



Pari Loor

A Publication of
Saint Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church

Granite City, Illinois

Spring/Summer 2019

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

Pastor

Permanent priest to be assigned at a later date.

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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 a member of the Board of Trustees.

CHURCH SERVICES

DIVINE LITURGY:

Divine Liturgy (*Badarak*) or Deacon/Choir services start at 10:00 A.M. every Sunday.

Other Services by Special Announcement

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Year round, for all children. 10:30 – 12:00 every Sunday morning.

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 is donated 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

From Anoushavan Surpazan's National Representative Assembly Message

Since 1957, the Eastern Prelacy of the United States has remained an integral member of the Great Family. By this understanding, an indivisible bond linking the Catholicosate with the Prelacy and with the Community turns us into a single totality, with one existence and one mission. Therefore, each parish-community, and especially those individuals who are assigned with responsible duties in the National Representative Assembly, who serve on the boards of trustees, and within affiliated groups, are obliged to understand their position, and then to translate it into community life by sharing this idea and ideal with fellow parishioners. In other words, to think and to say that the obligations of a parish church begin and end only within the boundaries of the community actually distances us from the real recognition of the fact, and can condemn us to a stagnant condition and ultimately into oblivion. The individual cell or part is able to protect the existence of the whole body, and lends greater meaning to the totality through its connection to other cells and parts because of its specific functionality. So too the individual parish, with its autonomy and local operation, receives its spiritual energy through reciprocal relations with the Prelacy and with the Catholicosate. In a word, when we live and work together and on behalf of one another, the Parish-Prelacy-Catholicosate structure ceases to be a dry and stale formality, and as we have stressed just now, is transformed into a living and flourishing Great House and Great Home. And as each parishioner senses that he and she is a real member of the Great House, then the parishioner lives, breathes and exerts himself and herself for the health of the home, thinks always of promoting the well-being of the home, and is always glad to see the progress of the home. In the words of the Gospel, "Because you have done these good things for the least of my brothers and sisters, you have done it for the Glory of the Lord." (cf. Matthew 25:40) The same may be said of every person who is a member of the great family of the Armenian Church.

* * * * *

Turning our attention to our community, today's American-Armenian largely considers himself and herself either to be the direct descendant of those Armenians who set foot upon the United States either just before or just after the Genocide, or a descendant of those Armenians who, in the aftermath of the Second World War, in successive waves, emigrated from all parts of Europe and the Middle East and settled here. This is a societal phenomenon from which the Armenians, as a collective group, cannot remain separate. Therefore, whether being part of the older generation or whether being part of the newer generation in the United States, we Armenians have always lived side by side as a new minority within the larger melting pot of American society. Out of this amalgamation, the American-Armenian has progressed from polarization to uniformity, and has found itself crystallized on a particular path. Our prayer and wish are that leadership will strive as the catalyst for this social evolution. What I would like to emphasize here, however, is the following: in the search for identity, by shaking the American-Armenian loose from the psyche of the previous decades, it is imperative to profess oneself no longer as a survivor of the *Hamidian* massacres or of the 1915 Genocide or as a member of a more recent emigration, but rather as belonging as an integral component of American life, just as the famous silk merchant Martin the Armenian represented when he arrived on the continent in 1618. From that point forward, the silk thread was extended as new, talented Armenians arrived to these shores, transferring the wealth of knowledge from the Old Country to the New World, and from whom we today are worthy successor citizens. Therefore, we ought to separate our feelings from every form of accumulated subordination, and instead present ourselves to the society around us, just as the internationally renowned, immortal and talented artist Charles Aznavour manifested and reflected by his individual identity. He felt one hundred percent French, and at the very same time, he felt one hundred percent Armenian. Indeed, when we take the time to observe and recount the contributions of Armenian intelligence and talent across various fields in American life, once again it validates the special Armenian character described by the famous historian, Movses of Khoren, who said: "Though we may be a small nation, nevertheless, there are numerous aspects and works of which to be proud in the life of the Armenians."

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The primary mission of the Church is to spread the message of the Holy Gospel of the faith which we received from our Lord Jesus Christ, through the Apostles and Church Fathers, and then to implement the Gospel message in our daily lives. This is what I revealed from my heart during my speech at the luncheon organized for my election. Here today, I wish to repeat my sentiments, and to say that as the guideline of our unswerving mission, we have delegated the important part of our efforts to engage in the awakening of spiritual life so that we may all live in the springtime of faith in a collective manner. We must preserve the blooming, rich and glorious field of spiritual understanding, together with all of its disciplines, which we have inherited from our forefathers. Faith is not blind or ignorant, nor should it be regarded as only a tradition or external expression of pious ritual. Rather, faith must have total certainty as the impetus to realize our heavenly and earthly dreams, both when professed individually and collectively as a community. Indeed, this faith has not only been the noble bond of communion between the Creator and us created beings, but by this faith, Armenian life has been enriched and transfigured over the centuries.

