

Culture
Heritage
History
Language

Armenian Cultural Organization of Minnesota
Established 1980

No. 130 ~ Winter 2010

MinneHyeLites

On January 16, 138 members and friends gathered for ACOM's ANNUAL OGAGHANT PARTY. The banquet hall was elegantly decorated and wine and appetizers on each table greeted guests. Appetizers and dinner were prepared by Mim's Restaurant. The wine was donated by Kathie Cafesjian Baradaran and Vartkes Ehamjian.



First for this event was a Silent Auction. This proved to be a hit! Our grateful appreciation to the donors: Mark Keljik ~ two rugs, Soleil Brule Moroccan Gift Shop ~ a variety of items, Mim's Restaurant ~ Gift Certificates, Caspian Bistro ~ Gift Certificates, Stepan Khachatryan ~ Music Lessons, Mariam Khachatryan ~ Music Lessons, Lou Ann Matossian ~ a demitasse set and monetary donation.

We welcomed Fr. Hrach Sargsyan and his family who attended. This event was their first experience/opportunity to be present at an ACOM community event. Following dinner, the DJ for the evening, Harut Khachatryan, got the Armenian dancing going.



The 2010 ACOM executive committee members were officially announced and recognized. Election took place through votes received from dues-paying members. They will hold their positions for two years.



Special thanks to those who set-up before the party and helped with the tear-down after the event. In alphabetical order:

Jennifer Collins
Nairy Digris
Bradley Erickson
Cynthia Erickson
Mitchell Erickson
Lynne Gildensoph
Alarica Hassett

Mark Keljik
Tom Keljik
Lou Ann Matossian
Terry McGibbon
Josh Nowlan
Mark Wiersbeck



Over
The
Back
Fence

In Sympathy



It is with great sadness that we share the passing of **Alis Balci, wife of Kirkor and mother of Tania**, the first week of January. The family lived in the Twin Cities in the 1980's and Alis single-handedly translated ACOM's Constitution and By-Laws from English to Armenian. The family moved to New Jersey a while back, but those of us who knew them kept in touch and remember what a kind and loving person Alis was. Our most sincere condolences to Kirkor and Tania. We will always remember Alis.

Our sympathy to the **Kocharian** family on the passing of their beloved father and grandfather, Karlin Kocharian, on Oct. 7. He was surrounded by his family

Our condolences to **Valeriy Saakian** and the entire family on the loss of Araksya Kagramanian, Valeriy's mother.

Our condolences to **Raffi Tanashian** and his family for the loss of his paternal grandmother in Lebanon. We offer our prayers and expressions of sympathy.

Our sympathy to **Avo Toghramadjian** and his family, Katie, Hagop, Thomas, Raffi and Isabel on the sudden passing of his father in Lebanon in early December, 2009.

We were very saddened to hear of the death of **Fr. Zaven Yazichyan's** maternal aunt in Armenia. May God bless her soul.

Our sympathies to the family of **Donald Bruce Steinmetz** of St. Paul who died on Dec. 28. He was a professor in the Department of Languages and Cross Cultural Studies at Augsburg College. His interest in Armenians brought him to several ACOM events and badaraks at St. Sahag Church.

Condolences to **Leroy and Cynthia Erickson** and family on the passing of Leroy's uncle, Ray Danielson, of Alexandria, MN. Ray, a WW II vet, was just short of his 94th birthday.

Get Well Wishes

Henry Gregorian is recovering from his fall this past September.

Harriet Balian returned home after several weeks of hospitalization and therapy last October. She is happy to be back and keeps getting stronger. It is great to see her driving and getting around independently. Great job Harriet!

Armine Boyajian is in the Transitional Care Unit at Edina Center.

Astghik Alanakyan fell on Oct. 17 and broke her right arm. She underwent surgery followed by extensive physical therapy. While she is recovering, she still experiences severe pain. We are all happy to see her back!

Alice Tashjian fell in November and cracked her pelvis. We're happy to see she has recovered well.

Helen Pompeian, from Rochester, fell while shopping and broke her hip just before Thanksgiving. She spent three weeks in the hospital, but is now at home recovering.

Get Well **Azad Mesrobian** - Glad to hear you are recovering well.

Around Town

Azad Mesrobian and his daughters traveled to Armenia for the first time between September 22 and October 2, 2008. It has taken them a while to write a 35 page booklet recalling their visit, but it is now ready. The pamphlet is titled: "A Journey to the Motherland Armenia". They would be very happy to share their impressions with whoever is interested. If you would like to receive a copy to read by email, send Azad a note at: azadmesrobian@hotmail.com

Henry and Laurel Gregorian traveled to Armenia this past September. It was Henry's first trip to Armenia in which he had time for sight seeing. The weather was wonderful and they both had a great time.

