

MISSION HILLS EXPANSION REVEALED AT ANNUAL MEETING

By Phyllis Hamo

A focal point of the March 1, 2009 annual meeting conducted by Chairman Armen Hampar in the Deukmejian Ballroom was the announcement that a 44-bed expansion of the Skilled Nursing Facility in Mission Hills and additional parking are being planned, with a projected completion date of October 2012. This expansion will replace the 42 beds lost when the Ararat Convalescent Hospital in Eagle Rock is closed at some future date.

Nazar Ashjian, Real Estate Chairman, noted that in 2008 the Rockhaven property was sold to the City of Glendale for \$8.25 million, a net gain of \$4.7 million. The many restrictions required by the city made it too costly to develop the Rockhaven property, and an appropriate replacement site was not found. The sale resulted in a reserve fund of \$6.58 million available for new construction for additions to Mission Hills. Bob Simonian of Sobin-Harte Architects described preliminary plans for the project.

Chairman Hampar recognized Administrators Violette Alahaidoyan (Eagle Rock Convalescent Hospital),

Rita Noravian (Assisted Living, Mission Hills), and Margo Babikian (Skilled Nursing, Mission Hills) who offered complete reports on their facilities. Donors and volunteers were sincerely thanked.

Treasurer Nazar Ashjian gave high marks to Controller Derik Ghookasian "for safeguarding the Home's assets." Financial statements were audited and approved by an outside CPA. Reports were given by Cindy Kaloostian (Annual Fund), Nora Hampar (Ballroom), Gary Kaloostian (Casino Night), Dr. Gary Lulejian (Endowment), Art Arutian (Plaques, Memorials and Fund Raising), and Dr. Joseph Ouzounian (Web Site Chair), who reported that he had worked with Web Designer Hovel Babikian, producing a more robust site at www.ararathome.org. Michael Surmeian, (new picnic chairman) thanked Richard Jebejian, Ken Khteian and Gabe Kaprelian for their years of dedicated work and leadership.

Coordinator Barbara Poladian introduced the chairladies of the Guilds which work consistently and creatively to raise funds for Ararat. Reports were given by Sue Abrahamian (Ladies Auxiliary), Allise Arakelian Harte (Massis

Guild), Sona Simsarian and Iris Donjoian (Orange County Guild), Vickie Parian (San Gabriel Guild), Tanya Aghishian and Zabelle Lorenzen (Valley Guild) and Linda Nazaretian (Westside Guild). A grand total of \$231,000 was turned over by the Guilds, \$60,000 of that amount being earmarked for the Endowment Fund.

Mary Arutian thanked her many volunteers and reported that funds raised by the Gift Shop will be used to equip a physical therapy room in the Skilled Nursing Facility. Maggie Goshin enthusiastically presented a ten-year overview of the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, which continues to expand its collection of books and objects of art. Hagop Arshagouni reported that for ten years he and his wife Marilyn have conducted the Quiz Bowl for students representing Armenian day schools in the Southland. The questions are derived from the Armenian Timeline Book authored by the Arshagounis.

Before adjournment a standing ovation was given to Beatrice Malkhasian, Executive Secretary, for her devoted service to the Board and to Ararat Home. Thanks to all who attended. Join us next year! 🏔️

L.A. LAKER CHEERLEADERS



Four of the "Laker Girls" (L.A. Laker cheerleaders), Jeri-Faye, Erin, Annika and Tiffany, visited the residents of Ararat's Assisted Living Facility in February for 1½ hours. They had their pictures taken with most of the residents in the dining room, and didn't leave until they signed autographs for the delighted residents.

TWO MORE AWARDS TO ARARAT'S NURSING FACILITY

Margo Y. Babikian, Executive Director of Ararat's Skilled Nursing Facility, announced that the facility has received two more recognitions by two different national organizations. The National Organization of Directors of Nursing Administration has bestowed "Recognized for Excellent Service in Long Term Care" award.

The second organization, "Consumers Research Council of America" in Washington, D.C., an independent entity which evaluates professional services in America, has selected Ararat Skilled Nursing as one of America's top nursing homes in its 2008 edition of "Guide to America's Top Nursing Homes." This is quite an honor to be among a select few that have earned this prestigious recognition. The selection process was based on an in depth analysis of released government data. Criteria used in the evaluation included a review of Quality Indicators/Quality Measures, past performances and overall performance.

