



Culture
Heritage
History
Language

Armenian Cultural Organization of Minnesota
Established 1980

No. 151 Winter 2018

MinneHyeLites

WWILGUAL...

is coming

We resume with the **Tenth** in the series

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

ACOM will be holding this event in a new location (Merriam Park Library on corner of Fairview and Marshall in St. Paul) on Sunday, March 18, 2018 at 1 pm.

Participants in this session are :

Reena Ghannoum, Tom Keljik,

Armineh Khatchatorian, Vladimir Poladyan (Poly)

All of the previous sessions in this series have been well-received and proven to be very informative. This session should continue the tradition.

GAGHANT TREASURES



See Article on
Page 2

ACOM Gaghan Party January 12, 2018

As has happened many a year when we celebrate Gaghan, it was a bitterly cold and windy night. But, stepping inside to the scene of the festivities, we found both the warmth of friendship and the bond of shared or adopted Armenian heritage.

This year's celebration took place at the Midpoint Event Center in St. Paul on Friday, January 12, 2018. Midpoint's dreamy, soft decor coupled with ACOM's own decorative touches lent an understated elegance to this most special evening. Ninety-seven people (5 people were sick and could not attend) braved the cold and were treated to delicious Middle Eastern food catered by our friends from Mim's Restaurant, and live, evocative music was performed by our friends in Music Mundial. Music Mundial does not take union breaks every hour, at least not when they are performing at Gaghan, so



children and adults alike danced non-stop to the lovely melodies throughout the evening, while those who did not dance enjoyed watching from tables.

Outgoing ACOM President Francis Bulbulian presented a powerpoint talk on the evolution of ACOM over its almost forty year history. The youth had a separate room where to play games and do crafts, while the traditional silent auction, set up in another room just off the banquet room, was visited over and over by bidders checking on the latest bid for a coveted item. Keljik's Rug Store donated the largest (and most Armenian) pieces: two carved, painted, aged wooden figures of unknown provenance - St. Mesrob and St. Sahag. One person bowed out of a bidding war for them. Consequently, the two saints went home with Bradley Erickson at the end of the evening. The saints are in good hands and, most assuredly, will be around for generations to come.



Armenia participated in the Winter Olympics with 3 athletes:

Katya Galstyan, 10 Km Cross-Country (Pictured right)

Ashot Karapetyan, Slalom

Mikayel Mikayelyan, Cross-country 15Km and 30Km



ACOM Presents: A night with Bedros

AN ARMENIAN ODYSSEY: FROM THE EUPHRATES TO THE MISSISSIPPI
by Mark and Thomas Keljik

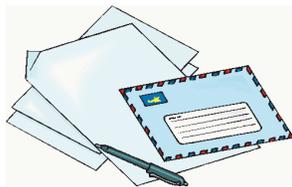
This is the story of our grandfather, Bedros Arakel Keljik (1874-1959), an Armenian born in Harput province in the Ottoman Empire. He emigrated to the United States with an older brother in 1890, and in 1899 established an Oriental rug business in Minnesota



(Continued on page 3)

ACOM WEBSITE

Remember to continue to check our website: **mnarmenians.org**



CONGRATULATIONS

To Mr. and Mrs. Arslan on their wedding in February 2018. We wish them both a happy and healthy life!

ACOM Board

Congratulations to Cynthia and Leroy Erickson for becoming first time Grandma and Grandpa on the birth of their first grandson. Best wishes also to Uncles Bradley and Mitchell, and Aunt Sarah. Very special congratulations to Great-Grandma Vi Reimers in North Dakota.

THANK YOU

Hear Hear! Thanks Terry and Nairy (and everyone else) for putting together a beautiful newsletter!

Natasha V

Folks, Great ACOM Newsletter! A most important communication with our community.

