

ARARAT

H Y E L I G H T S

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

Summer 2019

Ararat Home's 70TH ANNIVERSARY Milestone:

*"Remembering Our Past,
Building Our Future"*

Established in 1949 by a group of visionaries, Ararat Home was created to serve our community by caring for our elderly. For 70 years, it has been home to thousands of Armenians – men and women, parents and grandparents, generations of our compatriots, who have received comfort, compassion and loving care here. With tremendous community support since its founding, Ararat Home has grown from its humble beginnings and has succeeded in carrying on this mission of care for seven decades.

Ararat Home's journey began in Los Angeles' Historic West Adams District with seven residents moving into film star Mary Pickford's mansion, which was purchased for \$12,000. From its early days, when securing funding for mortgage payments and daily needs was a struggle, through its periods of growth, the Home has today become a million-dollar operation, employing over 400 staff and caring for 400 residents in three facilities on two campuses.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >>

IN THIS ISSUE

Ararat Home's 70th Anniversary Milestone	1
Resident Highlight: Alice Mgrublian	1
Ararat Home 70th Anniversary Banquet	3
Board of Trustees Chair	5
ALF Achieves Excellent Result	6
An Afternoon of Backgammon	6
Save the Dates	6

Alice Mgrublian:

**Intelligent, Pragmatic, Dedicated
to Family and Community**



Born in Montreal in 1924, as the only child of Repega and Serop Kalpakjian, Alice had a fulfilling childhood. Her parents were recent immigrants to Canada, and they worked hard to establish their new lives within Montreal's small Armenian community. Alice struck a comfortable balance between her French-Canadian identity and her Armenian roots. She had a full and diverse social circle, and she

excelled in school. Intelligent, self-motivated and with an affinity for languages, she is fluent in English, Armenian and French and has some proficiency in Turkish, Latin and German.

After completing her education, Alice realized that her prospects as a woman in Canada would not be very promising. So, in her early 20's, she made the decision to move to Los Angeles. While she only had a handful of relatives here, she quickly established herself, found her community and formed a new social circle. She was referred to as "Alice from Canada" and immediately became known for her independence, intelligence and determination.

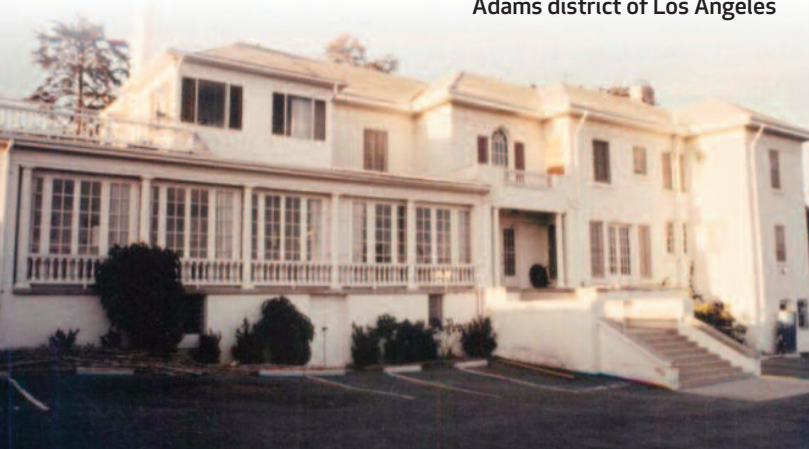
Once in Los Angeles, Alice forged a career path in accounting. She began working at Rexall Drug Store and later at Jerseymaid Dairies. While colleges at the time had discouraged women from majoring in accounting, economic necessity during World War II presented women the opportunity to enter the accounting



