







Culture Heritage History Language

Armenian Cultural Organization of Minnesota

No. 146 Fall 2016

MinneHyeLites



ACOM Donation Opportunity

This is a great opportunity for you to contribute to ACOM. We appreciate all those who have supported us in past years and look forward to more of you providing support this year. The GiveMN "Give to the MAX" day is November 17.

There are extra incentives for donations made that day in the form of drawings for additional cash from GiveMN for the Organization.

You can use the electronic edition of this Newsletter to go directly to the GiveMN site or to the ACOM site where you need to click on the ACOM Donation Page link.

If you are getting this Newsletter via paper, copy the Website name below into the URL bar in your browser.

GiveMN—

https://www.givemn.org/organization/Armen ian-Cultural-Organization-Ofminnesota

ACOM Website —

http://www.mnarmenians.org/index.php?p= 1_47_ACOM-Donation-Page



in the electronic edition.





For Minnesota Armenians and their Friends

Page 2 No. 146 Fall 2016







ACOM'S 36th ANNUAL "NEW YEAR – GAGHANT "CELEBRATION



SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, January 14, 2017, 5:30 pm Dinner, Dance, Four-Piece Band, Silent Auction

LOCATION: COMO DOCKSIDE PAVILION RESTAURANT

ADDRESS: 1360 North Lexington Parkway, St. Paul, MN 55103

Additional Information and Reservation Form will follow.

If you have immediate Questions, contact:

John @ 231-313-1612 OR Naïry @ 651-639-9346







No. 146 Fall 20	016	2016 ACOM	CALENDAR	Page 3
Month	Date	Week day	Event	Time
January	9	Saturday	Gaghant - Barahantess, Como Dockside Pavilion St Paul	5:30 PM
January	18	Monday	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	5:00 PM
January	18	Monday	Martin Luther King Day	
January	21	Thursday	ACOM Book Club	7:00 PM
January	23	Saturday	Genealogy workshop - St. Sahag	3:00 PM
February	8	Monday	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	5:00 PM
February	14	Sunday	Valentine's Day	
February	15	Monday	Presidents' Day	
February	18	Thursday	ACOM Book Club	7:00 PM
March	7	Monday	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	5:00 PM
March	13	Sunday	Seventh Session: What Was It Like Growing Up Armenian	1:30 PM
March	17	Thursday	ACOM Book Club	7:15 PM
March	19	Saturday	ACOM Movie Night	7:00 PM
March	27	Sunday	Easter Sunday	
April	4	Monday	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	5:00 PM
April	14	Thursday	Ohannesian lecture - Peter Balakian	TBD
April	16	Saturday	ACOM Movie Night	7:00 PM
April	21	Thursday	ACOM Book Club	7:00 PM
April	24	Sunday	Genocide Commemoration	TBD
May	2	Monday	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	5:00 PM
May	6,7,8		Festival of Nations	
May	8	Sunday	Mother's Day	
May	14	Saturday	ACOM Movie Night	7:00 PM
May	19	Thursday	ACOM Book Club	7:00 PM
May	30	Monday	Memorial Day	
TBD		Saturday	Music event, w/ cheese & wine reception	6:00 PM
June	4	Saturday	ACOM Movie Night	7:00 PM
June	6	Monday	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	5:00 PM
June	16	Thursday	ACOM Book Club	7:00 PM
June	18	Saturday	ACOM Picnic/Pool Party - Erickson's	2:00 PM
June	19	Sunday	Father's Day	
July	4	Monday	Independence Day	
July	11	Monday	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	5:00 PM
July	17	Sunday	Youth Musical Showcase	12:30PM
August	8	Monday	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	5:00 PM
August	28	Sunday	ACOM Picnic - St. Sahag	1:00 PM
September	5	Monday	Labor Day	5 00 DIA
September	12	Monday	ACOM Result Of the	5:00 PM
September	15	Thursday	ACOM Book Club Movie Night, Voski Ashoun, Brandy & Wine	7:00 PM
September	24	Saturday	Tasting	5:00 PM
October	3	Monday	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	5:00 PM
October	20	Thursday	ACOM Book Club	7:00 PM
October	23	Sunday	Eighth Session: What Was It Like Growing Up Armenian	1:30 PM
November	5	Saturday	Cooking Class by Judy, Adrienne, & Michele	10:00 AM
November	14	Monday	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	5:00 PM
November	17	Thursday	ACOM Book Club	7:00 PM
November	24	Thursday	Thanksgiving Day	
December	12	Monday	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	5:00 PM
December	15	Thursday	ACOM Book Club	7:00 PM
December	25	Sunday	Christmas Day	
	<u>2017</u>]		
January	14	Saturday	Gaghant - Barahantess, Como Dockside Pavilion St Paul	5:00 PM
January	16	Monday	ACOM Executive Committee Meeting	5:00 PM