* * * * *

I bring all of this into the midst of our deliberations today so that all of us, Christian Armenians, who have been born anew spiritually in illumination from the apostolic font of baptism, both clergy and laity, might not fall victim to financial or ideological entrapment in the course of different careers or social setting. Let all of us live and never deprive ourselves of the life-giving faith and blessed goodness inherited from our forefathers. Without being ashamed to confess and to live, faith presupposes a superior knowledge of identity which gilds our fragile nature in order to vanquish every kind of imperfection. Our Lord Jesus Christ says: *“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven”* (Matthew 10:32). My prayer is for all of the faithful whom have been entrusted into my pastoral care, that we shall be able to stand before the Great Judge, without shame, and shall hear the glorious invitation: *“Come, ye blessed of my Father! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”* (Matthew 25:34).

* * * * *

Now please allow me to address the second critical part of our mission: to serve the Youth who are the guarantee of the continued existence of our people, and whose, in addition to their physical and intellectual development, spiritual formation is not only important but imperative. For me, there is a great advantage because I inherited from my predecessor prelates a rich supply of materials for this purpose. Indeed, for thirty-two years, the Prelacy has maintained the Datev Institute in conjunction with the nationwide Sunday School Program. Every year, fifty students from different parishes in the Prelacy spend an entire week in Pennsylvania, immersed in courses of study in Armenian faith, culture, spirit, and the benefits of social life. In the past two years, a new mission has been initiated on behalf of our youth which has officially become known as “Salt and Light”. I am certain that it will generate great spiritual satisfaction to know about the unlimited encouragement of the program by our pastors and boards of trustees. Saint Sarkis parish in New York, Saint Sarkis parish in Detroit, and Saint Gregory the Illuminator parish in Philadelphia, are the pioneers in organizing youth groups in the “Salt and Light” program, and starting last October, Saint Illuminator's cathedral in New York and Saints Vartanantz in Providence have also established youth groups; Saint Stephen parish in Watertown will join the expanding group very soon. We hope that the program will foster even greater enthusiasm, and that eventually all of our parishes will fully participate in the youth-oriented “Salt and Light” mission. I am happy to announce that also starting last month, a new “Young Married Couples” group was established in New Jersey, under the auspices of the Prelacy, something to be promoted and implemented in all other parishes.

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It is true that when we begin to listen to our youth, we will begin to understand them as they are, and we will recognize them for who they are and wish to be. By stepping away from our insistence to shape them in our image, we will place greater confidence in them, and in turn, the youth will place greater trust in us. By narrowing the gap between the generations, the youth will have a warmer feeling toward the older generation and will embrace the older generation with open hearts. In so doing, the new generation will form an active membership in our Great House. Their contributions will undoubtedly enrich our entire nation, safeguarding the highest esteem and regard toward Armenians on the worldwide stage. I am certain that in this course of action, we must all be like the disciples of the Lord, and whether we are young or old, we must learn every day from the life and lessons of the Great Teacher who has created all of us in His divine image to be just stewards of this wonderful world in which we live. I believe most surely in the Gospel truth that when seeds are sown with wisdom and love, in good and willing earth, *“that the fruit will spring up and increase, and bring forth, some thirty, some sixty, and some one hundred fold in yield”* (Mark 4:20).

Board of Trustees News

Stephen Hagopian

St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church of Granite City has had many highs and a one low so far this year. We celebrated Armenian Christmas Services together as a community. This year the Board of Trustees (BOT) and with Community Volunteers outside of the Board were able to hold a Luncheon at the hall after our Christmas Badarak. Since we catered the meal this year, we were able to celebrate Armenian Christmas together as a community. It was a great day.

On Saturday, January 26, 2019, we held a screening at the Community Center of the movie, *“Kyanq U Kriv.”* It was an Armenian movie about the Artsakh War. Since the event was open to the public, thirty plus (30+) people attended. Der Torkom Chorbajian suggested the movie. We cannot thank him enough for bringing this movie and piece of Armenian culture to us. Although the movie was in Armenian, it had subtitles. Everyone who attended was moved by the story. We look forward to similar events in the future.

On Saturday, March 9, 2019 we held our annual BOT / Holy Seraphim Choir Trivia Night. Thank you to all of the volunteers, who helped make it such a successful event. We look forward to this annual tradition. Our goal is to have twenty-five plus (25+) teams attending annually.

Moreover, in March we held our Annual Membership Meeting, where we discussed the future of our community, our outreach efforts, how we plan to improve regular church attendance, and the concerns and future of the Community Center. BOT members actively took notes during the meeting. Since then, the BOT has addressed and acted upon many of the suggestions, ideas, and issues presented at the Membership Meeting. The BOT continues to discuss those and other issues on a regular basis. We always welcome feedback, constructive criticism, and look for new ideas to improve our Church and its Community.

We spent most of April preparing for Lenten, Easter, and Martyr’s Day Celebrations. We held Lenten Services every week, as well as our traditional Holy Week Services (Palm Sunday through

Easter). Der Torkom provided powerful spiritual leadership and guidance throughout the season. Those in attendance worshipped together and had a very moving Holy Week. Easter Sunday was a great day of worship with our Armenian community with a full choir and altar. It is with great appreciation we thank all of our dedicated choir and deacon members for their selfless and tireless devotion to Christ, his Church, and our Community; not only during the Holiday Seasons, but throughout the year.