(Cont'd on page 3)

Congratulations!

Talisha Siranoush Kendall and Lance Heald were married on Sept 12, 2009, in a beautiful outdoor wedding in rural Barnesville, MN. Talisha is the daughter of Marg and Dwight Kendall of Jamestown, ND, and the niece of **Cynthia and Leroy Erickson**. All three Erickson boys attended.

Two of our newer community members, **Robert Nalbandov and Seta Iskanderian**, were engaged on Dec. 30, 2009. They will be married in June, 2010 at St. James Church in Watertown, Mass.

Around Town (cont'd)

Cynthia Erickson and Christopher Erickson spent two weeks in Armenia working with the Fuller Center for Housing. They helped construct homes and a community center in Vanadzor in northern Armenia. During their visit, they and fellow team members participated in an evening of discussion with local college professors, college students, and the Archbishop for that area about the Protocols that had just been signed by leaders from Turkey and Armenia. Another meeting of interest was with the Deputy Minister of the government's Ministry of the Armenian Diaspora, Stepan Petrosyan. There they learned about changes that the Armenian government was making in order to attract more travelers from the Diaspora. Some of these changes included programs for young people to travel to Armenia to assist at children's camps for two weeks, and the lowering of costs for entrance visas.

Hagop Toghramadjian participated on the St. Paul Academy team at the State Geography and Current Events competition. The team won second place.

Andy and Max Ylitalo participated at the Twin Citites Regional Science Fair and they both won first place medals in their division. In addition, Andy will advance to the Minnesota State Science Fair and he was also invited to present his project at the International Sustainability Science and Engineering Olympiad in Houston Texas.

Editorial comment: Way to go Hagop, Andy and Max!

From Our Readers

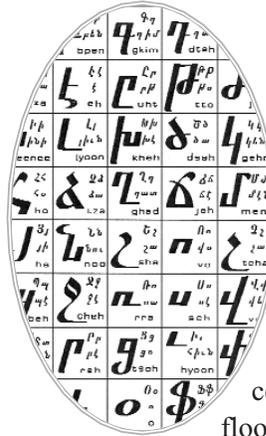
Dear Friends,
Our regards to all. We remember all of you frequently. Thank you for propagating our Armenian traditions, culture and our Holy Faith. Most especially, our Armenian folk dances and culture.
With warm regards,
Richard and Geraldine Hagopian

Nice report (Newsletter) - well done.
Azad Mesrobian

Dear members of ACOM,
We thank you for your sympathy. The flowers were beautiful.
Sincerely,
Kocharians

Dear ACOM,
Thank you, thank you, thank you! The fruit gift you sent me wishing me well was not only beautiful, but absolutely delicious. Your thoughtfulness brought tears to my eyes.
Astghik Alanakyan

Great website and thanks for the newsletter.
Francis Bulbulian



ACOM SPONSORED ARMENIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES HAVE RESUMED

SUNDAYS AT 1:00 P.M.

MARIAM KHACHATRYAN HAS
VERY GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED
TO BE THE INSTRUCTOR.

The classes will take place in the center room/classroom on the second floor at St. Sahag. Mariam will take attendance and it would be much appreciated if, in the future, she is notified in advance if a student cannot make it to class. If she has too many that cannot show up, she may decide to cancel that particular session. Her phone is: 612-250-4453 and her email is: mayrflut@yahoo.com.

Mariam's plans are to teach Eastern Armenian and assign homework, but we also know that there are and will be students of various levels in the class. Please bear with us as we work out the details but also keep in mind that this would be the perfect time for new students to start learning Armenian. Your kids/grandkids will appreciate it in the future!

In the thirty years of ACOM's existence, this being our 30th anniversary year, ACOM has had many volunteers who have taught Armenian at various levels. Some of these generous instructors were (in alphabetical order):

- Alis Balci (may she rest in peace)
- Dn. Manuk Malkhasyan
- Garos Soghomonian
- Krikor Heghinian
- Nairy Digris
- Rebecca Gauro (may she rest in peace)
- Vahram Kardashian
- Vali Kardashian
- Vega Mikaelian

- February 21..... Der Hrach teaches liturgical and classical Armenian
- February 28..... Mariam Khachatryan/ACOM teaches Eastern Armenian
- March 14..... Der Hrach teaches liturgical and classical Armenian
- March 21 & 28.... Mariam Khachatryan/ACOM teaches Eastern Armenian

The schedule above will be revisited at the end of March.

