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*Culture
Heritage
History
Language*

Armenian Cultural Organization of Minnesota
Established 1980

MinneHyeLites

No. 161 Fall 2021

Voski Ashoun

Please join ACOM on a virtual Voski Ashoun afternoon.
Reserve the date: **Sunday, October 24, 2021, 3 PM**

MARK KELJIK will host a Quiz Bowl for this event.
E-mail for **ZOOM** link has been sent.



ACOM SPECIAL EVENT

Saturday, November 20, 2021

Merriam Park Library, St. Paul, 1—3 pm

TOPIC: Advanced Directives

Do you have questions about Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney,
or other end-of-life legal needs?

Join us for a delve into the basics of Minnesota's
advance planning documentation .

This is an informational session. No retention of services or purchase is required



John Del Vecchio Law Firm, LLC
Attorney at Law
481 South Wabasha Street
St. Paul, MN 55107
651-221-0871 law@armita.net

ACOM 2021 - CALENDAR OF EVENTS - October—December

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



Date	Day	Time	Type	Event
10/11	Mon	5:30 PM	ZOOM	Board Meeting
10/21	Thu	7:00 PM	ZOOM	Book Club
10/24	Sun	3:00 PM	ZOOM	Voski Ashoun—Quiz Bowl w/Mark Keljik
10/31	Sun	12:30 PM	ZOOM	Armenian Dance Class
11/7			Daylight Savings Ends	
11/7	Mon	1:00 PM	In person	ADE Rehearsal
11/8	Mon	5:30 PM	ZOOM	Board Meeting
11/18	Thu	7:00 PM	ZOOM	Book Club
11/20	Sat	1:00 PM	Merriam Park Library	Estate Planning Lecture—John del Vecchio
11/21	Sun	1:00 PM	In person	ADE Rehearsal
11/28	Sun	1:30 PM	ZOOM	Armenian Dance Class
12/5	Sun	1:00 PM	In person	ADE Rehearsal
12/13	Mon	5:30 PM	ZOOM	Board Meeting
12/5	Sun	1:00 PM	In person	ADE Rehearsal
12/25	Sat		CHRISTMAS	
12/26	Sun	1:30 PM	ZOOM	Armenian Dance Class
12/31	Fri		NEW YEAR'S EVE	
2022				
1/15	Sat	6:00 PM	Ukrainian Center	Annual Gagbant Party—Year 42

WATCH FOR UPCOMING ACOM “VIRTUAL” EVENTS ON ZOOM

Email Announcements with details will be forthcoming soon

All ACOM meetings and Events are currently scheduled to be on ZOOM unless noted otherwise.

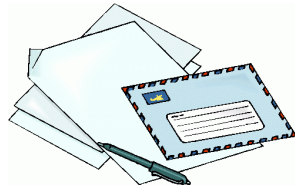
ZOOM Links will be provided before the event via E-mail.

NOTE: Dates and Times are accurate at the time of publishing. For an up-to-date calendar, please visit our Website mnarmenians.org

ACOM WEBSITE

Remember to continue to check our website:

www.mnarmenians.org

**FROM OUR MAIL BAG****THANK YOU****ACOM Post-Pandemic Picnic June 27, 2021**

Hello Nairy and Terry - thank you for having the picnic at your home (backyard) - the weather held out for the day, if not that night. It was very nice! Best wishes, and thanks, from Margarita and Izabella as well.

Steven U.

Thank you, Nairy. How relaxing it was to be with everyone in your lovely yard.

Joan P.

The picnic was a HUGE success. It was great to visit with well-known friends and also with people I had not known as well.

Kass V.

Thank you Nairy and Terry for continually being such gracious and generous hosts to all ACOM friends. Helen enjoyed herself very much, and was taken by the rapport that all showed amongst new and old friends. There is a bond.

Best wishes,
Art K.

THANK YOU

Lynne, Thank you for putting out the ACOM event notices by E-mail like clockwork. Schnoragalem!!

Francis B.

Thank you for sending the newest and very informative edition of the newsletter. Thank you also for the nice feature about my book and the event ACOM generously organized on the occasion of its publication. I hope your summer is going well.

With my best wishes (from Berlin),
Joachim S.

Thank you so much to the ACOM Board for the thoughtful gift of chocolates to cheer my day. And thank you, Lynne, for treating me to a delicious birthday lunch.

Art K.

Many thanks to ACOM for the gift I received from them in memory of Jim (Hayes). Greatly appreciate the thought and consideration from all.

Adrienne H.

