



ARARAT

HYELIGHTS

THIS ISSUE OF ARARAT HYE LIGHTS IS
DEDICATED TO THE CENTENNIAL OF
THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE.



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

Spring 2015

A VERY SPECIAL

"Celebration of Life"

COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Ararat Home had the unique opportunity and privilege to commemorate the centennial of the Armenian genocide by celebrating the lives of 12 centenarians residing at the Home. On Sunday, March 15, approximately 450 guests gathered at Deukmejian Ballroom for a special program honoring 12 extraordinary individuals born between 1906 and 1915. Two of the honorees

are among the few remaining survivors and witnesses of the Armenian genocide. However, all the honorees have experienced life with moments of triumph, sorrow, joy, pain and fulfillment. Their remarkable lives were presented by students from 11 Los Angeles area Armenian day schools. After the reading of each honoree's biography, students beautifully recited poems composed by

interviews that were filmed by J. Michael Hagopian, digitized by the Armenian Film Foundation and recently obtained by the USC Shoah Foundation to be catalogued in its Visual History Archive and released for public viewing beginning on April 24, 2015. Dr. Smith asserted that the greatest power against denial is the voice of those who can say, "I was there." He said that as the memory of survivors



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treasured Armenian writers that illustrate the enduring spirit of the Armenian people. The symbolism of Armenian centenarians represented by members of the future generation of Armenians was truly poignant.

Keynote speaker Dr. Stephen Smith, Executive Director of the USC Shoah Foundation - The Institute for Visual History and Education, spoke of the importance of celebrating life in the face of the most heinous of crimes in the 20th century. He reaffirmed that there is no better revenge to genocide than to celebrate life lived in full with the highest values of humanity as exemplified by the 12 honorees.

Dr. Smith presented clips of several eyewitness testimonies representing the nearly 400

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE - Centenarian generation ▲
represented by the future generation of Armenians**



Keynote speaker
Dr. Stephen Smith of the
USC Shoah Foundation

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moves into history," now the responsibility becomes ours to take forward that message they have left with us, to use it, to teach with it, to inspire others to celebrate life, not to dwell on death; because that, surely, is the way in which [genocide] prevention will really be possible."



Blessing of the genocide monument in Heritage Courtyard
left to right: Hovik Charshavdzhyan (monument installer), Maggie Mangassarian-Goschin (Ararat-Eskijian Museum Director), Nazareth and Nora Nalbantian (monument sponsors), H.E. Arch. Moushegh Mardirossian (Prelate), H.E. Arch. Hovnan Derderian (Primate), Joseph Kanimian (Board Chairman), Roman Galstyan (monument engraver)



Genocide Memorial Monument

The 12 Ararat Home honorees recorded their message to future generations of Armenians in a touching video prepared by Ani Hovannisian Kevorkian. A producer, director and writer, Mrs. Kevorkian also presented a portion of her video interview with one of the honorees, Yevnige Salibian, who movingly recounted her story of survival during the genocide. In his remarks, Ararat Home Board of Trustees Chairman Joseph Kanimian, Esq. spoke of this theme of survival as well as of the resurrection of the Armenian nation. He thanked all the event participants and presented honorees with special recognition certificates from President Barack

Obama, Governor Jerry Brown, U.S. Representative Brad Sherman, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and Glendale Mayor Zareh Sinanyan.

The program, which was emceed by Gerald Papazian, Chairman of the Armenian Film Foundation Board of Directors, was further enriched by several artistic presentations. Tenor Raffi Kerbabian opened the event by singing the national anthems of the United States and the Republic of Armenia, and later, his wonderful renditions of *Yeraz Im Yerkir Hayreni* and *Kilikia* accompanied the entrance of honorees into the hall, where they were greeted by standing ovations. Dr. Vatche Mankerian played two exquisite pieces on the piano, one of which is his own composition, *Suite After Komitas*. The program concluded with beautiful dance performances by Hamazkayin Nairi Dance Group.

