

Culture
Heritage
History
Language

Armenian Cultural Organization of Minnesota
Established 1980

No. 132 Summer 2011

MinneHyeLites



Margaret Favre completes a design to be transferred to fabric.

Among the many activities and events on ACOM's calendar every year are the Festival of Nations in the spring and the annual summer picnic. On this page we've highlighted a bit of each that took place last year. Check out the calendar for upcoming activities.



Hayr Simeon Odabashian & Michele Byfield Angell



Two lovely young ladies who visited our exhibit from "Palestine".



Francis Bullbulian & Marty Meketarian welcome all



Cynthia Erickson & Mara Meketarian enjoy the water as they watch over the youngsters

Amy Samehian, makes it a threesome with Armen & Hagop Meketarian down the slide.



The Keljik/Collins team came in second in the balloon toss.



Margaret Favre & Janet Rith -Najarian display our hand-painted canvas backdrop.

Sarah Schmidt & Mitchell Erickson



From Our Readers!

On behalf of the **Armenian Dance Ensemble**, thank you to Mark Keljik for donating various jewelry pieces for use by the members of the ensemble. They are very interesting earrings and necklaces and added a lot of jingle to the costumes.

Nairy Digris

The entire newsletter, articles and pictures, were excellently done. I enjoyed reading it over and over.

*Helen Pompeian
Rochester*

We enjoy the news of the ACOM activities and the many fine articles in the Newsletter.

*John & Myrna Kourajian
St. Cloud*

Great annual report and to the point. It was a great year and I thank all the officers of ACOM for their hard work for making all this happen. Shenoragalem!!!

Francis Bulbulian

We do appreciate receiving the ACOM Newsletter in paper copy.

Ray & Sarah Wiersbeck

Mark, what a wonderful idea (re: the ACOM organized trip to Rochester). I am afraid it will be hard on Harry. We love Rochester. Have a great time.

Alice A. Tashjian

My recent visit to the Hospital was made better by your gift of flowers. Thanks to all of you!

Steve Merjanian

Dear ACOM Executive Committee,
Thank you for your generous donation to St. Sahag in memory of Massis. He was such a strong supporter of ACOM and attended all the events. I lost a brother and a good friend. I miss him so very much as he was such an important part of my life.

Sincerely,
Chacké Scallen

Dear Friends,
Thank you for your heartfelt note and donation. I will be sending in on to Pathways - a health crisis center where both my mother, years ago, and my father found so nurturing to their conditions, so much that Dad sat as chair of their board of directors. I miss my involvement with ACOM and hope to get to some events this fall. Armenian traditions are never very far from our daily routine - be it food or superstition; all good memories.

Affectionately,
Michele Byfield Angell

Dear Mark Wiersbeck

It was a pleasure to see you. The arrangement you made for ACOM members to make a trip to Rochester was a successful one. Many thanks for a special day with ACOM members. I felt proud to see the interest they had in the mission of the Gift of Life Transplant Houses. My best regards to you and the members of ACOM.

Most sincerely,
Helen Pompeian

My hat's off to the ACOM officers. Appreciate your hard work. Enjoyed all the programs I attended.

Francis Bulbulian

I learned on Sunday that my Aunt and Uncle were headed to NYC to meet with General Colin Powell. One person that served in each war from World War II forward was invited to meet and talk with General Powell. My uncle (Vartkess Tarbassian) represented the Korean war and he and my Aunt Zabel took the train to New York from Boston for the meeting. Everything was paid for. They had a chauffeured limo pick them up and take them to the Hilton. When they arrived, they had a fruit and chocolates basket waiting for them. I will call this weekend to find out more details on how it went, but my cuz says that my uncle was "over the moon excited for weeks now," about going. And, to top it all off, there will be an article about him appearing in Parade magazine around Veteran's Day. *Mark Wiersbeck*

Mark and the ACOM Committee,
I received the Get Well card and the Barnes & Noble gift card today. My thanks again to you and to the ACOM Committee for the unexpected and much appreciated gift. Today I used the Barnes & Noble gift card to purchase 2 books, The Litigators by John Grisham, and Steve Jobs, by Walter Isaacson. I got old fashioned hard cover books since we plan to read them over our Thanksgiving travels to Dallas. Great timing, great gift. Thanks,

Jim (& Margaret) Favre

Congratulations to Newly Weds ...

Alarica Hassett & Joshua Nowlan, Mark Keljik & Caren Grantz, Mariam Khachatryan & Edwin Galoustian



Congratulations to Joseph H. Tashjian, M.D.

