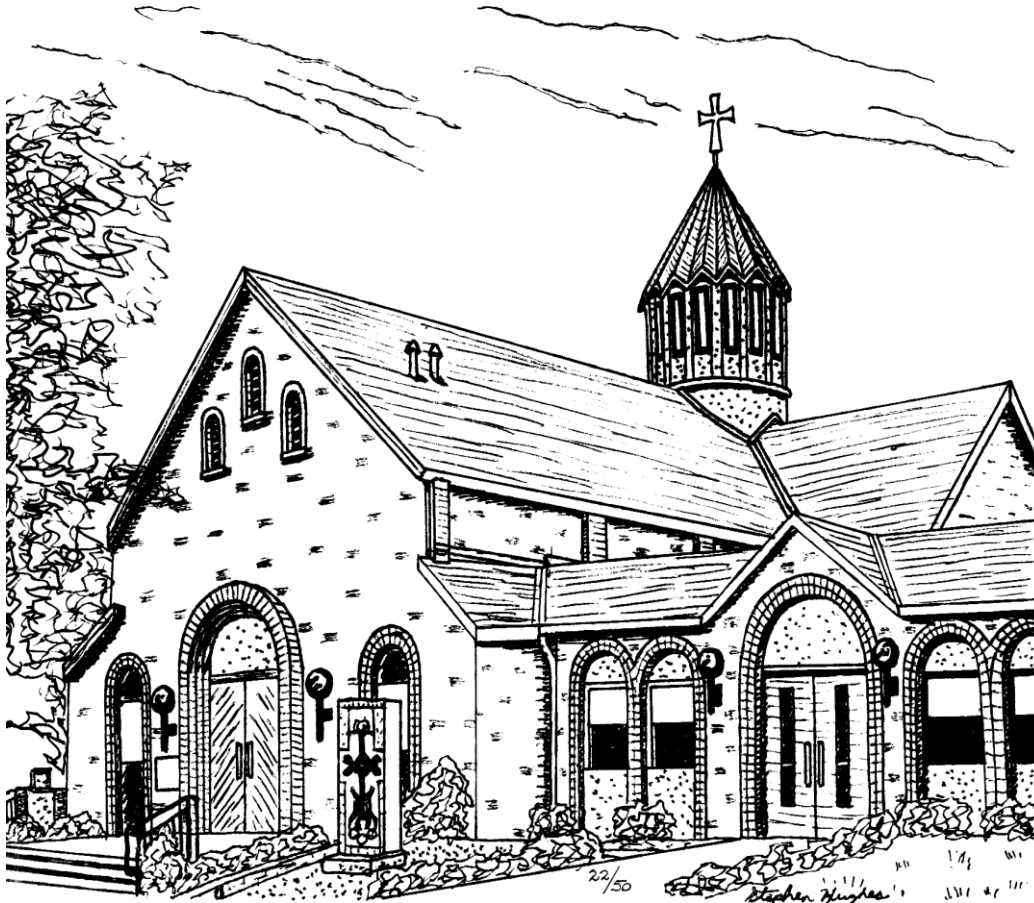


Բարի Լուր



Pari Loor

A Publication of
Saint Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church

Granite City, Illinois

Winter 2017

Saint Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church

1014 West Pontoon Road Granite City, Illinois 62040

Church: 618-451-7884 Community Center: 618-452-1915

www.stgregorychurch.net

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Der Torkom Chorbajian

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The editor and staff of *Pari Loor* wish to apologize in advance for any errors in spelling, omission of names or misrepresentation of facts in our newsletter. Any corrections or additions to the newsletter should be directed to the Pastor or a member of the Board of Trustees.

CHURCH SERVICES

DIVINE LITURGY:

Morning services start at 9:30 A.M. and the Divine Liturgy (*Badarak*) starts at 10:00 A.M. every Sunday
Every Saturday Great Vespers at 5:00 P.M.

Other Services by Special Announcement

ARMENIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES

Every Saturday at 3:00 P.M. in church classroom or via Skype

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Year round, for all children. 10:30 – 12:00 every Sunday morning.
Children’s Sermon first Sunday of every month.

BAPTISM

Church Service	Members (Parents only)	\$100
	Non-Member	\$150
Services of the Priest		Honorarium

WEDDING

Church Service	Members (Bride or Groom)	\$150
	Non-Member	\$300
Services of the Priest		Honorarium
Services of the Organist		Honorarium
Services of the Soloist		Honorarium

FUNERAL

Church Service	Member (Deceased)	\$100*
	Non-Member	\$250
Services of the Priest		Honorarium

*Fee waived when 100% in lieu of flowers goes to St. Gregory The Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church. This service is not available to non-members.

CHRISTMAS & EASTER HOUSE BLESSINGS

Services of the Priest	Honorarium
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MEMORIAL DAY GRAVE BLESSING

Services of the Priest	Honorarium
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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE

Per Person	\$100
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The dues-paying member has voting rights in the Annual Church membership meeting and can get discounts for church services or community center rentals.

COMMUNITY CENTER HALL RENTAL

Full Hall	Member	\$500
	Non-Member	\$700
Half Hall	Member	\$375
	Non-Member	\$450

SOME THOUGHTS ON WHAT IS THE CHURCH AND WHAT IT IS NOT

Pastor's Message

In the past two months, I had these moments of reflection and meditation, on different occasions, about what is the Church and what it is not. I want to share the most essential of them with you, with the desire of seeing everyone having the correct understanding of the nature and the mission of the Church, the raison d'être of its existence.

The Church is the body of Christ. The Church's head is Christ himself, the founder of the Church. Therefore, the Church belongs to Christ, it does not belong to us. Any intention of making the Church "ours" fails to recognize the true founder of the Church and its mission.