On Sunday, April 28, 2019, we observed the one hundred fourth (104th) Commemoration of the 1915 Armenian Genocide. We were joyed to again conduct a joint commemoration with our sister Holy Shoghagat Armenian Apostolic Church from Belleville, Illinois. We joyously hosted the Armenians from across the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. Der Voskan Hovhannisyan served as the Celebrant, with Der Torkom delivering the Sermon for the day. At the Memorial / Remembrance Dinner Program following services, Amasia Zargarian spoke of the Halo Trust's de-mining efforts in Artsakh. He spoke on a wide variety of current de-mining programs being conducted in farmlands, lands in the "*neutral zone*", roads, and forest areas. The speech was very informative, effective, and emotional. We focused our efforts this year on presenting a program about current topics affecting Armenia. We cannot thank Amasia Zargarian enough for speaking to our community on behalf of the Halo Trust. We look forward to hearing about their progress and success of the Halo Trust's Programs in the future.

As we have stated our highs and successes so far this year, we must also address our low. We have been blessed to have Der Torkom and Yeretsgeen Shogher serve our community for the last four and one-half (4½) years. It is bittersweet that we must inform everyone of Der Torkom's reassignment to the Worcester, Massachusetts Community. Their reassignment began on Sunday, June 9, 2019. We were blessed to have them in our community. We not only saw Der Torkom and Yeretsgeen Shogher grow as individuals, we also saw their family grow, with the addition of two (2) daughters, Gareen and Karni. While we are selfishly sad to see them go, we are excited about their future. As we will always be a part of their history, they will always be part of the Granite City Armenian Community.

The BOT knows the challenges we face. We are in constant contact with the Prelacy with respect to the arrival and welcoming of our next Priest (Der Hayr / Yeretsgeen or Hayr Soorp) to Granite City. Until such time, we have been successful in securing Der Aram Stepanian for Father's Day, Sunday, June 16, 2019, Der Gomidas Baghsarian for Sunday, June 30, 2019, and for Vartavar and Blessing of the Grapes, Der Vasken Bekiarian on Sunday, July 28, 2019 and August 18, 2019, respectively. On the Sundays we do not have a visiting priest, we will hold Deacon/Choir Services.

We cannot stress how important involvement in St. Gregory's is to the retention of our Armenian Community, History, and Culture. Although the BOT understands the many diverse challenges we face as individuals, we also realize that we need the community, as a whole, to move forward. Without the regular spiritual guidance and comfort of a regular, full-time Priest, we will be leaning on our BOT Members, the Fellowship Club, the Ladies Guild, and volunteers from our Armenian Community at large. Again, we, the BOT, cannot thank everyone enough, who gives of their time, talent, and treasure to our church. Let us continue to look to the future and how we will continue to improve the St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church of Granite City.

Holy Seraphim Choir News

Rose Lesko

The Holy Seraphim Choir continues to improve upon the hymns of the Divine Liturgy through our practices, while also focusing on improving the hymns we sing only on feast days.

On the Saturday before Palm Sunday, the choir participated in the Spring cleaning of the church and also their annual Spring Retreat. During the Spring Retreat we discussed a magnitude of things the choir could do for fundraising as well as where we needed to focus our attention with regard to the Badarak regular Sunday hymns.

It is with great pleasure that we have welcomed back our organist, Andy Asadorian. We are thrilled that Andy and Chelsea have moved back to the area and that Andy has been supporting the choir each Sunday. It truly is a blessing to have him back.

Since the departure of Der Hayr, the choir has participated in several deacon/choir services and will continue to fine tune the choir portion of that service. If anyone would like to join, this is the perfect time for doing so. Please contact any choir member if you are interested. The choir can always use a fresh voice or two.

Sunday School News

Jean Nalbandian

Sunday School has wound down for the year. This past year we had a fun and successful time playing and praying together. Our handiwork is on display through the church hallways and classrooms. In appreciation for our donation to Vanadzor Orphanage, Ruzanna Antonyam made a donation to SOAR, in the name of our Sunday School, to provide Easter treats to the children at the orphanage. Recently, we participated in Holy Week services, re-created Christ's journey along the walls of our hallways, and made goodbye cards for Der Torkom. We will resume official lessons in September, but our classrooms are still open to little ones and their parents for use through the summer. Everyone is welcome. We are gearing up for the Blessing of the Grapes picnic where we will have fun with games, crafts, face painting, and helping the grown-ups. Hope to see you there!

Ladies' Guild News

Lynne Hagopian

The Guild continued its tradition of baking and selling choreg after Easter services as well as dyeing and selling Easter eggs. The Guild sponsored a Lenten luncheon on Sunday, March 31st. The variety of food prepared by our Ladies was plentiful and no one went home hungry. Our Guild prepared the Magdah meal for the joint commemoration of the Armenian genocide on April 28th. Roasted lamb, bulghur and rice pilafs, salad and bread were served to approximately 100 people from the St. Gregory and Holy Virgin Mary and Shoghagat Armenian churches.