Ararat Home planned additional commemorative events on its Mission Hills campus in March and April. On Thursday, March 12, clergy performed a special requiem service in Sheen Memorial Chapel led by Archbishop Hovnan Derderian,

Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian, Father Armenag Bedrossian and Reverend Joseph Matossian. After a prayer was said in front of the relics of Armenian martyrs that are held in the chapel, clergy and guests proceeded outside for the unveiling and blessing of a new monument. Dedicated to the memory of those who perished and the legacy of those who survived the Armenian genocide, the monument depicts a mulberry tree signifying life, as many children escaped death during the massacres by hiding under the leaves of mulberry trees. In a symbolic gesture, Ararat Home residents planted a sapling near the monument that will grow and blossom as the Armenian nation has in the last century. Over 100 guests enjoyed the ethereal music of flute and harp duo, Salpy and Sossy Kerkonian, during the reception following the service.

Ararat-Eskijian Museum prepared a special exhibition of rare photos of Armenian genocide survivors and posters from the archives of the Near East Foundation, which depict the massive U.S. campaign to aid Armenian survivors in the years following the genocide. The exhibition was displayed for three months in the museum, on campus, for special events and during the Home's Monthly Tuesday Luncheons. Additionally, on March 8, Ararat-Eskijian Museum hosted a talk by Turkish scholar Dr. Fatma Müge Göçek, Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies at the University of Michigan. Dr. Göçek spoke about the denial of collective violence committed against Armenians throughout Ottoman and Turkish history, from 1789 to the present day.

In remembrance of the blood spilled by countless victims during the genocide, the Home collaborated with the American Red Cross to host a successful blood drive on April 7. With the participation of 52 donors, members of the Ararat Home community may have potentially helped save the lives of 117 individuals.

And finally, as is customary at the Home on every April 24th, this year, too, residents along with staff, family members and trustees gathered in the chapel for a memorial prayer service and laying of flowers at the genocide monument and *khatchkar* on campus. With these commemorative events, Ararat Home remembered the genocide martyrs of a century past and celebrated the survival and revival of the Armenian nation since.

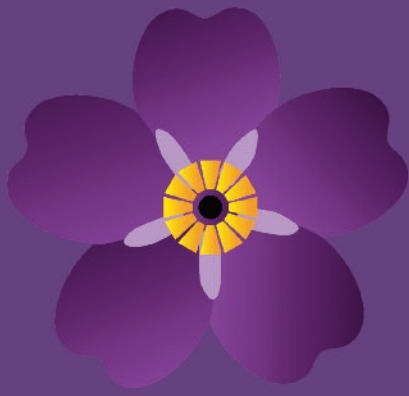
Turkish scholar
Dr. Fatma Müge Göçek
lectures in Sheen
Memorial Chapel



Community Blood Drive



Prayer service in Sheen Memorial Chapel on April 24th attended by residents, staff, family members, board members and guests



CELEBRATION OF LIFE 1915 – 2015

Meet Our Beloved Centenarians Who Were Honored at our *"Celebration of Life"* Commemoration Event



YERVANT BABAYAN was born in Aintab, Turkey in 1913. His father, Reverend Father Nerses Babayan, was a prominent leader of Aintab's heroic resistance against the Turks. At the age of 20, Yervant began teaching, and within a few years, he became a school principal. This was the start of his long and successful career as a loved, respected and prominent educator.

Yervant was a community leader, who pursued the goal of preserving the Armenian language and culture. As a good-will ambassador, he visited several Armenian communities and successfully achieved his mission of establishing and supporting Armenian schools. As an educator, community leader, motivational speaker, fundraiser, writer and editor, he enjoyed the love, respect and appreciation of the communities he visited in North and South America, Australia, Armenia and the Middle East. While he was known as "Baron Babayan" (Mr. Babayan) in the community, his thousands of students called him "Sireli Baron Dnoren" (Dear Mr. Principal).

Yervant passed away at the age of 101. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He has been the recipient of numerous recognitions from political leaders for his contributions to society. He has also received three *gontags* and medals from Catholicos Vazken I, Karekin II and Aram I. During his centennial birthday celebration in 2013, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian announced the dedication of the "Yervant Babayan Saturday School" at the Armenian Apostolic Church Crescenta Valley.



ZAROUHI CHAPCHAPIEN was born in September 1912 in Alexandria, Egypt. Zarouhi's parents, Bedros and Osanna, had moved from Dikranagerd to Alexandria, where Bedros worked as a jeweler, while Osanna managed the household and raised Zarouhi and her four siblings. Zarouhi's parents died when she was only four years old, and her older siblings, who were married at the time, took Zarouhi and her younger sister in.

