



Culture
Heritage
History
Language

Armenian Cultural Organization of Minnesota
Established 1980

No. 139 Summer/Fall 2014

MinneHyeLites

1915-2015 — 100 Years to Remember



The Twin Cities Armenian community has several events planned for next year's Centennial Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. Hopefully, they can all be completed successfully.

First, a traditional Armenian cross or Khatchkar, approximately 2 meters high, will be carved in tufa stone by craftsmen in Armenia and shipped to the Twin Cities. It will be mounted on a pedestal in the front courtyard of St. Sahag Armenian Church. A plaque will be attached to the pedestal dedicating the cross to the memory of those killed in the Armenian genocide of 1915. Fundraising is now proceeding to raise the estimated cost of \$12,000 to \$15,000. The intent is to have it installed and dedicated by April of 2015.

A memorial run/walk, open to the general public, will be held sometime in March or April of 2015. A t-shirt bearing a message pertaining to the centennial commemoration of the Armenian genocide will be given to each participant. Information about the genocide will be on display at the start and finish lines of the course. This event will require some up-front costs, but they should all be recovered from the entry fees.

The committee is discussing paying for one or more billboards, each containing a striking message pertaining to the Armenian genocide, to be displayed during March and/or April of 2015 to raise awareness of the occasion. An alternate proposal is to create lawn signs, possibly identical to the billboard, which would be distributed to Armenians or other interested parties in the Twin Cities (or greater Minnesota) for display on their lawns. The billboards

would be expensive, whereas the lawn signs could be sold at cost, or for a higher price as a fundraiser.

The World Without Genocide project of William Mitchell School of Law has a collection of displays commemorating several different 20th century genocides. Each of the displays is constructed in the form of a tent, like those that are given to refugees in re-settlement camps, and is focused on one of the genocides. Firm plans haven't been made, but we intend to help arrange a display of most or all of the tents sometime next April, and will have the Armenian tent on display at St. Sahag church for the April 24th commemoration program.

The Armenian Genocide commemoration service, to be held on April 24th, 2015 will be enhanced by having a high-profile keynote speaker, other special invited guests, and a formal reception after the program. It will also be advertised more than other years in order to try to attract a larger audience,

There will be a showing of the new movie, "The Cut", at the Minneapolis Film Festival. This movie is a story of a survivor of the Armenian genocide who learns that his daughters may still be alive and searches for them, ending up in Minnesota and North Dakota. The committee will help to sponsor a reception for the director of the film, Fatih Akin.

Finally, we propose to hold a blood drive at St. Sahag church during March or April of 2015. This would have the symbolic value of taking an action to help save the life of someone today in mem-

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From our readers

LETTERS

NEWSLETTER 138

Naïry and Terry,

Very nice job on the newsletter (#138)! I loved it and read every word. I will email it to Erica in South Korea.

Judy O.

Thanks. I really do enjoy the newsletter and appreciate the work that goes into this.

Aram Sam Charchian

Nice job on the Newsletter...!

Todd Abrahamian

Thank you, Terry, Interim ACOM Newsletter Editor, for a wonderful job done on #138! The resulting product was very interesting to read and your hard work is truly appreciated.

FUNDRAISING EVENT, JULY 26

Wow! Am I ever impressed with the way ACOM does events. I will admit I had trepidations about the cleanup part, but...when it comes to ACOM, everyone pitches in!

Gloria Faust

THANK YOU

Hi Naïry,

The residents told me the Armenian dance program on Sunday, April 6th, was wonderful. Thank you so much, and I hope it did not get too hot for all the dancers.

Thanks,

Rene R.

Senior Residence Maplewood

Hi Naïry,

Thank you SO MUCH (for the Armenian dancers on May 18)! I am glad that it went well yesterday, and that the space worked for you.

Kathy C.

Senior Residence Highland Park

The residents LOVED the performance! Very much so, and I greatly appreciate your dance group coming in! Thanks so much!

Peter H.

Senior Residence Roseville

Thank you for the beautiful flowers and your thoughtfulness. Azatui (Karine Saakian's mother) is doing better after her hip surgery. She requires a lot more care now and between me and Valera, we are managing. My mom was very happy and touched that we have such amazing and caring friends at ACOM.

Love,

Karina, Valera, Azatui, Elena

Thank you all for the delicious fruit basket! I never thought I'd be on the receiving end of one! Ha! I'm still working on getting over this affliction. I'm seeing a new doc and adjusting my diet. Miss you all and our monthly convergences.

Tina Adamek

SUMMER ADVENTURE AT THE ERICKSONS - July 19, 2014

Thanks for hosting and roasting the dogs and brats. Kids got all wet and the adults put a bit more weight on their frames!

Success Again!

Tom Keljik

CONGRATULATIONS

To Michelle Hayes on the birth of her beautiful baby girl, LILA GENE-VIEVE, who was born on February 13, 2014. Lila weighed 7 lb 1 oz and was 19 inches long. Grandma Adrienne, Grandpa Jim, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends are delighted with the arrival of this new baby.