Francis

THANK YOU - GAGHANT

ACOM thanks the following individuals who donated items to ACOM's Silent Auction held at the annual Gaggant party on Friday, January 12, 2018. Your caring and generosity are truly appreciated:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Adrienne Hayes | Bryan Hayes |
| Alarica Hassett | Andrea Johnson |
| <i>Barnes & Noble</i> | <i>Chianti Grill</i> |
| <i>Cub Foods</i> | Francis Bulbulian |
| <i>Lee Ann Chin</i> | <i>Lund's & Byerly's</i> |
| Lynne Gildensoph | Margaret Favre |
| Mark Keljik | Nairy Digris |
| Terry McGibbon | <i>Trader Joe's</i> |

Nairy and Terry - thank you to you! Nairy - you're an amazing organizer - and thanks to Patty Kardashian and Terry, everything got there and got back home again. Thanks to getting us going on the silent auction. ACOM appreciates any dollar amount brought in !

Lynne G.

I wanted to say thank you to the ACOM committee for putting on a wonderful Gaggant dinner for us all! It was a very nice venue and the music really added to the atmosphere. Please pass along my thanks to Francis for his leadership and the rest of the group for a job well done! Hope to see you soon at another event.

Mark W.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To Sarah Wiersbeck with our warm wishes. We hope you had a wonderful day.

ACOM BOARD 2018-2019

The following individuals were voted in by ACOM dues paid members to serve on the ACOM board for the years 2018 and 2019:

- Francis Bulbulian, Past President
 Nairy Digris, President
 John Parker-Der Boghossian, Vice President
 Bradley Erickson, Treasurer
 Lynne Gildensoph & Andrea Johnson, Co-Secretaries
Other Board Members:
 Natasha Vaubel
 Patty Kardashian
 Sarah Schmidt Erickson
 Terry McGibbon, Webmaster and Newsletter Editor
 Tom Keljik, Advisor to the Board

ACOM wants to thank Leroy Erickson for his contributions to the Armenian Community while serving 6 years on the ACOM Executive Committee as Vice President, then President, and lastly, Past President.

If you have any comments or suggestions about ACOM events or activities, feel free to contact any one of us. Since ACOM was established 38 years ago, we have remained true to our mission and its goals. We are all united to serve the Minnesota Armenian community members, their families and friends to continue promoting Armenian culture, dance, history and language. Thank you for your commitment and support throughout all these years.



ACOM Presents: A night with Bedros

Continued from page 2)

that has lasted for over 117 years. Bedros started his new life in New York, followed by Boston, New York, school and work in Chicago, before settling in St. Paul, where he became a successful businessman. He lived in an era of dramatic upheavals: the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, the economic Panic of 1893, World War I, Prohibition, the women's suffrage movement, the economic prosperity and social and cultural changes of the Roaring Twenties,

WHO IS YARA SHAHIDI?

Yara is the popular new star of ABC Free-form television's hit comedy "Grown-ish". Yara has her roots in Minnesota where grandparents Mark and Caren Keljik along with family members Tom Keljik and Jennifer Collins, Jeff and Susan Keljik, and Barbara Clarke live.



Yara's character, Zoey Johnson, was developed on the show "Black-ish," where she acted for three seasons as the oldest child in a family coming to terms with issues of race in America. Her new show has Zoey off to college, mirroring Yara's own experience as she heads off to Harvard.

Yara plans to start her studies in Sociology and African American Studies. A glowing college letter of recommendation from her friend Michelle Obama was a special honor for Yara.

Yara and her brothers, Sayeed and Ehsan, have appeared in many television series over the last few years. At age seven, Yara co-starred with Eddie Murphy in the movie "Imagine That". Other movies include "Salt" with Angelina Jolie and "Butter" with Jennifer Garner.

Yara is dedicated to several causes. She launched an initiative called "Eighteen x '18" which is designed to encourage her generation to get out and vote. Appearing with Michelle Obama on "Glamour International Day of the Woman", Yara expressed the importance of education for women worldwide.

In an interview for "Seventeen" magazine Yara commented "I love history, and activism is so engaged in history.... As you learn about these movements (women's rights, immigration) it's hard not to be inspired."

Growing up in Minnesota, Yara attended "Ghagant" and "Festival of Nations". Yara loves returning to Minnesota and looks forward to bicycling around Lake Harriet and attending the "Great Minnesota State Fair".

We are proud of our Yara and her brothers.
Mark and Caren Keljik

P.S. Her father, Afshin, has written a "New York Times" best selling book called "Prince: A Private View" which shares Afshin's years of photographs as the official photographer of this well known musician.



