



Culture  
Heritage  
History  
Language

Armenian Cultural Organization of Minnesota  
Established 1980

# MinneHyeLites

No. 135 Winter 2012/13

## ACOM's 2013 Gaghan/Barahantess

ACOM was pleased to host another fabulous Armenian Christmas celebration on January 5, 2013 with over 120 people attending. Held at the Marriott Hotel in Minnetonka, the celebration continues to be a wonderful annual event bringing long-time ACOM participants together with the newest members of our community.

The evening began with a brief Christmas Pageant including music and poems presented by children from the St. Sahag Sunday School. Father Tadeos also delighted us with a lovely rendition of the Armenian classic Azk Im Parabants.



After dinner, the dancing began with a performance by the Armenian Dance Ensemble. This encouraged others to step out on the dance floor and a festive time was had by all.

The night was DJed by Harut Khatchatryan who played lovely Armenian jazz during the meal and, of course, he played favorites over the while we danced.



We are also very pleased that a large framed Armenian artwork of embroidered letters of the alphabet, donated to ACOM by Linnea Olesen, was sold at the annual Gaghan party at a Silent Auction. Funds raised were donated to the very worthy cause of Armenia Youth Initiative led by Marty Meketarian.

Thanks to all who came out and made this such a special night!



Merry Christmas



CONGRATULATIONS

David and Tina Adamek who celebrated their 45th Wedding Anniversary early December.

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*Pioneer Press, December 16, 2012: Stillwater student earns highest possible score on ACT.*

Andy Ylitalo earned the highest possible composite score of 36 on the ACT test. Fewer than one-tenth of one percent of all test takers earn the top score.

The ACT consists of tests in English, mathematics, reading and science. Each test is scored on a scale of 1-36, and a student's composite score is the average of the four test scores.

ACT test scores are accepted by all major U.S. colleges, and exceptional scores of 36 provide colleges with evidence of student readiness for the academic rigors that lie ahead.

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Hagop Toghradjian - State Debate Tournament Champion

On Saturday, January 19, 2012, Hagop Toghradjian won the state debate tournament, after a competition that lasted two weeks. Hagop and his partner won all nine of their debates. In addition, all 21 judges that watched Hagop debate voted for him. The entire Armenian community congratulates him and wishes him success throughout all his endeavors.



THANK YOU

ACOM extends its sincere appreciation to the anonymous donor whose contribution allowed a few more people to attend the ACOM annual Gaghand party on January 5, 2013.

To Our Dear Friends of ACOM !!!

Your most generous gift is much appreciated ! Know that ACOM will remain in our hearts forever. It has been such an important part of the Armenian community - the base on which everything else depends - whether they know it or not. The variety of friends is mind-boggling. To have been a part of that history makes us proud! With love,  
Steve & Peggy Merjanian

Thank you for the nice flowers you sent -- I really appreciate the gesture. Hope to see you soon.  
Sincerely,  
Hagop Tabibian

Dear ACOM Board & Membership,  
I appreciated the thoughtful gift of the fruit basket. It's nice to be thought of.  
Hank Manthei

Dear ACOM Friends,  
I want to thank you so much for the beautiful flowers which arrived at my home from you all. I have been enjoying them very much. Thank you for all your prayers and messages. I deeply appreciate all your kindness and help. Please continue to pray for my complete recovery. May God richly bless all of you.  
With deepest gratitude,  
Harriet Balian

With our sincere Thank You for your words of sympathy and generous gift to the Transplant House in memory of Mom. She was an extraordinary woman who touched so many peoples' lives. We will miss her but carry her memory and love forever in our hearts.  
The Family of Helen Pompeian

Thank you ACOM for your vote of confidence and ongoing support.  
Marty Meketarian AYI



GET WELL WISHES

To Liana Brouillard, for a full and speedy recovery.

Alice Tashjian who was recently hospitalized at Regions in St. Paul.



SYMPATHY

Caroline Ylitalo, we are saddened to hear about the loss of your beloved mother in Syria in October 2012. Please accept our heartfelt condolences.