Zarouhi met her husband Abdollah Wahba, when he was studying to become a physician and she was training to become a seamstress. Soon after marriage, they were blessed with two daughters, Sonia and Theresa. In 1978, Zarouhi moved to the United States.

She had always been an avid reader and particularly enjoyed

reading the Bible and passing her time sewing. At 102 years of age, Zarouhi has been a resident of Ararat Home since 2003.



ROSE GARJIAN was born in May 1908 in Kilis, Turkey. Her father Zakar Dedeian worked as a shoemaker, and her mother Maritsa worked as a teacher. Zakar's friendship with the mayor of Kilis proved to be instrumental in the family's survival during the genocide, when Zakar took his family to a neighboring village to go into hiding. While there, he gathered local orphans, took them to an abandoned school for shelter and provided food for them daily.

The family later moved to Lebanon, where Rose attended a Catholic school in Zahle, and later to Syria, where she attended the American Missionary High School in Aleppo. In 1927, Robert Garjian, who was a successful cobbler in the United States, traveled to Aleppo to marry Rose. The couple established their home in New York and were soon blessed with two daughters, Ellen and Mary.

Eventually Rose and Robert moved to Los Angeles, where Rose was active in the Armenian community. She was a member of the United Armenian Congregational Church, a member of Massis Church, the treasurer for Marash Women's Group, a founding member of Aleppo College, and a member of the Valley Guild of Ararat Home. In 1986, Robert passed away, and in 2004, Rose moved to Ararat Home.

As a survivor of the Armenian Genocide, the USC Shoah Foundation honored Rose in 2012. Now at 107 years of age, Rose has six grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren along with nephews and nieces who all love and adore her.



TATUL KARAMANYAN was born in December 1915 in Istanbul, Turkey, to Yeghia and Aghavni Karamanyan. He had two older sisters and an older brother named Tatul, who had passed away at a young age and whose name he was given at birth. He attended Sahakian School in Samatia and then the Mekhitarist Armenian school of Vienna, after which he established his career in the manufacturing and retail sectors of the shoe industry. During his mandatory service in the Turkish armed

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MEET OUR BELOVED CENTENARIANS WHO WERE HONORED AT OUR *"Celebration of Life"* COMMEMORATION EVENT

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forces, he was tasked with using his creative skills to fashion leather goods for the military. He also used his musical talents to entertain his fellow soldiers.

He and his wife Sona had two sons, Varoujan and Zaven, and later three grandchildren. In 1969, Tatul and his family moved to the United States and settled in Los Angeles, where he faithfully attended church services on Sundays and became a very active participant in the Khachadourian Choir.

In 2011, Tatul and Sona moved to Ararat Home, where despite Sona's death last year, Tatul remains happy and looks forward to soon celebrating his 100th birthday.



ZABEL KRIKORIAN was born in May 1908 in Istanbul, Turkey. When she was eight years old, her parents Yenovk and Elmon Kapamagian were killed in the genocide leaving her and her sister orphaned.

Several years later, Zabel followed her older sister and moved to Romania, where at the age of 21, she married Hagop Krikorian. Hagop had his own story of survival having escaped death in Dikranagerd with the aid of a Kurdish friend. Zabel and Hagop established their home in Romania and soon had two children, Nadia and Krikor. They later immigrated to Lebanon, and in 1976, they settled in the United States.

Zabel worked as a seamstress in her earlier years and, in retirement, enjoyed reading, crocheting, gardening and doing puzzles. Zabel passed away in December 2014, several months after having celebrated her 106th birthday at Ararat Home. She would always say that her secret to longevity had been her love of animals, chasing after her three beautiful grandchildren and enjoying a bit of chocolate every now and then.



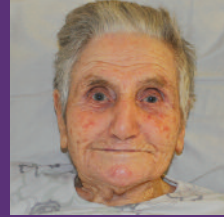
ZARE OZSETRAKYAN was born in February 1915 to Yervant and Arusyag Ozsetrakyan in Bakirkoy, a small coastal fishing village of Istanbul, Turkey, where Yervant was one of the top fishermen. Zare attended the famous Bezazyan Armenian School and spent much of his time in the

water swimming, rowing or fishing. As an adult, he chose metal polishing as his profession and was a well-respected master of his craft among his peers. Even though Zare's family was subjected to many hardships and occasions of brutal treatment by the Turkish government, they remained in their village and persevered.

