



A Publication of the Ararat Home of Los Angeles, Inc.®

Summer 2013

MEET OUR NEW CHAIRMAN of the BOARD of TRUSTEES, JOSEPH KANIMIAN, ESQ.

By Debbie Avedian

The Ararat Home Board of Trustees elected Attorney Joseph Kanimian as its chairman with complete confidence and certainty that he will be an exemplary leader. Joseph was born in Beirut, Lebanon and immigrated to the United States as a student attending the University of Minnesota, in Minneapolis and later the University of La Verne in La Verne, California. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in business, a Master of Business Administration and a Law Degree. Mr. Kanimian is a practicing attorney, specializing in civil litigation and business transactions including non-profit organizations.

Community service is a central component in Mr. Kanimian's life. Active in many organizations, Joseph Kanimian is a former chairman of the Diocesan Council of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America where he holds leadership roles in the Fund Raising and

Legal Committees, Primate's Circle of Friends and in the Cathedral Governing Boards. For his many years of volunteer service to the Armenian Church, he was presented with the prestigious St. Nerses Shnorhali Medal from His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians. He is a founding board member of House of Armenia, a non-profit tax-exempt organization. Mr. Kanimian is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross, Los Angeles Region and chairs its Gift Planning Committee. He has also been instrumental in organizing many non-profit organizations on a pro bono basis.

Loyally serving the Home as a Trustee for the past five years and with all his credentials, it is no wonder that he was unanimously elected as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for both Mission Hills and Eagle Rock campuses. When asked what prompts him to be so passionately involved with the Home and what goals he would like to achieve during his tenure as Chairman, he responds, "I love to give back to my community. I enjoy getting involved in charitable work and Ararat exemplifies those two rewarding experiences. With the encouragement and the helping hand of my colleagues serving on the board of trustees, we will achieve the objectives we have set for our Home. There is no higher satisfaction than to see our elders spend their sunset years in an environment that is similar to their homes, where they receive the highest quality health care in an Armenian environment."

Mr. Kanimian reports he is very proud to serve as the Chairman to such a fine organization as Ararat Home. A few of the recognitions that



Chairman Joseph Kanimian, Esq.

Ararat Home has received from governmental organizations include: a five star ratings from the Centers of Medicaid/Medicare for the Skilled Nursing Facility and Eagle Rock Convalescent Hospital; "Quality First Award" from California Association of Homes and Services for the aging for the Skilled Nursing Facility; 7th ZERO deficiency rating from the Department of Health and Services for the Assisted Living Facility; the *US World News and Report* listing the Ararat Home Skilled Nursing Facility as one of the top nursing homes in the United States.

With Mr. Kanimian's leadership, we will continue to achieve a wonderful, safe and nurturing environment for our elders. Thank you to his wife, Karine and their son Greg for sharing Joseph with the Armenian and American communities.

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EVERYONE LOVES ANNE!

By Debbie Avedian



Anne Nazarian, 1944



Anne Nazarian Arrives at Ararat Home on February 4, 2013

Anna (Anne) Nazarian was born in Cleveland, Ohio on December 28, 1926 to Dikran and Loucina Kilimian, immigrants from Kayseri, Central Turkey. In 1913 Dikran, a young groom, arrived in the United States to escape from being sent to serve in the Turkish army, which at the time was equivalent to a death sentence. While Dikran focused on furthering his education, Loucina at the young age of 15 was left to take care of Dikran's family as the Turks drove them from their home to the desert roads. Although most of the family perished, with her determination and strong will to survive Loucina finally reunited with her husband in the United States in 1920. The young couple settled in Cleveland where they were blessed with the birth of their daughter Anna and son George (Kevork) Dikran. In 1944, George who was attending Harvard University as a pre-med student was drafted in the war and killed in Germany. This tragedy was so devastating for the family that in 1945, they made the decision to move and start a new life in Los Angeles.

Anne graduated from Euclid High School in Cleveland and continued her education at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) where she received a degree in microbiology in 1950. While working as a research associate at California Institute of Technology (Cal-Tech) in Pasadena, Anne met her husband Jirair Nazarian,

who was working on his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry. They married in 1953, and Anne continued her career in research at Cal-Tech until she retired in 1982. They moved to Northridge and her husband began working as an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry at California State University, Northridge.

