

# Bedo's Journey

By Debbie Avedian

For those of us who have a preconceived notion that life ends when we go to a retirement home, we need only to look at Ararat Home to dispel this stereotype. A remarkable art exhibit took place on November 19, 2011 hosted by the Ararat-Eskijian Museum with the aid of curator, Windon S. Newton and museum director, Maggie Mangassarian-Goschin. Boghos Bedros Bulanik better known as "Bedo" is a perfect example of how residents are constantly encouraged to blossom at the Home.

Bedo is an accomplished and proficient artist in the abstract genre, and utilizes warm earthy colors in his acrylic on canvas paintings. Bedo's expertise in blending lines, shapes and colors are truly remarkable. His landscape themes depict the beauty and charm of his surroundings.

Born in Istanbul, Turkey in 1932, Bedo moved to the United States in 1956. He attended the prestigious Chouinard Art School in Los Angeles where he studied and mastered acrylic paintings and ceramics. After graduating in 1958, he attended Los Angeles Trade Technical College where he studied advertising. He has won several awards from the Armenian Allied Arts Association, and his works have been displayed in many art shows. Bedo has given most of his



works to friends and family. He also very generously donated one of his paintings to the Westside Guild of Ararat Home for use in their silent auction at their Annual Christmas Luncheon.

In 1961 with his brother-in-law, Vahe Artan, he opened *Artan*, an art gallery with supplies in Sherman Oaks. He enjoyed his work where famous film and television actors were his patrons for nearly 40 years. The list of celebrities goes on and on including: John Travolta, Sally Field, Chuck Connors, Andy Garcia, and John Forsythe.

Bedo is a man who lives his life with passion and adventure. He enjoyed gourmet cooking and traveling around the world visiting China, Japan, Russia, India, Europe and South America.

Presently, he is a content resident at the Skilled Nursing Facility and refers to the staff as being "extremely pleasant and kind". He enjoys reading mystery and romance novels, listening to classical baroque music, and loves watching the old classic movies. His favorites include "*Some Like It Hot*" and "*The Heiress*". He also looks forward to the monthly Auxiliary luncheons where he enjoys a



Bedo Bulanik with long time friend, Nevart Vartanian

delicious lunch and great entertainment with his family and close friends. Illustrating, once again, that residents can continue living a fulfilled life.

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# ARARAT ANNUAL MEETING

By Cindy Kaloostian

A rainy day couldn't keep faithful Ararat Home supporters from attending the Annual Meeting on Sunday afternoon, March 25, 2012. With a quorum established, Board Chairman Nazar H. Ashjian, Jr. called the meeting to order and enthusiastically reported that the Home had another outstanding year. Mr. Ashjian gave special recognition and a gift of a red rose to those who have served as Board members for 15 years or more. These honorees are: Jenny Kurkjian, John Vosbigian, Richard Jebejian, Art Arutian, Armen Hampar, Gary Kaloostian, Nora Hampar, Sinan Sinanian, Harold Mgrublian and Judge Ruth Essegian, and Beatrice Malkhasian (Board Secretary). Also

Babikian praised the staffs of Ararat Convalescent Hospital, Eagle Rock, Mission Hills Assisted Living and Mission Hills Skilled Nursing Facility respectively. Each shared gratitude to employees and volunteers alike who have made it possible for Ararat Home's facilities to receive rave reviews from the State of California and the Federal Government. Zero deficiencies and five-star ratings require maximum effort and compassion from everyone in the organization, and that is exactly what Ararat Home offers its residents, maximum effort and compassion.

Plant Manager Vahe Hamalian and Board Treasurer Michael Surmeian continued with positive reports, and Mr. Ashjian gave an update concerning the Mission Hills 58 bed expansion that is scheduled for occupancy by Summer of 2013. Later in the program, Mr. Ron Nazeley, co-chair of the Fund Raising Committee, showed an artist's rendering of the new facility and reported that the community is financially supportive of the expansion. Further reports were received by Committee members or chairpersons of the Ballroom (\$418,000 gross income during 2011), Casino Night (\$18,000 net), the Endowment Fund (\$156,000 interest earned in 2011), Picnic (\$20,000 net) and the Gift Shop which is donating \$8,000 to upgrade the sound system in the Residents' Dining Hall. Much to the delight of the audience, the Ladies Auxiliary and Guilds announced their gifts totaling \$184,500. Board Member and Executive Director of the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, Maggie Goschin happily announced a plan to remodel and refurbish the museum over the next two years. She also encouraged attendance at the annual Quiz Bowl, which will take place on April 29, 2012.

Reelected to the Board of Trustees for a three-year term were Armen Hampar, Richard Jebejian, Jenny Kurkjian, Charles Keligian, Nadya Verabian and Berj Shahbazian.

With such good reports and news to digest, all were able to enjoy a delicious kebab dinner hosted by the Home.



Cindy Kaloostian, Carmen Libaridian, Lucy Melkonian, Chairman, Nazar H. Ashjian, Jr., Dianne Ohanesian, and Allise Arakelian Hart

recognized were Agnes Boghosian, Lucy Hovsepien and Jeannette Marderosian, who have faithfully assisted the staff in many capacities for more than fifteen years.

Glowing reports were received from all departments of the organization. Mrs. Aida Yeghiayan, Mrs. Rita Noravian and Mrs. Margo

## Update on Ararat Skilled Nursing Expansion Project

By Debbie Avedian

The Skilled Nursing Facility construction project, which will add an additional 58 beds, is moving along smoothly and as planned. It is scheduled to be completed by March 2013 and is expected to be ready for occupancy by the summer of 2013. Although the Home possesses most of the funds from previous and current donations, money will still have to be raised to complete the project without incurring additional debt. Co-chairs of the Fund Raising Committee, Ron Nazeley and Berj Shahbazian, have compiled a list of "Opportunities for Giving". Please help the Home by making your donation to the building fund and become a benefactor. More than ever we need your support for this project in order to expand services to our elderly community. To learn more about these giving opportunities, please contact Beatrice Malkhasian at (818) 838-4860 or email at [boardbea@ararathome.org](mailto:boardbea@ararathome.org).