Dr. Tashjian was recognized as Mpls/St. Paul Magazine Top Doctor in the years, 2010 - 2009 - 2008 - 2007 - 2006 - 2004 - 2003 - 2001. Dr. Tashjian says "I am grateful to have the opportunity to improve people's health."

THANK YOU!

TO: **George Andeweg, Leroy Erickson, Tom Keljik, & Terry McGibbon**

who spent the majority of Thursday, October 20 priming, painting, scraping, patching, sealing, all in and around the St. Sahag building, including the ACOM office on 2nd floor. Thank You very much from all of us in the Armenian community.



Get Well Here's wishing **Laurence Reimers** a speedy recovery from his recent hospital stay and hope he's feeling better.



In Sympathy Our heartfelt sympathy to **Chacké & Steve Scallen, Julie Scallen, Nora and Erick Rottier** on the passing of **Massis Yeterian**, April 16, 2011. Massis was one of the founders of St. Sahag Armenian Church and a pillar of our community. He will be greatly missed.

Condolences to **Peggy Merjanian** on the sudden unexpected passing of her niece, Carol Sahagian, in April.

Sympathy to **Michele Byfield Angell** and **Sarah Byfield Mainguy** on the passing of their father, David Byfield on June 8, 2011.

Sympathy to Kris and Elsa Hoover on the loss of their beloved mother and grandmother.

TWO ARMENIAN STUDENTS RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION



Andy Ylitalo, a sophomore at Stillwater Area High School, participated in the Intel ISEF (International Science and Engineering Fair) in Los Angeles. His project: "Power Up! Experimental Design and Mathematical Optimization of a Dual Rotor Wind Turbine" won the 4th grand award at the fair. In addition, he won \$500, a copy of Mathematica software, and many other prizes.

Two Armenian students received national recognition for their performance on the 2011 National Spanish exam. Andy Ylitalo won a gold medal and Hagop Toghramajian received a silver medal. Out of more than 25,000 exams given nationally, Ylitalo scored above the 98th percentile and Hagop above the 90th percentile.

All-state math team: Andy was invited to join the Minnesota All-State Mathematics Team. Ylitalo is one of the top 30 high school math students in the state. He was a member of the team last year also.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANDY AND HAGOP ON THEIR OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

SARAH WIERSBECK AND MARGARET FAVRE VISIT HISTORY CLASS AT U OF M

Sarah Wiersbeck and Margaret Favre visited a history class at the University of Minnesota Rochester at the invitation of Professor James Ford on September 20. For his class, Prof. Ford wanted to have descendants of Armenian Genocide survivors share family stories or comment on Armenian culture for his students. Sarah and Margaret shared some moving stories with the students and showed them a variety of Armenian items, family photos, etc. The students were obviously interested and asked some very thoughtful questions. Thank you to Sarah and Margaret for taking the time to spend with and educate these young people. I'm sure they will have gained better insights to that period of history and to the personal impact it has on people to this day

Cynthia Reimers Erickson

ARMENIAN FOOD MARATHON!

by Peggy Merjanian

I got the surprise of my life last Wednesday night when both of my sons, Richard and Greg (who live in Mass. and N.H.) appeared in my living room! I knew nothing about it. Together with Steve, they planned it as a surprise birthday present and made it happen. To have them both here was the best surprise I could ever imagine! They don't get Armenian food, so when all the screaming, hugging and kissing was done, that was their agenda. So we rolled up our sleeves and got to work.

First: manta. That required all of us to make, but we did it and it was great.

Second: khema. Complete with Armenian flat bread was just wonderful.

Third: shish kebab. Greg prepared it from the night before and took charge of the grilling. It was an awesome meal!

I think I'm safe in my sons, Steve and I claiming the world record for Armenian dishes - preparing from scratch and enjoying each on 3 consecutive nights.

HELP BUILD HOMES IN ARMENIA



As you know, Cynthia Erickson has been leading teams of volunteers to Armenia to build homes for several years now. Her next trip is scheduled for **June 14-29, 2012**, and there are openings on it. Most of the time will be spent in and around Vanadzor but there will be a few days in Yerevan. The trip fee is \$1620 and covers all meals, lodging, in-country transportation, emergency evacuation insurance, admission to museums and/or cultural performances as well as a donation to the Fuller Center in Armenia. Air fare is separate and depends on your origination point. Membership on the team will be limited to 15 people and no construction experience is needed. This trip is organized under the umbrella of the Fuller Center for Housing. Contact Cynthia at cynthia.erickson@minnmicro.com or 651-917-1818 for more information.