I wanted to express our thank you, ACOM, for sending the beautiful flowers and thinking of our family at this hard time. It's very much appreciated! (Loss of mother.)

Vadim T. and Seda B.

It is so wonderful that you spend your time teaching (Armenian dance) to people like me at no benefit to yourself. I'm sure you will be rewarded someday for all the good you have done. Thank you for teaching me things I would not have known otherwise.

(Armenian folk dance steps on Zoom)

Jeri Lynn S.

SYMPATHY

To both Natasha Hassett and Alarica Hassett on the loss of their "paternal" first cousin, **Sean Walsh**. This happened very unexpectedly, on July 3, 2021. He was only 48 and leaves behind a wife and two girls, 14 and 10. Nairy has always been very close to that entire family and it came as a great shock to everyone.

Our sincere sympathy to Seda Bagdasarova and Vadim Teosyan and their families for the loss of their beloved mother, **Yelena Teosyan**. She passed away on September 13, 2021 and was buried on September 16 at 11 am in Gethsemane Cemetery, New Hope, MN. Visitation with the family took place on September 17 between the hours of 6 and 8 pm in Eden Prairie, MN.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **James Hayes**, age 90, on August 7, 2021 following a long illness. Jim was such an interesting person, and visits with him were always so informative and fun. He had extended life experiences to share and will be missed by all those who knew him. ACOM extends its most sincere sympathy to his wife Adrienne, their children and grandchildren.

[\(See Obit\)](#)

ACOM would also like to express its sincere sympathy to the Jamgotch family on the passing of **Nish Jamgotch Jr.** He is survived by sisters Suzanne Retzler (Kurt Retzler), Wayzata, Minnesota; Diane Koch (Dickran Koch), Palm Harbor, Florida; Carol Jamgotch, Minneapolis, Minnesota; and brother-in-law, Arthur Kourajian. Private interment took place at St. John's Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

[\(See Obit\)](#)

Hayes, James R. Age 90. Died August 7, 2021. Born in Brooklyn, NY, graduated from Erasmus Hall High School and served in the USMC during the Korean War. Received B.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Syracuse University and taught anthropology and sociology at Southern Illinois University, Akita, Japan, and for 24 years, at Southwest MN State University. James is survived by his wife of 62 years, Adrienne, four children: Jacqueline, Bryan, Douglas, Michelle, and seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents Genevieve



and John B. Hayes, brothers John and Robert, and sister Gloria. James dedicated his life to both teaching and learning, and enthusiastically embraced the wonders of the human experience. He is fondly remembered as a kind and generous person who was deeply committed to his students, his family, and to environmental and social movements that sought peace and justice. Memorials may be made in James' honor to the ACLU.

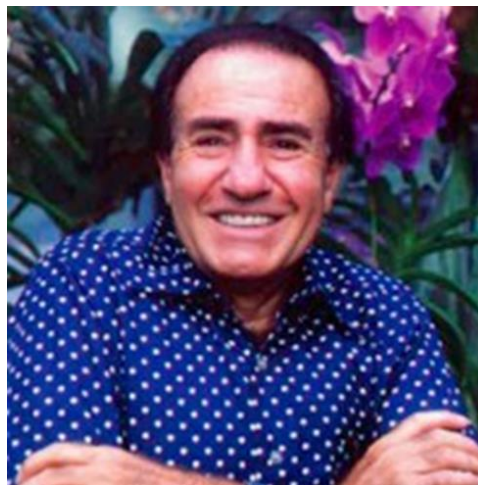
Published on August 15, 2021 in Star Tribune



**Jamgotch, Nish Jr.
Professor Emeritus, UNC-Charlotte 1932-2021.**

As a student at the University of Minnesota in 1950, Jamgotch became interested in their new Russian Area Studies program and particularly in the growing potential for U.S. Soviet Conflict. He earned a B.A. and M.A. in Russian Area Studies and went on to military service as a Research Intelligence Analyst in Europe. Advanced graduate work at Georgetown University and the University of California at Berkeley culminated in a Ph.D. in Political Science and International Relations at the Claremont Graduate School in 1964. Throughout his career, Jamgotch explored the often hidden avenues of cooperation that existed between the United States and the Soviet Union- avenues that, in the midst of Cold War tension, decreased the chances of deadly nuclear exchange.

Over the years, he made several rare and valuable gifts to Special Collections, Atkins Library, UNCC, in memory of his parents Ankena and Nish. Gifts included an Armenian prayer scroll dating from the 1790's, videotaped interviews with Soviet diplomats, and a unique stamp collection commemorating U.S. and Soviet Space achievements. After retirement in 1993, he es-



established the Nish Jamgotch, Jr. Humanitarian Student Award. The endowment granted an annual cash prize to an outstanding UNCC student whose creative achievements most improved the quality of life and well-being.