GET WELL WISHES

To Mrs. Azatui Avetissian, Karine Saakian's mother, who fell and broke her hip. She underwent surgery and is now home recuperating. Our thoughts and warm wishes are not only for Mrs. Azatui, but for the entire family through these difficult times.

FUNDRAISER

On July 26, 2014, ACOM held a fundraising dinner for Seda Bagdasarova. About 50 people participated in the dinner that was catered by Mim's Catering. The kindness and generosity of Armenians and their friends came through with people who came to the dinner as well as those who could not attend, but were more than happy to donate to the cause.

In addition, the great talent in our community was expressed through piano performances by one of the youngest and one of the more advanced students of Maestro Stepan Khachatryan. Mariam Kocharian sang two beautiful songs accompanied by Astghik Alanakyan and the final touch was put on by a magnificent piano duet performed by Stepan and Astghik.

ACOM is very appreciative to these performers who took time out of their busy schedule to participate in this program.

Seda is very touched by everyone's care and concern. Even though her treatment has come to an end, she is still waiting to hear the results of the tests.

*My dear friends,
I am in remission. We were in Mayo last Friday for the Pet scan.
I do not check emails regularly because I have pain in the arms and fingers, and it is difficult for me to type...
Thank you,
Seda Bagdasarova*

CONDOLENCES

PATRICIA "HAPPY" NAKASHIAN HEILMAN

We were all very saddened by the news of the passing of Patricia "Happy" Nakashian Heilman on Wednesday, April 9, 2014.

She is survived by daughter Betsy, son Rich and his wife, grandchildren Lucas and Isaac and many friends. A memorial service was held at St. Sahag Armenian Church on Saturday, April 12 at 11 am, followed by a reception in fellowship hall. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the Humane Society of St. Paul, and the Armenia Tree Project (www.armeniatree.org).

SONA PLUMMER

Plummer, Sona née Tufenk, on March 12, 2014. Survived by husband, William; children, Christopher (Mitsuko) and Elizabeth; and grandchildren, George and Robert. Funeral Service 1 PM Saturday, May 10 at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, 60 Kent

St., St. Paul, with a gathering that followed. Memorials preferred to the St. Sahag Armenian Church, Episcopal Church Home or donor's choice
PAUL L. NAJARIAN

November 29, 1961 - June 23, 2014
Resided in Marine on St. Croix, MN

Najarian, Paul, age 52 of Mendota Heights, passed away June 23, 2014 surrounded by loving family after fighting a long illness. Paul was longtime business owner of the original Popeye's Chicken on Lake Street in Minneapolis. He is survived by his beloved wife, Jules, and their adored children: Sophia, Jackson, Isabella; parents John and Mignette; 3 brothers, Jon (Brigid), Dave (Kris), Pete (Lisa).

A Celebration of Paul's life was held at 1:30 pm Thursday, July 3rd at Mendakota Country Club.

Paul lived his life for Christ and has the hope of salvation for everyone.

Memorials may be directed to Julie Najarian for an educational fund for the children.

ARPINEE BERBERIAN

The beloved mother of Shoghig Berberian, Arpinee Sanoukian Berberian, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Saturday, June 28, 2014, at the age of 83. She is survived by her husband of 47 years, Hratch, her two daughters, Ani (Virginia) and Shoghig (Minnesota). Funeral service was held on July 2, 2014 in Brookings, SD.

ACOM extends its most sincere expressions of sympathy to the entire Berberian family. May she rest in peace.



Remember when ...



1985



1982



1985



1996

(See this young fellow after 18 years. On page 13)



ACCM Summer Adventure 2014



2015—100Years to Remember

(Continued from page 1)

ory of the victims of the Armenian genocide 100 years ago.

The World Without Genocide (WWG) program also has several events planned for next year. They are working on a new film, "Dying of Hunger: Starvation and Genocide", which studies the use of hunger in perpetrating genocide, and the longer lasting effects of hunger on the survivors. They aim to have it completed in time for broadcast next April.

They have also reserved the exhibit "The Armenian Genocide" from the Florida Holocaust Museum which will be on display at William Mitchell College of Law from February 17-April 15 of 2015, and have confirmed a talk by the internationally-known scholar Professor Richard Hovanesian for Wednesday, April 15, at William Mitchell College of Law.

WWG has also begun preparation of a 2015 calendar called "Upstanders: Armenians who saved Jews during the Holocaust." These will be full-color calendars and will be available for purchase at \$15 a piece. They highlight the 26 Armenians who have been recognized by Yad Vashem, the Holocaust museum in Jerusalem, Israel, as

"Righteous among the Nations" for their courage in rescuing Jews. The Armenians who received this designation were located throughout Europe as a result of the genocide, giving an interesting look into the issue of a diaspora following conflict. As a point of comparison, only four Americans have received this honor from Yad Vashem. This little-known story of the courage of the Armenians is a great example for youth of the power of being one who stands up in the face of great danger

The play is being written, and is planned to be performed at the City of Edina's Holocaust and Commemoration Day, April 19, 2015.