Our most sincere expressions of sympathy to the Pompeian family in Rochester, MN, for the loss of their beloved mother and grandmother, Helen Nazarian Pompeian, on December 17, 2012. Many of us got to visit with Helen when we drove to Rochester and took a tour of the Gift of Life Transplant House founded by Helen's son, Edward Pompeian. Helen was a great supporter of ACOM and all its activities. She would call one of us every so often and chat, regretting the fact that living in Rochester made it difficult for her to come and attend ACOM's events. (see page 11 for Obituary)

We are sorry to announce the passing of Dr. Paul Boranian. Condolences to his wife Mayva and the entire family. (See page 11 for Obituary)

# Farewell Steve and Peggy



On Sunday, October 21, 2012, we bid a sad farewell to one of our favorite couples in the Twin Cities' Armenian community.

Steve and Peggy Merjanian announced that they were going to move from Minnesota to the Massachusetts area in order to be close to their children and grandchildren.

Steve is one of the original 7 members of ACOM and was instrumental in forming and organizing the Armenian Cultural Organization. He has remained very involved throughout the years. Peggy had held numerous positions on the ACOM board, including President, and has been the ACOM Newsletter editor for over 24 years.

ACOM held a going-away lunch to allow everyone in the community a chance to say goodbye to Steve and Peggy. Eighty five people gathered to eat, drink, and be as merry as they could be. To Steve and Peggy: Good Luck in your new endeavors, but we will be happy to hold a welcome back dinner for you in a year or two when you decide that you just can't live without us.....



## A NOTE FROM DAVID SNELL, PRESIDENT & CO-FOUNDER FULLER CENTER FOR HOUSING

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your recent gift\* to the Fuller Center designated for the Tashir House in Armenia. We are so impressed with the dedication of the American Armenian community towards making life better for folks back in the old country.

The work in Armenia continues to grow at an impressive rate. The Fuller Center for Housing of Armenia has now provided decent homes to over 200 families, making it the most productive covenant partner in our organization. We are so proud of the good work that they do.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of friends like you. Please tell your members they are making a significant difference in the lives of families in Armenia.

Yours in faith,  
David Snell

*\* \$591.38 raised through ACOM Voski Ashoun event donated to the Fuller Center for Housing.*



**MERRY ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS!**  
WWW.LINKONTHEMOM.COM ©2013 SAREEN AKHARSALIAN



## ACOM 2013 Calendar of Events

For further info, call Tom Keljik,  
ACOM President, 651-659-0552



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 in St. Paul

**Thank You!**

Month	Date	Event	Time
January	5	Gaghant - Barahantess, Marriott in Minnetonka	6:00 PM
January	15	ACOM Executive Committee meeting	6:00 PM
February	10	What Was It Like Growing Up Armenian In ....	1:00 PM
February	19	ACOM Executive Committee meeting	6:00 PM
March	10	Urban Expeditions featuring Armenia at the Landmark Center. Valeriy Saakian on Accordion, ADE performances	1:00 PM
March	19	ACOM Executive Committee meeting	6:00 PM
April	17	ACOM Executive Committee meeting	6:00 PM
April	24	Genocide Commemoration	7:00 PM
May	2,3,4,5	Festival of Nations, St. Paul: Children, our past, our future	
May		Kourajian Quintet at Keljik Rugs, Minneapolis	2:00 PM
May	15	ACOM Executive Committee meeting	6:00 PM
May	19	Pilaf Off .... and Ancestral Tables	1:30 PM
June	19	ACOM Executive Committee meeting	6:00 PM
July	14	ACOM Off-Site Picnic - Erickson's, Roseville	1:00 PM
July	17	ACOM Executive Committee meeting	6:00 PM
August	11	ACOM Picnic	1:00pm
August	21	ACOM Executive Committee meeting	6:00 PM
September	7	Voski Ashoun	5:00 PM
September	18	ACOM Executive Committee meeting	6:00 PM
October	13	What Was It Like Growing Up Armenian In ....	1:30 PM
October	16	ACOM Executive Committee meeting	6:00 PM
November	19	ACOM Executive Committee meeting	6:00 PM
December	17	ACOM Executive Committee meeting	6:00 PM
January	2014	Gaghant - Barahantess, Marriott in Minnetonka	5:30 PM