Page 4 No. 146 Fall 2016

ACOM Baking Class Saturday, November 5, 2016 By Francis Bulbulian

A total of 16 people attended the ACOM Baking Class on November 5, 2016 in the basement kitchen of St Sahag Church. Considering it was a beautiful sunny Fall day, a group 3 times larger than Judy had expected showed up. The Cooking class was meticulously organized by Judy Ohannesian, Adrienne Hayes & Michele Angell. They had everything ready to go for teaching the attendees, which included me. Instructions were given on how to make Gata (Katah) and Choreg. To save time, Judy and Adrienne had premixed the

dough and let it rise, ready for the participants to take baseball size portions and roll the dough out flat with rolling pins. This was all a new experience for me and a very exciting



process. Adrienne, assisted by daughter Jackie,



showed us how to add the pre-portioned Gata ingredients with brown sugar, minced walnuts, chamich (raisins), and koritz (a cooked mixture of butter and flour).

We then rolled & twisted

the flattened dough and ingredients into a circle shape ready for the oven. Most of us took the Gata and Choreg home to bake at 20-25 minutes at 350 degrees, otherwise we would have been there late into night. I have skipped many nuances in the process in my amateur descriptions. My apologies.



The preparation steps are better seen in photos. Adrienne Hayes demonstrated the process for Gata since it was her family's recipe. The same similar recipe can be found in the Ar-

menian Cookbook "Treasured Armenian Recipes". Under Judy's direction, we worked on the

Choreg. Very similar process to the Gata making, but different rolling and braiding techniques and condiments included in the making of Choreg.

When I got home, I could not wait to put the



Gata & Choreg buns in the oven to bake. The smell of the baking filled the whole house. By then, we were getting very hungry and upon taking the items out

of the oven they were almost all devoured. DELI-CIOUS!!

By popular demand, there are additional ACOM cooking classes in the planning.

To all those who participated in the ACOM choreg and



gata baking class on Saturday, November 5th, and those who were unable to make it. This link (https://vimeo.com/168826345) will take you to a very touching video in French with English subtitles. Enjoy!

P.S. The recipes for both breads will be available on the ACOM Website.



The Baking group





No. 146 Fall 2016 Page 5

CONGRATULATIONS

Congrats and best wishes to **Andrea and Lowell Johnson**'s daughter Molly and husband Nash and their baby boy on their recent move from California to Minneapolis.

Bradley Erickson on graduating from the University of St. Thomas University with a BA degree in Business, with focus on accounting. Bradley also started employment with Buhler in Plymouth where he can use his education and training.

The **Erickson family** is to be congratulated also on the wedding of Mitchell Erickson and Sarah Schmidt which took place on August 13, 2016.

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

It is with deep sadness that we announce that **Hank Manthei** has lost his sister, Debra, only 5 months after his mother's death.

Deb died in ICU at the University of Minnesota Hospital, from an intense pulmonary infection, along with other severe medical problems. She was only 61. She had been in and out of various hospitals and rehab centers, but finally lost the battle on the morning of October 26, 2016, around 10 am.

We will always remember Deb and her mom Jeanette who came regularly to ACOM's picnics, Gaghants and other events. We will miss them both very much.

Hank has a brother and sister-in-law who live in Connecticut.

SPEEDY RECOVERY

To **Judy Ohannesian's** sister, Margaret, who fell and broke her hip. She is currently staying with Judy and Doug while recuperating.

Mark Wiersbeck had surgery to repair a torn meniscus on his knee Sept. 6th. He is doing a whole lot better and is happy to be moving around easier and returning to work.

