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ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH
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SEVAN

Newsletter

Winter-Spring 2010

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS KAREKIN II,
CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS

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"For the Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness; the upright shall behold His face."

Psalms 10:8 (11:7)

Our Beloved Faithful,

On April 24th, in the homeland and the diaspora, with the celebration of Divine Liturgy in our churches, and through prayer and reverence at our monuments, we commemorated the 95th anniversary of the Genocide of the Armenians.

Our people for decades have borne alone the deep sorrow of their greatest tragedy of the 20th century. Today, countless individuals commemorate the memory of the Genocide with us, so that such crimes are prevented in the life of humanity, and peace, justice and happiness are strengthened in the world. For many years, our people were alone in pursuit of the defense of their righteous cause, remaining "...afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not

forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed." (II Corinth. 4:8-9). But relying on their Christian faith, on the crucified and risen Savior of the world, our people found strength and power in the homeland and the dispersion to rise with new life and defend their rights. Today, the Armenian Genocide is recognized by many nations, states, and governmental and public institutions; with the conviction that the hope of a peaceful future is the implementation of justice, the true expression of which is the defense of national and human rights. In this Holy Cathedral of the Descent of the Only Begotten, offering prayers before God and the memory of our countless martyrs, we convey our words of gratitude to all states, public institutions and individuals, who recognize and condemn the Genocide of the Armenians, and today stand in prayer with our people.

Dear pious faithful in Armenia, Artsakh and the Dispersion,

PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE
DIRECTORY

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

Sunday Morning Service 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

PASTOR

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Home Phone/Fax 804-270-3189
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Roxie Kricorian
Lucy Grey
Linda Sharigian

PASTORAL CARE: HOME AND HOSPITAL
CLERGY VISITS

The pastor is always available and would like to visit homebound and hospitalized parishioners. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized and would like to be visited, please call the church office at (804) 282-3818. Please note: when asked about religion at a hospital, patients should list themselves as "Armenian Orthodox" or "Armenian" not "other."

We present the case for our righteous cause with our reestablished statehood and our communities in numerous countries of the world who are respected and trusted – strong in their spiritual and national life. Yes, our people have been able to stand once again, but the pain of our losses is not yet healed. The victims of the Genocide are our exiled diasporan sons and daughters, who having lost homes and families, deprived of their homeland, lived in different countries and built their new lives through sacrifices and manifold difficulties. The victims of the Genocide are those Armenians forcibly converted to Islam and their succeeding generations, who are frightened to speak about their identity. The victim of the Genocide is the Armenian Church, through the demolition of hundreds of churches and monasteries, the conversion of others into mosques, the loss of thousands of priests and the turning into dust and destruction of centuries of cultural treasures.

For nine and half decades, our people have believed and continue to believe in the victory of justice and universal condemnation for the crime committed against them. Our people expect to see the triumph of justice – triumph over the evil done to them, and the losses, sorrows and suffering they bore. In recent decades, substantial shifts have taken place in the world. The formation of international law and the aspiration of peoples to build civil societies give hope of progress toward a more peaceful and better world. In this transforming world our hope increases as well, that the Armenian Genocide will be universally recognized and condemned, and thoughts of violations of rights and resolving problems through persecution and falsehood

– from where only evil, confrontations and tragedies can be born – will be forever rejected. Keeping Armenia blockaded, denying the right of the Republic of Nagorno Karabagh to live freely, and issuing threatening statements are not in harmony with efforts or aspirations aimed at establishing security and stability in the region. They do not contribute to the vision of peace and collaboration. Today we bear the responsibility for tomorrow and the future. And today we must pursue justice, since justice decorates human life with goodness, as the psalmist says, "For the Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness; the upright shall behold His face."

Dear Armenian people, O reborn people,

With homeland and diaspora united, let us conscientiously continue to defend our rights, with the confidence that justice will come for our people, and that all states – Turkey as well – will recognize and condemn the Genocide. Let us remain devoted to building our homeland, to positively transforming our spiritual and national life everywhere, and to make our luminous aspirations and goals brighter and brighter. Let us remain steadfast and firm with the hope of the Gospel of peace, and invest our efforts into the building of a world that is just, harmonious and free of violence. On this day of remembrance, let us offer incense and prayer once more, asking the Lord to keep the souls of the countless victims of the Genocide of the Armenians in his blissful heavenly kingdom. May the blessings of the Almighty be with us and all people, and may the graces of heavenly peace and the love of our Lord Jesus Christ be dispersed around the globe, today and always and forever. Amen.

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Church

John Giragosian
Onnik & Dorothy Tashjian
Hilda Ford
Virginia Vranian
"In Memory of the Vranian Family"
George Darhanian – CA

Altar Flowers

Pamela Little
(In appreciation of Fr. Mesrob & Family, Altar Servers, Women's Guild and Parish Council)

Virginia Abernathy
Joyce Soghoian
Christmas Poinsettias Plants

Sam & Maral Haboush
Joyce Soghoian
Zadig & Lucille Setian
Easter Flowers

Albert & Deborah Amato
"In Memory of Der Boghos Manukian and Gerry Sharigian"

