



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

Summer 2012

# The Rose Garjian Story

## – Genocide Survivor With Courage and Perseverance

By Debbie Avedian

**A**rarat Home resident Rose Garjian was born on May 1, 1908 in Kilis located in south-central Turkey. Her father Zakar Dedeian worked as a shoemaker and cobbler, and her mother Maritsa worked as a teacher until her marriage.

During the genocide, Zakar Dedeian's friendship with the mayor of Kilis proved to be helpful for the survival of his family. Without any explanation, he hurriedly took his family to a neighboring small village to go into hiding from the Turks. Without hesitation, Mr. Dedeian gathered local orphans and took them to an abandoned school for hiding and provided food

for them daily.

Education was a priority for the Dedeian family, and Rose was sent to a Catholic school in Zahle, Lebanon where she learned French and Arabic.

Her family later moved to Aleppo where she attended the American Missionary High School until she met her husband, Robert Garjian, a successful cobbler, who had come from the United States to marry her. On August 3, 1927, Rose and Robert moved to New York where in 1928 their daughter Ellen was born, and in 1932 she gave birth to her second daughter, Mary.

Motivated by her longing to see her parents, Rose worked diligently in her uncle's shoe factory where she earned a mere 5 cents for each pair of shoes she boxed. Rose saved all her earnings, and in 1947 she traveled across the Atlantic Ocean to visit her parents who were now living in Beirut, Lebanon.

After nearly 60 years of marriage, Robert Garjian passed away in December 1986. During Robert's battle with Alzheimer's disease, Rose had a heart attack and her nephew, Ara Tilkian, cardiologist at Holy Cross Hospital was instrumental in saving her life. After being discharged from the hospital, Dr. Tilkian took her to his home and cared for her until she recovered completely. Rose always looks forward to seeing Dr. Tilkian, who continues to visit her at the Ararat Home.

Rose celebrated her 104th birthday this year. She has been blessed with two daughters, 6 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, and 2 great-great grandchildren who love and adore her. Her great-niece by marriage, Rouzan Vanesian describes her aunt as being extremely loving and generous, saying, "Her home was always open to family members visiting or immigrating to the United States. She enjoyed crocheting, cooking, and entertaining." She describes her as being "warm and loving" and has taught her how to cook many Armenian delicacies. Rose was an active member of the Valley Guild of Ararat Home, and



Rose Garjian with Rose Flores, caregiver and Rouzan Vanesian, great niece by marriage

in September 1986 for the fourth annual boutique and luncheon, she crafted and donated a variety of crocheted stuffed animals for fundraising. She was active in the Armenian community where she was a member of the Massis Church in Los Angeles, treasurer for the Marash Women's Group, member of United Armenian Congregational Church, and is one of the founding members of Aleppo College.



In September 1986, Rose crocheted stuffed animals for the Valley Guild of Ararat Home 4th Annual Boutique

Rose moved to Ararat Home on August 5, 2004 and is grateful for the great service provided by the dedicated, compassionate and caring staff. She enjoys playing Bingo, and her favorite activity is singing during "Kef Time" led by Alice Kavaljian.

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# Phase Four at Mission Hills Set for Completion in 2013 With 58 Additional Beds

By Phyllis Hamo

The Ararat Home has come a long way since its founding in 1949 on 27th Street in Los Angeles with seven original residents. In 1980 a 42-bed nursing care facility was purchased in Eagle Rock, which continues to operate today. The demands of an aging population stimulated the first phase of construction of a 130-bed board and care facility in Mission Hills on a 10.5-acre site located at 15105 Mission Hills Road and completed in 1992. The second phase was a 99-bed skilled nursing facility completed in 1993, and the third phase was an additional 99-bed completed in 1997 in the skilled nursing facility.

All of this was accomplished through the efforts of generous and committed volunteers, and a community that envisioned the best care for its elderly. The Home has also become a community center with its 525-seat Deukmejian Grand Ballroom, Sheen Non-Denominational Chapel, Ararat-Eskijian Museum, and on-campus meeting rooms.

Now that baby-boomers are entering retirement, it is becoming evident that preparation must be made for our increasing number of seniors who will need skilled care. In light of that demand, on October 2, 2011, ground was broken to begin the fourth phase of construction. The two-story addition will add 58 beds and is scheduled for completion in April 2013, with State approval for occupancy by August 1, 2013.