**ORDINATION
KHATCHKAR
BLESSING
TO BENJAMIN
RITH-NAJARIAN**

On Sunday,
September 18,
Archbishop
Khajag
Barsamian,
Diocesan
Primate, visited
St. Leon Church of

Fair Lawn, N.J., where he celebrated the Divine Liturgy and ordained Benjamin Rith-Najarian to the diaconate. Later in the afternoon, the Primate also consecrated a new khatchkar on church grounds, dedicated to all Armenian Christian martyrs.

In his sermon, Archbishop Barsamian spoke about the Diocese's theme "Ministry of the Faithful," which parishes across the Diocese introduced last Sunday. He reminded the faithful of Christ's call to follow Him, and touched upon ways that lay people can answer this call, which include joining the choir, teaching Sunday School, serving on the altar, or reaching out to community members who are in need. "As ministers of our Lord, you are the lamp through which the light of Christ shines on others," Archbishop Barsamian said. "You can be the illumination, which shows the presence of Christ in their own lives. And through the power of the Holy, the people to whom we minister can themselves become part of the Ministry of the Faithful."

He cited Benjamin Rith-Najarian's service as an example of a young man following Christ's call. "From his earliest examples within his family, to his experiences on the altar, in the seminary, and serving our parishes, Benjamin has been guided, step by step, along a pathway laid out by our Lord," Archbishop Barsamian said.

A native of Philadelphia, Rith-Najarian grew up at St. Sahag Church of St. Paul, MN. He graduated from St. John's University in Collegeville, MN, with a bachelor's in natural science and a minor in theology, and pursued graduate studies at St. John's School of Theology and St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, receiving a Master of Divinity degree in 2010.

Following his graduation, he spent nine months with his wife, Danielle DerAsadourian, studying the Armenian language and the Divine Liturgy at the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem. For the next year, he will intern with the Rev. Fr. Diran Bohajian, pastor of St. Leon Church, to strengthen his understanding of

parish life in the Eastern Diocese.

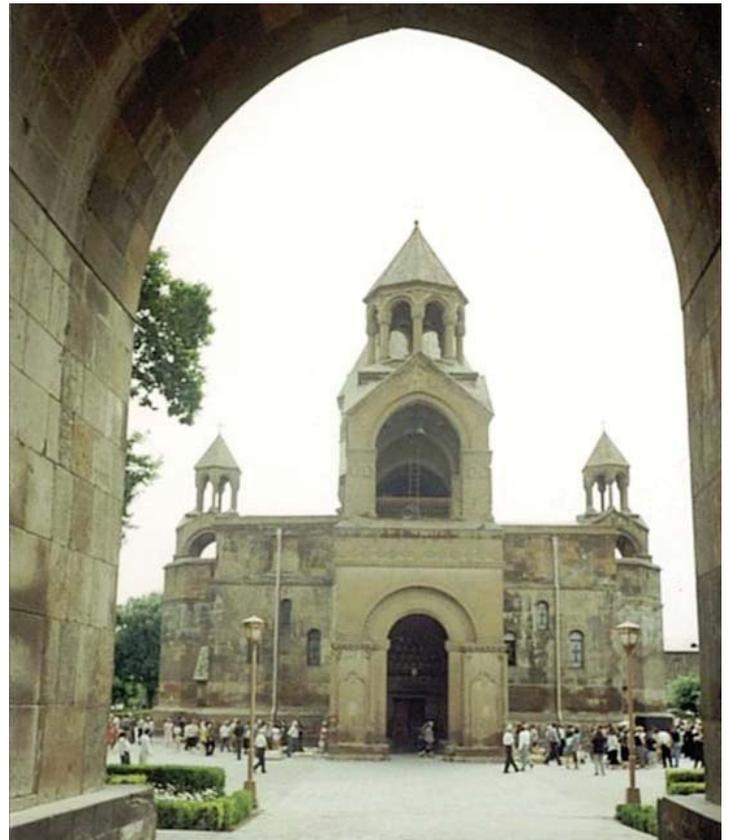
"For me, being ordained to the diaconate was a moving experience," Rith-Najarian said. "Being deacon is not simply a title, but a new step in my spiritual journey that comes with responsibility and greater opportunity to serve God and the Armenian Church. I am excited to serve in my new role at such an active parish as St. Leon and to learn from a priest as experienced as Fr. Diran."

Fr. Bohajian said that the entire community was pleased to witness the ordination. Also joining the St. Leon parish last Sunday were the Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, dean of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, and the current seminarians.