The Church is a community of believers, brothers and sisters, born from the same baptismal font. Once baptized, we are no longer foreigners, *odars*, to each other. When this idea of the community of the church is ignored, intentionally or not, for the sake of small communities, clicks, fractions, families, groups and ultimately divisions, the notion of a healthy community is practically destroyed, and it is hard to call that community a Church.

The Church is God's dwelling place, where we come to serve God and serve each other. Any attempt by anyone to control God's dwelling place, to make God's house his/her "own house" and make it serve his/her ambitions of power, glory, prestige, authority and influence, be that clergyman or lay person, is an act against the will of God.

The Church has a mission. It is given by its founder. We do not have the right to impose our missions on the Church. The Church is not a place where we come loaded with ideas and try to have our way and when not get upset because we did not get what we wanted. The Church has a special mission, given to the twelve disciples who driven by it went to the nations (according to the tradition, St. Thaddeus and St. Bartholomew came to Armenia to establish the Church).

What is, then, the mission of the Church? "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:16-20)

The primary mission of the Church, as we saw clearly defined by the founder of the Church, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the above verse, is to work for the salvation of humankind, make them disciples and teach them the truth of Christianity, the truth that sets us free. (John 8:32) The Church's mission is not to load schedules with events of every kind, or even programs that will not bring benefit to its mission, but in many cases, become obstacles to it. Rather, the Church should design and plan its spiritual and communal life in a way to assist the actualization of its mission in the life of its faithful and as Aram I Vehapar says, also beyond its walls.

The Church is not the building we gather in on Sundays. The Church is you and I, gathered in Christ's name, to celebrate the Eucharist, to worship the almighty Lord, to empower and pray for each other, to feel the presence of Christ in ourselves and to receive the power of the Holy Spirit to bring glory and honor to our Father in heaven by our words and actions.

The Church is dependent on institutions, but it is not an institution. The Church uses money, the lord of this world, for divine purposes, but cannot become a place for a secularized financial calculations and plans, that uses only the worldly wisdom and purposes, forgetting its mission. We believe that everything in this world, including money, belongs to God. God will provide what is needed for his Church. The Church's job is to be faithful and loyal to the mission given to it and the rest is on God.

Archbishop Oshagan's Christmas Message
THE LIBERATOR SAVIOR
"And he named him Jesus." (Mt 1:25)

During these days of remembrance of the birth of Christ, our thoughts go back twenty centuries ago to the miraculous event of the birth of Jesus, and I envision the joy of his parents Joseph and Mary. It is a time of parental emotions and family happiness ahead, especially when we consider God's intervention on future events—the annunciation of the angel and Mary's pregnancy, her visit to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, and finally the birth of the heavenly king in a simple manger.

Mother of God Mary praised God by alluding that the one conceived in her will bring salvation to humankind by dethroning the powerful and elevating the meek. (Magnificat)

And Mary gave birth to her child and in keeping with the message of the angel, named him Jesus—Savior, the liberator of the faithful.

As children of the Armenian Church, we accepted Christ into our faith believing in the salvation of humankind as well as salvation of individuals. For centuries we prayed to Him, turning His sermons and commandments into the strength and purpose of our everyday lives and we forged the principles of Christianity on our national character. As individuals we beseeched and prayed for our own salvation filled with the hope of eternal life. But at the same time individual salvation in our faith also became collective—the hope of salvation for our entire nation. Eternal life and the survival of our nation and our martyrdom had no other power but the love of Christ and the hope to find the salvation of our nation with Him and by Him. Our dedication and fidelity to our faith became the supreme expression of our spirit of freedom, and by necessity living in freedom with Christ became our faith and our national "Creed" and our collective course. This is how we lived. This is how we preached. This is how we survived.

Our motto became, "For the sake of faith and for the sake of fatherland," just as the Vartanank proclaimed and embraced national freedom through their martyrdom. With the freedom of the soul our faith became our devotion, martyrdom, and victory.

During these inaugural days of the New Year, the date 2018 takes us back 100 years ago to another sacrifice, struggle, and victory. Our nation's uprising on May 28, 1918, was nothing else if not the wings of freedom after the genocide, our resurrection and victory after our national crucifixion. For centuries our national life was enriched and strengthened with the love of Christ, and our heroes and people proclaimed their love of the fatherland. For the sake of faith and fatherland the unsilencable call compelled them to the supreme sacrifice and salvation. Is not our faith in Christ the road to salvation? Yes, that same faith, sanctified by martyrdom, pressed our people to go toward the field of struggle with emotions of faithful witness and victory. The freedom of the soul hovered over the blood and sweat consecrated on our ancestral soil for which martyrdom for the soldier and the peasant earned honor and in defense of that honor—glory.

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary, with its glorious and eternal message, it is necessary to be dedicated as a nation to our Christian faith that formed our concept of freedom, and gave life and image of our spirit of national freedom. That freedom is immortal, and like the God of our faith, is eternal. And we the faithful children of this truth are today called upon to remain in the same faithfulness, to turn the salvation given to us by Christ's birth into an oath for our national salvation that we won with the victory in May. And just as unfaithfulness to Christ is faced by God's judgment, so also indifference to the fatherland is faced by our nation's judgment.

Therefore, during these days of remembrance of the birth of Jesus, our message is that we, as a nation, must be dedicated to the truths of our faith, and live with Jesus our Savior, and as a nation be dedicated to the strength and immortality of our fatherland.

And then, may the New Year and Holy Nativity be joyful for all of us.