Voski Ashoun

Another great evening was presented by ACOM this past October. More than 70 people were treated to a program of stirring music, amusing story-telling and varied dance performances. Musicians, dancers, singers -- it's not often that we can see and hear them all in one evening. Our sincere thanks to each of them. They are:

Astghik Alanakyan
Liana Brouillard
Alarica Hassett
Harut Khachatryan
Deacon Manuk Malkhasyan
Lou Ann Matossian
Amy Samelian
Twin Cities West Coast Swingers
Andy Ylitalo
Caroline Melkonian Ylitalo



ACOM thanks all these talented participants for their gracious and supportive contribution. Proceeds from this event go toward ACOM's St. Sahag Building Fund. Refreshments following the program were provided by ACOM and kindly served by St. Sahag Women's Guild.

2010 FESTIVAL OF NATIONS APRIL 29 - MAY 2

The Armenian Dance Ensemble will be performing three dances on the main stage of the Festival this year. First one is "Sev Acherov Aghchig". This is choreographed to a well-known folk song in praise of a dark-eyed girl. The basic steps of the dance were taught to us in 2006 by world famous Armenian folkdance instructor, Tom Bozgian. We added different steps to the instrumental parts of the song to add more stage appeal to the dance. The other two dances, "Hele-Hele" and "Nareh" are from the historic region of Dikranagerd, located on the Tigris Tiver, southwest of today's Republic of Armenia. The Gyumri Kohar Symphony Orchestra accompanies the measured pace of "Hele-Hele" and the vivaciously fast and energetic steps of "Nareh" conclude the dance program for the 2010 Festival of Nations.

As we have for the past few years, ACOM is also hosting a demonstration exhibit at this year's Festival. This year we will be branching out to manuscript illumination, but will continue to sell the lovely dyed and hand-painted silks we have created over the past few years. The demonstration exhibit is chaired by Janet Rith-Najarian and Lynne Gildensoph, and we would welcome volunteers to help us educate those who attend the Festival about Armenian art and culture. Volunteers receive a free ticket to the Festival, which is a nice plus! Look for workshops to happen in March and/or April (we'll send email alerts), and please email Lynne if you would like to volunteer – lhgildensoph@stkate.edu.

Something new this year: The backdrop screen behind the ethnic dance performers in Wilkins Auditorium will be a projection of a recognizable photo or scene for that particular ethnic group during their performance. The Armenian Dance Ensemble, after checking with and obtaining Laurel Gregorian's approval, is using a picture of Laurel's painting of Ararat/Khor Virab that is hanging in Fellowship Hall.



**LOU ANN MATOSSIAN, ARMENIAN REPORTER NEWS EDITOR,
HONORED AT NATIONAL ETHNIC MEDIA AWARDS**

New America Media, the nation's first and largest collaboration of ethnic news organizations, honored Armenian Reporter Eastern U.S. Community News Editor Lou Ann Matossian at the 2009 National Ethnic Media Expo & Awards, held last June in Atlanta. Hillary Rodham Clinton has called the NAM Awards "the equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize" for ethnic media. Representing more than 2,500 ethnic news organizations, the NAM Expo is the largest convening of ethnic media in the United States.

Lou Ann was named runner-up in the International Affairs category for her two-part reporting on the Institute of Turkish Studies (ITS) scandal, a story she broke in the Armenian Reporter and which was later covered by the Huffington Post, Hatewatch, Inside Higher Ed, Znet, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, Boston Globe, Chronicle of Higher Education, and London Review of Books.

ITS board chairperson, Donald Quataert, who stepped down in December 2006 after he acknowledged the Armenian Genocide in a book review, allegedly was forced to resign under pressure from the Turkish Embassy, which denied the charges. Several other ITS board members resigned in protest, citing concerns about academic freedom. ("Institute of Turkish Studies chair was ousted for acknowledging Genocide," May 31, 2008)

While the identity of the Ankara-based officials who allegedly threatened to defund the ITS remains an open question, three past or present Turkish ambassadors controlled the scholarly institute's endowment at that time, Internal Revenue Service records show. Among them was Şükrü Elekdağ, the institute's founding honorary chairperson and a forceful opponent of Armenian Genocide recognition. ("Politics, scholarship, and the Armenian Genocide," July 19, 2008) The stories are available online at www.reporter.am.

Over 51 million ethnic adults connect to each other, to home countries and to America through 3000+ ethnic media outlets; this is the fastest growing sector of American journalism, according to NAM. Funded by the nonprofit Pacific News Service in 1996, the organization is headquartered in California with offices in New York and Washington, D.C. NAM also partners with journalism schools to grow local associations of ethnic media around the nation.



FUTURE LEADERS EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Many of you are aware that we have two high school exchange students in our community this year. They are Suren Petrosyan and Arus Sahakyan and they have been in Minnesota since late last summer. Arus is from Armenia, and Suren was born in Armenia but his family later moved to Ukraine. Arus is living with one of our community's families - that of Kohar and Chris Kibarian. Both students are part of the FLEX program - Future Leaders Exchange program - which gives you some insight into why they were selected to participate in this program.