Month	Date	Location	Time
March	10	Festival of Nations Preview	1:00 PM
March	10	Landmark Center	1:45 PM
March	26	Sholom Home	7:00 PM
April	23	Episcopal Homes	6.45 PM
May	3,4,5	Festival of Nations	
May	15	Presbyterian Homes, Croixdale	6.30 PM
May	19	Cerenity Care	2:00 PM
June	6	Jones-Harrison Residence	7:00 PM
June	25	Edina Care and Rehab	7:00 PM
August		Minnesota State Fair	
September	24	Episcopal Homes	6.45 PM
October	22	Sholom Home	7:00 PM
November	12	Edina Care and Rehab	7:00 PM
December	1	Ukrainian Christmas Festival	



**Armenian Dance Ensemble**

**2013  
Performance  
Schedule**

*Anyone interested in joining the Armenian Dance Ensemble of Minnesota  
call Nairy Digris 651-639-9346*

## LET'S GET ACQUAINTED !

ACOM started this new feature in Newsletter #133 where we featured Peggy Merjanian. By offering our members a set of questions, we ask them to share a little about their life with our community.

This Newsletter will showcase two women who have been long supporters of ACOM: Harriet Balian and Margaret Johnson.

### HARRIET BALIAN

ACOM: Please introduce yourself by name, age, occupation. If retired, what did you do before retiring?

**HARRIET BALIAN**, 85 years of age (2012), secretary and office supervisor at the State of Minnesota and 3M Company.

ACOM: Where are you from originally?

HB: Minnesota

ACOM: Where is your Armenian family from? Your parents, your grandparents?

HB: Armenia

ACOM: How did they end up in America?

HB: My father left in 1913. My mother came to America to marry my father because he was looking for an Armenian wife.

ACOM: How did you/your family end up in Minnesota? When was this?

HB: My father was looking for land to purchase and establish a home.

ACOM: How and when did you first make contact with Minnesota Armenians?

HB: I was born in Minnesota and grew up here.

ACOM: What made you decide to stay connected with Armenians in Minnesota?

HB: The Armenians in the Twin Cities gathered at our home for picnics, etc. My sister played the organ for the church services.

ACOM: What kinds of Armenian activities have you been involved with here?

HB: Working at the St. Sahag Church ever since it was established.

ACOM: What would be something really memorable that you were part of in this community?

HB: In 2005, I was asked to be in the KTCA production about the Armenian Genocide of 1915 where my mother survived a 19-day death march and fled safely to Constantinople. She then rescued her brother and two sisters before coming to America and subsequently to Minnesota.

ACOM: Has your involvement in Armenian activities changed over the years? In what ways?

HB: Yes. I have tried to help the church grow and have invited friends and relatives to the services.

ACOM: Has your sense of being "Armenian" changed over the years?

HB: Yes.

ACOM: How?

HB: I have learned to love the Armenian liturgy and have come to learn more about the Armenian history.

ACOM: When you travel, and people ask about the Minnesota Armenians, what do you tell them?

HB: I tell them about the Armenians in Minnesota and that my father was one of the first persons with his brothers to settle here.

ACOM: How would you compare the Minnesota Armenians to other Armenian communities you have known?

HB: I have only known some Armenians in Philadelphia and some relatives in Massachusetts. It is great to know the Armenian families here, and I am grateful we have a church group to be a part of.

ACOM: What would you want your children and grandchildren to know about Armenians in Minnesota?

HB: They were missionaries and rug makers and helped many people in Minnesota get settled here.

