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Culture  
Heritage  
History  
Language

Armenian Cultural Organization of Minnesota  
Established 1980

## MinneHyeLites

No. 159 Winter 2021

### WATCH FOR UPCOMING ACOM "VIRTUAL" EVENTS ON ZOOM

**Email Announcements with details will be  
forthcoming soon**

**Sat., February 6** – 3 pm – Genealogy session with Janet and Judy

**Sat., February 20** – 7 pm – ACOM Cinema Saturday showing "Mayrig 1" with English subtitles

**Sun., March 7** – 3 pm – ACOM's 3rd in Series: What is it like being Married to an Armenian, featuring Doug Tiffany (Judy Ohannesian) and Steven Usitalo (Margarita Aroutiunian)

**Sat., March 20** – 7 pm – ACOM Cinema Saturday showing "Mayrig 2" with English subtitles

**Tue., April 20** – 6 pm – Prof. Joachim Savelsberg talks about his new book "*Knowing about Genocide - Armenian Suffering and Epistemic Struggles*" followed by Q & A

**Sat., April 24** – 6 pm – ACOM Genocide Commemoration



ACOM is extremely proud to share with the Armenian community, their families and their friends, the honor of recently receiving

both a **Proclamation** and a *Certificate of Recognition*

for all their work and contributions to the Armenian community, from the State of Minnesota, signed by Governor Walz. Copies of both can also be found on [page 8](#) in this Newsletter and on our Website for download:

[mnarmenians.org](http://mnarmenians.org)



### GAGHANT January 3, 2021

The annual ACOM Gaghant was held this year on Sunday, January 3, 2021 via Zoom. Hosted and emceed by John Parker-Der Boghossian (ACOM President), the celebration began with some introductory remarks by John. The current board of ACOM was then introduced, followed by the presentation of the elected new vice-president, Steven Usitalo, and a new board member-at-large, Alarica Hassett. John presented a slide show that highlighted ACOM events throughout the year 2020. This was a challenging year, but one that ACOM adapted to and kept active with a variety of virtual events.

Although disappointed that we could not hold an "in-person" annual ACOM Gaghant celebration, we had a great time with our "on-line" program that highlighted the talents of three of ACOM's long-time members.



**Seda Bagdasarova** with her operatic singing of "You" in Russian, Andy Ylitalo who played two pieces – one on the duduk and one on the saxophone, and Boghos (Paul) Gauro who played the flamenco style guitar for the event.



Following are short bios on both Andy and Boghos:

**Andy Ylitalo** was born and raised in Stillwater, Minnesota, where he has been involved in ACOM and the St. Sahag Armenian church since his childhood. Primarily a saxophone player, he began to dabble with the Armenian duduk after having had the opportunity to learn from varbeds in Armenia. He is currently in his 4th year of a PhD program in Chemical Engineering at Caltech in Pasadena, California."



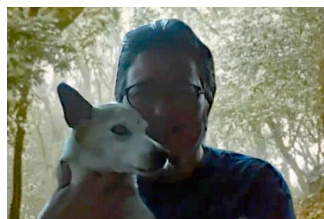
**Boghos Gauro** - At age 12, in Lebanon where I grew up, my uncle Eddy wanted to keep me out of trouble with neighbor kids so he got

me a guitar to play, and promised me that the day I will play a tune, he will contact the very well known guitarist Sarkis Sarkissian for me.

To teach me, my first tune was by Enrico Macias (par ton premiere baiser). Eddy was excited and arranged lessons for me with Sarkis who unfortunately used some drugs, and his eyes were always red. He was only 28 years old. Anyway, after 4 lessons, he told me that I was (gently put) useless, and don't waste your uncle's money. I cried all the way home, my mother comforted me, and when Eddy came Sunday (he came to our house every Sunday for lunch), he told me not to worry, he will get me all I need from Spain. He worked for the airlines. I loved the guitar so much I slept with it. At 17 years old, I was involved in an Armenian event where, along with others, I played the guitar. When my turn came to play - and Sarkis was there - he came and hugged me after complimenting me about how fast and lovely my finger work was, like lightning, he said. Later on, I played in several clubs as well as on local radio and television programs.

