Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church Aleppo

WE SHALL (re)BUILD
WE SHALL (re)BUILD

The bricks have fallen down, we will rebuild with dressed stone.
Isaiah 9:10 (NIV)

Zaven Khanjian

"A mortar shell hit the roof of the Aleppo Emmanuel Church causing serious material damage. Continue to pray for us and thank God no human injury was caused."

The message from Aleppo, Syria early on Sunday afternoon, January 17th was piercing and grave but not surprising. It was the latest of around 10 Armenian churches partially or totally destroyed during the Syrian conflict including the Armenian Genocide Memorial Church in Der Zor which was destroyed by ISIS in September 2014. It’s the story of our people throughout history.

From the Battle of Avarayr to the armies of infesters, from the death marches of the Genocide to the persecutors of faith, we have continuously been subjected to one ferocious bluster after another destroying lives and livelihoods, knocking down hearths and hearts, sowing death and destruction and harvesting miracle lives. Has it hurt us? You bet it has. Knocked us down? For a moment, maybe.

But through the spirit of faith that has been ours since we, as a nation, embraced Christ as our Lord and Savior, we have bounced back after each bluster, have built and rebuilt, created and accomplished, persisted and achieved. At every juncture of history we have experienced His miraculous hand which has resurrected us from the ashes of hate, destruction, extinction and annihilation. We are the Phoenix and our surname is Survival.

Despite dimly radiated promises, the Syrian crisis continues to escalate so long as the satiated appetite of the power hungry has not yet been met. And while the destruction in Syria continues, the AMAA marches forward in its mission of building and rebuilding structures and lives in the Homeland and around the world.

Parallel to the experience of the dark ages witnessed in Syria, the AMAA is engaged in realizing the promises of tomorrow by currently being involved in the following work in progress construction projects.

DILIJAN, Armenia: A new sanctuary, social and a community center has just been completed and is being used. The Dedication Ceremony and a Worship Service are being planned for September 2016, which will coincide with the 170th Anniversary celebrations of the Armenian Evangelical Church in Yerevan, Armenia.

AKHALKALAK CITY, Georgia: Renovation of the AMAA building, where the faithful gather every Sunday to worship the Lord, is now in progress.

GYUMRI, Armenia: A new AMAA Center which includes a sanctuary, social hall, and community and youth service center is under construction and due to be completed in the summer of 2017.

STEPANAKERT, Nagorno Karabagh: The AMAA’s jewel Kindergarten in Karabagh is having a grounds and fence facelift.

SHEEN SHOGHIG SUMMER CAMP, Hankavan, Armenia: The Girl’s Dormitory is being totally renovated while the outside walls and sur-
roundings of the Boy’s Dormitory and Auditorium are being enhanced and beautified.

**AVEDISIAN SCHOOL, Armenia:** The state of the art, LEED certified, award-winning, tuition-free, educational lighthouse will soon be embraced with a brand new fence and safe walkway which are currently in progress.

At the Armenian Missionary Association of America the building of structures go hand in hand with the building and rebuilding of lives, faithfully living up to the core mission of the AMAA. As the crisis in Syria shatters lives and destroys dreams, we at the AMAA have not lost focus of the big picture and fervently move on with building and rebuilding lives all over.

Lives, of displaced Syrian students at Haigazian University; of young ambitious dreamers at the Avedisian School; of God seeking teenage campers at Hankavan, KCHAG or Camp Arev; of thousands of sprouting hopeful children in Armenia and Karabagh; of innocent toddlers learning to pray in the Kindergartens of Karabagh; of devastated and displaced refugees in Armenia and Lebanon.

While our prayers will reward us with heavenly peace to cope with all that’s happening around us, we are called to continue living the joy of giving and share in the building of all of the above blessings the AMAA sows abundantly, fulfilling the vision of its founders in meeting the spiritual and physical needs of our people all across the globe.

This is only accomplished through your love and compassion, your caring gift and donation, sponsorship and adoption.

In 2006, I took my first ever visit to the land of our fathers, Historic Armenia. On the farthest eastern front and amidst the ruins of the “thousand and one churches,” at Ani, the capital of the Bagratunis, facing Armenia, I contemplated……

“Across from us is Armenia. The Akhurian divides the two present-day neighboring countries, Armenia and Turkey. While entering the plateau we had noticed the Armenian quarries, like beehives, on the other side and on an elevation to the east of Akhurian, and during the few hours we had spent there we had ‘enjoyed’ the annoying noise of the unstoppable machines. Around 6:30, when we were led to exit the gate in the wall surrounding the City, we realized that the noise had ceased. Armenia was two hours ahead, meaning 8:30 in the evening. And I sarcastically thought with an insolent audacity if this isn’t the difference in character of those separated by the Akhurian. While on the western bank the centuries-old home of ‘a thousand and one churches,’ mother-city Ani is subject to destruction, ruination and demolition, there, on the other bank material is extracted incessantly from the quarries to erect new Anis. What an irony of fate!”

The players are the same and the irony continues, this time in Syria, home of the descendants of the Genocide survivors. But take heart, we have not forgotten the destruction of the Aleppo Emmanuel Church, nor the faithful who gather to worship our Lord. And we promise that at the sound of the trumpet of peace on the Syrian horizon we will be ready to rebuild that House of Worship not to idolize the stones but to create that sacred and beatified sanctuary where the faithful will continue to worship the God of our fathers.

We shall (re)build!

Christ Is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!

---

**Thoughts on Vartanants**

**The People and Their Courage**

*By Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian*

Certain events in the life of a nation not only determine the future of that nation, but also the quality of its character. Such was the case for the Armenian people over fifteen centuries ago, when the ruling Persian Empire attempted to exert full control over its subject peoples’ faith. What the Armenians did in response set the path for centuries of struggle against their overlords. But it also imprinted a self-understanding that enabled Armenians in every situation to know themselves and who their true Lord and Savior is: Jesus Christ.

It is not just Vartan and the princes of Armenia that impresses one, but rather the people. They refused to abandon their faith, and were willing to courageously stand firm and resist the superior forces arrayed against them. Why? Because of their complete trust in God. This impressed even their opponents, who said, “Who can withstand men like these, who are neither afraid of chains, nor frightened by tortures, nor allured by wealth, and, what is greater than all evils, prefer death to life?” (Yeghishe, ch. 3)

Today’s chaotic world and existential challenges facing the Armenian people demand that we once again show the courage of our ancestors at Vartanants. Threats of bodily harm and frustrations of social and economic decline in recent times have caused many (though not all) Armenians to flee their homelands. Yet wherever we find ourselves, we must face each and every challenge in the power of Christ. He saved us from our sins, and He empowers us through His Spirit. He makes us His courageous witnesses, standing for the truth, helping those in need, and leaving a legacy of courage for future generations of Armenians.

May this blessed inheritance of Vartanants inspire you to live and serve faithfully in Christ Jesus’ Name. ☺
Nonsense That Changed the World

But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.


By Rev. Dr. Ron Tovmassian, Moderator, AEUNA

What would you think if your best friend came up to you and said "Aliens from outer space took me away on their ship and gave me a ride back to their planet!" . . . or if your son ran up to you on a camping trip and said "I saw Bigfoot, or a fire breathing dragon, or a giant cyclops?" You would think it was nonsense, or that someone was playing a joke on you.

The testimony given by the women after the resurrection must have sounded just as ridiculous to the disciples. Luke tells us that the idea of a man rising from the dead after three days appeared to them as nonsense. But this nonsense was true and it changed the world.

According to Luke, when the women got to the tomb the resurrection had already taken place and the stone was rolled away. Inside the tomb, they saw the angels and heard their testimony of the resurrection. Matthew tells us that running from the tomb, they saw Jesus who instructed them to go and tell the disciples. Upon receiving this marvelous news however, only two disciples, Peter and John, even took it seriously enough to go to the tomb. When they saw the grave clothes lying undisturbed as if Jesus just disappeared from inside them, Peter still didn’t understand, but John saw these things and finally believed.

The disciples initially considered the testimony of the women nonsense. John believed at the tomb and the others believed when Jesus appeared to them in the upper room. Thomas still didn’t believe the women or the testimony of the other 10 disciples until he saw for himself. Could there have been a lesson here for the disciples?

We too are called to be witnesses and declare that same "nonsense" of resurrection and eternal life. Like the disciples, we need to be humbled and reminded of how foolish the message can sound to the world around us. For the unchurched in our lives, the gospel can seem as nonsensical as stories of UFOs and aliens. They don’t comprehend our language, our symbols, our sacraments, or even our level of devotion and service to Christ. We are bearing a powerful, life changing testimony that unfortunately sounds ridiculous to those who are not prepared to receive it. What then is the hope for our mission in the Name of Christ?

We must claim the promise that, in God’s hand "nonsense" has power. Paul says in I Corinthians 1:18- "The word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God." God changed the world with that "nonsense" and we are called to proclaim it with confidence.

On Easter morning we will be celebrating the resurrection of Christ with joy and exhilaration, while much of the world is going its own way, considering the essence of our celebration "nonsense." It should be a wakeup call for us to go out and bear witness to the fact that this "nonsense" is the Truth of God which has changed the world forever.

Nonsense is only nonsense, if it is not true. If there really were aliens, it would no longer be nonsense, it would be front page news. If Bigfoot showed up in Central Park it would stop being ridiculous, everyone would be talking about it. God sends us out into the world to declare that this message of resurrection is true. Far from being "nonsense" it is the power of salvation for all who believe.

The testimony of the women is the same testimony we are still sharing with the world today. Let’s sing with joy and shout with praise the precious "nonsense" of Easter. Christ is risen from the dead! Hallelujah, He is risen indeed!

Inspirational Corner

But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.
Meet Our Veteran Pastors: 
The Rev. Emmanuel Darakjian

Reverend Emmanuel Darakjian was born in Aintab, Turkey on January 19, 1920, to Pastor Nazareth and Aroussiaq Darakjian during the heroic war of resistance in Aintab.

Pastor Nazareth, Emmanuel’s father, was born in an apostolic family but his mother sent him to the Sunday school at the local Armenian Evangelical Church. Nazareth lost his father when he was three which forced him to leave school early and start working in the fabric weaving industry, acquiring the name “Darakhji” which was later Armenianized. As a teenager he went to the Evangelical Church with his friends, not so much to benefit from the service but to disrupt it. At some point he started listening to the sermons and accepted Christ in his life at age 18. Initially he devoted himself to Christian work while continuing his work but at the age of 24 he gave up his profession altogether and became a full time evangelist pastor.

