



ACOM



Culture
Heritage
History
Language

Armenian Cultural Organization of Minnesota
Established 1980

MinneHyeLites

No. 156 Winter 2020



The Armenian Cultural Organization of Minnesota turns **FORTY** in 2020. A meeting of Minnesota Armenians approved a slate of officers of the newly created **ACOM** on February 16, 1980. The first board is shown below.

Steve Merjanian Arek Tathevossian Vahram Kardashian



Evelyn Weinsheimer Nairy Digris Pat Goshgarian

Happy Anniversary.

Kicking off our 40th year, the annual ACOM GAGHANT party was held on January 10, 2020 at MidPointe Event Center in St. Paul.

As usual, our guests were welcomed to the event and for this special year, everyone attending was presented with a red 40th Year Anniversary tote bag displaying ACOM's new logo. Also, during check-in, "Hye Bingo" cards were given out. The aim of the bingo player was to find people who had the characteristics detailed in the bingo boxes and get those people to sign off on the box. This was a great ice-breaker that encouraged guests to mingle and socialize.



A social hour ran from 6 to 7 pm during which our 40th anniversary signature drink, the "Hye Ball", was debuted: an alcoholic version of a Champagne/Pomegranate juice mix. The non-alcoholic version was a sparkling juice with Pomegranate added. A very colorful and tasty addition to the evening.



Dinner was served starting about 7:10 pm and was a buffet catered by Mim's Restaurant (back for the third year in this location). The main meal consisted of hummus, a green salad, pita bread, pilaf (with vegetables for a topping), chicken, falafel, and kufta.



After all were served, President Nairy Digris gave a brief history of the organization and recognized a number of people that were instrumental in starting the organization. Among them was Aram Charchian who provided guidance for the organization to be set up. He had

plenty of experience in working with the Armenians in Memphis. He approached Vahram Kardashian, and together with 5 other community members, on February 16, 1980, ACOM Constitution and By-Laws were drawn and the organization was born. Vahram served as ACOM's first President. Vahram (Van as he was called) and Vali Kardashian's home became the center of many of the group's activities during the early years. The remaining officers of the first ACOM board were named including Nairy Digris and Pat Goshgarian (both present at this year's party). First ACOM Board members who have moved out of state were Steve Merjanian, Evelyn Weinsheimer, and Arek Tathevossian.

Following the history lesson, Nairy introduced the 2018-19 board members who have kindly agreed to serve on the board for another term. They were: Nairy Digris, President; John Parker-Der Boghossian, Vice President; Francis Bulbulian, Past President; Lynne Gildensoph, Secretary; Nairy Digris, Treasurer; and members-at-large who assisted in any and all tasks helping the board: Patty Kardashian, Sarah Erickson, Kassian Vaubel, Terry McGibbon (also Newsletter Editor and Webmaster). Special appreciation was given to Tom Keljik who had served as Board advisor.

The new ACOM Board members for 2020-21 were then asked to present themselves: John Parker-Der Boghossian, President, Nairy Digris, Past President and Treasurer, Lynne Gildensoph, Secretary. The members-at-large: Patty Kardashian, Kassian Vaubel, Sarah Erickson, Mark Wiersbeck, Annie Wells, Terry McGibbon (again Newsletter Editor and Webmaster). Tom Keljik will continue as Senior Advisor. John then gave some introductory remarks in his first official act as President stating that his hope for the organization is to continue to remain strong and more vibrant for our next 40-year celebration.

The first special guests were then introduced: Max Lundgren (Cello) and Robert Bell (Guitar). The duo played two pieces to the total delight of the audience. Well done, Max and Robert.



This musical presentation was followed by Dr. Chuck Hajinian from Milwaukee and his comedic delivery of "Haji Comedy." Chuck kept the audience laughing with his Armenian-pointed humor and fast paced delivery.



Following the formal program, dessert was served



consisting of a special cupcake table (cupcakes made by Sarah Erickson and Alarica Hassett) and servings of pakhlava and mini éclairs.

ACOM again had a silent auction and this year, ACOM also collaborated with SOAR which brought in two tables full of items for their Silent Auction. Through this event, SOAR was able to raise over \$600 for their cause.



(Continued on page 8)

ACOM 2020 - CALENDAR OF EVENTS - Jan.—Aug.