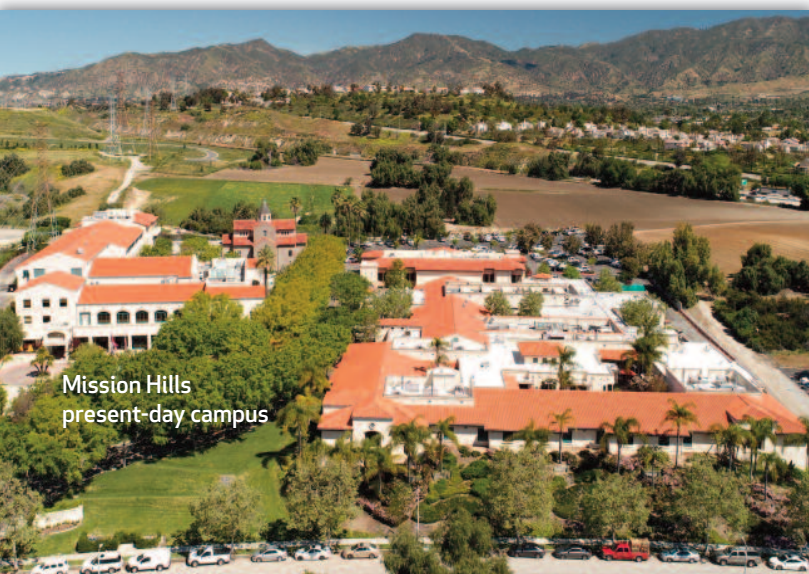
CONTINUED ON PAGE 5 >>



3730 West 27th Street in West Adams district of Los Angeles



As a non-profit, non-partisan, non-denominational organization, Ararat Home's growth and success is largely due to community support. Thanks to the generosity and dedication of philanthropists, organizations and countless members of the community, who have together sustained the Home's mission for decades, Ararat Home has become the pride of the Southern California Armenian community. And, in return for this investment of support, the Home has continually endeavored to serve the community well.



Mission Hills present-day campus

True to the vision of the founders, Ararat Home has been and continues to be a beacon of hope and comfort, a safe haven for many. It is a place where residents receive comprehensive, individualized, quality care and where they find companionship, life enrichment and dignity in the uniquely Armenian, family environment of the Home. It is also where their families find support, understanding and peace of mind.

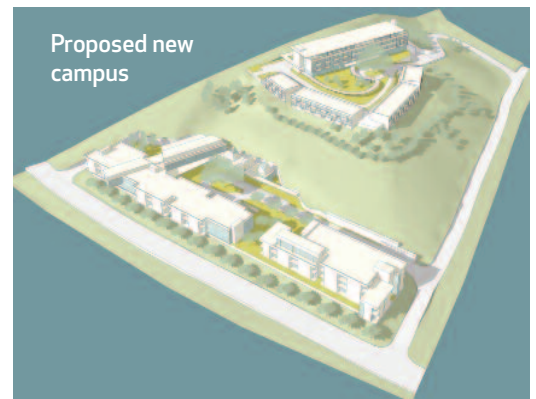


In order to meet the ever-increasing needs of the community and the demand for its services, Ararat Home has achieved several milestones over the past 70 years. In 1980, Ararat Convalescent Hospital was purchased in Eagle Rock. And, in 1981, a 10.5-acre parcel of agricultural land was



purchased in Mission Hills and developed into the present-day campus. After several phases of expansion from its opening in 1992 through 2018, the campus is today home to Ararat Assisted Living Facility, Ararat Nursing Facility, Ararat-Eskijian Museum, Deukmejian Community Center, and Sheen Memorial Chapel.

This year, as we reflect, with pride and gratitude, on the 70-year journey of our organization, which has not only existed for seven decades but has remained relevant in its service to our community, we also look to the



new possibilities on the horizon. With plans currently in development for a Continuing Care Retirement Community on the recently acquired 13-acre property adjacent to our Mission Hills campus, we are excited to build our future together in partnership with our community; a future that will ensure the legacy of this extraordinary organization, OUR Ararat Home.

70TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

The Ararat Home family came together in Deukmejian Grand Ballroom on Saturday, May 11, for a banquet celebrating the Home's 70th anniversary.



Organizing Committee



Representative Clergy of Armenian Churches



Board Chair Joseph Kanimian, Esq.



Consul General of Armenia in LA, H.E. Amb. Armen Baibourtian



Long-range Planning Cmt. Chair Michael Surmeian



Allen G. Orchestra



MC Jill Simonian Panossian

Joseph Kanimian, Esq. Re-Elected as Board Chair



Following the Annual Membership Meeting in March, the Board of Trustees elected its Executive Committee for the 2019-2020 year. The Committee is chaired by Joseph Kanimian, Esq., who had previously served as Chairman from 2013 to 2016.

Mr. Kanimian stated, "I am truly honored to serve Ararat Home once again in this capacity," and he expressed his gratitude to his fellow Trustees for their confidence in his leadership. Outgoing Chairman Michael Surmeian thanked the Board for the opportunity to lead Ararat

Home for the past three years. He said, "I am delighted to see Joseph returning as Chair; his experience and extensive involvement in the Armenian community are perfectly suited for the needs of the Home and the Board." They both remarked that Ararat Home is poised for continued success due to the collective efforts of the Home's employees, volunteers and community of supporters.

The other members of the Executive Committee include Ron Nazeley as 1st Vice Chair, Richard Jebejian as 2nd Vice Chair, Debbie Avedian as Secretary, Arthur Zabounian as Assistant Secretary, Michael Surmeian as Treasurer, and Vahe Vartanian as Assistant Treasurer. Ararat Home thanks all trustees and volunteers for their dedication and service!

profession. With her aptitude for numbers, her pragmatism, her particular and attentive work ethic as well as her desire to pursue higher education, Alice took advantage of the times. She enrolled in evening accounting classes at the University of California, Los Angeles. Even though she stopped working formally about ten years later, up until just a few years ago, she was still completing her family's tax forms.