When the Aintab war ended, the family moved to an area near Antioch where Pastor Nazareth served the local Armenian Evangelical churches. In 1926, in the city of Kirk Khan, Pastor Nazareth succumbed to malaria at age 41 leaving behind a wife and five very young boys ages one to ten. The family moved to Aleppo where Aroussiaq’s brother Nejib Shirikjian lived. Nejib helped the family survive in these difficult circumstances.

Emmanuel received his elementary education at the Bethel School in Aleppo and went on to Aleppo College graduating in 1939. That same year at the ripe age of 19 he was sent to Kessab to serve as school principal for one year. In 1940 he entered the American University of Beirut and also attended the Near East School of Theology (N.E.S.T). In 1944 he received his B.A. in Theology and went back to Aleppo to serve as Principal in both Bethel and Emmanuel schools. In 1948 he married Mary Cholakian, a teacher at the Bethel school. Soon after the wedding they moved to Kessab where Pastor Emmanuel served the churches of Ekiz-Olouk and Keorkune for four years. They were blessed with their first daughter Arpy in 1950, and in 1952 the family moved back to Aleppo where Pastor Emmanuel served the Armenian Evangelical Church of Eshrefieh (also known as Davoodieh). In 1953 the family was blessed with a son Nazareth and Pastor Emmanuel was ordained.

As soon as he arrived in Eshrefieh, Rev. Emmanuel embarked on a major project to build a church, a school and a manse. This bold project was completed fairly quickly thus creating a sanctuary for the congregation to worship in, classrooms for the school children and a two bedroom apartment for the pastor and his family to live in. Rev. Darakjian served both as Pastor of the church and Principal of the school while his wife Mary served as a teacher in the school as well as the church organist and choir director and led the weekly women’s worship service.

The family was blessed again with the births of a boy Hrair in 1957, and a daughter Suzy in 1966.

In 1966 the family moved to Lebanon where Rev. Emmanuel assumed the role of Principal at the Armenian Evangelical Shamlian Tatigian Secondary School in Nor Marash, Bourj Hammoud. In 1968, Rev. Darakjian received an invitation to serve as Pastor of the Assyrian Evangelical Church near Beirut on a part time basis, which gave him the opportunity to reenter N.E.S.T as a student one more time, and acquire the degree of Bachelor in Divinity, and a few years later the degree of Master in Divinity.

After the Lebanese civil war erupted, Rev. Darakjian left the Near East in 1975 and moved to the United States with his family settling in Chicago. There being no empty pulpits in the Armenian Evangelical churches in the U.S. at that time, Rev. Darakjian found a position as an editorial assistant at Commerce Clearing House, a company that published books for the legal profession. In Chicago he attended the Armenian Congregational Church and often participated in the service by preaching.

In 2015 Rev. Darakjian lost his lifetime partner Mary. He currently resides in Chicago with his daughter Suzy.

The Armenian Evangelical Church of Davoodieh, in Aleppo, Syria, was built with the efforts of Rev. Emmanuel Darakjian. In the late 1900s this Church was closed as there are no Armenians currently living nearby.
Առաջին տեսանկյունում տեսանել որ իրաքանի դարձած է եկեղեցին։ Այս իրաքան անդամը դառնայում է առանձին խորհուրդին։ Սակայն այս հաղորդության խորհուրդ-խորհրդանիշերն ու մեծ եկեղեցիի իսկական անդամը դառնում է տեսնել որ իրաքանի քրիստոնեայ ծնած մարդ

3. ՔԱՀԱՆԱՅՈՒԹԻՒՆ

Բոլոր եկեղեցիների հետ Աստուածաշունչ Մատեանը, իր Հին ու Նոր Ուխտերով։

1. ՀԵՂԻՆԱԿՈՒԹԻՒՆ

Բոլոր եկեղեցիների հետ հանդիպելու ժամանակ եկեղեցական խորհուրդները, ֆորմադրում ու համագործակցության խմբերը կառուցվում են որպես տիեզերական համակարգ։ Այդ համակարգը կազմված է երեխա-հարթության ծառայությունից, իրենց պաշտպանության կարգավորումից և երկիրական զորամասներից։ 

2. ԱՐՑԱԽԱԿԱՆՑ

Ֆորոյի ընդհանուր ենթակառուցում կազմված է երեխա-հարթության ծառայությունից, իրենց պաշտպանության կարգավորումից և երկիրական զորամասներից։ Այս համակարգը կազմված է երեխա-հարթության ծառայությունից, իրենց պաշտպանության կարգավորումից և երկիրական զորամասներից։
Հայ Ավետիք Եկեղեցին պաշտամունքի շարքին քավութեան եւ փրկութեան։

(...)

125-Ամեակի առիթով մէջ։

Ուրէմն խիստ անհրաժեշտ է որ եկեղեցին բեմը կ՚ըլլայ դատապարտութենէ։

հավատայ՝ կը ստանայ յաւիտենական կեանք, ու ազատ կենդանիներն ու մեռեալները, իսկ ամէն ով որ Անոր կողմը նստաւ, եւ օր մը դարձեալ պիտի գայ դատելու

Չափահաս Կիրակնօրեայ դասը կը յանձնենք մկրտուող-

7
On Sunday, January 17, in the early afternoon right after the Youth Group ended its Program following the Sunday Church Service, a mortar shell hit the roof of the Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church of Aleppo, causing serious structural damage. Thanks to God, there were no casualties or injuries reported.

The Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church of Aleppo, Syria, is one of the oldest Armenian Evangelical Churches. It was established in 1852 (in the old city), soon after the Armenian Evangelical Movement was founded in 1846. The current Church building was erected in 1923.

"The news is sad. But take heart. Thank God for the safety of our people. We WILL rebuild this House of God," said Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO.

Yes, I would like to help our brothers and sisters in Syria.

Enclosed is my gift of $__________

Name: ___________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

E-mail: ____________________________________________

Tel: ______________________________________________

(Make tax deductible donations to the Armenian Missionary Association of America earmarked for Syria Relief, and mail to 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652. To make a contribution with a credit/debit card, please call AMAA at 201.265.2607 or visit our website, www.amaa.org.)
On Friday, December 25, 2015, in a festive atmosphere, families from Emmanuel, Bethel, Martyrs' and Syriac churches of Aleppo, Syria, gathered in Bethel Church to celebrate Christmas in the Church’s Poladian Hall. The program started with welcoming words from Maria Boshgezenian as well as a greeting with a short message from Rev. Haroutune Selimian, President of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria. "The New Year brings new hope to our lives, the hope that something will change for the better. As the old year comes to an end and the New Year unfolds, we will thus feel renewed with new hope and promises of something good and beautiful things to come," said Rev. Selimian.

The celebration reached its climax when Santa Claus arrived, and with the financial support of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) distributed gifts of pajamas to family members. At the conclusion of the event Sona Keosgherian, on behalf of the Armenian Evangelical Social Action Committee, thanked Rev. Selimian for his steadfast support to the Armenian Community in Syria.

The following day, Rev. Selimian, along with Pastor Simon Der Sahagian and some members of the Church, visited the Armenian Old People’s Home at "Gulbenkian Hospital" in Nor Kyugh, Aleppo. Rev. Selimian warmly greeted the residents of the Home and with his encouraging words wished them a Blessed Christmas and a healthy and peaceful year. With the financial support of the AMAA, gifts were distributed to the elderly.

The same day, Rev. Selimian along with a few members of the Church also visited the Armenian Orphanage in Nor Kyugh. In attendance were the Board of Trustees of the Orphanage and the children of people martyred during the Syrian Civil war. During the meeting Rev. Selimian thanked the Board members for their devoted service and care toward these orphans and distributed gifts which were made possible through the support of the AMAA.
Ever since the start of the crisis in Syria, many Armenian families have fled to Lebanon and other countries to avoid the atrocities of the ongoing war. Several of these families have applied for immigration to Canada.

The First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal is collaborating with the "Hay Doun" organization in conjunction with the Canadian Government to obtain immigration rights for the Syrian refugees. To date, 800 such families have arrived in Montreal, and another 800 are expected to arrive in the coming months at an approximate rate of 150 families per month.

In most cases, these families have spent most of their finances on their travel to Lebanon and other countries, and by the time they have arrived in Montreal, they are left almost without any financial resources. Some refugees have relatives in Canada who greet them, provide for them and ultimately help them to integrate.

The First Armenian Evangelical Church has been helping those families who have no local relatives. The Church welcomes them; offers moral, spiritual and psychological support; provides temporary housing in the Church complex or at homes of families within the Church and the Armenian community at large; pays for hotel rooms; orients the families to integrate in the city life, such as administrative support, transportation, schooling, learning the language, finding jobs, finding affordable housing and in some cases providing the rent of initial months; and provides basic furnishings and warm clothing.

The Church needs our prayers and continued support for this ministry in order to continue touching the lives of these refugees, not only to meet their physical needs, but to uplift their spirits through the light of the Gospel.

Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40
In September of 2015, Haik Tevoyan, a soldier guarding the borders of Armenia in the Tavush Province was killed by a sniper.

President Serzh Sargsyan of the Republic of Armenia posthumously awarded the Military Medal to Haik for courageously protecting the borders of the Motherland.

Haik Tevoyan’s family lives in vulnerable conditions in the village of Norashen, in the Aragatsotn Province of Armenia. Their income is at the minimum poverty wage. Haik has five children, three of whom are minors.

When the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) became aware of the situation of the Tevoyan family, the poor condition of their half-built home, and the fact that they do not own enough cattle to provide nutrition and income (in addition to a few sheep, which are kept in the yard), it embarked on the renovation and repair of their home.

During the renovation, AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian, who was in Armenia at the time, visited the Tevoyan family with other AMAA representatives, and brought some urgent necessities for the family members. After examining the dilapidated home and the condition of the family, Mr. Khanjian said, “The AMAA will keep the warmth of this hearth. We will do our utmost to offer Haik’s wife and his children hope for a better future.”

The AMAA recognizes the daily struggle of border village life in Armenia. Constantly bombarded by sniper fire, the people in border villages face life and death decisions among their daily routines. In order to help these people, the AMAA has been actively involved in bettering the quality of life in border villages. Among many other projects, last year, with the cooperation of AMA-Australia, the AMAA also helped build a new playground in Choratan, a border village. Projects such as these help improve the quality of life in such a difficult situation.
Most people remember how they waited for Christmas and New Year’s celebrations during their childhood. These holidays were filled with laughter, joy and songs. They anxiously waited for the arrival of Santa and the Christmas gifts. They slowly opened their Christmas gift boxes to see what kind of surprise was waiting for them.

