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Spring 2013

## NORA HAMPAR, A VOLUNTEER WHO EMBODIES THE HEART AND SOUL OF ARARAT HOME

By Debbie Avedian

**N**ora Hampar, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the Ararat Home has been instrumental in putting the Home on the map by having lavishly decorated the Deukmejian Ballroom 20 years ago.

Nora was born in Fresno, California to parents John and Lillian Baker, who were originally from Van, Turkey. In 1956 Nora received her degree in Art from the California State University in Fresno. Later that year, Nora married Herb Tertzag. The newlyweds moved to Los Angeles where Nora began her career by working as an Executive Secretary in the aerospace industry. Nora was soon promoted to the position of buyer of electronic parts for aircrafts. In 1970, she left the aerospace industry and joined her husband working in furniture sales in their established business at Barr's Furniture with locations in Manhattan Beach and Torrance. She worked side by side with Herb and after 26 years of being in the furniture business, they both retired.

Herb played an instrumental role in the progress of Ararat Home on the Mission Hills campus. He chaired the Building Committee for

the Assisted living facility and oversaw its construction. He later went on to serve as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Home for two terms, from 1983 to 1986 and 1988 to 1989 until his passing.

With her vast knowledge of interior design, Nora began volunteering at the Home aiding Bob Shamlian with establishing and setting up the vitally needed reservations department. She drove nearly 70 miles daily to the Home and enthusiastically assisted wherever needed. During Badveli Hagop Janbazian's Administration, Nora furnished the entire Assisted Living Facility, 82,000 square feet, and the beautiful Deukmejian Ballroom that rivaled any ballroom in Los Angeles. When the Skilled Nursing Facility was built in 1993, again Nora used her expertise to furnish the facility. She was and still is responsible for the Reservations Department for the Deukmejian Ballroom and the smaller dining room. Nora also devotedly worked as chairman on the infamous Ararat Home banquets and dances held in the Deukmejian ballroom.

In 2000, Nora married Armen Hampar, who had previously lost his wife to cancer. Armen served as Vice-Chairman and twice as Chairman (from 1993-1996, and 2007-2010) of the Ararat Home of Los Angeles. He was past chairman of Parish Council and Parish Assembly at St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church. Currently, he is the Chairman of the Diocesan Council for the Western Diocese and is Vice-Chairman of the Western Diocese Endowment Fund. Earning his Bachelors of Arts degree from Columbia College and a Masters of Business Administration from Bernard Baruch Graduate School of Business, City University of New York, has been a real asset for the greater Armenian community.



Armen and Nora Hampar

As chairman and supervisor of the Reservations Department and Ballroom committee, Nora works on improving the Ballroom she so dedicatedly decorated 20 years ago. She is currently diligently working on the plans for updating and remodeling the Deukmejian Ballroom and the foyer to once again make it one of the best in Los Angeles.

Nora has also served in Diocesan committees including the Debutante Ball Committee for several years and the Ladies Auxiliary Committee. When Nora is not working at the Home or at the Diocese she says she enjoys being with family, friends and traveling."

Nora and Armen are dedicated and give so much of themselves to our community. The impact of their efforts is apparent at Ararat Home, and the Home would not be what it is today without the spirit of such devoted, loyal and benevolent volunteers as Nora and Armen Hampar.

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# ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING BRINGS GOOD NEWS

By Cindy Kaloostian

**A**t the Annual Membership Meeting held in Deukmejian Ballroom on March 3, 2013, reports and updates were given concerning the previous year's accomplishments and activities. Outgoing Ararat Home Board Chairman, Nazar H. Ashjian, Jr., presided over the meeting. After giving his positive remarks, Mr. Ashjian introduced Mr. Robert Taylor, Administrator of the Eagle Rock Skilled Nursing Facility and Mrs. Rita Noravian, Administrator of the Mission Hills Assisted Living Facility. Each of them made the members feel proud of Ararat Home as they detailed the successes enjoyed by their facilities. Five-Star achievements and Zero Deficiency Awards have become standard for Ararat Home, but it is no simple task to receive them. It is the leadership and teamwork of Ararat Home's superlative staff that makes such excellence possible. Due to a bout of the flu, Mrs. Margo Babikian was unable to attend the meeting. Though her presence was missed, the members know very well that the Mission Hills Skilled Nursing Facility is a Five-Star award winner as well, and the work done there is much lauded and appreciated by the residents and their families.