John then introduced the **Vahram Kardashian Community Service Award**, new this year, but expected to be an annual award. This year the Award was presented posthumously to Dr. John Najarian for his dedication to the Armenian community and not only to Minnesota, but to the world, for his pioneering work in transplant surgery. **Dr. Najarian's son, Pete**, was able to join us and accept the award in his father's name and for Dr. Najarian's family.

To end the evening, John opened up the meeting for people to socialize and talk about their good events over the past year. This discussion lasted for about an hour where some community members also introduced their pets.....





The virtual event was attended by 30 people and was a great way to start ACOM's 41st year. For those who were unable to participate in ACOM's virtual Gagghant, you may go to ACOM's Website and find a link to the video of the event.

<http://mnarmenians.org/acom-life/item/139-gagghant-2021-virtual>



## **HENRY GREGORIAN BIO**

You may recall that ACOM's Voski Ashoun celebration on October 18, 2020 included excerpts of Henry Gregorian playing the violin at various ACOM events in the past. If you would like to watch that program, please go to:

[mnarmenians.org/ACOM-life/item/137-voski-ashoun-2020](http://mnarmenians.org/ACOM-life/item/137-voski-ashoun-2020)

Below is his biography.

Henry Gregorian was born in Tabriz, Iran on May 14, 1924 into a musical family; his mother was a pianist and teacher and his father taught a huge number of violinists and the Armenian Choir. He started studying violin with his father at the age of 4. At age 14, he entered the Tehran Conservatory of Music and studied violin with

Karl Zubek, former concertmaster of the Prague Symphony Orchestra. While a student there, he was chosen twice as soloist in the Tehran Symphony. He graduated with highest honors.

Henry came to the USA on a Marine Corps ship in 1948 after playing in a concert in Lebanon. He lived in Boston for about 5 years. He went on to finish his formal education with a Bachelors and a Masters Degree in Performance Music from Boston University. He also received the Senior Diploma with Honorable Mention from Longy School of Music, affiliated with Harvard, where he studied violin with Wolf Wolfsohn.

After a short audition, he was hired by the Minnesota Orchestra (known earlier as the Minneapolis Symphony orchestra), by Stanislaw Skrowaczewski. Later on, he found out he could have also been hired by the Boston Symphony through the influence of his brother Rouben, a talented conductor. (Rouben conducted the Boston Pops every Summer on Armenian Night and led several choirs at Armenian Churches around Boston.)

Before joining the Minneapolis Symphony Or-

chestra in 1955, Henry toured for 2 years as a member of Arthur Fiedler's Boston Pops Orchestra and with Boris Goldofsky's New England Opera Theater. He also appeared as soloist with the Boston Civic Orchestra, the Springfield Symphony under Arthur Fiedler. Henry played First Violin with the Minnesota Orchestra and Principal Second in the St. Paul Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra. He taught violin at Sivanich Music School in Hopkins, MN, at the Arts and Science Building in St. Paul, as well as privately.

Henry brought a fiery and masterful technique to the great classics of violin literature. His highly individual manner always promised a captivating and exciting performance.

He met his first wife Philomena, married and had 3 lovely daughters, Naïri, Nectar and Mary Joan.

He and his family moved to Minnesota around 1954 and he played with the Minnesota Orchestra for 43 years, retiring in 1997 at his last concert in Japan under Conductor Eiji Oue. Henry played several concerts for ACOM. For violin devotees, his violin is a Carlo Tononi made in Venice in 1732. Daughter Nairi presently has it. Henry now spends his time in Florida with his wife of 39 years, Laurel.

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## **ACOM Book Club News**

The ACOM Book Club, led by Leroy Erickson, has been meeting monthly on Zoom throughout the year, except for the Summer months, and the group reconnected in September. Some of the regular attendees, other than Leroy, have been: Tom K, Jim & Margaret F, Cynthia E, Kassian V, Tashina P, Peter H, Azad M, Andrea J, Francis B, Joe T, Ruth & Aram C, Joan P, Alfred K.