This \$10,800,000 project will provide care for people with chronic as well as short-term illnesses and injuries. Although most seniors are aware that exercise and healthful eating habits are important, many are facing battles with arthritis, diabetes, and dementia which seem to be on the rise.

Co-chairs of the construction committee are Nazar Ashjian, Jr., CPA



and Joseph Kanimian, Esq. who were preceded by Armen Hampar, the original chairman. Co-chairs of the fund-raising committee are Ron Nazeley and Berj Shahbazian who have faith that friends of the Ararat Home and the Armenian community, even during a weak economy, will step up to the plate and give what they can. According to Mr. Ashjian, "No matter what the economy is, those who are in need of our services cannot wait until the economy gets better. It is our job as Trustees of the Home to make it work. We know it will work and look to the Armenian community and those who are fortunate enough to assist us to make contributions so that the dreams of many may be realized."

The architects of the project are Sobin-Harte Architects of Woodland Hills, California and the contractor is Sinanian Development Inc. of Tarzana, California. Individuals and organizations may contact Beatrice Malkhasian in the executive office at 818-838-4860 for a list of giving opportunities.

## ARARAT HOME RECEIVES ESTATE DONATIONS

By Cindy Kaloostian

Mr. Vaughn A. Surabyan. We know just a little about him. We know he was born in Fresno to immigrant parents. We know his father died in the tragic flu epidemic of 1918. We know Vaughn was 11 years old when the Great Depression occurred. We know he encouraged his mother and two older sisters to move to Southern California for more economic opportunities. We know he worked and saved all his life. We know he never married. And we know he made Ararat Home one of the three beneficiaries of his sizable estate. Ararat Home Controller Derik Ghookasian says, "In a way, I wish Mr. Surabyan had made himself known to us before his death. We would like to have acknowledged his generosity and thanked him in person."

Similarly, the Ayda Ihmalian Family Trust made a sizable donation to Ararat Home. The Ihmalian sisters, Berjoughie, and twins Mayda and Ayda, were active in Armenian community life. Each of them completed their higher education, and they enjoyed professional careers, Berjoughie as an executive secretary, Mayda as a French teacher, and Ayda as a hospital administrator. They never married, but they lived full and generous lives filled with friends and relatives. Two of the sisters were residents of Ararat Home before their passing, and Ararat Home was named one of their three beneficiaries of their estate.

# KNOWLEDGEABLE STUDENTS BRING REWARDS TO SCHOOLS AT 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL QUIZ BOWL

By Phyllis Hamo



Quiz Bowl participants make new friends, take home trophies and cash prizes for their schools.

After months of study and preparation, eighth grade students from eight local Armenian day schools competed enthusiastically in the 13th Annual Ararat Home Quiz Bowl on Sunday, April 29, 2012, in the Mission Hills Deukmejian Ballroom with awards going toward the scholarship funds of each of the schools. The first place award of \$1,000 was bestowed on the Rose and Alex Pilibos Armenian School, second place award of \$750 presented to Holy Martyrs Ferrahian Armenian School, and third place award of \$500 given to the St. Gregory (Hovsepien) Armenian School.

The remaining schools, the Vahan and Anoush Chamlian Armenian School, Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School, Sahag Mesrob Armenian Christian School, AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School, and Armenian Sisters Academy each received \$250. Checks were presented on behalf of the Ararat Home Board of Trustees by Vice Chairman Harold Mgrublian.

Invitations were sent to the Los Angeles area Armenian schools asking them to participate by sending a well-prepared team that has read and studied the *Armenian History Timeline* book

covering Armenian history from the Bronze Age up to the 20th Century, including brief biographies of famous Armenians. It was noted that the students were well prepared, and the top teams produced close scores.



## Armenian History Timeline \$20 Donation

Contact Beatrice Malkhasian, Secretary  
to the Board at (818) 838-4860



Quiz Bowl 2012 Certificate designed by Nora Nalbandian, treasurer Ararat Eskiian Museum

This year the two-hour competition was organized and conducted for the first time by Maggie Mangassarian-Goschin who was mentored by Quiz Bowl founders Hagop and Marilyn Arshagouni, leaders of the event for the dozen previous years. Quiz Bowl questions are derived from the *Armenian History Timeline* book written by the Arshagounis with graphics by the late Hagop Hovsepien.