Mrs. Babikian praised the entire Resident Centered Care Team for their utmost commitment towards transformational elder care. 🏔️

ARARAT HIGHLIGHTS

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Spring 2009

BOGOS "BEDO" BULANIK, ARTIST

By Steve Surmeian, Trustee

The last few issues featured four of Ararat Home's residents, giving a brief account of their lives before they came to Ararat. Our featured resident this month is Mr. Bogos Bedros Bulanik, currently a resident in the Skilled Nursing Facility. I think it is safe to say that if he hadn't come to Ararat Home from another nursing facility in Canoga Park in July 2008, he would not be in the condition he is. Mrs. Margo Babikian, Executive Director, told me that he was extremely ill when he was admitted. And now, although not fully mobile, he gets around with a walker and exercises daily on a stationery bicycle, as well as working with light weights. That is a far cry from just a few months ago! Another factor in his improved condition is that he is allowed to operate according to his own schedule. This feeling of independence lifts his spirits and contributes to his well being and outlook.

Mr. Bulanik, or Bedo, as he signs his name to his art work, was born in Istanbul, Turkey in 1932. He came to the U.S. in 1956 and worked in different trades while attending the Schern Art School in Los Angeles, studying painting and ceramics. His art was displayed in various group art shows, and he won several awards with the Armenian Allied Arts Association. While continuing with his art, Mr. Bulanik and his brother-in-law, Vahe Artan, opened



a frame and art supply store in Sherman Oaks. This was a successful enterprise, operating for over 38 years. Many of his clients were film and television personalities who came to their Sherman Oaks store from Beverly Hills and Malibu. One of his most noteworthy clients was Mr. Sydney Pollack, the late producer, director and actor ("Tootsie").

In addition to his passion for art, Bogos Bulanik was an avid world traveler. An incomplete list of the various countries he visited includes all of Western and Eastern Europe, numer-

ous Asian countries, and almost every country in South and Central America.

His room is graced with some beautiful pieces of art. And rightly so! Mr. Bulanik is a very talented artist. The works he prefers to display are of the abstract genre, masterful blending of form and color. After becoming ill, he gave most of his art to friends and family, keeping only a small number for his own enjoyment.

Bogos "Bedo" Bulanik is another example of the remarkable variety of individuals and backgrounds to be found at Ararat Home. 🏔️

JOHN YALDEZIAN – DEDICATED TO SERVICE

May 14, 1926 – February 27, 2009

Ararat Home suffered a great loss in the death of John Yaldezian. This courageous gentleman had served Ararat Home for over 22 years, including two terms as Chairman of the Board of Trustees; 1999 to 2002 and 2005 to 2007. During part of his second term, he was diagnosed with cancer, and given an ominous prognosis. Being the fighter that he is, he continued to serve the Home as Chairman, and then as Vice Chairman, until his passing. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him, especially his dear wife Alice, his children, grandchildren, khunamies and twin brother Chris. John Yaldezian passed away peacefully on February 27, 2009, after a valiant three year fight, at his home in Woodland Hills, California, in the presence of his loving family.

John Yaldezian was born on May 14, 1926, in Chicago, IL, beating his twin brother Chris into the world by 15 minutes. There was a special bond between them as they worked tirelessly for the Church, the Western Diocese and the Knights of Vartan Brotherhood. While pursuing his career in the printing trades, he served as president of the Web Newspapers Pressmen's Union. Later, he obtained his real estate broker's license and worked in that field.

Not only will Ararat Home feel John's loss, but so will other organizations that he served so faithfully; the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, St. Peter Armenian Church, Knights of Vartan Brotherhood and the Masons. He served all of these



organizations, not merely as a member, but as an outstanding leader.

On Thursday evening, March 5, over 70 members of the Knights of Vartan conducted a moving funeral service as they bid farewell in St. Peter Armenian Church. The Masons performed their service following the Knights of Vartan service. The church was filled to capacity that evening as well as the following day, March 6, for the regular funeral service. A procession of cars over two miles long proceeded to Forest Lawn Cemetery for the

interment.

Service and dedication are the words that best describe John's passion. He was part of the group that founded St. Peter Armenian Church in Van Nuys, CA., and served as teacher and Sunday School superintendent, and Parish Council Chairman several times. John Yaldezian served as Treasurer and Chairman of both the Western Diocese Council and Assembly. Vehapar Karekin I recognized his dedication to the Armenian Church by honoring him with the St. Nerses Shnorhali Medal.

He was a member of Sevan Lodge of the Knights of Vartan for 50 years, serving in various positions at both the local (two terms as Commander) and national (Grand Council) levels. John was co-Chairman of three national conventions. He remained active in Sevan, always providing wise counsel. He was also dedicated to the Masons, serving as Master of Zenith Lodge in Van Nuys and helped establish Ararat Lodge, an Armenian Masonic Lodge, in Sierra Madre, CA.