"The mission of our church continues with a young man coming forward to receive the rank of deacon," he said. "As a parish priest, it was an honor and a blessing for me to be part of this celebration."

Referring to Luke 10:2—"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest"—Fr. Bohajian said that the ordination of a new deacon is also a sign that God has heard and answered the prayers of the community.

"In the brief time since I have known Benjamin, I can attest that he is a warm, humble, and faithful son of the Armenian Church," Fr. Bohajian added. "I will do everything in my power as a priest of this community to make sure that his time here will be fruitful and God-pleasing."



ACOM Visits Rochester

Three carloads of ACOM members made their way to Rochester Minnesota, on Saturday, June 18, 2011 for an activity filled day. There, they met with more Rochester ACOM people to view and tour three local institutions. We first met at the "Gift of Life Transplant Houses" which our very own Ed Pompeian founded and has run since 1984. These large houses offer Mayo Clinic transplant patients high quality affordable accommodations in a supportive home-like environment.

Ed gave a very moving talk of how his idea came about, being a kidney transplant patient himself as a young boy. Ed then led us on a private tour of both houses (48 and 36 rooms respectively.) There are many areas where the patients are able to get out of their rooms to cook a meal, meditate, socialize, watch TV or just be with other patients going through the same thing they are and have a nice support network close at hand. Due to demand, Ed's houses have gone through multiple expansions over the years. Yet again, it appears they are near capacity and expansion may be considered.

After our tour concluded, we met for lunch at a nearby middle-eastern restaurant.

Lots of food, conversation and a nice time to catch up with the Rochester folks. Helen Pompeian served as Grandmother, making sure all had their fair share of dessert!

From the restaurant, we made our way for a tour of the historic Mayowood Mansion. This was the home of Dr. Charles H. Mayo, one of the founding members of the world-famous Mayo Clinic. This year is the 100th Anniversary of the mansion, as it was constructed in 1911. In 1965 the Mayo family donated the home to the Olmsted County Historical Society. Shortly thereafter, it was declared a Minnesota Historic Site and in 1970 was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There are 38 rooms, including 11 bedrooms within the five-level structure. The fourth level is a ballroom and the fifth level an observatory area.

Many dignitaries would show up at Mayowood, including Presidents of different countries. The Mayos traveled all over the world and would bring back many unique items that are scattered throughout the mansion. One such item is a very large Persian rug that Bedros Keljik (rug dealer and grandfather of both ACOM's President and Vice-President Mark and Tom Keljik and sister Barb Clarke who came on the tour) had sold to Dr. Mayo. When we arrived to the very large room where the rug was located, Mark gave the large tour group a little history of how the rug came to be at

the Mansion 100 years ago and how it took two teams of horses to haul it to the house. Another little known fact related to ACOM and the mansion is that Dr. Joseph Tashjian spent one of his college summers living at and painting there. What an interesting experience that must have been! Perhaps there are other stories of which we are unaware? Finally, after our tour concluded, we spent some relaxing time viewing the gardens area and took a few group photos.

Our final destination was back downtown to the Mayo Clinic itself. Hagop Tabibian, a fellow at Mayo who as been in Rochester a year now gave us a real nice inside tour of the **locked** Mayo Clinic and nearby buildings.

Because it was Saturday, no one was around. But we were able to walk about and see quite a bit, including the main lobby, Gonda Building next door and also the Plummer Building - just a few of the medical facilities downtown Rochester. Having grown up in Rochester myself, things have changed a lot since I lived there. But it sure was nice having inside access. Thanks to Hagop!

Only a couple of days before our visit to Rochester, Hagop notified us of a brand new Armenian who had just moved there. Boris Srvantstian

and his visiting parents were able to join us and we're happy to welcome them into our community. Boris had just started as an intern at Mayo having come from the Los Angeles area. In all, 20 people took part in all of the day's festivities. A beautiful day filled with fun conversation, interesting sights and bountiful camaraderie.

Mark Wiersbeck, ACOM Social Director



The young group that came up from Rochester, MN:
Aaron Pompeian, Boris Srvantstian, Adrienne Pompeian,
Sharon Yeghian, Hagop Tabibian

SHOPPING OPPORTUNITY -

WHAT: ANNUAL MADE IN ARMENIA DIRECT SALE

WHEN: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, FOR 24 HOURS
(THE SATURDAY AFTER THANKSGIVING)

WHO: ANYONE!

