

ԳՐԱԳ ❀ JRAK

2024



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St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church of Greater Boston

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ՄՐԱԳ – JRAK

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Historic photograph of His Holiness's Pontifical visit to Watertown

HAYR HRANT'S MESSAGE

From the moment the Muron—the unique Armenian version of the holy oil that our church uses for baptisms, consecrations and ordinations—is poured on the forehead and hands of an Armenian priest, a life of service to our church, nation and people begins. I have been fortunate to be called into this life, and have served in various capacities since then, each experience a unique adventure and era.

And recently, it has been a great honor to become the Pastor of St. Stephen's. My arrival to Boston, a mere 8 months ago, seems to be a lifetime ago in its own standing. What a vibrant community indeed! This parish produces more service, salt, and light in a given timeframe than is physically possible.



Procession of the Dexter Reliquary of St. Stephen's, borrowed from the Armenian Museum of America.

During my first week in Watertown, we were hosting the Executive Council of the Prelacy; a national Choir conductor seminar; a Pillars of the Prelacy reception; and our yearly St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School (SSAES) Fun Run. Those of us present on that day bore witness to something incredible and almost surreal, when a devoted community member suffered cardiac arrest, with first responders delivering a grim report. On that day, everyone came together to pray, and the victim's daughter, herself an EMT, did not give up, courageously putting aside her own emotions to use her training to save her father. It was nothing short of a miraculous ending.

Our journey continued with a community-wide gathering and protest on the steps of our church, in support of Artsakh refugees and the province of Tavush; four unique graduation ceremonies for the quartet of schools under our umbrella; a trip to Michigan alongside others for the Prelacy's annual National Representatives Assembly (NRA); two picnics for twice the fun: one at Camp Haiastan and one on church grounds with our very first Vartavar WWF—Watertown Water Fight; an installation reception; a trip to the Datev Institute of the Armenian Prelacy with the participation of our youth; an exciting golf tournament to support SSAES; a Pontifical visit to the East Coast with the most substantive and foremost sojourn in Boston, where all our organizations and members were blessed by His Holiness; our Annual Bazaar, anticipated by odars as much as it is by us; a triumphant 40th anniversary gala of SSAES; the successful

purchase of land for our school's expansion; an inspiring Sunday School Christmas Pageant and many more moving services dedicated to the season of Christmas. This is merely a snapshot, but one that would make you think—Watertown could be renamed Watermetropolis.



Demolition of the old building on the newly acquired school expansion land.

I am still in awe at the dedication of our Ladies Guild and baking crews who come diligently year-round to prepare and bake the most succulent of meals—Armenian dishes. I am replenished every Sunday during Divine Liturgy by our angelic choir and cherubic altar servers, who donate and devote their time and skills to the glory of God and His church. Our Sunday School offers one of the most developed programs integrated with a life of service both on the altar and in the people, preparing the next generation of exemplary Christians, volunteers, and leaders. Our Saturday School caters to Armenian families from far and wide, some hours away, who find sanctuary in their weekly trip to Watertown. Our Soorp Stepanos Armenian Elementary and Preschool is the only Armenian day school in New England. Thanks to the blessing of having the full support and prioritization of our Prelacy and our church, as well as the unwavering support of Armenians donors from all backgrounds and beyond our community, it continues to flourish and expand. I would like to thank His Holiness for blessing the school and the expansion project during his recent visit, and to each and every one of you reading this message—you have uplifted our Varjarian at every step of the way. Indeed, all good things are possible for those who believe and give.

On this note, I must commend our community for being generous and a shining example of what Christ called us to do: "Freely you have received; freely give" (Matt. 10.8). You have not only supported local endeavors and projects, but also helped all those who have visited us in need, or whose troubles have reached our doorsteps. We have held special collections to support the invaluable educational mission of the Armenian Theological Seminary, where our future generation of priests are fashioned; you gave emphatically to our innocent children from Artsakh who had been blighted during the Exodus and in town to continue their treatments at Shriner's; you generously supported our sistren and brethren in Syria, a country mired too long in turmoil; you rose to the occasion recently to help our friends on the West Coast affected

HAYR HRANT'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

from the wildfires; and you continue to donate to our Faith in Action fund throughout the year through which we assist those in need closer to home.



A visit to the Armenian Relief Society Central Executive Board, Hairenik Building.

Beyond our church and schools, Watertown is home to many of our sister organizations—the ARS, AYF, ARF, Homenetmen, Hamazkayin, with a common gathering spot at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center. The Armenian Weekly and Hairenik newspapers, which recently celebrated their 125th and 90th anniversaries, respectively, run their printing presses right across the street. And most of the national headquarters of these Armenian organizations have established their central offices in the Hairenik building. I have witnessed their dedicated efforts in service of our people.

Our “Island,” which encompasses Artsakh Street to the north and Nichols Ave. to the south, Bigelow Ave. to the east and Elton Ave. to the west, I have come to embrace as our little Armenia in America.

And as we stretch out from the Island and even from Watertown to the Greater Boston area, one befriends a unique array of Armenian institutions, religious, cultural, educational—and I have witnessed the great work they are accomplishing.

Alongside the joys and accomplishments, there were also the occasional pains. Sadly, I have learned our refuge is not unfamiliar to vandalism, many of which had occurred during the Artsakh war and exodus, and one that occurred very recently. We are nevertheless fortunate enough to live in a place and time where our law enforcement keeps us safe, and they were indeed able to do so. More importantly, during the past year we lost some of our dear community members, pillars of our parish, and inspiring forerunners. May the good Lord grant a restful peace to their souls.

In the midst of our local endeavors to flourish as a parish, I had the opportunity to represent the Armenian Church, Holy See of Cilicia, during the Ecumenical Education and Formation Commission of the World Council of Churches, that was held in Seoul, South Korea. And we indeed benefit from the ecumenical movement, as these international gatherings trickle down to the local dimension, and Christian churches from different denominations are able to more closely work and service and



Ecumenical meeting in South Korea.

witness to the love of Christ. Right across from Artsakh Street we are fortunate to be neighbors with the Archangels Greek Orthodox Church, and Armenian Memorial Church, making ours a vibrant ecclesiastical neighborhood thriving in Watertown.

When I look back at the first conversation I had about my new mission—Boston, although not too far from my hometown of Montreal, was still unknown to me; I didn't know what to expect. But today I can affirm with conviction—the oldest and second largest Armenian community in North America will never disappoint.

Which brings me to my words of appreciation. First to our One Triune God, the Eternal Creator Who brings sense to a world often gripped with nonsense and sometimes even unsense. My filial gratitude to His Holiness Aram I for unceasingly praying, planning and pontificating for the needs of all Armenians in the Diaspora and Armenia; as well as to our dear prelate Archbishop Anoushavan, who for the past 40 years has served with unwavering resolve the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church (see page 26 for article).

A word of deep gratitude to our Pastor Emeritus, Der Antranig Baljian. From my first day in Watertown on April 23rd, he has assisted, guided, inspired, and supported in every way possible. Speaking highly of his predecessor, Der Torkom Hagopian, and how he had graciously given him the mantle, Der Antranig likewise passed on the baton with elegance and care. Although a young priest of 74 years of age, who had already handed in his retirement notice many years ago, serving our people has become part of his DNA, and thus he offered to continue to administer to the needs of our church and parish, wherever and whenever needed, and he has done so with the same conviction to his calling as during his past 50 years as a priest of the Armenian Church. On that note, you will see in this edition of JRAK a ‘save the date’ for Der Hayr's retirement banquet. I am certain we will all be present and express our filial appreciation on that day to Der Hayr and his family. More details will soon follow.

HAYR HRANT'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

Likewise, we recently celebrated the retirement of our dear Digin Houry Boyamian, who for 35 years guided our beloved SSAES with purpose and devotion, and at the end of her tenure, gracefully handed the baton to our new Head of School, Dr. Garine Palandjian. We all pray for Garine as she takes the helm on this new chapter at SSAES, and thank Digin Houry for continuing to serve as Principal Emerita.

I would also like to take this moment to thank our Office Manager Silva Bahlavouni and our Custodian Marvin Beltran. For such an extensive parish, you can imagine what a heavy responsibility it is to run a healthy church with only three full-time personnel. And this is why I cannot commend them enough for their commitment, enthusiasm and love of our church and community.

One of our church's inestimable wealth lies in its uncountable volunteers: all those in leadership roles in our church and school boards, our *danders* (the resourceful building managers who aren't afraid to get their hands dirty and sometimes spend countless hours up keeping all the needs and tending to all the emergencies), our choir, deacons, Ladies Guild, Bazaar and Picnic committees, Pontifical visit and other temporary but critical and overtime committees, alongside our industrious school faculty and staff, and generous benefactors. Together, we are a microcosm of God's kingdom, not anywhere near perfection, but radiating the hope of what is to come through His perfect light. All that determination and resolute drive, because of our devotion to Jesus' call: "Let the little children come to me" (Matt 19.14).



Hayr Soorp with his nieces during their trip to Boston.

As I look back at our past year with gratitude and growth, it is also fitting to look into the future. At the beginning of each calendar year, our faithful eagerly wait for the proclamation of His Holiness as he dedicates each year to a specific theme, via a *Hertchagakir*, a Pontifical Message: "As part of the efforts aimed at reorganizing and strengthening the Diaspora, alongside language and culture, and in our endeavors to firmly preserve the Armenian identity, we consider the imperative of renewing and revitalizing our religious and national traditions to be of great importance. Therefore, based on this firm conviction, we declare

2025 THE YEAR OF THE REVITALIZATION OF TRADITIONS."

Traditions stimulate us to simultaneously look backwards and forwards—first to learn from our predecessors, and then to reproduce that which has been proven to be invaluable. But it is not always an easy task to reminisce, especially if your history is laden with crosses, not unlike our past as Armenians. But there's also the silver lining, and the light of truth that often shines even in the darkest of places. The genocide has made it so that most of our cemeteries have been pulverized from the face of the earth, a final blow in wiping out a nation. This is why in most Armenian graveyards, one can only find gravestones of individuals who have lived post-genocide. But Boston is that unique place where almost any cemetery you walk into, you'll find a sea of IANs and 1800s, even 1700s, as well as famous Armenian individuals, some so eminent, that their remains have eventually been relocated to the Motherland. Offering requiem prayers in church and visiting our deceased has been one of the better kept traditions of our people. The graveyard visit is so intrinsic to being Armenian that our word for it, Kerezmanadoon, literally means "Grave-House." It is our home, because our loved ones live there. They live there, because our faith in the eternal life is not superficial, or an afterthought, but at the core of who we are. In all the ups and downs of life and faith, one thing we know for certain—we will see them again.



Board of Trustee members taking their oaths during special installation service.

Upon my arrival, many of you had a serious concern: my allegiances in the arena of sports. I had affirmed that the Celtics were an easy sell, as I did not have a home team, but as is pertained to the NHL, that would be a difficult hill to climb, and the onus of conversion would be on you. I am glad to share that one parishioner took that task seriously, and made sure I would be present at the Bruins centennial game on December 1st. As it so happened, that would be played against the same team they had faced on their first ever puck drop, and their staunch rival—the Habs. Another parishioner, upon hearing of the invitation, surprised me with a gift—a jersey. But to my and certainly your surprise, it was not the black and gold, but the red and blue. For fear of their safety I shall never mention their identity. The Bruins won 6-3, the Stanley count remains 6-24. Uphill climb indeed!



*Save
the
Date*

CELEBRATION OF
SERVICE

OF

REVEREND ARCHPRIEST
ANTRANIG BALJIAN

**SATURDAY
MAY 3, 2025
5:00 PM**

**MARRIOTT HOTEL
NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF GREATER BOSTON

A Christmas Message

THE MYSTERY OF MARY



In our observance of Christmas, we naturally tend to focus on Jesus as the new-born king and savior, the lamb who came into the world in order to be sacrificed so that the world could be saved. Behind this simple truth, however, lays another important reality that we often overlook at Christmas, and that is the role of Mary in a Great Mystery that was created by God.

An article was recently published in the *New York Times* entitled: “A Conversation About the Virgin Birth That Maybe Wasn’t,” written by long-time journalist, political commentator and *New York Times* op-ed columnist Nicholas Kristof. He is also a best-selling author and winner of two Pulitzer Prizes. Ironically, Wikipedia states that his father “was born to Polish and Armenian Parents.” By the way, Kristof’s middle name is Donabet.

In any event, this particular column presented ideas contained in a new book written by Elaine Pagels, whom Kristof calls “a prominent professor of religion at Princeton

University and an expert on the early church.” In her book entitled, “Miracles and Wonders,” among other long-held Orthodox Christian beliefs, she sets out to debunk the idea of the Virgin birth, Mary’s role as Theotokos (Asdvadzadzin or Mother of God) and Mary’s perpetual virginity. These were not necessarily shocking new concepts I was seeing or hearing for the first time, but rather hackneyed old ideas that have been around for hundreds of years, often used to debunk the legitimacy of the Orthodox faith and/or the Divinity of Christ by anti-Christian and anti-Orthodox movements and sects within and outside Christianity.

It was the timing of this article written just before the celebration of Christmas, which made me think about how Mary is so important to our understanding of the personal consequences of this wondrous and miraculous season.

Do You Know Mary?

There is a beautiful song: Mary Did You Know? (Lyrics by Mark Lowry and music by Buddy Greene). Today the question is do you know Mary? She is an established historical figure noted in the Bible. In the New Testament, she is identified as the betrothed of Joseph, the cousin of Elizabeth and the mother of Jesus. We gain glimpses of her life throughout the Gospels, but do not learn everything about her from that source alone. Much of what we know about Mary’s birth and early life comes from near-contemporary eye-witness accounts and ideas later presented by early writers in the church such as those found in the Protevangelium of James (“First Gospel of James”) which was in general circulation by 150 A.D. and the “Gospel of the Nativity of Mary” written some 50 or so years later.

This is what we learn about the early part of her life. Her mother was named Anna (Hanna in Hebrew) and was descended from a priestly family. Mary’s father, Joachim, was of the tribe of Judah and a descendant of King David.

Anna and Joachim were an extremely devout couple who had been married for fifty years, longed for a child, but remained childless into their old age. In despair, Joachim is said to have consulted the genealogical records of the tribes of Israel and discovered that every righteous man in the nation had been blessed with children, except him. This caused the aged saint great grief, and he and his wife gave themselves to prayer to God that He give them a child to comfort their old age as He had done for Abraham and Sarah. They promised to dedicate their child to God’s service.

So, God sent the Archangel Gabriel to each of them to announce the birth of “a daughter most blessed, by whom all the nations of the earth will be blessed, and through whom will come the salvation of the world.”

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE (Cont.)

Shortly after this announcement, St. Anna became pregnant, and in the ninth month gave birth to Mary. In the Armenian Church the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated on December 9 and her birth on September 8.

As part of their promise to God, Joachim and Anna took Mary, at the age of three, to the temple to be dedicated to the service of the Lord, and presented her to the priest Zechariah "to be lodged in apartments belonging to the temple, and brought up attending the priests and Levites in the sacred ministry." This event, called the Feast of Presentation of the Holy Mother of God, is celebrated on November 21.

We learn about the end of Mary's life from a corpus of Christian writings such as "The Book of Mary's Repose" dating from the early centuries of Christianity and attributed to Joseph of Arimathea. These writings tell us that, while we do not know the date of Mary's passing, we know that she died, was entombed in Jerusalem and then miraculously "awakened" by her Son and taken into Heaven. In the Armenian Church, as you know, we celebrate this miraculous event as the Feast of the Assumption, on the Sunday nearest August 15.

What we know about Mary from the Bible is that she was betrothed or engaged to a carpenter named Joseph. Tradition tells us she may have been as young as 14 or 15 when she was betrothed to a much older Joseph who was a widower. Before their marriage, an angel appeared to Mary and called her God's favored one. He told her she was going to have a baby and that she should name him Jesus.

Mary became confused and asked the angel how this was possible since she was not married. He replied: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and so the child to be born will be holy and will be called Son of God." Despite her fear and confusion, Mary answered simply and humbly, "I am the handmaiden of the Lord..."

What happened at that very moment should not be considered a footnote or backstory to Christmas, but truly what the Birth of Jesus is really all about. You see, right at that moment Mary became pregnant through God's intervention. It was the second greatest event in the history of the world. This event, which occurred nine months prior to Jesus's birth when he was wondrously conceived in Mary's womb, is called the Incarnation.

What is Incarnation?

Let's face it. Everyone knows about Easter and Christmas. Many have an idea of what other Feast Days such as Pentecost, Transfiguration, Assumption and Exaltation are all about. But I daresay many may not know about the doctrine of the Incarnation because it has always been kind of a footnote or prequel to the nativity story.

Incarnation derives from the Latin meaning "make into flesh" or, in the passive, "to be made flesh." The term is drawn from the Gospel of John 1:14 where we are told "and the Word was made flesh," signifying that in the person of Jesus Christ God became a physical being. In Armenian the word for "He became flesh" or "was incarnated" is "Marmnatsav" and we recite it every Sunday during the Nicene Creed alongside a similar word, Martatsav, which means "He became man."

While not everyone knows what the Incarnation is, it is interesting that the simplest definition I found was written by Artificial Intelligence:

"Incarnation is a central Christian doctrine that states that God became fully human in the form of Jesus Christ. The doctrine holds that Jesus was both fully human and fully divine at the same time. This is based on the idea that the divine and human natures of Jesus are joined in a personal unity, known as the hypostatic union." (Google AI).

Why is the Incarnation Essential to our Salvation?

God chose to send His Divine and eternal Son to be sacrificed for the remission of our sins because it was the only way that He could bring about our salvation. Since sin – and therefore separation from God – came through a man, so too did reconciliation and salvation have to happen through the sacrifice of a man; but only through a man who was without sin, for only a spotless lamb is worthy of sacrifice for the remission of sin (see Exodus 3 and Leviticus 4) which is why John calls Him "the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1:29).

The only Being without sin is God and so before time and space ever existed and even as God created Adam and Eve knowing that they would sin, He meticulously planned exactly when He would send his only Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law (see Gal. 4:4).

When we deny the miraculous Incarnation and Virgin Birth, then we deny the possibility of our own redemption. This is fundamentally wrong because we are not allowing God to carry out His plan, His will, for our ultimate salvation.

Rather than denying the wondrous mysteries of Christ's birth; His Conception through the Holy Spirit and the virgin birth; His Incarnation; Mary's title as Mother of God and her perpetual virginity, let us embrace them this Christmas in order to accept with open and joyous hearts the reassurance that God has given us: The assurance to know that not only is a special child born this day, but a true Savior has been granted to us through the great Mysteries of Mary's blessed, humble and obedient life that have placed her right at the center of God's ultimate plan for our eternal Salvation.

Rev. Archpriest Antranig Baljian
Christmas 2024

ST. STEPHEN'S WELCOMES NEW PASTOR

VERY REV. FATHER HRANT TAHANIAN



Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Tahanian, whose baptismal name is Hovhannes, was born on November 10, 1987, in Montreal, Canada, into a family of descendants of Genocide survivors. He graduated from Soorp Hagop Armenian School in 2005 and continued his higher studies in Pure and Applied Sciences at Montmorency College. Upon graduation, he attended the Armenian Theological Seminary in Antelias, Lebanon, and was ordained as a celibate priest in 2010.

After serving in various capacities at the Catholicosate of the Holy See of Cilicia, in 2012 he was appointed pastor of St. Gregory Church in Vancouver, British Columbia. Very Rev. Fr. Hrant simultaneously completed his Master of Theology at the University of British Columbia and defended a thesis entitled "Speciesism: The Primordial Sin / A Study of *radh* and Lynn White's Article from an Orthodox Perspective." In 2015, the rank of Archimandrite (Vartabed) was bestowed upon him after defending a thesis about the correspondence of Bishop Yeghishe Garoyan with Catholicos Sahag II of the Great House of Cilicia in 1921-1931. In 2021, he was elevated to the rank of Senior Achimandrite (Dzayrakuy Vartabed).

In 2017, he became the Ecumenical and Inter-religious Officer of the Catholicosate of Cilicia, representing our church in various ecumenical bodies and dialogues, most notably the World Council of Churches (WCC).

Hayr Soorp was twice elected to be a member of the WCC's Central Committee, most recently in 2022. In 2024, he was elected to serve as the Co-Moderator of one of the WCC's Reference Groups: Overcoming Racism, Xenophobia, Casteism, and all forms of Discrimination.

Hayr Hrant has a passion for the outdoors, appetizing cuisine, and expanding his Star Wars Lego empire.

Under the auspices of His Holiness Catholicos Aram I, Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Tahanian has been assigned to serve in the Eastern Prelacy. Upon the retirement of Archpriest Fr. Antranig Baljian, after a meritorious career of almost half a century, the Religious and Executive Councils appointed Very Rev. Fr. Hrant to replace Archpriest Fr. Antranig, who has been named Pastor Emeritus of St. Stephen's Church.

On Sunday, June 9, 2024, the parish turned a new chapter, joyously welcoming Very Rev. Fr. Hayr Hrant as he was officially installed as the new Pastor. Since arriving in April, Hayr Soorp had been getting acclimated to the community and meeting with church organizations, schools, community organizations, and parishioners. Fr. Hrant was officially installed during the Holy Divine Liturgy with the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Anoushavan, Prelate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of the Eastern United States. Attending on behalf of His Eminence (who was recovering from surgery), Very Rev. Fr. Ardag Arabian, Chairman of the Prelacy's Religious Council extended the blessings of His Eminence. Coincidentally, Hayr Ardag and Hayr Hrant were classmates in the Seminary and ordained to the priesthood together.

In his moving remarks, Hayr Ardag thanked Der Antranig for his decades-long and exemplary service to our church and community. He then welcomed Hayr Soorp to our church and Prelacy family, wishing him much success in his role as he brings new perspectives and ideas, as we continue on a mission of service and outreach together with spiritual enrichment and community building.



A beautiful luncheon followed, thanks to a dedicated group of faithful volunteers. In addition to generations of family members in attendance, clergy from the surrounding areas were present, offering greetings and warm wishes. Hayr Soorp was officially welcomed on behalf of the parish by Dn. John Daghljan, Chair of the Board of Trustees, who also acted as Master of Ceremonies.

One of the more poignant moments occurred when our former pastor literally handed the baton to our new pastor. A gift to

Hayr Soorp from the Baljian Family, the genuine baton used during a relay race, was inscribed with the words: "To Hayr Soorp for the next leg/Hebrews 12:1b."

We wish Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Tahanian success in his new mission for the benefit of the St. Stephen's parish, the honor of the Armenian Church and the glory of God. (See pages 13 for more photos)

ՍՈՒՐԲ ՍՏԵՓԱՆՈՍ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻՆ ԿՈՂՋՈՒՆԷ ԻՐ ՆՈՐ ՀՈՎԻՒՆ՝ ԳԵՐԱՊԱՏԻ Ի. Տ. ՀՐԱՆՂ Ծ. ՎՐՂ. ԹԱՀԱՆԵԱՆ



Կաթողիկոսարանին մեջ տարբեր պաշտոններ վարել է եղբ. 2012-2017-ին Ս. Գրիգոր Լուսավորիչ եկեղեցու (Վանքուվեր, Գանատա) հոգևոր հովուությունը վարած է: Միաժամանակ, աստուածաբանության մագիստրոսի տիտղոսը ստացած է Պրիթիշ Գոլումպիայի համալսարանին՝ “Speciesism: The Primordial Sin / A Study of rdh and Lynn White’s Article from an Orthodox Perspective” խորագրուած աւարտաճառով: 2015-ին վարդապետ ձեռնադրուած է՝ աւարտաճառ մը պաշտպանել ետք եղիշէ եպս. Կարոյեանի ու Մեծի Տանն Կիլիկիոյ Սահակ Բ. Կաթողիկոսի թղթակցութեան մասին (1921-1931), իսկ 2021-ին ծայրագոյն վարդապետի աստիճանը ստացած է:

2017-ին վերադառնալով Անթիլիաս, Կաթողիկոսարանի միջ-եկեղեցական եւ միջ-կրօնական բաժանմունքի վարիչ նշանակուած է, մեր եկեղեցին ներկայացնելով զանազան միջ-եկեղեցական մարմիններու եւ երկխօսութիւններու, իսկ 2022-ին վերընտրուած է Եկեղեցիներու Համաշխարհային Խորհուրդի Կեդրոնական Վարչութեան անդամ: 2024-ին նշանակուած է նոյն Խորհուրդի խումբերէն մէկուն («Ցեղապաշտութեան, օտարատեացութեան, արտօնեալ դասակարգերու պահպանման եւ խտրականութեան բոլոր ձեւերու յաղթահարում») համա-համակարգող:

Ն.Ս.Օ.Տ.Տ. Արամ Ա. Կաթողիկոսի տնօրինութեամբ, Գերպ. Տ. Հրանդ Ծ. Վրդ. Թահանեան ծառայութեան առաքուեցաւ Արեւելեան Թեմ: Ազգային Վարչութեան Կրօնական եւ Քաղաքական Ժողովներու որոշումով, Հայր Սուրբը Ս. Ստեփանոս եկեղեցու (Ուոթըրթաուն, Մէտչուսէթ) հոգևոր հովիւ նշանակուեցաւ, փոխարինելով Արժպ. Տ. Անդրանիկ Ա. Քին. Պալճեանը, որ հանգստեան կոչուած է գրեթէ կէս դարու արժանավայել ծառայութենէ ետք, նախ իբրեւ հոգևոր հովիւ Ս. Գրիգոր Լուսավորիչ եկեղեցու (Ինտիլըն Օքշըրտ, Մէտչուսէթ), իսկ ապա՝ Ս. Ստեփանոս եկեղեցու, վերջին 30 տարիներուն: Տ. Հրանդ Ծ. Վրդ. Թահանեանի պաշտօնակալութիւնը տեղի ունենցաւ Կիրակի, 9 Յունիսին, յընթացս Ս. Պատարագի, մասնակցութեամբ Գերպ. Տ. Արտակ Ծ. Վրդ. Արապեանի՝ հոգևոր հովիւ Ս. Երրորդութիւն եկեղեցու (Ուստը, Մէտչուսէթ) եւ ատենապետ Կրօնական Ժողովի, յանուն Թեմիս բարեջան Առաջնորդ՝ Գերշ. Տ. Անուշաւան Արքեպիսկոպոսի:



Գերպ. Տ. Հրանդ Ծ. Վրդ. Թահանեան, աւագանի անունով՝ Յովհաննէս, ծնած է Մոնթրէալ, 10 Նոյեմբեր, 1987-ին, Հայոց Ցեղասպանութեան վերապրողներու շառաւիղներու ընտանիքի մը մէջ: Շրջանաւարտ եղած է Ս. Յակոբ ազգային վարժարանէն, 2005ին, բարձրագոյն ուսման հետեւելով Մոնմորանսի գոլէճին մէջ: Գիտութեան ճիւղէն շրջանաւարտ ըլլալէ ետք, յաճախած է Կիլիկիոյ Կաթողիկոսութեան Դպրեվանքը, եւ կուսակրօն քահանայ ձեռնադրուած՝ 2010-ին:

Յաջողութիւն կը մաղթենք Գերպ. Տ. Հրանդ Ծ. Վրդ. Թահանեանին ծառայական իր նոր անդաստանէն ներս, ի բարգաւաճում Ս. Ստեփանոսի ծուխին, ի պայծառութիւն Հայ Եկեղեցու եւ ի փառս Աստուծոյ: Կրօնական Ժողովը իր երախտագիտութիւնը կը յայտնէ Արժպ. Տ. Անդրանիկ Ա. Քին. Պալճեանին իր երկարամեայ նուիրումին համար՝ ի ծառայութիւն մեր հաւատացեալներուն եւ Արեւելեան Թեմին:

--Ազգային Առաջնորդարան

COMMUNITY NEWS -- PALM SUNDAY
HAGOP KETCHEDJIAN RECEIVING THE RIGHT TO WEAR THE STOLE



COMMUNITY NEWS -- MAY 2024

Over the weekend of May 3-5, several activities took place simultaneously in our parish.