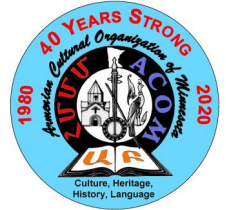
Leroy says: *In days gone by I would write about how we shared a bottle of Robert Mondavi Cabernet Sauvignon along with whichever Armenian pastries Azad or Andrea provided, plus nuts or apples from Francis or Mark or Tom. Well, in today's world, all that I can say is that I enjoyed a couple of ounces of Appleton Estates 12-year aged Jamaican rum along with some southwest seasoned Dot's pretzels. Maybe by next September, we can again share a bottle of wine.*

If you are interested in joining this group, contact Leroy at: [leroy.erickson@minnmicro.com](mailto:leroy.erickson@minnmicro.com)

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## ACOM 2021 - CALENDAR OF EVENTS - Feb. - June

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



DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT
2/7	Sunday	1 PM	ADE Rehearsal
2/8	Monday	5:30 PM	ACOM Board Meeting
2/18	Thursday	7:00 PM	ACOM Book Club
2/20	Saturday	7:00 PM	ACOM Cinema Saturday
2/21	Sunday	1:00 PM	ADE Rehearsal
2/28	Sunday	1:30 PM	Armenian Dance Teaching
3/7	Sunday	1:00 PM	ADE Rehearsal
3/7	Sunday	3:00 PM	What is it like being Married to an Armenian
3/8	Monday	5:30 PM	ACOM Board Meeting
3/14	Sunday		Daylight Savings Begins
3/18	Thursday	7:00 PM	ACOM Book Club
3/20	Saturday	7:00 PM	ACOM Cinema Saturday
3/21	Sunday	1:00 PM	ADE Rehearsal
3/28	Sunday	1:30 PM	Armenian Dance Teaching
4/4	Sunday	1:00 PM	ADE Rehearsal
4/4	Sunday		<b>EASTER</b>
4/12	Monday	5:30 PM	ACOM Board Meeting
4/15	Thursday	7:00 PM	ACOM Book Club
4/18	Sunday	1:00 PM	ADE Rehearsal
4/24	Saturday	3:00 PM	Genocide Commemoration
4/25	Sunday	1:30 PM	Armenian Dance Teaching
5/2	Sunday	1:00 PM	ADE Rehearsal
5/10	Monday	5:30 PM	ACOM Board Meeting
5/16	Sunday	1:00 PM	ADE Rehearsal
5/20	Thursday	7:00 PM	ACOM Book Club
5/30	Sunday	1:30 PM	Armenian Dance Teaching
5/31	Monday	5:30 PM	ACOM Board Meeting
6/6	Sunday	1:00 PM	ADE Rehearsal
6/14	Monday	5:30 PM	ACOM Board Meeting
6/17	Thursday	7:00 PM	ACOM Book Club
6/20	Sunday	1:00 PM	ADE Rehearsal
6/27	Sunday	1;30 PM	Armenian Dance Teaching

**All ACOM meetings and Events are currently scheduled to be on ZOOM until further notice.**

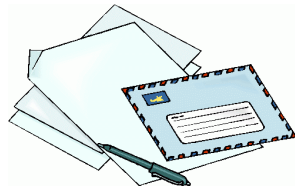
**ZOOM Links will be provided shortly before the event via E-mail.**

**NOTE: Dates and Times are accurate at the time of publishing. For up-to-date calendar please visit our Website [mnarmenians.org](http://mnarmenians.org)**

**ACOM WEBSITE**

Remember to continue to check our website:

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

**FROM OUR MAIL BAG****GAGHANT 2021**

First time I've heard Komitas on saxophone! I thought it was a great event, and John, I also say Huzzah to your elegant hosting! Thanks to everyone who did all the organizing! Terry et al..

**Kassian V.**

My family and I missed Gaghant this year but I watched it last night and forwarded the link to my family. It was very moving for me. I guess I'm getting more sentimental in my old age. I would like to thank Nairy and Terry for all they do to keep us connected. My grandkids always liked to come to the Gaghant event and looked forward to it. This year, they could have walked as they live South of Hamline U on Pascal St. I would like to take them all next year, good Lord willing. I hope we keep the tradition going. The idea of recognizing Dr. Najarian was very novel. Even though he was a very busy man, he did come to some of the events. He was truly a giant.

