

ARARAT

HIGHLIGHTS



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

Spring 2017



Ararat Nursing Facility
Resident Ohannes Erganian

Ohannes Erganian: Blessed with Opportunities

When asked, Ohannes Erganian says he has had a blessed life. Whether his mother's constant prayers for him were answered or he was lucky to cross paths with kind people, he considers the opportunities he had throughout his life to be blessings.

Born in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1929, Ohannes lost his father at the tender age of one. His uncle took on the responsibility of caring for the family. However, because his uncle had been a fighter in General Antranig's army and feared persecution by the Turkish government, he lived in hiding in mountainous regions. This meant that the family moved often.

When Ohannes was six, his eldest brother became old enough to support the family, and they returned to Beirut. Ohannes was a high-

achieving student in school and loved education, but given the family's tenuous financial situation, he knew that continuing on to secondary school would not be feasible. Nevertheless, when presented with the opportunity at the age of 13, he applied for a scholarship to attend Melkonian Educational Institute in Cyprus, and he was accepted.

One of his teachers at Melkonian Institute had received his education in Belgium and encouraged Ohannes to consider pursuing higher education abroad. He helped him procure a scholarship, and upon graduation from Melkonian in 1950, Ohannes attended a university in Belgium, where he studied physical education and rehabilitation. He supplemented his stipend of \$22 a month by doing odd jobs.

During the summer months, one of his classmates offered him a job at her family's seaside resort in Belgium. Ohannes' fluency in Arabic, French, English, Armenian and Turkish came in quite handy. One day, he was tasked with welcoming an Egyptian diplomat who would be staying at the hotel. Despite his initial concerns about his proficiency in "unsophisticated-Arabic", Ohannes was surprised and pleased that the guest responded to him warmly. Seeing this reaction, the hotel owner was impressed and gave Ohannes increasingly greater responsibilities. This later led to his encounter with another hotel guest, a Danish diplomat, who was so impressed with Ohannes that he arranged an opportunity for him to do an internship in neurological disorders and rehabilitative care at a hospital in Denmark.

The physician to whom he was assigned introduced Ohannes to his aunt and her husband. The older couple offered him room and board and soon took him into their family. The husband, whom Ohannes came to call *Papi*, worked in the administration of Denmark's

National Museum. For the two-and-a-half years that he stayed with them, Ohannes enjoyed joining them on outings and attending cultural events.

Upon completing his training in Denmark, Ohannes returned to Lebanon. He married his high school sweetheart, Berjouhi Tchaparian, and together they had three children. In Beirut, Ohannes worked at a UNESCO-affiliated hospital and specialized in treating patients diagnosed with polio and cerebral palsy. He also had a private practice. One of his private patients was a Lebanese dignitary and recommended him to King Hussein of Jordan.

King Hussein invited Ohannes to Jordan, and the week-long invitation turned into a six-year commitment. Ohannes worked at King Hussein Medical Center and became a trusted healthcare provider to the royal family, often accompanying the king's mother, Queen Zein, on her European travels. During this time, Berjouhi and their children escaped the civil war in Lebanon and joined Ohannes in Jordan for two years. When they received their green cards, his family immigrated to the United States settling in Fresno, where Berjouhi's brother lived. Ohannes, however, remained in Jordan at the request of King Hussein and worked to establish a professional training program for physical therapy.

Having achieved success with the opportunities he was provided in Jordan, Ohannes joined his family in the United States, and they settled in Pasadena, California. He worked as a physical therapist at Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center in Burbank until his retirement. Ohannes is the proud father of two daughters and a son and the proud grandfather of seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He says that God gave him a good life blessed with love, kindness and many opportunities.