1. The final regular meeting of the Prelacy Executive Council prior to the NRA was hosted by the Board of Trustees and local National Delegates on Friday and Saturday, May 3 & 4 (right).

2. A Seminar for Choir directors hosted by the Prelacy Executive Council was held on Friday and Saturday, May 3 & 4 (below).

3. St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School held its annual "Fun Run" fundraiser

with the pre-race blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Anoushavan (bottom).

4. A Reception for New England "Pillars of the Prelacy" contributors was hosted by the Executive Council on Saturday Evening, May 4 (Next page, top & middle).

5. On Sunday morning May 5, Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Tahanian, our new Pastor-designate, celebrated his first Divine Liturgy at St. Stephen's and was warmly greeted afterward with an informal welcoming fellowship meet and greet reception (Next page, bottom).



COMMUNITY NEWS -- MAY, 2024



COMMUNITY NEWS -- JUNE 2024

As shown in these photos, several local and guest clergy attended Hayr Hrant's official Welcome Luncheon on June 9, 2024 (see the article on page 8) Top Photos: After 30 years as Pastor, Der Antranig literally passes the Baton to Hayr Soorp as Hayr Ardag looks on. Other clergy below include (L. to R.): Rev. Fr. Shnorhik Souin, Pastor of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church in Providence (fellow Canadian and longtime friend of Hayr Soorp) and Yn. Julie; Rev. Dr. Avedis Boynerian, former Pastor of Armenian Memorial Church, Watertown and *Pampish Arpi*; Rev. Fr. Ghazar Bedrosian, Pastor of Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church, Belmont; new Pastor, Hayr Hrant; Der Antranig and Yn. Cheryl Arpinch, and Rev. Fr. Arakel Aljalian, Pastor of St. James Armenian Apostolic Church, Watertown.



COMMUNITY NEWS -- CHURCH PICNIC AT CAMP

This year St. Stephen's held two very successful picnics, one at Camp Haiastan in July and one on church grounds in August. Not only did everyone have a lot of fun, but our Pastor Hayr Hrant took advantage of these events to get to know the community. During the picnic at Camp Haiastan, Hayr Soorp took some time to become acquainted with this wonderful place by visiting the Summer Camp and speaking to the campers and their counselors. There was also a lot of great food!



COMMUNITY NEWS -- CHURCH PICNIC

At our August 11 picnic on church grounds, we enjoyed a belated *Vartavar* Celebration at the end of the Transfiguration Liturgical Cycle, and a blessing of Grapes and Madagh at the beginning of the Assumption Cycle. Rev. Fr. Stephan Baljian, Pastor of Saint Gregory Church, joined the community for the blessing ceremony. The children loved challenging Hayr Soorp during the water fights. As always, the food and camaraderie were wonderful! Enjoy the photos.



COMMUNITY NEWS -- CHURCH PICNIC



COMMUNITY NEWS -- WITH OUR YOUTH



Above: Sunday, September 8, we were pleased to have scouts from throughout the Eastern Region at Sunday Badarak. These young adults were in Boston participating in a leadership seminar and we are grateful they spent their Sunday morning with us in prayer.

Below left: Opening day of St. Stephen's Armenian Saturday School. **Below right:** On Sunday, September 22, during Divine Liturgy, a special service was held to commemorate the 23rd anniversary of the second republic of Armenia. Our Sunday School students assisted Hayr Soorp and our Deacons in the traditional blessing of the tri-color and singing of Mer Hairenik.



COMMUNITY NEWS -- BENCH DEDICATION

On September 29, 2024 following Divine Liturgy a special ribbon cutting ceremony took place with a procession heading outside for our new bench . The bench was donated by the Doursounian Family in loving memory of **DN. HOVHANNES JOHN DOURSOUNIAN**. Dn. Hovhannes John served on our altar for many years.



Starry Night
Shining Down On
St. Stephen's
Church

ST. STEPHEN'S 68th CHURCH BAZAAR

Richard Piligian - 2024 Bazaar Chair



The 68th Annual Church Bazaar was held on November 1st and 2nd in the church hall. Months of baking, crafting, cooking, soliciting donations of grocery and auction items by a dedicated group of volunteers resulted in a very successful bazaar. Once again the hall was filled with booths for delicious pastries, gourmet food items, a country store and crafts and goods in a gift shop. The remainder of the hall was full of tables for enjoying the expertly prepared chicken, losh and shish kebab dinners as well as the many other food items sold. Thank God the weather cooperated by allowing hundreds to take full advantage of a welcoming and beautifully decorated tent outside on the side lawn.

The bazaar was a success thanks to our dedicated, hard working volunteers. We had our favorite choreg, kata, boreg, khadayif, paklava, manti, kufteh, and many other goodies. In addition, the Country store offered many grocery items. The Annual Raffle with \$10,000.00 in prizes was drawn on December 22nd at our church's Holiday Celebration. Congratulations to our winners: Leona Arsenian, Linda Karaian, Linda Sookikian Eckersley, Christine Cocce, John Aharonian, Sandra Eknaian, Sosie Megerdichian & Vahan Khachadoorian.

The on-line Bazaar Auction took place from November 1st to December 1st. Sports tickets, jewelry, art work, hotel stays and restaurant gift cards were among the items auctioned off in the successful auction.

The bazaar committee would like to thank the dozens of businesses, families and individuals who helped sponsor our bazaar. Your generosity helped make our bazaar what it was, a great success! The hard work paid off with great attendance, fantastic fellowship, wonderful memories and another successful bazaar in the books. Thank you to each and every one for your help, donations, enthusiasm, patience and smiles that brought our success!

Please enjoy the photos of the Bazaar below and on the following pages.



Thank you to our donors and sponsors!

Aegean Restaurant
John Aharonian
Ani Catering and Cafe
Michael Aram
Armenian American Social Club
Armenian Museum of America
Sona and Charlie Aslanian
Barmakian Brothers Jewelers
Kay and Michael Barsamian
Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Bedrosian
Ani & Hratch Belekian & Family
Bigelow Tea
Boghossian Raisin Packing Co.
Bon Ton Cleaners
Boston Marriott Newton
Boyajian, Inc.
Julie and John Campos
Cedar's Mediterranean Foods
City Works
Karen Costner
Sharon and David DeMarco
Demos Watertown
John Derian Company
Donahue's Bar and Grill
Eastern Clothing Company
Eastern Lamejun Bakers
The Gift Shop at Ebb Tide
Giragosian Funeral Home
Gourmet Nuts and Food
Henry's House of Coffee
Ardemis and John Jerikian
Nevart and Noubar Kaderian

Katie and Antranig Keumurian
Sirvart Keumurian
Stephen Kidder
Anoush and Armen Knaian
Law offices of
Mitchell Garabedian
Leavitt Corporation
Levant Foods
Zella Marootian
Massis Bakery, Inc.
Mem Tea Imports
Elvan and Paul Merian
Metro Energy
Shawna and Craig Minassian
NAASR
Deanne and Walter Nahabedian
Robin and Robert Najarian
Berge Nercessian
Noor Catering
Peeled Snacks
Frank Pepe's Pizzeria
PGA Superstore
Kelli and Rich Piligian
Veronica and Mark Sagherian
Steven Sookikian
Starbucks
Thermol Inc.
Vartus Varadian
Venus Wafers, Inc.
Watertown Savings Bank
Wegman's
Whole Foods

COMMUNITY NEWS -- ANNUAL BAZAAR



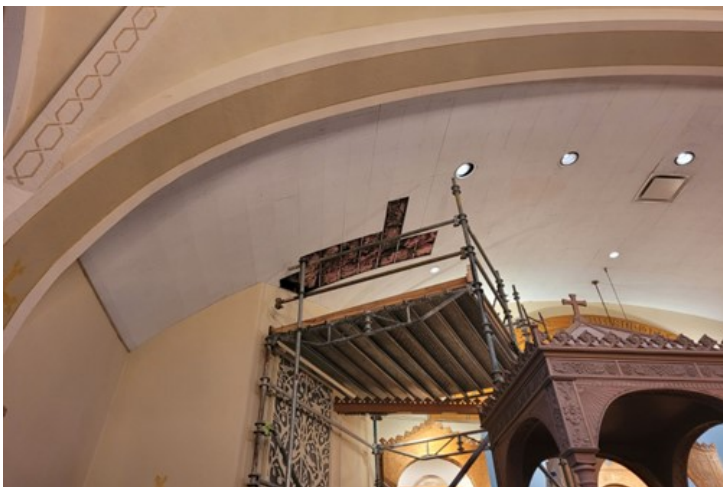
COMMUNITY NEWS -- ANNUAL BAZAAR



COMMUNITY NEWS -- CUPOLA REPAIRS

On January 26th Commonwealth Masonry repointed the joints of the eastern wall of the church. The original mortar between the courses of brick had worn out and became a point of water infiltration that penetrated into the sanctuary and damaged the altar ceiling. After the repointed joints had cured a water test was performed and no further infiltration had occurred.

Cupola Window Project: Between June 21st - July 5th repairs to the wood frames of the existing windows were executed and twelve custom-made storm windows were installed. The entire exterior of the cupola walls were painted to match the existing conditions. Immediately following the completion of the exterior work, the inside of the bowl of the cupola was painted to freshen up the interior that was damaged by rainwater. In order to accomplish this all the pews of the sanctuary were temporarily removed. Taking advantage of the opened space, the floor of the sanctuary was polished and sealed, then the pews were reinstalled. Finally, the damaged ceiling tiles above the altar were removed and replaced. The ceiling tile contractor donated his time and materials for the repairs. Thanks to the very generous donation by Alice Setian, all project costs were completely covered. The Pastor, Trustees and members are truly grateful for her donation; and may Alice's generosity be an example for others. Although Alice did not see the repairs while she was with us, we are sure she witnessed the completed project from heaven, Asdvadz Hokin Lousavoreh. The Trustees wish to acknowledge Robert Najarian & David Najarian who were the project managers and instrumental in having the entire scope of the project completed successfully and without delays. Both Robert & David donated their time for the entire project duration. May God bless our two faithful brothers and grant them good health for many years of dedicated service.



LADIES GUILD NEWS

Becky Megerdichian, Chair

If we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us. 1 John 4:12

The Ladies Guild started off with a wonderful tribute from the Board of Trustees to celebrate the Guild's 70th Anniversary. The Trustees prepared a delicious luncheon on a beautiful afternoon. Thank you everyone for their support. The Ladies Guild began on September 22, 1953, even before the church was built. The Ladies hosted the first bazaar. God bless all the original ladies.

This year we had an Appreciation Luncheon to thank the trustees, choir, clergy, deacons and Sunday School teachers. We are so thankful to have all these people who care about their church.

Rosemary Khachadourian's family was so kind and gracious to donate a new oven/stove for our kitchen in her memory.

During Lent we had a Vospov Kheyra Lenten Dinner. We followed that with a Palm Sunday Bake Sale.

On June 10, the Ladies conducted a very successful fundraiser for Zaven Ovian, son of member Vanessa Ovian. Demos

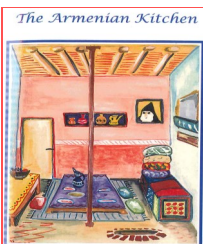
Restaurant in Watertown hosted the event and made a significant donation to help Zaven.

As a fun day off-site we traveled to Castle Island in South Boston in May. It was a beautiful day all around. The food at Sullivan's Restaurant was wonderful. Just being together with people you care about was quite special. In May we hosted the Choir Directors' Seminar.

For the first time the Ladies Guild invited the ladies of the Armenian Memorial Church in Watertown to join us for a get together pizza party. As we are all God's people, we feel the churches should make more effort to get to know one another.

Our last event was in June. We took Der Antranig and Yeretsgin Arpinch out for Chinese food at Green Peapod in Watertown. Our intent was not to say goodbye but to thank them both for being a part of our church family.

"The wise woman builds her house." Proverbs 14:1. Come join the wise women of our Ladies Guild who continue to build our St. Stephen's house.



The Perfect Gift for any Occasion!

The Armenian Kitchen Cookbook

Our Ladies Guild Cookbook is \$20 and can be purchased from the Church Office. If you wish to have the cookbook mailed to you please mail a \$24 check payable to St. Stephen's Ladies Guild.

PRELACY NEWS

NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY HELD IN ST. SARKIS CHURCH, DEARBORN MI



On Thursday, May 16, the opening session began with the pre-recorded message of His Holiness Catholicos Aram I to the assembly and the message of His Eminence Archbishop Anoushavan, Prelate, which, in his absence due to health reasons, was read by Very Reverend Fr. Sahag Yemishian, Vicar, who also presided over the meeting. Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian, Pastor of St. John Armenian Church of Southfield, Michigan also spoke on behalf of Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan, Primate of the Eastern Diocese; Steve Mesrobian, on behalf of the “Hairenik” Association, and Sirvart Telbelian, on behalf of the Eastern Regional Board of the Armenian Relief Society.

Col. Aram Sarafian, Chairman of the Executive Council, presented its report, which also included those of the different departments of the Eastern Prelacy. The assembly was co-chaired by Archdeacon Hagop Khachadourian and Deacon Movses Shrikian, with Andrew Assadourian as secretary for English and Arevik Caprielian for Armenian. Via video, Tigran Galstyan, director of the St. Nerses Charitable Organization, depicted its activities, and attorney Karnig Kerkonian explained the current situation of Armenians in Jerusalem.

On Friday, May 17, after the Q & A session about the Executive Committee's report and its approval, panels convened, which discussed changes to the bylaws, the Prelacy's budget proposal, a review of parish quotas paid to the Prelacy, and strategic planning issues. In the afternoon, the draft resolutions were presented to the plenary session.

On Friday, May 17, at the end of the second day of deliberations, the Eastern Prelacy hosted the annual banquet of the National Representative Assembly at The Henry Hotel in Dearborn, MI. After the dinner, the master of ceremonies, Col. Aram Sarafian, Chairman of the Executive Council, offered opening remarks. He announced the guests of honor of the evening, the Honorable Gary Peters, United States Senator, and Jack Mardoian, Esq., former Chairman of the Executive Council of the Prelacy.

Col. Sarafian also thanked the host, St. Sarkis Church (Dearborn, Michigan), its pastor, Rev. Fr. Hrant Kevorkian, the Parish Council,

auxiliary bodies, organizing committee, and Executive Council members for their efforts to seamlessly organize the Assembly. He recognized the impending retirement of Archpriest Fr. Antranig Baljian, Pastor of St. Stephen's Church in Watertown, Massachusetts, “whose selfless service and great dedication to the Armenian church are exemplified through his 48 years of service as a pastor,” and asked those present to join with him in lauding his service. Col. Sarafian also recognized the forty years of service to the Prelacy of three individuals: Susan Chitjian-Erickson, former delegate to the National Representative Assembly and Executive Council member; Richard Sarajian, Esq., current delegate and former chairman of the Executive Council, and Nora Daghljan-Sarajian, former delegate.

Welcome speeches were given by Rev. Fr. Hrant Kevorkian and Mrs. Seta Tchobanian, Chair of St. Sarkis Church Board of Trustees. Prelacy awards were given to four youth from the Dearborn community in recognition of their exemplary participation in the life of the Armenian Church and serving as role models for the youth of the community. Fr. Hrant introduced the youth awards to brothers Harout and Mano Achekian, the young adult awards to Knar Topouzian and Haigan Tcholakian. He also introduced four exemplary members of the church who received Prelacy awards for their longtime commitment to church life: Karen Gulesserian, Movses Shrikian, Carolyn Sirian (posthumously), and her husband Michael Crane.

Col. Sarafian introduced Jack Mardoian, Esq., another longtime servant of the Prelacy and the Armenian Church as deacon, former National Representative Assembly delegate, and former Executive Council chairman, as the Man of the Year of the Eastern Prelacy.

In his remarks, Mr. Mardoian noted: “Although you are honoring me this evening, it is really me who should be honoring you for giving me the opportunity to serve our Church, our Prelacy, and our nation for what will soon be sixty years. You have given me the opportunity to grow in my Christian faith and to journey far beyond what anyone could have reasonably thought possible when this journey began for me back in Waukegan.”



Dzovinar Hatsakordzian, Chair of the Armenian National Committee of Michigan, introduced the Hon. Gary Peters, highlighting his unwavering advocacy for Armenian issues first at state and then national levels, including the recognition and commemoration of the Armenian Genocide and his unstinting

support for the plight of Armenians in Artsakh, which had earned him the “Spirit of Armenia” Award. After Fr. Sahag delivered the award to the honoree, Senator Peters thanked the Prelacy for this award and reaffirmed his support to Armenian causes.

PRELACY NEWS

SAINT GREGORY OF DATEV INSTITUTE



Participants from our parish (L. to R. front row): Vartine Ketchedjian, Mrs. Nayiri Baljian Bell (Instructor), Sarineh Cunningham, Avedis Bell, David Oganessian, (Back row) Celina Papazian and Tiffany Arvestian.

The Prelacy’s St. Gregory of Datev Institute Summer Program, held at St. Mary of Providence Center in Elverson, Pennsylvania, from June 30 to July 7, graduated five students

this year: Taniel Arakelian, Jane Simonyan Gordner, Lori Tekeyan, and Greg Varjabedian from Sts. Vartanantz Church (Ridgefield, New Jersey), and Paul Tatarian from Soorp Khatch Church (Bethesda, Maryland).

The Summer Program offers a unique faith-based experience for our youth ages 13-18, with three-pronged objectives: Christian instructions, prayer, and recreational activities. The Program spans four years, one week each summer. Those who complete the four-year program can return for postgraduate classes. This year, the Institute registered 43 participants—14 students in level one, seven in level two, 11 in level three, five in level four, and six in postgraduate classes. The students in each level receive approximately twenty hours of instruction. They also participate in daily morning and evening church services and engage in sports and recreational activities in the afternoons. The pedagogical component covers the essential elements of the Christian faith, including the Bible, feasts, sacraments, creeds, prayer and worship, and discussions on moral and contemporary issues.

40 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE EASTERN PRELACY

After 12 years of devoted service within the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia, Anoushavan Vartabed Tanielian is posted to the United States by Catholicos Karekin II of Cilicia in 1984 to pursue post-graduate studies and to serve under His Eminence Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian of blessed memory.

In September he is appointed preacher at St. Gregory the Illuminator Church in Philadelphia, where, in collaboration with Pastor Archpriest Father Arsen Hagopian, he gives impulse to Bible studies, choir, and youth conferences, and creates the choir Sharagan.



In 1985 he obtains a master's degree at Princeton Theological Seminary and continues his studies at Columbia University. In 1987, encouraged by Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, he founds the St. Gregory of Datev Institute, which he heads for 25 years.

In 1987-1988 he is appointed preacher at Sts. Vartanantz Church in New Jersey and receives the degree of Dzayrakuyun Vartabed. He fosters programs of religious education and teaches at Nareg Saturday School, the Hovnanian School and the Siamanto Academy.

In 1988-1991 he is designated preacher of St. Sarkis Church of Bayside (later Douglaston), New York, cooperating with Pastor Archpriest Asoghik Kelejian. In 1991 he takes over the position of Pastor, which he had tried to avoid, pretexting the need to complete his studies. However, he ceded when the Prelate had told him: "My dear, you gave your blood to this church, and now you will refuse giving your time to its revitalization?" Archbishop Mesrob was referring to the grave car accident he had suffered on October 26, 1985, when he was going from St. Illuminator's Cathedral to St. Sarkis on the day of blessing of the land of the latter. The accident had left an indelible mark on him without stopping his enthusiasm for service.

Although he is a Pastor, he remains a student. In 1992 he receives a master's degree from Columbia University & a Ph.D. in 2003. His doctoral dissertation is the diplomatic edition & commentary of Archbishop Nerses Lambronatsi's Commentary on the Wisdom of Solomon.

Along with his studies, he revitalizes the different organizations within the Parish, the Choir and the Ladies Guild, and enriches community life with new bodies: youth and adult Bible Study groups, elders' group, Yeraz Dance Group, Men's Club, and other sports clubs. He teaches at the Suzanne and Hovsep Hagopian Saturday School. He encourages teenagers and young people to become acolytes and deacons. He ornaments the church with magnificent icons of the Lord and the saints. He establishes a close relationship with the local police and hosts the policemen and firemen of the area in the church on Thanksgiving and Christmas. Along with Mr. Bedros Jivelekian, board chairman, and the support of all members, he reduces the mortgage of the church from \$1,600,000 to \$300,000. Finally, he passes on the Pastorship of the Church that was born with Archpriest Fr. Asoghik Kelejian and grew with his contributions to Rev. Fr. Nareg Terterian, to continue the organizational work and enliven even further the community of St. Sarkis Church.

Thereafter, on the instructions of Catholicos Aram I and Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, he assumes the roles of Vicar and ecumenical representative of the Catholicosate in the U.S. He participates in the meetings of Pro-Orient, the dialogue of the Oriental Churches and the Catholic Church in Vienna, and as representative of the Catholicosate of Cilicia, he participates in the 10th assembly of the World Council Churches (Pusan, South Korea). He is consecrated Bishop in 2006 by His Holiness Catholicos Aram I, along with Bishop Papken, current Prelate of the Canadian Prelacy.

Always standing by his superiors, Archbishop Mesrob and Archbishop Oshagan, he expands the presence of the Prelacy everywhere, participating in gatherings at the parishes, celebrations by sister organizations, he attends local and international ecumenical meetings and conferences. At the same time, in his quest for justice for our people, he takes part in meetings and events with politicians. He also visits Armenia, supervising the summer camps of the Prelacy's Nerses the Great charitable organization.

As he considers the pilgrimage one of the important factors for the vitality of faith, on different occasions he organized pilgrimages to Lebanon, Deir Zor, Jerusalem, Armenia, and Artsakh for Datev students and parishioners.

On September 8, 2018, Bishop Anoushavan is elected Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy of the United States. On the occasion, he receives the title of Archbishop.

On his election, he promises to make all efforts to expand the spring of Faith and lit the flames of love for the knowledge of God. He regards charity as the heart of Christian faith and carries it out in his personal life with an infectious enthusiasm. He fosters new plans for the youth, which he considers the spine of society, and encourages his spiritual brothers to pursue higher education, which he regards as source of goodness.

40 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE EASTERN PRELACY (Cont.)



Archbishop Anoushavan continues the activity of the Prelacy begun by the four previous Prelates: Archbishop Hrant Khatchadourian, of blessed memory; Archbishop Karekin Sarkissian (later Catholicos), of blessed memory; Archbishop Mesrob, of blessed memory, as well as Archbishop Oshagan. He leads working together with the Religious and Lay Council, the Pastors and the Parishioners and friends.



He makes the religious, cultural, national, and social services of the Prelacy continuously present in the life of people. He continues the traditional Blessing of the Homes at the Prelacy on Armenian Christmas and the Musical Armenia program at Carnegie Hall. He established the Thanksgiving celebration of the Prelacy. Shortly after his election, the Prelacy releases the Armenian version of its weekly electronic newsletter "Crossroads," and new religious, literary historical and educational publications are released. Benefactors, intellectuals, educators, and artists receive awards as a sign of approval for their love and service to the church and the community.

In the relations with the Catholicosate and the parishes, the Prelate is permanently in touch with Catholicos Aram I as well as with other Prelates.

Despite the unfavorable situation in Lebanon, he participates in the Blessing of the Muron, and in the World General Assembly held in Antelias, along with the delegates of the Prelacy. He regularly visits all parishes, big or small, and as Prelate he celebrates the Divine Liturgy, he preaches, and he encourages the people to act on their faith and helps them keep the fire of their Armenian identity alive. In particular in the case of smaller parishes, he appreciates the warmth of their community life and their dedication to preserve their identity.



With the cooperation of the clergy, in the reorganization and revitalization of the Prelacy, he continues the path of his predecessors. He brings new church servants into the Prelacy with the ordination of acolytes, stolebearers, subdeacons, deacons, and priests, and welcomes religious brothers who have graduated from the Theological Seminary of the Catholicosate.

In the same vein, he attends the meetings of sister organizations, including ARS, Hamazkayin, Homenetmen, and AYE, and supports them in their mission. As Prelate, he is invited to open a session of the House of Representatives with a prayer.

He meets Pope Francis as representative of the Catholicosate of Cilicia in the dialogue of Oriental Orthodox Churches and the Catholic Church. As president of CAMECT (Christian Arab Middle Eastern Churches Together), he participates in the events of In Defense of Christians on Capitol Hill. He also undertakes ecumenical events with sister churches.



40 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE EASTERN PRELACY (Cont.)

One and a half years after his election as Prelate, the Covid-19 pandemic threatens humankind. Making use of technological resources, with the collaboration of the Pastors he brought the Church closer to the people with different initiatives, including Prayer with the People, Faith and Family, and Weekly Reflections. In his support for the departments of Christian Education department and Youth Ministry, as well as the Armenian National Education Committee, he promotes innovation in their work. The teacher training initiatives, the Siamanto and Datev programs, the Salt and Light program undertaken by Rev. Fr. Nareg Terterian are given a new boost, and a new course for Deacons is established.

Every Sunday, he drives or flies to a different parish, encouraging them to stand firm in their faith through prayer and to face the challenges of the coronavirus with caution and patience. He also encourages sports life, organizing bike-a-thons in the parishes.



Despite various ongoing crises in the country, he continues the charitable work for Armenia, Artsakh, Syria and, in particular, he steps up the efforts to provide extraordinary support to Lebanon at this time of need. He leads the fundraising drive with weekly stories told to actual and potential donors, highlighting the importance of helping our less fortunate brethren. He ensures continuous support to the two-week summer camp of Christian education organized through Archbishop Aram Stepanian's efforts.

After leading the Prelacy with the protection of the divine providence throughout the stormy period of the pandemic, Archbishop Anoushavan is reelected as Prelate on May 14, 2022. The same year he restores the tradition of the Thanksgiving celebrations and marks officially the 65th anniversary of the Prelacy. He presides over the 30th anniversary celebration of the St. Nerses Charitable Organization in Yerevan, founded by Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian. On the occasion, he establishes awards in conjunction with the Writers Union and the Academy of Fine Arts. In October 2023, he meets personally with the

Armenian population deported from Artsakh, along with Bishop Torkom, then Prelate of the Western Prelacy, and distributes assistance to them. Afterwards, he directs to have monthly distributions of donations through the Hope and Light NGO. Well aware of the imperative for renewal, he organizes regional conferences of deacons and choir masters, as well as meetings of parish Board of Trustees.



In 2023 and 2024, Archbishop Anoushavan heads the planning and organization of the Pontifical Visit of Catholicos Aram I to all Prelacy parishes. The presence and paternal messages of His Holiness generates enthusiasm and renewal in our faithful. This full-fledged Pontifical Visit of His Holiness Aram I after his visit of 1997 and partial visits over the years instills new energy of faith and hope in our people, deeply affected by the pandemic and especially by the catastrophe of Artsakh. It also creates great admiration in religious and political circles toward the Armenian Church and the Catholicosate of Cilicia.

Summing up his pastoral service in the following lines, he says, "Following the example of the brave pastor, the spiritual pastor receives his 'daily bread,' the spirit of wisdom, humility, patience, understanding, and forgiveness from the Lord, and he distributes it to everybody with no restrictions. In the same way that the heart keeps every part of the body healthy with ever renewed blood, the pastor too, with the beating heart of Christ, infuses the blood of hope and love in the life of the community. He justifies the vocation of pastorship serving with selflessness the flock of Christ entrusted to him. Being a father to his large family, he becomes their master and servant, he preserves their Christian Armenian identity and defends the rights of his people."

Whether an Apegha, a Vartabed or a Bishop, he remains God's simple servant. He believes that our existence is a pilgrimage from life to Life to continuously learn from everything, to grow together, to care for each other, and to imitate God by sharing. He is a child with the child, a young person with the youth, an elder with the elderly, and a captain with a captain. He consistently puts into practice his principles, staying faithful to his identity and mission.

40 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE EASTERN PRELACY (Cont.)