The agency that placed them is looking for a host family for another Armenian student, a 15 year old girl from Yerevan. She's a gifted piano player and also very much an athlete, into tennis and ice skating.

This exchange program provides medical insurance, reimburses school and activity fees, and gives the student a

monthly stipend for personal expenses. There is a local coordinator who provides orientations and ongoing support throughout the year. The student arrives in August and leaves in May.

The host family does not have to have a high school aged student, but they do need to speak English as the primary language of the home and be able to provide three meals a day and local transportation as needed.

Please feel free to contact Nancy Mulhern, with World Link, Inc., with any questions you may have. The organization's website is worldlinkinc.org.

Contact Nancy Mulhern at nsmulhern@hotmail.com or by phone at 612-388-6701 (c). Nancy is the Coordinator for World Link, Inc. - Citizen Diplomacy: Student Exchange with a Purpose

MEMORIAL CONCERT HONORS BEATRICE OHANESSIAN



On November 15, 2009, a memorial concert sponsored by ACOM and organized by Sita Ohanessian was presented in honor of her sister Beatrice who dedicated her life to music.

Prior to moving to Minnesota in 1994, Beatrice was pianist for the Iraqi National Symphony Orchestra and recitalist throughout Europe. Her last years were spent here in the Twin Cities sharing her love for music in a variety of public performances, every Sunday as organist at St. Sahag Church and teaching at the University of Minnesota.

Two stellar pianists paid tribute to Beatrice: Natalia Zazaryan and Anna Sarkisova. Both women are world-class musicians having played across Europe. Our profound thanks to them for participating in this concert and to Sita Ohanessian for bringing them to us. More than 140 friends from all facets of Beatrice's life attended this wonderful concert to pay homage to a great lady and exceptional musician.

MADE IN ARMENIA DIRECT (MIAD)

ACOM held its third annual fundraising sale on Nov. 28 with *Made In Armenia Direct*. This year was our best ever. ACOM realized about \$75 profit from the sale of goods from MIAD. Thank you to everyone near and far who participated in this venture. *Made In Armenia Direct* is an organization which supports Armenian artisans and their families and encourages the preservation of their craftsmanship and unique Armenian artistic legacy. Their offerings can be viewed anytime at www.madeinarmeniadirect.com. Watch for another shopping day sponsored by ACOM again this fall.

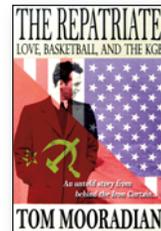
TOM MOORADIAN VISITS ST. PAUL



Tom Mooradian's story captivated an audience of 20 people. On Friday evening, Feb. 12, Tom spoke about his life as a repatriate to Armenia 1947 to 1960. His story is told in his book "*The Repatriate. Love, Basketball and the KGB.*"

The evening ended with a reception and Tom kindly autographed his book to those who purchased it. If you missed this wonderful presentation, you may order a signed copy from the following website:

www.tommooradian.com.



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!
www.MnArmenians.org

for

Calendar of events,

Upcoming speakers

Cultural programs

Copies of newsletters

ADE performance schedule

Photos from ACOM events,

and much more.

Our Webmaster:

Terry McGibbon



On a perfectly gorgeous day this past fall, more than 20 ACOM members and friends formed a convoy and motored to Hayward, Wisconsin for a very special treat. Our destination was **TURK'S INN**, an elegant Armenian restaurant owned by Marge Gogian.



She and her staff prepared a meal of shish kebab, pilaf and salad fit for a king. And to top it off, we had pakhlava for dessert.



We were surrounded by precious art, pictures, dolls, steins, each very unique, some one-of-a-kind. Over the years, this vast collection was amassed from all over the world. It was an added bonus to the wonderful meal. The weather invited many of us to have our coffee in the outdoor cafe of the Inn. It was the kind of day you wished would never end. We're looking forward to doing this again later this year.

ACOM Past Presidents met at the home of Mark Keljik on December 2, 2009. The primary purpose of this meeting was to review ACOM's activities over the years and look to the future.

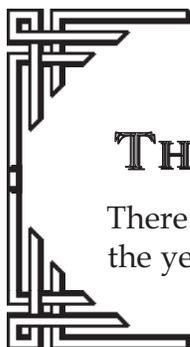


Vahram Kardashian made a suggestion to edit the current ACOM logo. Several ideas were discussed and it was left to Peggy Merjanian to design the logo based on those ideas. The result is shown here.