**Azad M.**

**THANK YOU**

***"Sometimes the smallest things take up the most space in your heart."***

Just a quick note to thank you all so much for the awesome treat-filled basket that I received upon returning from Arizona. I have already been enjoying the chocolates with my morning cup of coffee and will definitely be sharing the pistachios and cashews with Vigen. Your kindness and generosity are certainly appreciated as I begin to navigate the new "normal" without my dad.

I also want to thank you for your patience and understanding as I have been missing Board Meetings and ACOM Events. I so appreciate it!

Blessings and Many Thanks,

**Patty K.**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent "Gift Card" (very generous) for coffee at the Rochester Fiddlehead Café!

Jim is continuing his healing process after his October 22, 2020 total knee replacement at Mayo with Dr. Michael Stuart.. Lots of hugs,

**Margaret and Jim F.**

Nairy & the ACOM Board,

I received a most beautiful bouquet of flowers. My wife gave it an A+ as a master gardener. Thanks for your thoughts and concern. I had a speedy recovery from the hernia procedure and was able to walk right out of the hospital 1 hour after being rolled out of the operating room. Stay safe. Shad Shnoragalem!

**Francis B.**

I have many great memories with ACOM ! I would just love to stay in touch.

**Peter Izmirian**

You all have always done a great job promoting our culture.

**Der Yeprem**

I would like to thank ACOM for the lovely flower arrangement that Pat (DOLAN) would have enjoyed. It was perfect for this time of year also. Pat was the mainstay (for me) in ACOM and she enjoyed working with everyone, loved participating in all the activities. For me, the loss of our conversations and interaction over the last two years, in particular, was traumatic, but not having her presence here with me is tough to handle. The outpouring of love for Pat, shown by so many, has been touching Michele and I hope to have a memorial for Pat in the Twin Cities sometime in late September, based on the environment for this terrible virus. If safe, we will be there.

Again thank you everyone for your support and condolences.

**Dick Dolan and Michele**

**SYMPATHY**

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of a dear friend of the entire ACOM community, **PAT DOLAN**. She went to her eternal rest on Monday morning, December 8, 2020, after a very long illness. Pat and her husband Dick, and daughter Michele, had moved from Minnesota to Florida quite a few years ago. While in Minnesota, Pat, a very involved ABC (Armenian By Choice) served on the ACOM Executive Committee as Social Director in 1981, and then as Newsletter Editor for many years before their move to FL. An extremely helpful person by nature, Pat jumped in and helped whenever she saw the need. She could sew, she could cook, and she always put her creative talents into good use. We will miss you very much, Pat. We missed the entire family when they moved away from MN and now, even more so.

**Nairy D.**

*(Continued on page 6)*



(Continued from page 5)

Very sad, she was vibrant and lovely lady, she will be missed.

**Paul G.**

Very sad news. She was a dynamo as an ACOM member. Worked tirelessly putting programs together and being a cheerleader for the Armenians. Even when she came back to town from Florida for a visit, I saw her take a broom and sweep the front stair and sidewalk of St. Sahag Church building because there was an occasion that day at the church. She was one of a kind.

**Francis B.**

Surrounded by family, **HAROLD BOBGAN**, age 93, died August 15, 2020. He is survived by his children, Jeffrey Bobgan (Sasha), Carin Bobgan (Rod), Romy Anderson (Mike) and Peter Bobgan (Jean); grandchildren, Erin, Gabrielle, Nicholas, Amanda and Carolyn; sister, Agnes Erickson; and brother Martin Bobgan. Preceded in death by wife, Sharon, and brothers Nicholas and Howard Bobgan.