Several years after her move to Los Angeles, Alice was introduced to Harold Mgrublian. Born in Evanston, Illinois, Harold had recently completed his wartime military service as a talented cryptographer of the Japanese naval code. He had then begun working as an engineer in the Los Angeles area. The two were married in 1958 and settled in South Pasadena, where they lived for the next 60 years.

They quickly established deep roots and became very engaged in community life. Following the example of her mother who often volunteered her time and talents at the Armenian church, Alice found her niche in the local community as well as the larger Armenian community of Los Angeles. Living somewhat far from the established Armenian churches at the time, Alice and Harold, along with their two children, became highly involved members at St. James Episcopal Church in South Pasadena. In addition to helping organize many activities and fundraising events at the church, Alice volunteered to run the South Pasadena High School career center, worked at local polling sites during elections, and actively participated in the PTAs at her children's schools. Furthermore, both Alice and Harold were active members of the Pasadena Lodges of the Daughters and Knights of Vartan.

The Mgrublians were also very involved with life at Ararat Home. When Alice's mother moved into the Home, Alice

began volunteering her time here. She was a long-time, active member of the Home's San Gabriel Valley Guild as well as a Gift Shop Volunteer. In the meantime, Harold served on the Board of Trustees for 23 years, beginning from when the campus in Mission Hills was opened. Among his various responsibilities as a trustee, he chaired the Landscaping Committee and was instrumental in planting the Residents' Fruit Orchard. Harold was also charged with Balloting, and along with Alice, the two were regularly present greeting attendees at the annual membership meetings and carefully counting ballots. Always complementing

one another's skills in all that they did, they were a formidable team!

Alice says that she and Harold built and enjoyed a wonderful life together. While they have been extremely proud of their children, David and his wife Margaret, Diane and her husband Ron, the joys of their

lives have been their three granddaughters: Kathryn, Madlyn and Taleen. Alice speaks lovingly of all their remarkable achievements.

After 60 years of marriage, Harold died in January of this year. In May, Alice moved to Ararat Home, a place that has been dear to her heart for so long. While she is no longer able to complete the Los Angeles Times crossword puzzles as before, she remains an avid reader, especially of the daily newspapers. She still looks forward to reading the local news from South Pasadena in addition to national and international news. "It's important to know what's happening," she says with an astute smile and a twinkle in her eye. At 95, she maintains her strong opinions, friendly and open demeanor, and sharp wit.



Assisted Living Facility Achieves Excellent Result for the 15th Consecutive Year

In April, the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) of the California Department of Social Services conducted its annual evaluation of Ararat Assisted Living Facility (ALF). The visit entailed a thorough survey of all aspects of the facility relating to the health, safety and comfort of residents. It reviewed such things as cleanliness, proper storage of food and medications, residents' daily menus, preparedness for emergencies, and resident and staff records to verify compliance with all regulations.

For the 15th year in a row, the CCLD evaluation found zero-deficiencies. Such a consistently "spotless" record is uncommon, especially for a facility of this size, which is currently serving 110 residents. "The operational guidelines we implement daily ensure that we are always ready for unannounced inspections such as this," said ALF Administrator Rita Noravian. She attributes this exemplary record of achievement to the care and devotion of the ALF team. "Staff members treat residents like family; they make every effort to create a safe and loving environment for residents to live and thrive in comfort and dignity."



An Afternoon of Backgammon

Residents from the Assisted Living Facility and Nursing Facility gathered on June 12th for a Backgammon Tournament. Coordinated by the Activity/Life Enrichment staff of both facilities, the event presented a wonderful opportunity for residents to meet each other and enjoy friendly competition. With approximately 25 participants as well as spectators, there is excitement among both residents and staff for future competitions.



Save the Dates

MONTHLY TUESDAY LUNCHEONS

at Ararat Home ~ organized by the Ladies Auxiliary ~
September 10, October 8,
November 5, December 3

August 24 ~
FABULOUS 40's DINNER DANCE
at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
(Rosemead) ~ organized by the
Massis Guild

September 29 ~
67TH ANNUAL PICNIC
at Ararat Home

November 16 ~
CASINO NIGHT XVI
at Ararat Home

December 7 ~ **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** at Beverly Hills Hotel ~ organized by the Westside Guild

Please visit www.ararathome.org for more information on these events.

ARARAT HYLIGHTS

CO-EDITORS

DEBBIE AVEDIAN
ANI DIKRANIAN

PHOTOGRAPHY

HACOB PHOTOGRAPHY

DESIGN/LAYOUT

HOVSEP YERGATIAN



ARARAT HOME OF LOS ANGELES, INC.

15105 Mission Hills Road
Mission Hills, CA 91345

(818) 365-3000
info@ararathome.org
ararathome.org

Published by
(Ararat Home of Los Angeles, Inc.®)

© 2019 All copyrights reserved