Sometimes people indulge in their everyday life and forget to offer children the gift of true Christmas celebration. The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Evangelical Church of Armenia, however, have not forgotten the children in Armenia and Karabagh during the Christmas season for over 30 years.

During the 2015-2016 Christmas season, in more than 40 towns and cities in Armenia and Karabagh, Christmas and New Year’s Programs were organized in the final days of December until the end of winter vacation for children, teens and their parents. Through these programs they shared God’s love and “Christmas Joy” was brought to thousands of children and their families. The real message of Christmas was proclaimed through music, recitations, games and drama with the children presenting Christ’s birth and conveying the meaning and importance of this birth, and by telling about the plan of God’s salvation. Each program included a special visit from Santa distributing “Christmas Joy” boxes of school supplies, socks, candy, toys, Christmas story activity booklets, puzzles, and coloring books.

The highlight of these Programs took place at the AMAA Center in Yerevan on January 8 and 9 for more than 1,500 children and their parents. Four presentations of a beautiful and exciting drama by Hayasa Theatrical group entitled “The Giver of Joy” were staged and directed by Nune Abrahamyan.

On behalf of the AMAA and of thousands of participating children, we thank those who prayed for and contributed toward these Christmas programs. We are also very appreciative of all the volunteers who joyfully participated in the process of assembling the "Christmas Joy" boxes. And most importantly, we praise God for enabling us all to reach out to these children with the love of Jesus Christ.

The AMAA would especially like to thank Nelson Randolph and Al Jibilian who coordinated the purchasing and shipping of the Christmas Joy boxes from the United States to Armenia. Mr. Jibilian even traveled to Armenia with volunteers to assist with assembling and packing the boxes. Since their involvement over the last few years, the Christmas Joy Program has strengthened and continues to grow.
L to R: David Aynejian, AMAA Director of Finance, Al Jibilian and Nelson Randolph.
Berj and Annie Chekijian of Belmont, MA Host Reception for AMAA

On Saturday, January 16, 2016 the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) held a reception graciously hosted by Berj and Annie Chekijian of Belmont, MA. Over fifty guests gathered in fellowship and good spirits to view a video presentation and hear updates on the happenings and operations of the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School in Yerevan, Armenia.

AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian began his presentation by placing the success of the School in context with the AMAA’s long history of moving education forward as one of its primary missions throughout the world.

The School’s benefactor Edward Avedisian and Armenia Tree Project (ATP) Executive Director Jeanmarie Papelian highlighted numerous ways the School benefits Armenia beyond offering a fine education. The School serves a major extracurricular, social and community function to the deprived Malatia-Sebastia district of Yerevan, in addition to working with numerous partner organizations such as the ATP.

The original Avedisian School was founded in 1999 as a tuition-free kindergarten. In September 2014, the doors opened to the new Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School and Community Center complex, in the presence of Republic of Armenia President Serzh Sargsyan and various leaders of the AMAA. It is the first LEED-certified school building in Armenia and the Caucasus. The complex includes: a primary school in the Krikor and Beatrice Bilezikian Building; Kindergarten, Middle and High Schools; athletic facilities including a soccer field; and a Community Center.

The AMAA held this reception to highlight the importance of upholding the passionate spirit which resonates throughout the administration, faculty and students of this fine institution. The AMAA thanks the Chekijians for graciously opening their home and their hearts to host this reception in support of the Avedisian School.

Various giving opportunities are available to support the School and to leave a lasting legacy which will benefit Armenian students for years to come. If you would like to host a reception in support of an AMAA program and activity, please contact Magda Poulos, Director of Annual Giving for the AMAA. For more information, you may visit www.amaa.org or call the AMAA at 201.265.2607.

Berj Chekijian welcomes guests to his home.

Edward Avedisian addresses the guests.

Dr. Robert Mirak and Edward Avedisian.

Avedisian School students.
Holding charity events has become a nice tradition at the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School and Community Center in Yerevan. Special attention is typically paid to pregnant teachers who work in the Malatia-Sebastia School District. They are invited to various events organized by the Avedisian School and Community Center and often leave with various gifts for their newborns.

Over 22 pregnant teachers as well as employees of educational departments from the Malatia-Sebastia community were recently invited to the Avedisian School and Community Center for a special event which included the viewing of a film on the proper care of newborns, and a special presentation to these mothers by the School’s administration of blankets and hats for their newborns.

These special gifts were not chosen by chance. They are a direct result of the Stitched With Love initiative of presenting Armenian newborns with hats and blankets by the AMAA Stitched With Love program, which is spearheaded by Betty Cherkezian of New Jersey.

Avedisian School Hosts Bridges Instead of Walls Book Presentation

On December 8, Yerevan State University Language Professor Serob Khachatryan held a presentation on his book, "Bridges Instead of Walls," at the Avedisian School in Yerevan.

Professor Khachatryan, a well-known expert in the field of educational systems in the Republic of Armenia, spoke about major issues in the education system and how to change from walls created by an education system to building bridges between children and knowledge. He presented some practical steps that will help teachers and students get closer by constructing bridges that will unite them.

The presentation was attended by faculty members from the Avedisian School and the Malatia-Sebastia District schools. Following the program, all of the teachers took part in the book discussion.
The Commemorative event, which was organized by the Armenian Missionary Association of Armenia (AMAA), was held on Friday, December 4, 7:00 pm, at the AMAA Center on Baghramyan Street in Yerevan, Armenia. Among the guests were representatives of various organizations, journalists, students and teachers from Janbazian School #79, Louisa Janbazian, wife of Rev. Janbazian, as well as past and present pastors and employees of the AMAA.

The Commemorative event started with the presentation of "Man of Vision with a Mission" video, dedicated to Rev. Dr. Movses Janbazian, which was prepared for one of the programs of Public TV of Armenia. The talented students of Janbazian School #79 participated presenting in music and recitations the life of Rev. Dr. Janbazian. The Keynote Speaker was Harout Nercessian, AMAA Representative in Armenia. Special remarks were presented by the Co-Chair of Musa Dagh Patriotic Union Isaiah Chakhmakchyan and the President of the Union of Evangelical Churches in Eurasia Rev. Dr. René Leonian (video). AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian's letter addressed to the Janbazian family was also read. Soloist Marietta Andonian presented a few musical selections, some of which were favorites of Rev. Janbazian.

All the speakers unanimously indicated that Rev. Janbazian’s life, his patriotic activities, his dedication and service for the spiritual progress of his homeland are immeasurable, especially after the catastrophic 1988 earthquake in Armenia, when through his vision and efforts, he was able to make the critical needs of Armenia an overriding concern of the AMAA. The speakers also noted all the programs of AMA-Armenia that started during his time are still in place 25 years later, both in Armenia and Karabagh.
AMAA's 8th Medical Mission to Armenia

The AMAA's Medical Mission Team is already preparing for their 8th Annual trip to Armenia which this year will take place June 16-26, 2016. Some of the medicine and medical supplies are already on their way to Armenia.

Each year the clinics are held at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Vanadzor and the AMAA Social Service Center in Stepanavan, where the classrooms are converted into doctors' offices. Patients hear of the arrival of the Medical Mission team weeks earlier with radio advertisements and come from many different walks of life. Patients are also bussed into the clinic from the surrounding villages.

This year's forty member team includes doctors, physician assistants, a pharmacist, chiropractor, nurses, and medical and nursing students. One does not need to be in the healthcare field to be involved in this mission. In fact, the majority of the team members are not medically trained and they are essential to the success. The only thing that is asked that the team members come with servant's heart ready to touch and serve the sick and needy.

As the mission statement states, the purpose of the Medical Mission is "to go and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ by serving the physical needs of our Armenian brothers and sisters. With the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are called to serve those in need of God’s love through medical service, health education, and the preaching of the Gospel."

For more information you may visit the Armenia Medical Mission Page on AMAA’s website at amaa.org or e-mail Dr. Albert Phillips at AMAAArmeniaMedicalMission@gmail.com or call 818.952.1141.

AMAA Board Member Ann R. Karagozian Receives UCLA Appointment

AMAA Board Member Dr. Ann R. Karagozian Sarafian, a mechanical and aerospace engineering Professor at the Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science at UCLA, has been appointed as UCLA’s Interim Vice Chancellor for Research. Ann has been a UCLA faculty member since 1982 and serves as head of UCLA's Energy and Propulsion Research Laboratory, which focuses on energy research and education. She also acts as Director of the Collaborative Center for Aerospace Sciences, a collaboration between the Air Force Research Laboratory and UCLA that focuses on aerospace systems research. Previously, Ann served as Chair of the Academic Senate and the Faculty Executive Committee.

Ann received her Ph.D. and M.S. in mechanical engineering from the California Institute of Technology and a B.S. summa cum laude in Engineering from UCLA. She is the recipient of many honors, including the Air Force Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service, UCLA MAE Department Award for Outstanding Teaching and TRW-UCLA Excellence in Teaching Award. She is a Fellow of the American Physical Society, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and has delivered numerous distinguished lectures at conferences and universities worldwide.

The AMAA would like to extend its sincerest congratulations to Dr. Karagozian on her appointment and wish her continued success in carrying out her new responsibilities.
When *Stitched with Love* began two years ago we could not have imagined the outpouring of love and support that would come so quickly and generously from across the United States. To date, nearly 3,000 knit and crocheted items have been distributed to children throughout Armenia.

The joy and gratitude shown on the faces of the recipients in photos we receive and the expressions of thanks in letters to us are evidence of the impact from your love and support. We all know the joy and satisfaction of giving and sharing our abundance with others. But for those of you who knit and crochet *Stitched with Love* items, you may not be aware of the added benefits you may enjoy from creating the items for our cause.

An article that appeared in the *New York Times* Personal Health Section on January 25, 2016 by Jane E Brody entitled "The Health Benefits of Knitting" covers this in detail. Here is a portion of the article which I would like to share with you.

"Last April, the Yarn Craft Council created a "Stitched Away Stress" campaign in honor of National Stress Awareness Month. Dr. Herbert Benson, a pioneer in mind-body medicine and author of "The Relaxation Response," says that the repetitive action of needlework can induce a relaxed state like that associated with meditation and yoga. Once you get beyond the initial learning curve, knitting and crocheting can lower heart rate and blood pressure and reduce harmful blood levels of the stress hormone cortisol. But unlike meditation, craft activities result in tangible and often useful products that can enhance self-esteem...