Questions, Suggestions, email: jpderboghossian@gmail.com
or call ACOM President, John at: 231-313-1612

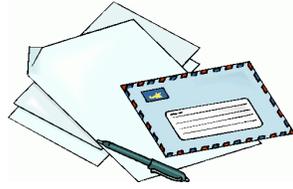


DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT
			ACOM 2020
10-Jan	Fri	6:00 PM	GAGHANT
13-Jan	Mon	5:30 PM	Board meeting
17-Jan	Thu	7:00 PM	Book Club
10-Feb	Mon	5:30 PM	Board meeting
20-Feb	Thu	7:00 PM	Book Club
22-Feb	Sat	6:00 PM	Folksinging
22-Feb	Sat	7:00 PM	Cinema Saturday - Khatchaturian
8-Mar	Sun	1:30-4 pm	What was it like growing up Arm #13
16-Mar	Mon	5:30 PM	Board meeting
19-Mar	Thu	7:00 PM	Book Club
21-Mar	Sat	6:00 PM	Folksinging
21-Mar	Sat	7:00 PM	Cinema Saturday - Khachaturian—Gayane
13-Apr	Mon	5:30 PM	Board meeting
16-Apr	Thu	7:00 PM	Book Club
4/30, 5/1,2,3		various	Festival of Nations
11-May	Mon	5:30 PM	Board meeting
16-May	Sat	7:00 PM	Folksinging
16-May	Sat	6:00 PM	Cinema Saturday
21-May	Thu	7:00 PM	Book Club
8-Jun	Mon	5:30 PM	Board meeting
18-Jun	Thu	7:00 PM	Book Club
20-Jun	Sat	6:00 PM	Folksinging
20-Jun	Sat	7:00 PM	Cinema Saturday
28-Jun	Sun	3:30 to ?	ACOM Picnic (Como Park)
13-Jul	Mon	5:30 PM	Board meeting
18-Jul	Sat	6:00 PM	Folksinging
18-Jul	Sat	7:00 PM	Cinema Saturday
25-Jul	Sat	3:00 PM	ACOM Pool Party (Ericksons)
2-Aug	Sun	All day	St Mesrob Heritage Festival
10-Aug	Mon	5:30 PM	Board meeting
15-Aug	Sat	6:00 PM	Folksinging
15-Aug	Sat	7:00 PM	Cinema Saturday

ACOM WEBSITE

Remember to continue to check our website:

www.mnarmenians.org

**FROM OUR MAIL BAG****THANK YOU**

Thank you so much for this generous donation. We deeply appreciate your thoughtful gift in Ed's memory to Gift of Life. We miss him so much. Forever in our hearts.

Jayne Pompeian and family

Thanks for all you do for ACOM.

Phil A.

Dear ACOM board members,
I miss you all and have fond memories of working on the ACOM board. Thank you all for your gift. Blessings to you all.

Tina A.

We appreciate so much ACOM's work and commitment to the community and Armenian culture. ACOM, thanks for all you do.

Marty M.

ACOM 40 YEARS—GAGHANT

Thank you ACOM for a wonderful evening. Your generous partnership in allowing SOAR to conduct a Silent Auction event during the Gagbant party raised over \$600 for the dental clinic in Gyumri, Armenia.

Caroline Y.

It was so good to see my friends again and I am pleased that after a few years, I was actually in town and could attend. Very nice turnout and venue.

Judy O.

So glad to hear there was a good turnout at the event. What a cool legacy! It was a pleasure having you back. We would love to have you back in the years to come!

Midpointe Event Center Management

It was a wonderful evening! Each Gagbant surpasses the one preceding it! Bravo to the Executive Committee!! The cello and guitar music and the comedy routine added extra enjoyment. The food was the best ever. The bingo game was a fun mixer. The red tote bags are a bright, practical memento of the 40th anniversary of ACOM.

Andrea J.

Bravo ! Well done.

Tom K.

Thank you very much for a wonderful party. Our group had a very good time.

Congrats to you and to all who worked with you!!

Art K.

God Bless ACOM. You guys are doing a great job.

We really enjoyed the party this year. Musicians & Com-ic....great fun.

Aram C.

SPEEDY RECOVERY

We wish VIOLA REIMERS (Cynthia Erickson's mom) a very speedy recovery from her complex cataract surgery. We hope her eyesight continues to improve.

Speedy recovery to SARAH WIERSBECK on her cataract surgery. We hope you are happy with your new and improved vision now.

ACOM also wishes a fast and complete recovery to the following ACOM members:

JANET RITH-NAJARIAN
SARAH ERICKSON
LOUANN MATOSSIAN
JIM LIPPERT
MITCHELL ERICKSON

ACOM NEWSLETTER #155

Another great newsletter. Thank you, Terry and Naïry.