In 1944, Zare married his sweetheart Anahit, and they were later blessed with two daughters, Alice and Nadya. Zare and Anahit lovingly raised their daughters and instilled in them the Armenian spirit, despite the oppression to which they were subjected by the Turkish government. They were first-hand witnesses to the atrocious Istanbul riots in September 1955, during which Greek and Armenian houses, business and churches were ransacked. Years later, their daughters moved with their families to the United States wishing not to raise their children in Turkey. Growing lonely, Zare and

Anahit followed them in 1984.

In 2012, Zare lost his lifelong sweetheart, Anahit. In April 2014, he moved to Ararat Home, where he has developed wonderful new friendships and recently celebrated his 100th birthday.



ASTGIK SAAKYAN was born in March 1915 in Alashkert, Armenia, to parents Aghassi and Artun Saakyan. After completing her primary education in grade six, she began working in the local flower market as a florist. She loved and enjoyed her work, particularly the creativity it required.

Astgik met and married Alibek, who was a talented cemetery stone carver, and together they had four children: Mayis, Levon, Vanig and Tamara. In 1991, Astgik and her family immigrated to the United States.

Astgik is loving and good-natured and has always devoted her time to her family, especially her six grandchildren. She has been a resident at Ararat Home since 2008, where she recently celebrated her 100th birthday.



HASMIK SAHAKIAN was born in November 1913 to Minas and Hykanoush Gharakhanian. Minas was a highly respected businessman and accountant, and Hykanoush was a homemaker and true family matriarch. While the Gharakhanian family tree can be traced back to the 17th

century in Isfahan, Iran, Hasmik grew up in Tehran, where she attended Davidian School. Nevertheless, she acquired the Isfahani dry humor, which her family and friends always appreciated.

In 1933, Hasmik married Babken Sahakian, a self-made man who had grown up as an orphan, and together they had two children, Larissa and Michael. Hasmik became very involved in the parents' support group when her children started attending Davidian School. She also became a wonderful cook learning how to prepare many specialty dishes.

In 1984, following the Iranian Revolution, Hasmik and Babken moved to the United States and settled in Glendale. In 2009, having lost some mobility, the couple moved to Ararat Home. Babken died in 2010, just two weeks shy of his 100th birthday. And, in April of this year, shortly after being honored at our "Celebration of Life" event, Hasmik passed away at the age of 101. Her five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, who all loved and adored her, will continue to remember and mimic her wonderful humor.



YEVNIGE SALIBIAN was born in Aintab, Turkey, in January 1914 to Aposhe and Esther Aposhian. She has vivid memories of her life in Aintab, where she recalls hearing the cries of children in the streets as they passed her family's house along their death marches into the desert. Yevnige and her family fled Aintab in 1921. On their way to Aleppo, Syria,

MEET OUR BELOVED CENTENARIANS WHO WERE HONORED AT OUR “*Celebration of Life*” COMMEMORATION EVENT

the horse-drawn carriage in which they were traveling overturned onto the ledge of a cliff. Yevnige was ejected from the carriage and became suspended in the air by a rope that had gotten tied around her thigh. She was pulled to safety, but the scar that has been left on her leg since that day often brings back these memories.

By the time her family reached Aleppo, Yevnige and her siblings had smallpox. After they recovered, the family moved on and settled in Damascus, where Yevnige attended the Armenian Evangelical School. When Muslim mobs began searching for Armenian Christians to kill, Yevnige's father gathered widows and orphans in Damascus, and they all fled to Beirut, Lebanon. They took refuge in government shelters but were soon obliged to leave when Muslim pilgrims, needing shelter on their way to Mecca and Medina, arrived. The family settled in *Ghermeze Ghazekh*, “mosquito-land,” where they contracted malaria. While taking care of the sick, Yevnige's mother became ill and died leaving Yevnige motherless at the young age of 13. The family then moved back to Damascus, where Yevnige completed elementary school and was encouraged by her principal to attend the Armenian Evangelical School for Girls in Beirut.