Since the 1990s, the Council has surveyed hundreds of thousands of knitters and crocheters, who routinely list stress relief and creative fulfillment as the activities' main benefits...

Some people find that craftwork helps them control their weight. Just as it is challenging to smoke while knitting, when hands are holding needles and hooks, there’s less snacking and mindless eating out of boredom.

I’ve found that my handiwork with yarn had helped my arthritic fingers remain more dexterous as I age. A woman encouraged to try knitting and crocheting after developing an autoimmune disease that caused a lot of hand pain reported on the Craft Yarn Council site that her hands are now less stiff and painful...

Perhaps most exciting is research that suggests that crafts like knitting and crocheting may help to stave off a decline in brain function with age... The study, published in the Journal of Neuropsychiatry & Clinical Neurosciences, found that those who engaged in crafts like knitting and crocheting had a diminished chance of developing mild cognitive impairment and memory loss...The researchers speculate that crafts promote the development of neural pathways in the brain that help to maintain cognitive health."

So if you knitters and crocheters are wondering why you are so happy, stress-free, and still have great memories… wonder no more! Just keep knitting and crocheting for us.

If you wish to read the whole article, please google the *New York Times* http://wellblogs.njtimes.com/2016/01/25/the-health-benefits-of-knitting/.

Thank you again for your continuing support of *Stitched with Love*. We love receiving your gifts.

If you have any questions, please email Stitchedbc@gmail.com. Please mail all knitted and crocheted items to: Betty Cherkezian, c/o "Stitched with Love" 16 Barbara Drive, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632.
Save The Date

TOUR
TO
ARMENIA

Organized by the AMAA on the Occasion of the 170th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church and the 25th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Armenia

SEPTEMBER 18-28, 2016
WITNESS AND EXPERIENCE AMAA’S MISSION AND SEE HOW LIVES ARE TOUCHED

TOUR SCHEDULE
DETAILED SCHEDULE TO FOLLOW

AMAA Centers including the dedication of the Dilijan Center
Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School and Community Center
AMAA’s Sheen Shoghik Camp in Hankavan
Celebration of the 170th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church
Yerevan City Tour and major historical sites in the Homeland

FOR RESERVATION OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL THE AMAA OFFICE AT 201.265.2607 OR E-MAIL: INFO@AMAA.ORG
The Best of Christmas Holiday Concert

Organized by Co-chairs Anita Buchakjian and Seta Nalbandian, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) presented "The Best of Christmas" Holiday Concert on December 4, which was held at the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus, NJ to ring in the Christmas season.

In the beautifully decorated sanctuary, cherished Christmas carols, such as "Silent Night," "O Holy Night" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" were included in the program which was filled with other classics, all of which were spectacularly performed by Mezzo-Soprano Solange Merdinian, Soprano Zovinar Aghavian, Soprano Anoosh Barclay, Tenor Gregory Loshkajian and Riko Higuma on piano. A highlight of the evening was the Sipan Armenian School Chorus singing some all-time favorites such as "Arachin Dzenoonte" (The First Noel), "Nor Dari" (New Year) and "Tzouynin Mechen" (Through the Snow). The evening ended on a high note with everyone on their feet proclaiming "Joy to the World" in anticipation of celebrating the joy and beauty of Christ’s birth.

All donations received from this special Concert benefitted AMAA’s Christmas Joy Program. Since the early 1990s, the AMAA and the Evangelical Church of Armenia have been organizing Christmas Programs in Armenia and Karabagh to share God’s love and bring Christmas joy to thousands of children.

AMAA calls for the return of the total grounds of CAMP ARMEN

On October 27, 2015 partial justice was realized in Turkey with the return of part of the grounds of "The Youth Home of Istanbul's" CAMP ARMEN, a summer camp in the Tuzla District of Istanbul to its rightful owner, The Armenian Evangelical Church of Gedik Paşa. CAMP ARMEN was home to over 1,500 Armenian orphans, gathered from the depths of Anatolia and introduced to their faith and national origin by Hrant Guzelian. It was also where Armenian-Turkish journalist Hrant Dink and his wife Rakel met, grew up and were married. The Camp was being demolished.

AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian recently wrote to Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, thanking him and the Turkish government for their role in the partial resolution of the seizure of CAMP ARMEN. Mr. Khanjian urged the Prime Minister to attain total justice with the return of the whole camp grounds, legally acquired and paid for by the Protestant Church and built by the sweat of its campers. (See Mr. Khanjian's letter on the following page)
December 9, 2015

Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu
Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey
c/o The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey
2525 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Prime Minister Davutoğlu:

On behalf of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, I am writing to congratulate you on your recent re-election as Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey. We join with your many supporters and the people of Turkey to wish you a successful and productive term in office.

I am also writing to thank you and the Turkish government for your critical help and partial resolution to return the property of Camp Armen in the Tuzla District of Istanbul to its rightful owners, the Gedik Paşa Armenian Evangelical Church of Istanbul.

Dear Prime Minister, we have come to understand that only a segment of the Camp has been deeded to the Church, while the remaining grounds which Hrant Dink and his fellow youth converted to an “Atlantis,” remains to be deeded.

In order for justice to be complete and the Camp to be functional, we urge you to seek the return of the whole grounds, legally acquired and paid for by the Protestant Church and built by the sweat of the campers, to its rightful owners – the Armenian Protestant Church of Istanbul of Gedik Paşa.

With the return of the whole grounds, justice will be served for this historically significant and beloved Camp where 1,500 Armenian orphans gathered from the depths of Anatolia following the war and where Armenian-Turkish journalist Hrant Dink and his wife, Rakel, met, grew up and were married. It is an important part of a very meaningful chapter in our history. Thank you in advance for your continued intervention and immediate resolution of this matter!

The Armenian Missionary Association of America, founded in 1908, is totally committed to continue helping Camp Armen with our mission of educating the Armenian children in their faith and ethnicity. The Armenian Missionary Association of America operates, funds, and supports their beautiful smiles, radiating faces, glowing confidence, and gleeful spirits. These children are our pride, our hope and our future!

May the Lord continue to bless you and your family for your leadership and courage in this beautiful but complex world we live in.

Sincerely,

Zaven Khanjian
Executive Director/CEO
AMAA Executive Director/CEO Visits the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Havertown, PA

You are the first church I am visiting for a second AMAA Sunday!" Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian set a warm and friendly tone in his sermon at the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, Havertown, PA, on January 31. He and Mrs. Khanjian had opportunities to visit and dialogue with church members and explain the great challenges as well as the great opportunities to do the Lord's work in the many places, where the AMAA has a presence.

In addition to Mr. Khanjian's video presentation and talk during the luncheon, the Missions Committee co-chairs presented the Church's child sponsorship check, a knitter from the congregation presented a box of hats for Stitched with Love, and Al Jibilian informed the Church members about the "Christmas Joy" project.

AMAA Board members Eileen Stephey and Tom Momjian from the Havertown church are co-chairing the local planning committee that is preparing to host the 97th AMAA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

Save the Date
PHILADELPHIA, PA 10/22
AMAA 97th Annual Meeting & Banquet
AMAA Executive Director/CEO Visits the Armenian Evangelical Church of Cranston, RI

On January 17, 2016, Zaven Khanjian, the Executive Director/CEO of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), joined the congregation of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Cranston, RI on his first ever visit to our community. He preached a message of Mission and outreach. He also spoke at a luncheon after church about the mission and ministry of the AMAA.

During a period of questions and answers, those gathered had an opportunity to ask many questions. There was much interest in particular about recent developments and the AMAA’s outreach and ministry to Syria.

The Armenian Evangelical Church moved into the new building in Cranston five years ago with the support of the AMAA. The pastor, Reverend Dr. Ara Heghinian has been ministering the Church for the past three years. The congregation has been involved in the ministry of the AMAA for many generations, and this visit from Mr. Khanjian marks the continuation of an ongoing partnership that will continue for many generations to come.

Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church of Pasadena, CA Holds Valentine Luncheon and Raises Funds for AMAA’s Syria Relief

On the occasion of Valentine’s Day and utilizing the presence of Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, the Executive Director of the Armenian Evangelical World Council, the Mission and Outreach Committee of the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church of Pasadena, CA organized a luncheon and a cultural program on Sunday, February 21, 2016, to raise funds for Syrian Armenians.

Since the luncheon was sponsored by Anahis Boolghoorjian and Armen Aroyan, the entire proceeds of the donations, totaling $2,705, was sent to AMAA to assist in its efforts in reaching out to the disaster-stricken Armenians of Syria.

Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian was also the guest speaker during the morning worship service. He preached both in English and Armenian. Both were powerful messages with the theme of LOVE.
Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, AMAA Field Director and Pastor to Pastors in Armenia, made visits to three Armenian Evangelical Churches in the United States.

On December 13, 2015, he was invited to preach and be part of the Advent Season Sunday Worship Service at the Armenian Congregational Church of Detroit. He presented information about AMAA’s ministries around the world including the building of two new church facilities in Armenia and the support being provided to Syrian-Armenians. Rev. Shant Barsoumian offered a prayer for Rev. Melkonian and the important work of the AMAA.

On Sunday, January 10, 2016, Rev. Melkonian preached at the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church in San Francisco. He also met with members of the Mission Committee and introduced them to their sister church in Armavir and the churches in Alaverdi and Aintab.

Rev. Melkonian traveled to Chicago on January 17, 2016 and worshipped with members of the Armenian Evangelical Church. He presented the AMAA video and spoke about the urgent needs in Syria as well as other AMAA ministries. ❖

Some members of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Mount Prospect, IL.

Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian visits John (Janig) and Arpi Halebian in San Francisco, CA.

L to R: Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian and Rev. Shant Barsoumian.

Fellowship hour at the Armenian Congregational Church of Detroit, MI.
Marie Viducich, Executive Assistant/Office Manager

Marie Viducich, Executive Assistant/Office Manager, celebrated her 10th anniversary with the AMAA in January. During this time, her organizational skills, attention to detail, and experience in all facets of office management have kept the AMAA running smoothly and efficiently. She lovingly calls the AMAA her second home!

Prior to joining the AMAA, Marie was a successful business owner specializing in travel and tourism for over 25 years. This experience and her own extensive travel have helped her make travel arrangements all over the world for AMAA executives and Board members.