A PBS documentary, "The Armenian Genocide", will be shown at William Mitchell during March or April of 2015.

Next year will be a very eventful year for Armenians in Minnesota. We will be calling on all of you to donate time and money to help make all of these events successful.

Leroy Erickson—ACOM President



ACOM Book Club

The ACOM Book Club started in February of this year with the aim of persuading members to read books with Armenian topics or authors and then gather together once a month to discuss them. We met monthly until June, took the summer off, and started up again in September.

For our first book, we read and discussed Chris Bohjalian's "The Sandcastle Girls". Comments on this book were that the author chose to write the book from a women's perspective even though the author is male, and opinions on the way in which he intermixed three time periods in the story. The story jumps from the current time, in which the narrator is learning things about her grandparents' experiences during the time of the Armenian genocide in 1915, to the days when she was growing up and spending a lot of time in her grandparents' house, to the "actual" story of what

was happening when her grandmother was a volunteer nurse helping the Armenian refugees in Syria in 1915. Some of the book club members did not like the way the book jumped between the three time periods and would have preferred that it just told the story from 1915. Others thought that the author did a good job of blending the different time periods and that it contributed a lot to the book.

Our second book was "The Repatriate" by Tom Mooradian. Everyone in the group seemed to enjoy the book, making comments like they enjoyed having a view of life inside Soviet Armenia at that time that wasn't available elsewhere, and how tough life must have been in the Armenian SSR during those years. People were surprised (? or happy) that Tom was able to survive and,

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ultimately, return home to the U.S. Questions were raised as to what life must have been like for him after he returned to the U.S.

The third book that we chose was Peter Balakian's "The Black Dog of Fate". Comments on this book were far-ranging and stretched into a second month. This book initiated discussion of people's relations with their grandparents and how you learn things from them that you don't learn from other people, and that survivors of events like the Armenian genocide and their children miss out on that special relationship. There were also comments about what it must have been like to grow up in an environment where it didn't seem at all unusual to be at a party at an aunt's house and have William Saroyan, Anais Nin, and other famous writers there. It was just another family get-together. We also talked about growing up in an Armenian family isolated among non-Armenians, being totally Americanized ... except when it came to food.

The fourth book that we chose was William Saroyan's "My Name Is Aram". Primarily, the discussion of this book focused on the attitude that "Saroyan is fun! The genocide is depressing. Let's read more Saroyan!".

During our discussion of the Balakian book, we ended up talking so much about Armenian history or, more exactly, history books, that we decided to use our summer break to research Armenian history books and then trade comments on them at the September meeting. That we did, and after the discussion at the September meeting decided to continue on with the same discussion for October. History books that members referenced included Jacques de Morgan's "The History of the Armenian People", Vahan Kurkjian's "A History of Armenia", Moses of Korin's "History of Armenia", and Alan Palmer's "The Decline & Fall of the Ottoman Empire".

Come join us at our next meeting. We have moved the regular meeting date to the third Thursday of each month, 7PM, at St. Sahag.

Leroy Erickson—ACOM President

MEET THE DANCERS

If you wonder who the members of the Armenian Dance Ensemble are, the following are short biographies that will tell you about these extremely committed individuals who truly enjoy Armenian music and dance, regularly come to rehearsals, learn new choreographies, participate in performances, and altogether, have a lot of fun! Interested in joining? [E-mail: hyebar@yahoo.com](mailto:hyebar@yahoo.com)

ARIEL STRICHARTZ (CHAKERIAN) has danced intermittently with ADE since 2004. She teaches Spanish language and Latin American literature at St. Olaf College. Her research focuses on Armenian collective memory in Argentina, with a special emphasis on Armenian theatre in Buenos Aires. Her maternal great-grandparents were all from Sivas (Sepastia), from both the city of Sivas and the village of Ala Kilise. She likes "tel banir" (Armenian string cheese) so much that her grandmother used to put it in her stocking on Christmas.

BRADLEY LAURENCE MELKON ERICKSON started sporadically attending practices when he was about 6 years old, with all the joy of a child mimicking his elders. He actually joined the group when he was 11 or 12, and has been performing with ADE since 1999. In his personal life, he (finally) decided last year what he wanted to do professionally, so he is now a student at the University of St Thomas, working towards an accounting degree. This summer, he landed an accounting internship and, after almost 7 years at Papa John's Pizza, quit to focus more of my time on my education.

CYNTHIA ERICKSON has been dancing with the Armenian dance group since about 1981. Since she didn't grow up doing any Armenian dancing, it's been quite an education for her, but she enjoys learning the dances, the music, and the historic regions through dance. It was especially poignant last summer to see some of the towns in Georgia and Western Armenia which had dances named after them.