In 1935, Yevnige married Vahram Salibian. The couple moved to Ghazir, Lebanon, where Vahram was hired by a Swiss benevolent institution to become the pastor for many orphaned children and others with physical, visual and hearing disabilities. Yevnige became his dedicated and compassionate partner, and they created a happy home for their six children: Armine Esther, Araxie, Norair Hampartzoum, Shoushig, Samuel and John.

In 1976, the couple immigrated to San Jose, California, where Yevnige happily tended her gardens. In 2005, she moved to Ararat Home. At 101 years old, Yevnige tells whomever she speaks with: “God has been good to me. He has been my Good Shepherd, has led me all my life, and has given me a wonderful husband, six children, 12 grandchildren and more.” Last year, the USC Shoah Foundation honored Yevnige as a survivor of the Armenian Genocide.



GOHAR SOSIKIAN was born in October 1914 in the Dzdvsdan village of Van, Turkey. At the age of one, she lost her father, and thus remained under the care of her mother and older brother, Hamazasb. Following her father's death, the family immigrated to Yerevan, Armenia, and then to Basra, Iraq,

where she received her primary education thanks to her brother's efforts, who taught her to read and write in Armenian.

At the age of 20, Gohar married Mnatsagan Sosikian, who worked for the Iraqi Petroleum Company, and they were blessed with four sons: Papken, Viken, Armen and Suren. Gohar enjoyed serving the Armenian community; she joined the Armenian Relief Society and has been a devoted member of the organization to this day.

When their children immigrated to the United States with their families, Gohar and Mnatsagan decided to follow them. As Mnatsagan's health deteriorated, he expressed his wish to move to Ararat Home with Gohar at his side. In 2008, saying that she must help the nurses get her “Mnats” back on his feet again, Gohar and

her husband became Ararat Home residents. Unfortunately, Mnatsagan's health didn't improve and he passed away.

At 100 years old, Gohar still calls Ararat Home her home. Being the optimist that she has always been, when asked, “How are you?” she replies, “I'm always fine!”



ALICE SWARINGEN was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, in May 1914. Her parents, Bedros and Aghavni Boyajian, had emigrated from Kharpert, Turkey, through Ellis Island and settled in the Armenian community of Worcester. The family later bought a large plot of farmland and moved to Rhode Island, where Alice and her five siblings were very active at St. George Armenian Church in Hartford, Connecticut.

After obtaining her Bachelor's degree, Alice began her career teaching high school English. She eventually moved to California, where she met and married Tom Swaringen, a Marine serving at Camp Pendleton. Tom's duties in the Marine Corps afforded the couple the opportunity to travel extensively in the United States and throughout Europe.

In 1967, Tom passed away, and Alice relocated to Nevada. She led a very active social life and was always surrounded by a large circle of friends. She enjoyed singing and collecting antique furniture and fine china. She also had a passion for crossword puzzles and trivia games. In 2009, Alice became an Ararat Home resident, where she just celebrated her 101st birthday.



MARIAM TAHMASIAN was born in March 1906 in the Iranian village of Farajabad, where her parents, Hovnan and Tarlan, were farmers. At the tender age of three, Mariam lost her mother, and along with her five sisters, she was raised by her father and stepmother. She learned the

crafts of rug weaving, knitting and cooking.

In 1931, Mariam married Levon and moved in with his family. Unfortunately, six years later, Levon passed away due to illness, and Mariam continued living with her in-laws until the end of the Second World War.

In 1946, Mariam married her second husband Ghazar, a farmer who had studied with the American missionaries to also become a pastor. Mariam became a stepmother to Ghazar's seven children from a previous marriage, and the couple had three additional children. In 1956, Mariam and Ghazar moved their family to Tehran. Mariam lost her husband in 1992, and thereafter, her children gradually moved away with their own families. Mariam eventually grew lonely, and in 2007, she finally decided to move to California to be near her family.

In 2008, Mariam became an Ararat Home resident and says that she feels blessed to call this her home, where she recently celebrated her 108th birthday.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

By Cindy Kaloostian

Each year, all members of Ararat Home are encouraged to attend the organization's annual membership meeting, which offers the Ararat Home community a close look at the activities and accomplishments of the Home's devoted volunteers and staff. The meetings are generally held on the first Sunday of March. And so, on March 1st, Board of Trustees Chairman Joseph Kanimian, Esq. welcomed members to the 2015 Annual Meeting and gave a brief "State of Ararat Home" report. In turn, our power-house trio of administrators – Rita Noravian of the Assisted Living Facility, Margarita Kechichian of the Skilled Nursing Facility, Varsenik Keshishyan of the Convalescent Hospital – and Chief Operating Officer Derik Ghookasian, who serves as the glue of the organization, presented their reports giving pause to appreciate the great work being done at the Home by a team of about 400 dedicated employees.