As Office Manager, Marie’s responsibilities include maintaining daily operations, such as the phones, copy machines, office supplies and mail, establishing office procedures, reviewing contracts from vendors, handling correspondence to donors, in-kind donations, tribute and memorial cards, container shipments to Armenia – and the list goes on. She also supports the Finance Director, coordinates the Annual Meeting and Board and Committee Meetings throughout the year.

Marie is very proud of her long marriage to husband Peter, and of her three grown children and six wonderful grandchildren. She loves to travel almost as much as she loves driving her red VW Beetle all around Bergen County! In her spare time, Marie has been very involved for many years in her church ministries as well as her local Kiwanis Club, saving cancelled stamps to support a nursery and hospital in the West Indies, and helping her friends, family and members of her community in any way she can.

Meet our Staff at AMAA

Marie Viducich, Executive Assistant/Office Manager

On February 12, AMAA’s Finance Director David Aynejian visited Barnegat High School in Barnegat, NJ to discuss the Armenian Genocide with their Genocide & Holocaust Studies class. The class is taught by Lesley-Ann Thomson, who had reached out to the AMAA. During the presentation, David walked the students through Armenia’s history, primarily focusing on how Armenia’s Christian faith played a strong part in her history. This led to discussion of the various factors that led to the Genocide, the carrying out of the Genocide and the effects of the Genocide on Armenia, Armenians and the Diaspora today.

The students also had prepared some questions ahead of time, which were addressed during and after the presentation. "This was a great opportunity to speak with some young people about the Armenian Genocide, as well as its effects on other cultures and people throughout the world. It was also great to hear questions the students came up with. It shows me that they’re being taught and learning a lot,” said David. The students sent thank you notes to the AMAA the following week, many of which addressed what they learned during the lecture.

Thank you to Ms. Thomson and her class for the opportunity to share a little of Armenia’s rich culture and heritage with them.

Lesly-Ann Thomson and David Aynejian.

Students at Barnegat High School participate in lecture about the Armenian Genocide.

AMAA Finance Director Speaks to High School Class on Armenian Genocide

Lesly-Ann Thomson and David Aynejian.

Students at Barnegat High School participate in lecture about the Armenian Genocide.

Thank you to Ms. Thomson and her class for the opportunity to share a little of Armenia’s rich culture and heritage with them.

Meet our Staff at AMAA

Marie Viducich, Executive Assistant/Office Manager

On February 12, AMAA’s Finance Director David Aynejian visited Barnegat High School in Barnegat, NJ to discuss the Armenian Genocide with their Genocide & Holocaust Studies class. The class is taught by Lesley-Ann Thomson, who had reached out to the AMAA. During the presentation, David walked the students through Armenia’s history, primarily focusing on how Armenia’s Christian faith played a strong part in her history. This led to discussion of the various factors that led to the Genocide, the carrying out of the Genocide and the effects of the Genocide on Armenia, Armenians and the Diaspora today.

The students also had prepared some questions ahead of time, which were addressed during and after the presentation. "This was a great opportunity to speak with some young people about the Armenian Genocide, as well as its effects on other cultures and people throughout the world. It was also great to hear questions the students came up with. It shows me that they’re being taught and learning a lot,” said David. The students sent thank you notes to the AMAA the following week, many of which addressed what they learned during the lecture.

Thank you to Ms. Thomson and her class for the opportunity to share a little of Armenia’s rich culture and heritage with them.
Merdinian School to Dedicate the New Bezjian Family Building

In 1982, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America jointly founded the Armenian Evangelical Schools of California, Inc. In 1986, a generous donation from Charlotte and Elise Merdinian sisters enabled the School to acquire its present campus in Sherman Oaks, CA and the School was renamed the Charlotte & Elise Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School.

In 2012, Mr. Albert and Mrs. Terry Bezjian made a generous donation of one million dollars to the School for the purpose of replacing an old, one story building on campus with a new, two story building to meet the ongoing needs of the School. The new building will house the library, science lab, art room, five classrooms, and an office for the athletic coach and boys’ changing room. It is targeted for completion in May 2016.

The dedication of the Bezjian Family Building will take place during the School’s 34th Anniversary Banquet scheduled to be held on Sunday, May 15 on the School’s premises. AMAA Board members and supporters of Merdinian School are urged to attend this gala event for an enjoyable evening, good food and fellowship.

Bishop Mouradian of Armenian Catholic Eparchy of US and Canada Visits AMAA

On Thursday, February 11, Bishop Mikael Mouradian, Bishop of the Armenian Catholic Eparchy of the United States and Canada, paid a visit to the AMAA Headquarters in Paramus, NJ accompanied by Nurhan Becidyan, a member of the Armenian Catholic Church and a friend of the AMAA. Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO, and Nurhan Helvacian, AMAA Board member, welcomed the Bishop and thanked him for this gracious visit coupled with his good wishes and prayers. Under the astute and caring leadership of Bishop Mouradian, the AMAA wishes brighter days to the Armenian Catholic Eparchy of the United States and Canada in the service of our Lord, Jesus Christ and the well being of our people around the globe.
In the first week of the New Year 2016, the Armenian Heritage Committee of Greater Detroit released the 38th book of Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian entitled Observances and Observations/Doner Yev Nshmarner. This hard cover bilingual volume consists of 158 pages and is comprised of 26 English and 15 Armenian articles and essays dealing with religious, social, theological and Armenian subjects.

The author has dedicated this book to the church of his birthplace, Emmanuel Armenian Evangelical Church of Ekiz-Olouk, Kessab (Syria), where he received his early Christian education.

In this book, the author tackles tough questions that relate to our existence and does not shy away from giving Biblical answers to the problems that we encounter. He deals with the "why" type of questions that people with inquisitive minds often raise, such as: Why do we commemorate certain religious, national and ethnic holy days and holidays? (pp. 14-40); Why do people pay "lip service" to their Creator and to their fellow creatures rather than paying "heart service?" (pp. 48-51); Why are some people, especially professionals, jealous of one another, and how do they cure this deadly sin? (pp. 58-60); Why do people drift with the crowd? (p. 61); Why do people make some unimportant matters seem important? (p.75); Why is the Armenian culture so vital for the Armenians? (pp.128-130). The author analyses these and similar questions and provides answers from a Christian perspective.

What I particularly like about the book Observances and Observations is its immense depth. Every paragraph contains words of wisdom, and every sentence needs to be read carefully to be fully comprehended.

What makes this volume valuable is its candid discussions about society, about life, about those things that are deep within us that cause us to groan and laugh, reflect and ponder, and most of all, never to give up hope. It is well-written and reflects the author’s empathy with our dilemmas and aspirations.

I highly recommend the reading of this book to all those who, in an age of uncertainty, are looking for a firm foundation for their lives; for those who, in a time of confusion, want to retain clarity of mind; and for those who, in a period of doubt, want to cling to the enduring truths of the Gospel.

This hard cover bilingual book may be obtained for $30.00 from the Armenian Heritage Committee, 3922 Yorba Linda Blvd. Royal Oak, MI 48973.

By Rev. George Kevork Terian

Emmanuel Armenian Evangelical Church, Ekiz-Olouk, Kessab
ՅՈՒՇԱՄԱՏԵԱՆ
Հալէպի Հայ Ավետարանական Էմմանուէլ Թաթուակ Հեղինակ
Զարդարան Պատմություն
894 էջ (24x17)
Տպարան՝ Ոսկետառ
Հալէպ, 2015
Եսին Երիքին Նորն

Այսօրոք ոչ միայն երեխաների կանխատեսության համար պետք է ներկայացնել Արարատյան Արտաքին Կողմերի Եկեղեցիների Կիրառական Ճանապարհը։

Հայկ Ավետիսյան
(Byteswall հերոս)
Սասունցի Դավիթ » Քաջ Նազար » Կաթիլ Մը Մեղր» գրական գլխի գործոցի հեղինակ Հրանդ անսահման կարեւությունը և միտք բանին:

Կենդանիների, մարդկանց ու բոյսերի մեր աշխարհը, ահա երկինը ու մարդկութեանը միայն ի բաց է հանում կենդանիների և հեղինակ Հովհաննէս Թումանեանի մասին այսպէս «Սասունցի Դավիթ»ի, «Քաջ Նազար»ի, «Կաթիլ Մը Մեղր»ի մեր սարերը»:
Հայրենիքի Վերջի Խոկումներ

Ա. ՀԱՅՐԵՆԻՔ

2016-ին մեր հայրենիքը կը բոլորէ իր անկախութեան քսանհինգ ամեակը: Հակառակ բոլոր յառաջդիմութեան, հակառակ բոլոր մարդկային եւ նիւթական զոհողութիւններ, հակառակ բոլոր երազներուն եւ տեսիլքին, այսօր մեր հայրենիքը հոն չէ ուր մենք հավաքաբար կ՚ուզէինք որ ըլլար: Կասկած չկայ թէ Արցախեան ազատագրական պայքարը եւ պատմական յաղթանակը, դարերէ իվեր մեզի զլացուած եւ միայն երազուած հպարտութիւն առթող իրականութիւն է: Փառք եւ պատիւ Արցախեան հերոսամարտը իրենց արիւնով եւ կեանքով կերտած բոլոր ազատամարտիկներուն: Հոն իսկ սակայն տակաւին խարսխուած չէ յաղթանակը եւ թշնամին ամէն օր իր վայրագ թափանցումներով նոր կեանք կը հնձէ ճակատներու վրայ: Ընկերային եւ տնտեսական ապահովութիւնը անբավարար մակարդակի վրայ է իսկ արդարութեան նշաձողը անընդունելիօրէն ցած: Հայաթափումը կը շարունակուի իսկ «դէպի երկիր» լոզունգը կը մնայ անլսելիօրէն ղօղանջելի:

Հայրենիքը տակաւին հեռու կը մնայ ինքնաբավ, ինքնանկախ, եւ աճող ըլլալէ: Այս կացութեան մէջ գտնուող հայրենիքը անտարակոյս կը կարօտի մեր բոլորի լուսարձակին տակ ըլլալու անհրաժեշտութեան:

Բոլորս պատասխանատու ենք այս վիճակին եւ բոլորիս պատասխանատուութիւնն է ամէն գնով տքնիլ եւ ճգնիլ այս վիճակէն դուրս գալու համար:
Ամուսնության նպատակ ունենք Յիսուս Քրիստոսի մայրն էր, Մարիամը։ Նա հոգաց Յիսուսին որովհետև Յիսուսի հարցին վերապատրաստակ է, հարցին իրականացնելու համար Մարիամը տալիս է։ Յիսուսի սպասարկության մեջ նրա նշանակությունը առանց որևէ մատակարարի զգացումի առաջարկության է։ Յիսուսի հարցին հարց է։ Մարիամը ուղղակիորեն նշանակում է որ Յիսուսի իմացության և ամենաբարենքային հարցում Մարիամն իրականացնելու համար։
BOOKS

**THE ARMENIAN ANSWER TO THE ARMENIAN QUESTION**, by Richard Melikian. *This book is not about the past. It is about the future.* pb #CO355 ........................................ $12.00


**ARMENIAN CHRISTIANITY - THE FAITH OF A NATION**, by Rev. Dr. Aharon Sapsezian, *A historical look at Christianity in the Armenian culture.* pb #252 ........................................ $10.00


**THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL WORLD COUNCIL**, by Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootkian, *A Bilingual Book, is the History of the Armenian Evangelical World Council from its inception in 1978 through the year 2014*. pp. 397, hc #CO356 ........................................ $35.00

**THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE**, Compiled and edited by Wolfgang Gust. *Evidence from the German Foreign Office Archives, 1915-1916*. 800 pp, hc #349 ........................................ $75.00

**ARMENIAN NEEDLELACE & EMBROIDERY**, by Alice Odian Kasparian, *A photographic collection of more than 100 priceless specimens* (a third in color), 127 pp, hc #120 ........................................ $15.00

**THE BENEFITS & CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH TO THE ARMENIAN NATION**, by Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootkian, hc #295 ........................................ $20.00

**BLESSINGS IN BITTER CUPS**, by Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopyarian. *A triumphant story of a small clan of successful working class Armenians living in Turkey just prior to World War I*. hc #305 ........................................ $20.00

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF ARMENIA**, by Rev. Sarkis Papajian, 134 pp, pb #140 ........................................ $5.00

**CLAWS OF THE CRAB: GEORGIA AND ARMENIA IN CRISIS**, by Stephen Brook, 354 pp, hc #237 ........................................ $25.00

**DAYS OF TRAGEDY IN ARMENIA**, by Henry H. Rigs. *An American Missionary born in Ottoman Empire, gives a first hand account of events in Kharbert during the Genocide, 220 pp, pb #267* $25.00

**ESCAPE TO MUSA DAGH OR THE BANISHMENT OF ZEITOUN AND SUEDE’S REVOLT**, by Rev. D. Antreassian, 74 pp, pb #259 ........................................ $7.00

**ARMENIAN EVANGELICALS’ CHALLENGE TO RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM: The Growing Influence of Fundamentalism in Armenian Evangelical Churches**, by Dr. Arthur Salibian. pb #361 ........................................ $8.00

**I SHALL NOT DIE**, By Rev. Nerses Sarian. *The personal accounts of Rev. Sarian’s survival story during the Armenian Genocide* 156 pp, pb #347 ........................................ $12.00

**THE HERITAGE OF ARMENIAN LITERATURE, VOLUME I, From the Oral Tradition to the Golden Age 388 pp, hc #288 ........................................ $35.00

**THE MARTYRED ARMENIAN WRITERS 1915-1922: AN ANTHOLOGY**, By Herand M. Markarian, 250 pp, pb. #362C ........................................ $30.00

**MUSA DAGH GIRL** *Daughter of Armenian Genocide Survivors*, the author tells of her loving upbringing against a dark historical background. 548 pp, #348 ........................................ $30.00

**NEITHER TO LAUGH NOR TO WEEP**, by Rev. Abraham Hartunian. *A Memoir of the Armenian Genocide* #56c ........................................ $12.95

**IN OTHER WORDS**, by Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji. *A variety of selected sermons*. #310 ........................................ $20.00

**SHOWERS OF GRACE**, by Arousiag Tovmassian Missirlian. *A Memoir of God’s abundant blessings throughout a lifetime of Christian service*. #5346 ........................................ $20.00

**SURVIVAL OR REVIVAL**, by Carnegie S. Callian, *Ten keys to church vitality*. #278 ........................................ $17.00

**THE THIRSTY ENEMY - A MEMOIR**, by Dr. John Markarian. *It tells about the beginning steps in the creation of Haigazian College (now University), an institution of higher learning, and finds its theme in seven years of war, giving a drink to the thirsty Enemy*. 438 pp, hc #335 ........................................ $15.00

**TORN BETWEEN TWO LANDS**, by Robert Mirak, *Armenians in America 1890 to World War I*. A comprehensive study of the Armenian community in America. #121 ........................................ $25.00

**THE TREATMENT OF ARMEÑANS IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE 1915-1916**, by Viscount Bryce. *Documents presented to Viscount Grey of Falloond Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs*. #14f ........................................ $23.00

**UNDERSTANDING THE OLD TESTAMENT**, by Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootkian, hc #271 ........................................ $35.00

**VIEWS ON GOOD NEWS**, by Asien Surmeian, 365 inspiring daily devotions for Christian living. #309 ........................................ $20.00

**WE WALKED, THEN WE RAN**, by Alice Muggerditchian Shipley. *The courageous story of nine-year old girl as she and her family fled Armenia during the Turkish atrocities*, pb #125 ........................................ $8.00

**160TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH** (in English and Armenian), by Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootkian, Articles and lectures by the author, lectures by Armenian Evangelical ministers and lay leaders presented at the All Armenian Evangelical Conference held in Yerevan, Armenia, Sept. 15-17, 2006 and a brief report on the 160th Anniversary celebrations held in Armenia. #327 ........................................ $30.00

AMAA NEWS, Jan-Feb-March 2016 33
# ARMENIAN BIBLES - ԱՐՄԵՆՅԱՆ ԲԻԲԼԵΥՆ

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armenian Reference Bible - hc black - large - # 13x1</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather bound black - large - # 13x3</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prced bound white - large - # 13x2</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather bound white - large - # 13x4</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serpzan Badmutin (Children's Bible) # 155b</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Komitas Dudas Melodies - (CD) by Hayrapet Djabourian and Ensemble</td>
<td>$12.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Journey Home - (DVD/CD) by Hampig Djabourian (Clarinet &amp; Duduk) with</td>
<td>$16.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armenian Chamber Orchestra of Armenia and Ruben Asadryan, Conductor.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biblical Parallels - (DVD) Paintings by Lucy Janjigian - The</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ARMSAN Bibles are the evolutionary results of many years of Bible Study - Accompanied by music and narration - 32 paintings, $312...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journey to Resurrection - (DVD &amp; Video) Paintings by Lucy Janjigian - Depicting images from the Armenian Genocide by the Ottoman Turks - Accompanied by photographs, narration and music</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armenian Children's Graphic Bible. Manga Messiah is an account of the life of Jesus.</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# CDs, TAPES & DVDs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Viola Recital - (CD) Brahms, Schubert, Gomidas, Bagdasarian, Milhaud, Reger</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amaa's &quot;Young Virtuosos&quot; of Armenia - (CD) Musical Ensemble of 6 talented children</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armenian Medieval &amp; Contemporary Music - (CD) by Hampartsoum (Hampic) Djabourian, Solo Clarinet &amp; String Quintet. Music by Komitas, Ruben Altunyan, Alexander Spendiarian and Aram Khachatryan.</td>
<td>$12.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Journey Home - (DVD/CD) by Hampig Djabourian (Clarinet &amp; Duduk) with the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia and Ruben Asadryan, Conductor.</td>
<td>$16.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a complete listing of our Bookstore items, please contact AMAA Bookstore: 201.265.2607, or visit www.amaa.org

For a total of $________ plus $________ for postage and handling.

In the U.S. add US$5.00 for first copy and US$2.00 for each additional book. For Canada and international orders, please call or e-mail AMAA for shipping and handling charges before you send in your order - (order books by catalogue numbers).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Hymnal (Hokevor Yerkaran)</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enclosed is my check for $________

Make checks payable to Armenian Missionary Association of America in U.S. dollars and mail to AMAA, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652. To purchase with a credit/debit card, please call the AMAA office at 201.265.2607 or visit our website www.amaa.org

For a complete listing of our Bookstore items, please contact AMAA Bookstore: 201.265.2607, or visit www.amaa.org

# Featured Books

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;The Martyred Armenian Writers 1915-1922: An Anthology&quot; -</td>
<td>362C</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by Herand M. Markarian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To order this book, please fill out the Book Order Form.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Musa Dagh Girl Daughter of Armenian Genocide Survivors, tells of her loving upbringing against a dark historical background</td>
<td>348A</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by Virginia Apelian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To order this book, please fill out the Book Order Form.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Hymnal (Hokevor Yerkaran)</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To order this hymnal, please fill out the Book Order Form.
George Babikian

George Babikian of Palos Verdes, CA, an AMAA supporter and child sponsor for many years, passed away on October 17, 2015 at the age of 88. He lived a principled life of accomplishment and purpose that made him the personification of the American dream.

Born in Fulton, NY to a loving family of Armenian immigrants with little in the way of material things, he believed in and adhered to the principles of hard work, honesty, taking responsibility, fair treatment of others and, above all, that deeds matter far more than words. After graduating early from high school, he enlisted in the Navy, and after discharge enrolled at Syracuse University on the GI Bill. After graduation, and a second tour of duty in the Navy, he married Mary Ann Buell in 1954, beginning a happy partnership that would grow through the next 61 years and result in the close family of two children and seven grandchildren that he considered his crowning achievement.

In 1954 he joined Atlantic Refining Company (ARCO) as a “sales trainee,” beginning a 40 year career that would “draw rave reviews from analysts and industry observers,” according to an LA Times article written about him in 1990. He retired from ARCO in 1994 as President of the ARCO Products Company, having along the way made ARCO the top retailer on the West Coast market with innovations that other oil companies were forced to copy. He pioneered the self-serve gas station and the subsequent development of the am/pm minimarkets to fill the former service bays of ARCO stations. He made ARCO a cash only business for an interval that drove gas prices lower and had other companies respond by charging two prices at the pump, a cash price and a credit price. His influence on the oil industry is evident even today.

After retirement George served on many advisory boards, most notably on the Board of Trustees at Syracuse University from 1994 to 2008.

The motivation for his life of achievement was to serve his family and community. He left this life peacefully, with his family at his bedside. He is survived by his wife MaryAnn, his son George and his wife Mary, his daughter Erin, and grandchildren Nick, Alex, Rudy and Georgia Babikian, and William, Kelly and Erin Owen. A memorial service will be held on November 7 at The Neighborhood Church in Palos Verdes Estates, CA.