Made In Armenia Direct offers products made by artisans in Armenia for purchase, helping them to become self sustaining as well as give customers the satisfaction of owning fine quality items made in Armenia. By making purchases from this organization, you will be supporting those artisans. Qualifying purchases may be placed by anyone, anywhere, and anytime during that 24 hour period of time, so spread the word and start making your list! This would be a great way to complete some of your Christmas shopping! And 15% of all purchases made that day will be donated to the Armenian Cultural Organization of MN (ACOM). It's definitely a win-win situation. You can check out their merchandise now at www.madeinarmeniadirect.com. Purchases can be made on the web site that day or via their toll free number 1-866-381-6423.

FOREIGN-BORN TWIN CITIES ARMENIANS SOUGHT FOR SKYWAY ART PROJECT

If you were born outside the US and live in the Twin Cities metro, here is a good opportunity to educate the public about our community. For a display in the St. Paul skyway, artist Nancy Ann Coyne would like to interview 56 international immigrants—including Armenians—who are willing to share the story of how they came to settle in Minnesota.

Participants must:

- speak a language of their country of origin and were born in the country they intend to represent (ie. born in Mexico, speaks Spanish, represents Mexico)
- have a photograph of themselves taken in their country of origin-the artist will help to select the best photo with the participant
- be available for an interview of 1-2 hours and to fill out a questionnaire (translators are available)
- be comfortable with the final installation and sharing their story publicly (the artist is very confidential and will work with each participant to ensure they are comfortable and safe)
- ideally lives in the east metro, but this is flexible!

This project is open but not limited to Armenians who were born in the Republic of Armenia and speak Eastern Armenian. For example, Russian-speaking Armenians from Baku are eligible to participate as immigrants who were born in Azerbaijan. Also eligible are Armenians who were born in Middle Eastern countries and speak Western Armenian, Farsi, Arabic, etc.

A similar art project was done in the Minneapolis skyway a few years ago: www.speakingofhome.org

For more information please contact:

Kirstin Wiegmann, Speaking of Home Education
& Asst. Project Mgr

Forecast Public Art, 2300 Myrtle Ave,
Suite 160, St. Paul, MN 55114

785-766-8150 direct | 651-641-1128 main office | 651-641-1983 fax
kirstin@forecastpublicart.org, www.ForecastPublicArt.org

DEDICATION CEREMONY OF 15 NEW APARTMENTS

by Cynthia Erickson

This spring while we were in Armenia, we had the opportunity to participate in a ceremony dedicating 15 new apartments in Vanadzor. They are part of a complex that is a joint venture between the City of Vanadzor, the Fuller Center for Housing, and Lazarian Homes, from the U.S.

After the ceremony, some of the members of our team had a chance meeting with Dr. and Mrs. Berge Minasian, now from California but formerly from Michigan. In the 90s they opened an orphanage in Vanadzor and they continue to support it to this day. The Minasians expressed interest in working with the Fuller Center Armenia to finish some incomplete apartment buildings so that some of these families would have their own place to live. (I should explain that many of the children who are labeled as 'orphans' actually still have living parents. Their parents place their children in orphanages because they are too poor to support them.)

During our discussions with Dr. and Mrs. Minasian, we learned that he had recently written a self-help book entitled '*The Power of Choice: Living the Life You Always Wanted and Absolutely Deserve.*' I haven't read the book yet, but it sounds like one that might have a few helpful tips for successful living. It was very heart warming to learn about their efforts to better the lives of orphans and their families in Armenia.

Excerpted from the Mpls Star Tribune, June 19, 2011

**EXCLUSIVE: YOU'LL LIKE THE
KARDASHIANS OF MINNESOTA**
C.J., Star Tribune

There was no need for Kim Kardashian to add the names of any Minnesota Kardashians to the guest list of her wedding..

Vali Kardashian, of Plymouth, didn't expect an invitation. "Of course not; they don't know of our existence," she said in a beautiful Armenian accent. "We don't want to be involved. No thank you. We have enough weddings with friends and family."

The Kardashians to whom I spoke appear to represent the level-headed branch of the family. While running down an apparently inaccurate rumor that there was a Minnesota resident with the same name as the reality TV star whose fiancé is the pride of Chaska, Kris Humphries, I discovered there are a bunch of Kardashians here. Among them Vali and Vahram Kardashian, who have lived here for more than 50 years.

"Oh, you're writing about Kardashians, OK," said Vali, whose name is pronounced like the word valley. "I believe Kim Kardashian's father [the late attorney Robert Kardashian] must have been a cousin of my husband's. We think the ancestry consisted of seven brothers who settled in what is presently Turkey."

Vahram, aka Van, chimed in that he believes he and Robert "came from one of the seven. The family tree is very complicated because of the seven brothers." Vali said Vahram and Robert resemble each other and she said they also have a granddaughter who looks like Kim. "Well, she reminds me of Kim," Vali said.