Jamgotch always wanted to be remembered as an avid Eagle Scout, lover of nature, horticulturist, swimmer, tennis player, teacher, and student of world affairs.

He is predeceased by his parents, Ankena and Nish, and his sister, Priscilla Kourajran. Survivors include sisters Suzanne Retzler (Kurt Retzler), Wayzata, Minnesota; Diane Koch (Dickran Koch), Palm Harbor, Florida; Carol Jamgotch, Minneapolis, Minnesota; and brother-in-law, Arthur Kourajran. Private interment, St. John's Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Memorials may be made to the Nish Jamgotch, Jr. Orchid Room, UNCC, and the Nish Jamgotch, Jr. Humanitarian Assistance and Innovation Fund endowment (Foundation for the Carolinas). Arrangements are the care of Heritage Funeral Home, Ballantyne Chapel. Condolences: heritagecares.com

Published on August 15, 2021



ADRIENNE POMPEIAN INCOMING BOARD PRESIDENT

It is an honor and pleasure to be the incoming President

of Gift of Life Transplant House. I am thrilled to lead the organization and continue my father's legacy and the House's mission of providing transplant patients and their caregivers with an exceptional and affordable 'home away from home' while undergoing transplant care at Mayo Clinic.

Gift of Life Transplant House has always been a large part of my life. As a little girl, I frequented the house with my parents and brothers to play music, serve meals, and visit with guests. Today, as a nurse practitioner at Mayo Clinic caring for kidney

transplant recipients and donors – many of whom stay at Gift of Life – I am often reminded of the importance of the house when my patients express their appreciation and gratitude.

As many of you have experienced firsthand, Gift of Life Transplant House is a remarkable place to return to, especially after recoveries in the hospital and arduous days at clinic appointments. It is much more than a clean and affordable accommodation – it is a place where tears and laughter are shared, and new friendships are born! At Gift of Life Transplant House, you are not alone!

As Mayo Clinic's transplant programs continue to grow, there is an ever-increasing demand for additional guest rooms and space

at Gift of Life Transplant House. One of my main goals this year is to advance our expansion efforts substantially. Already, there are many days when the houses are at full capacity. Growing our footprint will prevent us from having to send guests to hotels due to lack of capacity and allow more people to experience Gift of Life Transplant House when they need it most.

Although the pandemic continues, I look forward to the year ahead with full optimism, knowing that my father's legacy will continue to grow and operate strongly while keeping guests and staff safe and healthy. I vow to lead the organization with integrity, grace and respect.

- Adrienne Pompeian

ARMENIAN AMERICAN IS AWARDED NOBEL PRIZE FOR MEDICINE

Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals

Two Americans win Medicine Nobel for work on heat and touch.

By Johan Ahlander and Ludwig Burger
October 4, 2021 3:50 PM CDT

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/julius-patapoutian-win-2021-nobel-prize-medicine-2021-10-04/>

ACOM Book Club News

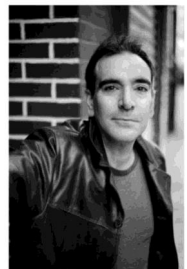
If you are interested in joining this group, contact Leroy at: leroy.erickson@minnmicro.com

Here's an article for you all about a new book of poetry by Aaron Poochigian, originally from Grand Forks.

Cynthia E.

Click on link for more info. [“American Devine”](#)

Aaron Poochigian's fourth book of poetry, *American Divine*, confirms him as one of our important poets, with both a formal mastery of his craft and important things to say about the human condition in 21st century America. While he was brought up in Grand Forks where his father Donald taught Philosophy at the University of North Dakota, Poochigian's Armenian roots go back to the town of Peri in Western Armenia via Fresno, home to other well-known Armenian writers such as William Saroyan, Charlie Minassian and Aris Janigian. Poochigian earned a doctorate in classics and is also a prolific translator. On the occasion this year of the bicentennial of French poet Charles Baudelaire's birth, he is coming out with a new translation of *The Flowers of Evil* on Norton Press. It's the author's eleventh book, which says something about his creativity and work ethic.



(Continued from page 3)

CONGRATULATIONS

George and Aida Yaghsezian on celebrating their 56th Wedding Anniversary on July 10th. Warmest wishes for many more with lots of good health and happiness.