The arrival of Anne and Jirair's three daughters, Anahid, Elisa, and Nina, and son Richard (Dikran) brought great joy to their lives. Anne is proud of her children and their astounding accomplishments. Anahid, Elisa, and Nina all graduated from UCLA, and Richard graduated from Stanford University. Anahid works in the film industry as an Executive Producer with Francis Ford Coppola. Elisa and Nina, high school teachers, teach French language and Art respectively. Richard is the co-founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of Minnetronix, Inc., a software and electronic company focused on medical device product development and manufacturing in St. Paul Minnesota. He is the principal inventor on 15 patents and has authored numerous papers on medical device development. It is not surprising that the editors of *Medical Device & Diagnostic Industry* selected him as one of the 100 Most Notable People in the Medical Device Industry.

Anne has served the Armenian community throughout her life by volunteering in various organizations. She recalls helping Ararat Home, located on Adams Street, where she devoted her services by helping in the

kitchen in the preparation of various Armenian dishes for the residents. She also helped at the Ararat Home Annual Picnic by baking a variety of Armenian pastries, including her infamous Sweet Simid, the recipe for which can be found in the *Ararat Home Cookbook*.

From its inception, Anne was an active member of the Valley Guild of Ararat Home serving on numerous board positions and committees. As chairlady, she organized many social events, including banquets and afternoon tea parties in hotels and homes for its 125 members.

As one of the original members of St. Peter Armenian Church in Canoga Park, Anne served on the board of the Ladies Society, helped in numerous fund raising events, and assisted with food preparation in the kitchen. Anne was also active in the Armenian General Benevolent Union, where she volunteered for many fundraising events.

Anne's hobbies included reading, gardening, baking and attending musical events. She beams with pride as she speaks of her nine precious grandchildren, who are all pursuing their dreams through higher education. Elisa and her husband, Dominik Nigro, have four children, Jenny, Dominique, Alexander, and Gabriel; Nina and her husband, Kurt Medlin, have three children, Drew, Julia and Claire; Richard and Wendy have two children, Nicholas Dikran and Natalie.

When asked about how she is adapting to Ararat Home, she responded by saying, "When my son entered my room for the first time, he described it with one word, 'Home.'" Anne's room is warmly decorated with family photos, her living room furniture and a desk. She loves the familiar Armenian surroundings and describes the employees as being "delightful, pleasant, friendly and always helpful." She enjoys participating in-group activities, getting acquainted with other residents and learning about their diverse backgrounds. Living at the home allows her to attend the Ladies Auxiliary monthly luncheons, which are held on the first Tuesday of each month, and she enjoys seeing her old friends at the Valley Guild monthly luncheons, which are held on the 4th Monday of each month. Her Valley Guild friends always have a big smile when they see her, recalling her dedication and tireless hard work for the betterment of the Home. After all, everyone Loves Anne!

MRS. MARGO BABIKIAN RETIRES

After nineteen years of dedicated service to Ararat Home, to her patients and their families, Mrs. Margo Babikian has retired her position as Executive Director of Ararat Nursing Facility to devote more time to her family. We wish her and her family well in this new chapter of their lives.

ENLIGHTENMENT, CULINARY DELIGHTS, and ENTERTAINMENT at ARARAT-ESKIJIAN MUSEUM

By Debbie Avedian

What an enlightening Sunday afternoon on June 9, 2013 for the over 100 attendees who came to hear the lecture presented by Nikos Michailidis, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Anthropology, Princeton University and to view the presentation of the documentary *"In The Footsteps of the Argonauts"* at the Ararat-Eskijian Museum. The mood of the afternoon began with an emotional introduction by Maggie Goschin, Director Ararat Eskijian Museum, who spoke of family members who fled from Trabizond.