Sevan

Joyce Soghoian
Harry Eretzian – CA
George Donigian
Diane Moogalian – GA
Raffi, Maral, Kegham & Aren – CA
Phil & Marilyn Guzelian – CO
Harry & Audrey Pilafian – FL
Dr. & Mrs. Roman Krzysztofowics
Andre & Angela Basmajian
Arsh & Shirley Kapigian – NJ
Richard & Margaret Owen
Isabel Vartanian – Hopewell, VA
Bedros & Stella Bandazian
Ann Nahabedian – MA
John & Ardemis Jerikian – Vienna, VA
Pamela Little
Arleen Akseraylian
Anahid Ghazarian

Discretionary Fund

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Haike Giragosian
Lucy Papazian
Hugh & Virginia Abernathy
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Balbalian
Charlie Diradour
Richard & Salpi Kevorkian
Pam & John Mardigian
Elizabeth Pattinian
Joyce Soghoian
Robert & Lilly Thomas
Isabel Vartanian
Douglas & Maria Carden
Roxie Kricorian
Arleen Akseraylian
Elizabeth Tootelian
Maria & Noel Carden
George & Servart Ovigian
Karen & Satik Karapetyan
Women's Guild of St. James Church

Christmas Luncheon Sponsor

Arshalous Zeroukoglu

Nursery Fund

Ann Markarian
Nouneh Karapetyan
Dale Baronian
Marni Pilafian
Servart Ovigian
Esther Bezirdjian
Peruz Manoukian
Roxie Kricorian
Fr. Mesrob & Yn. Ruzan Hovsepian

April 25th Luncheon Sponsors

Pamela Little
Diran & Esther Bezirdjian



PLEASE NOTE: There is an expense of approximately \$700 for publishing and mailing each issue of the *SEVAN*. Any contributions sent to defray part of this cost are greatly appreciated. Please, use the form below to send your donation for this purpose. Please feel free to send us also your comments and suggestions regarding our publication.

St. James Armenian Church
834 Pepper Avenue, Richmond, VA 23226

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**Hokehankist
(Requiem)**

For: **Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian
Richard Tomasian & Aram
Papazian**

By: Kenneth, Laura, Jacob & Steven
Dean and Lucy Papazian

For: **George & Dora Diradour and
Jack & Olivia Diradour**

By: Diradour & Barsamian Families

For: **Emma Livingstone**

By: David Livingstone

For: **Sahag Kibinian & Melinee
Bezirdjian**

By: Osana Kibinian and Diran &
Esther Bezirdjian

For: **Alice Bouroujian**

By: Levon & Arpi Bouroujian

For: **Siranoush Akseraylian, Dikran
Akseraylian, Armenouhi
Akseraylian, Antranik Akseray-
lian and Armenouhi Abakjian**

By: Garabed Akseraylian, Taline
Akseraylian and Ron Fischer

For: **Joseph Chaoul**

By: Nerses Berberian & Family

For: **Alice Bouroujian - 40 days**

By: Levon Bouroujian, Arpie Bourou-
jian, Liza & Aaron Burghardt,
Sirvoart Sabounjian, Nishan Irene
Bouroujian, Salpi, Richard & Serar
Kevokian, Maria & Doug Caden,
Lilly, Robert, Chris & Raffi Tho-
mas, Yeghia, Leiza & Sosy Bourou-
jian

For: **John Mason - 40 days**

By: Margaret M. Ashjian & Family

For: **Akabi & Zakar Hacikian**

By: Arshalouse Zeroukoglou &
Janet & Nubar Ozbalik

For: **Vahran Movsesyan & Hayas-
tan Stepanian**

By: Nouneh Karapetyan & Family

For: **Hasmik Ghazarian Jacobe - 40
days**

By: Anahid Ghazarian, Sarah Jacobe &
Family

For: **Margeret Nedalian**

By: Garabedian Family

Memorials

Mary Boghosian (NC)

By: Haige & Gisele Tegrarian

**John Demirmanjian and Azniv
Nalbandian**

By: Joy Z. Caporale

Harry & Arshalous Darhanian

By: John & Alice LeVay

Vahran Movsesian

By: Harry & Zarouhi Deloian

**Der Boghos Manoukian & Gerry
Sharigian**

By: Very Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Na-
jarian

A PRAYER for VOCATIONS

O Divine and heavenly Grace, our Lord Jesus Christ, who always provides for the needs of your people and your holy church. In your love and mercy call our young people to the priesthood and to the service of the holy church.

Chasten them to listen to your call and serve the church with gladness. So that strengthened in faith we all the more thankfully may glorify you, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

The Ghazarian/Jacobe Family, would like to thank everyone for their kind expression of sympathy on our recent loss of Hasmik.

Our family deeply appreciates all those who sent flowers or a sympathy card donated personal services made donations to the church called with the kindest words and thought of us those days.

Your thoughts and efforts were greatly appreciated. *May God Bless You all!*

**108TH DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY, EVANSTON, IL****ARCHBISHOP KHAJAG BARSAMIAN
RE-ELECTED TO A SIXTH TERM AS PRI-
MATE OF THE EASTERN DIOCESE AT
108TH DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY**

On Friday, April 30, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian was re-elected to a sixth term as Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) at the 108th Diocesan Assembly in Chicago, IL.

Upon announcement of his re-election, clergy led a procession into the main meeting room, where parish delegates stood to welcome the Primate, as clergy approached Archbishop Barsamian one by one to offer their congratulations and to receive his blessing.