Judy O.

Thanks for the great ACOM #155 newsletter. It is truly news about the Minnesota Armenian Community.

Francis B.

You guys do such a fabulous job with the Newsletter. Just great!

Margaret F.

2019 ACOM ANNUAL REPORT

Thanks for the completeness of the ACOM Annual Report. It is amazing how much work you & the ACOM Board have done during the year, putting together the variety of educational & cultural programs for the Armenian Community of Minnesota.

Abriss!!

Francis B.

Congratulations.....what a great year for ACOM. We all know how much work you do to make the organization welcoming and special for all of us. Thank you.

Joan P.

WHAT IS IT LIKE BEING MARRIED TO AN ARMENIAN # 2

DONNA AZARIAN – November 2019



Martin and I have been married for 30 years but we've been together for 37. I met my husband in college, we went to Hofstra Univ. in New York. He and I were both involved in student politics. We met at a dance and became friends before we dated.

My ethnic background is 100% Sicilian. I grew up in a Sicilian household. Both of my parents were born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. There were always lots of events in which to participate. For instance, the Polizzana Club held dances in NY. Family was everything and there was always good Italian food. If you watch the "Everybody Loves Raymond" show, my parents were like Marie and Frank Barone from that show. The family always got together after church followed by a big dinner.

Before meeting Martin, I knew nothing about Armenians other than Cher was part Armenian. That's all I knew. Martin was from RI and I became very close to my in-laws. We ate the best food, lots of goodies, like choreg and boreg and had lots of fun together. My best memories were from Martin's Aunt and Uncle's house. Their whole house was always full of family and wonderful, and I remember having so much fun together. Martin's cousin came often and we had all night parties.

I have learned a lot about Armenians and so have my daughters. It is important that they understand their Armenian heritage. Their great-grandmother was 8 years old when the Turks came and slaughtered everyone in her house. She is the only one who survived. Our daughters also understand their culture. We take them to ACOM events. We have taken them to the MA. Museum (ALMA) where one can learn a lot. The Armenians have the survival mechanism. My husband is tough but gentle. I have not learned the Armenian alphabet, but learned how to make good pilaf. Martin says it rivals his aunt's pilaf!

As far as the local Armenian community, I have not been involved a lot. When we moved to MN from NY, we wanted to find other Armenians. We attended church services when they were held at St. Paul Episcopal church by Lake of the Isles in Minneapolis. Then we found out about ACOM, and met Ruth and Aram Charchian. We became more comfortable going to ACOM events and church events. My husband has given classes to sophomores and seniors at our daughter's school about the Armenian Genocide. The head of the history department invited Martin. Martin taught several classes to kids who

knew nothing about the genocide. We would get more involved in the Twin Cities' Armenian community but, Martin is self employed and he never knows when the phone will ring. Usually, his work takes him away and we are unable to attend many ACOM and church events.

I like most everything about Armenians: people are warm, caring, family oriented. I remember the first time I brought my husband home to my family, my grandmother asked if Armenians celebrate Christmas. Martin told my grandmother that the Armenians were the first Christian nation. My grandparents loved Martin. My grandfather said: Martin is a good man, I am glad you are marrying him. I remember once where our family attended an Armenian wedding in MA where Mt. Ararat band was playing. Everybody took their handkerchiefs and started dancing. That was cool to watch, until I realized that you can use a napkin for the same purpose. We had a lot of fun, the music was great. I even forgave my husband for introducing me as his "sort-of my girlfriend"!

When they came to the America, Martin's family wanted to learn English, fit in and assimilate. Martin does not speak Armenian. His grandmother fled from Palou, Armenia, to - we think - Syria to France during the genocide and ended up in Havana, Cuba. She learned Spanish there. She was there from the 1920s to the 1940s. I never met her. Martin's dad spoke Spanish and Armenian.

Before getting married, Martin and I were getting instructions in the Catholic church. I am Catholic and we got married in a Catholic church. To be married in my church, we had to agree to raise our children Catholic. Martin is still Armenian Apostolic, but his time is so limited that he comes to our Catholic church with us.

There are always copious amounts of food during meals and people hang around even after all the food is gone. Martin's uncle once wanted us to drink some Armenian brandy. One day, Uncle Leo came downstairs with a red eye, and he blamed it on the strong Armenian brandy. It was very funny.