Prayerfully,
ARCHBISHOP OSHAGAN
Prelate Armenian Apostolic Church of
America (Eastern Prelacy)

January 1, 2018

Առաջնորդ Սրբազան Հոր Ս. Ծննդեան Պատգամը
Ազատարար Փրկիչը
«Եւ զայն կոչեց Յիսուս» (Մտ 1.25)

Քրիստոսի ծննդեան յիշատակի այս օրերուն, երբ մեր միտքերը կերթան քսան դարեր առաջ Յիսուսի ծննդեան հրաշալի դրուագին, պահ մը կերեւակայեմ այն ուրախութիւնը, որ ունեցան իր ծնողները՝ Յովսէփի ու Մարիամ: Ծնողական զգացումներու եւ ընտանեկան գալիք երջանկութեան պահն է, մանաւանդ երբ նկատի կունենանք յաջորդական դրուագներով աստուածային միջամտութիւնը՝ հրեշտակին աւետումը եւ Մարիամի յղութիւնը, անոր այցելութիւնը Եղիսաբէթի՝ Յովհաննէս Մկրտիչի մօր, եւ վերջապէս, պարզ մտորի մը մէջ երկինքի թագաւորին ծնունդը:

Աստուածամայր Մարիամ իր օրհներգութեամբ գովաբանեց զԱստուած՝ ակնարկելով որ իր մէջ յղացուածը փրկութիւն պիտի բերէր մարդկութեան, հօրները գահազրկելով եւ խոնարհները բարձրացնելով (Մեծացուցէ):

Ու Մարիամ ծնաւ իր զաւակը եւ համաձայն հրեշտակին աւետումին՝ զայն կոչեց Յիսուս, Փրկիչ: Հաւատացեալներու Ազատարարը:

Որպէս Հայ Եկեղեցոյ զաւակ, Քրիստոսը մեր հաւատքին մէջ ընդունեցինք՝ հաւատալով մարդկութեան թէ անհատին փրկութեան: Դարերով աղօթեցինք իրեն, անոր քարոզներն ու պատգամները դարձնելով ամենօրեայ մեր կեանքին զօրութիւնն ու նպատակը, ազգային մեր նկարագիրը դարբնելով քրիստոնէական հաւատքի սկզբունքներով: Որպէս անհատներ, մեր անձերու փրկութեան համար աղօթեցինք ու աղաչեցինք՝ յաւիտենական կեանքի յոյսով լեցուն: Բայց միեւնոյն ատեն, անհատի փրկութիւնը մեր հաւատքին մէջ եղաւ նաեւ հաւաքական, մեր ամբողջ ազգին փրկութեան յոյսը: Յաւիտենականութիւնը, ազգային գոյատեւումը եւ անոր համար մեր նահատակութիւնը չունէին ուրիշ մղիչ ոյժ, եթէ ոչ սէրը հանդէպ Քրիստոսի եւ յոյսը՝ անոր հետ եւ միջոցաւ գտնելու ազգային մեր փրկութիւնը: Մեր նուիրումն ու հաւատքի կենսագործութիւնը եղան հոգիի ազատութեան գերագոյն արտայայտութիւնը, եւ ի պահանջել հարկին, Քրիստոսի հետ ազատ ապրիլը եղաւ ազգային մեր «Հաւատամք»ը եւ հաւաքական մեր երթը: Այսպէս ապրեցանք, այսպէս քարոզեցինք, այսպէս գոյատեւեցինք:

Մեր նշանաբանը եղաւ «Վասն հաւատոյ եւ վասն հայրենեաց», ինչպէս Վարդանանք յայտարարեցին եւ իրենց նահատակութեամբ ազգային ազատութիւնը գրկեցին: Հոգիի ազատութեան մեր հաւատքը ապացուցուեցաւ մեր անձնուիրութեամբ, նահատակութեամբ ու յաղթանակով: 1 Յիսուս երբայերէն՝ Եռշուա, կը նշանակէ «Տէրը կը փրկէ», կամ՝ «Տէրը փրկութիւն է»:

2018 տարուան առաջին այս օրերուն, տարուան տարեթիւր մեզի կը յուշէ հարիւր տարի առաջ ուրիշ գոհողութիւն մը, պայքար ու յաղթանակ մը: Մայիս 28, 1918-ին, մեր ազգին պոռթկումը ուրիշ բան չէր, եթէ ոչ ազատութեան թռիչքը, ցեղասպանութենէն՝ ազգային խաչելութենէն ետք յարութիւնն ու յաղթանակը: Դարերով ազգային մեր կեանքը՝ Քրիստոսի սիրով հարստացած ու զօրացած, մեր հերոսներն ու ժողովուրդը արտայայտեցին Հայրենիքին հանդէպ սիրով: «Վասն հաւատոյ եւ հայրենեաց» անլռելի կանչը մղեց զանոնք գերագոյն գոհողութեան եւ փրկութեան: Չէ՞ որ Քրիստոսի հանդէպ մեր հաւատքը փրկութեան ճամբան է: Այո՛, նոյն այդ հաւատքը նահատակութեամբ սրբացած մեր հայրենիքին հանդէպ, մղեց մեր ժողովուրդը դէպի պայքարի դաշտ, հայրենիքի հանդէպ հաւատքի շօշափելի վկայութեան եւ յաղթանակի: Հոգիի ազատութիւնը սաւառնեցաւ արիւնով ու քրտինքով նուիրականացած մեր հայրենի հողերուն վրայ, որուն համար նահատակութիւնը՝ զինուորին թէ շինականին, համարուեցաւ պատիւ եւ այդ պատիւին պաշտպանութիւնը՝ փառաւորում:

Մայիսեան պայծառ եւ յաւիտենական պատգամ ունեցող հարիւրամեակին առիթով, անհրաժեշտ է համագգային ընդառաջումով նուիրուիլ ազատութեան գաղափարին հիմքը կազմող քրիստոնէական մեր հաւատքին, եւ անոր միջոցաւ միս ու ջիղ կազմած, նկարագիր կազմած մեր ազգային ազատութեան ոգիին: Անմեռ է այդ ազատութիւնը, եւ մեր հաւատքի Աստուծոյն նման՝ յաւիտենական: Եւ այս ճշմարտութեան հաւատարիմ հայորդիներս, այսօր կոչուած ենք մնալու նոյն հաւատարմութեան մէջ, Քրիստոսի ծնունդով մեզի բերուած փրկութիւնը դարձնելու ուխտ՝ Մայիսեան յաղթանակով շահուած մեր ազգին փրկութեան: Եւ ինչպէս Քրիստոսի հանդէպ անհաւատարմութիւնը իր դիմաց ունի Աստուծոյ դատաստանը, նոյնպէս ալ հայրենիքին հանդէպ անտարբերութիւնը ունի մեր ազգին դատաստանը:

Ուստի, Յիսուսի ծննդեան յիշատակի այս օրերուն, մեր պատգամն է, որ ազգովին հաւատարիմ մնանք մեր հաւատքի ճշմարտութեանց, ապրինք Յիսուսով, մեր Փրկիչով եւ ազգովին նուիրուինք մեր Հայրենիքի հզօրացման ու յաւերժութեան:

Եւ այն ատեն, թող Նոր Տարին եւ Սուրբ Ծնունդը շնորհաւոր ըլլայ բոլորիս:

Լուրեր Հոգաբարձութենէն – Board of Trustees News

Jake Varadian

Our Board of Trustees enjoyed a very busy Fall. With the guidance of Der Hayr, we led our church through Christmas, the New Year, and Armenian Christmas.

We celebrated the 63rd Anniversary of our church on December 3. We were blessed to have our Vicar General, Anoushavan Surpazan, celebrate Badarak with us that day. A short program followed at the community center where several of our parishioners performed musical numbers and read poetry for our guests. Anoushavan Surpazan presented four parishioners with Prelacy awards. Those parishioners are Sue Spataro, Lori Saucier, Greg Hightaian, and Art Asadorian. We thank everyone who donated to the church in honor of our Anniversary. We appreciate all that you do.

For Christmas Eve, we sang Christmas carols immediately following Badarak. Everyone who sang enjoyed the fellowship and the snacks afterwards. For Armenian Christmas Eve and Christmas we had good attendance. After Badarak on Christmas day people continued the tradition of getting together for lunch and fellowship at a local restaurant.

On January 7 we implemented our greeter program at church. Every Sunday you will see a smiling face as you enter the vestibule. The greeters are there to assist you in any way possible and answer any questions you may have. If you have interest in joining the group of greeters please contact Jake Varadian for details.

Finally, we thank Der Hayr and Yerezgeen for their leadership of our parish. They bring God to the forefront for all of us. Der Hayr's sermons continue to inspire and can be found online for anyone that misses a particular Sunday. All past weekly bulletins and associated links can be found on the church website. We also thank all of the volunteers for our church. Thank you to everyone who donates their time, talent, and treasure to the success of this church.

May God bless you all.

Լուրեր ,Սրբոց Սերովբէից Երգսախումբէն – Holy Seraphim Choir News

Melanie Keeney

2017 was another busy year for The Holy Seraphim Choir. We continue to improve upon the hymns of the Divine Liturgy, while also focusing on improving the hymns we sing only on feast days. We purchased liturgical music books through the Prelacy; our initial focus is to learn the various Jashoo Hymns so that we are prepared to sing the one that matches the tone of the day. We sponsored two orphans through the Prelacy and have taken pleasure in receiving photographs and letters from them throughout 2017. In April, we combined voices with our sister church in Belleville, Holy Shoghagat & Virgin Mary, to co-commemorate the 102nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. In August, we contracted for minor repairs to the church organ. Also in August, our numbers dwindled with the departure of our organist, Andy Asadorian. We hosted a luncheon after church to bid him a formal farewell and we gave him a gift to express our appreciation. In September, we participated in the Lincoln Place Heritage Association Festival by sponsoring a booth to sell lulu kebab sandwiches, lehmajoon, loosnag, and cheese boereg. We were saddened by the passing of Arshalus Geragosian, long-time member of the church choir. While Arshalus had not been active the past few years, she was a steady and reliable voice for many years. The Choir's By-Laws were amended (and subsequently approved by the Board of Trustees); the amendment was to further define membership since there has been a change in our original membership roster. On Sunday, November 12, we honored the memory of our deceased members with Hokehankisd, followed by a luncheon at the community center. Also in November, the choir enjoyed an evening out at Bella Milano to share fellowship and conduct a brief meeting. We met with the Board of Trustees in December to suggest larger fundraising ideas to benefit the Church. The Choir has not had the full benefit of its bass section since Sam Spataro has taken a leave of absence. We look forward to his permanent return. We are always in need of additional voices so if you are interested in joining the Choir, please reach out to one of us. Finally, the Choir wishes to extend a special thank you to Der Torkom for his guidance and support.

Լուրեր Կիրակնօրեայ Վարժարանէն – Sunday School News

Jean Nalbandian

Sunday School kids have been so busy this year learning about God's grace through the letters of the alphabet! We are engaged in crafts, stories, songs and lessons about God's love. For example, for the letter C, we had a lesson about a scaredy cat, learned about Daniel and the lion's den, and referenced the Bible verse from Isaiah 41:10. For the letter O, we learned about owls and how to make wise decisions. We read from Proverbs 2:6. We are ready to tackle letters T-Z in the spring, as well as preparing for Easter. Come check out our Sunday School rooms to

view our handiwork. Older kids have been assisting with the younger ones, singing in the choir, serving on the altar, and learning about the different parts of the Badarak.

Community service, in ways big and small, is also part of our curriculum. Recently, we collected dozens of hats, mittens, gloves and scarves to send to our needy brothers and sisters in Armenia. Thank you to all who donated! We have also been reaching out to our community members with prayer rocks and home-made greeting cards with well wishes of all kinds. We helped decorate our church for Christmas, and we helped to pack up our decorations as we prepare for our Lenten season.

