a great experience I had as a camper, my brother and I were excited to help serve as counselors alongside Liana Sarkissian and Ani Munroe this year, hopefully giving the children an experience as won-

derful as ours was. Yes, the camp has changed since I attended, but only in the sense that some of the activities were different. This camp has remained a way for children to connect to their Armenian culture all while engaging them in arts and crafts, bouncy castles, baking, and much more.

Of course, all of this is possible only through the hard work and dedication of Nectar Munroe. In the years that Nectar has been running the camp, she has been doing



an amazing job at providing such a great camp for young kids. As well as organizing schedules for every day of the two-week session, Nectar was there every day to help transition the children from one activity to the other, prepare lunches, and teach lessons. The amount of effort she put into this camp really showed as Camp Mer Doon celebrates another successful year.

Tanya Postian



HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Emma Anoush Xue Ying Daw - Daughter of Ann Giragosian Daw and Tom Daw, graduated from Walter Panas High School in Cortlandt, NY. She was inducted into both the National Honor Society and the National Technical Honor Society for her focus on Early Childhood Education.

She received the Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan Vision Award for ACYOA juniors at Sports weekend over Memorial Day. Emma will be pursuing Early Childhood education in her studies at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, South Carolina.

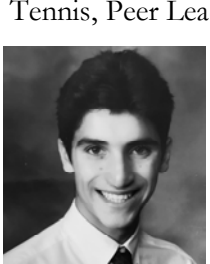


Robert Stepanian - Son of Bryan and Maria Stepanian, graduated from Greenwich High School.

He was a member of the National Honor Society at Greenwich High School. Robert will be attending Providence College in the Fall of 2019.



Carly Sahagian - Daughter of Gregory and Lori Sahagian, graduated from Ursuline High School in New Rochelle, NY, and will be attending Providence College. Carly is a member of many teams and clubs including Varsity Tennis, Peer Leadership, Ambassador Club, and more.



Berdj Stepanian - Son of Berdj and Denise Stepanian, graduated from Byram Hills High School and will be attending Binghamton University in the Fall majoring in Business.



Ava Augusta Hingson - Daughter of Elise Meneshian Hingson and Andrew Hingson, graduated from The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, CT. After completing her third summer of coaching tennis to students in Cornwall, CT, she will be

majoring in Environmental Arts and Humanities Studies at The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee.

Ani Mekenian - Daughter of Steve and Lily Mekenian, graduated from Winston Prep School and will be attending Curry College in Milton, MA.



Peter Hagop Chitjian - Son of Mark and Joanne Chitjian, graduated from Orchard View Alternative High School with a Board of Regents diploma. He also received a state certificate from the Career and Technical Institute of Dutchess BOCES in Auto Mechanics and Technical Training. Peter is currently a full time auto mechanic at A & G Community Auto Repair, Ltd. in Hopewell Junction, NY.

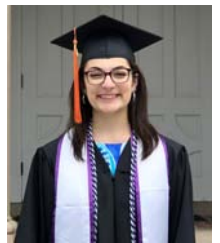


Sophia Hovakimian - Daughter of Armen and Gayane Hovakimyan, graduated from Scarsdale High School. She will be attending to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in the Fall, majoring in economics.

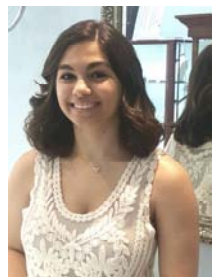


COLLEGE GRADUATES

Julia Anne Sanossian - Daughter of Laura and Ronald Sanossian, has graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering while minoring in Math, Engineering Entrepreneurship and Business. Julia has started her career as a structural engineer in July at a midtown Engineering firm.

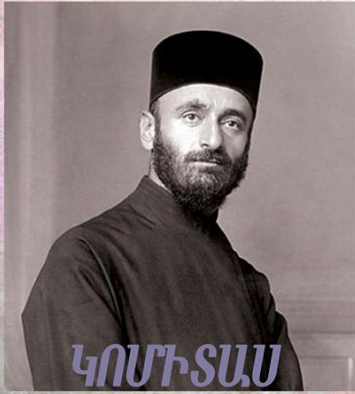


Aline Julie Givelekian - Daughter of Anoush and Mirijohn Givelekian, earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Pace University in Pleasantville, NY. She would like to work in the Emergency Department or in the Intensive Care unit of a hospital in the tri-



150TH ANNIVERSARY OF KOMITAS VARDAPET AND HOVHANNES TUMANYAN

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This year we mark the 150th Anniversary of Komitas Vardaped and Hovhanes Tumanyan.