ED KVARNES has been dancing with the Armenian Dance Ensemble since the 2001 Festival of Nations. He dances with other performance groups with a multitude of dance traditions: Scandinavian, Morris, Vintage Reenactment, English Country and Contra dancing. He likes to find new traditions of dance and has been social dancing for over 25 years.

FRANCIS ARISTAKES BULBULIAN

1. Born of Armenian parents in Tehran, Iran. Both my parents were fortunate to escape the genocide in 1915.
2. I attended Persian schools and later an International

School in Tehran for my high school education.

3. Came to the US in 1960 to attend college. Graduated from U of M School of Architecture with a BA in Architecture and received my Masters in Architecture from M.I.T.

4. Wife Barbara, two sons Armen, Ara and grandson Nathan.

5. Was president of ACOM in 1983-84 and am presently on the ACOM Board.

6. I have worked as an architect on numerous local & international projects. I was fortunate to provide architectural advice & services for the renovation of St. Sahag Church since it was purchased in 2001.

7. My hobbies are tennis, bicycling, sketching, & collecting / restoring old fountain pens.

GINA BONSIGNORE learned to love folk dancing as a teenager. Once her kids became teenagers, Gina began dancing again, and found a love of Armenian music and dance. She also regularly spends Friday nights at Tapestry Folkdance Center to enjoy dances from around the world, and joins in with the Israeli dancers on Tuesday nights at the St Paul JCC. When not dancing, she loves playing hockey, practicing pilates and yoga, painting and sewing. She is a landscape architect, currently working as a Regional Planner for the MN DNR.

KATHLEEN DANIELS started with the group in 2000, when Lynne G. told her about it, and said she would be welcome (she was so right!) She took a 2-year break, but came back this year because her daughter, Mari, said she had been waiting until she was tall enough so she could dance with the group. She is a librarian at Minneapolis Community & Technical College; also enjoys her garden and tries to develop her artistic skills. She is a little older than her daughter... but believes that "dancing keeps you young!"

LYNNE G. Has been with ADE for about 15 years (with a year off when living out of the state). She is half Armenian on her mother's side, and remembers learning Armenian dance when she was a kid (her grandmother enrolled her in Armenian language classes at that time, and dance was part of the instruction). She loves connecting with her Armenian roots via dance.

MARI (KATHLEEN's DAUGHTER) is 12 years old, attends Seward Montessori School (7th grade), plays on the South High tennis team (yes, tennis is a major interest, along with other sports!). Loves to play with her dog, Katie, and started dancing with the ADE group since June 2014. Would recommend this group because it's fun and everyone is respectful.

NAÏRY DIGRIS started performing with the Armenian dance group at the Festival of Nations in the late

1970's, early 1980's. There was no available leader for the group in 1990, and in order to keep together those who enjoyed dancing, she decided to take on the lead and organize rehearsals. She always enjoyed dancing, but leading and choreographing was nothing she had studied. Luckily, on various occasions, three well-known Armenian folkdance masters came to the Twin Cities, Arsen Anoushian, Seda Gelenian and Tom Bozighian, and she learned a lot from them. Her choreographing skills have since improved, and she gets most excited when a new dance which she teaches to the ADE members appear so good on video ! She is most thankful to husband Terry, the dancer and techy extraordinaire, and to all the dancers, Armenians and odars, who have been so supportive of ADE and who have hung around for so many years ! When not dancing or volunteering, and after a long career in the International Division of General Mills, Naïry now works as a medical, legal or business interpreter and translator using French, Italian and Armenian languages.

TERRY MCGIBBON was asked to join the group in 1991 at a Festival of Nations Preview. He asked Naïry at the time: "How many other guys are in the group?" "None" she said, so he set about recruiting a couple of other guys. He has been dancing with the group ever since (and married the director in 1996). The dance group has been a part of his becoming an ABC (Armenian By Choice) and it keeps him feeling much younger than his age. It has allowed him to experience a culture that is very old and enduring. Thanks to all in the group that continue the tradition.

THERESA MISH has been a member of ADE since 2000.



WHAT IT WAS LIKE GROWING UP ARMENIAN IN

Session 5 – May 18, 2014

On Sunday, May 18, 2014, ACOM hosted the 5th session in its series “What It Was Like Growing Up Armenian In ...”, with about 70 observers in attendance. This session’s participants, were Father Tadeos Barseghyan, Mariam Kocharian and David Grigoryan. For the first time in these sessions, all three participants spent at least some of their time growing up in ... Armenia.

The three were asked to give a short biography of their lives to date. Then all three were asked what they remembered of the three traumatic events in Armenia at that time: the earthquake, the breakup of the Soviet Union leading to the establishment of the independent country of Armenia, and the war with Azerbaijan.