*Armenian Cultural Organization
of Minnesota
Culture. Heritage. History. Language.*

L-R, Back Row: Aram Charchian, Mark Keljik, Cynthia Erickson
Front Row: Lou Ann Matossian, Nairy Digris, Lynne Gildensoph, Francis Bulbulian
Seated: Vahram Kardashian, Peggy Merjanian



Did you know?
ACOM WAS FOUNDED IN FEBRUARY, 1980?

THIS IS OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY!

There are plans to celebrate with a variety of events throughout the year. As plans are firmed up, you will be notified by email.



TURKEY AND AZERBAIJAN TRY TO UNDERMINE APPOINTMENT OF CANADIAN-ARMENIAN JUDGE

By Harut Sassounian • on September 15, 2009 - The Armenian Weekly•

Reprinted with permission.

Turks and Azerbaijanis, probably at the instigation of their governments, have attempted to undermine the recent appointment of Canadian-Armenian Aris Babikian as a citizenship judge, responsible for making decisions with regard to applications for Canadian citizenship.

In making the appointment, Jason Kenney, Canada's Minister of Citizenship, Immigration, and Multiculturalism, described Babikian as an individual who has been "very involved in immigration, citizenship, social services, culture, human rights, and multicultural issues in his community. He has served as executive director of the Armenian National Committee of Canada, and been a member of the Ontario Film Review Board and the Canadian Ethnocultural Council. Mr. Babikian was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal and the Ontario Volunteer Service Award. He speaks English, Armenian, Arabic, Turkish, and Greek."

Canadian-Turkish and Azeri organizations immediately launched a vicious hate campaign against Judge Babikian, writing letters to the minister of citizenship and the prime minister protesting his appointment.

Day.az, an Azeri news website, called Babikian a racist, chauvinist, and an extremist. Stating that his appointment is "unacceptable" and "of serious concern to the Azerbaijani and Turkish communities of Canada," the Azeri website made the ridiculous claim that "Babikian had access to all sectors of the Canadian political establishment due to the power and money of the Armenian community, particularly the Dashnaks." The website attacked the Canadian government for having recognized the Armenian Genocide and disparaged Minister Kenney for being selected the ANC's "Man of the Year." The Azeri site made the baseless charge that any Canadian journalist who dared to write against Armenians would jeopardize his career. "Bizim Anadolu," a Canadian-Turkish monthly newspaper, also targeted Babikian in its July 2009 issue, calling him "a hard-line Armenian political lobbyist [who] has displayed bias and hatred towards Turks, has been against dialogue and reconciliation, and clearly does not possess the cross-cultural sensitivity that is a prerequisite for the appointment of a citizenship judge."

Reacting to these Turkish attacks, Canadian political figures, journalists, leaders of ethnic communities, and NGO representatives wrote letters of commendation to the minister of citizenship and the prime minister in support of Babikian's appointment. The most unexpected defense of Babikian came from a liberal Canadian-Turkish newspaper, Yeni Hayat,

which published a lengthy editorial on Aug. 27 countering the defamatory Turkish and Azeri attacks against him.

Yeni Hayat wrote that Babikian was being subjected to "an orchestrated campaign of character assassination, intimidation, lies, innuendo, misinformation, and propaganda [which] was launched in certain Canadian-Turkish media outlets, mirroring similar campaigns in Azerbaijan and Turkey."

Yeni Hayat highly praised Babikian's "cross-cultural, civic, human rights, educational, multicultural, civic projects, plus his service record, voluntarism, and contribution to the enrichment of the Canadian civil society should suffice as convincing rebuttal to this vicious, immoral, unethical, and mendacious campaign. Everyone who has had the opportunity to work with and to know Judge Babikian will attest that he is a man of integrity, honesty, sincerity, moderation, and a firm believer in peaceful coexistence. The accolades he has received from many governments and NGOs are testimony to the man's high moral standing and commitment to making Canada a welcoming place to everyone regardless of religion, color, race or any other differences."

Yeni Hayat pointed out that Babikian "always made a distinction between the Turkish people and the Turkish government." He is "cognizant that the Turkish government and a minority of ultra-nationalists are out of touch with their civil society's thinking when it comes to the Armenian Genocide." The newspaper deplored that these "ultra-nationalists, with the help and support of foreign elements, have taken over the Canadian-Turkish community and are trying to radicalize the community and sow the seeds of hatred against other communities in Canada."

It appears that the Turkish government, just as it has done in a number of countries around the world, has been financing ultra-nationalist Turkish groups in Canada in order to export genocide denialism, silence its foreign critics, and counter the political activities of the Armenian community. In this particular case, Turkey's long arm, with Azerbaijan's backing, has sought to reach all the way into Canada to undermine the appointment of a qualified Canadian-Armenian judge.