Vali and Vahram declined my request for photos of their family. "We don't like to be in the limelight. We are ordinary people," she said. "My husband and I are retired. We are great-grandparents." Minnesotans who ask if they are related to the California Kardashians probably know more about the TV family than Vali, who told me she is too busy to stay abreast of the information in newspapers and magazines.

"That fellow she intends on marrying?" Vali asked me with a question in her voice. Yes, and Kris gave Kim a 20.5-carat engagement ring, I told her. "He gave her or she bought it herself?" Vali quipped, laughing uproariously, later turning serious to add: "We really, with all our hearts, wish the whole family well in their personal lives and their businesses. They have a tough life, their personal life is so exposed."

DR. LOU ANN MATOSSIAN SPEAKS AT NAASR

Dr. Matossian gave a lecture entitled "From Massachusetts to Minnesota: Pioneering Armenian-American Writer Bedros Keljik," this past summer, at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) Center, in Belmont, Massachusetts.

Lou Ann Matossian, Ph.D., first became interested in Bedros Keljik while organizing our community's centennial celebration in 1999. The history of Armenian settlement in Minnesota led her to the Christie missionary archive, a topic she presented at NAASR and in Istanbul.

More information about Dr. Matossian's lecture or NAASR and its programs for the furtherance of Armenian studies, research, and publication may be had by calling 617-489-1610, faxing 617-484-1759, e-mailing hq@naasr.org, or writing to NAASR, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA 02478.

STEVE JOBS -- ARMENIAN??

Apple CEO, Steve Jobs who passed away on Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at age 56, is said to have had a good command of the Armenian language.

Conducting a probe into the great legend's biography, the Arab language website Khabararmani.com has found out that Jobs, who was raised in the family of an Armenian mother and an American father, spoke Armenian fluently. "(Jobs' adoptive mother) Clara Hagopian played a very big role in bringing up the genius," the website said, adding that Jobs had never been keen to speak about his biological parents.

Jobs was born in San Francisco and adopted by the family of Paul and Clara Jobs (née Hagopian) of Mountain View, California. Paul and Clara later adopted a daughter, Patti. Jobs' biological parents – Abdulfattah John Jandali, a Muslim Syrian immigrant to the U.S from Homs, who later became a political science professor, and Joanne Schieble (later Simpson), an American graduate student who went on to become a speech language pathologist – eventually married. Together, they gave birth to and raised Jobs' biological sister, novelist Mona Simpson.

Jobs experimented with different pursuits before starting Apple Computers with Stephen Wozniak in the Jobs' family garage. Apple's revolutionary products, which include the iPod, iPhone and iPad, are now seen as dictating the evolution of modern technology. A book about Job is coming soon. **iSteve: The Book of Jobs**, authored by a former CNN CEO and an editor of the British Times, Walter Isaacson, is the first official biography of the Apple legend.

HELPING IN HARD TIMES

Make sure to keep priorities in order

7

People of faith - progressives and conservatives alike - know that we are in the world to show compassion, to serve one another, to lift up those who have fallen, and to heal those who are wounded. Judge us by how well we do those things - not by how full our collection plates are.

THE REVEREND JAMES GERTMENIAN
MINNEAPOLIS

The writer is senior minister at the
Plymouth Congregational Church
Minneapolis Star Tribune September 28, 2011 "Readers Write"

A NEW WEBSITE ON THE HISTORY OF ARMENIANS IN BAKU

The new website www.baku.am, appears to be a positive, well-researched presentation of Armenian history and heritage in Baku, and as such will be of interest to many of us here in Minnesota. Content is available in Russian, Armenian, and English.

The purpose of "baku.am" website is to present and enlighten the prosperous past and inheritance of the Armenian community of Baku - the capital of Azerbaijan. The targets for the website are scientific organizations, archives and in general all persons interested in the history of Armenian communities and Baku city.

It is important also for the citizens of Azerbaijan, and especially for the youth. The website has fundamental information about the Armenians' cultural and civilization contribution to the history of Baku city. For the young Azerbaijanis it will have the significance of the alternative source of information.

The restriction of the authorities of Azerbaijan on the press freedom, and the violation of human rights in general, as well as the anti-Armenian propaganda implemented on the state level prohibits any mentioning about the role of the Armenians in the history of Azerbaijan, and particularly in the history of Baku. In this regards the website has an important mission to reveal the forgotten or forbidden pages of the history of Baku.