FATHER TADEOS BARSEGHYAN

Father Tadeos was born and raised in the small town of New Ulm, MN, or at least that’s what he initially tried to get us to believe. Actually, he was born and raised in a small town close to Etchmiadzin, Armenia,

near a temple called the Home of Angels. His father’s family moved to Russian Armenia from western Armenia after 1896 to avoid the Turkish massacres of the Armenians. His mother’s grandparents are genocide orphans from the area of Van. He attended school in Etchmiadzin. His regular school was on Monday through Friday, and then he attended Sunday school on Saturday, and then served as an acolyte in the church on Sunday. After graduating, he applied to seminary and was accepted. (Not an easy job. He had to pass tests in seven different subjects.) He spent 6 years in the seminary, during which he lived in a monastery. After graduating, he served in the ecumenical office and then in Pakistan. He was also a military chaplain for about 2 years.



His father is an engineer, his mother a violin teacher. His grandparents were not educated because of the times in which they grew up. One of his great-grandparents was exiled to

Siberia and never returned. He has two younger brothers, one of whom is a jeweler and the other attended music school.

Father Tadeos was asked why he became a priest. His response was that he grew up in that environment. His mother wanted him to be connected to Etchmiadzin in some way. He didn’t know about being a celibate or married priest, but decided to become a married priest and he was fortunate and lucky enough to meet his future wife while he was in seminary. Five months after meeting her, they were engaged. Asked what happened first, his decision to be a married priest or meeting his wife, he replied that he was thinking about it at that time, and was lucky enough to meet Gayane (because not every girl wants to be a priest’s wife).

Father Tadeos was 4 years old at time of earthquake. He remembers feeling the earthquake, with the house moving around, and his mother rushing them out of the house. Afterwards, one of the house walls was cracked. For some period of time there was no food, one hour of electricity a day, and no gas. His dad was working two jobs. They would stand in line for multiple hours to get bread, the family would sit around a central fire in the house, and families would get together and share. But kids actually did better in school and it made families more connected.

MARIAM KOCHARIAN

Mariam was born in Yerevan, in the hospital where her grandmother worked. She spent her first years in Yerevan, but then moved around a lot

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during her school years. She attended first grade in Moscow (with a one-hour travel time each way on the metro to get to and from school). She reports that one of the teachers was her aunt. She was told to address her as “Mrs. Alexanyan” while at school, but always forgot and just called out “Auntie!”



She then moved to the U.S. and lived in Madison for a couple of years, then back to Armenia for a couple of years (and had to fall back a grade because math teaching in the U.S. wasn't as rigorous as in Armenia!), then back to the U.S. to Rochester. By the time that she graduated from high school, she was in Milwaukee. All of these moves were in response to her father's work.

She started college with the idea of becoming an opera singer, so she moved back to Armenia to live with her grandmother and to get her opera training there. After three years her (maternal) grandmother died. The impact of losing a close family member for the first time caused her to re-think the idea of being an opera singer, which would require total dedication to her career and detract from the time which would be available for family life. She decided that family was more important, moved back to the U.S., and got an Economics degree from the University of Minnesota.

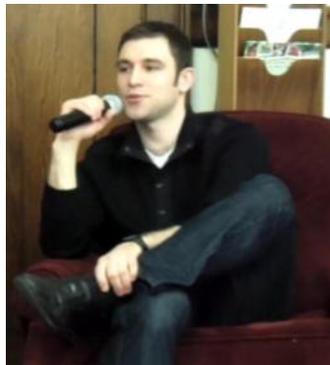
Mariam's ancestors on her mother's side came from Southern Armenia. Her father's side of the family is from Khoy, in Iran, where they had a carpet store. They had always gotten along well with the non-Armenians in Iran, but then people quit buying things at her family's store because they were Armenian, so her father's family emigrated to Soviet Armenia (at the invitation of Stalin). Her great-great-grandfather was killed while emigrating.

Mariam was two years old at the time of earthquake. At one point, an extended family of 25 people was living in her grandparents' house and she has wonderful memories of that time. They

shared hot chocolate, gathered around the piano. It was very cold. Her family slept in the living room. The adults would stay up at night trying to plan what they could do the next day to get food and fuel. Some friends' families lost people who were killed in the earthquake.

DAVID GRIGORYAN

David was born and spent his first few years in Baku. His father's father came from Iran, his father's mother and his mother's family both came from Nagorno Karabagh. His first real memory is rushing to leave Baku. Several Azerbaijanis threatened them and said that they would burn their house. His parents were trying to sell the house so they could leave, but after being threatened they just abandoned the house and moved in with his mom's sister in Massis, Armenia. There were 20 people living in the house. These were the bad years in the newly



independent country of Armenia. He has memories of waiting in long lines to get bread. His father worked construction, and David has good memories of running around heavy construction machinery with his brother. They spent two years in Massis then moved to the U.S. in 1994, to St. Louis, and lived there for 19 years.