Ankara and Baku have no right to interfere in the Canadian government's internal decision-making on judicial appointments. Instigating Turkish and Azeri immigrants against Canadian-Armenians could have dire consequences for which Turkey and Azerbaijan would bear full responsibility.





ACOM's 2010 Calendar



PLEASE NOTE:

All events are held at St. Sahag Armenian Church unless otherwise specified.

ADE listings are Armenian Dance Ensemble

<u>MONTH/DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>TIME</u>
JANUARY		
16	Gaghant - Barahantess	
27	ACOM Executive Meeting	
31	Armenian Language Classes Resume	
1/22 -2/18	Unspoken Destinies - photographs of Armenian Massacre - Nash Gallery, Regis Center of Art, Univ. of MN	
FEBRUARY		
5	The Armenian Genocide - Panelists & Presentations - U. of St. Thomas School of Law	
12	Mooradian Lecture - book sale "THE REPATRIATE" Reception Follows	
18	Armen Donelian (Jazz Pianist) Concert, Mankato State Univ.	
25	ACOM Executive Meeting	7:00 p.m.
MARCH		
7	Preview for Festival of Nations - Dance	1:00 p.m.
13	Armenian Dance Ensemble (ADE) - Golden Valley Rehab Care Center	2:00 p.m.
18	ACOM Executive Meeting	7:00 p.m.
25	ADE Shalom Home East - St. Paul	7:00 p.m.
APRIL		
8	ACOM Executive Meeting	7:00 p.m.
24	Genocide Memorial Event & Reception	7:00 p.m.
29 - 30	Festival of Nations	All Day
MAY		
1 - 2	Festival of Nations	All Day
13	ACOM Executive Meeting	7:00 p.m.
JUNE		
17	ACOM Executive Meeting	7:00 p.m.
18	ADE at Hennepin County Government Center	12 noon
JULY		
15	ACOM Executive Meeting	7:00 p.m.
17	Annual Picnic	4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
22	ADE Shalom East, St. Paul	7:00 p.m.
AUGUST		
19	ACOM Executive Meeting	7:00 p.m.
25	ADE Centennial Lakes Park	7:00 p.m.
SEPTEMBER		
16	ACOM Executive Meeting	7:00 p.m.
OCTOBER		
9	Voski Ashoun - Entertainment & Reception	7:00 p.m.
21	ACOM Executive Meeting	7:00 p.m.
NOVEMBER		
18	ACOM Executive Meeting	7:00 p.m.
25	ADE - Shalom Home East	7:00 p.m.
DECEMBER		
9	ACOM Executive Meeting	7:00 p.m.
JANUARY, 2011		
15	Gaghant Barahantess	TBD

MINNESOTA ARMENIANS AND FRIENDS HONOR SENATOR AMY KLOBUCHAR

Armenian Reporter, Thursday, September 10, 2009



Senator Amy Klobuchar (D.-Minn.), right, with Dr. Joe Tashjian and Kay Savik, who hosted a reception in the senator's honor at their home in Saint Paul, Minn., on Sept. 3, 2009.

St. Paul, Minn. - More than 60 members and friends of the Minnesota Armenian-American community came together on Sept. 3 for a reception in honor of U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D.-Minn.), a consistent supporter of Armenian-American issues since her election in 2006.

Organized by the U.S.-Armenia Public Affairs Committee (USAPAC) and hosted by Dr. Joe Tashjian and Kay Savik at their elegant Summit Avenue home, the reception was part of the Minnesota community's ongoing effort to engage, educate, and thank their elected representatives.

Leading by example were Gerard and Cleo Cafesjian, Kathie Cafesjian Baradaran and Jaff Baradaran, Dennis and Megan Doyle, Alice Tashjian, and Steve and Chacke Scallen on the host committee.

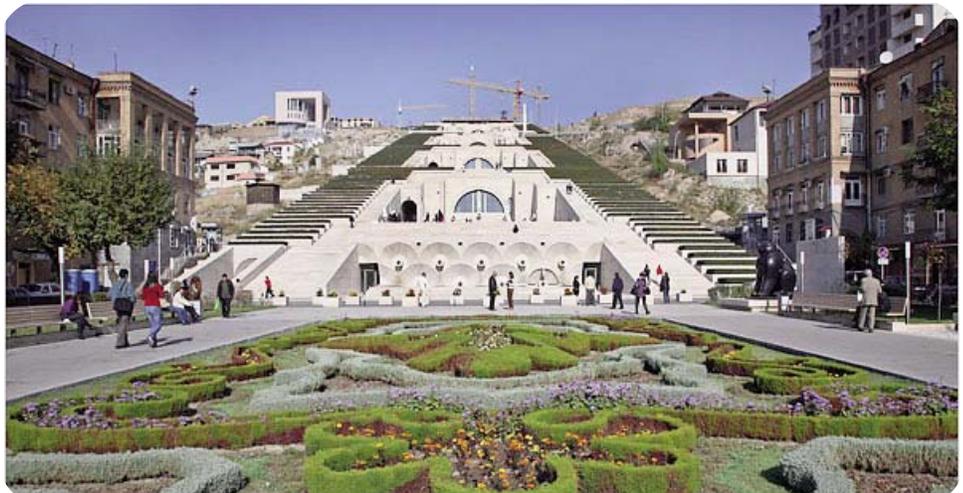
In the 110th Congress, Senator Klobuchar co-sponsored S. Res. 106, affirming the U.S. record on the Armenian Genocide, and co-authored a letter with former Minnesota Senator Norm Coleman, a Republican, that helped secure \$1 million in U.S. government assistance for Iraqi-Armenian refugee assistance.