Mr. Ashjian reported that the building project, with the addition of a 58-bed wing to the Skilled Nursing Facility, is projected for completion by the end of this year. We are proud to announce that on January 19, 2013 Sobin-Harte Architects, who designed this addition to the Skilled Nursing Facility and were the original architects that designed the entire Mission Hills campus with the exception of the chapel and museum, were recognized with an award from the American Institutes of Architects of the San Fernando Design Awards program of 2012. The award was given for the renovation of the existing chapel at the center of Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center campus. Sobin-Harte architects were commissioned to renovate, modernize and convert a traditional Catholic chapel to an interfaith chapel with multi-function community space for

public meetings, seminars and music recitals.

Treasurer Mr. Michael Surmeian gave special thanks to Controller Derik Ghookasian and reported that Ararat Home had a very successful year financially due to the generosity of our contributing community and the competent management of the finances. Adding to the good news, Mrs. Nora Hampar (Ballroom), Mr. Gary Kaloostian (Casino Night), Mr. Armen Hampar (Endowment Fund), Mr. Michael Surmeian (Picnic), Mrs. Dianne Ohanessian (Ladies's Auxiliary), Mrs. Allise Ararkelian Hart (Massis Guild), Mrs. Vickie Parian (San Gabriel Valley Guild), Ms. Lucy Melkonian and Mrs. Debbie Avedian (Valley Guild), Mrs. Ann Mills (Westside Guild) and Mrs. Dorothy Taylor (Gift Shop) announced their very generous and profitable donations and proceeds to the Home.

Mrs. Maggie Goschin reported that the Ararat-Eskijian Museum is being used to educate the community, offering programs and exhibits that have drawn over 1,680 visitors. The Gift Shop has dedicated \$3,500 towards the Museum's remodeling efforts.

Board Secretary Beatrice Malkhasian was highly praised for her dedication to the Board of Trustees and for contributing to the success of activities taking place at the Ararat Home campus. The meeting was concluded with a special recognition given to Mr. Nazar H. Ashjian, Jr. for his term as Board Chairman. Mr. Ashjian assured the membership that the newly elected Board Chairman, Mr. Joseph Kanimian, is fully ready and capable of taking over the reins. Joseph has already instituted many plans for the betterment of the Home and its residents. With his leadership, we look forward for a greater recognition of the Ararat Home by the Armenian communities within the diaspora. Also recognized for long-time superior service to the Board of Trustees were retiring Board Members Harold Mgrublian and Art Arutian.

A delicious dinner of chicken kebab and all the fixings was enjoyed by all.



**Seating L to R:** Debbie Avedian, Asst. Secretary Maggie Mangassarian-Goschin, Nora Hampar, 2nd Vice-Chairman, Joseph Kanimian, Chairman, Nazar H. Ashjian, Jr., 1st Vice-Chairman, Nadya Verabian, Secretary, Charles Keligian, Jenny Kurkjian, and Harold Mgrublian. **Standing L to R:** Michael Surmeian, Treasurer, Sinan Sinanian, Vatche B. Bardakjian, M.D., Roy Martinian, D.D.S., Berj Shahbazian, Peter Darakjian, Armen Hampar, past Chairman, Kohar Mardirossian Pelter, Gary Kaloostian, Joseph Ouzounian, M.D., Rafi Balian, M.D., Arthur Zabounian, Rafi Mardirosian, and Ron Nazeley, Asst. Treasurer, **Missing from Photo:** Shahe Boyadjian and Richard Jebejian



# CASINO NIGHT IX WINTER WINNERS

By Cindy Kaloostian



A slight detour was taken for Casino Night IX. It was in January instead of November! Surely you noticed... Dodging the USC-UCLA football game was the reasoning for the change in date, but the big tenth year anniversary of Casino Night will return to November 2013. There are lots of special things for your enjoyment in the plans. As for Casino Night IX, it was fun; food was yummy and was reasonably well attended. Our dozens of loyal

sponsors, led by Grand Casino sponsors **Hank and Louise Arklin**, assured a very profitable evening for Ararat Home. Chairman Gary Kaloostian expressed his gratitude to his committee, the sponsors, prize donors and attendees by saying, "We thank everyone who was part of this great event. We look forward to seeing you again in November as we return to our traditional date. You won't want to miss Casino Night X! It is going to be something really special!"