David remembers what a wonderful life it was, playing in the yard with rocks. They had to gather wood to burn. He's impressed now that his father built the furnace in their house which they used to burn wood to keep warm. He remembers tea time at the end of the night with toast, butter and something sweet, the kerosene lamps, and that it took all of their energy just to survive.

There will be another session of “What It Was Like ...” later this year.

Leroy Erickson - ACOM President



Armenians in Tennis

Sarkissian Finishes Runner Up at the NCAA Singles Championship

Alex Sarkissian concludes Pepperdine career with a 52-17 overall singles record.

MALIBU, Calif. — May 26, 2014

Pepperdine men's tennis team standout [Alex Sarkissian](#) saw his magical run at the NCAA Singles Championship come to a close today at the Dan Magill Tennis Complex. After stringing together five wins to become just the third finalist in the Waves' program history, the unseeded senior fell in the finals to No. 2 seeded Marcos Giron of UCLA.

Despite the loss, Sarkissian (Glendale, Calif./Glendale CC) still has much to be proud of. He was named the 2014 West Coast Conference Player of the Year and was also recognized as an All-WCC first team performer in both singles and doubles.

Sarkissian entered the NCAA Singles & Doubles Championship ranked #28 and #15, respectively, and earned ITA All-American honors in both to become just the seventh Wave to ever do so in a sin-



Alex Sarkissian
& Adam Steinberg

gle season.

He is also the only Pepperdine player in recorded program history (dating back to 1978) to reach the quarterfinals in both the singles and doubles draws at the NCAA Championships in the same year. [Pedro Rico](#) came close, ending his doubles run in the quarterfinals and his singles run in the round of 16 in 2004. [Omar Altmann](#) replicated Rico's feat in 2009.

"This week has been incredible, I'm so happy for him," said head coach [Adam Steinberg](#) after the finals. "We had a tough season team wise and for Alex to end the year like he did meant a lot to a lot of people. We needed something positive and he provided that. He earned it this week. He ran out of gas a little bit today, but overall had an incredible tournament."

With today's loss, Sarkissian concludes his senior campaign with a 29-11 overall record, bringing his career tally to 52-17. In doubles, the Glendale native went 23-7 alongside [Francis Alcantara](#) (Cagayan de Oro, Philippines/Fresno State) and 42-17 over his two seasons with the Waves.

Armenians in Baseball

Some pretty exciting news on the Baseball front. This year, Cam Bedrosian was called up to the major leagues by the Angels. He actually jumped from AA up to the Angels and pitched right away. His father Steve pitched for many years for the Braves, Phillies, Giants and Twins. His father won the Cy Young award for the Phillies in 1987, which signified him as the best pitcher in the National League that year.

It has been many years, perhaps decades, since an Armenian has played in the major leagues. In fact,

his father may have been the last one and he retired in 1995. Cam is a middle reliever but gets a lot of strikeouts. He could potentially become a closer for the Angels, meaning pitching the ninth-inning in close games.

I've been following him since I saw him pitch in the Arizona fall league last October. In his short minor-league career, he has had an amazing number of strikeouts averaging two and nearly three an inning.

Mark Wiersbeck

Did you know...?

The Star Tribune hired Suki Dardarian as Vice President and new managing editor. She's from Seattle.

Susan B ("Suki") Dardarian, was born in San Francisco. Her parents were Leo Dardarian and Marianne Evans Dardarian. She is married to Peter

Callaghan. The family moved from Niagara Falls to SF shortly before Suki was born.

Her paternal grandfather, Sarkis Dardarian, a child refugee from the Turkish attempted genocide, was sent from his village by his parents under the cover of darkness in 1915.

The First Few Years, the KELJIKS

In those early years, there was no competition for the young merchant Bedros Keljik. All the early leading families took a liking to this man who had come to St Paul from the native land of the Armenians in the high Anatolian plateau under the control of the Ottoman Empire. He was the first of his family to escape Sultan Hamid's massacres of the Christian Armenians in the 1890's.



neapolis: one at Dayton's and the other at Donaldson's Glass Block. Another brother ran the Oriental rug cleaning department for Dispatch – the company built a plant with a façade fashioned on an oriental design (this building still exists on First Avenue near 26th Street). One brother took to the road in the fashion of the day traveling to surrounding cities and showing rugs in the local hotels. In this way, the art and beauty of the oriental carpet

In 1899, Bedros opened a store on St Peter Street – he found that his total cash in hand was twelve dollars. While mulling over his situation, a customer entered and inquired if the rug he held in his hand could be repaired and cleaned. And so it was that the very first entry into the sales book was made out to

JAMES J. HILL – Clean and Repair - \$2.50

As his business prospered, he sent for his brothers and all five arrived in St Paul in due time. This proved to be very timely – because soon after the last brother and a few of his sisters arrived, the Armenian Genocide began. Bedros lost two sisters to the Ottoman sword as well as some close relatives in the general deportation and desert wanderings.