The chairs of Board committees and supporting organizations reported on the efforts of the Home's committed volunteers in promoting the mission of Ararat Home as well as raising the spirits of our beloved residents while raising much-needed funds. The Ladies Auxiliary, the Gift Shop and the four active Guilds together contributed \$165,500 for the continued operations of the Home, the growth of the Endowment Fund and the planned expansion of the Assisted Living Facility.

The meeting adjourned after the election of the following members to the Board of Trustees for a three-year term: Dr. Raffi Balian, Mr. Peter Darakjian, Mr. Armen Hampar, Mr. Richard Jebejian, Mr. Rafi Mardirosian, Dr. Roy Martinian, Dr. Harout Mesrobian, Mr. Berj Shahbazian and Mrs. Nadya Verabian.



Representatives of Ararat Home supporting organizations: Patty Samarge (Chairlady, Westside Guild), Debbie Avedian (Board Liaison), Joseph Kanimian (Chairman, Board of Trustees), Vicky Parian (Chairlady, San Gabriel Valley Guild), Susan Kardashian (Treasurer, Valley Guild), Dianne Ohanesian (Chairlady, Ladies Auxiliary)



BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2015

Sitting (left to right): Maggie Mangassarian-Goschin, Debbie Avedian (Asst. Secretary), Michael Surmeian, CPA (Treasurer), Nora Hampar (2nd Vice Chair), Joseph Kanimian, Esq. (Chairman), Nazar Ashjian, CPA (Past Chairman), Nadya Verabian (Secretary), Armen Hampar (Past Chairman), Vatche Bardakjian, M.D. Standing (left to right): Richard Jebejian, Rafi Mardirosian, Arthur Zabounian, Harout Mesrobian, M.D., Gary Kaloostian, Shahe Boyadjian, Roy Martinian, D.D.S., Berj Shahbazian, Edvin Minassian, Esq., Vahe Vartanian (Asst. Treasurer)

Not pictured: Ron Nazeley (1st Vice Chair), Raffi Balian, M.D., Peter Darakjian, Joseph Ouzounian, M.D., Kohar Mardirosian Pelter, MSN, Sinan Sinanian

Membership is open to all supporters of Ararat home who pay annual dues of \$25, a one-time lifetime membership fee of \$500, or join one of the six area Guilds: "Massis" in Montebello, Orange County, San Diego, San Gabriel Valley, Valley, and Westside.

IN MEMORIAM:

Jenny Kurkjian



Ararat Home recently lost a very dedicated member of its community, Trustee Jenny Kurkjian. Jenny began her lifelong commitment to Ararat Home in 1954, when her parents Avedis and Maritza Hatchadourian served as Administrators. Volunteering at the Home for more than 60 years, she was as a trustee on the board for more than 40 years, where she served on several committees, including Archives, Annual Dinner Dance, Nominations and Skilled Nursing Facilities.

For 42 years, Jenny volunteered as a member of the Ladies Auxiliary and served as chairlady from 1972 to 1976. In 1996, Westside Guild of Ararat Home honored Jenny as "Angel of the Year" for her devotion and loyalty to the Home. Jenny was an energetic, hands-on, selfless volunteer who was always ready to assist in any capacity to make Ararat Home a better place for our elders. Ararat Home is grateful to have had such a wonderful, altruistic volunteer. Jenny will be dearly missed.

TRUSTEES ANSWER THE QUESTION:

What Does Ararat Home Mean To You?

Joseph G. Ouzounian, M.D.

Ararat Home is a treasured asset for the entire Armenian community. There is no doubt that the Home provides high quality care to our elderly, but in a larger sense, it symbolizes dignity and is a beacon of hope. My family has been involved with the Home for over 35 years, and I am proud to continue that tradition.