Harold was born in Minneapolis, graduated from North High School in 1944, and then served in the U.S. Army Air Forces. After two years of military service, he studied jazz piano at music school, and enrolled at the University of Minnesota where he studied art and education. Harold met his wife Sharon Deadrick while at the university, and they married in 1957. He secured a position teaching art at Patrick Henry High School, where he taught for the next 25 years, and finished his career at Washburn High School, retiring in 1990. He enjoyed working with students, and encouraging them in their future pursuits. Later in life, Harold took a renewed interest in playing the piano, and began going to local jazz clubs, where he met old friends and made new ones. He enjoyed spending time with his kids and grandkids, soaking up the sun during vacations in Arizona and California, cooking, and socializing with jazz friends, retired teachers, former students, and his New Hope neighbors. Harold was a wonderful, funny, charming, creative, stubborn, gregarious, skeptical, devoted, and loving man. His children grieve his passing deeply, and remember him as a wonderful father, who provided constant support, care and love.

Harold was also very involved with ACOM, especially at the annual Festival of Nations. He was in charge of the Café for many years, and was always pleasant and ready to lend a helping hand. Everyone enjoyed working with Harold. Although he had not been very active with ACOM of late, some of the community members had remained in touch with him. He will definitely be missed.

### **SPEEDY RECOVERY**

Very happy that FRANCIS BULBULIAN's minor surgery on Nov. 13, 2020 went well and so did his recovery. Take care, Francis !

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

**Tom and Mark Keljik, on their book:**

#### **ARMENIAN-AMERICAN SKETCHES**

The translation done by the late Aris Sevag, Lou Ann Matossian, and Vartan Matiossian of Bedros Keljik's *Armenian-American Sketches (Amerigahay Badgerner)*, published by the Press at CSU Fresno, has been awarded one of NAASR 2020 Dr. Sona Aronian Book Prizes for Excellence in Armenian Studies. NAASR Aronian Book Prizes were established in 2014 by the late Dr. Aronian and Dr. Geoffrey Gibbs, to be awarded annually to outstanding scholarly works in the English language in the field of Armenian Studies and translations from Armenian into English. The prize is for translation, and thus officially is bestowed on the three translators, but also recognizes a genuine team effort which includes the vital contributions of Lou Ann's co-editors Christopher Atamian and Barlow Der Mugrdchian. It is personally a pleasure for me not only to convey this award to esteemed friends and colleagues but also to bring greater attention to the life and work of your illustrious ancestor Bedros Keljik.

With best regards and my respects,

**Marc A. Mamigonian**

**Director of Academic Affairs, NAASR**

Our heartfelt Congratulations to

**DICK and DIANE (Jamgotch) KOCH** of Florida on their celebration of *60 years of marriage* on September 24, 2020. Wishing the two of you the best of health for many, many more years to come.

**ACOM Board**

John, excellent communication letters with the

**ACOM Newsletter #158.**

Incidentally, I will not be at the Artsakh march on Saturday, Nov. 14. Friday morning, I am having a hernia operation. Nothing critical but most will rest at home Saturday. Abriss.

**Francis B.**

We are thrilled to announce the wedding of our daughter, **ERICA PAULIAN TIFFANY** and **AARON TRAVERS FITZGERALD** from Lebanon, NH. The wedding took place on July 25, 2020 in Stockholm, Sweden in the historic Stockholm City Hall, the site of the Nobel Prize Banquet. Erica and Aaron and their dog, Nacho, make their home in Nacka, on one of the islands in the Stockholm Archipelago. Erica and Aaron work at the Internationella Engelska



Skolan-Nacka. Erica teaches Spanish to students from grades six to nine, while Aaron teaches Language Arts for grades four through nine and serves as department head for Language Arts and Music. The couple met while teaching English in Daejeon, South Korea.

Erica earned her B.A. in Spanish at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and a

Master of Education at the University of Minnesota. Aaron received his B.A. at the Plymouth State University and a Master of Education from Ashford University. Erica and Aaron share a great love for music and use the guitar, ukulele, piano and their voices to entertain themselves and others.

We are so happy to welcome Aaron to our family. We look forward to a wonderful wedding reception in the summer of 2021 in Stockholm.