In his remarks to the Assembly delegates, Archbishop Barsamian outlined five areas where he would continue to concentrate attention as Primate. These include a more vigorous promotion of clerical vocations in the Diocese; the preparation and advancement of young adults into leadership positions within the church; and firmer management and development of the Diocese's finances.

The Primate also reflected on his nearly 40 years of service as a priest in the Armenian Church, and said he is grateful to God for giving him the opportunity to serve the

church for almost four decades.

Archbishop Barsamian then expressed his gratitude to the delegates, saying, "Today, once again, I thank you for your trust, and for asking me to continue my service in this Diocese as your Primate."

This year's election marked the 20th anniversary of Archbishop Barsamian's original election at the 1990 Diocesan Assembly in Worcester, Mass. Prior to that, he served the Eastern Diocese as the grand sacristan of New York's St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral and as Vicar General.

"It's an honor to serve in this Diocese—the Diocese that began more than 110 years ago when our forefathers brought with them to this new world the ancient apostolic Armenian Christian tradition."

Archbishop Barsamian said. "I renew my commitment to continue, with each one of you clergy and lay leaders, to make the Armenian Church stronger in America."

Archbishop Barsamian said it is his goal to continue preparing young men to serve as priests in the Armenian Church to ensure that in the near future all Diocesan parishes are served by full-time pastors.

Cultivating young lay leaders is likewise important, the Primate said, encouraging delegates to "continue supporting young adults



so that they are invited to take leadership roles in our parishes and in our Diocese."

Turning to education, Archbishop Barsamian said the Diocese would focus on developing more programs aimed at helping children and adults learn about their Christian heritage and the Armenian Church. He stressed the need to use emerging media tools and modern technologies to bolster outreach initiatives.

The Primate also said he would continue working with members of the Diocesan Council to improve the management of the Diocesan Center to better serve the parishes and faithful of the Eastern Diocese, and to ensure the financial stability of the Diocese.

Lastly, Archbishop Barsamian spoke about the Armenian Church on a global level, and mentioned ways the Eastern Diocese might participate in efforts to strengthen the church. He affirmed his commitment to continue pursuing the restoration of administrative unity in the Armenian Church in a brotherly fashion. He added that such unity "is beneficial for the entire Armenian Church, Armenian people, and the Armenian nation."

Other candidates in this year's election were the Very Rev. Fr. Nareg Berberian, pastor of St. David Church of Boca Raton, FL, and the Very Rev. Fr. Mamigon Kiledjian, pastor of St. Stepanos Church of Elberon, NJ.

WASHING-OF-THE-FEET SERVICE ON HOLY THURSDAY

*"This day a mystery
is fulfilled and is now
accomplished. God
became man,
submitted to law and
became priest"
(Hymn)*



*"O Lord with Your
grace wash us from
our sins, make us
partakers of Your cup.
Forgive our sins
forgiver of sins, we
beseech You".
(Hymn)*

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS

John Mason

Charles & Rene Ashjian
Bedros & Stella Bandazian
Steven & Dorian Barsamian
Gregory Boyajian
Carol Chadoyan
Charles & Sue Dedeian
Zarouhi & Harry Deloian
Avedis & Vartouhi Garabedian
Anahid Ghazarian & Family
Fr. Mesrob & Ruzanna Hovsepian
John's Sisters: Margaret, Delores and Margie
Albert & Shirley Kapigian
Murad & Melanie Kerneklian
Mr. & Mrs. Mickey Kerneklian
Roxie Kricorian
Pamela Little
Peruz Manoukian
Paul & Pamela Mazmanian
Mary Mirakian
Betty Mirakian
Greg Mirakian
Tagvor, Shelby, Julia & William
Mariam Nishanian
Linda Sharigian
Joyce Soghoian
Rose & Florence Soghoian
Elizabeth Tootelian
Tony & Dianne Velegris

Alice Bouroujian

Barkev & Dale Baronian
Bedros & Stella Bandazian
Steven & Dorian Barsamian
Nerses & Anahid Berberian
Houry & John Berberian
Diran & Esther Bezirdjian
Kirakos & Sossi Bilanjian
Leon Bouroujian
Nishan & Irene Bouroujian
Yeghia & Leiza Bouroujian

Gregory Boyajian
Veryl & Pat Burghardt
Douglas & Maria Carden
Charles & Sue Dedeian
Zarouhi & Harry Deloian
Vartouhi & Avedis Garabedian
Anahid Ghazarian & Family
Fr. Mesrob & Ruzanna Hovsepian
Richard & Salpi Kevorkian
Murad & Melanie Kerneklian
Sevan Kolejian
Roxie Kricorian
Pamela Little
Peruz Manoukian
Paul & Pamela Mazmanian
George & Servart Ovigian
Hasmig Schein
Linda Sharigian
Joyce Soghoian
Rose & Florence Soghoian
Lilly & Robert Thomas
Elizabeth Tootelian
Aram & Nevert Topjian
Alice Topjian
Yeran Topjian
Krikor & Servart Zurnacian

Hasmig G. Jacobe

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Shakeh & Susan Andoian
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Bedros & Stella Bandazian
Barkev & Dale Baronian
Sam & Liz Baronian
John Baronian
Steven & Dorian Barsamian
Nerses Berberian & Family
Hagop Berberian & Family
Julie Berberian
Jano Berberian & Family