During her remarks, the senator reaffirmed her support of the community and pledged to continue to act as a strong advocate for its issues. The senator highlighted her desire to once again work to ensure proper funding for resettlement of Iraqi-Armenian refugees in Armenia.

"Senator Klobuchar continues to be a stalwart leader on issues vital to the Armenian-American community, including U.S. assistance to Armenia and Karabakh, Karabakh's inalienable right to self-determination, and universal affirmation of the Armenian Genocide," said USAPAC executive director Ross Vartian. "Her support for ongoing US funding of Iraqi-Armenian resettlement to Armenia is particularly appreciated."

THE CAFESJIAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS IN ARMENIA.

Some 20,000 Armenians turned up for the opening of the Cafesjian Center for the Arts in Yerevan. They jammed the new sculpture park and the terraced gardens and galleries, including the first exhibition ever in Armenia of the Armenian-born American great, Arshile Gorky. More event details and photos at www.reporter.am.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

WELCOME BACK to those who have renewed their membership!

Agadzanova, Galina
Andeweg, George & Jeanne
 Bagdasarov/Teosyan, George/ Yelena
 Balian, Harriet
 Bulbulian, Francis & Barbara
 Charchian, Aram & Ruth
 Digris, Nairy, McGibbon, Terry;
 Hassett, Natasha & Alarica
Dourgarian, Gregg, Mary & Family
 Erickson, Cynthia, Leroy,
 Bradley & Mitchell
Gauro, Boghos, Cusik, Lana & family
 Gildensoph, Lynne
 Gregorian, Henry & Laurel
 Hayes, Jackie, Carlson, Mike & family
 Heilman, Happy
 Hoover, Kris & Elsa
Keljik, Mark
 Keljik, Tom & Collins, Jennifer

Matossian, Lou Ann
 Meketarian, Marty & Mara
 Merjanian, Steve & Peggy
Mesrobian, Azad & Karen
 Mesroubian, Sam & Sylvia
Ohanessian, Sita
 Ohannesian, Judy, Tiffany, Doug & family
 Oyler, Bill
 Rendahl/Parker, Krite/Jamie
 Rith-Najarian, Stephen & Janet
 Samelian, Amy
 Savayan/Anderson, Peka Christova/
 Stephen, Maria
 Warren/Bendian, John/Melanie
 Wiersbeck, Mark
 Yaghsezian, George & Aida
Yeterian, Massis
 Ylitalo, Caroline, David & family

ACOM appreciates all donations, no matter how large or small.

Your support allows us to continue to serve the MN Armenian Community.

The highlighted members have contributed \$50 or more.

If you have paid your dues for this year but your name is not listed above, we apologize. Please email hyebar@qwest.net so we can amend our records.

To join or rejoin, please use the form on the back cover and mail your dues to:

ACOM Treasurer
 1703 Skillman Avenue West
 Roseville, MN 55113

FOOD DONATIONS

ACOM has placed a barrel in the fellowship hall along with empty grocery bags on the side. Please keep in mind the less fortunate, and bring your donated non-perishable food items. ACOM has been regularly delivering food bags to the Keystone Foodshelf. In 2009, we have delivered 200 pounds of food.



Armenian Cultural Organization of Minnesota

203 North Howell Street ~ St. Paul, MN 55104

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:	Mark Keljik	612-823-6338
Vice President:	Tom Keljik	651-659-0552
Treasurer:	Nairy Digris	651-639-9346
Secretary:	Lynne Gildensoph	651-690-8621
Social Director:	Mark Wiersbeck	952-220-6695
External Affairs & Cultural Dir:	Lou Ann Matossian	612-359-8991
Past President:	Cynthia Erickson	651-917-1818
Newsletter Editor:	Peggy Merjanian	952-473-HYEM

ARMENIAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF MINNESOTA (ACOM)

MISSION STATEMENT

- 1) To provide programs and events which encourage its members to learn Armenian culture, language, history and heritage.
- 2) To provide programs of Armenian culture, language, history and heritage for the general Minnesota area.
- 3) To provide an environment which encourages participation of all Armenians, their relations and friends who have an interest in Armenian culture, regardless of religious, political or social differences, and to promote harmony among its members.
- 4) To provide periodic gatherings and meetings for the cultural furtherance of the Armenian people, their relations and friends who have an interest in Armenian culture within the general Minnesota area.