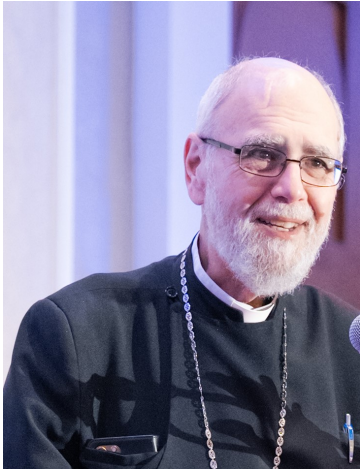
Archbishop Anoushavan completes the fortieth anniversary of his service in the United States. Under the caring protection of God, and relying on his religious and lay collaborators, parishioners and friends, he continues to make his contribution to the treasure of the church and the nation, having as his mottos:

To love while praying,
To serve while loving,
To lead while serving,
To cooperate while leading,
To learn and grow while cooperating,
To become one and uniting with God.



St. Stephen's Pastor, Board of Trustees and members would like to thank Srpazan for 40 years of service in the Eastern Prelacy.

CELEBRATIONS OF SERVICE



Thank you, Der Antranig.

On June 2nd Der Antranig celebrated his last Badarak as Pastor of St. Stephen's. He has had a remarkable tenure as our pastor for 30 years, with nearly 50 years of service as a priest in the Eastern Prelacy. He has witnessed many milestones in the life of the church; we are grateful for his dedication to our community and Armenian nation.

As it's often said, a Der Hayr is only strong with a supportive Yeretsgin by his side. We would especially like to thank Yeretsgin Cheryl and the entire Baljian family for sharing Der Hayr with us all. Der Hayr continues to serve our parish as Pastor Emeritus, for which we are grateful. We wish him well in this new chapter of retirement. Rest very well deserved.

Vartskut gadar, Der Hayr.



Thank you, Digin Houry Boyamian.

For 35 years, Digin Houry dedicated her life to preserving and promoting Armenian Education as principal of St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School. During her tenure, the school grew exponentially, both in student enrollment and curriculum. She also led the school's academic accreditation, raising its profile and reputation. Alongside the school's leadership, she has played an important role in the realization of the expansion projects of the school, fundraising actively in the community.

As Principal Emerita, she continues to be an advocate for our school's mission and advancement and we are fortunate that she continues to work for the future and betterment of education.

Vartskut gadar, Digin Houry.



Thank you, Mary Ann Kazanjian.

Our community is blessed to have talented and dedicated individuals who serve in various capacities. We have been fortunate to have been graced with the exceptional talent of Mary Ann Kazanjian as organist of our parish for over 25 years. Raised and trained in the profession, Mary Ann has been contributing to the majestic Holy Badarak of the Armenian Church for nearly 60 years, having previously served as organist at St. James Armenian Apostolic Church of Watertown.

She was instrumental in the procurement of our new organ, which has been an incredible source of music, especially alongside our talented and dedicated choir. We wish Mary Ann well in this new chapter of retirement and well-deserved rest with her family.

Vartskut gadar, Mary Ann.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Nayiri Baljian Bell, Principal

The Sunday School enjoyed another strong year in 2024, helping the children of our parish grow in their faith in God and understanding of the Armenian Church. We thank our dedicated staff who volunteer their time and talents to ensure that our program is a success. We also thank our families for their commitment to Christian education. During graduation ceremonies in May we presented 26 good attendance awards to students with five or fewer absences; this was twice the number we awarded for the prior school year. We also presented 17 honorable mention attendance awards. Overall, ~50% of the Sunday School received an attendance award, which is a great accomplishment!

Congrats to our 2024 Graduates and Rose Krikorian Sunday School Award Winners

The 2023-2024 Sunday School year concluded on May 19, 2024. We distributed 14 preschool and Kindergarten Bibles, four Holy Bibles to our Grade 3 class and celebrated three graduating seniors: Katrina Arvestian, Andre Montiero, Nora Vartanian. We also recognized honorary graduate Vartine Kechejian who began volunteering with the Sunday School in 11th grade. Each graduate received a book and a framed Bible verse personally selected for them. We pray that God will bless our beloved graduates throughout their lives as they continue to walk with Him.

Following a generous bequest from the estate of Rose Krikorian, the Sunday School established the Rose Krikorian Sunday School award. 2024 was the third year that eligible graduating seniors were able to apply for the one-time \$750 award. Recipients must complete an application and meet the specified requirements, including a set amount of service hours to the church in Junior and Senior year of high school. The Rose Krikorian Sunday School Award Winners for 2023 were Katrina Arvestian and Nora Vartanian. Congratulations!



Christmas Pageant Revived

One notable Sunday School moment during the last school year was the revival of the Christmas pageant after a 20-year hiatus. While the pageant technically took place in 2023, we have not yet had a chance to report about it in the JRAK. With nearly 100% of the school participating, we shared the story of Jesus' birth in a

beautiful production that was the product of spectacular effort and teamwork by teachers, students and parents. The parish response was overwhelmingly positive with many mentioning that they were deeply moved by the performance.

Faith and Fellowship

As always, Sunday School placed a special emphasis on community service and parish engagement alongside classroom learning and participation in worship. We had five new Sunday School students begin holding candles in 2024 and look forward to many more students participating in our beautiful Divine Liturgy. Through the Sunday School plate collection, we continued to support 3 orphans in Armenia and Artsakh. We collected 700 items for the Watertown Food Pantry during our annual Lenten Food Drive. Sunday School also participated in Church clean up days in March and October. In December, our Grade 2-3 class packed 13 shoeboxes full of toys and supplies to donate to needy children around the world through Operation Christmas Child. In May, our Middle School class prepared Bible verses to include with our annual Mother's Day carnation gifts. Along with hosting St. Stephen's annual Christmas and Easter Communion Breakfasts for the students of our parish's schools, Sunday School marked *Pargentan* by hosting a community party for the first time since COVID and we were excited to welcome back Benjamin the Juggling Clown, who entertained children of all ages!

Pontifical Visit

Our Sunday School was blessed with many opportunities to participate in the pontifical visit of His Holiness Aram I of the Great House of Cilicia to our community. During the *Hrashapar* service welcoming His Holiness to St. Stephen's Church, 7th grade students Zaven Bell and Sareen Seraderian presented the traditional *agh oo hats* (bread and salt) as our community's first act of greeting. Many Sunday School students and families attended the highly successful "Next Generation" dialogue with His Holiness, for which four out of five members of the youth planning committee were St. Stephen's Sunday School graduates. Finally, on Sunday morning during the Episcopal Divine Liturgy presided over by His Holiness, a throng of Sunday School students led the *Hrashapar* procession while six Sunday School students and graduates served on the altar: Avedis Bell, Zaven Bell, John Diran Gengozian, Josphine Keumurian, Patrick Mulvey, and Aram Stepanian. Finally, during the banquet in honor of His Holiness, Sunday School students prepared two special presentations. Kindergarten student Anahid Mekounian recited an Armenian prayer and Bible verse after which High School students Tiffany Arvestian, Avedis Bell, Celina Papazian, Liana Seraderian, accompanied by *ooragir* Hagop Kechejian, presented a novel rendition of Vahan Tekeyan's "The Armenian Church" interspersed with excerpts of Aram Vehapar's writing. This presentation was created specifically for Vehapar's visit with the help of our Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Father Antranig Baljian. Both presentations were met with enthusiastic applause. We are proud of our students for the many ways in which they contributed to a momentous and memorable pontifical visit.

It's never too late to enroll your child or grandchild in Sunday School! For more information, please reach out to our Director, Nayiri Baljian by email at ststephensundayschool@gmail.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS (Cont.)

Student Perspective: Sunday School Lays a Firm Foundation

Applicants for the Rose Krikorian Sunday School Award are asked to submit a series of small reflections on the impact of Sunday School. Please take a moment to read below some of the beautiful responses submitted by the 2024 applicants, each touching on the idea that Sunday School has helped to lay a firm foundation in their life. "Below are selected quotes from our 2024 award recipients Katrina Arvestian and Nora Vartanian." "I have been a student at St. Stephens Sunday School for as long as I can remember. In earlier years, Sunday School was all about seeing friends and learning by doing crafts and playing games. Each lesson taught me more about my Armenian faith, traditions, and culture. Before I even realized it, I was being taught what it means to be an Armenian Christian. St. Stephens Sunday School was setting a foundation on which I would build my identity. As I got older, of course, my interests shifted and matured. While I still enjoyed seeing friends and being a part of the Church community, I realized I wanted to do more. I wanted to help my teachers, I wanted to be a leader, and I wanted to be an example to the younger children. One of the messages of the Armenian Church is giving back to the community. St. Stephen's gave me an opportunity to do just that as a Sunday School Intern.

When I think about who I am, I am an Armenian who knows my history, I am an Armenian Christian of deep faith, and I am part of a community that I know will be with me for the rest of my life."

"Participating in the Armenian Church has not only brought me closer to God, but it has also helped shape my identity morally, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. Devoting my Sundays to getting closer to God and expanding my knowledge and relationship with the Lord for the last 12 years has helped me through thick and thin. It has been essential in shaping my identity by teaching me how to love others around me and trust God in everything that happens."

"One of the most important things I've learned from my St. Stephen's Sunday School experience is the importance of giving and service towards others. God gave the world his son; as Christians, I've learned that I can also give, and I should give lovingly. We've been taught – and shown – from even the youngest age that giving can be any small act, from words to actions. Sunday School provided a place for me to put service into action. I've been a part of clothing drives and food drives, I've volunteered at bazaar, and I've been a teacher's assistant acting in whatever capacity I was most needed. I know those actions have made a difference. I've learned that serving others not only benefits those being served, but it benefits the giver as well. Having been given these opportunities has made me stronger in character, taught me responsibility, and has been an uplifting experience knowing that I have been helpful to others."

"The next phase of my life will be exciting and unlike any other experience I've had. I will be away from home for the first time, will be in situations I've never been in before. I will be in a position of true independence for the first time. Without family there to advise my decision making, will need to rely on my faith and the strong sense of responsibility that I have learned from my years here at the Church, to stay safe and true to myself and my values as I progress into a new chapter of my life."



Church Annual Cleanup Day



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS (Cont.)



Top: The full cast of the Sunday School's Christmas Pageant.

Middle: The traditional blessing of bread and salt by H.H. Aram I prior to entering the church.

Bottom: Angels and shepherds (L) Mary and the Baby Jesus (R) Mothers' Day Flowers with Bible verses written by the students.



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Յունուար - Դեկտեմբեր, 2024
Մայտա Մենքոնեան՝ Տնօրենուհի՝

Դպրոցի 87րդ տարեշրջանի (2023-2024) վերամուտի օրն էր Սեպտեմբեր 9, 2023: Տարեշրջանը իր աւարտին հասաւ Յունիս 8, 2024ին Ամավերջի Հանդէսով եւ 12րդ դասարանի շրջանաւարտներու վկայականներու բաշխումով:

Դպրոցի աշակերտութեան թիւն էր 97: Դպրոցը հոգաց 5 սաներու տարեթոշակը:

Ինչպէս զիտք, ունինք Մանկամտութիւն Տասներկրորդ դասարան, ինչպէս նաեւ առցանց դասաժամ եւ յատուկ խօսակցութեան դասարան անգլիախօս աշակերտներուն համար: Դպրոցի ժամերն են ամէն Շաբաթ օր առաւօտեան 9:30 – 12:30 կ.է.:

Այս տարեշրջանին տասնմէկերորդ եւ տասներկրորդ դասարաններու աշակերտները Ազգային Ուսումնական Խորհուրդի՝ Սիւմմա Լաւրանի միջոցաւ արձանագրուեցան Հայ Համացանցային Համալսարան, Երեւան, Հայաստան: Հեռավար տեսակապի միջոցաւ ընթացող դասընթացքը մեկնարկեց Սեպտեմբեր 16, 2023ին:

Դպրոցի դասընթացքը կ'ընդգրկէ հայերէն, գրականութիւն, հայոց պատմութիւն, հայ երգն ու պարը: Կ'օգտագործենք նոր եւ արդի դասագրքեր եւ աշխատանքային տետրակներ:

Սրտի մեծ գոհունակութեամբ կ'ըսեմ որ Տնօրենուհիին պատրաստած դպրոցի, <Շողեր> տարեգիրքի Ա. թիւը լոյս տեսած էր 21 տարիներ առաջ, 2002– 2003 տարեշրջանին եւ մինչեւ օրս լոյս կը տեսնէ եւ հանդէսի օրը կը բաժնուի բոլորին:

Միջնակարգի եւ երկրորդականի կարգ մը աշակերտներ եկեղեցական եւ ազգային տօներու առթիւ կը մասնակցին եկեղեցական արարողութիւններու:

Այս տարեշրջանին շարունակեցինք յատուկ ծրագիրը Մանկապարտէզի եւ Մանկամտութիւն երեխաներուն առաջին պահուան համար, որ կը վարէ Տիկ. Թէնի Արեւելահան 34ն Հաճնար: Գլխաւոր միտքը Խաղի հաճոյքի ճամբով լեզուին դռները պարզել երեխաներուն մօտ: Ժողովրդական երգերն ու տօները, որոնք մեզ կը կապեն մեր հարուստ անցեալին, խաղերուն ու երգերուն հիմը կը կազմեն: Բացայայտօրէն, Մորվիլը իրար հետ խնդալով, երգելով, վազելով եւ բաժնելով կ'ընթանայ, ինչ որ բառերուն իմաստը շատ աւելի կը հաստատէ երեխաներուն մէջ:

Իսկ մեր ուսուցիչներէն երեք հոգի շարունակեցին իրենց մասնակցութիւնը Ազգային Առաջնորդարանի Ուսումնական Խորհուրդի նախաձեռնութեամբ ուսուցիչներու վերապատրաստման մանկավարժական առցանց ծրագրին, որուն նպատակն է գանազան մասնագէտներու ուղեկցութեամբ վերապատրաստել ուսուցիչները: Տիկիներն՝ Նայիրի Մանհիկեան եւ Երան Մանհիկեան երեք տարիէ ի վեր կը մասնակցին եւ Էլիզապէթ Ադրապարեան՝ երկու տարիէ ի վեր:

Արցախահայութեան օժանդակելու նպատակով ծնողական յանձնախումբը դրամահաւաք կազմակերպեց, որուն սիրայօժար մասնակցեցան մեր ծնողները եւ աշակերտները: Հաւաքուած գումարին վրայ աւելցնելով \$2500.00 յանձնուեցաւ Հայ Օգնութեան

Միութեան Ամերիկայի Արեւելեան Շրջանի Շրջանային Վարչութեան ուղղարկելու Արցախահայութեան:

Փետրուար 8ին, Հինգշաբթի երեկոյեան, Սրբոց Վարդանանց Տօնին առթիւ, եկեղեցւոյ մէջ ժամերգութեան ետք, մանկամտութիւն իններորդ դասարաններու աշակերտները օրուան պատշաճ յայտագիր մը ներկայացուցին արժանանալով ներկաներու բարձր գնահատանքին:

Ինչպէս ամէն տարի, այս տարի եւս դպրոցը իր մասնակցութիւնը բերաւ եկեղեցական արարողութիւններուն: Ծրագրայոցի եւ Խթման երեկոներուն (Յունուար 5 եւ Մարտ 29) Սուրբ Գիրքէն ընթերցումներ կատարեցին ընտրուած խումբ մը աշակերտ-աշակերտուհիներ: Մեծ Պահքի շրջանին Փետրուար 14–Մարտ 20, Չորեքշաբթի երեկոները հսկումի արարողութիւններուն դարձեալ մասնակցեցան գանազան դասարաններէ ընտրուած խումբ մը աշակերտներ:

Ծաղկազարդի նախօրեային աշակերտները սորվեցան արմաւենիի ճիւղերով խաչ շինել:

Հինգշաբթի Մարտ 28, 2024ին Ունկուայի արարողութեան մեր դպրոցէն իրենց մասնակցութիւնը բերին չորս մանչեր:

Սուրբ Ծննդեան եւ Սուրբ Յարութեան տօներուն առթիւ Դեկտեմբեր 30ի, ինչպէս նաեւ Մարտ 29ի Շաբաթ առաւօտները, ուսուցչական կազմը եւ աշակերտները Սուրբ հաղորդութիւն ստացան, ապա ներկայ գտնուեցան նախաճաշի հիւրասիրութեան, պատրաստուած կիրակնօրեայ վարժարանի անձնակազմին կողմէ: Կը գնահատենք եւ շնորհակալութիւն կը յայտնենք իրենց:

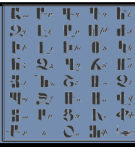
Վեցերորդ, եօթներորդ եւ ութերորդ դասարաններու կարգ մը աշակերտներ մասնակցեցան Հայ Օգնութեան Միութեան Արեւելեան ԱՄՆ-ի Շրջանային Վարչութեան կազմակերպած շարադրութեան մրցումին: ԱՄՆ-ի Արեւելեան Շրջանի միօրեայ վարժարաններու հայերէն ներկայացուած շարադրութիւններու բաժնէն, եօթներորդ եւ ութերորդ դասարաններու խմբակէն Առաջին մրցանակը ստացաւ Լիանա Իսկէնտէրեան (7րդ), երկրորդ մրցանակը՝ Ալինա Պրլլքեան (7րդ) եւ Կասիա Թորքանեան (8րդ), իսկ 3-րդ մրցանակ՝ Տաթևիկ Սարգիսեան (8րդ):

4րդ, 5րդ եւ 6րդ դասարաններու խմբակէն 3րդ մրցանակին արժանացան Վանա Գոնանեան (6-րդ) եւ Շանթ Ուննեան Փարրէլ (6րդ):

Նշան Պաճեան (7րդ) իր պատրաստած տետրիզը իր խմբակէն արժանացաւ 3րդ մրցանակին:

Ապրիլ 3420ին դպրոց այցելեց Տիկ. Շուշանիկ Միրզախանեան, Հայաստանի Ազգային Կինոկերտոնի Տնօրենուհի, բեմադրիչ եւ դասախօս: Ան իր գնահատանքը յայտնեց դպրոցէն ներս տարուած աշխատանքներուն:

Տեղին է յիշել որ Մայրերու օրուան առթիւ Վարդանանց Դուստրերու Արփի Օթեակէն ներկայացուցիչ մը դպրոց եկաւ եւ յատուկ նուէրներ յանձնեց իւրաքանչիւր ուսուցիչի. մեր սրտագին շնորհակալութիւնները կը յայտնենք իրենց:



ԼՈՒՐԵՐ Ս. ՍՏԵՓԱՆՈՍ ՇԱԲԱԹՕՐԵԱՅ ՀԱՅ ԴՊՐՈՅԷՆ

Յունուար - Դեկտեմբեր, 2024

Մայտա Մեղրոնեան՝ Տնօրենուհի՝

Ամավերջի Հանդես և Մրցանակներ

Ամավերջի հանդեսին ներկայ էին Գերապատիւ Տ Հրանդ Ծ. Վարդապետ Թահանեան, Արժանապատիւ Տէր Անդրանիկ Աւագ Քինյ. Պալմեան և Արժանապատիւ Տէր Ստեփան Քինյ. Պալմեան:

Այս տարւոյան Տասներկրորդ դասարանի մեր շրջանաւարտներն էին Մարալ Աբրահամեան, Յովհաննէս Արոյեան, Քաթրինա Արուեստեան, Յովին Բադսեղեան, Նոյա Յարութիւնեան, Սեակ Տուքէնեան, Վարդինէ-Քէչեան և Յովին Ֆիշլը:

Հանդեսին երրորդ անգամ ըլլալով աշակերտները երգեցին դպրոցի Հիմնը, խօսք՝ Մայտա Մեղրոնեանի և երաժշտութիւն՝ Մարինէ Մարգարեանի:

11րդ դասարանի աշակերտները ստացան հաստատագիր մասնակցութեան՝ Ազգային Ուսումնական Խորհուրդի Սիամանթօ Լաբանի, Սր. Ստեփանոս Շաբաթօրեայ Հայ Դպրոցի, համագործակցութեամբ. Հայ Համացանցային Համալսարանի Սեպտեմբեր 2023 – Մայիս 2024 դասընթացքին, հետեւելով հայոց լեզուի, երաժշտութեան, արուեստի, ճարտարապետութեան և պատմութեան նիւթերուն:

Մրցանակներ

Իրաքանիւր շրջանաւարտ դպրոցի վկայականին կողքին ստացաւ հետեւեալները,-

Սիամանթօ Լաբանի վկայական և նշանակը:

Հայ Համացանցային Համալսարանի դասընթացքներուն հետեւելու հաստատագիր:

Խնամակալ Մարմինի կողմէ Աւետարան:

ՀՕՄԻ Ամերիկայի Արեւելեան Շրջանի Շրջանային վարչութեան կողմէ <Հայաստանի Պատմական Ատլաս> գիրքը:

Տէր Անդրանիկ Աւագ Քինյ. Պալմեանի կողմէ <The Armenian Church> Արամ Վեհափառի գրած գիրքը:

Շրջանաւարտ Վարդինէ Քէչեան ստացաւ-

Սր. Ստեփանոս Շաբաթօրեայ, Ռօզ Գրիգորեան Կրթանպաստը՝ \$500.00 (հինգ հարիւր տոլար):

Շրջանաւարտ Քաթրինա Արուեստեան ստացաւ-

ՀՕՄԻ Լէօլա Սատուհի և Շուշի մասնաճիւղերու տրամադրած կրթանպաստը՝ \$ 500.00 (հինգ հարիւր տոլար):

Խնամակալ Մարմինը պարգեւատրեց յատուկ յուշանուէրով և ծաղկեփունջով –

Պրն. Սարգիս Գարակէօբեանը 40+ տարիներու ծառայութեան համար:

Տիկ. Երան Մանճիկեանը 25 տարիներու իր ծառայութեան համար: Տնօրենուհին գնահատեց Տիկ. Նարդուհի Ապրիմեանը 25 տարիներէ ի վեր իր ցուցաբերած օգնութեան և նուիրումին համար: Խնամակալ Մարմինի կողմէ Տիկ. Մարի Արապեան պարգեւատրեց տնօրենուհի Տիկ. Մայտա Մեղրոնեանը դպրոցի անունը կրող ոսկեայ զարդաստեղով 25+ տարիներու իր ծառայութեան համար:

Ինչպէս նաեւ Խնամակալ Մարմինի կողմէ Տիկ. Յասմիկ Մարտիրոս ծաղկեփունջով մը գնահատեց տնօրենուհին իր տարած աշխատանքին համար:

Հանդեսէն ետք Ծնողական Յանձնախումբի նախաձեռնութեամբ, հիւրասիրութիւն պատրաստուած էր ի պատիւ շրջանաւարտներուն և Ուսուցչական Կազմին: Ներկայ գտնուեցան Հոգեւոր Հայրերը, խնամակալ մարմինի և ծնողական յանձնախումբի անդամները, ուսուցչական կազմը և շրջանաւարտներուն ծնողները: Բարձր կը գնահատենք տարուած աշխատանքը:

ՎԵՐԱՄՈՒՏ

Սր. Ստեփանոս Շաբաթօրեայ Հայ Դպրոցի 88րդ տարեշրջանի (2024-2025) վերամուտի օրն էր Շաբաթ, Սեպտեմբեր 7, 2024: Ներկայիս Դպրոցի աշակերտութեան թիւն է 92:

Վերամուտի առաւօտեան Տէր Անդրանիկ Աւագ Քինյ. Պալմեան ներկայ էր և իր օրհնութիւնն ու բարեմաղթանքները փոխանցեց բոլորիս: Իսկ արձակման պահուն Գերապատիւ Տէր Հրանդ Ծ. Վարդապետ Թահանեան խօսեցաւ աշակերտներուն, յաջող տարի մը մաղթեց և աղօթքով փակեցինք դպրոցի վերամուտի օրը:

Տասնմէկերորդ և տասներկրորդ դասարաններու աշակերտները Ազգային Ուսումնական Խորհուրդի՝ Սիամանթօ լաբանի վարիչ տնօրենին միջոցաւ արձանագրուեցան Հայ Համացանցային Համալսարան, Երեւան, Հայաստան: Հեռավար տեսակապի միջոցաւ ընթացող դասընթացքը մեկնարկեց Սեպտեմբեր 7, 2024-ին:

Դպրոցի Խնամակալ Մարմինը կը բաղկանայ եկեղեցւոյ և ՀՕՄԻ մասնաճիւղերու ներկայացուցիչներէ:

Կազմի անդամներն են.