The Guild collected personal care items during the month of May for the Good Samaritan House, a very worthwhile charity in Granite City. This year we discovered that the Good Samaritan House was no longer

functioning. The generous donations were instead given to Blessed Threads, another charitable organization in Granite City.

We held a delicious Father's Day brunch on June 16th honoring the men of our parish. Future events include: Nazook baking class at the Community Center on August 4th, bake sale at the Blessing of the Grapes picnic on August 18th and the Guild Anniversary dinner on September 29th. Please support your church by supporting your Ladies Guild at these events.

Fellowship Club News

Connie Ohanian

The Fellowship Club (FC) met briefly in late March 2019 to select a new set of Executive Officers, Lynne Hagopian – Chairperson, Connie Ohanian – Secretary and Janet Haroian – Treasurer.

The Fellowship Club's objectives are to foster friendships, develop camaraderie, and have fun while serving our church. In the recent past, the Fellowship Club held Speaker Luncheons, sponsored Ice Cream Socials, attended and organized Concerts, and organized / worked the Annual Church Spring Cleaning. Other activities the Club has held (and hopes to organize, again) were adult Halloween Parties, Plays, Dinners, and Family Nights, as well as other social events.

At our subsequent May meeting we firmed up a summer calendar to include a churchwide Ice Cream Social (held on Sunday June 30th); attendance at Compton Heights Band events at either Tower Grove Park or Francis Park (both in South St. Louis City). Afterwards plan on joining everyone at Ted Drewes Frozen Custard. More information on those activities as the dates near.

SPEAKERS LUNCHEON: We have contacted Hasmik Chakaryan to speak. She is a professor at Webster University whose expertise is International Counseling; which includes, teaching Counselors how to provide support for individuals in affected areas to recover from individual abuse circumstances as well as Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. We are attempting to have her speak on one of the Sundays in the Fall. FC President Lynne Hagopian will finalize the date with Ms. Chakaryan.

Stephen Hagopian suggested he may be able to get either Free or Reduced Group Rate Tickets for a St. Louis Cardinals Baseball Game. This activity will be opened to anyone wanting to attend provided enough tickets are available.

The FC will sponsor an Agoomp Night this October similar to last year's Family-Oriented Game Night initiated by Der Torkom Chorbajian and Yeretsgeen Shogher. More information on this activity as the date nears.

All church members and families are invited to attend Fellowship Club activities. Expanding our relationships in a more relaxed setting continues to be an important part of our church mission.

Armenian Relief Society News

Janet Haroian



After Church Service on Sunday, April 14, 2019, the Armenian Relief Society (ARS) Reubena Chapter hosted a Luncheon and short Program at the St. Gregory Community Center to celebrate our One Hundred Ninth (109th) Anniversary. We shared a delicious meal of Chicken, Pilaf, Salad, Bread, and Anniversary Cake. Thanks to all who attended and supported this special event. Since she was here visiting her family, we were pleased to welcome Ungerouhie Valentine Berberian to our celebration. Ungerouhie Valentine has served the ARS organization in many roles over the years and has been a key proponent in our role and participation at the United Nations offices in New York City.

The ARS Watertown and Cambridge Chapters hosted the Ninety-Ninth (99th) Regional Convention in Waltham, Massachusetts, from Thursday, July 18, 2019 through Sunday, July 21, 2019.

We are planning a Leghmejun fundraiser for the ARS Endowment. We are accepting volunteers to help prepare the delicious Armenian “*pizzas*.” Because we need to coordinate securing the ingredients, and setting a time and place to assemble and bake them, let an executive member know of your interest to help.

Armenian Youth Federation

Stephen Hagopian

The following is a schedule of upcoming Armenian Youth Federation (AYF) Activities of which we hope you will attend and/or support:

RACINE, WISCONSIN
FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2019 - SUNDAY
JULY 14, 2019 AYF MID-WEST JUNIOR
OLYMPICS

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2019 - SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 AYF SENIOR OLYMPICS

GRANITE CITY, ILLINOIS
ST. GREGORY COMMUNITY CENTER
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2019

GRANITE CITY ANTRANIG PRESIDENT GABBY KRIKORIAN'S INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

I was lucky enough to be in Yerevan, Armenia this past summer as a part of the Armenian Youth Federation (AYF) Internship Program. I applied because I thought it was the perfect way to spend my summer; gain work experience, meet new Armenians, and live in Yerevan, which I already knew I loved. What else could I ask from my last summer before graduation and entering the real world?

After earning a Bachelor's Degree in Nutrition, I want to apply that knowledge as a physician. Therefore, during my first few days in Yerevan, I met with the coordinators of a couple of medicine-related locations that were accepting volunteers. Of course, I was a little anxious; my Armenian speaking skills were only sufficient, if that, and I knew that I really wanted to be effective in my time here. Using this criteria, the organization that seemed to be best suited for me was the Children of Armenian Fund (COAF). After my meeting with Dr. Lusine Antonyan, the doctor with whom I would spend most of my time, the vision I had of living and working in the motherland had finally begun to materialize.