IN THIS ISSUE

Ohannes Erganian: Blessed with Opportunities	1
Annual Membership Meeting:	2
Progress Fulfilling Our Dreams	
Construction Progress	2
Trustees Answer the Question:	2
What Does Ararat Home Mean to You?	
Ararat Nursing Facility Receives Showcase Award	3
Spring Gardening at Ararat Convalescent Hospital	3
Save the Dates	4

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: PROGRESS FULFILLING OUR DREAMS

By Cindy Kaloostian

The Ararat Home community gathered in the beautifully renovated Deukmejian Grand Ballroom on Sunday, March 5, 2017, to hear about the state of our organization from the Board of Trustees and Administration. We primarily heard reports of 5-star and zero-deficiency ratings of our facilities, plans for the 56-bed expansion of our Assisted Living Facility, highlights of the activities of the highly-regarded Ararat-Eskijian Museum, and a sound financial picture thanks to efficient management as well as successful fundraising by the Board of Trustees and the dedicated volunteers of the Gift Shop, the Ladies Auxiliary and the five Ararat Guilds: Massis, Orange County, San Diego, San Gabriel Valley, and Westside.

Reflecting on the beginnings of Ararat Home on West 27th Street in the West Adams District of Los Angeles and the struggles to simply keep the doors open during the early years, we marvel at the progress we have made. What a testament to the dreamers, the "movers and shakers" of the previous generations, who envisioned such a place! All those in attendance at the meeting felt proud and reassured that the dreams and efforts of the hundreds of faithful staff, volunteers and supporters throughout the years are being fulfilled and continued. And so, we celebrate!



Westside Guild Co-chair Lynnette Amerian, Gift Shop Coordinator Sonia Sakajian, San Gabriel Valley Guild Chair Vicky Parian, Ladies Auxiliary Chair Alice Kavaldjian, Board Chair Mike Surmeian, Massis Guild Advisor Allise Arakelian Hart, Orange County Guild Chair Sona Simsarian, Board Liaison Debbie Avedian

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESSES



Construction of Ararat Assisted Living Facility's new wing is well on its way. By the end of March, 40% of the project had been completed.

While staff looks forward to the coming changes, residents enjoy monitoring the day-to-day progression. Administrator Rita Noravian says, "If there is something new or out of the ordinary, I know I will get a report from the residents the next day!"



TRUSTEES ANSWER THE QUESTION: *What Does Ararat Home Mean to You?*

PETER DARAKJIAN

Ararat Home is a place that offers tranquility and peace of mind to our residents and their families alike. It was established to support and care for our elderly in a home-like environment. That dedication to our residents' quality of life has consistently remained strong as Ararat Home has grown into the organization it is today. With unwavering commitments to the core values of our mission of care and of maintaining our cultural heritage, Ararat Home proudly continues its work.

GARY KALOOSTIAN

Ararat Home means to me a safe and comfortable place for Armenian elderly to live their lives to the fullest. As a member of the Board of Trustees for over 25 years, I have seen the Home's growth and the advancements it continues to make in all areas of care. Our staff works daily to provide the best care possible to our residents, all of whom deserve our very best. It is an honor for me to serve on the Board and contribute in a small way to the success of Ararat Home.

ARARAT NURSING FACILITY RECEIVES SHOWCASE AWARD

We are excited to report that Ararat Nursing Facility is one of three recipients of the California Association of Health Facilities (CAHF) 2017 Showcase Awards! The facility was recognized for the outstanding community outreach its *Little Munchkins' Day* program achieved.

The program was initiated on August 5, 2016, when employees and visitors were invited to bring their children and grandchildren under the age of 15 to the facility to interact with residents. Besides sparking excitement among residents with the presence of children in their home, the program also aimed to expose children to elderly adults and increase their comfort level with the nursing home environment. Additionally, the program was an opportunity for employees to exhibit their work to their children and grandchildren.

With the participation of over 70 "munchkins", residents spoke about the fun they had that day for several weeks afterwards. Considering the success of the program and its positive impact on residents, staff and children alike, the administration plans to organize *Little Munchkins' Day* twice yearly.

CAHF is a state-wide, non-profit association with hundreds of long-term care facility members. The Showcase Awards recognize individual CAHF-member facilities for creating positive awareness of long-term care through community activities, grassroots events and media.