**Judy O. and Doug T.**

Welcome into this world, **TIAGO RICHARD HOVANNES ERICKSON**, baby boy, born on January 15, 2021, 19" long, weighing 7 lbs. 14 oz. Congratulations to ecstatic parents,

**Sarah & Mitchell Erickson**, proud grandparents Cynthia and Leroy and happy uncles Christopher and Bradley. Mom and baby are home and doing well and ACOM wishes the entire Erickson family good health and happiness forever.



Congratulations to **MAX YLITALO** who graduated in December from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, with a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering. The future ahead of you should be bright and adventurous, Max. We join your family and wish you the best of luck !

Here is what Max is up to:

He begins his career working for Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing company where he will spend 18 months in Taiwan learning how to run the world's largest semiconductor chip making factory, returning to Arizona to be one of the first engineers managing a new factory to be built north of Phoenix.

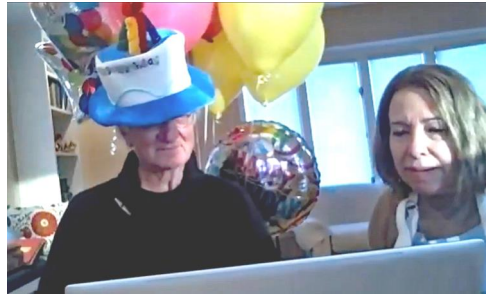
<https://www.azcentral.com/story/money/business/tech/2020/05/15/taiwan-semiconductor-12-billion-arizona-investment-seen-big-deal/5200637002/>

During his free time, Max enjoys playing the trombone and the euphonium, singing and song-writing.

He serves as subdeacon at St. Sahag Armenian church. Max participated in the Armenia Service Program in 2017 where he travelled to Armenia and volunteered at summer camps for low income and refugee children.

## HAPPY SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

**Mark Keljik**



Celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 3, 2021 on Zoom. Surrounded by balloons and wearing a festive party hat, he was greeted throughout the

day by friends. A highlight was the ACOM group singing happy birthday to Mark during the Gagghant party. In the evening, Mark's family members from around the country gathered on Zoom to honor the milestone birthday. The group enjoyed a slideshow of pictures, Mark Keljik trivia questions and a chance to share stories.

## VOSKI ASHOUN Oct. 18, 2020

Thank you for that big production you put on this Fall! Wow! What a lot of work.

**Laurel G.**

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Vahram Kardashian (1927-2017)** played a very important role as a Directional Course instructor for "US Military Pilots" who were serving in the WWII action in the African desert geography. As you know, **there are only a few landmarks in the desert.** It is difficult to know how to keep your plane on course without landmarks, hence our pilots were trained to use Van's teaching, **using the stars for "celestial" navigation** for their flights over the desert to their targets.

We had some good times going out on various occasions around Lake Minnetonka to sharpen his teaching skills. He was quite a guy!

**Paul Goshgarian**

*Happy Valentine's Day*





**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**WE SURE ARE PROUD OF OUR FELLOW ARMENIANS !**

**TEXAS LONGHORNS HIRE ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE OC STEVE SARKISIAN AS NEW HEAD COACH**

January 2, 2021

Alabama offensive coordinator Steve Sarkisian, who won the 2020 Broyles Award as the nation's top assistant coach, will be the new head coach of the Texas Longhorns

*Read entire article here:*

[https://www.espn.com/college-football/story/\\_/id/30638892/texas-longhorns-hire-alabama-crimson-tide-oc-steve-sarkisian-new-head-coach](https://www.espn.com/college-football/story/_/id/30638892/texas-longhorns-hire-alabama-crimson-tide-oc-steve-sarkisian-new-head-coach)

**DC's TOP TRANSPORTATION OFFICIAL, JEFF MAROOTIAN, GETS BIDEN WHITE HOUSE POSITION**

January 14, 2021

Jeff Marootian, who has led DDOT under D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser since 2017, will work in the Presidential Personnel Office as a special assistant to the president for climate and science agency personnel, according to a news release announcing the appointment from the transition team for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris.

Marootian is currently serving as a volunteer adviser for the Biden-Harris transition team.