Diran & Esther Bezirdjian
Bruce & Katherine Boehm
Greg Boyajian
Leon Bouroujian
Yeghia & Leiza Bouroujian
Carol Chadoyan
Dedeian Family
Avedis & Vartouhi Garabedian
Marlene & Haig Garabedian
Dalida C. Ghossoub
Sam & Maral Haboush
Fr. Mesrob & Ruzanna Hovsepian
Kevork & Lousin Khakhesian
(Montreal Canada)
Murad & Melanie Kerneklian
Richard & Salpi Kevorkian
Roxie Kricorian
John & Alice LeVay
Pamela Little
Paul & Pamela Mazmanian
Hasmig Schein
Linda Sharigian
Joyce Soghoian
Rose & Florence Soghoian
Robert & Lilly Thomas
Elizabeth Tootelian
Aram & Nevert Topjian
Tony & Dianne Velegris
Krikor & Servart Zurnacian

Virginia Dedeian

(Asbury Park, NJ)
Paris, Charles & Sue Dedeian
Mark & Mary Chookazian
Roxie Kricorian
Linda Sharigian
Tony & Dianne Velegris

Garabed Topjian

(Continued from last Sevan)

Fr. Mesrob & Ruzanna Hovsepian



- **March 28, Palm Sunday** – Our guest clergy, The Vicar General Very Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Najarian officiated Divine Liturgy and was assisted by Fr. Mesrob Hovsepyan. After a wonderful lunch prepared by the Parish Council, we enjoyed Very Rev. Fr. Najarian's proficient and, at times, humorous speech.
- **April 1, Maundy Thursday** - Divine Liturgy Commemorating the Last Supper, Washing of the Feet Service, time for meditation and refreshments and Commemoration of the Betrayal and Passion of our Lord.
- **April 4, Easter** – Feast of the Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **April 15, Thursday** – Virginia's Armenian Network Happy Hour took place at Eurasia's in Henrico.
- **April 17, Saturday** – The ARS 6th annual Casino Nite was a successful and fun event that took place at the Church hall.
- **On April 22**, about 10 people boarded a minivan to Washington, D.C., for the ANCA Genocide Commemoration and reception on Capitol Hill.
- **April 23 & 24** – National Public Radio (88.9) broadcasted the 95th anniversary commemoration announcement throughout each day.
- **April 25, Sunday** – Badarak and Hokehankist for victims of the Armenian Genocide was followed by a light lunch of Herriseh and trimmings.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Sunday Services time change - Summer Time

Morning Service and Divine Liturgy will start 30 minutes early during Summer, beginning **Sunday, MAY 30th – SEPTEMBER**
Morning Service – 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Calendar of Upcoming Events in 2010

- May 20, Thursday** – Avak's Group: James River Canal Cruise
- May 20, Thursday** – Virginia's Armenian Network Happy Hour at Nuevo Mexican Rest.
- June 6, Sunday** – ANCA and ARS Annual Picnic.
- June 13, Sunday** – Women's Guild General Meeting.
- June 30, Wednesday** – Food Festival cooking sessions start and continue every Wednesday.
- September 16-19** – 52nd Annual Food Festival

WOMEN'S GUILD UPDATE

The Women's Guild has been busy as usual. 2010 began with the celebration of Armenian Christmas and a Christmas lunch on January 10. Approximately 85 attendees feasted on a buffet-style meal of pork tenderloin, baked tilapia, Christmas pilav, and much more. Arshalous Zeroukoglou generously provided a donation to make the event possible. Aris Zurnacian donated lovely flowers. And yes, a very jolly Santa Claus stopped by with his bag of toys for a special visit with the children.



On February 7, the Women's Guild added three new members to its executive committee. Sona Pomfret, Linda Sharigian, and Lilly Bouroujian were elected. The WG extends its heart-felt appreciation to Sirvart Zurnacian, Carol Chadoyan, and Kathy Wall for their service on the executive in 2009. Sona is now serving as Treasurer, and Linda and Lilly are serving as advisers. Leiza Bouroujian, recording secretary, and Peruz Manoukian, correspondence secretary, are continuing in their roles.

Lenten season was ushered in with festivities on Sunday, February 14. Valentine's Day, Poon Paregentan, and



the Feast of Our Lord's Presentation to the Temple were observed with a bountiful lunch after Badarak. Several families attended to witness their children rededicate themselves to their faith. Goody bags for participating children included Bible activity books and chocolate.

The Friday night Lenten dinners were a great success. Participants, as many as 50 per dinner, enjoyed not only the delicious meals prepared by WG members but also ending every week with time for worship and fellowship. Meals were graciously prepared by Hasmig Schein, Dale Baronian, Anne Norris, Janet Ozbalik, Joyce Soghoian, Virginia Abernathy, Arshalous Zeroukoglou, Sheri Harabedian, Leiza Bouroujian, the Armenian Relief Society, and Yn. Rouzan Hovsepyan. The Meeching dinner was very generously sponsored by Alice LeVay, Virginia Abernathy, Florence Soghoian, Rose Soghoian, and Roxie Kricorian.

The tradition of making Holiday Bread continued this year. Hasmig Schein, once again, served as the leader of this project and did so with her usual good cheer and expertise. Thank-you to all the women and George Ovigian for all the hard work that went into making what so many look forward to at Easter time. A very special thank-you goes to Esther Bezdjian for making a truly generous dona-



tion for the making of holiday bread. The Guild is blessed to have such dedicated and generous members.