ACOM board member **Annie Bulbuilan Wells** married their partner **Molly Ritchie** on August 26, 2021 at the Minnesota State Fair. The ceremony was small, brief, and fun! Annie's necklace is of the Armenian Alphabet and was ordered directly from Armenia for the wedding. Molly doesn't know it yet, but she may be recruited for an upcoming "What is it like being married to an Armenian?" event. Welcome to the Armenian community, Molly!"

CONGRATULATIONS !!



ACOM IN-PERSON PICNIC

Held Sunday, June 27, 2021 at the home of Terry McGibbon & Naïry Digris

This was the first in-person gathering ACOM held since the Pandemic started. The weather was great and we had a good crowd enjoying each other's company again.



ADE PERFORMANCE AT CENTENNIAL LAKES AUG. 25

We liked how you introduced the dances. You made them so approachable, and the love you both have for the Armenian culture comes through. We loved the costumes (the violet looked so pretty). The dancing was beautiful and the weather was perfect.

Liesl P.

The group did a nice job and everyone enjoyed their performance!

Maryann S.

ACOM NEEDS A WEBSITE DESIGNER

We would like to make a few modifications to our Website, so if you have that capability and think you have the time and willingness to help ACOM, please contact Terry McGibbon at: hyebar@yahoo.com. Thanks in advance.

GRAND OPENING CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS



Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2021 was a great night for Jackie Hayes and family as they celebrated the grand opening of the newly expanded Center For Performing Arts. Jackie is a member of the local Armenian community and has been very successful in promoting the arts in her local neighborhood. In 1995, artist Jackie Hayes bought an old convent building with the help of local artists and neighbors to create an arts center, providing studios, rehearsal space, offices, and housing. The architecture of the convent was well suited to be re-purposed as private and shared arts spaces. Over the years, CFPA has provided flexible space to thousands of student and professional dancers, theater artists, movement practitioners, performance and dance companies, musicians, bodyworkers, therapists, and educators.

The new addition will provide an additional 20,000 sq. ft. of arts space and makes the complex ADA accessible

Great job, Jackie. We are very proud of you !

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 For 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: yekibdos@gmail.com

ARMENIAN FOLKDANCE LESSONS ON ZOOM

Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 2:00 pm was the 14th 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 December 2021, now 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.

yekibdos@gmail.com

ARMENIAN DANCE ENSEMBLE (ADE)

Since we began our on-line ADE rehearsals on Sunday, August 9, 2020, members of ADE have been meeting every other week, not only reviewing the dances in our repertoire, but also learning some simpler new Armenian folkdances done in a line. It has been a lot of fun to see the friendly faces (without masks) and chat.

However, ADE was invited to perform outdoors at the Centennial Lakes Amphitheater in August 2021 and twice at the MN State Fair, so we held in-person rehearsals which not only gave us the pleasure to really see each other again (even though masked), but to actually dance as a group. The feeling was certainly different and rehearsals have been definitely more productive!. ADE members even had a chance to learn a new

dance "Hovivi Yerk" (Shepherd's Song) which Naïry picked up on Zoom. The original simple line dance version was choreographed by Paylak Sarkisian from Armenia and the music is from Hovik Karapetyan. By adding a few changes, the dance became more attractive as a performing piece and ADE presented it at their August shows.

ADE also wants to extend a sincere "**Welcome**" to **Cathy R.** who danced with them 25 years ago but then moved to Ireland, then Scotland. She is now back in MN, and we are happy to see her and have her among us once again.

If anyone is interested in joining the group, contact Naïry know and she will share the rehearsal dates with you:
yekibdos@gmail.com



ACOM BOARD MEMBERS 2020-21

President:	John P-D.B.
Vice President:	Steven U.
Past President:	Naïry D.
Secretary:	Lynne G./ Patty K.
Treasurer:	Naïry D.
Members at Large:	Patty K., Kassian 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

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

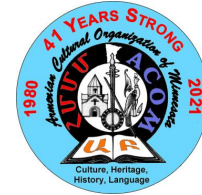
Andeweg, George, Jeanne
 Aram, Connie & George
 Aroutiunian, Margarita; Usitalo, Steven
 Arslan, Arnold
 Asgjan, Phil
 Badman, Jeanne
 Baradaran-Cafesjian, Kathleen, Jaff
 Bulbulian, Francis, Barbara
 Charchian, Aram, Ruth
 Daniels, Kathleen; Myers, Marcie; Mari
 Digris, Naïry; McGibbon, Terry & Hassetts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

1703 Skillman Avenue West

Roseville, MN 55113



We're on the Web

www.mnarmenians.org