ARMENIANS ARE HARDY SOULS

Franrose Tashjian walks her almost 12-year-old Siberian husky, Khubie, down Summit Avenue in St. Paul on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018. Tashjian, who has three children, says that Khubie is a really cute dog. "This is his weather," Tashjian said, in this winter's latest snowfall. (Ginger Pinson / Pioneer Press)



A SHORT STORY WITH A GREAT ENDING

One of ACOM's guests who was attending Gagant for her first time lost a gold ring with a pearl on it at the party. When I (Nairy) learned of this, I really had no hope of finding it - we were at MidPointe Event Center late, packing and moving things, while the cleaning crew had come and was mopping the floors already.... I figured it probably ended up in the trash containers....

Since I happened to be working in the area the morning of January 17th, I decided to stop by the Event Center and ask if someone had found a ring. To my huge surprise, the ring HAD BEEN FOUND and was sitting in their office. You can imagine how stupefied I was. After thanking the staff profusely, I notified our friend and I hope she can sleep a little better this evening.

Nairy D.

French President fulfills promise to add the Armenian Genocide commemoration date to French calendar

French President Emmanuel Macron fulfills his pledge to add April 24 in the French calendar as the day of commemoration of the Armenian Genocide victims. Macron's decision was announced on Tuesday during extended remarks made at the annual dinner organized by the Coordinating Council of the Armenian Organizations of France (CCAF).

<https://www.panorama.am/en/news/2018/01/31/French-president/1898232>

ACOM 2018 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

- Andeweg, George & Jeanne
- Angel, Michele Byfield & Bill
- Aram, Connie & George
- Aroutiunian-Usitalo, Steven & Margarita
- Arslan, Arnold
- Asgian, Phil
- Azarian, Martin, Donna, Adrianna
- Bobgan, Harold
- Bulbulian, Francis & Barbara
- Daniels, Kathleen, Mari & Myers, Marcie
- Digris, Nairy & McGibbon, Terry
- Erickson, Bradley
- Erickson, Leroy & Cynthia
- Erickson, Mitchell; Schmidt, Sarah
- Favre, Margaret & Jim
- Gauro, Boghos & Lana & family
- Gildensoph, Lynne
- Hajinian, Peter & Brooke & family
- Hakobyan, Artur & Papiyeva, Nina & family
- Hayes, Adrienne, Jim, Michelle, Lila
- Howard, Molly; Lincoln, Nash & family
- Izmirian, Peter
- Johnson, Andrea & Lowell
- Kardashian, Patty & Viguen
- Kaye, Alfred
- Keljik, Mark & Grantz, Caren
- Keljik, Tom & Collins, Jennifer
- Khachatourian, Armineh & Gary
- Kourajian, John & Myrna
- Matossian, LouAnn
- Meketarian, Marty, Mara, & family
- Mesrobian, Azad & Karen & family
- Ohanessian, Judy & Tiffany, Doug
- Parker Der-Boghossian, John
- Plummer, Elizabeth
- Poritsky, Joan
- Savayan, Peka & Maria, Anderson, Steve
- Tashjian, Joseph & Savik, Kay
- Usitalo, Steven & Aroutiunian, Margarita
- Vaubel, Natasha, Carol & Jamaica
- Warner, Elizabeth
- Warren, Melanie & John Bendian
- Wiersbeck, Mark
- Wiersbeck, Sarah
- Ylitalo, Caroline & Dave & 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 (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 Dance Ensemble of Minnesota

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 12.30 pm in St. Paul. Remember: you do not need to be Armenian to become a member of the dance group, just a desire to learn and enjoy Armenian music and dance.

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

For additional information, call Nairy:

651-639-9346 or email: hyebar@yahoo.com



The Armenian Dance Ensemble has been representing Armenian Culture through Dance and Music for over 25 years. Our performances cover a range of Armenian Historic and Modern dances and always include some background on Armenia. This last year the group has performed in many venues—from Festival of Nations and MN State Fair (our largest shows) to smaller gatherings at community centers, senior residences, nursing homes, outdoor parks and church Festivals. Our group is one of the featured pictures on the Festival website this year (www.festivalofnations.com) We also performed at the Festival held this fall at the Armenian Church. Overall we had more than 15 performance days in 2017.