### MARGARET JOHNSON

ACOM: Please introduce yourself by name, age, occupation. If retired, what did you do before retiring?

**MARGARET THOMASSIAN JOHNSON**, 88 years (2012), raised four children, with short stints in advertising, copy-writing and teacher's aid in preschool.

ACOM: Where are you from originally?

MJ: Minneapolis, MN

ACOM: Where is your Armenian family from? Your parents, your grandparents?

MJ: All deceased now. My father, Daniel Thomassian, was from Abyon Karahissar, Turkey.

ACOM: How did they end up in America?

MJ: My father came around 1912 to avoid the Genocide, after paying a man on the black market to get him on a ship.

ACOM: Before you came to Minnesota, how involved were you in Armenian activities?

MJ: Very little in my early days.

ACOM: How did you/your family end up in Minnesota? When was this?

MJ: My father came here on a scholarship to Macalester College, arranged by his school in Konya, Turkey.

ACOM: What would be something really memorable that you were part of in this community?

MJ: Dad studied to become a teacher at Macalester. During WW II, he worked at Honeywell. Prior to that, he started a home recording business.

ACOM: What would you want your children and grandchildren to know about Armenians in Minnesota?

MJ: They overcame great odds with hard work and tenacity to succeed.



## Minnesota helps Fuller Center for Housing - Armenia

**This year, Cynthia Erickson will be returning to Armenia from June 16-30, 2013 to again build homes with the working poor. Cost this year is \$1520 excluding airfare. If you have questions, or are interested in learning more, contact her at [cynthia.erickson@minnmicro.com](mailto:cynthia.erickson@minnmicro.com) or by phone at 651-917-1818.**

## THE NEW YORK TIMES

### *Armenians Fleeing Anew as Syria Erupts in Battle*



Displaced young Syrian Armenians at the recently opened Cilician School in Yerevan, Armenia.

By ALIA MALEK  
Published: December 11, 2012

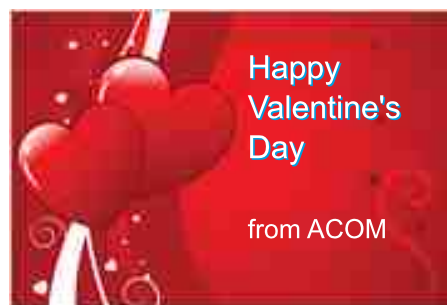
YEREVAN, Armenia — At the newly opened Cilician School in this former Soviet republic, the textbooks are in Arabic, photocopied from a single set flown out of war-torn Syria. The curriculum is Syrian, the flag on the principal's desk is Syrian, and the teachers and students are all Syrians.

More on this story, go to: <http://nyti.ms/VBv4Aw>



### **Tashjian and Wiersbeck families, long time friends**

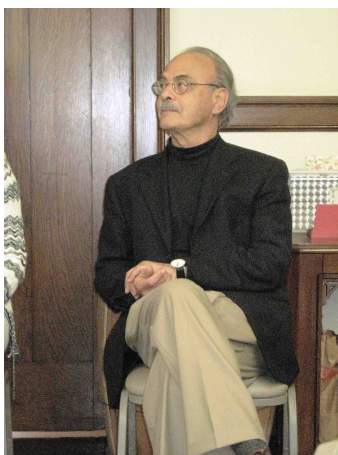
The Wiersbeck and Tashjian families have ties that go a long way back. Sarah Wiersbeck knew Harry Tashjian since they were children, some 75+ years ago. Sarah's godparents were Harry's parents. Harry served as a groomsman at Ray and Sarah Wiersbeck's wedding in 1956 in New York, and Harry and Alice's son, Joseph, was the ring bearer. Both families eventually moved to Rochester, Minnesota, and attended the same church for several years. Alice taught at the Community College attended by Mark Wiersbeck after he finished high school.



## WHAT WAS IT LIKE GROWING UP ARMENIAN IN.....

On Sunday October 28, 2012, ACOM hosted the third in a series of “What it was Like Growing Up Armenian in \_\_\_\_\_?”