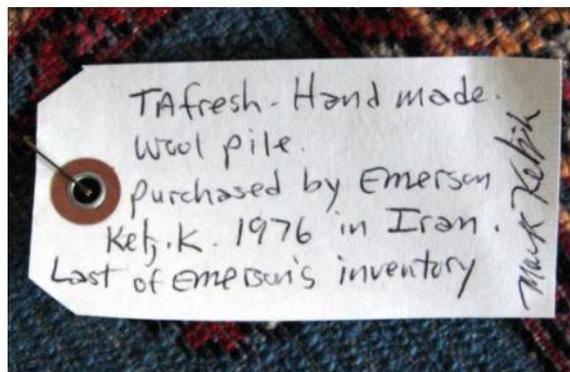
Over time, all the brothers branched out into various capacities in the Twin Cities area, but always associated with the rug business. One was a buyer for the Golden Rule Department Store, one for Shuneman-Manheimer. Two were in Min-

neapolis: one at Dayton's and the other at Donaldson's Glass Block. Another brother ran the Oriental rug cleaning department for Dispatch – the company built a plant with a façade fashioned on an oriental design (this building still exists on First Avenue near 26th Street). One brother took to the road in the fashion of the day traveling to surrounding cities and showing rugs in the local hotels. In this way, the art and beauty of the oriental carpet was spread to the Dakotas, Montana and many points in Wisconsin and Iowa. Bedros Keljik eventually left the St Paul location to his brothers to open a new shop in Minneapolis at 8th and Nicollet. Today Keljik's is located at 43rd Street and Bryant Avenue in Minneapolis.

Written by son Emerson Keljik - 1968

Submitted by Tom Keljik

Pictures by McGibbon (rug owned by McGibbon/Digris)



PATRICIA "HAPPY" (NAKASHIAN) HEILMAN

Born Aug. 9, 1927 in St. Paul. Her parents were Arsène Nakashian and Zarouhi Demerjian, who immigrated with their parents from Armenia as youngsters in the 1890's. They met in New York through a common friend and were married in St. Paul.

Happy lived at 1730 Dayton Ave. with her parents and older sister Arsinne through her childhood and young adult years. She graduated from St. Paul Central High School in 1943 at the age of 16.

She went to the University of Minnesota and studied Child Psychology and Occupational Therapy.

She completed her degree at the College of St Catherine's in 1947 and went on to work at the Shriner's Hospital in St. Paul, and then worked in the Child Psychology department at the University of Minnesota where she met her future husband Richard Heilman. They were married in St. Paul in 1964.



Throughout her life, Happy was involved in numerous organizations which were heavily involved with service and work for our world, and were committed to the care of others and trying to make our world a better place. Some of her many involvements included the International Institute of Minnesota, The Festival of Nations (when ACOM used to be represented in the Exhibit area at the Festival of Nations, Happy was in charge of that booth for many, many years), The

League of Women Voters, Meals on Wheels, Colleagues of Calligraphers, Altar Guild and the V.A. Vet's Home. Her lifetime passions were music, gardening, calligraphy and bringing neighborhood unity. Her true love was her family and friends and spending time with them, bringing happiness and joy to all she touched.

FOODSHELF DONATIONS



ACOM's food shelf barrel is still in Fellowship Hall along with empty grocery bags on the side.

Please keep in mind the less fortunate and bring non-perishable food items to place in the barrel.

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 in St. Paul.

Thank You!

Armenian Dance Ensemble of Minnesota

2014 Dance Ensemble Performances

For further information call Nairy Digris 651-639-9346

Month	Date	Location	Time
January	16	The Shores of Lake Phalen	6.30 PM
February	16	Keystone Communities	2:00 PM
March	16	Festival of Nations Preview	1:00 PM
April	6	Maplewood Good Samaritan	2:00 PM
April	22	Sholom Home	6.30 pPM
May	2,3,4	Festival of Nations	various
May	13	Edina Care & Rehab	7:00 PM
May	18	The Wellington	2:00 PM
June	19	Jones-Harrison Residence	7:00 PM
June	26	Rose Pointe Senior Living	7:00 PM
August	13	Centennial Lakes Park	7:00 PM
August	24	MN State Fair	12-5 pm
September	11	Cherrywood Pointe	6:30 PM
September	14	Armenian Festival—St. Sahag	1:30 PM
September	23	Episcopal Homes	7:00 PM
November	11	Sholom Home	6.30 PM
November	30	Ukrainian Christmas Festival	1:00 PM



ADE a Festival of Nations
2014



Young fellow-
pictured on
page 4.