We still hold on to our culture through food and worship. These are pieces of our past that we want our children to learn so that they can understand their background. Our kids read the AGBU magazine and know what is going on in Armenia. We keep our custom of going to Sunday church service and then have our big meal. We prepare our grandmothers' recipes. The culture stays alive even though we are all Americans first.

Both Martin and I, having come from the East Coast, felt that NY city is a place where everybody comes from all walks of life. Nobody looked at anyone else as being different. That was magnified when we came to the Midwest where we stuck out like sore thumbs. In NY, nobody asked who I was. In Minnesota, everyone always asks about my background and heritage.

(Continued from page 5)

Lastly, looking at all the beautiful rugs here at Keljik Rug store, we do have a few Oriental rugs, but unfortunately, some of our rugs were destroyed by our dogs!

LEROY ERICKSON – November 2019



I have been married 39 years to Cynthia (Abrahamian) Reimers. She is half Armenian and half German. I am 100% Swedish.

We both attended the University of North Dakota and we had shared friends. We had seen each other a few times while at UND and then both ended up in the

Twin Cities. We then became part of a group formed by UND students and hung out together.

I did not get involved in Swedish culture when growing up. My parents both grew up in Alexandria, Minnesota, and moved to Kindred, North Dakota, just before I was born. Alexandria was mostly Swedish while Kindred was mostly Norwegian. I avoided eating oily, smelly fish (lutefisk), but loved the Vikings! I never did anything identifiably Scandinavian while growing up.

At first, I knew nothing about Armenians. I always loved to study maps and loved history, but read nothing about Armenians. Of course, nothing was ever said about the Armenian Genocide in school. When I first started dating Cynthia I pictured Armenia as being possibly a province of Romania or somewhere else in southeastern Europe.

After Cynthia and I started dating, I introduced my wife as half Armenian and half German. Her Mom looked Armenian. I did not get much exposure to Armenians through her family though (except food and, maybe, dancing).

There is one Armenian thing I hate and that is the screechy musical instrument (the zourna). Otherwise, there is nothing I really dislike.

Because I read a lot, I have read about Armenian history and the genocide. Along with Peter Hajinian, we have done presentations at the church's festival. As far as cooking Armenian food, I am not a cook! I can make easy meals.

I studied French and German in high school and college, but seem to remember the French more. I have also studied the Armenian alphabet. I know half a dozen words. I enjoy their music, especially the classical pieces. I have spent a lot of time with the ACOM book club where we have good discussions and spend 3/4ths of the time NOT talking about the book. We talk about family or other Armenian subjects. I also maintain the ACOM library. The books are listed on the ACOM website and you can borrow any book just by sending me an email. From 1980 on, in 39 years I have probably attended 139 Arme-

nian dance events, videotaped a large number of dance performances, have attended most of ACOM's parties and celebrations. We have sponsored the annual ACOM pool parties at our house. I even presented myself as a horn-headed Swede at a Gagghant party before being elected ACOM President!

I like the fact that the Armenians are friendly and have good food: I like pakhlava, but Armenians don't eat enough chocolate. I went to Armenia once with Cynthia. Seeing the mountains and the valleys and the little villages was great. The country is wonderful.

The Armenian language: I cannot focus on learning a new language; I put in a lot of effort but it just does not stick. My boys, however, have attempted to learn the language.

Religion: I grew up Lutheran. Cynthia grew up half Lutheran (dad) and half Presbyterian (mom). Our three sons attended a Presbyterian church. All of them have attended Armenian church service and two of them were acolytes there. I let the kids make up their own mind about religion. Bradley plays the handbells in the Presbyterian church with Cynthia and often goes to the Armenian church service here.

Cynthia still has family in Armenia. The time that I traveled there with her, the cousins all felt that they had to host this American cousin, and the best way had to be through food. Each place we visited, we had to eat. In two days, we visited 3-4 locations where the tables were full of food and, of course, we had to eat at every one.

(A question was asked concerning America as the melting pot as opposed to maintaining ethnic culture.) in Minnesota and North Dakota there are large populations of Swedes, Norwegians, and Finns. These immigrants didn't have to put a lot of effort into maintaining their unique ethnic culture because they were surrounded by it even in America. The same was true for Armenians in places like Fresno, CA, or Watertown, MA. For the Armenians in North Dakota and Minnesota, though, they had to put an effort into keeping their ethnic culture alive because there were/are so few of them.

We have a few Oriental rugs.



Our Panelists with Moderator
John Parker-Der Boghossian

NEWS ITEMS OF NOTE

Folks,

Here is an article about Annie Bulbulian Wells, ACOM board member, who is the director of Non-Profit Family Programs, St. Stephen's Human Services, which received a substantial grant.