With an audience of over 60 in St. Sahag Fellowship Hall, Margarita Tchaldarian, Francis Bulbulian, and Avo Toghramadjan told us about the places where they were born and grew up, giving those assembled a flavor of life in Moscow, Teheran and Beirut.



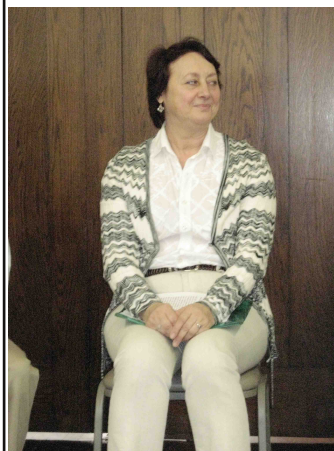
Francis led off, explaining his father’s mission as a Presbyterian minister assigned to missionary work in Iran. His father and mother were citizens of Lebanon whose families were survivors from the Genocide of 1915. His father received his seminary training in the

United States and with his wife, and a not yet born Francis, left to spread the Gospel to Muslims. Today such an assignment would appear to be doomed from the start, but Francis related that this was a different time – early 1940’s, and some Muslims were interested, for various reasons, in hearing what his father had to say. He said that his father had set a goal of converting 10% of those that found interest in his message. The reality was about 1% actually were receptive and accepted Christianity. Francis remembers heading out to villages that surrounded Teheran on a donkey with his father. That must truly have been a sight to behold!

He remembers very little of his early schooling that occurred in an Iranian school, but spoke glowingly of the opportunity that presented itself when he was enrolled in an International school comprised of children of ambassadors and US military personnel, as well as elite Iranians. There he matriculated and made fast and long friendships. He mentioned that he had a strong Armenian identity – reinforced by his parents and by Armenian-Iranians with whom he came in contact. He recollected that they were well

respected members of the society. He mentioned Shah Abbas transporting Armenian artisans, architects, masons and craftsmen to Isfahan and more specifically Julfa.

Francis’ interest in architecture grew, which led him to the USA, and a stay in the home of his uncle in Rochester, Minnesota – famed for developing the high-altitude flight mask for the US Army Air Corps – Dr. Arthur Bulbulian. He remarked one day what a beautiful home his uncle had. His uncle responded by saying it was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright – yet to be known to Francis as one of the most famous architects of America. His interest would lead him to MIT and then the school of architecture, Minnesota. Along the way, he fell in love with a Minnesotan, marrying Barbara, and making his home here. He currently works with PDI Group and is credited with having been principal architect on 25 major international projects and some 40 in the US – many here in Minnesota.



Margarita’s father was Armenian and her mother Russian. She said that her Armenian heritage was not greatly reinforced by her father, but was awakened by her many visits with her aunt. In her presence she heard the Armenian language and found its sounds intriguing and

spurred interest in its learning. When she begged her father to teach her Armenian, he told her it would be more beneficial to be proficient in Russian and not spend time learning a language that would not be very useful to her in the capital of the Soviet Union. She described Moscow as a vibrant place to grow up in, but culturally Armenia was not a major factor. She was aware of Armenian artists and musicians, mostly from Soviet Armenia, who would make appearances in Moscow.

She attended school and went to college amongst fellow Russians and became employed in the Society of Friendship – formed to promote international understanding. This organization brought her in contact with many peoples. Her compatriot in this enterprise just happened to be of

Armenian descent as well. Her husband, being a professor, led to a brief life in Iceland where she learned a smattering of their language. She marveled at the ancient scripts that Iceland proudly showcased and noticed that one touted a visit from Armenian priests in the 11th century – who would have guessed? Eventually her husband's academic career led them to Minnesota and the University here. She contrasted the more sedate and organized life here to the hectic and frenetic Moscow of today. She says Minnesota's more laid-back approach is more to her liking.