Գեր. Տ. Հրանդ Ծ. Վրդ. Թահանեան
Տիկ. Յասմիկ Մարտիրոս
Տիկ. Լիզա Մեղրոնեան
Տիկ. Մարի Արապեան
Տիկ. Թամար Պէրճիքեան
Տիկ. Հելիկ Մարկոսեան
Պր. Յովսէփ Մէլքէշեան
Տիկ. Սոնիա Յակոբեան

Նախագահ
Ատենապետ
Ատենադպրոցի
Գանձապահուհի
Խորհրդական
Խորհրդական
Խորհրդական
Խորհրդական
(Եկեղեցւոյ
Ներկայացուցիչ)
Խորհրդական
(Եկեղեցւոյ
Ներկայացուցիչ)

Պր. Ռիչըրտ Փիլիկեան



ԼՈՒՐԵՐ Ս. ՍՏԵՓԱՆՈՍ ՇԱԲԱԹՕՐԵԱՅ ՀԱՅ ԴՊՐՈՅԷՆ

Յունուար - Դեկտեմբեր, 2024

Մայտա Մելքոնյան՝ Տնօրենուհի՝

2024–2025 Տարեշրջանի Ուսուցչական կազմ.-

Տիկ. Մայտա Մելքոնյան	Տեսչուհի
Տիկ. Նորմա Դեմիրճեան	Բ. եւ Գ. Կարգեր
Միամանթո Լսարան	ԺԱ.-ԺԲ. Կարգեր
Օր. Վարդինէ Քէչեճեան	Բ. եւ Գ.ի Օգնական
Պրն. Սարգիս Գարակեօզեան	Թ. եւ Ժ. Կարգեր
Տիկ. Անի Գլըճեան	Ա. Կարգ
Տիկ. Էլիզապէթ Աղբալարեան	Ը. Կարգ
Տիկ. Թէնի Հանճար	Մանկապարտէզ
Տիկ. Երան Մանճիկեան	Է. Կարգ
Տիկ. Նայիրի Մանճիկեան	Մանկամտօր
Տիկ. Մարիտա Տաւուտեան	Չ. Կարգ
Տիկ. Ազատուհի Տութենեան	Երգ
Օր. Նարինէ Ապրիմեան	Ե. Կարգ
Պրն. Ալեքս Աւանդաւաթ	Պար
Տիկ. Սիրվա Կոտիկեան	Դ. Կարգ
Օր. Օմէնի Զավարեան	Տեսակապի
Տիկ. Արթիւնա Տօնյեան	Խօսակցութեան

Դպրոցի փոխ- ուսուցչուհիներն են Տիկ. Վերա Իսկէնտրեան, Տիկ. Նարդուհի Ապրիմեան եւ Տիկ. Թամար Պրեմիքեան:

Հոկտեմբեր 5ին Տնօրենուհին մասնակցեցաւ Ազգային Ուսումնական Խորհուրդի կազմակերպած տնօրեններու միօրեայ աշխատանիստին:

Հոկտեմբեր 12ին առաւօտեան ժամը 9:30ին, Տ.Տ. Արամ Ա. Կաթողիկոս Մեծի Տանն Կիլիկիոյ պեղեց դպրոց: Իրեն կ'ընկերակցէին Գերաշնորհ Սրբազան Անուշաւան Դանիէլեան եւ Գերշ. Սրբազան Գեղամ Խաչերեան, ինչպէս նաեւ Գերա. Տ. Հրանդ Ծ. Վրդ. Թահանեան, Տէր Անդրանիկ Աւագ Քինյ. Պալմեան, հոգեւոր հայրեր եւ եկեղեցւոյ հոգաբարձութեան անդամներ: Աղ ու հացով դիմաւորելէ ետք, խումբ մը աշակերտներ Եպրիմուշտա պարով ընդունեցին Վեհափառ Հայրը եւ իր շքախումբը: Սրահէն

ներս աշակերտները մեծ խանդավառութեամբ դրօշակները ծածանելով դիմաւորեցին զիրենք: Տնօրենուհին բարի գալուստ մատթելէ ետք 5րդէն 10րդ դասարաններու աշակերտները փունջ մը երգերով ելոյթ ունեցան: Անոնք երգեցին <Ղարաբաղ Իմ>, <Տուն Իմ Հայրենի>, <Հայրենիքիս Հետ> Դպրոցի Հիմնը:

Վեհափառը բարձր գնահատեց աշակերտներուն ելոյթը ապա խօսքը ուղղեց բոլոր աշակերտներուն: Փակման աղօթքէն ետք աշակերտները <Կիլիկիա> երգով յայտագիրը փակեցին:

Ճէն 12րդ դասարաններու աշակերտները իրենց ուսուցիչներուն ընկերակցութեամբ ուղղուեցան եկեղեցի մասնակցելու Վեհափառին հետ կազմակերպուած երիտասարդներու հարցազրոյցին:

Դեկտ. 28, 2024ին աշակերտութեան մասնակցութեամբ տեղի ունեցաւ Ամանորի հանդէս - խրախմանքը: Իսկ Յունուար 4, 2025ին աշակերտները Սուրբ Հաղորդութիւն ստացան, որմէ ետք տեղի ունեցաւ նախաճաշ եկեղեցւոյ ներքնասրահին մէջ:

Ինչպէս ամէն տարի, այս տարի եւս Յունուար 5, 2025ին, Սր. Ծնունդի Ծրագրացին, ընտրուած խումբ մը աշակերտ-աշակերտուհիներ Սր. Գրքէն ընթերցուածներ կարդացին եկեղեցւոյ մէջ:

Մեր սրտագին շնորհակալութիւնները կը յայտնենք Սր. Ստեփանոս եկեղեցւոյ հոգեւոր հովիւ Գերա. Տ. Հրանդ Ծ. Վրդ. Թահանեանին, Տէր Անդրանիկ Աւագ Քինյ. Պալմեանին, եկեղեցւոյ Հոգաբարձութեան, Ազգային Ուսումնական խորհուրդին, ՀՕՄի մասնաճիւղերուն, եւ Կեդրոնի վարչութեան, դպրոցի Ծնողական Յանձնախումբին եւ բոլոր անոնց, որոնք կը նպաստեն դպրոցի բարօրութեան եւ վերելքին: Դպրոցի ուսուցչական կազմին, աշակերտութեան եւ իմ կողմէն կ'ուզեմ յատուկ շնորհակալական խօսք ուղղել Խնամակալ Մարմնի անդամներուն, որոնք ամբողջ տարուան ընթացքին մեծ նուիրումով կ'աշխատին դպրոցի վերելքին եւ յառաջացման համար: Ձեր վարձքը կատար: Յատուկ շնորհակալութեան եւ գնահատանքի խօսք ունիմ նաեւ ուսուցչական կազմին:

Donations:

Nishan & Margrit Atinizian	\$ 2,500.00
ARS Watertown Leola Sassouni Chapter	\$ 1,500.00
Alice Setian	\$ 1,000.00
Mrs. Meline Arslanian	\$ 1,000.00
Paul Bedrosian	\$ 500.00
Mr. & Mrs. Antranig & Christine Mardiros	\$ 200.00
In Memory of SHAKEH SEPETJIAN	
Saturday School Teachers	\$ 115.00
Mari Zakarian	\$ 65.00
Mr. Ruben Ghazariants	\$ 50.00

Annual Luncheon Donations held on January 28, 2024

Total: \$1,385.00

Gourmet Nuts-	\$ 200.00
ARS Watertown Leola Sassouni Chapter	\$ 200.00
Mr. & Mrs. Yeprem & Mayda Melkonian	\$ 200.00
Mrs. Matilda Daoudian	\$ 100.00
Mr. Richard Ghazariants	\$ 100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Missak & Lily Barsoumian	\$ 100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Sarkis & Zarmine Karageozian	\$ 100.00
Missak & Angelique Ourfalian	\$ 100.00
Alice Setian	\$ 100.00
Mrs. Mari Arabian	\$ 50.00
Mrs. Tamar Berejikian	\$ 50.00
Vartan & Hourig Soukiasian	\$ 45.00
Mrs. Mary Demirjian	\$ 40.00

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our donors and supporters.



ST. STEPHEN'S SATURDAY SCHOOL

January - December, 2024

Mayda Melkonian, Principal

St. Stephen's Armenian Saturday School resumed its 87th academic year on Sept. 9, 2023, with the enrollment of 97 students. A year-end graduation ceremony on June 8, 2024 marked the conclusion of this academic year. The school sponsored 5 students with full bursary.

Classes range from Nursery to Twelfth grade. The school hours are 9:30 am – 12:30 pm. We registered 11th and 12th grade students with AVC (Armenian Virtual College) based in Armenia through ANEC's Siamanto Auditory. Classes started Sept. 16, 2023 and were held every Saturday from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm.

Saturday School curriculum consists of Armenian language, history, as well as Armenian songs and dances. The students learn their forefathers' language, history, culture and traditions through newly published textbooks and workbooks.

It is the 21st year that "*SHOGHER*" year book prepared by the principal is published and distributed to the students the day of the *Hantes*.

Middle and high school students, during religious feasts, are always prepared to participate in various church ceremonies.

This academic year we continued the new program for the Kindergarten and Nursery students, implemented by Mrs. Teni Apelian Hajjar. The core idea behind the child-centered creative play is that play leads to joy and joy leads to expression. Saturday morning curriculum for these classes begins with this idea in mind. Folk songs and rituals, which connect us to our ancient and beautiful past, are at the center of our games. Explicit "teaching" is replaced by experiencing together, laughing, singing, running and sharing, which places words and their meaning much further into the self.

Three teachers participated in "Teachers' Training" Seminars held throughout the year (almost 50 hours) virtually. This program is conducted by ANEC. Nayiri Manjikian and Yeran Manjikian have been attending the workshops for three years, whereas Elizabeth Aghpalarian has been attending these seminars for two years.

The Parents Committee organized fundraising for Armenians of Artsakh. Parents and students participated and raised money for our compatriots. The School Board decided to add to the amount raised, thus \$2,500.00 was sent to ARS EUSA Regional Board to be transferred to Armenia.

The month of February is usually the time during which we commemorate St. Vartanants. This year on Thursday, February 8, 2024 we presented a program in the church after Badarak. Nursery through 9th grade students presented songs and recitations dedicated to St. Vartanants. The program was greatly appreciated by all who were present.

During Lent, February 14 – March 20, every Wednesday, a group of students participated in the evening services at St. Stephen's church. They read "In faith I confess" and sang "Nayatz Seerov."

On January 5, Armenian Christmas Eve, and March 29, Easter Eve, a selected group of students from different grades contributed to the church services by reading from The Holy Bible.

For Palm Sunday the students learned how to make a cross with palm branches.

On Thursday March 28, four students participated in the "Washing of The Feet" ceremony.

On December 30 and March 29, our students and the teaching staff, along with St. Stephen's Elementary and Sunday School students, received Holy Communion at the church. After the services breakfast was served in the church hall by Sunday School. Please accept our heartfelt thanks.

During April our students from grades 6, 7, and 8 participated in the essay contest organized by ARS Eastern USA Regional Board.

From one day schools - Armenian essays, grades 7 and 8, 1st place was awarded to Liana Iskenderian (7th grade); 2nd place was awarded to Alina Belekian (7th grade), Gacia Tokadjian (8th grade); and 3rd place was awarded to Datevig Sarkisain (8th grade). From one day schools -Armenian essays, grades 4, 5, and 6, 3rd place was awarded to 6th graders Vana Kojanian and Shant Ounjian Farrell. Nishan Baljian of 7th grade prepared a video which was awarded 3rd place in the media category.

On April 20, Mrs. Shoushanig Mirzahanyan visited the school. She is the CEO of National Cinema Center of Armenia. She appreciated and praised the work we do here in diaspora.

We thank Daughters of Vartan Arpi Lodge for the Mother's Day gifts they brought to school for our teachers.

2023-2024 Year End Graduation Exercises and Awards

Our 12th grade graduates this academic year were Maral Aprahamian, Hovanes Aroyan, Atrina Arvestian, Tsolin Parseghian, Nora Harutunian, Sevag Dukenjian, Vartine Kechedjian, and Tsolin Fisher. We extend our congratulations and best wishes to the graduates and their parents.

The year-end graduation ceremony was held on June 8, 2024 at the ACEC. Very Rev. Fr. Hrnt Tahanian, Rev. Archpriest Antranig Baljian and Fr. Stepan Baljian were present.

After delivering the welcoming remarks, the principal invited the students to sing our national anthem, "Mer Hairnik," followed by, for the second time, the school anthem, words written by Mayda Melkonian and music by Marine Marcarian Kavlakian. The principal then invited 11th grade students to receive their AVC Certificate of course completion.



ST. STEPHEN'S SATURDAY SCHOOL

January - December, 2024

Mayda Melkonian, Principal

On behalf of the School Board, "The New Testament." Siamanto Auditory Diploma and the badge. Rev. Archpriest Antranig Baljian awarded the book "The Armenian Church" written by His Holiness Aram I Catholicos of Cilicia. ARS EUSA Regional Board awarded "Historical Atlas of Armenia" book-AVC Certificate of course completion. The graduates delivered their speech thanking the principal and the teachers for all their dedication and hard work.

Awards

Besides School Diplomas the following awards were presented at the graduation to each graduate:

Vartine Kechedjian was awarded St. Stephen's Saturday School "Rose Krikorian Scholarship Fund." \$500.00 Scholarship.

Katrina Arvestian was awarded ARS Leola Sassouni and Shushi Chapters \$ 500.00 Scholarship.

Mr. Sarkis Karageozian was honored for his 40+ years of teaching at our school with a special Souvenir and a bouquet of flowers.

Mrs. Yeran Manjikian was also honored for her 25 years of teaching at our school with a special Souvenir and a bouquet of flowers.

The principal also thanked Mrs. Nartouhi Abrimian for her continuous dedication and help over 25 years.

On behalf of the School Board Mrs. Mary Arabian awarded the **principal Mayda Melkonian** for her 25+ years of service to the school with a gold pin bearing the school name.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Mrs. Hasmig Mardiros presented a beautiful bouquet of flowers to the principal.

After the program was over, a reception was held by the graduates parents and our Parents' Committee members.

St. Stephen's Armenian Saturday School resumed its 88th Academic Year (2024-2025) on Saturday Sept.7, 2024 with the enrollment of 92 students.

At the morning assembly, Rev. Archpriest Antranig Baljian welcomed the students and wished for a successful year. At dismissal we assembled in the hallway where Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Tahanian addressed the students, wishing them a successful and productive year and gave his blessing to all.

The School's Board consists of Church and ARS representatives, who are the following members:

Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Tahanian	President
Mrs. Hasmig Mardiros	Chairperson
Mrs. Lisa Setrakian	Secretary
Ms. Mary Arabian	Treasurer
Mrs. Tamar Berejikian	Advisor
Mrs. Heghig Margossian	Advisor
Mr. Hovsep Melkeshian	Advisor
Mrs. Sonya Hagopian	Church Representative
Mr. Richard Piligian	Church Representative

2024 - 2025 Saturday School Staff

Mrs. Mayda Melkonian	Principal
Mrs. Norma Damirjian	2nd & 3rd grades
Siamanto Auditory teachers	11th & 12th grades
Ms. Vartine Kechedjian	2nd & 3rd T. Aide

Mr. Sarkis Karageozian	9th & 10th grades
Mrs. Ani Keledjian	1st grade
Mrs. Elizabeth Aghpalarian	8th grade
Mrs. Teni Hajjar	Kindergarten
Mrs. Yeran Manjikian	7th grade
Mrs. Nayiri Manjikian	Nursery
Mrs. Matilda Davoudian	6th grade
Mrs. Azadouhi Dukenjian	Music
Ms. Narine Abrimian	5th grade
Mr. Alex Avaneszadeh	Dance
Mrs. Silva Kotikian	4th grade
Ms. Ojeny Kavlakian	Zoom Class
Mrs. Adriana Donoyan	Conversation Class

Substitute teachers are Mrs. Vera Iskenderian, Mrs. Nartouhi Abrimian, and Mrs. Tamar Berejikian.

On Oct.5, the principal participated in the Principals' one day seminar organized by ANEC.

On October 12, 2024 His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of The Holy See Of Cilicia visited, along with Prelate of Eastern USA His Eminence Anoushavan Tanielian, Prelate of Western USA His Eminence Kegham Khacherian, Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Tahanian and Rev. Archpriest Antranig Baljian, as well as 2 reverend fathers and Church Board members.

We greeted His Holiness with Salt and Bread followed by an ethnographic "Yarhoushda" Dance in the hallway. They were also greeted by our students with flags and cheers.

After welcoming remarks, the principal invited the students in grades 5 - 10 to present a program comprised of the following songs:

"Gharapagh Im," "Doun Im Hayreni," "Hayrenikis Hed," and the school Anthem.

Vehapar Hayrabad addressed the students and praised them for the beautiful special songs. After conversing with the children he blessed them all. The students sang "GILIGIA" after his closing prayer.

After their departure, students in grades 6 through 12, along with their teachers, went to St. Stephen's Church to participate in "A Next Gen Dialogue with Aram Vehapar." Students learned Christmas poems and songs in preparation for the Christmas Party which was held on Saturday Dec. 28, 2024. On January 4, 2025 students received Holy Communion.

As in previous years, on January 5, 2025, a select group of students read from the bible at the Christmas Eve service.

We deeply appreciate the teachers and the students for their work and effort.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and heartfelt thanks to Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Tahanian, Rev. Fr. Antranig Baljian, the Church Board of Trustees, School Board members, ANEC, the Armenian Relief Society, the ACEC Board, the Parents' Committee, Sunday School, our wonderful and dedicated teachers, and every individual and organization that contributed to the success of the school.

ST. STEPHEN'S SATURDAY SCHOOL PHOTOS
January - December, 2024





ST. STEPHEN'S SATURDAY SCHOOL 2023-2024 GRADUATION





ST. STEPHEN'S SATURDAY SCHOOL PHOTOS (Cont.)

January - December, 2024



HIS HOLINESS'S REINVIGORATING VISIT TO GREATER BOSTON



New England-area Clergy from Prelacy, Diocese, Catholic and Protestant Churches and Prelates of Western and Canadian Prelacies.
Thursday, October 10 at St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church for Hrashapar and Achahampooyr Service.

ARAM VEHAPAR STRESSES SERVICE, REORGANIZATION AND YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

Pontifical visits offer an opportunity for the faithful to see and hear from their Vehapar up close, receive his fatherly blessings and guidance, share in their concerns and successes, and be reinvigorated in their faith and service to God and community.

His Holiness Aram I of the Holy See of Cilicia is no stranger to the community of St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church of Greater Boston, located in Watertown, MA. In fact, this parish and community has been privileged to host almost all Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia since the parish has been under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Prelacy and Holy See of Cilicia. His Holiness Khoren I visited in 1969, His Holiness Karekin II visited in 1983 and 1991, and His Holiness Aram I has visited in 1996, 2005, and 2015.

Embarking on what would be his fourth Pontifical Visit to Watertown, the committee was thoughtful in curating a visit that would be meaningful to the congregation and Vehapar. It was important to introduce Vehapar to the many riches of our community and underscore the importance of the Diaspora and the impact our people have in strengthening, preserving, and promoting our history and culture, engage in new collaborations to ultimately broaden and develop the connection to the Holy See

of Cilicia. In consultation with His Eminence Anoushavan Tanielian, Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy and the Executive Council, an intense four full-days were planned in the Greater Boston area to offer an opportunity for Vehapar to see and connect with the faithful.

The Pontifical Visit organizing committee of St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church had begun planning this visit since December 2022, though paused in mid-2023 when it was decided the visit would take place over the course of two years. The team quickly reengaged soon thereafter to welcome His Holiness to Boston for what would be a very busy schedule of religious services, various visits to educational and cultural institutions, and events. The committee, led by co-chairs Michael Guzelian and Tamar Kanarian, engaged a highly experienced team of volunteers that meticulously planned the trip for His Holiness.

The team was under the leadership and guidance of its new parish pastor, Very Reverend Father Hrant Tahanian, who arrived in April 2024 and assumed the role of pastor on June 9 upon the retirement of Rev. Archpriest Father Antranig Baljian, who served at St. Stephen's for nearly 30 years. Hayr Hrant energetically guided the group, offering fresh perspectives

HIS HOLINESS'S REINVIGORATING VISIT TO GREATER BOSTON (Cont.)

from his experience on how best to design and maximize the visit. “Vehapar is coming at a critical time for our people here in the Diaspora,” said Tamar Kanarian, who also serves as Secretary of the Executive Council of the Eastern Prelacy, and a Delegate to the World Assembly of the Holy See of Cilicia. “While the Armenian Nation struggles to defend its ancestral lands and identity, and our communities in Lebanon and Syria are under regional threat, the Armenian-Americans also need their Vehapar to guide them in their role and service in our collective efforts to preserve our faith and identity.”



The St. Stephen's organizing committee's responsibilities commenced on Wednesday, October 9 when they received the Pontiff from Whitinsville, MA, and continued until his departure from New England on Monday, October 14.

Spiritual Revitalization

His Holiness' Pontifical Visit to our Eastern Prelacy began in the New England parishes, kicking off with Providence, Rhode Island and moving to Springfield, Worcester and Whitinsville, MA. It is very admirable and inspiring that Aram Vehapar wanted to meet with every single one of our parishes in the Eastern Prelacy in his two-part visit. That demonstrates his care and commitment to his flock, a flock that has inhabited the American soil for more than a hundred years, where fifth generation Armenian families continue to serve their church and communities.

The level of coordination between the churches was necessary to ensure a smooth transition for His Holiness and his entourage. It also provided an opportunity for collaboration and for others to visit and witness other parishes in action. The Watertown team graciously went to Sts. Asdvadzadzin Church in Whitinsville on Wednesday, October 9, to transfer His Holiness to Waltham, where he and the entourage - His Eminence Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian, Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy, His Eminence Archbishop Kegham Katcherian, Prelate of the Western Prelacy, Very Reverend Hovagim Panjarjian and Very Reverend Sarkis Abrahamian - would establish themselves there as they began their heavy schedule of activities the following day.



His Holiness' first public appearance took place on Thursday, October 10 at St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church for Hrashapar and Achahampoor Service. With a full police escort, thanks to Watertown Police and Massachusetts State Police, the motorcade traveled through Watertown for its stop on Artsakh Street, where Aram Vehapar was greeted with the traditional Agh Oo Hatz (Bread and Salt), by two dedicated Sunday School students, under a canopy that was guarded by committed and supporting members of our community: Andrew Guzelian, Michael Barsamian, Alek Festekjian, and Garbis Zerdelian. The Homenetmen Scouts of Greater Boston lined the church steps as the many altar servers ushered Aram Vehapar into the church sanctuary. The choir, led by longtime choir member and director Karen Aykanian Demerjian, galvanized a dedicated choir that practiced and prepared for many months, not only preparing for the Hrashapar service but also an Episcopal Divine Liturgy that would take place a few days later. Since St. Stephen's church choir sings a Gomidas Badarak, it was extra special for them to sing this Badarak in the presence of His Holiness.



A full sanctuary also welcomed New England-area clergy from Prelacy, Diocese, Catholic and Protestant churches. It was a beautiful service that also featured Aram Vehapar's words of inspiration and encouragement. The faithful then approached Vehapar to personally receive his blessing during the achahampoor and were treated to fellowship hosted by the church Ladies Guild.

HIS HOLINESS'S REINVIGORATING VISIT TO GREATER BOSTON (Cont.)



Immediately following the evening services, His Holiness was the guest of honor of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, to the closing session of the International Commission for Anglican–Orthodox Theological Dialogue, which took place at the Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA.



“Although the International Commission is comprised of Anglican and Eastern Orthodox members, their joy in extending an invitation to His Holiness to not only partake, but bring to an official close the ceremonies, is in itself a testament to the vibrancy of the ecumenical spirit, even during these challenging times for the ecumenical movement,” said Very Rev. Father Hrant Tahanian, pastor of St. Stephen’s and Ecumenical Director of the Holy See of Cilicia. “Through this encounter between His Holiness Aram I and His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, and all the distinguished members of the commission, the radiance of Christ’s body was in full display.” It is important to note Aram Vehapar’s vast experience in the ecumenical world, having served twice as moderator, and now one of eight Presidents of the World Council of Churches.

Educational, Cultural, and Humanitarian Institutions

The Greater Boston area boasts a number of educational, cultural, and community-focused organizations and institutions. It was important for the organizing committee to

have Aram Vehapar visit and re-engage with important centers that promote and preserve Armenian culture and identity.

Visit to St. Stephen’s Armenian Elementary School

The only Armenian everyday language school in New England, under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Prelacy, St. Stephen’s Armenian Nursery and Elementary School has been the heart of every Pontifical Visit since the school opened its doors in 1984. As it prepares to celebrate its 40th anniversary, it was important for Aram Vehapar to visit with students and teachers. Vehapar was enthusiastically greeted by the entire student body with a cultural program. He then held a lengthy question and answer session with the older students, moderated by two students from the grade 5 graduating class. Students asked Vehapar about his decision to join the priesthood, his mission, and even his favorite foods. Vehapar then asked the students about their experiences at the school and how they are involved in the community.



It is important to note that Aram Vehapar had a private audience with St. Stephen’s School Board members and Church leadership to discuss the school’s strategic plan as it looks to expand its physical footprint and educational programming to make Armenian education more accessible. His Holiness also participated in a private event, hosted by Michael and Susan Guzelian at their home, to announce the expansion project and plans to garner support.

HIS HOLINESS'S REINVIGORATING VISIT TO GREATER BOSTON (Cont.)



Visit to St. Stephen's Saturday School

Boasting the only one-day language school that goes to grade 12, St. Stephen's Saturday School has been in existence for more than 80 years and is governed by a joint partnership with the local ARS chapters, under the guidance of the Church. Greeted with the traditional bread and salt, and Armenian dancing, principal Mayda Melkonian offered welcoming remarks for His Holiness, followed by a program of classical Armenian cultural and patriotic songs.

National Association of Armenian Studies and Research

Located in Belmont, MA, the National Association of Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) is an independent, non-profit membership organization, and one of the world's leading Armenian Studies centers and rare book libraries. His Holiness was warmly greeted by its staff, program directors, and board members, and after a brief introduction of the mission and purpose behind NAASR, the group walked the facilities, touring the extensive library and taking a moment to learn about the preservation of manuscripts and rare pieces that have been donated to NAASR.



His Holiness commended the work of the team and looks forward to developing the cooperative efforts between the Holy See of Cilicia and NAASR to promote research and scholarship of Armenian studies worldwide. In this spirit, His Holiness offered to donate research volumes on the Catholicosate to NAASR.



Armenian Museum of America

Housing the largest and most diverse collection of Armenian objects outside of the Republic of Armenia and Cilicia Museum in Antelias, the Armenia Museum of America in Watertown, MA offers an array of cultural, historical, and artistic exhibitions. Several artifacts from the Cilician Kingdom are housed at AMA that were shown to Aram Vehapar, underscoring the vast inventory of items but also opening channels of cross collaboration with the Holy See to maintain and preserve vital riches of our past.

Most notably during his visit, Aram Vehapar viewed displays of religious artifacts including a dexter reliquary of St. Stephen, the Protomartyr. Dexters like this are often seen used in special religious services, and thanks to the generosity of the AMA leadership team, this reliquary would be used for Vehapar to give a blessing at the conclusion of the Episcopal Badarak that would follow days after.

Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

Founded by the Armenian Women's Welfare Association, who has had a longstanding history in Boston since 1915, the present-day Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (ANRC) in Jamaica Plain, MA is a not-for-profit skilled nursing center that provides both short and long-term care with a person-centered approach. Strategically aligned with the world-class hospitals of

HIS HOLINESS'S REINVIGORATING VISIT TO GREATER BOSTON (Cont.)



the area, it strives to offer an atmosphere of healing and community. Area Armenian clergy pay monthly visits to the Center to offer prayer service and fellowship, as well as pastoral care to residents and their families. St. Stephen's Sunday School students offer holiday programming and cheer.



His Holiness and his entourage were greeted by board members and staff who gave a brief history of ANRC as well its plans for renovation and expansion. The introductory tour was followed by a traditional house-blessing service with all residents and their families, who all followed along with the hymns. Vehapar then approached residents in conversation, learning about residents' past experiences and service to their church and communities as far as Lebanon and Syria. Armenian Genocide survivor Mary Vartanian, who is a 110-year-old resident at ANRC, recounted her last interaction with Aram Vehapar and presented him a photo and hand-sewn applique. The atmosphere was filled with love and hope for both Armenian and non-Armenian residents.

Hairenik Association

His Holiness was a guest of the Hairenik Association, located in Watertown, MA, where he was greeted at the Hareink Building by its staff and members of regional organization offices that are headquartered in the building. He toured the archives of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation including documents of the First Republic of Armenia. He then sat with Hairenik Media, in



the new Antranig & Alice Karjian studios for a dual Armenian-English video interview on a number of topics including Diaspora reorganization and revitalization, the Artskah War, and current relations with Armenia.



Meeting with Local Organizations Representatives

Members representing the executive bodies of the Greater Boston Nejdech AYP, Homenetmen Boston, ARS Cambridge Shushi and Watertown Leola Sassouni, Hamazkayin Boston, as well as Principals and Board members of the St. Stephen's Schools, had a private audience with His Holiness at St. Stephen's Church sanctuary. There, they shared their concerns and challenges as they work to serve our communities and Nation at large. His Holiness stressed the need to be relevant and necessary in our Diaspora through the mission of the organizations we serve. Vehapar stressed that the Church is the center of community life where people come together through the various aims and mission of their respective organizations to work together and strengthen the community.

Our Future is Now

A highlight of Vehapar's time in Boston was an afternoon spent with the youth of the community. As Vehapar always stresses, the youth are not our future, they are our present. It was critical that His Holiness sit with the youth to hear them and their concerns but also offer his fatherly message and wisdom on a variety of topics.

HIS HOLINESS'S REINVIGORATING VISIT TO GREATER BOSTON (Cont.)



Nayiri Baljian Bell, director of St. Stephen's Sunday School and a member of the Pontifical Visit committee, led a group of dedicated young adults from area-Prelacy churches to conceptualize a unique *Next Gen Dialogue* with Vehapar. The goal and purpose were to deepen participants' sense of connection to the Armenian Church through authentic engagement with leadership and strengthen their commitment to the Armenian Church by casting a vision for youth engagement and service.



Held on Saturday, October 13, this unique gathering brought together more than 125 youth, college and graduate students, young adults, and young families, to the church sanctuary to share their concerns of the Armenian church and community with Aram Vehapar. “We are grateful that Vehapar Hayr makes time for the youth of our community during each pontifical visit,” said Bell.

This forum was especially impactful as Vehapar shared very personal reflections on the meaning of being involved in the church and in the life of the community. The questions ranged from Vehapar's first recollections participating in the church, his decision to serve, current state of affairs of Armenia, and how to be a leader in the church.

A young mother, who brought her children to the dialogue, sent a note after the event to say, ‘Getting the youth involved at a deeper level with Vehapar, helped them view him as a human level and not so out of reach. It was an inspiring day not just for my kids, but also for me. Thank you.’

Following the dialogue, a short morning service took place which was a truly special moment to witness the youth in prayer with their leader in a more intimate setting. Immediately following, participants were treated to lunch with Vehapar in the Church Hall, and they also participated in a community service activity to benefit the Armenian Theological Seminary in Bikfaya. Small kits with writing and language supplies were packed and are ready to be sent to Lebanon.

WORSHIPPING AND COMMUNING AS A COMMUNITY

Sunday Badarak

On Sunday, October 13, an Episcopal Divine Liturgy took place at St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church. His Eminence Archbishop Kegham Katcherian was the day's celebrant with the participation of area Prelacy clergy, deacons and acolytes, as well as Sunday School students. His Holiness' entrance to the church sanctuary was extraordinary as the at-capacity congregation worshipped together throughout the service. As the homilist, Aram Vehapar reflected on the words of Jesus Christ, “I am the

HIS HOLINESS'S REINVIGORATING VISIT TO GREATER BOSTON (Cont.)