Laurice Buchakjian

Laurice Buchakjian of Englewood, NJ, passed away on January 17, 2016 at the age of 87. She is the mother of Gilda Buchakjian (Kupelian) and of Serge Buchakjian, member of the Board of Trustees of Haigazian University, and his wife Anita Buchakjian, AMAA Board member.

Laurice was born in Beirut, Lebanon to Chebled Nazira Mouzzer. She attended École des Soeurs Besançon where she also taught for one year upon graduation. She then joined the Ministry of Telecommunication (PTT). Following her marriage to Dikran Buchakjian at the St. Nshan Armenian Apostolic Church in Beirut, she studied and mastered the Armenian language within a year, much to the amazement of her extended family and community, adding to her fluency in French, Arabic and basic German.

Together with her husband’s jewelry business, she continued to support her family by working at the PTT for over 30 years, holding positions with increasing levels of responsibility. She emigrated to the US with her husband and two children, while commuting back and forth to war torn Beirut, and initially settled in Los Angeles, CA and then in River Edge, NJ and eventually in Englewood, NJ.

Respected and deeply loved by all who came in contact with her, Laurice was always referred to as “the lady to emulate.” She was a role model by her demeanor and grace, member of the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus and the First Presbyterian Church in Englewood, the Women’s Club of Englewood, and Senior Citizens Center of Englewood where she taught conversational French. She was a devout Christian who made sure she attended church no matter what denomination every Sunday and devoted her life to her family unconditionally.

She was predeceased by her husband Dikran, and is survived by her daughter Gilda, son Serge and his wife Anita, and her cherished grandchildren Pattie, Tamar, Taleen Kupelian, and Nina and Mark Buchakjian. Funeral services were held on January 22 at St. Leon Armenian Apostolic Church. Donations may be made in her memory to the Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 70 Main Street, Emerson, NJ 07630.

Alice Ishkanian

Alice Ishkanian, a dedicated, long-time member of the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ, and an ardent supporter of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, passed away peacefully on August 30, 2015 at home in Paramus, with her family by her side. She was 86.

Formerly of New York City and North Bergen, NJ, she was the beloved and cherished daughter of the late Angel Ayvazian and Nesan Kalajian, wife of the late Alexander Ishkanian and mother of her late adored son Mark Alexander.

Alice was a remarkable woman, mother, colleague, friend and teacher. Her friendliness and creativity, intelligence, and her sincere desire to help others echoed through her work as an adjunct English instructor at several NJ colleges – Bergen Community College, William Paterson University and Montclair State University. Her teaching talents were also lent to other NJ schools including Annunciation School, Northvale’s after-school program, and as a substitute at Paramus and Ramapo Indian Hills High Schools. She was a proud graduate of Russell Sage College (class of ’51), Troy, NY and William Paterson University (Masters 1972), Wayne, NJ. A lady of many talents, she also excelled in business as owner of Pierce’s Gift Shop in Westwood, NJ for ten years. Alice is survived by her sons Alex John, Matthew and his wife Janet.

Funeral services were held on September 11 at the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus followed by internment at George Washington Seminary.

Melvin K. Khachigian

Melvin K. Khachigian of Bakersfield, CA, passed away with family by his side on December 29, 2015. He was 82.

Born in Visalia, CA, Mel graduated from Visalia High School and earned an Associate of Arts degree at the College of the Sequoias, and a Bachelor of Arts in Education and a Master of Arts in Administration from Fresno State College.

For 23 years, Mel was an educator in the Bakersfield public schools as a teacher, counselor, principal, and school administrator. He then began his second career in real estate, initially in sales, then as referee and receiver in Kern County Superior Court, and finally as the owner/broker of Cal-Western Properties.

Throughout his life, Mel was active in civic organizations, beginning with 4-H clubs and DeMolay in his youth, to Kiwanis International and Masonic bodies and was recently elevated to President of the Shriners Club in Bakersfield. Mel was a Director of the Arts Council of Kern County and for many years performed in the Starlight of Kern Summer Light Opera.

Mel’s Christian faith was central to his life, and while worshiping at First Presbyterian Church he sang in the choir, served as Clerk of the Session, Moderator of the Presbytery of San Joaquin and Commissioner of the Synod of the Pacific. In 1969 he married the love of his life, Dorothy Kooyumjian of Fresno, who predeceased him in 2012. Together, they were the dedicated parents of Aaron George Khachigian and Jennifer Ann Khachigian and loving grandparents to Amanda, Ashton and Alexander Khachigian and great-grandparents of Kenley Rose. He is also survived by his brother, Luther Khachigian, and brother and sister-in-law, Ken and Meredith Khachigian.

Memorial services were held at the First Presbyterian Church of Bakersfield on January 7, as well as at the First Presbyterian Church of Visalia on January 8. Memorial donations may be made to the AMAA or Hoffmann Hospice.
George Maranjian

George Maranjian, cherished by many, died peacefully at home on February 1, 2016, at the age of 90.

George was born October 27, 1925, in Boston, to Siranouh (Shirinian) and Hapog Maranjian and later moved with his family to a chicken farm in East Bridgewater, MA. He graduated from Harvard University in 1947 and later pursued a graduate degree in anthropology there on the GI Bill after serving in the Army during World War II.

In the early 1950s, George took a job with the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco) as an anthropologist when the company was on the cusp of a major expansion and was trying to integrate its operations and workforce into a theretofore largely nomadic culture. One major achievement was discovering the prevalence of sickle-cell anemia in the region. George was also part of an archaeological dig in Shanidar Cave, Iraq, in the 1950s that discovered noteworthy Neanderthal remains.

On a 1954 visit to Alexandria, Egypt, he met Rosy Noradounkian and eventually persuaded her to marry him in 1958. They lived in Daharan, Saudi Arabia, where they raised two daughters and a cat. George retired in 1976 and the family relocated to River Vale, NJ where he was active in local government, serving on the school board and running for mayor. He co-founded an investment club, joined the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ and later, the West Side Presbyterian Church, where he participated in a prison outreach program and tutored low-income high school students. His wife Rosy, served faithfully at the AMAA for many years as the Sponsorship Department Manager and George volunteered his services to the Association in many ways.

Later in life, he and Rosy relocated to North Providence, RI to be with their daughters and grandchildren. He joined Providence's Central Congregational Church, where he enjoyed the services and made many new friends. Despite the sudden loss of most of his vision late in life, he remained the same sociable, open-minded, curious, generous person – immensely content with his life, always interested and interesting, happy and chuckling.

He will be remembered as a kind, compassionate, witty, and wise man with a dry sense of humor who loved crossword puzzles, football, newspapers, progressive politics, and gatherings with family and friends. George is survived by the absolute love of his life and wife of 57 years, Rosy, of North Providence; his daughters, Selena (and partner Charlotte Crist), of Barrington and Emily, of Providence; and granddaughters Constance "Coco" and Phoebe, of Providence.

A memorial service was held on February 6 at the Central Congregational Church in Providence.

Thomas Dean Prather

Thomas Dean Prather, brother-in-law of AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khandjian, passed away on October 22, 2015 in Sun City West, AZ. He was 80 years old.

Thomas was born on April 10, 1935 in Bakersfield, CA to proud parents Dr. Thomas F. Fredrick Prather and Violet G. Prather. He graduated from Wasco High School and the University of Southern California with a degree in Business Administration. After graduation Thomas decided to pursue his childhood passion for flying and joined the United States Air Force. Following the service, he continued his passion of flying and exploration by landing a career with North American Aviation in Houston, TX where he conducted research for NASA.

Thomas was an avid traveler and would share his adventures with family and friends. These adventures included treksking the mountains of Thailand on the back of an elephant and the time he almost froze to death after taking a soak in the hot springs of Antarctica's Deception Island.

But to those who knew him best, his greatest passion was reflected in the love he shared with his wife, Laura. In 1973, after meeting the love of his life in San Francisco, Thomas married Laura Khandjian at the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church, where they would be active members for over two decades. Thomas then began working at GSA where he arranged private contacts to do company business for federal agencies. Upon his retirement in 1995, Thomas and Laura moved to Sun City West, AZ, and for the following 20 years they continued to travel the world together.

Besides being an avid traveler, Thomas always had a great taste for gourmet foods and fine wine and especially loved and appreciated Armenian food and celebrated Armenian culture. He traveled to Aleppo and Lebanon several times, as well as to Armenia and Turkey. Thomas loved his family and adored all his nieces and nephews and took them flying in his Cessna high above the Bay Area.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Laura, older brother Bill, and ten nieces and nephews. The family asks that donations may be made in his memory to the AMAA.

Norair Sarian, M.D.

Dr. Norair N. Sarian, of Los Angeles, CA, a former board member, Vice-President, and long-time supporter of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), went to be with the Lord on February 20, 2016. He was 97.

Norair was born on May 27, 1918 in Kilis, Turkey, the second son of Rev. Nerses and Nouritza Sarian. By God's gracious intervention, Rev. Sarian and his family escaped death at the hands of the Ottoman Turks. In 1923, Rev. Sarian received his second call for pastoral service and moved to Damascus, Syria, to minister to the Armenian refugees.

In Damascus, Norair attended the Armenian Evangelical Church and its School started by his father, Rev. Sarian. He graduated from Aleppo College in 1938 and then started Medical School at the American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon. His studies were interrupted by WWII and a series of family tragedies that called him back to Damascus, including an accident that nearly killed his father and the death of his mother. Norair later returned to Medical School at AUB, where he graduated in 1948 specializing in diagnostic and therapeutic radiology.

In 1950 Norair went to work as a radiologist for Aramco in Saudi Arabia. During this time he and his brother, Dr. Jirair Sarian, helped their family, including their father, immigrate to the United States and settle in Los Angeles. Norair then came to the U.S. in 1954, where he first specialized in nuclear medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, and later the Radiology Department of the old Cedars of Lebanon Hospital in Los Angeles. In 1960 he was invited to be head radiologist of the Medical Center of North Hollywood, where he worked for 30 years. In 1988 he went into semi-retirement working eight years as a consultant before fully retiring.