Her new home here afforded her the opportunity to reshape her education and she enrolled in college to earn a degree in computer science. This would be something unheard of in Moscow among women, as, when they reach their early fifties, the notion of starting another learning path or career would be unthinkable. At 55 they see their professional life as over and they retire and are less engaged in activities. She likes the energy exhibited in this culture.

It was through happenstance that her last name caught the attention of a woman who asked if it was an Armenian surname. (She had kept her maiden name Tchaldarian.) The woman made her aware of St Sahag and she went for a visit and was greeted by the gracious and welcoming Massis Yeterian who made her feel right at home. She has put down deep roots in Minnesota, and while it is fascinating to visit relatives and friends in Moscow, this is home. St Sahag and ACOM help to make her connection to her Armenian side of her ancestry more meaningful and rich.



Avo spoke about his early life in Lebanon. Born at Christmas time, he was named Avedis – meaning "good news" in Armenian. For his parents, it was excellent news. His family lived away from the major Armenian community in Beirut – his father seeing the virtues in living in a smaller community. This forced Avo and his brothers to socialize more with the dominant Arab

youth in the community in school and sports. He recalled that he was often the target of bullying since he was the only non-Arab in the local school. He recalls a day in school when his teacher made him an example of excellent work in his Arabic writing assignment, shaming the Arab boys for 'not being as good in your native language as this Armenian boy'. Did Avo feel that he would pay for this teacher's insult of the other boys on the school playground? Avo also found success in the sport of ping pong where he became a youth champion for his age bracket. Armenian was spoken at home and the Toghramadjian family attended the Armenian Church. The family had a tradition of Priest in their lineage and currently Avo's brother is a member of the clergy in the Armenian Church in Lebanon.

War touched Lebanon and Avo remembers hearing bombs explode far off in the city of Beirut. His interest in architecture and structural engineering grew and he found his interest leading him to school in America or possibly Europe, which was a strong current that ran through the Armenian community in Lebanon. It was as a teenager that Avo pressed to gain a Visa in Damascus. He was told that his English was rather good and why would he need to go to America? He was fortunate to secure his Visa and made his way to the USA. He eventually found the area of civil engineering to be a fitting endeavor. And then the biggest and most wonderful event happened – he met his wife Katie – a Minnesotan! They have made trips to Lebanon (usually with Katie expecting a child) which has become a family inside joke. The boys have all made the trip and have been baptized by their uncle in Lebanon. Avo and Katie have instilled in the children a strong sense of their Armenian heritage and St Sahag has become an integral part in their spiritual and community life. Katie is one of the hardest working adopted Armenians in our community. Both Katie and Avo are civil engineers owning their own firm - and if you drive on the new crosstown highway interchange you are driving on their design.

*Our successful third session only leads us to the excitement of a fourth planned for early 2013. Our little group has many wonderful thought-provoking stories full of challenges, changes, journeys and triumphs. There are more wonderful stories to be told.*



## \*\*\*\* HELP NEEDED \*\*\*\*

ACOM is giving financial support (as allowed in ACOM's Constitution and By-Laws) to a locally-based genocide education program called Tents of Witness.

**Tents of Witness: Genocide and Global Conflict** is a multimedia, multicultural, multigenerational exhibit designed to educate people about genocide; illustrate causes and consequences of genocide; present action steps to prevent genocide; and remember the people in our own communities who have fled from these atrocities and whose families and communities have been destroyed.

The project organizers are looking for volunteers to work on the tent as well as those with stories and information about the Armenian Genocide. Please contact Paul Tronnes and Zara Bezhanyan for more information. They can be reached at [paulzaratronnes@yahoo.com](mailto:paulzaratronnes@yahoo.com) or at 507-289-5214.

More information about the tent project can be found at:

[www.worldwithoutgenocide.org](http://www.worldwithoutgenocide.org).

### ALMA appoints Dr. Susan Pattie as Director

The Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) has appointed Dr. Susan Pattie as its new Director, effective September 24, 2012. Dr. Pattie comes to ALMA after a long residence in London, UK where she was co-founder and Director of the Armenian Institute. She is also a Senior Research Fellow at University College London and has taught courses in anthropology there and at other universities, most recently Aga Khan University and Syracuse University London Program.