ADE at Centennial
Lakes
August 2014

ADE at Minnesota State Fair
2014



2014 ACOM DUES PAID MEMBERS

Adamek, Tina & David	Keljik & Grantz, Mark & Caren
Agadzhanova, Galina	Keljik, Jeff & Susan
Amirikian & Seleznova, Bagrat & Inna	Keljik & Collins, Tom & Jennifer
Andeweg, George & Jeanne	Keller, Jasmine
Angell, Michele & Bill	Kocharian & Davtian, Armen & Marine
Aram, George & Connie	Kocharian & Grigoryan, Mariam & David
Asgian, Philip	Kourajian, John & Myrna
Balian, Harriet	Manthei, Deb
Bobgan, Harold	Mardirossian, Artoosh & Helga
Boranian, Mayva	Matossian, Lou Ann
Bulbulian, Francis & Barbara	Meketarian, Marty & Mara & family
Charchian, Aram & Ruth	Mesrobian, Azad & Karen
Clarke, Barbara	Mesroubian, Sam & Sylvia
Desteian & Savage, John & Judy	Mokhtarian, Koko & Joanne
Digris & McGibbon, Nairy & Terry & family	Nyholm, Pete & Dana & Family
Dourgarian, Gregg & family	Ohannesian & Tiffany, Judy & Doug & family
Erickson, Cynthia, Leroy & family	Rith-Najarian, Janet & Stephen
Faust, Gloria & Doug	Savayan, Peka & family
Favre, Margaret & Jim	Souslian, Kristapor & Fotis
Gauro & Cusik, Boghos & Lana & family	Tashjian & Savik, Joe & Kay
Gildensoph, Lynne	Teosyan & Bagdasarov, Yelena & George
Gregorian, Henry & Laurel	Warren, Melanie Bendian
Grigoriants, Olga	Wiersbeck, Mark
Hajinian, Peter & Brooke & Charlie	Wiersbeck, Sarah
Hakobyan & Papyieva, Artur & Nina	Wilberding, Tim & Helen
Hayes, Adrienne & Jim	Yaghsezian, George & Aida & family
Hayes & Carlson, Jackie & Mike & family	Ylitalo, Caroline & David & family
Johnson, Andrea and Lowell	

NOTE: Boldface type indicates members who have contributed \$50.00 or more to ACOM. Our thanks for everyone's most generous support.

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 I 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.

ACOMs 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.

ARMENIAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF MINNESOTA

203 North Howell Street -- St. Paul, MN 55104

2014 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:	Leroy Erickson	651-917-1818
Vice President:	Francis Bulbulian	651-645-2460
Treasurer:	Nairy Digris	651-639-9346
Secretary:	Lynne Gildensoph	651-690-8621
Social Director:	Adrienne Hayes	612-866-4277
Cultural Director:	(vacant)	651-690-8621
Past President:	Tom Keljik	651-659-0552

Newsletter Editor:	Peggy Merjanian	952-473-HYEM
Interim Newsletter Editor:	Terry McGibbon	651-639-9346

Armenian Cultural Organization of Minnesota Calendar for 2014

For further info, call Leroy Erickson, ACOM President, 651-917-1818

Month	Date	Event	Time
January	4	Gaghant - Barahantess, Marriott in Minnetonka	6:00 PM
January	14	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
February	8	First Gathering for Book Club	7:00 PM
February	11	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
March	11	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
March	13	Book Club	7:00 PM
March	23	Presentation on Fuller Center for Housing: Gohar Palyan	1:00 PM
March	29	Cooking Class: Judy Ohannesian makes Manti	11:00 AM
April	8	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
April	10	Book Club	7:00 PM
April	24	Genocide Commemoration	7:00 PM
May	1,2,3,4	Festival of Nations	
May	6	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
May	8	Book Club	7:00 PM
May	17	ACOM Past Presidents' meeting	1:00 PM
May	18	What Was It Like Growing Up Armenian in	1:00 PM
June	10	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
June	12	Book Club	7:00 PM
July	8	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
July	19	Summer Adventure at Erickson's	12 noon
August	10	ACOM Picnic	1:00 PM
August	12	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
September	9	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
October	11	Voski Ashoun	5:00 PM
October	13	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	3:45 PM
October	16	Book Club	7:00 PM
October	TBD	What Was It Like Growing Up Armenian in	TBD
November	10	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	3:45 PM
November	15	Movie Night	7:00 PM
November	20	Book Club	7:00 PM
December	4	Armenian Jewelry Presentation: Paul Tacorian	6:00 PM
December	8	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	3:45 PM
	2015		
January	3	Gaghant - Barahantess, Marriott in Minnetonka	6:00 PM
January	12	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	3:45 PM



*American Cultural Organization
of Minnesota
Culture, Heritage, History, Language.*

ACOM MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

VALID THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014

NAME(S): _____

STREET: _____ **City/St/Zip** _____

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

HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP*
MINNESOTA RESIDENTS \$30.00

OUT OF STATE\$15.00
(Newsletter Only)

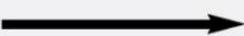
CONTRIBUTING \$100.00

**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@yahoo.com

1703 Skillman Avenue West

Roseville, MN 55113



*American Cultural Organization
of Minnesota
Culture, Heritage, History, Language.*

We're on the Web

www.mnarmenians.org