My assignment was to go to Armenian villages to gather basic health data on village children that would be further collected and analyzed each following year, probably by volunteers like me. This opportunity was even more exciting to me because I had felt that what was missing from my previous experience in Armenia was that I was not able to interact with real people. I felt like a tourist in the country I claimed to be my own! So, I really wanted this summer to be different.

On my first day at work, I did exactly what I was told I would do: and I loved it! A group of professionals including a psychiatrist, social worker, family medicine practitioner, and I (not-as-qualified as the others) headed to Miasnikyan. Miasnikyan is one of the biggest villages in the Armavir province and is about an hour from Yerevan. Each member of the team had his / her own responsibilities. I, along with Hripsime, a local teacher, mother, and hair stylist, brought in ten (10) preschool students at a time to begin our data collection. I would take their height and weight measurements, while she would record them. We had measurements for half the school, about one hundred (100) children, when we stopped. It was then that I was offered coffee for what was probably the fourth time that day. The rest of the women there were teachers, cooks, coordinators,

and many other occupations. They all sat down with me on a group of shaded benches in the preschool's courtyard. They asked me from where in America I was, if I liked it in Armenia, if the apricots were tasty, and of course the classic, relentless questions about my relationship status. I am not sure how much of my broken Western Armenian they truly understood, but we were having a great time with each other, and I already felt at home, even though I was at "work."

I continued the same project for several days, while Lucine began to prepare me for what was to come the following week. A group of doctors, a nurse, a midwife, along with some medical students, and volunteers would be coming to work with COAF to hold free clinics for villagers living in Galarik, Kerakert, and Miasnikyan. Most of these compassionate individuals are a part of the Armenian - American Health Professionals Organization (AAHPO). I recently discovered the AAHPO is an organization that coordinates events and programs for Armenian medical professionals living in the New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut Tri-State Area. It provides medical support and education to Armenians all over the world. It is led by Dr. Joyce Kurdian and they were here to carry out that mission.

Many of them return each year for these clinics and were already familiar with both COAF physicians, Dr. Lusine Antonyan and Dr. Lusine Sahakyan, as well as many of the local village staff. In fact, they were so familiar with them that they would talk about their families and exchange gifts with each other. On the other hand, there were some of us that had no idea what the next few days would bring. There were also a group who spoke no Armenian at all. Nonetheless, we all gathered in Republic Square on a Monday morning, introduced ourselves to one another, and headed to Galarik for the first clinic.

Within a few hours, we arrived in Galarik. All of us were warmly welcomed. Whether we were veterans or new recruits, the group of women who worked at the COAF clinic were delighted to have us there. Having arrived, we knew we needed to quickly set up before the patients began arrive within the next thirty (30) minutes. We worked together to locate the supplies and arrange things in a way to make our operation run as smoothly and efficiently as we could.

The building itself was very nice compared to the surrounding structures. There were separate rooms available for each of the specialties, usually with a desk and chair for the doctor and medical seat or bench for the patients. Electricity, running water, and toilets in the restrooms were common in the clinics, but definitely a higher standard than the areas we were in. There was no air conditioning, but at this point, this was expected. It had been a particularly hot summer so far, but we were all happy to be there.

As the patients arrived, they came to a table where the nurse, other volunteers, and I were ready to take their basic measurements: height, weight, blood sugars, and blood pressure. Many would say that they did not need to get all of these checked because they "knew" they were fine so we would use our Armenian language abilities to convince them otherwise, just in case.

A great majority of the locals who chose to use the clinic were women. Therefore, after our preliminary station, we would hand the patient their basic medical form and direct them to Dr. Ferman, the oncologist and hematologist, for breast screenings. Afterward they went to Martha Boudakian, the midwife, with whom I worked and was able to observe throughout the next few days. Then, to address their other health concerns, they could visit the other specialists that included an occupational therapist, a respiratory specialist, dentist, and psychiatrist.

Towards the end of each day as the last patients were clearing out, we would share a meal. We used what energy we had left to continue getting to know each other and discuss interesting medical cases, common patterns, or just entertaining individuals. We were all there to learn from one another. As we shared our experiences, we were quickly able to become a tight knit group, whose excitement continued to grow, despite the exhausting days.

Although I have a limited medical background, there were a few patterns I was able to observe. Many men and women would come with back pains and were guided to Alyssa Boulkijian, the occupational therapist. She made sure to be thorough with each patient and provide very personal care and instruction based on their daily activities and resources. In addition, there were many patients seeking dental care. This was clearly a common issue among the population, especially children, who may not have the resources or education for proper dental care. There was also a large group of patients who would point to their throats. At first, I thought that it meant they had a sore throat, but I was surprised to understand that they were actually indicating a problem with their thyroid, or a hormonal imbalance. The respiratory specialist, Vera, explained that she saw a lot of patients with breathing problems caused by stress, smoking that is very common among men, and pollution from nearby factories and nuclear power plants.