The website does not follow any purpose to stir up national passions; it gives an opportunity to acknowledge the past and to secure the peaceful coexistence of the two neighbor nations in future.

The website is open for the supplements, comments and suggestions.



VOSKI ASHOUN 2011



This year's VOSKI ASHOUN was held at Aamodt's Apple Farm & St. Croix Vineyards. On a beautiful, sunny October Saturday, about 19 of us gathered ready for an afternoon of autumn fun. We began by drawing the lucky winning ticket from among 44 raffle tickets sold.

STEVE SCALLEN was the winner of the Hot Air Balloon Ride. Congratulations, Steve!

We then sampled a variety of Minnesota grown apples, toured the apple barn, toured the vineyard, sampled and bought wine, tasted a variety of baked goods made with apples, and basked in the warm sun outdoors. It was a relaxing afternoon, and fun to just sit around and chat.

After deducting ACOM's expenses for the event, \$185 will be transferred to the ACOM Building Fund. Keep in mind that with monies raised over the past ten years through Voski Ashoun events, ACOM has been able to fund various repairs to the St. Sahag building, totaling \$9,769. Thanks to all who participated in this unique ACOM event and to those who helped by purchasing raffle tickets.

**15TH ANNUAL ARMENIAN HERITAGE CRUISE,
SATURDAY, JAN. 21-28, 2012
ON THE NEW MSC CRUISE LINE MSC POESIA**

Plan to set sail with us on a brand new ship only two years old. Enjoy seven fun-filled days of sun, beach and Armenian Culture in the middle of winter along with fellow Armenians from the USA, Canada and all over the world. Reunite with old friends or make new friends. The list of activities include: cultural events, dances, comedy shows, dance performances, musicians, Armenian Festival Day, singles events and much more.

We set sail from Fort Lauderdale, Florida and will be sailing through the Eastern Carribean making stops at St. Thomas, St. John USVI, Nassau, Bahamas, San Juan and Puerto Rico.

Prices start at \$799. Hurry one and all to make your reservation before your cabin is sold out. Over 900 guests have already booked. Call Travelgroup International to book your cabins or suites.

Toll free: 866-447-0750 ext. 108 or 102.

For more details, please visit us at www.armenianheritagecruise.com.

You may also email maria.tavitian@yahoo.com with questions.

We are delighted to report that the U.S. District Court has dismissed the Turkish Coalition of America's complaint against the University of Minnesota in the "unreliable websites" case. Watch for coverage in their *Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies* blog.

Excerpted from the Mpls. Star Tribune,
June 19, 2011

Note: Naregatsi was born in 950 in Vasbouragan and became a teacher at the Monastery of Nareg, leading a life of prayer and meditation. He is well known for his writings, including his "Book of Prayers" or "Lamentations." His writings have been translated into many languages, although he knew only Armenian. It is said he belonged to the whole world.



**NEW PRIEST BEGINS
PASTORAL INTERNSHIP
IN DIOCESE**

With the blessings of His Holiness Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of all Armenians, and at the invitation of Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Diocesan Primate, a priest from Armenia has arrived in the

United States to prepare to serve in the Eastern Diocese.

The Reverend Fr. Abraham Malkhasian arrived in the Eastern Diocese on Wednesday, June 1. He was assigned by Archbishop Barsamian to complete his pastoral internship with the Rev. Fr. Hovnan Dermerjian, pastor of St. Hagop Church of Pinellas Park, Fl. He will work closely with Fr. Demerjian to become better acquainted with parish life in the Eastern Diocese in preparation for full-time pastoral service here in the future.

A graduate of the Gevorkyan Seminary in Armenia, Fr. Malkhasian has served at St. Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral in Yerevan and worked in the Communications Dept. at Holy Etchmiadzin. He has also taught sacred music at the Vaskenian seminary in Sevan Armenia and worked at the Karekin I Armenological and Theological Center at Holy Etchmiadzin.

Following the completion of his studies at the Gevorkyan seminary, Fr. Malkhasian spent three months studying English in India. He later traveled to St. Paul, MN, where he earned a master's degree in theology at the University of St. Thomas in 2009.

He was ordained to the holy priesthood on August 29, 2010 at Holy Etchmiadzin. Fr. Malkhasian is married to Karine Malkhasian and they have a daughter Evelina.

YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

For those of you who want to gather all your family history data in one place, check out the web site for Armenian Family Tree. There is an online family tree builder where you can enter family data and share it with others. There are also a variety of research services offered.

www.armenianfamilytree.com

2011 ACOM Members

Highlighted names have donated \$50 or more.