We would like to thank our church members for their continued support whether it be financial, social, educational or spiritual. We invite all children of our community to join us any Sunday. All are welcome!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR ON MAY 20. WE WILL HOST COFFEE HOUR AT THE CHURCH, NOT THE HALL, AND HAVE AN OPEN HOUSE. OUR KIDS ARE EXCITED TO SHARE WITH YOU!

Լուրեր Տիկնանց Միութենէն - Ladies' Guild News

Lynne Hagopian

The Ladies Guild was excited to debut our new Cookbook during our Christmas bake sale in December. This cookbook reflects favorite recipes of our local Ladies Guild members (both past and present) as well as other parishioners. The cookbooks are selling for \$15. Thanks to the hard work of our Ladies Guild members, delicious paklava, choreg, kurabia, bereg, simit, kadayif, kata, and assorted cookies resulted in a successful bake sale.

The Guild was able to donate \$3,000 to the church on the occasion of its 63rd anniversary. This donation was a result of monies made during our bake sales and dinners this past year.

The Guild is in the process of electing a new executive for the years 2018-2019. We are also beginning preparations for our Easter choreg and egg sale on April 1st.

We are always looking for new members to join our guild. If you are interested in joining, please contact our current chairlady, Colleen Varadian.

Լուրեր Հ.Օ.Մ.էն - Armenian Relief Society News

Janet Haroian

This past Fall, the Ungerouhies stepped up to the proverbial “mezza” plate by supporting the film premiere of The Women of 1915 at the Edwardsville, Wildey Theatre and just a few weeks later, the Granite City Antranig AYP Chapter’s annual November dance held on the 18th. Thanks to all who contributed items to both activities.

The Reubena members continued their support of ARS organized programs by donating \$100 to the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund International Telethon held November 23rd. The theme for the telethon was “Fruitful Artsakh” and ARS funds will be put towards drilling deep water wells and installing drip irrigation systems in the Martuni region of Artsakh. We also made a \$100

donation to the annual Amanor Christmas/New Year funding request from the ARS executive. The funds help support the Bird's Nest Orphanage in Lebanon, the old age home and shelters in Lebanon, Syria and South America, the Zvartnots School for disabled children in Lebanon, Soseh Kindergartens in Artsakh and Bulgaria, orphanages in Armenia and needy children in Javakhk.

For those who like to shop online, if you go to Amazon Smile and select the ARS of Eastern USA as your charity, your purchases will help generate funds for the organization. So, when you shop, Smile and remember the ARS!

By the time this issue goes to print, the ARS Annual Souper Bowl Luncheon (February 4th) will be history along with whoever wins the big game! We anticipate 10 delicious soups, plenty of bread, desserts and fun trivia for the day so thanks in advance to all who will have prepared, donated and worked the event! Also coming up on February 25th is the ARS Requiem for deceased Ungerouhies and organization benefactors. We will be hosting coffee hour after church services so please join us at the community center.

March 25th, Palm Sunday, will once again be the date for our 108th ARS Anniversary Celebration. Invite friends and family to join us at the community center after Badarak for a luncheon and brief program.

The ARS members will have raffle tickets available for sale starting at the Souper Bowl luncheon and continuing until shortly before the ARS Eastern Region Convention slated for Boca Raton, Florida. The drawing will be held at the convention banquet on August 11th. Tickets are \$10 each.

The Norian Spring Youth Connect program is slated for March 3rd at Columbia University, New York, and is open to any Armenian college student between the ages of 18-27. More details will be shared when available or by visiting the ARS website.

The ARS Central Executive has introduced "Sponsor a Bed and Change a Life" program centered at the Military Disability Rehabilitation Center of Yerevan's #1 hospital. The facility has just completed a much needed renovation and the ARS-CE has committed to providing 50 new hospital beds for the center at \$1700 each. Our Eastern Region will underwrite the provision of 5 of the beds, or \$8500. The renovated center will provide care for the wounded and disabled soldiers defending the homeland.

Coming up in the springtime is an ARS-East USA sponsored trip to Armenia to mark the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Armenia's First Independence, on May 19-30. The cost per person is \$3000, double occupancy, flying out of JFK airport in NY. The deadline to register is February 28, 2018 with a \$500 non-refundable deposit, and the full payment is due by March 31st.

I have included a copy of the ARS online newsletter that conveyed a message from a young Syrian student to his teacher. Sadly, it provides insight into the conditions that this young man has endured.

Լուրեր Հ.Ե.Մ. ԷՖ - Armenian Youth Federation

Gabby Krikorian

Granite City has not had a delegate to attend and represent our chapter at Annual AYF Convention in several years, so it was truly a privilege to go this year! I arrived in Washington D.C. not really sure of what to expect from the four days ahead of me, however, the night that I arrived I was joined by fellow Ungers and Ungerouhis from all over the Eastern Region and my excitement began to grow! Almost immediately, the lengthy process of evaluating the progress of our organization in the past year began. From morning until night, chapter and committee reports were presented, motions were made, and resolutions were passed.

It was an incredible experience to be in a room with not only representatives from each chapter, but also Central Executive, a handful of alumni, and delegates from both the Western Region and Canada, all of whom are determined to improving the AYF for future generations. I was amazed and inspired by the incredible efforts that members have made with the purpose of following the organization’s mission “to advance the goals of a free, independent and united Armenia”. I learned a great amount from this convention that I hope to apply to our local chapter and am excited for our community to host AYF Senior Convention in December of 2018, at the end of this year!