Something else that I have observed, in both the United States and Armenia, is the remarkable intimacy and transparency within physician-patient relationships. There is an unspoken trust that allows for great understanding of one another within very brief interactions. Although I have seen this phenomenon in the America, it seemed to be even easier to feel comfortable with one another in this setting. I like to think it was because we were speaking as one Armenian to another.

Working with COAF has been a blessing. I have been able to meet and work with individuals who came to Armenia with similar goals. However, I have also been able to work with those living, working, and going to school in Armenia. All of these individuals have broadened my prospective of health care, but have also given me an insight into the culture and lifestyle of others who share the same history as I do. On the third and final day, I left Gerakert feeling inspired by the group of individuals I had just met; a group of new role models. I hope to return next year.

Հոգեհանգստեան Պաշտոն - Requiem Services

January 20

Michael Hagopian

By Stephen S. Hagopian,
Steve & Susan Hagopian,
Andrew & Stephanie and Family,
Jeff & Lynne Hagopian.
Megan & Rob Smith,
Michelle Hagopian & Gabrielle Fiorenza,
Annette Hagopian

Karnick and Grace Ohanian

By Henry & Connie Ohanian

Zhora Antonyan

By Janet Haroian

**Soghomon Ovoian, Armenag Ovoian,
Helen Ovian, Kathy Ovian, Nishan &
Mariam Varadian,
Calvin and Mary Alice Candisky, Michael
Hagopian**

By Raffi Ovian

January 27

**Andrew, Angeline, Michael Hagopian
Wallace Lee, Lawrence and Mildred
Geisendorf, Kathy Ovian**

By Stephen S. Hagopian

February 24

**Special requiem service for all the
past workers in the Armenian Press,
special requiem service in memory of the
deceased clergy who served the Prelacy,
victims of Sumgait, Baku, Kirovabad,
all deceased members and benefactors of
the ARS**

By Armenian Prelacy

**Hagop Asadorian, Edward Asadorian,
Wallace McMillan**

By Asadorian & Keeney Families

Sam Manoogian

By John Manoogian

March 10

Der Vartan Kassabian

By Asadorian & Keeney Families
& Janet, Melanie & Stephen Haroian

**Richard McClintock, Zabelle Arzrouni,
Rosa Asadorian Jones**

By Asadorian & Keeney Families

Agnes Haroian

By Janet, Melanie &
Stephen Haroian

March 24

**His Beatitude Archbishop Mesrob
Moutafian
deceased Armenian Patriarch of
Constantinople**

By Armenian Prelacy

March 31

Der Vartan Kassabian

By Deacon Ed & Mrs. Laura Haroian &
Family

April 07

**Special requiem for soldiers and civilians
who were killed during the barbaric and
ferocious attacks by Azerbaijan during
April 2-6, 2016 war, as well as for all those
who have died in subsequent attacks to this
day**

By Armenian Prelacy

**Yeretsgeen Carmen Tashjian and George
Pentezian**

By Armenian Prelacy

April 07 (Continued)

**Boghos Muradyan and Hermine
Kambarian**

By Asadorian & Keeney Families

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

By Stephen S. Hagopian

April 28

**Grant, Souren, Haroutiun, Victoria,
Arousiag, and Anoush Korkoyan,
Kerop, Elizabeth, and Manuel Esayian,
Mr and Mrs Melkon Goshgarian**

By Genny Esayian & Family

Mr. Sammy Nercessian

By Asadorian & Keeney families

Hamayak and Rahan Matoesian

By David & Janet Matoesian

Asadorian and Keeney Families

By Asadorian & Keeney Families

Hagopian and Manoogian Families

By Hagopian Families

May 05

Archbishop Mesrob Moutafian

By Armenian Prelacy

Svetlana Avakyan

By Karine Mikaelyan

Vreg Kambarian

By Asadorian & Keeney Families

Agnes Haroian

By Deacon Ed & Mrs. Laura Haroian,
Ani Haroian, Allison & Zach Stauder &
Family

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

By Stephen S. Hagopian

May 12

**Mary K. Asadorian, Mary S. Asadorian,
Hermine Kambarian, Angeline Hagopian,
Alice McClintock**

By Asadorian & Keeney Families

**Nevart Hagopian, Beulah Saucier, Alice
Saucier**

By Garo & Leslie Mikaelian

Parentzem Manoogian

By Yervant Manoogian

**Angeline, and Nevart Hagopian, Khanum
Manoogian,**

**Mildred Geisendorf, Faye Elizabeth Lee,
Mary Bedian**

By Stephen & Susie Hagopian

**Maryam Guirdjikian, Ozig
Semerdjian, Mentouhi Ohanesian,
Zabel Astorian, Beatrice Kilndjian,
Angeline Hagopian**

By Sonya & Manny Ohanesian

**Angeline Hagopian, Mildred Geisendorf,
Kathy Ovian**

By Stephen S. Hagopian

Dzaghig Asadourian, Parantzem Haroian
By Deacon & Mrs Ed Haroian & Family

**Angeline Hagopian, Nevart Hagopian,
Khanum Manoogian, Mary Bedian**

By Deacon Jeff & Lynne Hagopian

**Pileg Kakligian, Lucy Avdoian, Rose
Meharian, Zavart Kakligian, Anahid
Maghakian, Satenig Geragosian,
Marquerite Manoogian, Mary Siuramy**
By Takouhie Kakligian