**BIDEN NAMES ARMENIAN AMERICAN IKE HAJINAZARIAN AS REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR AT WHITE HOUSE**

January 16, 2021

Ike Hajinazarian most recently served as the Western Pennsylvania Regional Press Secretary for the Biden campaign after working on the campaign in communications roles during the primary and general elections in New Hampshire, Nevada, Texas, Ohio, and other states.

Prior to joining the campaign, he worked on Capitol Hill, first as Press Assistant to Senator Joe Donnelly of Indiana, and later as the Deputy Press Secretary on the House Homeland Security Committee's Majority Staff.

Born in Columbus, Ohio to Lebanese-Armenian immigrant parents, Hajinazarian is a graduate of Indiana University and the George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management.



STATE OF MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

WHEREAS: Minnesota's Armenian-American community has enhanced and enriched the state since 1899 through business, medicine, education, and the arts; and

WHEREAS: The Minnesota Armenian-American community includes first-generation through fourth-generation Minnesota Armenians, their families, and non-Armenian friends of the community; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota's Armenian-Americans take deep pride in preserving their 3,500-year-old cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS: The majority of today's Minnesota's Armenian-American community are descendants of survivors of the Armenian Genocide; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota's Armenian-American community is dedicated to preserving and to promoting Armenian culture, language, history, and heritage in Minnesota and the Upper Midwest; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota's Armenian-American community has continuously provided Armenian Genocide commemorations, Gaghazt celebrations, musical and dance performances, literature and film events, panels exploring Armenian identity, Voski Ashour, education about the Armenian community to Minnesota policymakers and elected officials, as well as community-building for the past forty years.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Sunday, January 3, 2021, as:

## MINNESOTA-ARMENIAN DAY

in the State of Minnesota.



*Steve Simon*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December.



GOVERNOR

Filed on December 23, 2020  
Office of the Minnesota  
Secretary of State,  
Steve Simon



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

*This certificate is presented to The Armenian Cultural Organization of Minnesota (ACOM). ACOM was founded on February 16, 1980 to preserve and promote Armenian culture, language, history and heritage in Minnesota and the upper Midwest. Currently headquartered in St. Paul, ACOM is the oldest and largest Armenian organization in the state of Minnesota. ACOM welcomes anyone, regardless of ethnic, religious, or political affiliation, who takes an interest in Armenia and Armenians. Therefore, with the appreciation and respect of the people of Minnesota, this certificate is presented to:*

### ARMENIAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF MINNESOTA



I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the Capitol in the City of Saint Paul, September 26, 2019.



TIM WALZ  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



The Armenian Dance Ensemble has been representing Armenian Culture through Dance and Music for over 25 years. If you have an 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 for the time being, on ZOOM. 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.

**A Note To Remember When We Start Actual In-Person Performances:** 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.

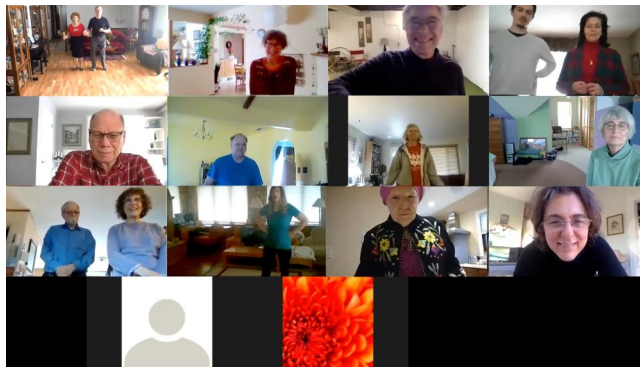
For additional information, call Naïry: 651-639-9346 or email: [hyebar@yahoo.com](mailto:hyebar@yahoo.com)

## ARMENIAN FOLKDANCE LESSONS ON ZOOM

Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm was the first monthly session of Armenian folkdances that I taught on ZOOM. These monthly teaching classes continue on ZOOM on the **last Sunday of each month.**

Dance steps are explained and demonstrated, and then the participants are able to do them with the music, in the "comfort" of their own homes.