**St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church
63rd Anniversary**

\$1,000 and above	\$100 - \$499 continued
Mr. & Mrs. Richard & Pamela Asadorian	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew & Stephanie Hagopian & Family
Mr. Arman Festigian	Ms. Megan Hagopian & Mr. Robert Smith
Mary, Rosemary and Michael Haroian	Deacon & Mrs. Ed & Laura Haroian
St. Gregory Church Holy Seraphim Choir	In Memory of Michael Hagopian by the
St. Gregory Church Ladies Guild	Detroit Hagopians
\$500 - \$999	Ms. Janet Haroian
Granite City “Antranig”AYF Chapter	Ms. Melanie Haroian
ARS Reubena Chapter	Mr. & Mrs. Gregory & Debbie Hightaian & Family
Mr. John Donjoian and Family	Mr. & Mrs. Johnno & Anahit Kabbendjian & Family
St. Gregory Church Fellowship Club	Mr. Stanley Karibian
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey & Lynne Hagopian	Mr. & Mrs. Graham & Melanie Keeney
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen & Susan Hagopian	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas & Georgette Kevorkian
Mr. Stephen S. Hagopian	
Ms. Takouhie Kakligian	Mr. & Mrs. Levon and MarLean Manoogian
The Krikorian Family	Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Mkrttychyan
Mr. & Mrs. Rick & Rose Lesko	Ms. Armine Nadiryan
Mr. & Mrs. Garo & Leslie Mikaelian	Mrs. Mary Matoesian Sanasarian
\$100 - \$499	Mr. Zaven Nalbandian Sr
Anonymous	Mr. & Mrs. Zaven & Jean Nalbandian & Family
Armenian Revolutionary Federation	
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew & Chelsea Asadorian	
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur & Pam Asadorian	
Mr. Higus Asadorian	

<p>Mrs. Beatrice Bazoian Dr. & Mrs. George & Soce Berberian & Family Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Janet Bogosian Rev. Torkom & YN Shogher Chorbajian & Family The Depigian Family Mr. & Mrs. Edward & Denise Dolbashian Mr. & Mrs. Vincent & Andrea Giovando & Family Mrs. Annette Hagopian</p>	<p>Mr. & Mrs. Manny & Sonya Ohanesian Mr. & Mrs. Henry and Connie Ohanian Mr. & Mrs. David and Eliabeth Safarian & Family Ms. Lori Saucier Mr. & Mrs. Sam and Susan Spataro Mr. & Mrs. Hagop & Barbara Varadian Mr. Jacob Varadian Mr. & Mrs. John & Colleen Varadian & Family</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OTHER</p> <p>The Depigian Family Mr. & Mrs. Taniel & Rita Garabedian Ms. Daisy Kevorkian Mr. Edward Manoogian Mr. John Markarian Ms. Caroline Sarian Meisel & Family Mr. & Mrs. John & Christine Schweitzer</p>
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2017 Golf Hole Sponsors

<p>Andrew & Stephanie Hagopian & Family Der Torkom & YN Shogher Chorbajian & Gareen Henry & Connie Ohanian Lori Saucier Robert Diak, State Farm Takouhie Kakligian Joey Lee Prestige Printing Sam and Sue Spataro Stephen S Hagopian Stephen and Susie Hagopian Greg and Debbie Hightaian Freddy's Hair Salon Dick and Zabelle Vartanian Andrew and Chelsea Asadorian Jeffrey & Lynne Hagopian Aram & Sosi Hovagimian & Family Megan Hagopian & Rob Smith Armen & Christine Kourkounian & Family Tribout Distributors</p>	<p>Hellbent Tyler Opel Ed & Denise Dolbashian Raffi Ovia Zobrio (John Varadian) Seliga Shoes Jared Howe (Midwest Regional Bank) Brase Family Dan Schoenleber David Bequette Michelle Heinlen The Prouds Tribout Distributors John Donjoian Hye Acres CGO Wealth Art Asadorian Richard Avdoian Taline & Hrag Chalian Clearys Shoes David & Elizabeth Safarian</p>
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Հոգեհալոցման Պաշտոն - Requiem Service

<p><u>October 1, 2018</u> Edie Donjoian By John Donjoian Andrew, Angeline, Michael Hagopian, Wallace Lee, Kathy Ovian By Stephen S. Hagopian Hovannes Baghboodarian, Mikayel Proudian, Hovannes Proudian By Der Torkom and Yeretsgeen Chorbajian Angeline Hagopian, Robert Hadley By Stephen and Susie Hagopian All Deceased Ladies Guild Members By St Gregory Ladies Guild Arshalous Geragosian By Holy Seraphim Choir <u>October 08, 2018</u> Hannah Nance By Giovando Family <u>October 15, 2018</u> Kenn Neher By Janet Haroian <u>October 22, 2018</u> Ann Monserez By Steve & Susan Hagopian <u>October 29, 2018</u> Surme Kambarian, Mary and Esther Merzian By Asadorian and Keeney Families <u>November 05, 2018</u> Louis & Alice Saucier By Garo & Leslie Mikaelian, Lori Saucier, Garry & Patti Javizian, Richard & Pam Asadorian Anahid Nighohossian Arshaelus Geragosian By Lesko, Giovando and Sacolick Families Angeline, Andrew, Michael Hagopian, Wallace Lee, Gregory Javizian By Stephen S. Hagopian <u>November 12, 2018</u> Rev. Fr. Eghishe Gasparian, Asadour Bedian, Mark Hood, George Ohanesian, Sam Manoogian, Diran Kermanaci, Mary Bedian, Mary Maksudian,</p>	<p><u>December 03, 2018</u> Harutyoon Kmourdjian By Der Torkom and Yeretsgeen Chorbajian Andrew Hagopian, Girair Kambarian, Shake Kambarian McMillan By Asadorian and Keeney Families Victor, Eva, Sharkey, and Krekor Hightaian, Anna and John Stokes, Bill Rooney By Greg and Debbie Hightaian <u>December 10, 2017</u> Andrew Hagopian By Jeff and Lynne Hagopian & Family & Annette, Steve & Susan Hagopian, Stephen S. Hagopian, Andrew & Stephanie Hagopian & Famil, Karen Hagopian, Paul & Liz Shirinian & Family, Hrag & Taline Chalian & Family, Aram & Sosi Hovagimian & Family, Rich and Ani Florka, Marian & Sharon Krist Nick Stepanian By Steve and Susie Hagopian Alice McClintock By Asadorian & Keeney Families <u>December 17, 2017</u> Helen Ovian, Kathy Ovian By Raffi Ovian <u>December 24, 2017</u> Grant Korkoyan, Jr. , Manuel Esayian, Deceased Members of the Korkoyan & Esayian Familes By Genny, Gary & Deb Esayian & Families Bob Parsaghian, Rueben Parsaghian, Haiganoosh Parsaghian, Vahan Parsaghian By Patti & Garry Javizian Michael and Angeline Hagopian, Kathy Ovian, Wallace Lee By Stephen S. Hagopian Becky Nalbandian By Nalbandian Families <u>December 31, 2017</u> Gohar Markarian By Martin and Luda Grigorian <u>January 14, 2018</u> Michael Hagopian By Jeff & Lynne Hagopian,</p>
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Margie Sisoian, Roxy Asadorian, Kathy Ovian, Sampson Nighohossian Vahan Haroian, Sadie Hagopian, Arshaelus Geragosian, Rose Ohanesian, Yerestgeen Arpi Shrikian, Angel Mooshegian, Nuvart Kachigian, Vanig Torigian, Jeannie FUSDIGIAN
By Holy Seraphim Choir