Sargsyan, an Armenian troubadour who recently relocated from Armenia to Boston, gave a resounding rendition of classic song while donning traditional Armenian costume.



Noubar and Anna Afeyan, no strangers to the Boston-Armenian community, were guests of honor as they were bestowed by his Holiness as Prince and Princess of Cilicia. Both have been instrumental in the creation and progress of educational programming and humanitarian action locally and in Armenia. Their generosity and commitment to serving our Nation is exemplary and commendable, and it was an honor to present them with this award in an Armenian community space they consider their home.

way, the truth, and the life.” These words, that appropriately grace the top of the altar, serve as a reminder that our journey – whether easy, challenging, and uncertain – is a reminder to open our hearts and minds for God and to trust in Him on the journey he has set for us. A special moment in the Badarak was the presentation of the reliquary of St. Stephen. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the church pastor Hayr Hrant brought forth the reliquary with a procession to the altar and presented it to Aram Vehapar, where he then offered the closing blessing and prayer. Vehapar, with a traditional tapor, processed out of the church, blessing the faithful along the way. A video of the Badarak can be found on the church’s YouTube Channel.



Community Reception

Immediately following the Divine Liturgy, a community reception in honor of Aram Vehapar was hosted by the parish and sponsored by the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center and Anoush'ella Cafe. More than 425 guests attended and were witness to a touching program. Very Rev. Father Hrant Tahanian, as master of ceremonies, offered welcoming words and took guests through the afternoon program, which included an original recitation from young Sunday School student Anahid Melkonian. Older students of the Sunday School presented a beautifully intertwined recitation of Vahan Tekeyan’s “The Armenian Church” and excerpts of Vehapar’s writing about the Armenian Church. And lastly, Serine

HIS HOLINESS'S REINVIGORATING VISIT TO GREATER BOSTON (Cont.)



His Holiness then delivered his keynote address, focusing on four main points: identity, reorganization of our communities, Armenia-Diaspora relations, and youth involvement in the life of the Armenian community.

Conclusion

This community is very fortunate and always honored to host our clergy, especially the head of church. The countless hours of planning and tremendous amount of detail bring with it renewed spirit, commitment, and love for our church and the people we work with. It reassures and strengthens our service to the Prelacy

and Holy See of Cilicia, and ensures the future of our church and community.

Astor Guzelian, a member of the committee and pillar of the church and community, who has served on every single Pontifical Visit St. Stephen's has organized, reflected: "Vehapar was truly impressed with this Pontifical Visit here in Boston. It comforts me to know that we have a generation of leaders and volunteers who can organize and execute an intense visit with such professionalism. Vehapar is an amazing leader who knows very well about each of the communities under his leadership. His continued encouragement to think outside the box in order to sustain and grow our communities is commendable. It was an absolute honor to be able to serve in this capacity again."

Special thanks to the Pastor and Board of Trustees for their support and trust, and the entire Pontifical Visit Committee: Nayiri Baljian Bell, Astor Guzelian, Gail Guzelian, Noushig Hagopian, Sonya Hagopian, Lucy Hoosian, Cerise Jalelian, Alan Jelalian, Heather Krafian, Becky Megerdichian and Robert Najarian. A special thank you to our Ladies Guild, and the many volunteers who made the visit a success.

Written by Tamar Kanarian
(First published in Armenian Weekly)



Ս. ՍՏԵՓԱՆՈՍ ԱԳԱՅԻՆ ՎԱՐԺԱՐԱՆԻ 40-ԱՄԵԱԿԸ

ԾԲԵՂ ՀԱՆԴԻՍՈՒԹԵԱՄԲ ՄԸ ՆՇՈՒԵՑԱԲ ՈՒՎԱԹԸՐԱԿՈՒՆԻ ՍՈՒՐԲ ՍՏԵՓԱՆՈՍ ՎԱՐԺԱՐԱՆԻ 40-ԱՄԵԱԿԸ



Շաբաթ, Նոյեմբեր 16-ին Hyatt Regency – Cambridge պանդոկին մեջ նշուեցաւ Սուրբ Ստեփանոս Ամենօրեայ վարժարանի 40-ամեակը: Ալեկի քան հինգ հարիւր հայորդիներ ներկայ էին այս հանդիսութեան:

Ազգ մը կը պահպանուի, եւ անոր դիմագիծը անաղարտ կը մնայ իր մայրենի լեզուով, իր մշակոյթով եւ հոգեկան-իմացական ապրումներով, արժէքներով եւ անշուշտ կրթօճախով:

Կրթութիւն եւ դաստիարակութիւն կը սկսին տունէն՝ մանուկին փոքր տարիքէն: Հոն՝ մօր մը վարուելակերպը եւ խօսակցութիւնը անմիջական ազդեցութիւն կ'ունենան մանուկին վրայ: Մայրը կը դառնայ երեխային առաջին ուսուցիչ-դաստիարակը, սակայն պէտք չէ մոռնալ հօրը կարեւորութիւնն ու դերակատարութիւնը առաջին դպրոցին մէջ, որ տունն է, եւ ընտանեկան միջավայրը:

Այս նպատակին հասնելու առաջնահերթ ազդակներէն կարեւորագոյնը ազգային դաստիարակութիւնն է: Հայ Ժողովուրդն ալ կ'ապրի իբրեւ ուրոյն ազգ իր լեզուով եւ մշակոյթով՝ շնորհիւ հայ դպրոցին, հայ գրքին եւ հայեցի դաստիարակութեան: Հայ դպրոցին մէջ կը կազմաւորուին հայ աշակերտին միտքն ու նկարագիրը. հոն կը հետապնդուի, կը մշակուի եւ կ'իւրացուի հայ ոգին եւ մշակոյթը: Ասկա կը պահանջէ զօրաւոր կամք եւ անսահման գոհողութիւն:

Այս պայմաններուն տակ, նշուեցաւ Ազգային Առաջնորդարանի հովանաւորութեան տակ գտնուող միակ ամենօրեայ դպրոցը Սուրբ Ստեփանոս Ամենօրեայ վարժարանի 40-ամեակը:

Օրուան հանդիսավարն էր վարժարանի 2008-ի շրջանաւարտ եւ 2023-ին, <Ֆորպզ> հանդէսի 30 տարեկանէն վար 30 յաջողագոյն անձերու ցուցակին գտնուող՝ Քրիսթինա Այանեանը, որ մեծ խանդավառութիւն ստեղծեց:

Ան բեմ հրաւիրեց շրջանի Սուրբ Ստեփանոս եկեղեցւոյ հովիւ՝ Հրանդ Ծ. վարդապետ Թահանեանը, որ կատարեց բացման աղօթքը: Իր խօսքին մէջ, վարդապետ Թահանեան յայտնեց, թէ հայ եկեղեցին իր հոգին ու էութիւնն է, իսկ հայ դպրոցը՝ միտքն ու խելքը: <<Ոն է, որ կը սորվինք հայերէն, հայոց պատմութիւն, այբուբէն, ազգային ու տոհմիկ պարեր ու երգեր: Այո՛...հոն է, որ կը խօսինք հայերէն, կը զգանք հայ: Այսպէս Սուրբ Ստեփանոս ազգային վարժարանը պիտի թրծէ երիտասարդ հայ պատանին ու պարմանուիին>, ըսաւ ան:

Գեղարունտական յայտագրով, ելոյթ ունեցաւ Անժելինա Նազարեանը, որ տպաւորեց իր եզակի ծայնով: Ապա, խօսք առաւ ներկայ տնօրինուի Կարին Փալանեանը, որ յայտնեց, թէ հայ դպրոցը ունի յատուկ առաքելութիւն եւ հիմնական նպատակ:

Ան շեշտեց, թէ առաջնահերթութիւնն է նոր սերունդին ապահովել հայեցի մթնոլորտ եւ շունչ, նաեւ աւանդել համապարփակ եւ ամբողջական ուսում, որպէսզի ան կարենայ դիմագրաւել կեանքի հրամայականները:

Ապագայ սերունդին համար կարեւոր է որդեգրել կրթական-ուսումնական եւ դաստիարակչական հիմնաւորումը նորութիւններ, ուղեգիծեր եւ ծրագիրներ: Նոյնքան կարեւոր է, նաեւ փոխանցել մարդկային բարոյական արժէքներու կարեւորութիւնը եւ սորվեցնել անոր համամարդկային կենցաղավարութիւն: Այսպէս, նմանօրինակ նպատակներու իրականացումով հայ դպրոցը կը դառնայ իսկական հայկական օճախ՝ նախանձելի մակարդակով, որակաւոր եւ ներգրաւող, ինչպէս նաեւ կրնայ մրցիլ յաջող կոչուած օտար վարժարաններու հետ ու ինքզինք կը պարտադրէ իր շրջապատին ու ժողովուրդին, ըսաւ ան:

Օրուան բանախօսն էր Մերի Փափագեանը, որ համալսարաններու ղեկավարող յանձնախումբերու ընկերակցութեան փոխնախագահն է: Ան շեշտեց, որ դպրոցին բաբախող սիրտն ու արթուն միտքը տնօրէնն է: Ան տիպար ուսուցիչի մը բոլոր յատկութիւններով օժտուած դպրոցին ղեկավարն ու օրէնքի մարդն է: <Տնօրէնը ուսուցիչներու գործակիցն է, խորհրդատուն է եւ ուղեցոյց: Ան առողջ կապն է՝ ուսուցիչ-աշակերտ-ծնող-խնամակալ քառեակին>:





Ս. ՄՏԵԾԱՆՈՍ ԱԶԳԱՅԻՆ ՎԱՐԺԱՐԱՆԻ 40-ԱՄԵԱԿԸ

Փափագեան մանրամասն տեղեկություններ փոխանցեց պատմություն կերտած մտաւորական, հասարակական ու ազգային գործիչ Գաբրիէլ Ինճեճիկեանի (ծնած՝ 1930-ին Քեսապ եւ մահացած 2019-ին՝ Ամերիկայի Միացեալ Նահանգներ) մասին:

Գաբրիէլ Ինճեճիկեան Քեսապէն դուրս գալով, իր ուսումը շարունակած էր Կիպրոսի Մելգոնեան վարժարանին մէջ, ապա Պէյրութի Ամերիկեան համալսարանին: Այդ օրերուն, ի գարմանս բոլորին, ան հաստատած էր չափահասներու համար գիշերային դասընթացքներ, որպէսզի ուսանելու առիթն զրկուած երիտասարդներ կարենան զարգանալ:

1953-ին բարձրագոյն ուսումը շարունակելու միտումով կը մեկնի Միացեալ Նահանգներ եւ կը յաճախէ Տիբորյոթի <Ուէյն> համալսարանը, ուր կը հետեւի ընկերաբանութեան, մանկավարժութեան եւ դպրոցական տնօրէնութեան ճիւղերուն եւ կը ստանայ պսակաւոր արուեստից եւ մագիստրոսի տիտղոսները: Այդ շրջանին ալ կը դասաւանդէ թէ տեղական վարժարանի մը մէջ, թէ՛ ալ Հ.Օ.Մ.-ի գիշերային վարժարանին:

Մեպտեմբեր 1964-ին, Գաբրիէլ Ինճեճիկեան Լոս Անճելըսի մէջ կ'իրականացնէ իր երազը եւ բացումը կը կատարէ Սրբոց Նահատակաց եկեղեցւոյ <Ֆերահեան> Ազգային վարժարանին: Ինճեճիկեան լաւապէս տեղեկ էր, թէ կրթութիւնը եւ դաստիարակութիւնը կ'ընթանան զուգահեռաբար ուսման հետ՝ կրթական օճախներու մէջ, եւ, իբրեւ ամբողջութիւն, կը կատարելագործուի դպրոցական տարիներու ընթացքին: Եւ այսպէս, երեխան իր առաջին քայլերը կը նետէ դպրոցին մէջ, կը քայլէ հանգրուանէ հանգրուան եւ կը բարձրանայ մակարդակէ մակարդակ: Դպրոցը կը բանայ աշակերտին մտքի շտեմարանը, կը լուսաւորէ անոր հոգին, կ'ազնուացնէ անոր ճաշակը եւ գեղեցիկի ըմբռնումը: Այսպէս, Սուրբ Ստեփանոս Ազգային վարժարանը պիտի դաստիարակէ, կը կրթէ աշակերտ-ուսանողը, կը ջամբէ անոր հիմնական եւ ժամանակակից գիտութիւն, բարոյականութիւն, կենցաղավարութիւն, իմացական բարձր ոգի եւ ազգային գիտակցութիւնն, ըսաւ Փափագեան, եզրակացնելով, թէ <Հայ դպրոցը կանգուն կը մնայ, կը գոյատեւէ, կը յառաջդիմէ, երբ գիտակից ծնողներ իրենց նիւթաբարոյական պարտաւորութիւնները լիովին եւ ճիշդ ժամանակին կը կատարեն եւ զօրակցութիւն կը յայտնեն հայ դպրոցի բոլոր պէտքերուն: Ծնողները անմիջական եւ կարեւորագոյն դերակատարներն են հայ դպրոցի կեանքի աշխուժութեան, կենսաւորումին եւ սահուն յառաջընթացին, եւ թէ անոնք հոգաբարձութեան եւ տնօրէնութեան լծակիցներն են եւ դպրոցին գոյատեւման կարեւորագոյն սիւները>:

Աւագ քինյ. Անդրանիկ Պալճեան ներկայացուց 35 տարի շարունակ ծառայած եւ վերջերս հանգստեան կոչուած տնօրէնուհի Հուրի Պոյամեանը:

Այսօր՝ ինծի քաղձը պարտականութիւնը տրուած է ներկայացնելու Սուրբ Ստեփանոս Ազգային վարժարանի երկարամեայ տնօրէնուհին՝ Տիկին Հուրի Պոյամեան, զոր այսօր կը պատուենք իր 35 տարիներու նուիրեալ, կարող եւ բեղուն ծառայութեան համար: 35 տարիներ առաջ, Տիկին Հուրին — հազիւ 4 տարուան կեանքի կոչուած — սա մատուաշ

դպրոցին տնօրինութեան պաշտօնը ստանձնելով՝ խանդավառութեամբ եւ ամբողջական նուիրումով, նետուեցաւ դաստիարակչական ու հայապահպանման բարձր առաքելութեան. հետեւելով իր հօր՝ հանրածանօթ դաստիարակ եւ Պէյրութի Նշան Փալանճեան Ճեմարանի երկար տարիներու ուսուցիչ եւ փոխ-տեսուչ՝ Պր. Գառնիկ Բանեանի օրինակին:

Այս վերջին 35 տարիներուն ընթացքին, Տիկին Հուրին կարող եւ վարպետ դեկավարութեամբ՝ Սուրբ Ստեփանոս Ազգային Վարժարանը ո՛չ միայն անցեալ. ո՛չ միայն աշխուժացաւ. ո՛չ միայն ընդարձակուեցաւ, այլ ուղղակիօրէն ծաղկեցաւ ու դարձաւ՝ մեր Մեծագոյն Պոսթընի շրջանին հպարտութիւն պատճառող նոր սերունդներու հայապահպանման ամրոցը՝ ցանկալի դարբնոցը, ուր կը կատարուի գաղութիս մէջ ապագայի ծառայող եւ գործող մարդոյժի պատրաստութիւնը, ըսաւ աւագ քինյ. Անդրանիկ Պալճեան:

Ապա Պոյամեան բեմ բարձրանալով, ըսաւ. - Խորապէս զգացում եմ ինծի շնորհուած այս պատիւին համար: Այն ինչ որ կատարած եմ անցնող 35 տարիներուն, Սուրբ Ստեփանոս Ազգային Վարժարանէն ներս, ծառայութիւն մըն էր առաքելութեան մը, որուն խորապէս կը հաւատամ: Այստեղ տարած աշխատանքս կատարած եմ, իբրեւ ազգային պարտականութիւն, որովհետեւ ամբողջական համոզումով հաւատացած եմ Հայ Դպրոցի կենսական դերին, Սփիւռքի հայապահպանման աշխատանքին մէջ: Այս համոզումը մէջս աւելի կ'ամրապնդուի ամէն անգամ, երբ մեր Հայրենիքը անցկալի օրեր կ'ապրի:

Այս առիթով ձեզի կ'ուզեմ պատմել դէպք մը, որ պատահեցաւ 1986-ին, երբ ընտանիքով վերջնականապէս պիտի փոխադրուէինք Ամերիկա, 10 տարի ապրելէ յետոյ Լիբանանի պատերազմը: Հայրս որ տարիներու ընթացքին իր խնայողութիւնները յատկացուցած էր Հայերէն գրքերու, բաւական հարուստ գրադարան մը ունէր: Մենք ալ, ծնողքս ալ կը տառապէինք երբ բաժանումը կը մօտենար, բայց աւելի տառապալի բանը որ պատահեցաւ այն օրն էր, երբ հայրս զիս ցաւով յայտնեց, թէ իր գրքերը, որ իր համար ամենարժէքաւոր գանձերն էին, վստահ չէ եթէ ինծի պիտի տայ, որովհետեւ մտահոգ էր, որ Ամերիկայի մէջ զաւակներս կամաց-կամաց պիտի կորսնցնեն իրենց լեզուն, ինքնութիւնը եւ պիտի կորսուին: Այս արտայայտութիւնը զիս խորապէս ցնցեց:

Այստեղ փոխադրուելէ ետք, ասպարէզով դեղագործ ըլլալով, տարի մը պաշտօնական քննութիւններու պատրաստուեցայ, որ կարենամ մասնագիտութիւնս կիրառել: Հազիւ Երեք ամիս իբրեւ դեղագործ աշխատած, Սուրբ Ստեփանոս Ազգային Վարժարանի Խնամակալութենէն Պրն. Երուանդ Գրաֆեան, մօտեցաւ ինծի եւ հարցուց, եթէ պատրաստակամութիւն ունիմ դպրոցի տնօրէնութիւնը ստանձնելու, որովհետեւ դպրոցի հիմնադրութեան ատեն եւ յաջորդող չորս տարիներուն կրցածը էին ուսուցիչներ գտնել, բայց ոչ տնօրէն: Այս կացութեան առջեւ, երկար չմտածեցի: Մէկ կողմ դրի դեղագործի վկայականս եւ ետ համալսարան գացի ստանալու համար Մանկավարժութեան Մագիստրոսի Տիտղոսը, միեւնոյն ժամանակ վարելով դպրոցը եւ մեծցնելով երեք զաւակներս:



Ս. ՄՏԵԾԱՆՈՍ ԱԶԳԱՅԻՆ ՎԱՐԺԱՐԱՆԻ 40-ԱՄԵԱԿԸ



Alumni attending the banquet (Candid Memories Studio photo)

Այս անցնող 35 տարիներուն, հակառակ բոլոր դժուարութիւններուն, երբեք չեմ գոչացած առած այս որոշումիս համար, ընդհակառակը այս տարիները եղան կեանքիս ամենաիմաստալից, արդիւնաւէտ եւ հոգեկան գոհունակութիւն պատճառող տարիները:

Նշենք, թէ բեմադրութեամբ Պարետ Մարոնեանի տպաւորիչ տեսերիզ մըն ալ պատրաստուած էր, ներկայացնելով մեծարեալ տիկին Հուրի Պոյամեանը, իր 35-ամեայ ծառայութեան ընդմէջէն:

Ծերակուտական Էտուրըտ Մարքի եւ Մասաչուսեցի կառավարիչ Սօրա Հիլի շնորհաւորագրեր յղած էին, իսկ Միտլըքսթի շերիֆ Փիթըր Գոթլոնեան, իր կարգին բեմ բարձրանալով շնորհաւորագիր մը յանձնեց տիկին Պոյամեանին:

Կրթական խորհուրդի նախագահ Մայքլ Կիւզելեան խօսք առաւ եւ տեղեկութիւններ փոխանցեց, կառուցուելիք նոր կրթօճախին մասին: Ան յայտնեց, թէ տնտեսական ծանր պայմաններու մէջ հայկական կրթական հաստատութիւն մը պահելը շատ գոհողութիւններ կ'ենթադրէ: Այս գոհողութիւններով կ'երաշխաւորուի հայ դպրոցի գոյատեւումը:

Հայ դպրոցը կը պատկանի իր իրաւատիրոջ՝ հայ ժողովուրդին, հայ ծնողքին. հետեւաբար ծնողք տէր կանգնելու են իրենց պաշտելի հայ դպրոցին եւ յանձնարութեամբ կատարելու են իրենց նիւթական պարտաւորութիւնները: Ծիշդ է, որ ազգային մարմիններ, բարեսիրական հաստատութիւններ, հոգաբարձութիւն-խնամակալութիւն-կրթական մարմին եւ այլ ազգային բարերարներ նեցուկ կը կանգնին հայ դպրոցին, այսուհանդերձ հայ դպրոցը միշտ գտնուած է տնտեսական ծանր եւ մտահոգիչ կացութեան մէջ, որ մեզ բոլորս կը դնէ յուրջ պատասխանատւութեան մը դէմ յանդիման, ըսաւ ան եւ գոհունակութեամբ տեղեկացուց, թէ

կարելի եղած է այս հանդիսութեան, հաւաքել հինգ հարիւր հազար տոլար:

Փակման իր խօսքին մէջ, Ա.Մ.Ն. Արեւելեան Թեմի բարեջան Առաջնորդ Անուշաւան Արք. Դանիէլեան շեշտեց հայեցի դաստիարակութեան Էական դերը մշակութային ինքնութեան պահպանման եւ ապագայ ղեկավարներու կազմաւորման մէջ: Ան դրուատեց տիկ. Պոյամեանի բացառիկ վաստակը Եղեռնէն ճողոպրած ողբացեալ հօր՝ Գառնիկ Բանեանի նման, որ ո՛չ միայն եղած էր դաստիարակ, այլ աւելին՝ հայրական գուրգուրանք ցոյց տուած իր աշակերտներուն հանդէպ: Առաջնորդ Սրբազան Հայրը, բարձրօրէն գնահատելով գաղութին ներս տիրող համագործակցութիւնը բոլոր յարանուանութեանց եւ կազմակերպութեանց, կոչ ըրաւ, իրենց երազներու կարկինը լայն բանալով, որ ծրագրեն եւ գործադրեն նախակրթարանէն աւելի բարձր մակարդակով կրթական օճախի մը շինութիւնը: Ան աւելցուց, թէ հայ դպրոցի առաքելութիւնը կ'իրականանայ, եւ նպատակն ալ կ'իմաստաւորուի յստակ ծրագրումով, հետեւողական աշխատանքով եւ պատասխանատւութեան գիտակցութեամբ՝ զանազան մակարդակներու վրայ, եւ ի մասնաւորի՝ աշակերտութիւն-ուսանողութիւն, ծնողք, տնօրէնութիւն, ուսուցչական կազմ եւ հոգաբարձութիւն:

Աւարտին, հանդիսութիւնը կազմակերպող Նիքոլ Պապիկեան Հաժժարը, որ միշտ ալ հետեւողական ձեւով եւ բժախնդրութեամբ իր ներդրումն ու նուիրումը ունեցած է, շարունակ կազմակերպելով նմանօրինակ ձեռնարկներ, շնորհակալութիւն յայտնեց, բոլոր անոնց, որոնք սատար հանդիսացան այս ձեռնարկի յաջողութեան:

(Լոյս տեսած Հայրենիք Ծաբայթաթերթի մէջ)



ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 40th ANNIVERSARY GALA

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Saturday, November 16, was all about numbers for St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School (SSAES) in Watertown — and what good numbers they were, too. On that night, about 500 people from across the community came together to celebrate the school's 40th anniversary, while paying tribute to the recently-retired principal, Houry Boyamian, who had led the school for 35 years, while raising \$500,000.

SSAES is the only Armenian day school in New England. It is also the first Armenian school to be accredited by the Association of Independent Schools of New England (AISNE).

The gala at the Hyatt Regency featured as guest speaker Dr. Mary Papazian. Serving as mistress of ceremonies was Kristina Ayanian, a member of the class of 2008, Miss Universe Armenia 2023 and an executive producer and reporter at Nasdaq. Vocalist Angelina Nazarian, a former contestant on the television singing competition "The Voice" and a current student at the Berklee College of Music, performed three songs, in English, French and Armenian, to the delight of the audience.



Principal Houry Boyamian with teachers
staff members of SSAES (Candid Memories Studio photo)

The theme of coming together of the community was front and center, and one spelled out by the Very Rev. Hrant Tahanian, the new pastor of St. Stephen's Armenian Church in Watertown.

After Tahanian offered the invocation prayer, he said, "We celebrate the past, in the person of our principal emerita, *Digin* Houry Boyamian. We thank you for keeping the citadel bright for three and a half decades. ... And we map out our future in its physical expansion, so we together can continue to develop and shape Armenian minds."

Tahanian paid tribute to fellow members of the clergy who were present for the celebration and praised "a unique form of Armenian cooperation."

"We have representatives from all the 'sides' and all the denominations who assist St. Stephen's," he said. He named Rev. Stephan Baljian of St. Gregory's Armenian Apostolic Church of Merrimack Valley, Very Rev. Ghazar Bedrossian of Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church and Pastor Avedis Boynerian of the Evangelical church, as well as Rev. Arakel Aljalian of St. James



Rev. Antranig Baljian (Candid Memories Studio photo)

Armenian Church of Watertown, which is a Diocese church. Tahanian thanked Aljalian for his support for the school throughout the years, including by "sending his children here."

"Unity does not necessitate uniformity. If anything, uniformity is the enemy of unity. Societies that have been completely monotonous, usually stemming from a heavy hand, have not lasted very long," he said. "The wealth of perspectives and knowledge" add to the whole of community, while Armenians "remain unwavering and united on our inalienable rights."



Houry Boyamian with new SSAES Head of School Dr. Garine Palandjian
(Candid Memories Studio photo)

New Head of School

SSAES Head of School Dr. Garine Palandjian paid tribute to her predecessor while looking toward a brighter future.

"Our students are joyful every day and SSAES is truly a labor of love. The school has blossomed over the past four decades into more than just an educational institution; it has become the cherished place where students are nurtured, where Armenian heritage thrives, where values are instilled and friendships are made that last a lifetime," she noted.



ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 40th ANNIVERSARY GALA (Cont.)

Palandjian said that over the next five years, the administration plans to build on this foundation and increase instructional opportunities for students.

“We will nurture this distinctive blend of academic rigor, Armenian-American cultural education and joy to ensure that every student thrives in a supportive and inspiring environment,” she added.

Indeed, she said, serving as principal of an Armenian school is much more than a “nine-to-five job.” She said, “It’s a commitment to our ancestors who kept the Armenian faith and spirit alive for so many centuries. It is our responsibility to ensure the continued success of our school so that their sacrifices were not made in vein.”

She also paid tribute to the school’s annual class trip to Armenia, which started two decades ago, taking students (before 2020) also to Karabakh, Artsakh, noting that the trip changes the students forever.

She addressed the alumni: “You all make us so proud as many of you have taken leadership roles both locally and globally.”

Palandjian then invited Boyamian to the stage, where she presented her with a commendation from the Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs for her services.



Houry Boyamian and Sheriff Peter Koutoujian
(Candid Memories Studio photo)

An unscheduled speaker was Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian, who presented Boyamian with a citation from Gov. Maura Healey, congratulating her for being “a pillar of the Armenian community,” a recognition from Sen. Edward Markey, congratulating her on her 35 years of service, as well as from his own office, congratulating her for “instill[ing] a deep-rooted pride for our Armenian heritage and decades of students that” have become leaders of the community.

“Digin Boyamian has been more than just a great principal, a great leader, a great mentor, a great example; she has been a great supporter of other Armenian issues,” he said, paying tribute to her and her husband, Avedis Boyamian, for supporting so many others in the community.

Referring to the honoree, keynote speaker Papazian, mistress of

ceremonies Kristina Ayanian, and singer Nazarian, Koutoujian said, “I see a strong thread of powerful, intelligent, passionate, amazing Armenian women.”