Sylvia Mesroubian currently lives in Oakdale. She had a broken wrist and unfortunately, she broke the other wrist as well. We wish her speedy healing.

THANK YOU

For sending the fruit and treat basket to Doug, my sister Margaret and me. We have been enjoying it very much. We are all doing fine and are taking life one day at a time. My sister is now walking up to 20 steps at a time, so that is all progress. Sincerely.

Judy Ohannesian

Dearest ACOM,

Thank you so much for the thoughtful basket you sent today after my knee surgery. There is so much fruit and goodies to last quite a while. I am so thankful to be part of this "family" ACOM community.

Please pass this message along to other committee members I may have missed. Hope to see you down the road, once I get off these crutches in six weeks. The good news is that the surgery went very well and I am in no pain.

Thanks again,

Mark Wiersbeck

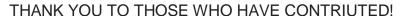
FOOD SHELF DONATIONS

REMEMBER THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN US!

Quite a few years ago, ACOM placed an empty barrel for food donations in Fellowship Hall; it was falling apart and has now been replaced. There are a lot of empty grocery bags in that barrel. If you are in Fellowship Hall, remember to pick up a bag, take it home, fill it with non-perishable food items and bring it back with you next time. Place the filled bag in the barrel and an ACOM board member will deliver it to Keystone Food Shelf.







Page 6 No. 146 Fall 2016

Dear ACOM Committee Members

Thank you for the azalea plant that arrived Friday afternoon. It was a nice surprise and I appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness.

Sylvia Mesroubian

ADE AT MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

The Armenians put on 4 half-hour shows at the State Fair on Saturday, Aug. 27. It drizzled a little here and there, but all in all, it was extremely well attended. Huge crowds. We even got a bunch of people to join us at the end of each set and taught them some simple Armenian dances.

"We caught a few of your dances. Glad it wasn't hot. You looked good, but I felt for you, dancing on the concrete....

Don S."

WHAT WAS IT LIKE GROWING UP ARMENIAN IN.... 8TH IN SERIES

I did enjoy it very much, especially learning more about the other panelists.

Aram Charchian

You are very welcome! It was nice to learn about Mark and Tom's (Keljik) upcoming book. *Judy Ohannesian*

ARMENIAN YOUTH MUSICAL SHOWCASE

Wonderful to hear it! Congrats to all who made this happen! Bravo to Nairy for the initial idea, and to John and others for all the coordination. I am surely sorry to have missed it. I eagerly await the videos, Peter!

Best to all from Michigan,

Natasha Vaubel









MINNESOTA ARMENIAN GENEALOGY PROJECT

This is an interest group for Minnesota Armenians and friends who are interested in researching and documenting their family history, building family trees, learning about new archival and DNA resources for documenting their past, and creating a genealogy network for the Minnesota Armenian community. We will host presentations, workshops, and informal help sessions on a regular basis, and post resources and research tips on the group page, and serve as a forum for helping each other! For more information, contact:

- Janet Rith-Najarian (E-mail: riversedge.mn@gmail.com)
- Judy Ohannesian (E-mail: jtohannesian@gmail.com)

ARMENIAN SCHOLARSHPS

Armenian organizations across the country offer scholarships and fellowships for students of Armenian descent to pursue their undergraduate and graduate degrees. The Armenite Website (http://thearmenite.com/2016/02/armenian-scholarships-2016/) provides you with a good list of opportunities available. What is very helpful on the applications is demonstrated volunteer experience and service to the Armenian community. ACOM can offer opportunities for you to volunteer and serve the Armenian Community! If your student is interested, please contact ACOM Social Director, John, for more information on volunteering:

jpderboghossian@gmail.com



No. 146 Fall 2016 Page 7

What was it like Growing up Armenian in



On Sunday, October 23, 2016, ACOM hosted the 8th session of its popular program "What Was It Like Growing Up Armenian In ...". This time we broke from tradition and had four participants instead of the three that we had in all previous sessions. Also, all four participants grew up in the United States.

Taking part this time were Aram "Sam" Charchian who grew up on the "poor south side" of Troy, New York, Judy Ohanessian, originally from Detroit, Michigan, Mark Keljik, a life-long resident of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Cynthia Reimers Erickson, who grew up in that hot-bed of Armenians called North Dakota.