November 19, 2018

Mary Asadorian, Zadour Kambarian Mesag & Zavart Megrđichian Family, Bedros & Haigohui Megrđichian, Alice & Jack Davoudian, Nell Bogosian, Ralph Astorian

By Mary M. Dugan

Margaret Mooshegian

By Yervant Manoogian

Missy Bloome

By Leslie & Karo Mikaelian

November 26, 2018

Larry Sanasarian

By Mary Sanasarian

Steve & Susie Hagopian, Andrew & Stephanie Hagopian, Stephen Hagopian, Paul, Liz and Andie Shirinian, Mr. & Mrs. Hrag Chalian
Soghomon Ovian

By Raffi and Siron Ovian

Zaven Asadorian & Robert Parsaghian

By Pam & Rich Asadorian

January 28, 2018

Kathy Ovian, Andrew Hagopian, Angeline Hagopian, Michael Hagopian, Wallace Lee

By Stephen S. Hagopian

Prayer Requests-Խնորհուհի Աղօթից

October 1, 2018

John Hornbostel, Sam Spataro, Sue Spataro, Armen Festigian

By Stephen and Susie Hagopian

Sam and Sue Spataro

By Takouhie Kakligian

October 08, 2018

Sam & Sue Spataro

By Leo Donian

October 15, 2018

Rose Kehetian

By Janet, Melanie & Stephen Haroian

October 22, 2018

Rose Kehetian

By Steve and Susie Hagopian

October 29, 2018

Armen Festigian

By Deacon and Mrs. Ed Haroian Family

November 05, 2018

Rose Kehetian

By Mary, Rosemary, Michael, Melanie and Stephen Haroian

December 17, 2017

Steve Hagopian

By Raffi Ovian, Jeff and Lynne Hagopian, Yervant Manoogian

Leo Manoogian

By Yervant Manoogian

Mitch Kehetian, Stephen Haroian, Steve Hagopian

By Janet Haroian

Stephen Haroian

By Mary, Rosemary, Michael and Melanie Haroian

Harold Ohanian

By Stephen S. Hagopian

December 24, 2017

Ken Sarajian

By Steve and Susie Hagopian, Jeff and Lynne Hagopian

December 31, 2017

Bob Jung

By Steve and Susan Hagopian & Family, Jeff and Lynne Hagopian

<p><u>November 12, 2018</u> Amy Hossfeld By Nalbandian Family</p> <p><u>November 19, 2018</u> Sam and Sue Spataro By Leslie and Garo Mikaelian</p> <p><u>November 26, 2018</u> Steve Hagopian, Leo Manoogian By Mary Parsaghian</p> <p>Amy Hossfeld By Mr. & Mrs. Zaven Nalbandian</p> <p><u>December 03, 2018</u> Leo Manoogian, Steve Hagopian By Takouhie Kakligian, Asadorian and Keeney Families</p> <p>Leo Manoogian, Sam Spataro Edward and Laura Haroian</p> <p><u>December 10, 2018</u> Mary Winston, Steve Hagopian By Hagop and Barbara Varadian</p> <p>Steve Hagopian By Ed and Laura Haroian and Family</p>	<p><u>January 07, 2018</u> Bob Jung, Hrag Chalian By Jeff and Lynne Hagopian</p> <p>Hrag Chalian By Steve and Susie Hagopian, Hagop and Barbara Varadian</p> <p>Carolyn Koester By Janet Haroian</p> <p><u>January 14, 2018</u> Avak Karibian By Stanley Karibian</p> <p>Steve Hagopian By Raffi Oviaian</p> <p>Naz Donjoian By Asadoian & Keeney Families</p> <p><u>January 28, 2018</u> Edward Dolbashian By Janet Haroian</p>
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Christmas Youghakeen 2018