Renowned Armenian musician **Komitas (Sghomon Sghomonian)**(1869-1935) was an Armenian priest, composer, ethnomusicologist, singer, and choirmaster who traveled around villages collecting and writing down Kurdish and Armenian folk songs. He is considered the founder of the Armenian National School of Music. Komitas was arrested and deported to a prison camp during the Armenian Genocide by the Ottoman government, along with many other Armenian intellectuals. Haunted by the mass death marches and massacres of the Armenian Genocide, he had a mental breakdown and spent the rest of his life in a psychiatric hospital in Paris. Komitas is widely seen as a martyr of the genocide and has been depicted as one of the main symbols of the Armenian Genocide in literature and arts.



Haunted by the mass death marches and massacres of the Armenian Genocide, he had a mental breakdown and spent the rest of his life in a psychiatric hospital in Paris. Komitas is widely seen as a martyr of the genocide and has been depicted as one of the main symbols of the Armenian Genocide in literature and arts.



Hovhannes Tumanyan was born in 1869 in the village of Dsegh, Tiflis Governorate, Russian Empire (now Lori Province, Armenia). His father, Aslan, was the village priest known by the name Ter-Tadevos. His mother, Sona, was an avid storyteller with a particular interest in fables. Young Tumanyan was the oldest of eight children.

In the fall of 1921, Tumanyan went to Constantinople to find support of Armenian refugees. After months spent there, he returned ill. After surgery in 1922, he started to get better. But in September, Tumanyan's disease started to persist again. He was transferred to a hospital in Moscow, where he died on March 23, 1923.

Tumanyan is usually regarded in Armenian circles as "All-Armenian poet". He earned this title when the Catholicos of Armenia had ordered that Armenian refugees from the west not enter certain areas of his church and house, since he is considered to be "The Catholicos of all Armenians". Tumanyan in response decried that decision claiming that the refugees could seek relief in the Catholicos' quarters under order of "The Poet of all Armenians".

Tumanyan wrote poems, quatrains, ballads, novels, fables, critical and journalistic articles. His work is simple, natural and poetically inspired at the same time. It is not by mere chance that dozens of phrases and expressions from Tumanyan's works have become a natural part of people's everyday language, their sayings, adages, and maxims.

Many films and animated films have been adapted from Tumanyan's works. Two operas – Anush (1912) by Armen Tigranian and Almast (1930) by Alexander Spendiaryan – were written based on his works.

ALL-AMERICAN BBQ - SUNDAY, JULY 21



The fun and casual All-American BBQ has been sponsored by our Women's Guild since 2008, however since 2012 all proceeds have been for the benefit of Fuller Center for Housing in Armenia (FCH-A). FCH-A requires \$10,500 to complete a single family house in Armenia for families in need of upgraded shelter. St. Gregory Parish is currently completing fundraising efforts toward "St. Gregory-House #8". Our goal, as put forward by the late, Harry Keleshian, and his wife Edna is "10 houses in 10 years"...we are ahead of schedule!

Special thanks is extended to the generous donors, especially those loyal contributors who have continuously pledged toward this mission & goal year after year. Sincere gratitude to the organizing efforts of our dedicated Women's Guild members & their delicious, traditional BBQ menu, Men's Club participants for grilling (in the 95 degree heat!!), Sylvia and Derek Kruiuzenga for their donation of Armenian wines, and all those who attended the afternoon event.



BAPTISMS AND CHRISMATIONS

APRIL 13, 2019

Elizabeth Diana Demirjian

Parents: Gregory and Diana Demirjian

JUNE 1, 2019

Ani Grace Sheridan

Parents: Stanton William Sheridan and Macrina Is-gouhee Aivazian

JULY 28, 2019

Anahid Leticia Hernandez

Parents: Miguel and Adrena Daw Hernandez

AUGUST 17, 2019

Emilia Ann Avery

Parents: George Christian and Jasmine Ann Avery

AUGUST 18, 2019

Peter Glenn

Parents: Mr. and Ms. Corry Glenn

WEDDINGS

JULY 13, 2019

Raffi Valijian and Laura Kane

Parents: Hrand Valijian Nora Hakim, Patrick Kane

OCTOBER 5, 2019

Hagop Nercessian and Liana Kurkjian

Parents: Ani Nercessian; Arman and Rita Kurkjian

SEPTEMBER 6, 2019

Danielle Anais Kruizanga and Peter Glenn

Parents: Derek Ansourian and Sylvia Kruizenga; Mr. and Ms. Corry Glenn

FUNERALS

July 9

NADEJDA PAPAZIAN

August 2

KRIKOR PIDEDJIAN

March 20

BERNARD TEPIKIAN

September 1

LEILA BEZJIAN

March 27

LUCY TEPIKIAN

September 11

ATAM AKSU

March 30

HAYIK TUTAKIAN

October 5

HRAND MARASH

July 18

MAIDA AGHABABIAN BASIL

***WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER!
WHERE DO YOU STAND IN THIS PICTURE?***



HOW CAN WE GET CLOSER TO THE CENTER?

PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH COUNCIL

President	Rev. Fr. Mesrob Hovsepyan (804) 405-9399
Chair	Eleanor Krolian (914) 428-7037
Vice Chair	Lauren Kayaian (914) 723-7159
Treasurer	Chris Bonfiglio (914) 741-6220
Asst. Treasurer	Fram Cehreci (201) 917-3495
Recording Secretary	Noone Janjigian (914) 837-1722
Corresponding Secretary	Gayane Hovakimian (914) 725-8256
Members:	Greg Sahagian (914) 667-1597
	Gayane Manoukyan (347) 465-8503
	Edik Eskandarian (914) 997-9363
	Armen Arsenian (914) 960-0439
	Nectar Munro (203) 273-8829

DIOCESAN DELEGATES

Lisa Kouzoujian
(203) 536-2622
Van Krikorian
(914) 835-5080

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Choir Director	Dn. Mirijohn Givelekian (203) 321-8642
Choir Chair	Anoush Givelekian (203) 321-8642
Armenian School Principals	Margrit Hamparsoumian (914) 686-0840
	Maria Bedonian (914) 747-2521

Pastoral Care, home and hospital clergy visits:

The pastor is always available and would like to visit homebound and hospitalized parishioners. If you or someone you know is ill, hospitalized, or homebound and would like to be visited, please call the Church Office at (914) 428-2595. Please note: when asked about your religion at a hospital, patients should list themselves as “Armenian Orthodox” or “Armenian” not “other”.

Funerals:

Families should make arrangements with the funeral director of their choice, who will contact the Church Office to arrange the funeral service. Generally, St. Gregory coordinates funerals with Ballard-Durand Funeral Home in White Plains, who is familiar with our church traditions. Funerals may not be performed on religious holidays, major feast days, Saturdays after 3:00 p.m., or Sundays.

Sunday School Superintendents	Tom Daw (914) 528-7845 Alice Leylegian (203) 461-8343
ACYOA Jrs. Chair	Emma Daw (914) 409-8505
ACYOA Srs. Chair	Michael Givelekian (203) 565-9880
Women’s Guild Co-Chair	Dawn Papalian (301) 850-6496 Lauren Kayaian (914) 723-7159
Thrift Shop (a division of Women’s Guild)	Adriane Bonfiglio (914) 649-1072
Men’s Club Chair	Chris Bonfiglio (914) 741-6220
Culture Committee Chair	John Wolohojian (212) 724-2575
Outreach Committee	Gail Keyishian (845) 855-1484
Stewardship	Gail Keyishian (845) 855-1484
Membership	Paul Keyishian (845) 855-1484

OTHER CHURCH CONTACTS

Church Secretary	Elise Meneshian-Hingson (203) 249-3339
Librarian	Aida Pisani (914) 793-4007
Property Management	Greg Sahagian (914) 667-1597

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Matins (Morning Service):	9:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy:	10:15 a.m.
Sunday School:	10:30 a.m.

For Baptism, Weddings and other services:

please call the Pastor as soon as possible to set up an appointment to discuss arrangements. *Hokehankisd* services (Requiem services) can be held any Sunday except on the Major Feast days. Arrangements for the donation of altar flowers and altar candles should be made through the Church office by Wednesday. Please send all pictures, articles and correspondence to:

saintgregorychurchwp@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 3, Sunday** St. Gregory Award Banquet following Badarak.
- November 17, Sunday** Art Show and Fundraiser, 11 am - 2 pm. Sponsored by the Cultural Committee.
- November 17, Sunday** Women's Guild FOOD SALE. Delicious home-made Armenian baked goods & savory delights available for purchase.
- November 24, Sundays** Art Show and Fundraiser, 11 am - 2 pm. Sponsored by the Cultural Committee.
- December 6, Friday** Women's Guild Christmas Luncheon at Burning Tree Country Club, Greenwich CT.
All are welcome! *Details to follow.*
- December 24, Tuesday** Commemoration of St. Stephen the Protomartyr and Western Christmas Eve. *Details to follow.*

YEAR OF 2020

- January 5, Sunday** Morning Service - 10:00 - 11:00am.
THERE WILL BE NO DIVINE LITURGY IN THE MORNING.
EVE OF THE NATIVITY AND THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST - J'RA-KALOOYTZ - 4:00-4:30 pm. - Prophetic Readings.
Divine Liturgy of Light - 4:30-5:45 pm.
- January 6, Monday** **FEAST OF THE NATIVITY AND THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**
Morning Service - Singing Armenian Christmas Hymns - 9:45am.
Armenian Christmas Badarak and Blessing of Water Service.
- January 12, Sunday** **FEAST OF NAMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**
Morning Service - 9:45am.
Badarak & Blessing of Water Service.
Christmas Brunch hosted by the Women's Guild.