Kohar Mardirossian Pelter, RN, MSN

To me, Ararat Home represents a national symbol. It is a safe haven for the generation of our fathers and mothers who have seen the unspeakable suffering of the Genocide. They nurtured us against all odds, and that is why we thrived. Now, it is our turn to honor, respect and care for them with the utmost dignity and in the best way possible.

It is the staff, medical personnel, and supervisory teams of the Mission Hills and Eagle Rock facilities of Ararat Home who carry out the daily duties and provide the quality of care that we expect for our precious parents. We thank them for their unwavering commitment and quality of service to the residents and patients. And, it is us, the Board of Trustees who have the duty and obligation to uphold the highest standards for our elders at the Home.

Arthur H. Zabounian

While sitting on a bench one afternoon, my senses were all tuned in to the familiar setting around me – the Home away from home, namely Ararat Home. I could not help but wonder what it is that makes Ararat Home such a blessed place to so many.

Perhaps it emanates from the energy brought forth by the hard work of our staff, the generosity of our volunteers and the support of our donors, which when taken as a whole, creates an abundance of love and mutual respect for our community within and at large.

Even Nature sheds her continual blessings on us each spring with the return of the swallows and their music as they build their nests in the quiet corners of our buildings sheltered by the trees that surround them.

I believe there is a divine blessing bestowed upon all of us who genuinely care for the well-being of our elders. It is these elders who committed their lives to upholding our cultural values through the generations which have followed, thereby paving the path of righteousness for us to follow.

I can only speculate on the true nature of what is behind the force that has created this magical place. There is, however, one thing I am certain of: no matter how much we give with humility, it is only a fraction compared to what our elderly have given to us. May we all continue in what we are doing to carry forward the noble task of caring for our elderly.

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SAVE THE DATES

**ARARAT HOME
ANNUAL PICNIC**
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

CASINO NIGHT XII
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

ARARAT-ESKIJIAN MUSEUM BOOK READING

Lou Ureneck: "The Great
Fire" (*Smyrna*)
FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 7:00 P.M.
Ararat Home - Sheen Chapel

**LADIES AUXILIARY
MONTHLY LUNCHEONS**
FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH
11:00 A.M.
Ararat Home
Deukmejian Ballroom

**LADIES AUXILIARY
WINE TASTING
UNDER THE STARS**
SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 7:00 P.M.
Ararat Home Heritage Courtyard
CONTACT: Vernalie Deirmenjian
818-709-4450

**MASSIS GUILD
BEESHEE BREAKFAST**
SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 10:00 A.M.
Armenian Center, Montebello
BINGO & BUFFET LUNCH
SATURDAY, AUGUST 22,
11:00 A.M.
Armenian Center, Montebello

**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY GUILD
GETTING-TO-KNOW-YOU
LUNCH II**
SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 11:30 A.M.
Embassy Suites, Arcadia
CONTACT: Cindy Kaloostian
626-792-4479
**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS
LUNCHEON**
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13
Details to follow



IN MEMORIAM:

Hasmik Mgrdichian

Ararat Home recently lost one of its benefactors, Hasmik Mgrdichian. Hasmik and her husband John had been long-time supporters of Ararat Home even from its earlier days on 27th Street in Los Angeles. After John's death in 1990, Hasmik created the John and Hasmik

Mrgdichian Foundation and continued her generosity to the Home as well as to other Armenian causes and local non-profit organizations.

Hasmik was instrumental in financing the establishment of Ararat-Eskijian Museum in 1993 and supporting its operations thereafter. She was also a great supporter of the Home's building and expansion projects, annual fundraising activities, and various special projects that aimed to improve the quality of life and care for residents. Ararat Home is deeply grateful for her dedication and philanthropy. Her legacy of good works will live on through the seeds she has planted at the Home and through the continuing efforts of her foundation.

**VALLEY GUILD
BI-MONTHLY LUNCHEON**
Presentation by
Maral Boyadjian:
"As the Poppies Bloomed"
MONDAY, JUNE 29, 11:30 A.M.
Ararat Home Board Room
CONTACT: Tamarr Murachanian
818-362-2100

**WESTSIDE GUILD
GAME DAY 2015**
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 10:00 A.M.
Lakeside Country Club,
Toluca Lake
CONTACT: Liliana Youssoufian
818-425-4852
**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS
LUNCHEON**
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12,
11:00 A.M.
Beverly Hills Hotel
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