This is a true commitment for each participant who studies the material that covers Armenian history, culture, geography, literature, science, the arts, and religion. There are three contestants on each team with one alternate.

In addition to cash prizes for their schools, all students received trophies and certificates, and mugs featuring graphics from the Timeline. According to Mrs. Goschin, "The competition is a means to bring the schools together and provide for the students a better awareness of their heritage. The results are heartwarming, especially when I see the smiles on the students' faces." She expressed appreciation to the... judges, proctors, scorekeepers, and spectators who rooted for their teams. The *Armenian History Timeline* book was initially published in 1998 and is available for purchase at the Ararat Home.



**Don't miss this year's  
WORLD FAMOUS PICNIC!**

**FREE ADMISSION | FREE PARKING**

## ARARAT HOME ANNUAL PICNIC

**Sunday, Sept. 23, 2012**

Fourth Sunday in September  
11:30 am - 6:00 pm

**KEF TIME**

Games ★ Music ★ Dancing  
**DELICIOUS Food**



# Eagle Rock Campus Celebrates National Observance of Nursing Home Week

By Robert Taylor



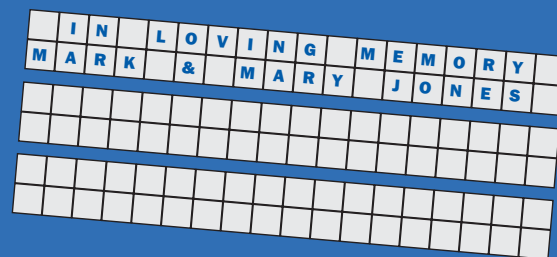
From left to right: Robert Taylor, Administrator, Victoria Kevorkian, Nazar Ashjian, Chairman of the Board, Nadya Verabian, Trustee, and Aida Yeghiayan, Director of Nursing Services

On Thursday, May 17, 2012, the Ararat Home Convalescent Hospital in Eagle Rock celebrated the National Observance of Nursing Home Week. Included with the celebration was a catered kebab lunch and recognition of the entire employees' dedicated work and love shown to our residents. With a memorial gift for the occasion, and of special note, the facility also gave tribute to employees noting their length of service with a *certificate* and a *pin* recognizing the number of years employed. This year, one more employee was added to the exclusive 'class' of working 30 consecutive years at the Eagle Rock Facility. Making the presentation to Victoria Kevorkian, Certified Nurses Assistant, were Trustees of the Ararat Home Board, Mr. Nazar Ashjian, Chairman & Mrs. Nadya Verabian, Chair of the Human Resources Committee. Victoria joins two other employees who have reached 32 years of service at the Ararat Eagle Rock Campus. This married couple, Ovanes and Janet Bakalian are employed as a cook and Certified Nurse Assistant.

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## SUNDAY, AUGUST 19 LADIES AUXILIARY

"Wine Tasting Under the Stars"  
at Ararat Home Courtyard  
and Deukmejian Ballroom, 7 p.m.

Contact Tanya Aghishian (818) 885-5262

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13 MASSIS GUILD FASHION SHOW

Whittier Radisson Hotel  
Vendors - 10:30 followed by Luncheon  
and Fashion Show - 12 p.m.

Contact Angela Savoian (818) 314-3906

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 SAN GABRIEL VALLEY GUILD

Kufte Dinner at Cilicia Church Derian Hall  
339 S. Santa Anita Ave, Pasadena 91107  
Contact Victoria Parian (626) 303-2023

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8 WESTSIDE GUILD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Bake Sale, Silent Auction - 11 a.m.  
Luncheon and Entertainment - 12 p.m.  
Contact Louise Arklin (818) 368-3463

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 ARARAT ANNUAL PICNIC

at ARARAT HOME MISSION HILLS CAMPUS  
11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Free Parking and Shuttle Service

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 SAN GABRIEL GALA CHRISTMAS PARTY -

Celebrating 25th Anniversary  
at Arcadia Golf Country Club  
Contact Vicky Parian (626) 303-2023

## ARARAT HYLIGHTS

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