Mr. Michailidis gave a brief history of the Greek communities of the Pontos region during the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. He stated, "The Greek communities of Pontos that managed to survive from the genocidal policies of the Young Turks regime in the beginning of the 20th Century, were relocated in mainland Greece and other countries. The memories and experiences of that generation passed on to the youth through oral narratives, creation of archives, personal memoir publications, music, dance, and lectures organized and supported by an extensive network of cultural associations that had been founded in Greece since 1923. The current generation of Pontian-Greeks, which grew up without having any significant immediate contact with the elder members of the community who were born and raised in Pontos, faces further challenges of memory loss and struggles to maintain a sense of Pontian-Greek identity by making use of all these diverse mnemonic practices. Learning the history of the ancestors is central in their attempt to form their subjectivities." Michailidis stated, "The



Nikos Michailidis entertains the guests by playing the traditional Pontian Lyra (Kemenche)

documentary *'In the Footsteps of the Argonauts,'* constitutes such an attempt to learn, to remember, and to belong."

The presentation was followed by a question and answer period. All enjoyed an array of homemade Armenian and Greek appetizers and desserts provided by Debbie Avedian. Mr. Michailidis completed the wonderful afternoon by playing the traditional Pontian Lyra (Kemenche). Approximately 20 dancers spontaneously began dancing traditional Pontian-Greek dances.

An email received from an attendee stated, "We Just wanted to express our thanks for your amazing hospitality and all the work you put into cooking and baking. It was one of the finest events we have been to in a long time. Kip said he could have listened to Nikos Michailidis all night...he is one brilliant and delightful scholar. This museum is a treasure and we will come back and visit one weekend to look at the museum collection at leisure. Thanks again and here's to more events of this caliber. Love, Dalia and Kip Miller."

It was wonderful seeing people of diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds: Greeks, Armenians, Americans, Christians, Jews, along with musicians, dance instructors, and dancers come together, share their personal history while spending a wonderful afternoon socializing and learning about each other. A big "Thanks" to Mr. Michailidis for enlightening us and bringing us together.



Nikos Michailidis gives a brief history of the Greek communities of the Pontos Region, southern Black Sea area during the collapse of the Ottoman Empire

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES COME ARARAT HOME'S WAY

By Cindy Kaloostian

Is it any wonder that we are bursting with pride at the success and high regard with which the Ararat Home of Los Angeles is known? All three of our excellent facilities have recently received awards and/or accolades from health care professional organizations and individuals.

Mr. Robert Taylor, Administrator of the Eagle Rock Ararat Convalescent Hospital, received a Facility Leadership Award from ACHCA (American College of Health Care Administrators). Imagine the number of convalescent hospitals in the United States. Out of all those, only 205 such awards were given. The award reads, "Robert Taylor of Ararat Convalescent Hospital is hereby granted the FACILITY LEADERSHIP AWARD In recognition of organizational leadership provided in the achievement of designated dimensions of quality. April 13, 2013." Congratulations, Bob!

Chairman Joseph Kanimian reports that the Mission Hills Skilled Nursing Facility was paid an unannounced evaluation/visit by the state surveyors early this summer and received a ZERO deficiency at the resident Care/Nursing section. According to Mrs. Susan Yeranian, Director Clinical Services, "Everything went extraordinarily well...the surveyors were extremely

satisfied with what they had witnessed in all categories: safety, elder care, dietary/nutrition, medical/nursing care and maintenance. They also interviewed the residents receiving only positive feedback from them." Mr. Kanimian said, "We congratulate our entire administration and staff for their dedication and exemplary service to the Home."

Chairman Kanimian also received a gratifying email from Mr. Razmig Peltekian, son of Vehanoush Peltekian, a newly admitted resident of the Ararat Assisted Living Facility. In his note, Mr. Peltekian said, "I could not help but to send you this email commending your Board of Trustees for the fine and caring support that you have established for the Armenian elderly!" Mr. Peltekian mentioned Rita Noravian by name and continued by saying, "I strongly believe that it takes very special and talented people with certain values to deal with the elderly and you have them all. CONGRATULATIONS!"

We echo the praises each of our facilities and their staffs have received. Whatever your contribution to Ararat Home may have been in the past or may be in the future, you know your donations of time and money are well spent.