Dr. Mary Papazian (Candid Memories Studio photo)

Tribute to Armenian Education

In her keynote address, Papazian paid tribute to Armenian education in the US, as well as St. Stephen’s in particular. The school “represents a commitment by this community to its young people,” she said.

Papazian is the executive vice president of the Association of the Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, and is the former president of San Jose State University and Southern Connecticut State University.

Armenians have recognized the importance of education for a very long time, she said, “and never more poignantly than after the tragedy of the Armenian Genocide, which nearly destroyed our people. Some of the first institutions that were established during the first Republic of Armenia ... when Yerevan province was overcome by refugees and extraordinary poverty, were schools and universities,” including Yerevan State University in 1919 and the Armenian State Pedagogical University in 1922.

She then spoke about her family setting in California after surviving family members of both her parents fled the Armenian Highlands, as victims of the Armenian pogroms of the 1890s and the Armenian Genocide.

She added that the Armenian community in the diaspora will fade away unless it maintains ties to the Armenian state.

“The Republic of Armenia is all we have at present and we should do everything in our power to make it a contemporary homeland, one that our children can embrace,” she said. Papazian, who also serves as a chair of the Advisory Board of the Foundation for Armenian Science and Technology (FAST), praised the value of Armenian education, as she herself is a graduate of the Ferrahian School in Encino, the first Armenian day school in the US, where her mother taught for 30 years.



ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 40th ANNIVERSARY GALA (Cont.)

She paid tribute to the young students and the Armenian people: “As Movses of Khoren wrote, we are a small people, but we have done many things worthy of being remembered. Of course, he meant small in number, not in stature, intelligence or determination.”

Fr. Antranig Baljian, the recently retired pastor of St. Stephen's Armenian Church, then introduced the honoree, paying her a personal and heartfelt tribute, reflecting their longtime friendship and collaboration.



Archbishop Prelate Anoushavan Tanielian
(Candid Memories Studio photo)

Boyamian is the daughter of Karnig Panian, the vice president of Beirut's famed Nshan Palandjian Jemaran (an Armenian lycne). “Following in the footsteps of her father, an orphan of the Armenian Genocide who overcame much adversity to become a beloved and distinguished professor and vice principal,” Baljian said, “Digin Houry has led the school for the past 35 years with great passion, determination and commitment, providing the best possible educational opportunities to Armenian children residing in the greater Boston community.”

“Her greatest sense of achievement and fulfillment arises from the fact that St. Stephen's graduates continue to be active in the Armenian community and many have gone on to top colleges and universities and have become successful leaders in their field,” Baljian said.

“I have known Digin Houry for 30 of her 35 years as our school's principal,” he said. “I have witnessed a truly impressive and devoted educator and community leader who has had a truly amazing tenure. Her job has not been an easy one, yet no matter how serious a difficulty she was dealing with, she would come to school every day with her dazzling smile on her face and a fierce inner determination to overcome whatever obstacles the day may present.”

He then praised her husband, Avedis, and their children Ani, Taline and Stepan and their spouses. “As we've worked together all these years, so we retire together,” he said.

A Beloved Principal

Boyamian and her young family were recent arrivals in the 1980s from Beirut and as a trained pharmacist, she was able to work. However, a few years after the school was founded, in 1984, one of

the founders, Yervant Krafian, approached her to take over the school. She took a leap of faith and agreed, going back to school for a master's degree in education from the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

“Since its founding, St. Stephen's has been an essential part of the greater Boston Armenian community, serving a student body that represents a cross section” of the community, she said. She spoke about her late father, whose memoir, *Goodbye Antoura*, she helped put together. “He believed the only way for the Armenian people to avoid total annihilation was to keep our language and culture alive through education. He fulfilled his calling by dedicating 40 years of his life to educating generations of Armenians in Lebanon. I have tried to follow in his footsteps.”

She added that Armenian education is “more important than ever.” She paid tribute to her colleagues, teachers, volunteers and members of the community and praised her successor, Palandjian: “She is leading the school with energy and enthusiasm. I wish her success in her mission to advance the school. I invite you all to stand by her and support her endeavors.”

She also thanked her husband, Avedis, for his support, adding, “To my children and grandchildren, you are my hope for the future.”

Boyamian was gifted a captain's chair from the organizing committee, with her name on it. In addition, it was announced her portrait would be installed at the school.



Houry Boyamian and the organizing committee of the banquet
(Candid Memories Studio photo)

New Building

Michael Guzelian, the chair of the board of SSAES, spoke next, praising the school's low student-to-teacher ratio and academic standards. He said the school is incorporating modern technology, such as 3-D printers for students. “We've had over 1,000 students pass through our doors at St. Stephen's. Our alumni have gone on to attend some of the best secondary schools, colleges, universities and they have become cultural ambassadors and leaders of the Armenian community both in the diaspora and Armenia,” he said. Enrollment in grades 1-5 is increasing, he said, with more Kindergarteners staying for higher grades. This year, there are 26 first graders.



ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 40th ANNIVERSARY GALA (Cont.)



Houry Boyamian and Mistress of Ceremonies Kristina Ayanian
(Candid Memories Studio photo)

"We are outgrowing our space at the ACEC," he said. "We are at capacity."

A "purpose-built" school is necessary, he said. To wild applause, Guzelian said that two buildings surrounding its current sites, the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, which is home to the school's K-5 grades, and the Afeyan Building housing the pre-school, have been purchased, and that a new building will be constructed for the K-5 students. "We will go from 9,000 square feet in the ACEC to 24,000 square feet in this new building," he added. "This expansion is needed to meet our school growth, meet up to date state requirements and our expanded programs."

Committee Chair Nicole Babikian Hajjar asked the members of her committee to stand up before she announced the amount raised by the program. "I think we can call this a success," Hajjar announced to applause.

The mother of three SSAES graduates, she recalled her first meeting with Boyamian. "I was immediately sold and I never looked back," she said. "Over my years of interaction with her, I have always been amazed by her extraordinary work ethic, with her grace and elegance, both inside and out."

"I want to reiterate how privileged we are to have St. Stephen's in our backyard. We cannot take this privilege for granted. ... Now that our language and heritage are endangered, it is our collective responsibility to take on the challenge and build together a strong future to this little gem in our community. Your school, my school, our school."

Also speaking was Prelate Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian, who said to the honoree, "I bow to you." When reached after the event, Boyamian said, "I was delighted to see so many of our alumni, teachers, parents, supporters and friends of the school. There was joy, excitement and hope in the air; hope for a bright future for our school. I was deeply touched by the outpouring expressions of love and appreciation."

She added that for now, she is throwing herself into other efforts toward Genocide recognition, including serving as chair of the Armenian National Education Committee of the Eastern Prelacy, and being elected to serve on the board of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, as well as planning to make presentations to GenEd (Genocide Education Project) for public school teachers. In addition, she said she is working on publishing the rest of her father's works.

Said Babikian Hajjar after the event, "It was an honor to lead this well-deserved celebration. The overwhelming support from the community, especially the strong presence of alumni, was truly inspiring. It's a testament to the School's enduring impact and Digin Houry's extraordinary legacy. We successfully raised over half a million dollars — an achievement that reflects the collective dedication and generosity of everyone involved."

St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School is grateful for the steadfast support of St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church since its inception. SSAES is also thankful to the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, home of its elementary students' classrooms and gym.

(First published in Mirror Spectator)





Մ. ՍՏԵՓԱՆՈՍ ԱԶԳԱՅԻՆ ՎԱՐԺԱՐԱՆ

Յունուար - Դեկտեմբեր, 2024

Կարինե Փալանճեան՝ Տնօրենուհի

Սր. Ստեփանոս Ազգային Վարժարանի 2023-2024

Տարեշրջանի Տեղեկատու

Անցնող տարեշրջանին շարունակեցինք պահպանել մեր սիրելի ականությունները և ընդգրկել նոր ծրագիրներ:

Տոնախմբություններ

Ծննդեան Համերգը քով քովի բերաւ դպրոցի շրջանակը աշակերտներու ծննդեան երգերով: Այս աւանդութիւնը ինչպէս նաեւ Գոհաբանութեան Աւանդական Ճաշը կը ցուցաբերեն դպրոցի տաքուկ մթնոլորտը: Մշակոյթի Օրուայ Տօնակատարութեան աշակերտները ցուցաբերեցին իրենց տաղանդները, բանաստեղծութեան, երգերու եւ պարի ելոյթներով: Այստեղ յիշենք, որ ձեռնակի վերջաւորութեան, Տիկին Թենի Աբելեան Հայկական Պար մը սորվեցուց աշակերտներուն եւ ծնողներուն, յաւելեալ խանդավառութիւն ստեղծելով:

Ծնողական Մարմին

Ծնողական Մարմինը, Դոկտ. Քրիսթինա Մարտիրոսի ղեկավարութեամբ շարք մը ձեռնարկներ կազմակերպեցին, ինչպէս Trunk or Treat, Hye Hoops, Գոհաբանութեան Ճաշ, Աշնան Պարենահաւաք, Ծնունդի Խրախճանք, Հայրիկս ու Ես, նաեւ Գրքավաճառք, ամրապնդելով մեր աշակերտներու կապերը իրենց արմատներուն հետ, ինչպէս նաեւ կապերը աշակերտներու, ծնողներու եւ ուսուցիչներու միջեւ, առանց մոռնալու այն կապը, որ կը ստեղծուի մեր դպրոցի եւ մեր համայնքի միջեւ:

Մշակութային եւ Ուսումնական Ծրագիրը Ծոխագնող Զեռնարկներ

Դասընթացներու Կողքին, Դպրոցը Հրաւիրեց Դասախօսներ եւ Հեղինակներ

Հայաստանէն Գայանէ Աղապալեան եւ Էլմիրա Ավագեան ներկայացուցին իրենց գիրքը Հայ Հերոսուհիներու եւ Հրաշք Կիներու մասին Դ. եւ Ե. Կարգերուն, որոնց պատմութիւնները եւ իրագործումները յաճախ անտեսուած են:

-2008-ի մեր շրջանաւարտներէն Մեղրի Տէր Վարդանեան ներկայացուց Դէպի Արարատ Լեռ գիրքը, որ ինքը գրած է:

-Դ. եւ Ե. Կարգերու Հայոց Ցեղասպանութեան մասին սորված ժամանակ, դպրոցը հրաւիրեց Տիկին Հուրի Պոյամեանը ներկայացնելու համար կարգ մը դրուագներ իր հօրը՝ Գառնիկ Բանեանի յուշերէն, Goodbye, Antoura գրքէն:

Հայաստանի Անկախութեան Տօնի առիթով Պրն. Խաժակ Մկրտիչեան խօսեցաւ Հայաստանի Առաջին Հանրապետութեան Հիմնադրութեան մասին:

-Նոյեմբերին, Անի Զոպանեան Նալպանտեան, Մանկա-մտորի աշակերտներուն գիրք մը ներկայացուց շնորհակալ եւ երախտապարտ ըլլալու մասին:

-Գ., Դ. եւ Ե. Կարգերը պատիւը ունեցան, ինչպէս նախորդ տարիներուն, զոյգ քայլերգները երգելու Մասաչուսեցի Նահանգային Տան Մէջ, Հայոց Ցեղասպանութեան Ոգեկոչման առիթով: Հայաստան Տարեկան Այցելութեան առիթով, Ե. Կարգի աշակերտները այցելեցին պատմական եւ տեսարժան վայրեր:

Նոր Նախաձեռնութիւն

Cares Initiative – Cooperation, Accountability, Respect, Empathy, and Self-Control. Այս նախաձեռնութիւնը անկիւն-սղարձ մը եղաւ ստեղծելով դրական մթնոլորտ եւ աշակերտներուն տալով պէտք եղած տուեալները նպաստելու համար իրենց ընկերային եւ զգացական զարգացումին:

Կարելոր Հանգրուաններ

-Ամավերջի Հանդէսին յիշուցան կարելոր հանգրուաններ, ինչպէս Մանկամտորի Տնօրենուհի՝ Տիկ. Մարալ Օրջան-Եանի, Հայերէնի Դասատու՝ Տիկ. Արտեմիա Մկրտիչեանի եւ Մանկամտորի Ուսուցչուհի Տիկ. Աննա Քիւփլեան պաշտնավարութեան 25-ամեակները:

Մանկամտորի Ուսուցչուհի՝ Տիկ. Սիրանուշ Թէնքէճեանի 10-ամեակը:

Այս հանդէսին պատուեցին Արժանապատիւ Տէր Անդրանիկ Աւագ Քնյ. Պալանեանին Պատուոյ Վկայականով մը, որը ստորագրուած էր բոլոր աշակերտներուն կողմէ, շնորհակալութիւն յայտնելով իր 30 տարիներու ծառայութեան համար:

-Նոյեմբեր 16, 2024-ին, Մասնաւոր Հանդիսութեամբ տօնուցան Սր. Ստեփանոս Ազգային Վարժարանի Քառասունամեակը եւ Պատուոյ Տնօրենուհի՝ Տիկին Հուրի Պոյամեանի պաշտօնավարութեան 35-ամեակը: (Տեսնել Ծրագի այս թիւին մէջ, Հայրենիք Ծաբաթաթերթի եւ Armenian Mirror Spectator-ի հաղորդագրութիւնները):

Արտա-Դասարանային Զեռնարկներ

Մանկամտորի աշակերտները այցելեցին Տրամփին Ագարակը, մեծերն ալ Պոսթոնի Գիտական Թանգարանը:

Իսկ Manoug and Me նախաձեռնութիւնը շարունակեց իրենց փոքր տարիքէն, մանուկներուն ներկայացնել մեր լեզուն եւ մշակոյթը երաժշտութեան եւ շարժումներու ընդմէջէն:

Ապագային Նախելով

Աշնան դիմաւորեցինք 150 աշակերտներ, որ ցոյց կուտայ մեր համայնքի աշխուժութիւնը: Նոր Տարուայ սեմին, հաւատարիմ կը մնանք մեր առաքելութեան, տալով բարձրորակ ուսում եւ հայեցի դաստիարակութիւն:



Hye Hoop volunteers



ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

January - December 2024

Garine Palandjian, Head of School

As we reflect on the past year, St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School has much to celebrate, from preserving cherished traditions to embracing new initiatives that enrich the academic and cultural experiences of our students.

Cherished Traditions and Celebrations

Our annual Christmas Concert brought our school community together to celebrate the birth of Jesus with songs and joy, embodying the spirit of the season. This tradition, along with events like our Thanksgiving Luncheon, highlights the warmth and unity of our school family.

October's Armenian Cultural Month was a vibrant celebration of our heritage. Students showcased their talents through poetry, music, and dance performances, with a highlight being the special Armenian dance lesson by Teni Apelian from Zulal.

Parent-Teacher Organization: Building Community

Our Parent-Teacher Organization, under the leadership of Dr. Christina Mardiros, organized an impressive array of events, including Trunk or Treat, Hye Hoops, Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon, Fall Community Drive, Christmas Party, and the Daddy and Me event, fostering camaraderie among students, parents, and teachers. Their efforts in hosting book fairs and organizing charitable drives further strengthened our community ties. These events not only deepened students' connection to their roots but also strengthened the bond between our school and the broader community.

Cultural and Academic Enrichment

Aside from our classroom learning, the school hosted inspirational guest speakers and authors. Guest visitors included Gayane Aghabalyan and Elmira Ayyazyan from Armenia who wrote *Armenian Wonderwomen* and presented it to our 4th and 5th grades. *Armenian Wonderwomen* highlights Armenian heroes whose stories are often untold and not always celebrated. Elmira and Gayane discussed the history of women's accomplishments and achievements, including inventions and other contributions, yet they remain invisible in our societies and history books.

Later in the year, we had another book reading and presentation by Meghri Der Vartanian, SSAES Class of 2008 alumna, who read and presented *Tebi Ararat Ler*, a book she authored. While learning about the Armenian Genocide, we hosted Digin Houry Boyamian as she shared some of her father Karnig Panian's experiences during the Armenian Genocide where she read a few from pages from his memoir, *Goodbye, Antoura: A Memoir of the Armenian Genocide*. In honor of the first Republic of Armenia, students engaged in a presentation on Armenian history and independence prepared by Mr. Khajag Mgrdichian. Ani Chobanian-Nalbandian presented a book to our preschool students in November on being grateful and thankful as Christians. This year, our 3rd-, 4th-, and 5th-graders had the honor of singing at the Massachusetts State House for the Armenian Genocide commemoration, while our 5th-grade class embarked on a transformative trip to Armenia, visiting historical sites such as Sardarabad and Lake Sevan.

New Initiatives and Programs

The implementation of the CARES initiative—Cooperation, Accountability, Respect, Empathy, and Self-Control—has been a cornerstone of fostering a positive school culture. This program has provided students with valuable tools to support their social-emotional growth and instill core values in their daily interactions.

Academic Milestones and Extracurricular Adventures

This year, we celebrated several milestones of our teachers and staff. At the year-end hantes, we celebrated Digin Maral Orchanian, M.Ed., Preschool Director (25 Years); Digin Ardemis Megerdichian, Armenian Teacher Grades 1-5 (25 years); Digin Anna Kupelian, Master's in Languages, EEC T Certified (25 years); and Digin Siranush Tenekedzhyan, EEC Teacher Certified (10 years). Also at our year-end hantes, we honored Archpriest Father Antranig Baljian with an honorary diploma signed by all of our SSAES elementary students and thanked Der Hayr for his 30 years of service to our church and school community.

We also celebrated Digin Houry Boyamian's retirement and 35 years of service - please refer to the article issued by the Armenian Mirror Spectator in this issue of JRAK.

Students enjoyed a range of field trips to places like Drumlin Farm and the Boston Science Museum, blending education with hands-on exploration. Meanwhile, our Manoug and Me program continued to introduce young children to Armenian language and culture through music and movement, nurturing a connection to our heritage from an early age.

Looking Ahead

This fall, we welcomed 150 students to our 40th school year, a milestone that reflects the growth and vibrancy of our community. We remain committed to providing our students with exceptional opportunities for academic success and cultural enrichment.

Here's to another year of achievements, traditions, and shared memories at SSAES!



5K Walk-Run with volunteers



ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PHOTOS



Christmas Hantes



Father and Daughter Dance



5th grade students getting ready to leave for Armenia!
Pari Janabar polorin



Christmas Party 2023 Der Antranig reading to the students



SSAES President and Chair at Fundraiser Golf Tournament



ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PHOTOS (Cont.)



- 1- Khajag Mgrdichian Presents Armenia Independence Day History
- 2- Cultural Day Elementary School
- 3- Hayr Hrant visiting the Elementary School
- 4- Hayr Hrant visiting the Nursery School
- 5- 5K Walk-Run with Srpazan's blessing
- 6- 5th grade Armenia Trip



ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 40th ANNIVERSARY DONATIONS

Visionary

\$50,000 Donor

Nancy D. Guzelian Charitable Fund
Hagop & Sossy Nercessian

Leader

\$25,000 Donor

Anonymous
Nubar & Anna Afeyan
Hajjar Family Fund
Robert A. Semonian Charitable Trust,
(Leon Semonian and Paul Semonian Trustees)

Director

\$15,000 Donor

Avak & Christine Kahvejian

Mentor

\$10,000 Donor

Avedis & Houry Boyamian
Christian & Taline Kebabjian
Knights of Vartan Ararat Lodge #1
Dikran & Maro Meguerditchian
Carolyn Mugar

Scholar

\$5,000 Donor

Levon & Ana Afeyan
Drs. Diran & Seta Apelian
Dr. Mihran & Elo Artinian
Wes Atamian
Nishan & Margrit Atinikian
Paul Bedrosian
James & Nayiri Bell and Family
James Joseph Salon
Jeffrey & Nancy Bilezikian
Bilezikian Family Foundation
Stephen & Elizabeth Boyamian
Berj & Annie Chekijian
Yervant Chekijian
Raffi & Nina Festekjian and Family
Dr. Nishan & Mary Goudsouzian
Nerses & Roxanne Joubanian
(IMO Digin Anahid Joubanian)
Berdj & Margaret Kiladjian
Michele Kolligian & Bob Khederian
Nancy Kolligian
Ara & Heather Krafian and Family
Aurelian & Anahid Mardiros
Gary & Hasmig Mardiros
The Mirak Family
Sarkis & Seta Ourfalian
Judith Saryan & Victor Zarougian
Shahan & Salpi Stepanian
Youssoufian Family

Educator

\$2,500 Donor

Sevag & Rouzan Abrahamian
Raffi & Sabrina Afeyan
Anonymous
Ara & Maro Arakelian
Armenian American Veterans of
Greater Boston
ARS Cambridge Shushi Chapter
ARS Lcola Sassouni Chapter
Nigoghos & Roset Atinikian
Viken & Lisa Babikian
Missak & Lili Barsoumian
Albert, Sarin, Samuel and Christian
Barsoumian
Michael Douvadjian & Lynne Brainerd
James Fantazian
Harry & Katrina Glorikian
George & Zepour Kouyoumjian
Eric & Salpi Markarian
Garo & Ani Mikaelian
Meher & Nanor Nerkizian
Missak & Angelique Ourfalian & Family
Drs. Shant & Reem Parseghian
Harry & Hripsime Parsekian
Michele Simourian
St. James Armenian Church

\$1,000 Donor

Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA) New England Affiliate
Dr. Richard Babayan & Sonya Nersessian
Jirayr & Annie Balikian
Alain & Sandra Chaglassian
David & Sira Cormier
Bedros & Arev Der Vartanian
Vahe & Maria Gharaman
Giragosian Funeral Home, Inc.
David & Nora Hackett
Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church
Raffi & Annie Kassardjian
Rita Kaderian & Sal Savo
Lachinian Family
Mark & Veronika Sagherian
Dr. Raffi & Ani Sahakian
Dr. Vatche & Seza Seraderian

Up to \$900 Donors

ARF Sardarabad Boston
Aroxie Apigian
Mary Arabian
Rose & Lily Arslanian
Rev. Archpriest Antranig & Yn. Cheryl Baljian
Ara & Nancy Balian & Family
Sam & Aida Bejakian
Stella Bekarian

Drs. John & Sophie Bilezikian
Paul Boghosian & Marilyn Papazian
Mr. & Mrs. Hachik Chilingirian
Maral Derderian
Noubar & Nevart Kaderian
John & Alice Karnikyan
Annie Seta Kousharian
Zella Marootian
Dr. Vatche & Natalie Minassian
Walter & Deanne Nahabedian
Carl & Valerie Narsasian
Audrey Pilibosian
Levon & Karla Tinkjian
Allan Tutunjian
Laura Yardumian

\$40 FOR 40 Years

Alumni Challenge

Emin Abrahamian, 2013
Maral Abrahamian, 2018
Melanie Aftandilian, 2009
Vartan Arakelian, 2019
Siran Arakelian, 2022
Lori Avakian, 2018
Sarin Barsoumian, 1994
Marie Bazarbashian, 2008
Vickie Bazarbashian, 2013
Avedis Bell, 2021
Zaven Bell, 2023
Ani Belorian, 2015
Julia Chapian, 2019
George Chapian, 2017
Berj Chekijian, 2014
Nayiri Chekijian, 2018
Gregory Cormier, 2013
Ani Damatian, 1999
Leanna Dorian, 2018
Kristina Dorian, 2018
John Diran Gengozian, 2018
Narreh Ghazarians, 1995
Mannch Ghazarians, 1998
Taline Guzelian, 2010
Adrinch Guzelian, 2012
David Hackett, 2001
Mari Hackett, 2003
Ani Hackett, 2009
Serena Hajjar, 2008
Joseph Hajjar, 2010
Anelga Hajjar, 2012
Alique Haserjian, 2016
Gacia Haserjian, 2019
Araz Havan, 2004
Sophia Kahvejian, 2016
Antrias Kahvejian, 2017
Anais Kahvejian, 2019
Raffi Kazanjian, 2003
Ari Kazanjian, 2006



ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 40th ANNIVERSARY DONATIONS (Cont.)

Alexander Kedadjian, 2018
Julia Kedadjian, 2021
Nairi Khachatourian, 2001
Vicken Khatchadourian, 1995
Nairi Krafian, 2007
Anoush Krafian, 2011
Knar Krafian, 2014
Araxi Krafian, 2004
Nareg Mardiros, 2023
Tro Melkonian, 2023
Nareg Minassian, 2015
Gassia Sonia Minassian, 2019
Talar Mouradian, 2004
Tatiana Movsesian, 2010
Armine Nalbandian, 1996
Nayiri Ohanian, 2005
Lori Sahakian, 2009
Narek Sahakian, 2012
Garen Sahakian, 2014
Sevana Stepanian, 2016
Alique Stepanian, 2016
Arinne Stepanian, 2019
Arman Stepanian, 2021

Nareg Stepanian, 2012
Bianca Tamburrini, 2017
Bella Tamburrini, 2021
Ani Vehapetian, 2009

Corporate Supporters

Gold Level

\$500
ADCO Diamond
Armenian American Pharmacists Assoc.
Bel Kitchen & Bath Design
Boston Brownstones Realty
Concord Insurance Group, Inc.
Guaranteed Rate, Inc.
Levine Orthodontics
Markarian Electric
Mouradian Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
Open Wings Child Care Center
Tamburrini Painting
Wilmington Dental Studio

Blue Level

\$250
Barmakian Jewelers
Fiorella's
Markar Jewelers
Mouradian Jewelry
RG Pro Laser and Skin Care
Robert's Salon
Your Love in Lights

In Kind Business Partners

Candid Memories Studio
Fastachi
Storica Wines

St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School is grateful for the steadfast support of St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church since its inception. SSAES is also thankful to the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center (ACEC), home of its elementary students' classrooms and gym.



ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND DONATION Nov. 2023 – Oct. 2024

Jeffrey & Nancy Bilezikian	\$5,000	Astor & Lucy Guzelian	\$300	Nerses Joubanian	\$100
Bilezikian Foundation Match	\$5,000	John & Sophie Bilezikian	\$250	Melanie Joubanian	\$100
Carol Babikyan	\$2,000	Ara & Peggy Ghazarians	\$250	George & Nevart Kaderian	\$100
Dikran & Maro Meguerditchian	\$2,000	David & Nora Hackett	\$250	Harry Kalajian, Jr.	\$100
Dina Apovian	\$1,000	Raffi & Nanor Karagozian	\$250	John & Seta Kaleshian	\$100
Dina Apovian Matching Gift	\$1,000	Zella Marootian	\$250	Levon & Shake Khatchadourian	\$100
Charles & Sona Aslanian	\$1,000	Sebuh Petrosian	\$250	Raffi Kiredjian	\$100
Wesley Atamian	\$1,000	David & Sira Cormier	\$200	Lois Kolgian	\$100
Armen & Pauline Barooshian	\$1,000	Hagop & Aida Dakessian	\$200	Silva Markarian	\$100
Paul Bedrosian	\$1,000	James Fantazian	\$200	Walter & Deanne Nahabedian	\$100
Avedis & Houry Boyamian	\$1,000	Stephen & Christine Kanarian	\$200	Jamie & Aylin Tamburrini	\$100
Yervant Chekijian	\$1,000	Armen Khodaverdian	\$200	Mihran & Alyssa Yenikomshian	\$100
Michael & Susan Guzelian	\$1,000	Vasken Kroshian	\$200	Mary Doursounian	\$75
Avak & Christine Kahvejian	\$1,000	Robert & Rosine Patterson	\$200	Christopher & Talin Abidian	\$50
Nancy Kolligian	\$1,000	Kegham Sherikian	\$200	John & Lisa Baboian	\$50
Meher & Nanor Nerkizian	\$1,000	Gerald & Lucille Ajemian	\$100	Arax Badalian	\$50
John & Krista Aftandilian	\$500	Geri Lyn Ajemian	\$100	Arpine Fereshetian	\$50
Edward Bedrosian	\$500	Aroxie Apigian	\$100	Joseph Hajjar	\$50
Thomas Gengozian		Mary Arabian	\$100	James Kalustian	\$50
& Sally Vanerian	\$500	Jilda Balian	\$100	Joseph & Azniv Keikian	\$50
Gail Guzelian & Ron Iverson	\$500	Paul Boyajian	\$100	Carl & Valerie Narsasian	\$50
Andrew & Alice Guzelian	\$500	Bedros & Arevik Der Vartanian	\$100	Ani Tahmassian	\$50
Rita Kaderian	\$500	Sarkis & Jeannette Gennetian	\$100	Sossi Toumajanian	\$50
Christian & Taline Kedadjian	\$500	Michael Graham	\$100	Laura Yardumian	\$50
Ara & Heather Krafian	\$500	John M. Hajian, Jr.	\$100	Paul & Barbara Davis	\$25
Ara & Maro Arakelian	\$300	Lucy Hoosian	\$100		
Simon & Mary Lou Essajanian	\$300	John & Ardemis Jerikian	\$100		



ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GENERAL DONATION

In Memory of Angel Barsoomian

Total Donations – \$275

Eric & Salpi Markarian
Jamie & Aylin Tamburrini

In Memory of Zaghganoush (Rose)

Ghazarian

Total Donations – \$1,265

Nazar & Mayda Aroyan
Norman & Stefanie Jessiman
Seta Jilian
Robert & Manoush Kazazian
David & Margaret Lazenby
Locks & Keys of Woburn, Inc.
Vartan & Nayiri Manjikian
Mass. Locksmiths Assoc., Inc.
Shahan & Salpi Stepanian
Leo & Sonya Sullivan
Sarkis & Ardemis Teshoian
Ara & Sossy Yogurtian

In Memory of George Manjikian

Total Donations – \$2,470

John & Krista Aftandilian
Estepan & Anahid Anteryassian
Sara Helen Ayanian
Nareh Ghazarians & Christian Beltran
Raffi & Maria Chapian
Christopher Hajian
George & Alin Keomurjian
Pasqual & Mary Kioumejian
Ara & Heather Krafian
Vartan & Nayiri Manjikian
Vrej & Vana Melkonian
Harout & Sonia Mikaelian
Vatche & Natalie Minassian
Ariss & Jayne Nalbandian
Carlo Nalbandian
Vartan Nalbandian
Hagop & Sossy Nercessian
Lorig Sarkissian
Nooshig Sarkissian
Shoghik Sarkissian
Zaven Sarkissian
Sarkis & Shoushan Stepanian
Zohrab Stepanian
Leo & Sonya Sullivan
Jamie & Aylin Tamburini

In Memory of Simon Valedi

Total Donations – \$230

Edward & Ida Babroudi
Vincent & Evelyn Grassia
Anna Nazarian

In Memory of Vachik Khachatourian

Total Donations – \$4,200

John & Krista Aftandilian
Sebouh & Caroline Aghababayan
Leon & Lala Attarian
John & Arpi Avedissian
Medik Azizian
Raffi & Maria Chapian
Bedros & Arevik Der Vartanian
Jack & Rita Bejakian
David & Sira Cormier
Simon & Lucine Essajanian
Robert & Marlene Gebeyan
Anahid Ghahraman
Narreh Ghazarians
Harry & Katrina Glorikian
Alin Gregorian
Linette Gregorian
Lena Guebenlian
Ray & Diana Hovsepien
John & Ardemis Jerikian
Levon & Shake Khatchadourian
Vicken & Ani Khatchadourian
Annette Kiureghian
Garbis & Zovig Kojanian
Raffi & Silva Kotikian
Ara & Heather Krafian
Gerard & Janet Lorden
Lilian Mahrokhian
Ted & Salpi Monteiro
Koko & Nora Mouradian
Garo & Rubina Nazarian
Kevork & Arsho Ourfalian
Robert & Rosine Patterson
Mark & Veronica Sagherian
Mais Sagherian
Richard & Nora Sarajian
Nelson & Ani Stepanian
Ara & Talish Tachjian
Andranik & Zvart Tahmassian
Jamie & Aylin Tamburini
Samson & Knar Vartanian
Raffi & Mari Zargarian

In Memory of Zepure Sarkissian

Total Donations – \$350

Alex & Carol Khalarian
Linda Marsoubian & Family

In Memory of Dikran Meguerditchian

Total Donations – \$50

Christian & Taline Kebabdjian

In Memory of John Mesrop Terzian

& Seta Mekhitarian Terzian

Total Donations – \$100

Laura Terzian

In Memory of Margaret Abrahamian

Total Donations – \$100

Ara & Talish Tachjian

In Honor of George & Silva

Vosgerichian Wedding

Total Donations – \$200

Charles & Sona Aslanian

Araxi Poladian Scholarship Fund

Total Donations – \$500

Araxi Poladian

General Donations

Golf Tournament	\$20,000
ARS Shushi Chapter	\$2,000
ARS Leola Sassouni	\$1,500
Watertown Savings Bank	\$4,000
Customer Choice Awards	
John & Ardemis Jerikian	\$200
Ruben Ghazaryans	\$50

Grants

AYF	\$5,104.58
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Building Fund Donations

Nancy Guzelian Charit. Fund	\$500,000
Estate of Loretta Gelanian	\$150,000
Hagop & Sossy Nercessian	\$50,000
Estate of Mary Jane	\$50,000
Hindilian Flowers	
Ara & Heather Krafian	\$50,000
Joanne Peterson	\$25,000
George Elanjian	\$200
Ani Yesaillian	\$200

WE EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO ALL OUR DONORS



St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School
Ս. Ստեփանոս Ազգային Վարժարան

OPEN ENROLLMENT

2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR



PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION BEGINS TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025
ORIENTATION/OPEN HOUSE IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025 FROM 9:00AM-10:00AM

**TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT PLEASE CALL THE PRESCHOOL OFFICE
AT 617-923-0501 OR EMAIL MORCHANIAN@SSAES.ORG**

**Accredited by the Association of
Independent Schools in New England (AISNE)**

Primary Armenian Education

**Preschool licensed by the Massachusetts
Department of Early Education and Care (EEC)**

Experienced and Massachusetts Certified Faculty

Low Student/Teacher Ratios

Extended-day Program

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.SSAES.ORG



St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School
Ս. Ստեփանոս Ազգային Վարժարան

Spring Session
Begins

March 10, 2025

Meeting Dates:

March 10, 17, 24, 31

April 7, 14, 28

May 5, 12, 19

MANOUG & ME

MUSIC & MOVEMENT PROGRAM



For Children 18 months to 2.9 years old



Develop your child's listening & Armenian language skills through our engaging & interactive musical experience.

You'll see improvement in their physical coordination, ability to take direction from an instructor during group-play, and a growing love for music.

Each child must be accompanied by an adult.

Come sing and dance with us!



To Register
please contact the
Preschool Office at:

(617) 923-0501

MORCHANIAN@SSAES.ORG

Registration Fee: \$130



Classes are held
Monday mornings
9:30am - 10:15am

St. Stephen's Armenian Preschool, 46 Elton Avenue, Watertown, MA 02472

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS

JAMES DAVID FRASER, Son of Jonathan & Mari (Hackett) Fraser, was baptized on February 3, 2024. His Godparents were Robert Fraser & Sara Curtis.

CHARLES MULLER, Son of Philippe & Sheila (Behraves) Muller, was baptized on February 10, 2024. His Godfather was Tavit Ohanian.

CAMRYN CARRIE DOSTOOMIAN, Daughter of Matthew & Dyann Dostoomian, was baptized on April 7, 2024. Her Godparents were Jeffrey Dostoomian & Jennifer Russo.

AVEDIS IVAN GARABEDIAN, Son of Corey & Michelle (Melkisetian) Garabedian was baptized on April 28, 2024. His Godparents were Anthony Bistany & Nicole Melkisetian.

ISABELLA MOON SETIAN, Daughter of Vartan & Danielle (MacKinnon-Dunbar) Setian, was baptized on May 12, 2024. Her Godparents were Alexandre Karajayerian & Jessie MacKinnon-Dunbar.

SAINT SETIAN, Son of Vartan & Danielle (MacKinnon-Dunbar) Setian, was baptized on May 12, 2024. His Godparents were Alexander Karajayerian & Jessie MacKinnon-Dunbar.

EDWIN WING WINH CHU, Son of Quang & Stephanie (He) Chu, was baptized on May 18, 2024. His Godparents were Joseph Ingrao & Hourig Ohanian.

KIRA TERESA MURADIAN, Daughter of Keith & Christina (Santoro) Muradian, was baptized on June 1, 2024. Her Godparents were Thomas Muradian & Danielle Malafara.

QUINN GRACE LAICOPOULOS, Daughter of Greg & Andrea (Rybicki) Liacopoulos, was baptized on June 1, 2024. Her Godparents were Andrew Liacopoulos & Emmery Blackington.

NATALIA LOVE KARAMOUTSOS, Daughter of Dimitrios & Mari (Kozelian) Karamoutsos, was baptized on June 16, 2024. Her Godparents were Hagop & Ishkhan Kozelian & Bridget Kozelian.

ANI MOMJIAN, Daughter of Armen & Shaghig (Panossian) Momjian, was baptized on June 16, 2024. Her Godparents were Jiro & Betty Barsoumian.

DAVID BEDROS BERBERIAN-FORT, Son of Laura Berberian, was baptized on June 29, 2024. His Godfather was Warren Richard.

ARAM SEBU BERBERIAN, Son of Haig & Meline (Topouzian) Berberian, was baptized on June 30, 2024. His Godparents were Andrew & Marissa Piligian.

ARAM JAMES NALBANDIAN PEARL, Son of Joshua & Armine (Nalbandian) Pearl, was baptized on July 13, 2024. His Godparents were Sergiu Catalin Vlad & Kaitlin Ann Perrelly.

AVA ARPIK SILVA, Daughter of Jamal & Anna Silva, was baptized on July 14, 2024. Her Godparents were Randy & Stacey Belcher.

ARAM JAMES NALBANDIAN PEARL, Son of Haikazoun & Marianna Bechirian, was baptized on July 27, 2024. His Godparents were Vahe & Houri Karakouzian.

BIANCA AROUSH, Daughter of George & Susanna (Atanesyan) Aroush, was baptized on August 10, 2024. Her Godparents were Ohannes & Ani Aroushah.

OLIVIA LENA FROUNJIAN, Daughter of Hagop & Nancy (Bethala) Frounjian, was baptized on August 17, 2024. Her Godparents were Harout & Mayda Gigan.

HAMILTON MEDINA, Son of Julio & Enyd Medina, was baptized on September 6, 2024. His Godparents were Manoug Mardirossian.

AREK APO THOMASIAN, Son of Hrag & Garineh (Ashjian) Thomasian, was baptized on September 29, 2024. His Godparents were Serouj Thomasian & Alina Ashjian Palanjian.

SADIE KAY ARAKELIAN, Daughter of Shunt & Chelsie Arakelian, was baptized on October 27, 2024. Her Godparents were Ryan Manjewski & Lindsey Young.

LUCIA SILVA PETROSIAN, Daughter of Dimitri & Kristen (Santerian) Petrosian, was baptized on November 3, 2024. Her Godparents were Mark Santerian & Milan George.

BAPTISMS (Cont.)

AUGUST HAROUTOUN BURKE DERIAN, Son of Sebastian & Ashley (Burke) Derian, was baptized on November 3, 2024. His Godparents were Elias Derian & Margaret Beaton.

ALEXANDER BASSMAJIAN, Son of Shant & Angela (Poladian) Bassmajian, was baptized on November 3, 2024. His Godparents were Harout Bassmajian & Berjouhie Dimitian.

GAREN EDWARD CHAGLIASSIAN, Son of Alain & Sandra (Afeyan) Chaglassian, was baptized on November 9, 2024. His Godparents were Edward & Ann Chaglassian.

ARMEN SARKIS OURFALIAN, Son of Kevork & Arsho (Karajelian) Ourfalian, was baptized on November 9, 2024. His Godparents were Dertad Karajelian & Sonia Ourfalian..

SEVANA SHAGHIG PALANJIAN, Daughter of Sevag & Alina (Ashjian) Palanjian, was baptized on December 14, 2024. Her Godparents were Hrag Thomasian & Garineh Ashjian.

ALFREDO KEVORK APANIAN, Son of Steven & Joan (Roubian) Apanian, was baptized on December 22, 2024. His Godparents were Nicholas Apanian & Deborah Karakesisoglu..

We extend our congratulations to the newly baptized,
their parents and godparents.

Pastors & Board of Trustees

WEDDINGS

ELAYNA BASTAJIAN, daughter of Levon & Deanna (Sakayan) Bastajian was wed to **JOHN DIFRANCESCO**, son of John & Denise (Zizza) DiFrancesco, on May 5, 2024. Best Man and Maid of Honor were Michael DiFrancesco & Lara Bastajian.

SEDA MINASYAN, daughter of Ovsep & Narine (Safaryan) Minasyan was wed to **JOSEPH ALVARADO**, son of Joseph & Michele (Penate) Alvarado, on May 18, 2024. Best Man and Maid of Honor were Miguel Penate & Christine Minasyan.

SILVA AYZAZYAN, daughter of Armen Ayzazyan & Alisa Mkrtchyan was wed to **AREEN KALANTARI**, son of Joseph Robert & Helen (Akoghlanian) Kalantari, on June 8, 2024. Best Man and Maid of Honor were Robert Sarian & Hripsime Alvandyan.

NAYIRI TAVIT OHANIAN, daughter of Tavit & Shoghig (Balian) Ohanian was wed to **CHARLES MULLER**, son of Philippe & Sheila (Behraves) Muller, on June 9, 2024. Best Man and Maid of Honor were Herique DaCosta & Anayis Kebabjian.

KARNEE BEREJIKLIAN, daughter of Sebouh & Tamar (Manjikian) Berejiklian was wed to **EDWIN W. CHU**, son of Quang & Stephanie (He) Chu, on July 13, 2024. Best Man and Maid of Honor were Joseph Ingrao & Nareen Berejiklian.

ALYSSA ROSE AHARONIAN, daughter of John & Karen (Tufankjian) Aharonian was wed to **PETER MURPHY**, son of Peter & Dame Murphy, on August 4, 2024. Best Man and Maid of Honor were Kirk Aharonian & Abigail Murphy.

ALINA BAHILAVOUNI, daughter of Armen & Silva (Badrikian) Bahlavouni was wed to **GREGOIRE DIKRAN UCUZ**, son of Dikran & Karen (Arakelian) Ucuze, on August 31, 2024. Best Man and Maid of Honor were Charles Arakelian & Jacqueline Minasian.

ALINE MARDIROSSIAN, daughter of Viken & Ani (Akoghlanian) Mardirossian was wed to **HAMILTON MEDINA**, son of Mr. & Mrs. Julio (Medina) Merida, on September 7, 2024. Best Man and Maid of Honor were John Poirier & Alcesa Mardirossian.

GARINE PALANDJIAN, daughter of Norayr & Iskouhi (Tashjian) Palandjian was wed to **MICHAEL JOSEPH NAPOLITANO**, son of Keith Napolitano & Jo-Anne (Ohanian) Haslam, on October 26, 2024. Best Man and Maid of Honor were Preston Doheny & Tamar Palandjian-Toufayan.

On this happy occasion, we wholeheartedly congratulate
the newly married couples,
wishing them a happy and healthy life together.

Pastors & Board of Trustees

FUNERALS

HRATCH TANELIAN KESHISHIAN

December 20, 2023

SIMON KESHISHIAN

January 4, 2024

SHAKEH SEPETJIAN

January 5, 2024

AARON SHABANIAN

January 12, 2024

SIRVARD (KESHISHIAN) DEIRMENDJIAN

January 25, 2024

LINDA (RUSSIAN) ADANALIAN

January 31, 2024

YN. LUCINE (LUCY) DAGHLIAN

January 4, 2024

AGHAVNI (SARIAN) KEVORKIAN

February 8, 2024

VAROUJEAN (VAROIJ) KALADJIAN

February 21, 2024

PHILIP SAHAG TUTUNJIAN

March 11, 2024

MARY CHARLOTTE (JAROSZ) HINES

March 25, 2024

DR. HENRY ASTARJIAN

April 11, 2024

EMMIK (MEDA) ABRAHAMIAN

April 20, 2024

ALBERT SAVADIAN, SR.

(Funeral Home Service)

April 20, 2024

GREGORY ASDOURIAN

April 22, 2024

BEVERLY (HAGOPIAN) BERBERIAN

(Funeral Home Service)

May 1, 2024

ZAGHGANOUSH (MANJIKIAN) GHAZARIAN

May 9, 2024

ROBERT ARAM KALOOSDIAN

May 16, 2024

SONA MANJIKIAN

May 20, 2024

ARPENIK AZIZIAN

July 12, 2024

ADRIENNE TOPJIAN

July 19, 2024

ANGEL BARSOUMIAN

August 29, 2024

SHAHAN SOUKIASIAN

September 21, 2024

GEORGE MISAKIAN

(Graveside Service)

September 30, 2024

GEORGE MANJIKIAN

October 7, 2024

VACHIK KHACHATOURIAN

October 17, 2024

SONIA GULUZIAN

November 22, 2024

DIKRAN MEGUERDITCHIAN

November 30, 2024

BARKEV KALIGIAN

December 7, 2024

EDWART KHATCHATOURIAN

December 18, 2024

MISAK KEIKIAN

December 20, 2024

ANTRANIK THOMAS

December 26, 2024

JEANNE NAHABEDIAN

December 27, 2024

NAZARET KURUMLIAN

December 30, 2024

*May the comfort of the Holy Spirit be with
the families of all the deceased.*

Pastors and Board of Trustees

IN MEMORIAM

**YERETSGIN LUCINE (LUCY)
DAGHLIAN**

Yeretsgin Lucine (Baghdassarian) Daghljan, wife of the late Rev. Archpriest Arshag Daghljan, passed away on Thursday, January 25. She is survived by four of her children, Sonia, John, Houry and Nora (husband Richard Sarajian), the late Aida Chareth predeceased her, as well as seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She was the sister of the

late Valentine Bilezikian, Mary Kassabian, and Hagop Baghdassarian.

Yeretsgin Lucine was born in Aleppo, Syria, to Emmanuel and Satenig Baghdassarian on August 3, 1925. She graduated from Aleppo College and then married Ardashes Daghljan, who afterwards moved to Beirut to be ordained into the holy priesthood as Rev. Fr. Arshag Daghljan. Der Arshag and Yeretsgin Lucine were among the pioneering servants of the Eastern Prelacy. They served for approximately three years at St. Paul Church, in Waukegan, and West Pullman, both in Illinois. Afterwards, Rev. Fr. Arshag was transferred to North Andover, Massachusetts, where they served as the first Pastor and Yeretsgin at St. Gregory Church for 15 years. They hosted Easter Communion breakfast for the community every year. Yeretsgin Lucine served in the various church choirs, the Armenian Relief Society, the National Association of Ladies Guilds, and as chair of St. Gregory Church's Ladies Guild.

After Der Arshag retired, Yeretsgin Lucine became a member of St. Stephen's Church (Watertown, Massachusetts) and continued to serve her church and the Prelacy. She was one of the original Pillars of the Prelacy and supported numerous Prelacy events, fundraisers, and the Orphans Program. She was one of the godmothers of the 2001 *Muronorhnek* (Blessing of the Holy Oil) and took gifts for all the orphans and students at the Bird's Nest orphanage. As a role model for the new Yeretsgins, she offered counsel and advice. She provided the concept of "College Care" packages for students at St. Stephen's Church to keep the recently graduated Sunday School students connected to the church. At the National Representative Assembly of 2013, former Prelate Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan bestowed the honor of Mother of the Year upon her.

The funeral service, presided by Archbishop Anoushavan, was held at St. Stephen's Church, Watertown, on Wednesday, January 31, 2024.

(First published in Prelacy Crossroad)

**ANAHID NAJARIAN**

Anahid Najarian, of Watertown, died peacefully in her sleep on December 14, 2023. She was born in Aleppo, Syria, the only daughter of the late Norair and Zenount Artinian. She had two older brothers, Haroutun and Vartan, both of whom predeceased her.

Growing up in the Aleppo Armenian community, which at the time was one of the most robust Armenian communities in the Diaspora in terms of education and culture, became the forge which produced many of our greatest post-genocide cadre of intellectual, religious and ideological leaders. It was here that Anahid's own position within this community was forged by growing up in that citadel of faith and culture that was Aleppo during her formative years. She received a wonderful education there.

Anahid moved to the United States in 1967, and soon started her life in Watertown. She very quickly became active in the life of the Armenian community as she had been in Aleppo.

She married Nishan Najarian on September 19, 1971, at the Altar of St. Stephen's Church. They were blessed with two Children, Sonig and Ara.

She was a good mother to her children, attending Ara's baseball and soccer games and making sure that both he and especially Sonig were well looked after.

She was an accomplished seamstress, taking work at home for individuals and companies.

As it turns out, Anahid and Nishan were not just partners in marriage, but also in service to the church and community. After working hours and during weekends, whatever service Anahid was performing for the good of the community, there was a good possibility that you would see Nishan working alongside her.

In turn, Anahid remained a devote wife to Nishan for 50 years prior to his passing in 2022.

She was generous, kind and helpful in any way she could be. She loved her daughter Sonig, her son Ara, his wife, Christine, and her two grandsons Andrew and Wyatt, who will sorely miss her, as will her nieces and nephews, family, friends and the community at large.

(Eulogy By: Rev. Archpriest Antranig Baljian)

IN MEMORIAM

**ALICE SETIAN**

Alice was an extraordinary woman. Very few people have been so focused on helping the church in any way possible. And because of this, what a difference she has made in our church over the years, and not just as a benefactor, but also and more importantly as someone who really loved this church and just always totally enjoyed being here.

As sad and sudden as her passing was, we have cause as a family and as a community to rejoice in and celebrate her life, and reflect on how she touched our own lives.

She made a difference in everyone's life and the legacy she leaves behind is her gift to all of us.

Alice was born January 13, 1927 in Providence, RI. She attended local schools and graduated from Central High School. A couple of years after graduation, in 1946, she lost her dad. It was difficult for Alice and her siblings to cope with the death of their father. Her sister Elizabeth married Kachadoor Kachigian of Whitinsville in 1949. She and her brother took on the responsibilities of looking after their mother. Neither Alice nor George married, but they became parent figures to many other family and community members.

Ten years later after their father's death, thanks to the Hadjian relatives who had moved to the Boston area, Alice, her mother, her sister Elizabeth and her brother George, on the advice of her Uncle John, bought a newly-built home in Newton on Bencliffe Circle, in a neighborhood of Auburndale which was just being developed. After her father's passing, Alice continued to look to her uncle John for solace and support as a father figure.

She enjoyed attending events in the Armenian community and in fact it was in this context that I got to know Alice and form a special bond with her.

Her love and devotion to her family, her church and her community is a testimony to her faith and her bright and legacy to all of us. May God rest her soul.

I would like to extend my and my family's condolences as well as those of the Board of Trustees and church affiliated bodies as well as our church office director, Silva, a close friend, to her nieces and nephews: Sandra Breitborde and her husband Lawrence; Gregory Kachigian and his wife Donna, and Lynda Khachigian. She was also the Grand Aunt of Nicholas Breitborde and his wife Nicole Miller and the great grand aunt of Noah and Nathan Breitborde.

Sympathies also to Jack and Zabel Hadjian and her extended Hadjian Family.

(Eulogy By: Rev. Archpriest Antranig Baljian)

**ROBERT ARAM
KALOOSDIAN**

Robert Aram Kaloosdian, age 93, of Belmont, Massachusetts passed away on May 12, 2024. He was the beloved husband of Marianne (Voynick). Devoted father of Paul and his partner Carl Johnson, Lori and her husband Roland Pease and Sonia and her husband Brian Hale. Cherished grandfather of Marianna and Nathaniel Pease and Alexandra, Julia and Emily Hale. Adored great-grandfather of Ava.



Born October 29, 1930, he was the son of the late Paul and Grace Kaloosdian and brother of the late Knarig Shrader.

Aram grew up in Watertown in the Armenian diaspora of the 1930s and 1940s, where he cultivated lifelong roots and became a leader in Armenian community affairs. A graduate of Clark University and Boston University Law School, Aram practiced law for more than 50 years. He aided the team defending a school curriculum guide against Genocide deniers in federal court. His life was devoted to the recognition and study of the Armenian Genocide.

Aram was the founding chairman of the Armenian National Institute and a founder of the Armenian Assembly of America. His decades of leadership ultimately impacted the U.S. government when in 2019, President Biden officially declared the killing of one million Armenians in what is now Turkey, a genocide.

Aram was the author of *Tadem, My Father's Village: Extinguished during the 1915 Armenian Genocide*, published one hundred years after the Armenian Genocide.

Aram was an active member of St. Stephen's and a former National Representative Assembly Delegate. For many years was the Church's Attorney.

Aram was a veteran of the U.S. Army, Korean Conflict.