Aram described his early life in Troy where he

lived in a row house in a neighborhood filled with Italian and Irish kids. There were other Armenians around, though, because he attended an Armenian church. That was OK though, he said, be-



cause the Armenian Church seemed to be pretty similar to the Catholic churches that the other kids attended. When he ultimately moved to the Twin Cities, he was happy to meet so many Armenians in the area, most of whom he's still friends with today. Aram was one of the founding members of ACOM.

Judy described being immersed in Armenian



culture in Detroit because of all of her relatives in the area and the large number of Armenians there. She moved to the Twin Cities for her work and ended up being an early member of ACOM.

Mark's grandfather was one of the first, if not



THE first, Armenian in Minnesota. His family has been involved in the oriental rug business for over 100 years. He talked about how, when he was young, there were several different Armenian families

with rug stores in the Twin Cities. Mark was also an early member of the ACOM board.

Cynthia talked about growing up on a farm next to Courtenay, North Dakota. Her grand-



mother lived in nearby Jamestown along with three other Armenian families. While not 'immersed' in Armenian culture, the presence of the four families meant that she was exposed to a lot of Arme-

nian food, Armenian music, Armenian dancing and just enough Armenian language for her to learn a little bit. She arrived in the Twin Cities just before the founding of ACOM and started taking part in its events almost from its beginning.

The four speakers covered a lot more interesting topics that what is mentioned here. If you were not able to attend the program when it was held at St. Sahag, keep watching for the new ACOM web site. After it's up and running, we'll be posting videos of each of the "What Was It Like ..." sessions on It.



Session Moderator, Leroy Erickson Page 8 No. 146 Fall 2016

ACOM 2016 PAID MEMBERS

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

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Adamek, David & Tina Agadzhanova, Galina Andeweg, George & Jeanne Aram, Connie & George

Asgian, Phil

Baradaran Cafesjian, Kathleen & Jaff

Bobgan, Harold

Bulbulian, Francis & Barbara

Charchian, Aram & Ruth

Daniels, Kathleen & Myers, Marcie; Mari

Digris, Naïry & McGibbon, Terry

Dourgarian, Gregg & Mary & Family

Erickson, Leroy, Cynthia, Bradley

Favre, Jim & Margaret

Gauro, Boghos & Lana

Gildensoph, Lynne

Gregorian, Henry & Laurel

Grigoriants, Olga & Katia

Hajinian, Peter, Brooke, Charlie

Hakobyan, Artur & Papiyeva, Nina

Hayes, Adrienne, Jim, Michelle & Lila

Johnson, Andrea & Lowell

Kardashian, Van & Vali

Kaye, Alfred

Keljik, Mark & Grantz, Caren Keljik, Tom & Collins, Jennifer

Khachatoorian, Armineh

Kourajian, Art

Kourajian, John & Myrna

Mardirosian, Artoosh & Helga

Matossian. Lou Ann

Meketarian, Marty, Mara, Hagop, Armen

Merjanian, Peggy & Stephen

Mesrobian, Azad & Karen

Najarian, John & Mignette

Nyholm, Pete, Dana, Sam, Kira, Megan

Ohanessian, Sita

Ohannesian, Judy & Tiffany, Doug

Parker-Der Boghossian, John

Poritsky, Joan

Rith-Najarian, Janet & Steve

Samuelian, Christine & Family

Savayan, Peka & Maria; Anderson, Steve

Strichartz, Ariel

Tashjian, Joe & Savik, Kay

Teosyan, Yelena, Vadim, Seda & family

Vaubel, Natasha, Carol, Jamaica

Warren, Melanie Bendian

Wiersbeck, Mark

Wiersbeck Sarah

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

NOTE: Boldface type

who have contributed

Our thanks

indicates members

\$50.00 or more to

for everyone's most

generous support.

ACOM.

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 (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.