NEW 58 BED WING COMING SOON TO MISSION HILLS

By Nazar H. Ashjian, Jr., Building Committee Co-Chairman

The new 58-bed wing addition to the ARARAT SKILLED NURSING FACILITY is expected to be completed in October 2013. In the following several months after completion, the facility will be furnished and all necessary equipment will be installed. In addition, during this period, the building will be reviewed and inspected for proper licensing by the State of California and by other relevant governmental agencies for final licensing and clearance for occupancy.

The new two-story wing will be attached to the existing structure and will incorporate four rooms from that structure, thus totaling 33 beds on each floor. Each floor will have its own separate dining room, state of the art nursing station, fire alarm system, and at the same time provide a home-like atmosphere.

The Board and the Staff of the Ararat Home wish to thank Sinanian Development, Inc. our contractors and Sobin-Harte Architects, Inc. for their many hours of hard work to provide the Armenian community with these much needed beds for our seniors.

Most importantly, we wish to thank all who have contributed to this addition with their financial generosity and to all the Guilds, the Ladies Auxiliary and the Gift Shop for their generous donations and fundraising activities in order to make this addition a reality.

Individuals and organizations may contact Beatrice Malkhasian in the executive office at 818-838-4860 for a list of giving opportunities.



58-Bed Wing Addition to Ararat Skilled Nursing Facility

GENOCIDE SURVIVOR, ROSE GARJIAN RECEIVES COMMENDATIONS ON APRIL 24, 2013

By Cindy Kaloostian

Approaching her 105th birthday, genocide survivor, Rose Garjian was commended by Adam Schiff, Congressman in the United States House of Representatives, by Glendale Mayor Frank Quintero, by Los Angeles County Supervisors Don Knabe, Zev Yaroslavsky, Gloria Molina, Michael Antonovich and Mark Ridley Thomas, and by California Assemblyman Mike Gatto. She was also recognized in the Los Angeles City Council on April 19, 2013. The commemoration was led by Councilmember Paul Krekorian and former City Council President Eric Garcetti, recognizing Rose Garjian and honoring Ararat Home for its immeasurable contributions to the Armenian-American elderly community. On the occasion, Mrs. Rita Noravian, Administrator of the Assisted Living Facility where Mrs. Garjian resides, thanked the City Council on behalf of

Mrs. Garjian and the Ararat Home. She said, "Mrs. Garjian is perhaps one of the very few living witnesses of the Armenian genocide," and continued by stating, "Ararat Home is a place of life, love and hope."



Genocide Survivor, Rose Garjian honored on April 19, 2013 at the Los Angeles City Council Chamber where the Armenian Council of America participated in the City of Los Angeles' annual Armenian Genocide Commemoration Ceremony

SAVE THE DATES

"LADIES AUXILIARY WINE TASTING"

Friday, August 23, 7 p.m.

Contact: Susan Kardashian at 818-340-2509

San Gabriel Guild of Ararat Home

"ANNUAL KUFTA DINNER" - Monday, September 9

"GALA CHRISTMAS DINNER" - December 15

Contact: Cindy Kaloostian at 626-792-4479

Masis Guild of Ararat Home

"FALL FLOWERS OF FASHION"

Saturday, September 21

Whittier Radisson Hotel, 11 a.m.

Contact: Allise Arakelian Hart at 626-688-2358 or allisehart@gmail.com

ARARAT ANNUAL PICNIC

Sunday, September 29

Valley Guild of Ararat Home

"ANNUAL KUFTE DINNER"

Thursday, October 10

Contact: Debbie Avedian at 818-825-9168

"TENTH ANNIVERSARY CASINO NIGHT"

Saturday, November 9

Westside Guild of Ararat Home

"22ND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON"

Saturday, December 7

Beverly Hills Hotel, 11 a.m.

Contact: Andrea Fehring at 310-538-1219

LADIES AUXILIARY MONTHLY LUNCHEON

1st Tuesday of each month

Ararat Home Deukmejian Ballroom, 11:30 a.m.

For Sponsorship contact: Maro Ouzounian at 818-342-4663

Jubilee Dinner Dance

"ARARAT OUR HOME"

Saturday February 8, 2014

Contact: Beatrice Malkhasian, Board Secretary at 818-838-4860

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ARARAT HYLIGHTS

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