Norair was a member of the Armenian Evangelical Gethsemane Church, where he met his wife Martha Shahian, who was the Church organist. They married on May 7, 1955 and were blessed with two sons, Ronald and Donald. In 1960, when the three local Armenian Evangelical Churches of Los Angeles merged to form the United Armenian Congregational Church (UACC), Norair was a member of the committees that found the new location and built the new Church. He was an active member of UACC, serving as a deacon, choir member, and after taking an advanced Bible study curriculum, as a Bible study group leader for many years. Dr. Sarian's life was characterized by Christian compassion and love and he led an exemplary life using his talents in the service of others.

Dr. Sarian is predeceased by his brother Jirair and sister Stella. He is survived by Martha, his loving wife of 60 years, his two sons, Ronald and Donald, his three grandchildren, Courtney, Curtis and Caitlin Sarian, and his sisters, Suzie Phillips and Mary Sarian.

Funeral services were held on March 1, 2016 at Forest Lawn, Hollywood Hills. Memorial donations may be sent to the AMAA.

John Krikor Shahinian

John Krikor Shahinian, beloved husband and father, passed away in Fresno, CA on December 24, 2015. He was 86.

Born on December 25, 1929 in Beirut, Lebanon to Krikor and Rahel, he was the second of four children with sisters, Parouhie, Jeanette and Rosine. He attended the Armenian Evangelical Central High School in Eschefleh, Beirut and was active in church and youth.
group. Upon his graduation in 1946 he taught part time at the Armenian Evangelical Schools of Nor Marash and Eshefieh where his students loved him for being kind and fair.

Later John attended the American University of Beirut and received his bachelor’s degree in 1955. He had a fine voice and was a member of the Sacred Music Singers.

John married Yevnig Ajemian in 1956 and they moved to Cyprus where John taught chemistry and biology at the Melkonian School. He was also a Scout Master, guide and mentor. While in Cyprus, John and Yevnig welcomed the first of their five children, a son Albert. Four daughters would follow over the next several years: Susan, Hilda, Evelina and Rachel.

The family returned to Broumana, Lebanon where John taught high school. In 1960, seeking greater opportunity, the family immigrated to the United States.

John started working in the laboratory at Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena, CA and in 1962 moved to Jules Stein Eye Institute in the UCLA Medical Center where he worked as a researcher in ophthalmology. He also taught biology and chemistry part-time at Mersobian High School.

John was an active member of the United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles, CA, where he served as Deacon, sang in the choir, sat on several committees and supported youth activities. John and Yevnig also sang with the Pro-Komitas Choral Society. They actively supported Haigazian College, the AMAA and the AEUWA, where John served briefly as Treasurer.

In January 1981, John suffered a traumatic brain injury. Through God’s grace and thousands of prayers, he survived and began his long recovery. The following year the family moved to Fresno and joined the First Armenian Presbyterian Church where he participated in Men’s Forum, Bible Study, and church service. He touched many with his positive spirit, loving husband and father, and a gracious and caring friend.

John was a faithful follower of Jesus Christ, a loving husband and father, and a gracious and caring friend. He lived what he believed in – acts of kindness and service. He touched many with his positive spirit, warm smile and loyal friendship.

John is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Yevnig (Eva), sister Jeanette and best-friend and brother-in-law Albert Andonian of Los Angeles, sister Rosine and husband Jair Yarzarian of Beirut, Lebanon, son, Albert and wife Joanna of Rhinebeck, NY, his daughters Susan and husband Chester of Livermore, CA, Rev. Hilda and husband Denis Pecoraro of Henderson, NV, Evelina and husband Rev. Ara Guckguzian of Fresno, CA, and his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his daughter Rachel and granddaughter Annika.

A memorial service was held on December 30 at the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church. Memorial donations may be made to the AMAA for Syrian Refugee Relief or to Camp Arev (Rachel and Annika Memorial Fund).

---

**Nevart Kaltakian Tavlian**

Nevart Kaltakian Tavlian, a member of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church (FAPC), Fresno, CA for 70 years, passed away peacefully in her sleep on January 13, 2016 at the age of 91.

Neva was born in rural Parlier, Fresno County, on June 5, 1924 to Nazareth Kaltakian and Noyemzar Mancogian Israelyan Kaltakian. Her father, a native of Yozgat, and mother, a native of Vazir Copru/Samsoun Province, lost their families in the Armenian Genocide. Noyemzar’s first husband, Reverend Hagop Israelyan, was the Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Erzinger until his death on April 24, 1915.

Neva and her parents relocated to Fresno when she was young and lived in the Eastbery and Scandinavian agricultural colonies and the community of Easton. She graduated from Washington Union High School in 1942, took additional coursework at Fresno Technical High School and Fresno Community College, and worked as a civilian employee of the Fourth Air Force Signal Corps Units at Camp Pinedale.

After World War II, Neva worked for a local insurance firm and married Ernest Edward Tavlian, a survivor of the Bataan Death March, on August 14, 1948. They settled on a farm in the historic Oleander District where they raised four children. After many years as a homemaker, Neva returned to the workplace, serving as a teacher’s aide and school administrative secretary until her retirement in 1989.

She joined the membership of FAPC on Easter Sunday 1945, faithfully served as a Christian Endeavor member, Sunday School Teacher, Fidelis Society Officer, and Nominating Committee Member, and hosted Lenten Bible Studies and Church Personnel Committee Meetings at her home. The Congregation recognized her as Sunday School Mother of the Year and a Silent Servant during her seven decades of membership.

Neva was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Ernest, and her infant grandson, Maxwell Steven Marashian. She is survived by her four children, Phillip Tavlian and his wife Linda, Susan Khushigian and her husband Jacob; Elaine Rubio and her husband Fernando; and Sandra Marashian and her husband Steven. She is also survived by six grandchildren, Daniel and Arminé Khushigian, Alexander Tavlian, Joy and Annie Rubio, and Morgan Marashian, and many dear nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held at the First Armenian Presbyterian Church in Fresno on January 22.

---

**Dr. Edward J. Zobian**

Dr. Edward J. Zobian, a long-time supporter of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and a noted ophthalmologist in Pennsylvania, passed away after a brief illness on November 18, 2015 in Wyomissing, PA. He was 75.

Born in Philadelphia to Grace and Joseph Zobian, Dr. Zobian graduated from Haverford College in Haverford, PA and continued his studies at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Following his internship, he served as a Battalion Surgeon with the United States Army in Vietnam, where he was decorated twice for heroism.

In 1973, Dr. Zobian began practicing ophthalmology with West Reading Ophthalmic Associates, now Eye Consultants of Pennsylvania. His specialty was cataract surgery and he was the innovator of intracocular lens implantation, small incision sutureless cataract surgery, and no-injection local anesthesia in his area of Pennsylvania. He performed over 20,000 cataract operations during his career.

One of his great joys was traveling to the Philippine Islands to perform free eye surgeries on the country’s indigent blind population. He and his oldest son, Dr. Joseph Zobian, also an ophthalmic surgeon, operated there with him. Dr. Zobian’s annual volunteer commitment with the Free Rural Eye Clinic led him to perform over 2,200 free cataract extractions and lens implant operations from 1989 to 2013 in the Philippines.

Until his retirement in 2014 at the age of 74, Dr. Zobian continued to be an active presence in his practice and was always striving to learn new ideas and techniques in his field. He also loved walking, gardening, skiing, scuba diving and photography, particularly underwater photography, a talent he honed for over 20 years.

Sadly, Dr. Zobian’s first marriage to Rose ended in divorce after 34 years. He is survived by his wife of ten years, Barbara, four sons (all graduates of Haverford College) Dr. Joseph Zobian (Lily) of Ormond Beach, FL, Matthew Zobian of Wyomissing, PA, Edward Zobian (Melanie) of West Chester, PA, Dr. David Zobian (Megan Souders-Zobian) of Wyomissing, PA, seven grandchildren, two sisters Doris Calian (Carnegie) and Diane DeMirjian (Charles) and many nieces, nephews, cousins and treasured friends.

A service was held November 28 at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Reading, PA. The family requested that memorial gifts may be made to the AMAA.

---

**Amma Blessings**

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.” Revelation 14.3

AMAA NEWS, Jan-Feb-March 2016  37
The AMAA Board of Directors and the staff wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends.

* Robert Altounian
  Torrance, CA
* Lucas Ananian
  Royal Oak, MI
Sona Aronian
Kingston, RI
* Araxie Bagian
  West Springfield, MA

Angele Bahuth
Tarzana, CA
* Shakay Boghossian
  Schaumburg, IL
Araxie Boyadjian
Saddle River, NJ
* Grace Glatze
  Oakland, CA

* Marie Ishkanian
  Novato, CA
Alice Kassardjian
Pasadena, CA
* Shiranouche Kojayan
  Fresno, CA
* Jacob Ohanesian
  New Britain, CT

* Memorials designated for AMAA

Back Cover Photo: The last graduating class of Marash Theological Seminary in Cilicia. Most of them were massacred during the Armenian Genocide. Photo was taken in 1914 before the Genocide. At least five of the surviving graduates ministered in Cilicia, Lebanon, Syria and the US after graduation. In addition, one of the professors, namely Rev. Garabed Haroutunian, served as Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church in Aleppo, Syria from 1922-1931. Rev. Siragan Aghbabian, one of the graduates of the Seminary succeeded him in ministry at Emmanuel Church from 1932-1952.


CLARIFICATION

The AMAA wishes to clarify an information in an article in the Oct/Nov/Dec 2015 issue of the AMAA News, page 23. The article featured Joseph and Joyce Philibosian Stein who were honored by the Lark Musical Society at its Honor Night Banquet in November. While the Steins are very supportive of AMAA and the Armenian Community, they wish to recognize the Philibosian and Conte Family Foundations for their unique role in supporting the Lark event and for all their benevolence.

Go GREEN!

Subscribe to the AMAA NEWS online

The full content of each issue of the AMAA NEWS is now available for our members to read online. If you prefer to view your copy, before it is even printed and mailed, subscribe now by sending your e-mail address to amaanews@amaa.org or call the AMAA office at 201.265.2607.
CONTACT INFO

Rev. Dr. Avedis Boynerian
Tel: (617) 489.6932
Cell: (617) 229.9252
Church: (617) 923.0498
E-mail: badveli@armenianmemorialchurch.org

APPLICATION INFO

Applications can be picked up at a local church office or by visiting amaa.org

www.amaa.org

AMAA
Summer Internship
July 5-19, 2016

GOD’S FELLOW WORKERS
1 Corinthians 3:9

TEAM:
Together Each Achieves Much

www.amaa.org
@amaainc  f amaadnc
The last Graduating Class of Marash Theological Seminary in 1914

Details on page 38