ACOM thanks you

Agaadzhanova, Galina	Kourajian, John & Myrna
Andeweg, George & Jeanne	Mardirosian, Artoosh & Helga
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Gauro, Boghos	Pompeian, Helen
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Keljik/Collins, Tom/Jennifer	Ylitalo, Caroline, David, And, Max
Kibarian, Chris & Gohar	

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

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

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

ACOM Treasurer
1703 Skillman Avenue West
Roseville, MN 55113

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	612-929-2947
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.

ACOM's 2011 Calendar of Events

PLEASE NOTE: All events are held at St. Sahag Armenian Church
T unless otherwise specified.

For further information, call Mark Keljik, ACOM President 612-823-6338



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

MONTH	DATE	EVENT	TIME
JANUARY	16	Gaghant – Barahantess	5:30 p.m.
FEBRUARY	8	ACOM Executive Committee meeting	7:00 p.m.
	23	Armenian Dance Ensemble – Volunteers of America, Minneapolis	1:00 p.m.
MARCH	4	Armenian Dance Ensemble – Walker Elder Suites, Edina	2:30 p.m.
	17	ACOM Executive Committee meeting	7:00 p.m.
	20	Armenian Dance Ensemble – Preview for Festival of Nations - Dance	1:00 p.m.
APRIL	7	Armenian Dance Ensemble – Sholom Home East, St. Paul	7:00 p.m.
	21	ACOM Executive Committee meeting	7:00 p.m.
	TBD	Genocide Memorial Event and Reception	7:00-8:00 p.m.
MAY	5,6,7,8	Festival of Nations	All Day
	18	ACOM Executive Meeting	7:00 p.m.
	19	Armenian Dance Ensemble Richfield Care Center, Richfield	7:00 p.m.
	31	Armenian Dance Ensemble Edina Care & Rehab, Edina	7:00 p.m.
JUNE	16	ACOM Executive Meeting	7:00 p.m.
JULY	7	Armenian Dance Ensemble Sholom Home East, St. Paul	7:00 p.m.
	21	ACOM Executive Meeting	7:00 p.m.
	23	Picnic, Minnehaha Park, Minneapolis	4:00-7:00 p.m.
AUGUST	18	ACOM Executive Meeting	7:00 p.m.
	31	Armenian Dance Ensemble Centennial Lakes Park, Edina	7:00 p.m.
SEPTEMBER	3	Armenian Dance Ensemble Minnesota State Fair	12-5:00 p.m.
	8	Armenian Dance Ensemble Episcopal Homes, St. Paul	7:00 p.m.
	11	Armenian Dance Ensemble Cerenity Senior Care, St. Paul	2:00 p.m.
	22	Armenian Dance Ensemble Sholom Home East, St. Paul	7:00 p.m.
OCTOBER	9	Armenian Dance Ensemble St. Sahag Kebab Fest	2:00 p.m.
	20	ACOM Executive Meeting	7:00 p.m.
	22	Voski Ashoun - Winery, Apple Farm Tour, Hot Air Balloon Drawing	1:00 p.m.
NOVEMBER	3	Armenian Dance Ensemble Sholom Home East, St. Paul	7:00 p.m.
	17	ACOM Executive Meeting	7:00 p.m.
	18	Armenian Dance Ensemble Walker Elder Suites, Edina	7:00 p.m.
	26	“Made In Armenia” sale day	All Day
DECEMBER	15	Armenian Dance Ensemble Jones Harrison Residence, Minneapolis	7:00 p.m.
	TBD	ACOM Executive Meeting	7:00 p.m.

There is a new comedy movie called “Lost & Found in Armenia,” Expected to be out in the theaters spring of 2012, It is the first American production to shoot in Armenia.

YouTube trailer:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yA7-si38IGs>

the website:
<http://www.lostandfoundinarmenia.com/>



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 non-perishable food items. Your donated items will be much appreciated by those who are in need. ACOM has been regularly delivering bags of food to the Keystone Foodshelf. They have delivered more than 300 pounds of food. Thank You!

ACOM 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY	7	Gaghant - Barahantes	TBD
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Armenian Cultural Organization
of Minnesota
Culture. Heritage. History. Language.

ACOM MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

VALID THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2011

NAME(S): _____

STREET: _____ City/St/Zip _____

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

HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP*
MINNESOTA RESIDENTS \$30.00

OUT OF STATE \$15.00
(Newsletter Only)

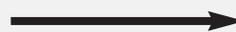
CONTRIBUTING \$100.00

**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.

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*Peggy Merjanian, Editor
1703 Skillman Ave. West
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