Born in Washington DC, Dr. Pattie grew up in that area, leaving for Michigan to attend Hope College where she received her BA with a major in art. After working as an artist/craftsperson, Dr. Pattie began a PhD in cultural anthropology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, doing her fieldwork with the Armenian community of Cyprus and later conducting research in Armenia, Syria and North America. She is the author of *Faith in History: Armenians Rebuilding Community* (Smithsonian Institution Press), various academic articles and contributions to edited volumes, as well as two recent books aimed at a wider audience.

*Who are the Armenians?* (with Gagik Stepan Sarkissian and Maral Kerovpyan), written for 6 – 12 year-olds, coincidentally bears the same title as a major exhibition designed and showcased at ALMA. Both serve to present Armenian heritage and culture to a broad public, Armenian and non-Armenian alike. Dr. Pattie's most recent book, *Treasured Objects: Armenians in the Ottoman Empire 100 Years Ago* (with Vazken Davidian

### Armenian Wine Makes Bloomberg's Top 10 List



The 2010 Zorah Karasi Areni Noir, made from grapes from the Areni region of Armenia, was ranked in Bloomberg's top 10 list.

Bloomberg's Elin McCoy, in the piece

entitled "Top 10 Wines of 2012 From Burgundy to Armenia to Sonoma" said that the Top 10 list was compiled after sampling 4,000 wines during 2012.

"I was wowed by my first-ever taste of an Armenian wine, this stylish red made from Areni noir grapes and aged in traditional clay amphora," said McCoy.

"Smoky, silky elegance, soft mulberry-like fruit and wild earth notes are part of the wine's appeal; I also savored the thrill of drinking history. It's the first vintage from a new wine making project near the Areni-1 cave, where archeologists discovered the world's oldest winery, dating back 6,100 years," added McCoy.

Founded by Zorik Gharibian, an Armenian living in Italy, Zorah was conceived after Gharibian's several visits to Armenia informed him of Armenia's deep-rooted wine culture.

Gharibian decided to buy a vineyard in Armenia, instead of investing in one in Tuscany, with a wish to expose Armenia's potential in creating wines which rival the best in the world.

Gharibian lives in Milan with his wife and two children.

and Gagik Stepan Sarkissian) is also a serendipitous match with ALMA and its rich collections.

Located in Watertown, Massachusetts, ALMA holds the most extensive collection of Armenian artifacts in the diaspora, some dating back many centuries, as well as a large library of many valuable books. With its roots in one of the oldest but still vibrant New World communities, ALMA has numerous outreach programs, from curator-led tours of its galleries to traveling exhibitions. Susan Pattie's work with the Armenian Institute has also focused on raising awareness of Armenian heritage and culture as well as encouraging the exploration of what it means to be Armenian in the 21st century diaspora in all its diverse dimensions. Susan Pattie is married to Levon Chilingirian, violinist and leader of the Chilingirian Quartet and has one son, Stepan.

*Susan is the sister of Mark Pattie who is a member of the local Armenian Community.*