Before we know it, preparation for the 2010

ACYOA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2009

What a privilege it was to attend the 10th Annual ACYOA Young Adult Leadership Conference in Stony Point, New York last year. The theme, "From Fellowship to Discipleship," followed a quote from the New Testament, Matthew 28:18-20: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded."



Participants were actively engaged in discussions ranging extensively from discussing the true mission of the ACYOA,

involvement in various Bible studies, becoming more like Christ, and belonging by means of building relationships that are grounded in love and faith.

As V. Rev Fr. Daniel Findikyan, Dean of St. Nersess Seminary in New York, began his sermon to us about the importance of becoming an integral part of God's family in the church, he noted the consistent level of mediocrity that remains ever-present amongst the members of the Armenian Church. Believing we have adopted an entirely individualistic approach to prayer and have turned our backs on Sunday service, Fr. Daniel argued that being a true Christian and conforming to Jesus' definition

Food Festival will be underway. Stay tuned. A mid-year General Meeting will take place on Sunday, June 13. If you're a WG member or would like to join, please attend!

Lucy Keshishian Grey

of a Christian involves belonging to the church and praying as a member of a community. As discussed, even St. Paul would agree that the church is in fact "the body of Christ" - this is our personal connection to God. The church is a haven in which we ask for answers and get them in return. It is a place of prayer, seeking, healing, and of course, fellowship and discipleship.

Perhaps this was the reason why over seventy youth from across the nation gathered together for one weekend: to witness the faith amongst each other and become a part of His family.



I thought personally about the implications of individual God-given gifts and how we can use these to benefit the Armenian community. As discussed in private groups, the church is like a body - given its various parts, it cannot function holistically without cooperation and an overall contribution to its whole. If the left leg decides to travel one-way than the right cannot do the opposite and so on. Consequentially, the Armenian Church functions in the same manner.

Developing a sense of belonging and building

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Christmas Greetings

(Continued from last *Sevan*)

Andre & Angela Basmajian
George Donigian - NC
Walton & Frances Egelanian - MD
Angie Jamjamian - St. Louis, MO
Arsh & Shirley Kapigian - NJ
Andre & Diane Karakashian
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Moogalian
Milton & Margaret Owen
Joyce Soghoian
Miriam Nishanian

Christmas Yuqhakn

Charles & Rene Ashjian
Joseph & Irene Balbalian
Phillip & Mary Battle
Bedros & Stella Bandazian
Steven & Dorian Barsamian
Kenneth & Laura Dean
Haike & Betty Giragosian
Anahid Ghazarian,
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Rob & Anne Norris
Dennis & Barbara Ourlian
George & Servart Ovigian
Elizabeth Pattinian
Zadig & Lucille Setian
Linda Sharigian
Paul & Grace Shahinian
Robert & Lilly Thomas
Elizabeth Tootelian
Virginia Vranian
"In Memory of the Vranian Family"
Krikor & Servart Zurnacian

Easter Yuqhakn

Charles & Rena Ashjian
Steven & Dorian Barsamian
Anahid Ghazarian

Haike & Betty Giragosian
Vigen & June Guroian
Sam & Maral Haboush
Fr. Mesrob & Yn. Ruzan Hovsepyan
John & Ardemis Jerikian
Albert & Shirley Kapigian
Karen & Satik Karapetian
Richard & Salpi Kevorkian
Roxie & Arpina Kricorian
Ann Nahabedian - MA
Rob & Anne Norris
Dennis & Barbara Ourlian
George & Servart Ovigian
Agnes H. Peebles
Marni Pilafian
Hasmig Schein
Zadig & Lucille Setian
Linda Sharigian
Joyce Soghoian
Stepan & Anjella Stepanyan
Christine B. Tolleris
Elizabeth Tootelian
Servart & Krikor Zurnacian

Parish Events, January - May, 2010

- **January 10, Sunday** - Armenian Christmas Luncheon
- **February 14, Sunday** - In commemoration of Christ's first solemn presentation in the House of God, children were invited to be re-dedicated at the Holy Altar during special *Blessing of the Children* service.
- **February 18, Thursday** - Virginia's Armenian Network Happy Hour took place at Shula's Steak House.
- **February 26, Friday** - Season of Lent with prayer services at 6:30 pm and Lenten Dinners at 7:00 pm every Friday during Lent.
- **March 7, Sunday** - Women's Guild held its general meeting following Divine Liturgy. After lunch, new executives were elected and an agenda for the year was discussed.
- **March 12, Friday** - The Rev. Jonathan Barton from the Virginia Council of Churches joined us for prayer service and Lenten dinner and gave a brief talk on "The world is too small for a divided church" topic.
- **March 18, Thursday** - The Avaks enjoyed lunch and bingo in the church hall. Thanks to Linda Sharigian for the great lunch and the fun bingo game.

HOKEHANKIST - APRIL 24, 2010

For All the Victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923

By: Paris Dedeian

Siranoush, Dikran, and Toros Akseraylian

By: Garabed Akseraylian

Hovsep Shmavon Balbalian Soghome Khetigian Balbalian Bedros Balbalian & Sisters

By: Joseph Balbalian

Khoren Bandazian Zartar & Verkin Choolfaian

By: Bedros & Stella Bandazian

Nick & Elizabeth Baronian Narongul Bektimerian**Berge & Peruz Avakian**

By: John Baronian

Nick & Elizabeth Baronian The Baronian, Jegelian & Bektimerian Families.