Խնդրուած Աղօթից - Prayer Requests

January 06

Randy Broglin

By Janet Haroian

Sam Spataro

By Stephen S. Hagopian

January 13

Shelly Hempen-Beckmann,

Christy Spangeberg

By Michael Haroian

January 27

Ted Fuehne

By Janet Haroian

February 24

Sonja Freeman

Malcolm Torosian

Agnes Haroian,

Paul and Elizabeth Shirinian

By Stephen S. Hagopian

April 14

Natalie Karibian

By Stanley Karibian

April 21

Avak Karibian

By Stanley Karibian

Cliff Proud and the Proud Family

By Stephen S. Hagopian

April 28

Christians of Sri Lanka

Pastor and Board of Trustees

Եկեղեցւոյ Նուիրատուութիւն-Gift to the Church

March 10

Clara Takmakjian Waterson

2019 Easter Youghakeen

Roobik & Armineh Gharabagi
Manny & Sonya Ohanesian
Arman Festigian
Russell & Clara Waterson
Dr. George & Soce Berberian and Family
Stephen & Susie Hagopian
Paul & Janet Bogosian
Annette Hagopian
Stephen Hagopian
Jeff & Lynne Hagopian
Art, Pam, Andy & Chelsea Asadorian

Deacon Ed & Laura Haroian
John & Colleen Varadian & Family
Janet Haroian
Hagop & Barbara Varadian
Albert & Hasmik Atoyian
Valentine Berberian
Armine Nadiryan
Der Stephan & Yn. Baljian
Der Torkom & Yn Chorbajian
Melanie & Graham Keeney
Garo & Leslie Mikaelian

*Chrisdos Haryav Ee Merelots
Orhniál Eh Haroutiun Chrisdosi*



*Thank you to all who donated the lilies to beautify His Altar
on Easter Sunday.*

*For: Sam Manoogian
Araxie Pashalian
By: John Manoogian*

*For: Marujan Karibian
By: Stanley Karibian*

*For: Andrew & Angeline Hagopian
Mary Bedian
By: Deacon Jeffrey & Lynne Hagopian*

*For: Larry Sanasarian
Helen & Abraham Sanasarian
By: Mary Matoesian-Sanasarian*

*For: Verkin, Michael, & Krikor Donian
Raimondo & Elizabeth Spataro
Janet Naz Koobatian*

By: Sam & Sue Spataro

*For: Ed & Mary Asadorian
Rich & Alice McClintock*

By: Art & Pam Asadorian

*For: Ed & Mary Asadorian
Jacob & Mary Asadorian
Abraham & Hermine Kambarian
Arsen & Parantsem Haroian*

By: Ed & Norma Asadorian

*For: The Varadian Families
The Koch Families*

By: Hagop & Barbara Varadian

*For: Andrew, Angeline & Michael Hagopian
Wallace Lee, Kathy Ovian*

By: Stephen S. Hagopian

For: Ed & Mary Asadorian

By: Graham, Melanie & Angela Keeney

For: Wallace Lee

Andrew Hagopian

Angeline Hagopian

By: Stephen & Susan Hagopian

For: Deceased Lesko Grandparents

Deceased Sacolick Grandparents

By: Jennifer & Evan Sacolick

For: Deceased Lesko & Giovando Families

By: Andrea & Vince Giovando & Family

For: Mary Maksudian

By: Gregory & Lori Avdoian & Family

In Lieu of Flowers for Agnes Haroian

Janet, Melanie & Stephen Haroian
Mitch & Rose Kehetian
Mary, Michael & Rosemary
Haroian
Leo & Marlean Manoogian
Yervant Manoogian
Charles Merzian
Henry & Connie Ohanian
Dick & Zabelle Vartanian
Mike Torosian
Karo & Leslie Mikaelian
Stephen & Susan Hagopian
Raffi Ovia
Debra Swatske
Elisa Arnold
Zaven & Jean Nalbandian &
Family
Annette Hagopian
Robert & Lisa Kurtz
Bea Bazoian
Ellen L. Witte
Michael & Bonnie McCarty
Jeff & Lynne Hagopian
Angie & Jerry Stauder
Richard & Judy Roth
Mary Geiler

Sam & Sue Spataro
Joseph & Michelle Schrick
Jeff & Juli Connelly
Greg & Debbie Hightaian
John & Chris Schweitzer
Kathleen Westcott
Mary Jo & Don Loberg
Rick & Rose Lesko
Rita Garabedian
Hagop & Barbara Varadian
Graham & Melanie Keeney
Art & Pam Asadorian

Gary Manoogian & Karen
Manoogian Hummel
Beverley Manoogian
Takouhie Kakligian
Richard Norsigian
Bob & Marti Fowler
Dn. & Mrs. Edward Haroian, Ani
Haroian, Allison (nee Haroian),
Zachary, Julia & Dominic Stauder