(First published in Mirror Spectator)

**MAY THE ETERNAL MEMORY OF
THE RIGHTEOUS BE BLESSED**





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 Garabet & Hermine Artinian
 Charles & Sona Aslanian
 Zabelle Hajian Azablar
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 Maryann Hazerjian Borzakian
 Armen & Esther Chakmakjian & Sons
 John Hovhanness Daghljan
 Leo & Mary Derderian
 Diane Dideo
 George & Dorothy Elanjian
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 Michael & Susan Guzelian
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 Diana Hachikian

Christopher Hajian
 John & Debra Haroian
 John & Jean Harr
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 David & Joyce Khederian-Chiulli
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 John Kulegian
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 Diane Merian
 George & Rose Moorachian & Family
 Carl & Valerie Narsasian
 Missak & Angie Ourfalian
 Diane & David Peligian
 Richard & Kelli Piligian & Family
 Lillian (Tutelian) & Ronald Paratore
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 Mark & Patricia Smith
 Robert Smith
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 Leslie Jelalian
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 Gloria & Eleanor Najarian
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Lucy Hoosian
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RECENT & ADDITIONAL MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In Memory of YN. ZEVART HAGOPIAN Grand Total \$8,580.00 Armen & Esther Chakmakjian Constance Corbett	In Memory of ISHKANIAN & AGHJAYAN FAMILIES Total \$500.00 Mary Ishkanian	In Memory of JOHN & HELENE MEGHRIAN Total \$1,000.00 Robert & Ann Meghrian & Family JC Meghrian & Family
In Memory of KEVORK OURFALIAN Grand Total \$4,970.00 John & Krista Aftandilian	In Memory of ROSE OVIAN Total \$50.00 Jack & Christine Mardoian	In Memory of LUCIA ZAHARIAN Total \$150.00 Ara & Brenda Barsoumian Silva Markarian
In Memory of MARK MARCUSSIAN Grand Total \$5,093.00 Madlene Dell'Anno	In Memory of GEORGE MISAKIAN Total \$1,050.00 Diane Tocci & (the late Paul Tocci) & Family, Children, Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren, Beloved Father, Grandfather & Great-Grandfather Gregory Misakian & Maile Nakamura Gloria Keleshian	In Memory of SANDRA TOPJIAN Total 10.00 Dorothy Esperian
In Memory of ROBERT TALANIAN Grand Total \$625.00 Stephanic Talanian	In Memory of HRAYR NAZARIAN Total \$200.00 Anna Nazarian	In Memory of ROUPEN, SARKIS, KEVORK, BEDROS & ARAM ZERDELIAN Total \$200.00 Dzovig Lilly Zerdelian
In Memory of STEPHEN & SATENIG KAROGLANIAN Total \$5,000.00 Stephen Karoghlanian	In Memory of JOHN SAHAGIAN Total \$20.00 Dorothy Esperian	In Memory of KOTIKIAN & PETROSSIAN FAMILIES Total \$200.00 Lili Kotikian
In Memory of MEDA DER SIRAKIAN Total \$500.00 Violette Aftandilian & Family	In Memory of MARILYN HAROIAN Total 200.00 Wendy Watson	In Memory of Edward Merjikian Total \$100.00 Mrs. Ossanna Merjikian
In Memory of KAY ARAKELIAN Total \$1,000.00 Mark & Brenda Schelzi		

MADAGH
Total \$2,525.00

John & Krista Aftandilian & Family John & Karen Aharonian Mary Arabian Garabet & Hermine Artinian Isabel Avedikian Queenie Aykanian Mrs. MaryAzizian & Family Rev. & Mrs. Stephan Baljian Kenneth & Diane Biagiotti Avedis & Houry Boyamian Mrs. Mayram Daoudian Anna Demurjian <i>(IMO Dr. Varant Hagopian, Mr. Harry Hagopian & Mrs. Mary Bukujian)</i> Satenik Der Manuelian Leo & Mary Derderian Dorothy Esperian Mrs. Arpine Fereshetian	Robert & Marlene Gebeyan Michael & Susan Guzelian Diana Hachikian Ruth E. Hagopian Jack Hajian Zabelle Hajian Azablar Mrs. Ada Hamparian John & Debra Haroian John & Jean Harr Olga Hovagimian Mrs. Mary Ishkanian John & Ardemis Jerikian Noubar & Nevart Kaderian John & Seta Kaleshian Nadia Ann Karnik John & Alice Karnikyan Steven & Linda Kechejian & Family\ Sirvart Keumurian Arsen & Margo Kozelian	Dr. & Mrs. Shavarsh & Anahid Majarian Nairi Makarian Zella Marootian Flora Matossian Stephen & Sosie Megerdichian & Family Hovsep & Rene Melkeshian Mrs. Ossanna Merjikian Walter & Deanne Nahabedian Michael J. Napolitano & Garine Palandjian Carl & Valerie Narsasian Haig & Marina Papazian Mrs. Evelyn Petrossian Yeghsa Sarkissian Adrienne Tanashian Barbara Tutelian Ashkhen & Shoushig Vanerian Kegham & Rubina Varjabedian Valerie M. Wise - Tucker
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2023 CHRISTMAS YOUGHAKIN & POINSETTIA

Total \$9,695.00



YOUGHAKIN:

John & Krista Aftandilian & Family
 John & Karen Aharonian
 Anonymous
 Selma Apovian
 Isabel Avedikian
 Zabelle Hajian Azablar
 Mary Azizian & Family
 Rev. & Mrs. Antranig Baljian
 Rev. & Mrs. Stephan Baljian
 Kenneth & Diane Biagiotti
 John & Judith Bichajian
 Laraine Bogosian
(IMO Mr. & Mrs. Paul J. Bogosian)
 John & Zovig Boyajian
 Avedis & Houry Boyamian
 Karen Costner
 Mrs. Mayram Daoudian
 David & Sharon Demarco
 Anna Demurjian
 Satenik Der Manuelian
 Leo & Mary Derderian
 Dorothy Esperian
 Mrs. Arpine Fereshetian
 Shawn & Melanie Flanagan
 Mr. & Mrs. Sarkis Gennetian
 Ruben Ghazaryans
 Michael & Susan Guzelian
 Diana Hachikian
 Mr. & Mrs. Antranig Hagopian
 Jack Hajian
 Mrs. Ada Hamparian
 John & Debra Haroian
 John & Jean Harr
 Mary Ishkanian
 Noubar & Nevart Kaderian
 John & Seta Kaleshian
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen P. Kanarian
 John & Alice Karnikyan
 Steven & Linda Kechejian & Family
 Takouhie Kefeyan
 Sirvart Keumurian
 Naomi Khederian-Bahtiarian
 Louisa Kheremian
 Roupen & Annie Kiredjian
 Yasha Kishipour
 Jacques Sarkis Kouchakdjian
 Arsen & Margo Kozelian
 Varu John & Armine Mahdasian
 Shahe & Zovic Majarian

Dr. & Mrs. Shavarsh & Anahid Majarian
 Nairi Makarian
 Seta Manjikian
 Silva Markarian
 Zella Marootian
 Stephen & Sosie Megerdichian
 Vrej & Vana Melkonian
 Diane Merian
 Walter & Deanne Nahabedian
 Nazar & Anahid Nalbandian
 Carl & Valerie Narsasian
 Hagop & Sossy Nercessian
 Seta Nercessian
 Mr. & Mrs. Nazareth Ohannessian
 Dorothy Piligian
 Sarah Sahagian
 Thomas Gengozian & Sally Vanerian
 Yeghsa Sarkissian
 Alice Setian
 Dr. & Mrs. A. Donald & Betty Shushan
 Lucy Talanian & Family
 James & Carol Tateossian
 Joshua & Diana Tevekelian
 Noushig Hagopian & Tim Enright
 & Family
 Elizabeth Topjian
 Barbara Tutelian
 Allan G. Tutunjian
 Ashkhen & Shoushig Vanerian
 Kegham & Rubina Varjabedian
 Valerie M. Wise - Tucker
 Joanne E. Wortman
 Ani Yessaillian
 Rima Sen Yousefian-Zeroonian
 Dzovig Lilly Zerdelian

POINSETTIA:

Isabel Avedikian & Family
(IMO Teriz Enokian, Nevart Janigian & Verjin Avedikian)
 Mary Azizian & Family
(IMO Husband-Chris Azizian & grandson-Royce Whitaker)
 Rev. & Mrs. Antranig Baljian
(IMO Baljian & Depoian Families)

Hratch & Ani Belekian & Family
(IMO Belekian & Nalbandian Parents)
 Kohar Berberian
(IMO Vartan & Sona Berberian, Kevork & Dirouhi Berberian)
 John & Zovig Boyajian
 Karen Costner
(IMO Marie Khachadoorian)
 Satenik Der Manuelian
(IMO Vahe Der Manuelian)
 George & Dorothy Elanjan
(IMO John & Mary Jiderian & Harriet Marsubian)
 Dorothy Esperian
(IMO Leo & Mary Esperian)
 Nadia Ann Karnik
 Sirvart Keumurian
(IMO Charles G. Keumurian)
 Maro Meguerditchian
 Vrej & Vana Melkonian
(IMO Shaghig Palanjian)
 Walter & Deanne Nahabedian
(IMO Paul & Makrouhi Nahabedian)
 Hagop & Sossy Nercessian
(IMO parents)
 Sarah Sahagian
 Alice Setian
(IMO Parent, Sister & Brother)
 Valerie M. Wise - Tucker
IMO Victoria Tucker



2024 EASTER YOUGHAKIN & EASTER LILIES

Total \$8,485.00



EASTER YOUGHAKIN:

John & Karen Aharonian
Meline Arslanian
Robert & Carine Avakian
Isabel Avedikian
Queenie Aykanian
Zabelle Hajian Azablar
Mary Azizian & Family
Barbara L. Baljian
Vahan Basmajian
Dr. & Mrs. Levon Bastajian
Marie Bazarian
Mrs. Veron Bejikian
Hratch & Ani Belekian & Family
Kenneth & Diane Biagiotti
John & Zovig Boyajian
Avedis & Houry Boyamian
John & Julie Campos
Hasmig Chaglassian
(*IMO Dr. John Chaglassian*)

Mrs. Mayram Daoudian
Anna Demurjian
Satenik Der Manuelian
Dania & Maral Derderian
Kevork Dikramanjan
Dorothy Esperian
Mrs. Arpine Fereshetian
Robert & Marlene Gebeyan
Mr. & Mrs. Sarkis Gennetian
Ruben Ghazaryans
John & Maro Godschall
Michael & Susan Guzelian
Diana Hachikian
Mr. & Mrs. Antranig Hagopian
Jack Hajian
Mrs. Ada Hamparian
Melanie Haratunian
John & Debra Haroian
John & Jean Harr
Mrs. Mary Ishkanian
William & Cerise Jalelian-Keim
John & Ardemis Jerikian
Noubar & Nevart Kaderian
John & Seta Kaleshian
Richard & Athena Kanarian
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen P. Kanarian
Sarkis & Zarminch Karakozian
John & Alice Karnikyan
Siroon Kechechyan
Steven & Linda Kechejian & Family
Aghop & Alice Kessissian
Sirvart Keumurian
Naomi Khederian-Bahtiarian
Louisa Kheremian
Jacques Sarkis Kouchakdjian
Arsen & Margo Kozelian

Varu John & Armine Mahdasian & Family
Dr. & Mrs. Shavarsh & Anahid Majarian
Shahe & Zovic Majarian
Nairi Makarian
Zella Marootian
Stephen & Sosie Megerdichian & Family
Hovsep & Rene Melkeshian
Mrs. Ossanna Merjikian
Varouj & Alice Minassian
Walter & Deanne Nahabedian
Algis & Varso Nakutis
Seta Nercessian
Hagop & Sossy Nercessian
Mr. & Mrs. Nazareth Ohannessian
Mrs. Evelyn Petrossian
Araxie Poladian
Thomas Gengozian & Sally Vanerian
Yeghsa Sarkissian
Steven Sookikian
Sarkis & Shoushan Stepanian
Barbara Talanian
Lucy Talanian & Family
(*IMO Ralph Talanian*)
Adrienne Tanashian
Vany Tashjian
James & Carol Tateossian
Joshua & Diana Tevckelian
Noushig Hagopian & Tim Enright
& Family
Elizabeth Topjian
Allan G. Tutunjian
Ashkhen & Shoushig Vanerian
Kegham & Rubina Varjabedian
Valerie M. Wise - Tucker
Joanne E. Wortman
Ani Yessaillian
Mrs. Rima Sen Yousefian-Zeroonian
Dzovig Lilly Zerdelian
Garbis & Sonia Zerdelian
Nishan & Margueritte Zoboyan & Family

EASTER LILIES:

John & Krista Aftandilian
Gassia Armenian
(*IMO Mrs. Agnes Ourfalian*)
Isabel Avedikian
(*IMO Teriz Enokian, Nevart Janigian
& Verjin Avedikian*)
Queenie Aykanian
Steven & Nyeri Azablar-Ceragno
(*IMO Alice Setian*)
Mary Azizian & Family
(*IMO Chris Azizian & Royce Whitaker*)
Mrs. Veron Bejikian

Kohar Berberian
(*IMO Kevork & Dirouhi Berberian,
Vartan & Sona Berberian*)
Kenneth & Diane Biagiotti
(*IMO Kalousdian & Miktarian Families*)
Laraine Bogosian
(*IMO Mr. & Mrs. Paul J. Bogosian*)
John & Zovig Boyajian
Karen Costner
(*IMO Marie Khachadoorian*)
Satenik Der Manuelian
(*IMO Vahc Der Manuelian*)
Kelam & Nancy Derderian
(*IMO Jack & Thelma Der Avedisian*)
Dorothy Esperian
(*IMO Leo & Mary Esperian*)
Ruth E. Hagopian
Sarah Janigian
(*IMO Ana & Paul Janigian,
Nevart & George Janigian &
Louise & John Janigian*)
Nadia Ann Karnik
(*IMO Harry & Anahid Karnik*)
Siroon Kechechyan
(*IMO Khachatur Kechechyan*)
Sirvart Keumurian
(*IMO Charles G. Keumurian*)
Jack & Takouhie Keumurian
(*For thanksgiving to God & good health*)
Flora Matossian
(*IMO Husband-Haroutunc Matossian*)
Mrs. Ossanna Merjikian
(*IMO Edward Merjikian*)
Walter & Deanne Nahabedian
(*IMO Paul & Markrouhi Nahabedian
& Charles & Dikranouhi Yavanian*)
Carl & Valerie Narsasian
Hagop & Sossy Nercessian
Vany Tashjian
(*IMO Berj Tashjian*)
Valerie M. Wise - Tucker
(*IMO Victoria Tucker*)
Joanne E. Wortman
(*IMO The Janigian Family*)
Dzovig Lilly Zerdelian
(*IMO her parents*)

DONATIONS

GENERAL DONATIONS		Mary Ishkanian <i>(For Good Health)</i>	\$750
St. Stephen’s Ladies Guild	\$21,000	Ara Jaklian	\$25
Anonymous	\$2,000	Sarkis & Zarminch Karakozian	\$100
Anonymous	\$1,000	<i>(On the happy occasion of their grandson, Aram’s first time on the altar)</i>	
Anonymous	\$500	Nadia Karnik	\$2,500
Anonymous	\$500	Hagop Ketchedjian	\$600
Mary Arabian <i>(For Good Health)</i>	\$100	Sirvart Kcumurian	\$100
Sebouh & Leeza Arakelian	\$100	Ara & Heather Krafian & Family	\$100
Armenian Relief Society-Leola Sassouni Chapter	\$150	<i>(On the happy occasion of their daughter, Araxi’s Engagement)</i>	
Vrej & Rita Badrikian	\$50	Flora Matossian <i>(For Good Health)</i>	\$20
<i>(Baby Sarkis’s 40 Day Blessing & Dedication to the Church)</i>		Dikran & Maro Meguerditchian	\$500
Shoghig Basmajian	\$300	Antranik & Ardemis Minassian	\$200
Shoghig Basmajian	\$100	<i>(Good Health for their granddaughter, Karina Melkonian)</i>	
<i>(On the happy occasion of Garen Chaglassian’s Baptism)</i>		Hagop & Sossy Nercessian	\$50
The Blackbaud - Giving Fund	\$25	Sarkis & Seta Ourfalian	\$200
Dr. & Mrs. Hovig Chitilian	\$3,000	<i>(Baby Areni’s 40 Day Blessing & Dedication to the Church)</i>	
Anne Sirian, Mike Crane & Vasken & Annette Cholakian	\$150	Alex & Narine Ourfalian	\$100
<i>(In honor of Ned & Aroxie Apigian on their move from Detroit to Boston)</i>		<i>(Baby Areni’s 40 Day Blessing & Dedication to the Church)</i>	
		Leo & Mary Beth Sarkissian	\$150
Dikran & Darlene Dakessian <i>(Company Matching)</i>	\$376	David & Heidi Shamlian	\$100
Stephen & Maral Dulgarian	\$50	Suzanne Smith	\$50
Sandra Lee Eknaian	\$100	<i>(Baby Remington’s 40 Day Blessing & Dedication to the Church)</i>	
Akop Eremyan	\$30	Harry & Anoush Taraksian	\$100
Mr. & Mrs. Sarkis Gennetian	\$150	<i>(Baby Areni’s 40 Day Blessing & Dedication to the Church)</i>	
Andrew & Alice Guzelian	\$2,000	Dr. Hagop & & Mrs. Annie Youssoufian	\$100
Dr. & Mrs. David & Nora Hackett	\$100	<i>(Grandchild’s 40 Day Blessing & Dedication to the Church)</i>	
<i>(On the happy occasion of their grandson, James David Fraser’s Baptism)</i>		Missak & Maro Yazijian	\$500
Christine Hagopian	\$30	<i>(On the happy occasion of their Grandson, Julian Carbunari, being the Godfather for water blessing on Armenian Christmas, 2024)</i>	
Hemenway & Barnes	\$300	Mark Zildjian	\$100
<i>(In Honor of John Aharonian’s retirement)</i>			

DONATIONS (Cont.)

IN KIND DONATIONS

Ourfalian Family/Massis Bakery
(Making Mas that is distributed after Divine Liturgy
In loving memory of their parents, Kevork & Sonya
Ourfalian)

Wagon Wheel Nursery & Farmstand, Lexington, MA
(Sweet Basil donated On the occasion of the Feast of
the Exaltation of The Holy Cross)

PALM & EASTER SUNDAY

Kachadurian Family \$500
(On the occasion of the Resurrection of
Lazarus and Palm Sunday, donation towards
the Tulips in loving memory of their parents,
Ghazaros & Lucine Kachadurian)

Vahan Khachadoorian \$300
(Donation towards the palms in loving
memory of sister, Rosemary Khachadoorian,
and parents, Ohannes & Nazan Khachadoorian)

Nadia Ann Karnik \$500
(Donation towards the Easter Eggs, in loving
Memory of her parents, Harry & Anahid Karnik)

ON THE OCCASION OF THE ASSUMPTION
OF THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Adour & Nancy Tutunjian
(Donated all the grapes for our Annual Picnics)

Noushig Hagopian & Tim Enright & Family \$500
(In loving memory of Rev. Archpriest Torkom
& Yeretzgin Zevart Hagopian)

Mayda Melkonian \$100
(Monetary donation towards the grapes in loving
memory of her mother, Mari Donigian)

ENDOWMENT FUND

John & Karen Aharonian \$14,997
Naomi Khederian-Bahtiarian \$25,000
Armene Chorbajian Estate \$48,648
Astor & Lucy Guzelian \$1,000
Stephen & Christine Kanarian \$200
John & Alice Karnikyan \$10,000
Stephen Karoghlanian \$10,000
Michele M. Kolligian & Bob Khederian \$15,000
John & Shoghig Merian \$1,200
Allan Tutunjian \$11,178

CHURCH DONATIONS

Richard Berberian (Hand Cross restoration) \$900
Mary Doursounian & Family \$1,630
(Donated the bench on the side of
the church in loving memory of
Dn. John Hovanness Doursounian)
Richard Piligian (Chalice restoration) \$625
Allan Tutunjian \$6,500
(Avantadoon - baptismal room new
cabinet, in loving memory of his brother
Philip Sahag Tutunjian)

CHURCH RENOVATIONS

Paul Ishkanian ((Church side door) \$10,000
Hagop & Sossy Nercessian (Altar flooring) \$50,000
Alice Setian (Cupola Restoration) \$266,000

OFFICE RENOVATIONS

Anonymous (Computers & Peripherals) \$6,000
Anonymous (Furniture) \$5,000
Ruth E. Hagopian (AV Equipment) \$975

Hratch Iskenderian
(In kind donation via IMG Painting Inc.,
Parish House Office)

Gerard Iskenderian
(In kind donation via New England Closets,
Closetry and Fridge)

PONTIFICAL VISIT DONATIONS

Raffi & Nina Festekdjian
(In kind donation via Anoush'ella, Reception)

Michael & Susan Guzelian
(In kind donation, Dinner)

Silva Metrabian \$1,000
(Bird's Nest Orphanage, Lebanon)
Nancy D. Guzelian Charitable Fund \$20,000
(Armenian Theological Seminary, Lebanon)

Thank you to all the volunteers and local law
enforcement who donated their time and
expertise, and all those who financially
supported this historic visit.

DONATIONS (Cont.)

DATEV FUND

James & Nayiri Bell \$12,000

TITHE

Garabet & Hermine Artinian \$250

Armen & Esther Chamkamjian \$3,200

Shooshanig Ghazarian \$280

Vartkes & Audrey Guzelian \$250

Astor & Lucy Guzelian \$200

Michael & Susan Guzelian \$700

Carl Haroian \$550

Noubar & Nevart Kaderian \$200

Steve & Linda Kechejian \$150

Vahan Khachadoorian \$250

Armen & Anoush Knaian \$100

Steven R. Sookikian \$150

DONATIONS TO JRAK

Ojik Gregorian & Family \$50

FAITH -IN-ACTION

Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Tahanian \$3,015

Sheerag Berejiklian \$300

Allan G. Tutunjian \$300

Christmas Eve Service & Holiday Luncheon \$3,885

IN HONOR OF LUCY GUZELIAN'S
90TH BIRTHDAY

John & Alice Karnikyan \$90

Walter & Deanne Nahabedian \$100

Mrs. Adrienne Tanashian \$90

HAYR HRANT'S INSTALLATION
LUNCHEON

Levon & Ana Afeyan \$500

Robert & Carine Avakian \$150

Alain & Sandra Chaglassian \$500

IN HONOR OF ARMEN & ANOUSH KNAIAN'S
50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Arthur & Lynn Beylerian \$200

Ron Iverson & Gail Guzelian & Family \$100

Eric & Amy Guzelian & Family \$200

Armen & Anoush Knaian \$1,000

Ann Der Marderosian \$100

Allan G. Tutunjian \$100

Robert Zuckernik \$100

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Barbara Tutelian \$10

SECOND PLATE COLLECTION

Artsakh Campaign, Prelacy \$1,295

Nerses Shnorhali Orphan Camp, Prelacy \$2,191

Syria Relief Campaign, Prelacy \$6,460

Artsakh Burn Victims \$5,000

Armenian Theological Seminary, Lebanon \$1,000

BAZAAR DONATIONS

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Bedrosian \$500
(Donated 2023 Bazaar Raffle winnings)Lucy Hoosian \$200
(Donated part of 2023 Bazaar Raffle winnings)

STUDENT CARE PACKAGE MAILING

Zella Marootian \$100

BUY A SHINGLE

Ara Berj Marootian \$1,000

ORPHAN FUND

Yasha Kishipour \$210

Alice Vartanian \$150

The Pastor, Board of Trustees and all affiliated bodies are grateful to all those who have generously contributed to the efforts and mission of our parish.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Visits by Appointment

CHURCH SCHEDULE

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

ՀՈԳԵՏԱՆԳԻՍ

Հոգեհանգիստի համար հաճեցէք հեռաձայնել եկեղեցւոյ գրասենեակ մինչեւ Չորեքշաբթի կ.ե. ժամը 3:00, որպէսզի կարենանք անունները հրատարակել կիրակնօրնայ թերթիկին մէջ: Նուիրատուութիւնները կարելի է կատարել հետեւեալ ձեւերով, Գարթով, նամակով, անձամբ եկեղեցւոյ գրասենեակը կամ կիրակի օրը՝ եկեղեցւոյ մէջ, Հոգաբարձութեան գրասենեակը:

REQUIEM

For Requiem Service, please call the church office at (617) 924-7562 by 3 P.M. on the Wednesday prior to the Sunday that the requiem is to be held, so we can include the names in the Sunday Bulletin. Donations may be made in several ways: by credit card, mailing to the office, paying at the church office or on Sunday in church.

CHILDRENS' SERMON

Fourth Sunday of each month at 11:30, during the School year.

SACRAMENTS

For Sacraments please call the church office.

LADIES' GUILD

Women of all ages who desire to serve their church are invited to join the Ladies Guild. Please contact the Chair, Becky Megerdichian at 617-852-1315 for more info.

HALL RENTALS

If you are interested in renting the Church Hall for a private function, please contact the church office.

HOME VISITS

Hayr Soorp and the Board of Trustees understand that sometimes it is difficult for all of our parishioners to participate in Sunday services. If you are in failing health, or are unable to get to church because of a disability, please call the office to arrange for a home visit (617) 924-7562.

HOME BLESSINGS

Traditionally, home blessings are done yearly – after Armenian Christmas and before Paregentan (Lent). Please call the church office at (617) 924-7562.

HOSPITAL VISITS

Եթէ հիւանդ մը ունիք ձեր տան մէջ կամ հիւանդանոցը եւ կը փափաքիք հովիւին այցելութիւնը, հաճեցէք հեռաձայնել եկեղեցւոյ գրասենեակ:

We encourage all parishioners to inform us of any relative, immediate family member, or church member who is in the hospital and wishes to be visited. These visits can help to lift the spirit of the patient and offer support and guidance. Please call the church office at (617) 924-7562.

ՀՐԱԳԻ այս թիւը լման տարեշրջանի մը գործունէութիւնն ու ստացած նուիրատուութեանց արձանագրութիւնները կը ներկայացնէ: Միշտ կը ջանանք մեր լաւագոյնը կատարել, սակայն մոռացում կամ սխալ արձանագրութիւններ կրնան պատահիլ, մանաւանդ այսպիսի խճողուած թիւի մը պարագային: Կանխաւ ձեր ներողատուութիւնը կը խնդրենք որեւէ վրիպումի կամ թերացումի համար: Եթէ սխալ մը նկատէք, հաճեցէք եկեղեցւոյ գրասենեակը տեղեակ պահել, որպէսզի սրբագրենք յաջորդ թիւին մէջ:

ԽՄԲԱԳՐԱԿԱՆ ԿԱԶՄ

This issue of JRAK covers an entire year's worth of activity and donations. Although we try our best in preparing this newsletter, inadvertent errors are bound to occur, especially in such a packed issue. Please accept our apologies in advance for any mistakes or errors and inform the church office so the correct information can be printed in the next issue.

EDITORIAL BOARD

FUNDRAISING AND GIVING INITIATIVES

There is no more satisfying feeling than giving to your Church and we are so blessed to have generous parishioners and friends who support our church and mission in many ways. Your financial contributions help us keep our doors open, support our schools, offer church and community programming, and help those in need, locally and globally. There are so many ways to give, be it weekly plate offerings, annual donations, endowment funds, and trusts. We encourage you to visit our website to learn more. www.soorpstepanos.org/giving.

BE A PLEDGE MEMBER OF ST. STEPHEN'S

If you are not currently a dues-paying member of our church, we invite you to consider becoming one. Annual dues are \$150.00 per individual (less than 42 cents a day), payable weekly, monthly or in a lump sum.

BUY A SHINGLE

Our "*Buy a Shingle*" campaign continues to help us retire the mortgage on the "The Pink House." Consider helping us in this endeavor through the options below. Please donate online or send checks to St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church Attn: "Buy a Shingle"

\$1,000 to buy 2 pallets - \$500 to buy a pallet - \$250 to buy a half pallet
\$100 to buy a shingles - \$50 to buy a shingle - \$ _____ hammer & nails

PEW DEDICATION

For more than 15 years, our pew dedication fundraising initiative has been met with an overwhelming response. As we approach the Church's 70th anniversary, consider dedicating a pew at \$500 as part of your year-end charitable gift. A brass dedication plaque will be placed at each location on a pew. Please contact Raffi Manjikian 617-932-1854 or rmmpec@verizon.net. He will guide you through the process to fulfill your dedication.

LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

If you are interested in other donation options that might be more appropriate to your interest, such as substantial cash donations, securities, will, living trust, or endowment fund, please visit our website above or contact the church office for more information.

LET'S GET CONNECTED

KEEP THE JRAK LIT!

Sponsor our JRAK! Though we live in a digital world, we know the JRAK publication holds a special place for many. As we strive to continue to publish this yearly piece, producing it has become costly. Donations to support the production are greatly appreciated – please consider being a sponsor at the levels listed below! Scan the code to make a donation! Those who contribute will be acknowledged in next year's issue.

Diamond	\$5,000 -	(Full page)
Platinum	\$2,500 -	(Half page)
Gold	\$1,000 -	(Quarter page)
Premier	\$100 -	(Listed)



CONNECT WITH US!

WEEKLY E-BULLETIN Our weekly e-newsletter is just one of the ways to stay in touch with us! In addition to liturgical information, requiems, and bible readings, it is a great way to be apprised of parish activity, announcements, events and community news. Scan the code to subscribe to our list.



And be sure to follow us on social media, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube

Join us Sundays for worship
Divine Liturgy: 10:00am
www.ststephenschurch.org

38 Elton Avenue
Watertown, MA 02472
617-924-7562
Pastor: Very Rev. Father Hrant Tahanian

E-bulletin- January 17, 2025

Program
Sunday, January 19, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY OF NATIVITY
Celebrant and Homilist
Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Tahanian, Pastor
Rev. Archpriest Antranig Baljian, Pastor Emeritus

2025: Year of Revitalization of Traditions

At the threshold of 2025, from the Mother See of Antelias of the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia, we extend greetings to the beloved daughters and sons of our people with fatherly love, pontifical blessings, and warm national feelings. We especially greet our Prelates, Community Leaders, organizations, and associations active within the Armenian world, as well as community, educational, charitable, cultural, social, and athletic structures, and we wish everyone a year rich in new accomplishments. We pray to Almighty God that the New Year, revealed through His Son's incarnation, may become a year filled with divine blessings and grace for our people.

St. Stephen's Church Watertown
@ststephenschurchwatertown
232 subscribers • 103 videos

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For You

PONTIFICAL VISIT
HIS HOLINESS ARAM I
STRONG FAITH AND NATION
STRONGER COMMUNITIES

@STSTEPHENSCHURCHWATERTOWN



St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church (Watertown, MA)

1.6K likes • 2.1K followers



Located in the heart of Watertown, St. Stephen's serves the largest Armenian community on the East Coast. Its jurisdiction falls under the Eastern Prelacy and Holy See of Cilicia.

👍 Liked

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ST. STEPHEN'S
ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
OF GREATER BOSTON
38 Elton Avenue
Watertown, MA 02472

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Dexter Reliquary of Saint Stephen the Proto-Deacon and First Martyr
Brass with silver gilt, Circa 18th Cent.
Armenian Museum of America
(www.armenianmuseum.org)