Francis B.

<http://m.startribune.com/minneapolis-nonprofit-awarded-5-million-from-amazon-ceo-jeff-bezos-fund-to-help-homeless-families/565300582/>

Recent Earthquake felt in Armenia

The recent earthquake that hit Turkey (Jan. 2020) also affected parts of Western Armenia. We are happy to let everyone know that we have been in touch with Stepan and Astghik Khachatryan who returned to Gyumri (Armenia) a few years ago, and they do in fact live in Gyumri but they are well and safe.

Miss Nebraska Lex Najarian Vies for Miss USA 2019

The link below is an article about Lex Najarian (daughter of Peter Najarian, grand-daughter of Dr. John Najarian).



Alexis Najarian
with her parents, Lisa and Peter
Photo from Armenian Mirror-Spectator

<https://mirrorspectator.com/2019/03/14/miss-nebraska-lex-najarian-vies-for-miss-usa-2019/>

AGBU Webtalks

In this fascinating look at the beginnings of the global Armenian diaspora, Dr. Sebouh Aslanian examines the historical events that dispersed Armenians from their original homeland in the early modern period, giving rise to culturally and commercially vibrant diaspora communities across Europe and Asia.

<https://crm.agbu.org/libraries/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=990&qid=1297682>

ACOM VOSKI ASHOUN

Golden Autumn
October 5, 2019

This year's Voski Ashoun was again held at the Keljik Rug store on Bryant Avenue in South Minneapolis.

Thirty people attended this year's event. We had Wine and Brandy Tasting hosted by Sommelier Leroy Erickson. Leroy provided 3 wines and 3 brandies for our tasting pleasure. Information about the wines and brandies



selected this year can be found below. Leroy also brought along a flyer as a guide to *Knowing Your French Brandy's*.

Board Games (traditional Armenian favorites), Chess and Backgammon (Tavloo), as well as Scrabble were available and put to good use by a number of attendees.



Light refreshments were provided by ACOM to those who came.

A special treat during the event was accordion music played by Valeriy Saakian,

The prime focus of this year's Voski Ashoun was to get the community together for informal socializing which, from the perspective of those who came, was very successful.



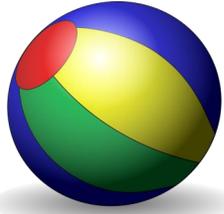
Great Links to info on Armenian Wines !!!

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/tmullen/2019/11/04/armenian-wines-are-kicking-with-quality/>

<http://vwfa.am/>

THE ANNUAL ACOM POOL PARTY

ACOM GAGHANT



The party was held this year at Henry and Laurel Gregorian's home in Roseville.

They have a saltwater pool heated to 90° F so the swimming was phenomenal. From all the people who attended this year's event, seven of them jumped in the pool and thoroughly enjoyed it. Brats and hot dogs were grilled by Leroy Erickson (keeping up his tradition as Pool Party Grillmaster). A variety of great salads and desserts were available as well as many kinds of chips, a fresh fruit bowl, cherries and a delicious watermelon. Soft drinks and water were provided by ACOM. Adult beverages were also available provided by some of the attendees. The event was a great time to share food and friendship with Armenians and ABCs. A very sincere thanks to Henry and Laurel for hosting the party even though they were departing for Florida two days later.

(Continued from page 2)



Last but not least, we were treated to the Armenian sounds of **Music Mundial** who provided a lot of dancing music. The four players of this musical ensemble have been providing Armenian dance music to ACOM's events since

2014. All of them are accomplished musicians in their own right, and they all play with many different ethnic group bands. They are very experienced and flexible, and ACOM is so appreciative of their versatility and talent.



If you have in interest in Armenian dance, if you have danced in the past, or have never danced but really would like to learn and participate, this would be a good time to give it a try. All the dances are taught, and costumes provided. It is a volunteer activity and we only ask for your time commitment. Rehearsals are typically held on Sundays at 1:00 pm in Roseville. Remember: you do not need to be Armenian to become a member of the dance group, just a desire to learn and enjoy Armenian music and dance.

Note: if you wish to perform with the group, you need to purchase your own “character shoes” and be ready to wear makeup and perform without eyeglasses.

For additional information, call Nairy: 651-639-9346 or email: hyebar@yahoo.com

The Armenian Dance Ensemble has been representing Armenian Culture through Dance and Music for over 25 years. Below is our schedule so far this year.



DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT
14-Mar	Sat	12.40 pm	Festival of Nations preview
9-Apr	Thu	7:00 PM	Jones-Harrison Residence
4/30, 5/1,2,3			Festival of Nations
29-Aug	Sat	12; 1:30	MN State Fair
20-Sep	Sun	7:00 PM	Edinburgh Park Amphitheater

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE AFTER ADE PERFORMANCES

I was so touched by your dances, especially the ladies’ “Dzaghgadz Baleni”. Although I have seen you do it before, it just brought tears to my eyes this time.

Watching your dances just choked me up – it was very emotional for me.

Andrea J.

MN State Fair

I heard wonderful things about your performance from the Team – they relayed that the Residents were so engaged. See you again soon! Thank you so much!

Mt. Olivet Careview



ADE @ St. Sahag Armenian Fest



ADE @ Ukrainian Holiday Festival



ADE @ the Minnesota State Fair

ACOM BOARD MEMBERS 2020-21

- President:** John P-D.B.
- Vice President:** open
- Past President:** Nairy D.
- Secretary:** Lynne G.
- Treasurer:** Nairy D.
- Members at Large:** Patty K , Kass V., Sarah E., Mark W., Annie W.
- Webmaster & Newsletter Editor:** Terry M.

Board Advisor: Tom K.

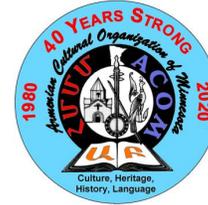
Any ACOM dues-paid member who is interested in serving on the Board is welcome to contact us:
www.mnarmenians.org
 Likewise, get in touch with us if you have comments, suggestions or would like to submit an article for an upcoming ACOM Newsletter.

ACOM 2020 PAID MEMBERS

Andeweg; George, Jeanne
 Aroutiunian, Margarita; Usitalo, Steven
 Arslan, Arnold
 Asgian, Phil
 Azarian; Martin, Donna, Adriana
 Badman, Jeanne
 Baradaran-Cafesjian; Kathleen, Jaff
 Bulbulian; Francis, Barbara
 Charchian; Aram, Ruth
 Daniels, Kathleen; Myers, Marcie, Mari
 Digris, Näiry; McGibbon, Terry, Hassetts
 Erickson, Bradley
 Erickson; Leroy, Cynthia
 Erickson; Mitchell, Sarah
 Favre; Margaret, Jim
 Gauro; Boghos, Lana & family
 Gildensoph, Lynne
 Hajinian; Peter, Brooke & family
 Hayes; Adrienne, Jim
 Hayes, Jackie; Nelson, Mike & family
 Hayes; Michelle & family
 Howard-Lincoln family
 Johnson; Andrea, Lowell
 Kardashian; Patty, Viguen
 Kaye, Alfred
 Keljik; Jeff, Susan
 Keljik, Tom; Collins, Jennifer
 Keljik, Mark; Grantz, Caren
 Kourajian, Art
 Matossian, LouAnn
 Meketarian Martin, Mara & family
 Mesrobian; Azad, Karen
 Ohannesian, Judy; Tiffany, Doug & family
 Olesen, Linnea
 Parker-Der Boghossian, John & Jim P.
 Poritsky, Joan
 Rith-Najarian; Janet, Steve
 Savayan; Peka, Maria, & Anderson, Stephen
 Vaubel; Kass, Carol, Jamaica P.
 Wells, Annie
 Wiersbeck, Mark
 Wiersbeck, Sarah
 Ylitalo; Caroline, David & family

If you have not yet renewed your membership, and would like to do so, please use the form on the back of the Newsletter to mail your check. Let us know if you are interested in receiving a copy of the Board Member biographies. Email your request to:

hyebar@yahoo.com

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 (Gaghant), guest speakers, folk dance lessons and performances by the Armenian Dance Ensemble of Minnesota, Genocide commemorations, summer picnics, and series of Interviews of Presenters talking about their heritage. 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.

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 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Valid January 1 to December 31, 2020

Name: _____

Street: _____

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

Household Membership \$35.00
Includes all members of one household

Out Of State..... \$15.00
(Newsletter Only)

Contributing..... \$100.00

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 emailed to all and distributed via USPS only to those who request it. This saves ACOM considerable printing and mailing costs. If you would like to receive your newsletter via email, just send your email address to hyebar@yahoo.com

1703 Skillman Avenue West
Roseville, MN 55113



We're on the Web

www.mnarmenians.org