By: Barkev & Dale Baronian

Members of the Darhanian, Barsamian, Mikirditsian, and Diradour families

By: Steven & Dorian Barsamian

The Ovigian Family and Bektimerian Family

By: George & Servart Ovigian

The Bouroujian Family & Topjian Family

By: Levon Bouroujian

The Dedeian, Jamjamian & Bagian Families**Manoog & Takouhi Giragosian****Eunice Adrooney****Mr. & Mrs. Gaspar Garabedian****Mr. & Mrs. John Kalajian****Mr. & Mrs. Nick Baronian**

By: John Giragosian & Haike Giragosian

Margaret Baronian**John Baronian, Jr.****Aram Karabedian****Mr. & Mrs. Harry Bektimerian**

By: Becky & Stephanie Greene

Harry & Grace Kantarjian

By: Zane & Doloris Grey

Keghan Kevorkian**Antranig Bouroujian****Marie Avakian****The Ajemian Family and Bedeian Family**

By: Salpi & Richard Kevorkian

Members of the Dekermenjian and Berberian Family

By: Sam & Maral Haboush

In memory of the Kricorian, Avrigian & Egelanian Families

By: Roxie & Arpina Kricorian

In memory of all the victims of the Armenian Genocide, and the survivors who honor the memory of their deceased loved ones.

By: Pamela Little

Setrag & Aghavne Manoogian Yeprem & Aravag Setian

By: Zedig & Lucille Setian

Ruben B. Vranian

By: Craig S. Vranian

Ispirian Family of Dikranagerd Papazian Family of Pala/Havav

By: Laura & Kenneth Dean & Family Lucy S. Papazian

Shmorig Soghoian**Vartouhi Soghoian and the Keshishian, Kerigian & Kerneklian Families**

By: Rose & Florence Soghoian

Donabed & Mariam Kalashian Karzouhi & Krikor Degermajian

By: Kathy Wall

The Families of Manoukian, Seferian, Essayan, Arabian, Kaprelian, Dickranian & Garunian

By: Peruz Manoukian

Harry & Arshalous Darhanian Krikor & Mannig Tootelian

By: Elizabeth Darhanian

In Memory of all the victims who died in the 1915-1923 Armenian Genocide**Isabel Vartanian****Bouroujian Family****Ann Makarian****Nancy Avakian****Zurnacian Family****Paris Dedeian**

Fr. Mesrob & Yn. Ruzan Hovsepyan



Alice Bouroujian – January 25, 2010

John Mason – January 25, 2010

Hasmik Jacobe-Ghazarian – March 8, 2010

meaningful relationships with others fosters our growth not only as Christians, but also as individuals and members of the Armenian Church.

I was struck by the co-presentation delivered by both Very Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Najarian and Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian. "Christlikeness,"

as it is referred to, means becoming more like Christ everyday of our lives. Evidently we cannot over-

come all sin overnight, but through the word of God we can seek perfection as a reflection of His image. The Bible carries the directions for the ultimate means of salvation. We may study psychology to gain insight into human nature, but we must live a liturgical life and attend Badarak service to truly know who God is. When we know who He is, we no longer exist to question who we are.

As Fr. Daniel told us, the first thing Jesus did

in the public ministry was gather a community together. Many of us in the Church have been baptized at birth. Congenitally speaking, we have been delegated to study the teachings and practices of Christianity for the remainder of our lives. Whether or not we choose to accept our calling as the descendents of the great

Armenian saints such as St. Nersess and St. Gregory the Illuminator remains within our autonomy.

I met many people whom I look forward to seeing again, hopefully at the Sports Weekend or at the Leadership Conference next year. Thank you to Der Hayr and the Parish Council for allowing me to represent our community in Richmond, Virginia to the entire ACYOA Central Council and both regional and non-regional members.

Salpi Serar Kevorkian



ARRIVALS

Levon Sarkis Chadoyan, son of Tamar Chadoyan, was born on January 25, 2010.

Hakob DerVartanian, son of Vazgen and Arline DerVartanian, was born on February 18, 2010.

2010 Graduates

Kevork Ozbalik, son of Nubar & Janet Ozbalik graduated from Monacan High School. He will be attending Virginia Tech to study Food Science and Technology.

Katharine Norris, daughters of Rob & Anne Norris, graduated from University of Richmond with a MAcc (Master of Accountancy).

AVAK'S GROUP UPDATE

The AVAK Seniors have been very busy. In December, we gathered for a delicious catered Christmas Party and watched a Bing Crosby favorite, *White Christmas*.



January brought some excitement as Jonathan Austin, a local magician and juggler, mesmerized the group with his tricks. Several ladies, Virginia Abernathy, Liz Deloian and Linda Sharigian served as his assistants for different tricks which amused the group.

There are some budding performers amongst these seniors. The snow postponed our February Bingo Luncheon to March. The prizes for this event were all grocery items. A few of the participants won enough groceries for the week.



Bingo seems to be a crowd favorite. The highly anticipated

numbers are called in English and Armenian. They are tough competitors, but very friendly and funny. April finally brought spring and we decided to have a good old fashion hot dog indoor picnic with all the trimmings. Rose and Flo Soghoian cooked the hot dogs with their "secret ingredient." Everything was wonderful and we didn't have to bother with ants.