Chairman Ashjian, Sheree King, and Tom Bozgian try to Make a Killing at the Craps Table.



Another Successful Evening of Fun with Friends



Great Food, Games and Prizes

## EASTER ACTIVITIES



Residents Prepare for Easter Celebration by Coloring Easter Eggs



Beatrice Malkhasian, Board Secretary, Peter Darakjian, Trustee, Easter Bunny Rita Noravian, Administrator, and Nazir H. Ashjian, Jr., Vice-Chairman Surprise Residents



Back Row Left to Right: Daughters Silva Kurdian, Seta Khachadorian and Lena Kayal with Great-Grandson, Artin Javid visit their Parents Sarkis and Yeghsapet Demirdjian during the Egg Painting Festivities.

# PIANO Needed

The Ararat Home is in need of a piano for the Deukmejian Ballroom.

Please help us by sending your donations to:

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Ararat Home  
15105 Mission Hills Rd.  
Mission Hills, CA 91345

# GOOD HELP IS FOUND AT ARARAT HOME

By Cindy Kaloostian

You may have heard the expression, "Good help is hard to find." Fortunately, at Ararat Home, we have not only "good help" but loyal, experienced help as well. For example, in the category of employees who have given twenty years or more of service, there are seven employees at the Eagle Rock Convalescent Hospital! Those who have been with Eagle Rock since its opening thirty-two years ago include husband and wife, Cook **Ovanes Bakalian** and Certified Nursing Assistant (C.N.A.), **Janet Bakalian**. The Bakalians are eager to satisfy each patient's nutritional needs and make sure the patients are calm and comfortable. Next on the list is C.N.A. **Victoria Kevorkian** who for thirty years has treated her patients as if they were her own parents. C.N.A. **Elizabeth Yeghikian** is a twenty-six year employee. She works the overnight shift and does her best when the rest of us are sleeping. C.N.A. **Harbia Seta Shahinian** is very humble and caring with an ever-present smile on her face. R.N. **Amada**



Left to Right: Peter Sevgiyan, Nevrik Karavaryan, Hovik Sahakian, Nazar H. Ashjian, Jr. (Vice-Chairman.), and Rita Noravian (Administrator)

**Ignacio**, a twenty-three year employee, works in harmony with everyone in her duties as charge nurse. Cook **Mariam Shekhoian** has been preparing meals including special diets for the past 20 years for the patients' enjoyment.

At the Mission Hills Assisted Living Facility,

three gentle and kind employees have given twenty years of loving care to our elderly. Night shift Resident Care Assistant, **Hovik Sahakian** is dedicated, hard working and dependable. He has never called in sick in all his years of service! Day Shift Resident Care Assistant, **Nevrik Karavaryan** is responsible and caring and is passionate about providing quality care to our residents. Transportation Coordinator, **Peter Sevgiyan** with his great sense of humor is very helpful,

compassionate and attentive to residents' and their families' needs! All three have a love for the residents and feel fulfilled when they hear a sincere "thank you" from grateful families.

Since Mission Hills Convalescent Hospital has been in operation for only nineteen years, there are no employees with twenty years of service. We are looking forward to next year, when we expect to introduce several dedicated employees who have been working at the hospital since its inception.



Eagle Rock Campus Left to Right: Ovanes Bakalian, Janet Bakalian, Amada Ignacio, Bob Taylor, Administrator, Harbia Seta Shaninian, Goar Oganessian, Nazar H. Ashjian, Jr., Victoria Kevorkian, Mariam Shekhoian, and Aida Yeghiayan, Director of Nursing

## UPCOMING EVENTS - SAVE THE DATES

### LADIES AUXILIARY MONTHLY LUNCHEONS WITH ENTERTAINMENT

are held on the  
first Tuesday of every month  
at the Deukmejian Ballroom  
11:30 a.m.