Total: \$1,635

In Lieu of Flowers for Saron Ovia

Edward Manoogian
Dick & Zabelle Vartanian
Jeff & Lynne Hagopian
Mary, Michael & Rosemary Haroian
Bea Bazoian
Joe & LouAnn Fahrner
Sharon Ford
Barbara Coleman
Steve & Gina Kernan
Karo & Leslie Mikaelian
Charles Merzian
Leo & MarLean Manoogian
Mike Torosian

Rose, Doreen, Paul, Michelle & Olivia
Nersesian
Henry & Amie Nersesian
Henry & Connie Ohanian
Michael & Susan Riley
Lori Saucier
Sam & Sue Spataro
Laureen Torigian, Rev. Michelle Torigian,
Lori, Nick, Jack & Ellie Rogers
Robert & Lisa Kurtz
Edward & Laura Haroian
John Torigian, Sam & Jeri Torigian, Kit &
Rob Trimarke

Nancy Berry
Manny & Sonya Ohanesian
Janet Mahat
Donna Hayden
John & Angeline English
Anonymous
Rita Garabedian
Cathy & Brent LaLonde
Greg & Debbie Hightaian
Garry & Patti Javizian
Robert & Melody Bruckner
Hagop & Barbara Varadian
Graham & Melanie Keeney
Art & Pam Asadorian

Steve & Susie Hagopian
Richard & Pam Asadorian
Virginia Bohigian
Diana Petrosian & Tamara Cluck
Kevin Shea
Beverley Manoogian
Mary & William Stiehl
Raffi Ovian
Rod & Nancy Bauder
Janet Haroian
Takouhie Kakligian
Caryn Candisky

Total: \$2,110

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS TO ST. GREGORY ARMENIAN
CHURCH**

SAVE THE DATES



ARMENIAN YOUTH FEDERATION "ANTRANIG" CHAPTER ANNUAL DANCE

NOVEMBER 16, 2019

COMMUNITY NEWS

BIRTH

Rev. Father Torkom and Yeretsgeen Chorbajian welcomed the birth of their second daughter, Karny Chorbajian, on February 17, 2019. Congratulations to Der Torkom, Yeretsgeen Shogher and the entire Chorbajian and Proudian families.

WEDDING

Mr. Julio Encarnacion III and Miss Ashley Belcher were married on May 11, 2019 at St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church. Der Torkom Chorbajian was the officiating priest. The couple resides in U.S. Virgin Islands. Congratulations to the new couple and to the Encarnacion and Belcher families.

Mr. Zane Potter and Miss Angela Keeney were married on May 11, 2019. The couple resides in Granite City. Congratulations to the new couple and to the Kenney, Asadorian, and Potter families.

FUNERALS

WITH GREAT SORROW: Agnes Haroian passed on February 28, 2019. Funeral services were held on Saturday, March 16 at St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church. We want to extend our condolences to the Haroian and Tashjian families and to their friends. We ask God to accept Agnes into his heavenly kingdom and grant her family the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

WITH GREAT SORROW: Saron Ovian passed on March 12, 2019. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, March 19 at St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church. We want to extend our condolences to the Ovian family and to their friends. We ask God to accept Saron into his heavenly kingdom and grant her family the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

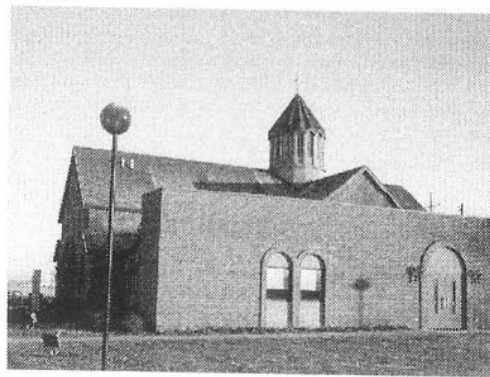
COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS

MARCH			MAY		
3	-	Church cancelled due to inclement weather	5	-	Haroian Family (Agnes Haroian 40 Days)
10	-	Board of Trustees (BOT)	12	-	BOT Mother's Day Luncheon
17	-	Membership Meeting	19	-	Lori Saucier & Leslie Mikaelian
24	-	BOT	26	-	Arthur & Eddie Asadorian
31	-	Ladies Guild Lenten Agoomp	June		
APRIL			2	-	Farewell luncheon for Der Hayr & Family
7	-	BOT	9	-	BOT
14	-	ARS Palm Sunday Dinner	16	-	Father's Day brunch – Ladies Guild
21	-	Easter - Bake Sale	23	-	BOT
28	-	Martyrs' Day Dinner	30	-	Ice Cream Social – Fellowship Club

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 28 Feast of the Transfiguration and Vartavar water games
- August 4 Nazook Baking Class at Community Center
- August 18 Assumption of the Holy Mother of God and Annual Blessing of the Grapes Picnic
- September 15 Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- September 29 Ladies Guild Anniversary Dinner
- October 12 Annual Golf Outing
- November 16 AYP Annual Dance

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 editorial staff with your name and/or contribution to *Pari Loor*.