We look forward to our next events in May and June. Scheduled for May 20 is a James River Canal Cruise with lunch at the Greek Islands Restaurant and on June 17, we hope to have lunch at the newly expanded Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Everyone is invited to attend. Join in the fun. Please contact Pam Little or Linda Sharigian for details.

Linda Sharigian

ARMENIAN EDUCATION CENTER UPDATE

On Sunday, April 25, 2010, a special Hokehankist service was held for victims of the Armenian Genocide and all Genocides of the twentieth century. Following the Badarak and the Requiem services, a lunch of Harissa and traditional Armenian dishes was served. Our thanks and appreciation to the following people for preparing such a won-

derfully delicious meal: Levon Bouroujian, Maria and Douglas Carden, Richard and Salpy Kevorkian, Lilly and Robert Thomas along with Anne Norris and Linda Sharigian for their assistance in the kitchen. A special thank you to Dr. Dikran & Esther Bezirdjian and Pam Little for sponsoring the luncheon.

THE BALL OF GOLD

At one time a rich couple and a poor couple lived next door to each other. The poor people, who had a small child, laughed and had great happiness every day. The rich people had much money but were never happy; no sounds of laughter were heard in their house.

One day the rich woman said to her neighbor, "You are poor; you are hungry. Why is it that you are so happy all the time? Every night laughter fills your house and spills outside. It even touches us next door."

The poor woman merely said, "We have a ball of gold. I toss it to my husband, and he tosses it to me. This is what brings us so much happiness."

"A golden ball?" the rich neighbor asked.

"Yes."

So the rich woman went home and told her husband that their neighbors tossed each other a ball of gold each evening. This was the cause of their happiness.

"If that is all, that's nothing," the husband said. "I'll have a beautiful golden ball made. Then we'll toss it to each other, and we'll be

happy, just like our neighbors." So the man had a beautiful golden ball made. But when the husband tried to throw it to his wife, it was too heavy to lift. When the wife tried to catch it, it bruised her fingers. Instead of happiness that night, they shed tears of pain.

The next morning the rich woman visited her neighbor again. "Tell me, what kind of a golden ball is it that you have? My husband had a golden ball made for us, but it is too heavy to throw and crushes our hands as we catch it. What kind of a ball is it that doesn't hurt you but brings happiness instead?"



"Our golden ball is this beautiful child," the poor woman said. "We toss him to each other, and his joy brings great happiness to us. He is the ball of gold which fills our home with laughter and love."

So you see: the rich try to find happiness in their wealth, but frequently it is without joy. Real happiness is found in family and children. And in this way, the poor can be richer than the rich.

100 Armenian Tales

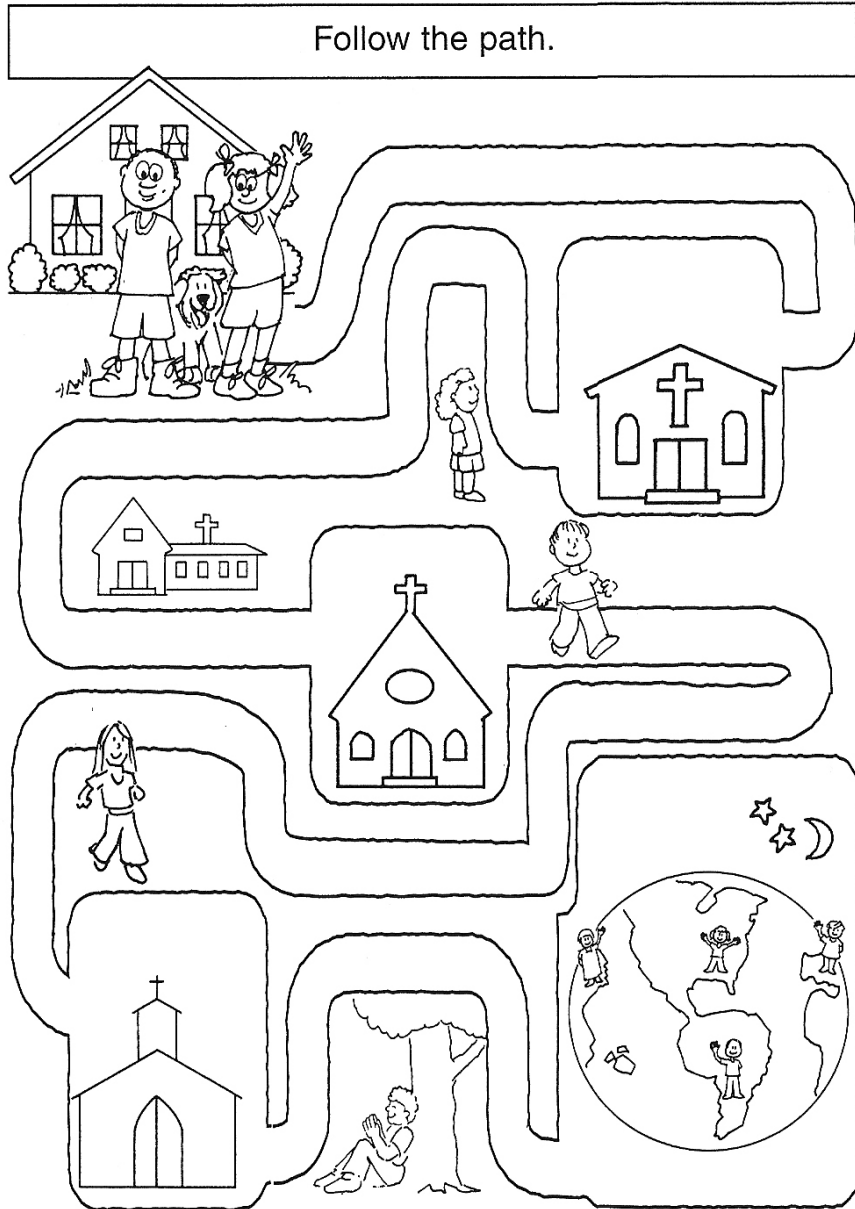
Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