<p>Takouhie Kakligian Sam and Sue Spataro Greg & Debbie Hightaian Der Torkom and YN Shogher Chorbajian Henry and Connie Ohanian Jake Varadian Zaven Nalbandian Sr Stephen & Susan Hagopian Jeff and Lynne Hagopian Paul and Janet Bogosian</p>	<p>Karen & Naira Vardanyan Manny & Sonya Ohanesian Janet Haroian Deacon Ed and Mrs. Laura Haroian George & Soce Berberian & Family Lori Saucier Garo & Leslie Mikaelian Clara Takmajian & Russell Waterson David & Elizabeth Safaian and Family Rev. Stephan Baljian, Yn. Alice Baljian & Family</p>
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In Lieu of Flowers for Berch Markarian Meherian

John, Bob, Ron, and Randall Markarian and Families
Takouhie Kakligian

Total: \$ 600

In Lieu of Flowers for Calvin Candisky

Takouhie Kakligian
Annette Hagopian
Hagop and Barbara Varadian
Jeff and Lynne Hagopian
Katherine Shahinian
Mikaelian Family
Lori Saucier
Richard and Pam Asadorian and Family
Mike Torosian
Raffi Ovia
Jacob Varadian



Total: \$ 1,020

Join Us to Celebrate

Archbishop Oshagan's Legacy

SUNDAY.MARCH 18.2018

EPISCOPAL DIVINE LITURGY AT 10:00AM

FEATURING
ONNIK DINKJIAN

Accompanied by Ara
Dinkjian on organ

- The concert will take place in the Church, following Church services
- Reception to follow at the Community Center

Thank you to all who donated the poinsettias to beautify the church during this beautiful holiday season.

Please note the below listing of those who remembered or honored a loved one with a poinsettia.



Donor	In Memory Of
Mr. & Mrs. Hagop Varadian	In loving memory of our deceased family members
Mary Matoesian Sanasarian	Larry Sanasarian
Mary Matoesian Sanasarian	Helen & Abraham Sanasarian
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Hightaian and Family	Hightaian, Haroian & Stokes Families
Takouhie Kakligian	Jack & Gary Meharian
Laureen Torigian and Family	Vincent, Fred & Margaret Torigian
John, Isabelle, Sophia, and Naz Donjoian	Naz & Edie Donjoian
Susie & Stephen Hagopian and Family	Andrew & Angeline Hagopian
Susie & Stephen Hagopian and Family	Wallace Lee
Jeffrey, Lynne, Michelle and Megan Hagopian	Andrew & Angeline Hagopian
Jeffrey, Lynne, Michelle and Megan Hagopian	Mel Krist
Sam & Sue Spataro	Raimondo & Sabella Spataro and Verkin,
	Michael & Krikor Donian
Stephen S. Hagopian	Kathy Ovian, Wallace Lee
Stephen S. Hagopian	Michael, Andrew & Angeline Hagopian
Arnold & Lisa Babikian	Hermine Babikian, Lucy Nersesian
Der Torkom & Yeretsgeen Chorbajian & Family	Proudian Family & Chorbajian Family
Nalbandian Family (Jean, Zaven III, Mirra)	Becky Nalbandian
Jake Varadian	Varadian and Koch Families
Dr. George Berberian & Family	Mr. Levon Berberian
Lori Saucier	Alice & Louis Saucier
The Giovondo's	Ebbie & John Lesko
The Giovondo's	Margie & Charles "Garabed" Sisoian

Community News

Funeral

With great sorrow: Calvin Candisky passed on October 8, 2017. Funeral services were held on Monday, October 18 at St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church. We want to extend our condolences to Candisky, Ovian and Varadian families. Make God illuminate Calvin's soul in his heavenly peace.

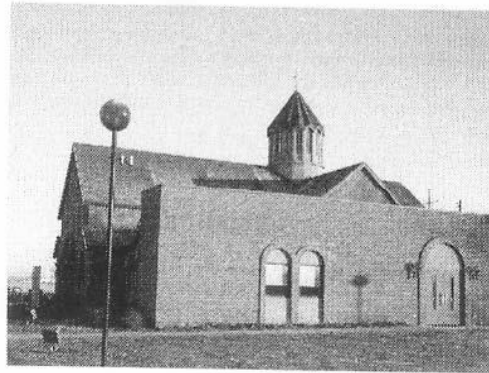
COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS

<p>October 1 – Ladies Guild Anniversary 8 – BOT 15 – Maria Dyson & Family 22 – Ed & Denise Dolbashian 29 – ARS</p> <p>November 5 - Asadorian, Mikaelian & Saucier Families 12 - Choir 19 - BOT 26 - Mary Sanasarian</p>	<p>Dec. 3 - Church Anniversary 10 - Hagopian Families 17 - Ladies Guild Bake Sale 24 - BOT 31 - BOT</p> <p>Jan. 7 - Fellowship Club Armenian Christmas Luncheon 14 - BOT 21 - BOT 28 - BOT</p>
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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

February	9 23	Diyarmentarach Service & Bonfire Screening of "The Last Inhabitant" movie at Wildey Theater
March	04 24 25	Annual Church Membership Meeting Annual Church Cleaning Day & "Holy Seraphim" Choir Spring retreat Palm Sunday & ARS "Rebeuna" Chapter's 108 th Anniversary Luncheon
April	1 24	Easter Sunday & Ladies Guild Bake Sale & Egg Sale Feast of the Armenian Holy Martyrs
May	11 13 27	Agoomp sponsored by the Ladies Guild Mother's Day Luncheon Independence Day of the First Republic of Armenian & Blessing of the flags
June 17		Father's Day luncheon sponsored by the Ladies Guild

St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church
1014 West Pontoon Road
Granite City, IL 62040



The *Pari Loor* staff requests community input. Your ideas and suggestions are welcome as we strive to update the format and information in our newsletter. Volunteers are needed to assist with the publication, assembly, and mailing of our newsletter. Contributions of worthy and interesting news events about our community members are encouraged. We need your input - please contact the Pastor or the editorial staff with your name and/or contribution to *Pari Loor*.