No. 146 Fall 2016 Page 9

Armenian Dance Ensemble of Minnesota

If you have in interest in Armenian dance, if you have danced in the past, or have never danced but really would like to learn and participate, this would be a good time to give it a try. All the dances are taught, and costumes provided. It is a volunteer activity and we only ask for your time commitment. Rehearsals are typically held on Sundays at 12.30 pm. Remember: you do not need to be Armenian to become a member of the dance group, just a desire to learn and enjoy Armenian music and dance.

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

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

ARMENIAN DANCE NOTE

On Saturday, November 5th, the Armenian Dance ensemble performed at Brookdale Senior Residence. A resident, Fred Wulff attended, took pictures during the performance and then published the pictures along with some background on Armenia. You can view the full Blog entry at: fred-wulff.blogspot.com.

The following are excerpts from his blog and some of his pictures.

Wulff's Blog

Saturday, November 5, 2016 # 3 BROOKDALE EDINA (2016)

AUTHENTIC ARMENIAN DANCES COME TO BROOKDALE EDINA NOVEMBER 5, 2016







Gina talking about Armenia to the residents

Performance Calendar

Month	<i>Dat</i> e 2016	Location
January February March March April April May May June July August August September November	17 28 6 12 7 17 6,7,8 31 26 30 27 31 18 5	The Wellington Keystone Highland Park Festival of Nations Preview Episcopal Homes Jones Harrison Cherrywood Pointe Festival of Nations Edina Care & Rehab Shores of Lake Johanna Cerenity Care MN State Fair Centennial Lakes St. Sahag Festival Brookdale Senior Residence Ukrainian Christmas Festival
December	5	St. Michael's Christmas Event







Littlest Audience Member



Pictures compliments of Fred Wulff

Youth Musical Showcase ARMENIAN YOUTH MUSICAL SHOWCASE - July 17, 2016

The Armenian Youth Musical Showcase was a huge success with around 40+ attendees. The concert was held in the sanctuary without amplification which worked very well. We had 7 very talented young musicians who, on short notice, performed on piano, trumpet and euphonium. They made their parents and the Armenian community proud. We will post short videos of the performances on the new ACOM website soon. We have requests for a second concert which we will plan for next vear.

Francis Bulbulian











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New ACOM Chess Club

It goes without saying that there is a long history and enjoyment of the game of Chess in Armenia. It is, after all, the only country in the world where learning chess is a mandatory class in K-12 education! After many requests, ACOM is starting a chess club for all ages who want to learn this classic game of strategy and logic. ACOM will provide chess sets as well as an instructor from the Armenian Community to assist with the learning. Whether you cannot tell a rook from a



knight, or can quote all the Armenian Grandmasters of Chess, we look forward to welcoming players of all stages! **Held immediately after Fellowship on the first Sunday of each month.** To make it more interesting, we will have Tavloo sets available at the same time for the parents. For more information please contact our Social Director, John Parker - Der Boghossian at: jpderboghossian@gmail.com

Voski Ashoun 2016

Dr. Charles Hajinian was our Voski Ashoun speaker this September 24, 2016. He gave the



attendees a very fascinating talk on Armenian Coins and their history starting with Tigran II, King of Kings, 95 -55 BC

thru King Levon's rule 1374-1375 AD. He brought his extensive collection of coins for Show and Tell. It was a collection worthy of a museum. In his talk, he included much of Armenian history for each period, when various coins were minted by hand. During his 30 minute powerpoint presentation, Dr. Hajinian passed around coins from a period before Christ was born for the audience to view and hold.

In 2015, Dr. Hajinian, along with a few other Milwaukee Armenians, formed the Armenian Numismatic and Antiquities Society, and published a quarterly magazine. He brought many samples of the latter to the event.





Light Refreshments provided by ACOM

The evening's informative talk was a wonderful addition to this year's ACOM cultural programming. Thank you to Peter Hajinian's suggestion for this program. This came up in our discussion of Armenian History books when we were discussing the event in our ACOM Book Club earlier this year.

If you are interested in learning more about the Armenian Numismatic Society, check the following website:

http://anasociety.org/

Dr. Charles Hajinian standing in front of his extensive coin collection











ACOM MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM Valid January 1 to December 31, 2017
Name:
Street:
Phone <u>: ()</u> E-Mail Address <u>: </u>
Household Membership
Nairy Digris, Treasurer
Return it with your check to 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'd 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