CONSTITUTION

The Armenian Cultural Organization of Minnesota (ACOM) preserves and promotes Armenian culture, language, history and heritage in Minnesota and the upper Midwest. Founded in 1980 and headquartered in St. Paul, ACOM is the oldest and largest Armenian organization in the state.

ACOM welcomes everyone, regardless of ethnic, religious, or political affiliation, who takes an interest in Armenia and Armenians. Our members include first-generation through fourth-generation Minnesota Armenians, their families, and non-Armenian friends of the community.

ACOM's numerous cultural and social events include Armenian dance parties (barahantess), guest speakers, Armenian language classes, folk dance lessons and performances by the Armenian Dance Ensemble of Minnesota, chamber music concerts by the Armenian Music Ensemble, art shows, summer picnics, and craft sales. ACOM also sponsors all Armenian activities at the International Institute's *Festival of Nations*, a major regional folk festival held annually in St. Paul. Minnesota Armenians were founding participants in 1932; today, the Festival is ACOM's most visible public venue.

The ACOM office and most activities are in the historic St. Sahag Armenian Church building, at the intersection of Dayton and Howell, in the Merriam Park neighborhood of St. Paul. As an independent, 501(c)3 non-profit organization, ACOM is supported primarily by membership dues and private donations. Gifts to ACOM are tax-deductible to the extent permissible by law.

"Armenia", the Armenian sailboat that had left Europe several months ago, docked at the San Pedro Port of Los Angeles in the afternoon of Monday, August 24, 2009, where it was met by the Primate of the Western Diocese, His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, accompanied by His Eminence Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian, the Very Rev. Fr. Dajad Dz. V. Yardemian, Vicar General, and other clergy. Some 250 other enthusiasts crowded the pier.

Dance, song, as well as some other performances took place during this event. At the invitation of the Los Angeles Consul General, the Primate welcomed the sailors, underscoring, in his heart-warming message to the crowd, the adventurous, probing and idealistic nature of the Armenian people.



LAWYERS FROM ENGLAND, IRELAND, TURKEY AND US TACKLE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF LAW

The Armenian Weekly Saturday, February 13, 2010

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—The University of St. Thomas School of Law, as part of its “unique mission of integrating faith and reason in the search for truth through a focus on morality and social justice,” co-organized an international conference, in partnership with the International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (A Division of the Zoryan Institute), to examine “The Armenian Genocide within the Framework of National and International Law.” The conference took place on February 5th, 2010 in Minneapolis, in conjunction with the Cafesjian Family Foundation and the Ohanessian Endowment Fund for Justice and Peace Studies of the Minneapolis Foundation.

A journal that includes the papers from the presenters at the Symposium at University of St. Thomas will be published in May of 2010. The cost for this journal will be a nominal \$20, well worth having all that information at your fingertips. In order to place an order, you will need to provide your name and address as well as a check for \$20 made out to the St. Thomas Journal of Law and Public Policy. The deadline for placing orders is the end of April. Please contact Liz Burnett, Law Student at the University of St. Thomas School of Law, through her e-mail address: aeburnett@stthomas.edu



ACOM MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

VALID THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2010

NAME(S): _____

STREET: _____ City/St/Zip _____

Phone: (_____) _____ E-Mail Address: _____

- HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP***
MINNESOTA RESIDENTS \$30.00
- OUT OF STATE \$15.00**
(Newsletter Only)
- CONTRIBUTING \$100.00**

**Includes all members of one household*

Comments? _____

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO ACOM.

**✂ COMPLETE THIS FORM and
RETURN IT WITH YOUR CHECK TO**



**Nairy Digris, Treasurer
1703 Skillman Ave. W.
Roseville MN 55113**

We appreciate and count on your continued support.

MinneHyeLites is distributed via EMAIL to those who request it. This saves ACOM considerable printing and mailing costs. If you'd like to receive your newsletter via email, just send your email address to hyebar@qwest.net



*Peggy Merjanian, Editor
1703 Skillman Ave. West
Roseville MN 55113*

MinneHyeLites

Newsletter of ACOM

Armenian Cultural Organization of Minnesota
#130 Winter 2010