ARARAT HOME ANNUAL FUND 2008 DONATION LIST

Despite a tough economic year, 41 individual families and entities donated over \$12,000 to Ararat Home in response to the Annual Fund invitation. This generosity is much appreciated. Again we ask that you consider becoming an Annual Fund donor in 2009. Gifts will be gratefully received in any amount. It is our goal to inspire yearly giving as an expression of support to Ararat Home and its mission.

\$1,000 TO \$4,999

Mr. and Mrs. Armen Hampar
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hovey
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Kassarian
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ARARAT HYEIGHTS

EDITOR

STEVE SURMEIAN

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

PHYLLIS HAMO
CYNTHIA KALOOSTIAN

ADVISORS

ART ARUTIAN
ARMEN HAMPAR

PRINTING/GRAPHICS

MELTON PRINTING CO.



ARARAT HOME OF LOS ANGELES, INC.®
15105 MISSION HILLS ROAD
MISSION HILLS, CA 91345

TEL: (818) 365-3000
FAX: (818) 898-0224
www.ararathome.org

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ARARAT HYEIGHTS

10TH ANNUAL ARMENIAN HISTORY TIMELINE QUIZ BOWL HELD AT ARARAT HOME

Many thanks to the Arshagounis, Hagop and Marilyn, for originating the Armenian Timeline Quiz Bowl and for their ten years of dedication to the project. Scores of students have benefitted from the experience, learning Armenian history and becoming familiar with Ararat Home. Hagop and Marilyn are retiring as organizers of the annual event, but they offer their expertise to assist those who may wish to follow. Marilyn Arshagouni wrote this press release for the 2009 Quiz Bowl.

On Sunday, March 29, 2009, twenty-eight students in the eighth grade, who attend Armenian day schools in

the greater Los Angeles area, took part in the Tenth Annual Armenian History Timeline Quiz Bowl at the Ararat Home of Los Angeles in Mission Hills. This unique event brings together young people from virtually all the Armenian day schools in the region for an afternoon of friendly academic interaction.

In a competition which lasted over two hours, the students answered a series of questions on Armenian history and culture. They demonstrated a familiarity with material spanning three millennia and ranging over topics as varied as history, geography, literature, science, the arts, and religion. The

competition was so spirited and the student preparation was so thorough that the final placement was uncertain until the last moment, with second, third, and fourth place separated by a single point.

When all the questioning had concluded, checks for their scholarship funds, provided by the generous support of the Board of Trustees of the Ararat Home, were presented to the par-

signed for the Quiz Bowl, featuring graphics from the Timeline itself, thanks to generous donations from friends of the Ararat Home. Harold Mgrublian, Vice-Chairman of the Board, presented each student with an Ararat pin.

An event of this type requires the assistance of many people. Among them were Hagop Arshagouni, emcee and coordinator; Marilyn Arshagouni, quizmaster; Tamar Boyadjian and Arpi

Tchorbajian, judges; Sue Abrahamian, Liana Arshagouni, Ralph Avazian, Agnes Boghosian, Lucy Hovsepian, George Kizirian, Beatrice Malkhasian, and Harold Mgrublian,

proctors; Nina Arshagouni and Ned Rodriguez, scorekeepers; Camelia Boyajian, timekeeper; and Margaret Kizirian and Alice Mgrublian, sorters. The many enthusiastic spectators followed the proceedings attentively and cheered on the participants.

The competition, organized and conducted by Hagop and Marilyn Arshagouni, consisted of questions taken from their book "Armenian History Timeline," with graphics by the late Herach Hovsepian. The Timeline itself, the only one of its kind in the world, is located on the grounds of the Ararat Home.

Dalida and Ohan Arakelian Name Ararat to Receive Fleischmann Award Charity Gift

As a high school student, Dalida Arakelian received the distinguished Fleischmann Award in April 2008, which recognizes high academic achievement and community service. She chose Ararat Home of Los Angeles as her favorite charitable organization to receive a generous gift from the Santa Barbara Foundation as a Fleischmann Charity Gift. Ararat Home is extremely grateful to Dalida, who currently attends UCLA, for this donation. This year, her younger brother Ohan, who plans on attending UC Berkeley, followed in her steps, and Ararat Home received another donation from the Foundation.

Per their request, two tiles will be placed next to the fountain in memory of their grandparents: Garbis and Anjele Semerdjian, who were strong supporters of Ararat Home.

Dalida's and Ohan's parents, Houri and Kevork Arakelian of Santa Barbara, urged, "Please talk to your children and grandchildren about Ararat Home, and remember, all donations will assist the Home to provide excellent care and services, and assists in fulfilling its mission to its residents."