The kingdom of God grows.

Follow the path.

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Following the luncheon, guest speaker Kate Nahapetian, who is the Government Affairs Director for the Armenian National Committee of America, provided an update on House Resolution 252, the various meetings which were occurring in Turkey regarding the Armenian Genocide as well as the status of the Protocols between Armenia and Turkey.

As you know, this year commemorated ninety-five years of the Armenian Genocide. Let us not forget the 1.5 million victims, let them rest in peace and not have died in vain. This cruel chapter in human history has shown that truth is hijacked when voices are silenced. Denial prevails when it is not opposed. Let us continue to break the silence by teaching at every opportunity.

One of the effective means of teaching has been offering a scholarship to all high school students in the state of Virginia. Throughout the past five plus years this scholarship has educated more and more young people about the Armenian Genocide including their family and friends. We can only continue to provide this scholarship incentive with the continued support and generosity of donations from members of our community.

On a final note, one of the things we would like to do next year is sponsor a billboard for

four Genocide. Pictured here are examples from Massachusetts and California.



Please speak with Barkev Baronian, Anne Norris, Linda Sharigian, Roxie Krikorian or Arpi Bouroujian if you are interested in helping to make the billboard a reality for 2011.

Without community support, we would not be able to continue the scholarship program that in turn educates the public about the atrocities committed by the Ottoman Turks in the years 1915-1918. Again, thank you everyone.

Arpi Bouroujian

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

The Parish Council is looking forward to a remarkable and flourishing 2010. We began the year by having the annual Parish Assembly meeting in February. We are excited with the addition of our newest members Levon Bouroujian and Steven Barsamian, who have in past been devoted mem-

bers of previous parish councils. We are also happy to have the return of Dale Baronian and Krikor Boyajian who continue their dedicated service. We also want to recognize and express our sincere appreciation to Chuck Ashjian who relinquished his position after

several years of dedicated service to our Church.

In April we hosted a Palm Sunday luncheon with a special clergy quest from the Diocese Vicar General Very Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Najarian. It was a huge honor having him in Richmond.

We continue to have monthly meetings and are in the planning stages for the upcoming



52nd annual food festival that will take place on September 16th – 19th.

We would like to thank all the various Church organizations for all that they do to make our Church so wonderful. Thank you.

Leiza Bouroujian



FOOD FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Dear Friends of St. James;

The St. James Food Festival Committee would like to extend our genuine gratitude for your help in making the 2009 Food Festival so successful. This year the Armenian community of Richmond Virginia will celebrate 52 years of bringing Armenian culture and great food to the Richmond area.

We are very excited to be hosting the upcoming 52nd annual food festival, which will take place on September 16th thru 19th 2010. Preparations have been underway for several months, and we are making huge progress. Please check the Sunday bulletin for times to help with food preparation, or you can call the church office at

282-3818 for additional information. We welcome any help you can give us.

We are especially grateful for the generous donations and sponsorships that have been given to support this event in the past, and your continued contributions will be most appreciated. This fantastic tradition has developed and has become the major fundraiser for our Church, thus enabling us to maintain the Church in all aspects, culturally and religiously.

Please join us in supporting the Armenian community in Richmond by encouraging your friends and local business to sponsor this event.

Thank you.

St. James Food Festival Committee

Did you know?

During the years between 1915 and 1932 close to 2,500 monasteries and churches were destroyed. This estimate is based on the 1913/1914 census of the Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople.

According to the latter there were 2,538 churches throughout the entire extent of the Ottoman Empire. The great majority of these were in Asiatic Turkey. Today the Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople has less than forty churches under its jurisdiction in present-day Turkey. As for the other parts of the Ottoman Empire that are now independent countries, the number of Armenian churches in what is now Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and Egypt prior to World War I was less than twenty.

Armenia had a major presence in the Holy Land, but even there the churches and monasteries, though in the center of the Christian holy

of holies, were very limited in number. The majority of the Armenian churches presently in operation in these countries was built after World War I and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

The number of priests who perished during the Armenian Genocide is on a general estimate based on material generated during and after the genocide by the Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople. The consensus among the scholars is that as many as four thousand clergymen -archbishops, bishops, vartabeds, apeghas (monks), priests and deacons—perished. While most of these men were brutally killed, others died from the hardships of deportation: travel on foot, starvation and various diseases.

From *Frequently Asked Questions about The Armenian Church* by Very Rev. Fr. Krikor Maksudian



Virginia's Armenian Network

Don't be shy! Come on out and meet us. You can check our future events on Facebook under Virginia's Armenian Network group.