# Archbishops Offer Armenian Christmas Blessings; Students Tour Museum, Entertain Residents

By Phyllis Hamo



Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian (center, back), Clergy of the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church with Chairman, Nazar H. Ashjian, Jr., Rita Noravian, Administrator of Assisted Living Facility, Residents and Staff

It has long been a tradition for the Ararat Home to receive regular visits by priests and pastors of the local Armenian Apostolic, Catholic, and Evangelical churches. This year's 2012 Western Diocese visit took place at the Mission Hills campus on January 4, two days before Armenian Christmas. Rev. Fr. Haroutioun Tachejian led the Divine Liturgy followed by the after-service blessing of water conducted by Archbishop Hovnan Derderian.

Western Prelate, Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian, and accompanying clergy made their Armenian Christmas visit on January 10 in the residents' dining rooms of the Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living Facilities. Prayer services and the blessing of water took place in Ararat's Sheen Chapel. Archpriest Fr. Vicken Vassilian delivered the sermon.

Several times every year Archbishop Hovnan Derderian from the Armenian Apostolic Diocese in Burbank and Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian from the Armenian Apostolic Prelacy in La Crescenta visit the residents, sing and pray with them, and bless them. There is great joy and satisfaction realized by residents, staff, and board members who gather in the Home's dining rooms and Sheen Chapel for prayers and services. The highlights of these visits are often Holy Communion, songs, prayers, and the blessing of the water (bread and salt). The bread

symbolizes the Word of God, the salt the seasoning of life with wisdom and moderation, and the water cleanliness, through Baptism, renewal and union in Christ.

In addition to pastoral visits, the residents are treated to programs presented by students from local Armenian schools. The students, in turn, receive the gift of learning to be compassionate toward their elders and learn to appreciate the Home's value to the Armenian community.

Students from the Holy Martyrs Armenian Elementary School recently visited the Ararat-Eskijian Museum located just beneath the Sheen Chapel. Their teachers Azadouhi Ghazarian, Anahid Bulanikian, Anika Asnerian, pianist Alfred Mardoyan, and dance instructor Lilia Margaryan accompanied them. The director of the museum, Maggie Mangassarian Goschin, greeted them, and gave information regarding Armenian art, embroidery, costumes, photographs, and the Armenian Genocide. Students went on to sing, recite, and dance for the residents before returning to school. Ninth grade students from the Holy Martyrs Ferrahian High School also toured the Museum with Mrs. Goschin as their guide. The Ararat Convalescent Hospital in Eagle Rock also receives clergy and student visits.



Archbishop Hovnan Derderian (center), Archpriest Fr. Arshag Khatchadourian (right), and Fr. Mampre Kesabyan (left), conduct "Blessing of Water" ceremony



5th Grade Students entertain Residents with Songs and Dance



Museum Director Maggie Goschin (right), provides key information to Ferrahian High School students during their visit



9th Grade Students Dance with Residents

# A Special Visit

By Margo Y. Babikian, RN, MS, HCM  
Executive Director  
Ararat Nursing Home



Executive Director, Margo Babikian and her staff displaying afghans crocheted for residents by Mrs. Asien Surmeian, third from left

In the fast lane of complex challenges, frequent unplanned interruptions are the norm at Ararat Nursing Home. It seems our facility has a special charm and character where people drop in for tours, for admission inquiries, for employment... the list can expand in any day of the year.

This special visit was not one of the interruptions. It was planned and we were very much looking forward to it. This was not the first appearance of Mrs. Asien Surmeian and her darling daughter Julie at our facility. Once again, she has crocheted multi-colored afghans for our residents. Our elderly love Asien's vibrant designs. Each afghan is a labor of love. Each afghan is a true reflection of her warmth, respect and sensitivity towards our residents.

Having intimate knowledge of Asien's effective communication skills, I asked her if she would deliver a devotional to our residents. Impromptu, with no teleprompter devices, she presented a touching exposition of the journey of the Magi. One could observe the adoring gaze of our elderly as Asien was making references to our journey in life. Storytelling, which Asien does masterfully, has left a prominent mark at Ararat Nursing Home.

A special treatment by a special lady can never be forgotten.

## Valley Guild of Ararat Home Presents Dinner-Show with Element Band Sunday, May 20 at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets \$65   Students \$45   |   Contact Susan Kardashian (818) 825-9178

# SAVE THE DATES 2012

**Ladies Auxiliary**  
**"Wine Tasting Under the Stars"**  
Sunday, August 19

**ARARAT Annual Picnic**  
Sunday, September 23

**Massis Guild Fashion Show**  
**(Whittier Radisson Hotel)**  
Saturday, October 13

**ARARAT Casino Night**  
Saturday, December 1

**Westside Guild Christmas Luncheon**  
Saturday, December 8

## ARARAT HIGHLIGHTS

### EDITOR

DEBBIE AVEDIAN

### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

MARGO Y. BABIKIAN  
PHYLLIS HAMO  
CINDY KALOOSTIAN

### ADVISORS

ARMEN HAMPAR  
NORA HAMPAR

### DESIGN/PRINTING

DOCTORIAN PRODUCTIONS



**ARARAT HOME OF LOS ANGELES, INC.®**

15105 MISSION HILLS ROAD  
MISSION HILLS, CA 91345

**(818) 365-3000**

(818) 898-0224 FAX

**www.ararathome.org**

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