## ACOM 2013 PAID MEMBERS

Agadzhanova, Galina	Meketarian, Marty & Mara
Adamek, Tina & David	<b>Mesrobian, Azad &amp; Karen</b>
Andeweg, George & Jeanne	Mesroubian, Sam & Sylvia
Angell & Byfield, Bill & Michele	<b>Najarian, John &amp; Mignette</b>
<b>Asgian, Phil</b>	Ohanessian, Sita
Bobgan, Harold	Ohannesian & Tiffany, Judy & Doug Erica, Harrison
Bulbulian, Francis & Barbara	Oyler, William
Charchian, Aram & Ruth	Pederson, Mary
Clarke, Barbara	Rith-Najarian, Steve & Janet
Digris & McGibbon, Nairy & Terry & family	Saakian, Karina & Valeriy & family
<b>Dourgarian, Gregg &amp; Mary &amp; family</b>	Savayan, Peka & family
Erickson, Cynthia & Leroy Chris, Bradley, Mitchell	Teosyan & Bagdasarov, Yelena & Georgiy
Favre, Jim & Margaret	Toghramadjian, Avo & Katie Hagop, Thomas, Raffi, Isabel
Gauro, Boghos & family	Wiersbeck, Sarah
Gildensoph, Lynne	Wiersbeck, Mark
Gregorian, Henry & Laurel	Yaghsezian, George & Aïda Gregory
Hayes, Michelle	
Keljik, Jeff & Susan & Katie	
<b>Keljik &amp; Collins, Tom &amp; Jennifer</b>	
<b>Keljik &amp; Grantz, Mark &amp; Caren</b>	
Manthei, Debra	
<b>Mardirosian, Artoosh &amp; Helga</b>	
Matossian, Lou Ann	

*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 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 to the extent permissible by law.

### ARMENIAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF MINNESOTA

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

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## Rest in Peace - Ցավակցութիւններ

### Dr. Paul Boranian



Dr. Paul Boranian, Age 86, passed peacefully surrounded by family on Sunday, January 20, 2013. Preceded in death by son John. Paul is survived by his wife of almost 60 years Mayva; daughter Mary (Scott Curb); grandson Josh Curb; brothers Harry, Dickran, and

Ara; and numerous loving friends and family members. Paul was born to Armenian immigrants, Paul and Vartoohie, on August 8th, 1926. He attended Marshall High in St. Paul and served with the US Army during WWII. After returning, he earned a B.S. and M.S. from Mankato State Univ., and his Ph.D. was earned from Walden Univ. Paul was in the field of education for 44 years. He was a classroom teacher, lecturer in colleges and universities, and he traveled extensively as an international consultant in the field of Community Education and Adult Education. He was the first Director of Community Education for the City of Minneapolis. In retirement, Paul worked for the Teamsters Service Bureau. Memorial Service was held Thursday, January 24, 2:00 PM at Plymouth Congregational Church, 1900 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis MN (612-871-7400). Rev. James Gertmanian and Der Tadeos Barseghyan officiated. A reception followed at the church.

Memorials preferred to PORTICO Interfaith Housing Collaborative or Bemidji Boys and Girls Club.



### Helen Nazarian Pompeian



Helen passed away on Dec. 17, 2012 at St. Mary's Hospital at the age of 87.

She was born and raised in Pontiac, Mich., and worked as a probate registrar of the Juvenile Court of Oakland County. In 1945, she married Edward Pompeian. In 1972, she moved to

Rochester, Minn., for her son to receive medical care at the Mayo Clinic, and a year later donated a kidney to him. She wrote about these tribulations in her book, Gifts of Love and Life. Helen dedicated her life to her family and was an advocate for bringing hope to other transplant patients and their families. For many years she worked as a secretary at her son's real estate firm and later worked as an administrative assistant at the Gift of Life Transplant House. She was a member of the Armenian Cultural Organization of Minnesota and Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Helen was a beautiful woman full of courage, strength, and compassion. She enjoyed entertaining and cooking Armenian food, sharing life stories and experiences, and spending time with her grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her father, mother, and sisters Alice, May, and Isabelle. She is survived by her brothers Paul Nazarian and Richard Kirk, sister Janet (Edward) Mardigian, daughter Sharon (Michael) Maraian, son Edward (Jayne) Pompeian, and five grandchildren Paul (Arous) Maraian, Edward, Aaron, Nicholas, and Adrienne Pompeian, and one great-granddaughter Araxi Helen Maraian. The memorial service was conducted by Der Yeprem Kelegian and Der Tadeos Barseghyan.

Memorials are requested to be sent to the Gift of Life Transplant House in Rochester.





*American Cultural Organization  
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VALID THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2013

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Comments? \_\_\_\_\_

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