Since these are not choreographed dances, anyone interested in Armenian music and dance is invited to join. ZOOM sessions are now set up for each month



all the way into June 2021 starting at 1:30 pm.

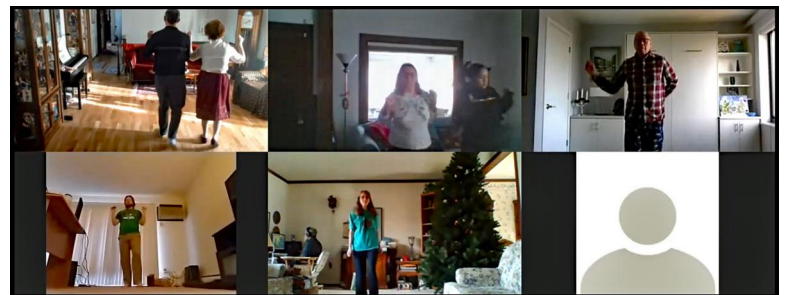
There has been a substantial amount of interest for this event online, and the participants have been Armenians and non-Armenians alike, from all around the US. If anyone is interested in receiving the link in order to participate, send me an email and I will add your name to the list. The

ZOOM invitation will come to you by email about 2 days before the event.

Email Naïry: [yekibdos@gmail.com](mailto:yekibdos@gmail.com)

## ARMENIAN DANCE ENSEMBLE (ADE) RESUMES REHEARSALS ON LINE

Since we began our on-line ADE rehearsals on Sunday, August, 9<sup>th</sup>, members of ADE have been meeting every other week and not only reviewing the dances in our repertoire, but also learning some simpler new Armenian folkdances. It has been a lot of fun to see the friendly faces (without masks) and chat. Rehearsal dates are already set up on Zoom as we start the New Year, in hopes of being able to dance together in person in the not too distant future. Check the calendar in this Newsletter for exact dates.



### ACOM BOARD MEMBERS 2020-21

- President:** John P-D.B.
- Vice President:** Steven U.
- Past President:** Naïry D.
- Secretary:** Lynne G.
- Treasurer:** Naïry D.
- Members at Large:** Patty K , Kass V., Sarah E., Mark W., Annie W., Alarica H.
- 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](http://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 2021 PAID MEMBERS

Andeweg; George, Jeanne  
 Aram; Connie, George  
 Aroutiunian; Margarita Usitalo; Steven  
 Arslan; Arnold  
 Asgian; Phil  
 Badman; Jeanne  
 Baradaran-Cafesjian; Kathleen, Jaff  
 Bulbulian; Francis, Barbara  
 Charchian; Aram, Ruth  
 Daniels; Kathleen Myers; Marcie, Mari  
 Digris; Naïry McGibbon; Terry Hassetts  
 Erickson; Leroy, Cynthia  
 Favre; Margaret, Jim  
 Gauro; Boghos, Lana & family  
 Gildensoph; Lynne  
 Hakobyan, Artur; Papyieva, Nina & family  
 Izmirian; Peter  
 Kardashian; Patty, Vigen  
 Kashian, Darla & family  
 Kelegian, Der Yeprem, Judy  
 Keljik; Tom Collins; Jennifer  
 Keljik; Mark Grantz; Caren  
 Koch, Dick, Diane  
 Kourajian; Art  
 Matossian; Lou Ann  
 Meketarian; Martin, Mara & family  
 Merjanian, Peggy, Steve  
 Mesrobian; Azad, Karen  
 Ohannesian; Judy Tiffany; Doug & family  
 Olesen; Linnea  
 Parker-Der Boghossian; John, Pounds, Jim  
 Pompeian, Jayne  
 Poritsky; Joan  
 Savayan; Peka, Maria, Anderson; Stephen  
 Scallen, Steve, Chacké  
 Vaubel; Kass, Carol, Jamaica P.  
 Wiersbeck; Mark  
 Wiersbeck; Sarah  
 Ylitalo; Caroline, David & family

## 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.

*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**



### ACOM MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Valid January 1 to December 31, 2021

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](mailto:hyebar@yahoo.com)

1703 Skillman Avenue West

Roseville, MN 55113



**We're on the Web**

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