Executive Director Margarita Kechichian and Life Enrichment Team Leaders Nadya Mirzoyan, Mariam Amirkhanian and Karmen Charchoglian accept the award



SPRING GARDENING AT ARARAT CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL



Residents at Ararat Convalescent Hospital greeted the start of spring by potting some plants. As staff now tends to the seedlings, residents are looking forward to having them planted and seeing them blossom in their garden.





Save the Dates

ARARAT HOME ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, June 27; 10:00am – 4:00pm
Deukmejian Grand Ballroom

ARARAT HOME ANNUAL PICNIC

Sunday, September 24; 11:30am – 5:00pm
Ararat Home Grounds

CASINO NIGHT XIV

Saturday, October 21; 5:30pm – 10:00pm
Deukmejian Grand Ballroom

CATHOLICOS VISIT TO ARARAT HOME

Friday, October 27; 3:00pm
Assisted Living Facility New Wing

ARARAT-ESKIJIAN MUSEUM

Contact: Maggie Mangassarian-Goschin
(747) 500-7585

• “THE FESTAL WORKS OF ST. GREGORY OF NAREK”

Lecture by **DR. ABRAHAM TERIAN**

Sunday, May 7; 4:00pm
Sheen Memorial Chapel

• “THE ARMENIANS OF THE LEVANT”

Lecture by **SCOTT ABRAMSON**

Sunday, May 21; 4:00pm
Sheen Memorial Chapel

LADIES AUXILIARY

Contact: Alice Kavaldjian (818) 466-9389

• MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

First Tuesday of Each Month;
11:00am – 2:00pm
Deukmejian Grand Ballroom

• ALOHA HULA HAWAIIAN LUAU

Saturday, August 19; 6:30pm – 10:00pm
Ararat Home Heritage Courtyard

MASSIS GUILD (Montebello)

Contact: Elizabeth Avedissian
(562) 686-3270

• PECHANGA CASINO EXCURSION

Friday, June 9; 9:00am – 4:00pm
Departing: Holy Cross Cathedral, Montebello

• BEESHEE BREAKFAST

July (date TBD)
Montebello Armenian Center

• LUNCH & BINGO

August (date TBD)
Montebello Armenian Center

• MASSIS FASHION SHOW & LUNCHEON

Sunday, October 15; 11:00am – 3:00pm
Friendly Hills Country Club, Whittier

ORANGE COUNTY GUILD

Contact: Sona Simsarian (949) 733-1243

• CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Monday, December 11; 11:00am
Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Irvine

SAN DIEGO GUILD

Contact: Lisa Kradjian (858) 792-5350

• MOTHER'S DAY GARDEN LUNCHEON

Tuesday, May 9
Deddeh Residence, Bonita

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY GUILD

Contact: Vicky Parian (626) 303-2023

• “CHARADES” LUNCHEON SOCIAL

Friday, May 5
Raffi's Catering & Banquet, Pasadena

• CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Sunday, December 10
Raffi's Catering & Banquet, Pasadena

WESTSIDE GUILD

Contact: Lynnette Amerian (818) 389-2500;
Gerri Chuchian (310) 274-1694

• “BE OUR GUEST”

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, May 10; 11:00am
The Japanese Garden, Van Nuys

• GAME DAY

Thursday, June 8
Lakeside Country Club, Toluca Lake

• CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Saturday, December 9
Beverly Hills Hotel

ARARAT HYLIGHTS

CO-EDITORS

DEBBIE AVEDIAN
ANI DIKRANIAN

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

CINDY KALOOSTIAN

PHOTOGRAPHY

ANI DIKRANIAN
AME GARAY
DERIK GHOOKASIAN
STEPHAN PZDIKYAN
VICKY TUMIKYAN

DESIGN/PRINTING

DOCTORIAN PRODUCTIONS



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.®)

© 2017 All copyrights reserved