### ARARAT HOME ANNUAL PICNIC September 29 11:30 - 6:00

### ARARAT HOME CASINO NIGHT X November 9, 2013

## ARARAT HIGHLIGHTS

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# "Thank You" Letters to Rita Noravian and Margo Babikian

Dear Management of Ararat Home of Los Angeles:

My name is Satenik Abed Faridani and I have had the privilege of being a resident at Ararat Assisted Living for the past two years. I am writing to you today to express my gratitude and satisfaction with my living accommodations at Ararat Home.

Moving in two years ago I was quite unsettled about leaving my home where I was surrounded by family and friends. Due to my age and health conditions, I made the difficult decision of moving from independent living to assisted living. In hindsight, this was the greatest decision I made for myself. From my first day at Ararat Home I felt right at home. The staff made my transition smooth and I felt a sense of comfort and ease right from the start.

All staff members, understand the leadership of Mrs. Rita Noravian, demonstrate great concern for residents and go above and beyond their duties to make us feel comfortable and ensure all our needs are met. My caregivers at Ararat Home have quickly become like members of my extended family. Our daily interactions are always pleasant and they are consistently on top of performing their duties in a sensible and professional manner.

Ararat Home functions in a very organized, timely, and professional manner. Delicious, freshly prepared meals are served daily on schedule. Close attention is paid to nutritional value and dietary needs. Self-care and medical needs are taken very seriously and attended to as needed with concern. All quarters of the complex are well maintained and kept very clean. In addition, concerns and/or suggestions of residents are always welcomed and taken into consideration.

One of the highlights of living at Ararat Home for me is participating in all the well-planned out extra curricular activities offered to residents. I enjoy my creativity to work in our arts and crafts room, staying healthy by participating in our exercise classes, engaging cognitively in talks, presentation, and/or lectures, and socializing at cultural events among many things.

I would like to once again express my gratitude and sincere appreciation to Ararat Home for accepting me as one of their own and providing me with the highest quality of care. Thank you for providing me with comfort and care. It has been an absolute pleasure!

Sincerely, Satenik Abed Faridani

Dear Margo,

Here is a letter we are delighted to write, but one we have been dreading to write. "Dreading" this means that our Dad has gone from ARARAT to another multi-mountain-top place: Heaven! OH THE GLORY THERE! But also means he no longer resides here as our dad. But what blessed family we are to have had him for 70+ years. YEARS.... Thanks in part to all of you there who extended his last years and weeks. Yes, thank you all so very much.

The "delighted" aspect of this letter is to tell you again... We know you hear this all the time... That you are a wonderful, faithful and loving group of people... servants, helpers, empathizers, listeners and so much more. You have been the lifeline to my parents for the past several years... Helping them LIVE much longer and healthier than most. What a special place... what precious people!

Please recognize and understand what a service of love you each give. Every day spent with our elder family members is a gift to US, to THEM and to you, too... because the goodness always returns to the giver. And you are all so generous. THANK YOU SO MUCH EACH AND EVERYONE...

Our Dad will be buried next to his parents, wife, brother and son one day next week. It will be an intimate graveside service. We are sad to lose our Dad but are happy to have been able to give him life there, speaking ARMENIAN with you, his familiar home style foods, and a clean and loving place to be with you people who understood how to care for him in all his aspects.

Thank you for this gift. We had to tell you.

Lovingly,

Tom and Joan Kardashian, and Barbara

Dear Margo Babikian,  
Executive Director of Ararat Nursing Home

I wanted to express my most heartfelt gratitude to you and your staff for over 6 years of round the clock devoted service to my mother. Caring for her and providing her with everything we were not able to. A special thanks to the staff of the SW Station, who went above and beyond the call of duty and provided my mother with an exceptional care and dedication.

I am very touched because you personally attended my mother's funeral services. Words cannot explain my appreciation to you and your organization.

I would highly recommend your facility to anyone who may have a loved one in need of a skilled nursing facility. There are many facilities out there who provide similar services, but none with your quality of care. You have demonstrated again and again the highest quality of care and service to my mother and my family. The personal attention I have received from you especially has made this difficult time in my life a little more bearable. It is very difficult to have a loved one in need of things you cannot provide and to trust others to do it for you, but your staff treated my mother like family, and for that I will always be grateful.

Thank you,

Ruben Abedian

Son of Maryan Barkhordari