ACOM Current Events Calendar

Date	Time	Place	Event
3/10 - Sat	7:00 PM	Digris/McGibbon's home	Cinema Saturday - Armenian Americans
3/15 - Thu	7:00 PM	TBD	Book Club
3/17 - Sat	1.10 pm	Festival Dance Preview	ADE
3/18 - Sun	1:00 PM	Merriam Park Library	What Was It Like Growing Up Armenian #10
3/19 - Mon	5:30 PM	Mim's	Board meeting
4/9 - Mon	5:30 PM	Merriam Park Library	Board meeting
4/14 - Sat	7:00 PM	Digris/McGibbon's home	Cinema Saturday - Tehlirian
4/19 - Thu	7:00 PM	TBD	Book club
4/24 - Tue	5:30 PM	St. Anthony Park Library	Short Genocide Presentation by Tom Keljik, Q & A
4/30 - Mon	7:00 PM	U of M - Ohanessian lecture	Genocide event
5/3,4,5,6		RiverCentre, St. Paul	Festival of Nations
5/12 - Sat	7:00 PM	Digris/McGibbon's home	Cinema Saturday
5/14 - Mon	5:30 PM	Merriam Park Library	Board meeting
5/17 - Thu	7:00 PM	TBD	Book Club
6/9 - Sat	7:00 PM	Digris/McGibbon's home	Cinema Saturday
6/11 - Mon	5:30 PM	Merriam Park Library	Board meeting
6/21 - Thu	7:00 PM	TBD	Book Club
7/1 - Sun	3:00 PM	Como Park	Annual Picnic
7/9 - Mon	5:30 PM		Board meeting
7/14 - Sat	1.30 pm	Cherrywood Pointe, Roseville	ADE
7/14 - Sat	7:00 PM	Digris/McGibbon's home	Cinema Saturday

The University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) will be convening their first Armenia Study Abroad Program in the Summer of 2018. They will conduct this program at the American University of Armenia (from June 2 to 17, 2018).

This will be a professor led two-week study tour focused on Armenian history, culture, politics, economy, and society from the Urartu Empire to the most recent Republic of Armenia with all its various aspects. Dr. Nerses Kopalyan, associate professor of political science at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas will also be in Armenia during the first two weeks of June and will be giving guest lectures for the participants on Armenian politics and geopolitical issues regarding Karabakh and related topics concerning the region. In addition, colleagues in Armenia (including Dr. Harutyun Marutyan of the Institute of Archeology and Ethnography at the Armenian National Academy of Science, Dr. Gevork Poghosyan of the Institute of Sociology, Philosophy, and Law at the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Arthur Atanesyan, Head of the Department of Applied Sociology, Yerevan State University, Professor Emeritus Dr. Aram Arakelyan of Yerevan State University, and several other colleagues, as well as Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian, President of the American University of Armenia, and others) will take part in the program in various ways to enrich our students' rich experience of Armenia and Armenian culture during their two-week stay in Armenia.

Dr. Berberoglu will be serving as the professor for this program and will be conducting the program at the American University of Armenia in Yerevan, as well as at

all major historic and cultural sites throughout Armenia on the daily field trips (including Garni, Gegghart, Zvartnots, Echmiadzin, Sardarabad, Khorvirap, Noravank, Sevan, and many other sites). The participants will also visit Yerevan State University, the Opera, Madenataran, the Cascade, the Tsitsernakaberd genocide memorial, parks, museums, and other sites in Yerevan.

Students can sign up for 3 credits of undergraduate or graduate studies in history, political science, anthropology, or sociology through the University of Nevada, Reno Academic Credit Options office and have their credits transferred to their home university.

In initiating this study abroad program for next Summer, the University of Nevada, Reno have kept the cost of this program low to make it possible for students to visit Armenia and broaden their understanding of this amazing nation, especially those of Armenian descent who should feel proud of visiting and learning about their ancestral homeland.

Berch Berberoglu, Ph.D.

Foundation Professor of Sociology

Phone: (775)784-1855(office)\
(775) 784-6647 (dept.)

Director of Graduate Studies,

Department of Sociology

Fax: (775) 784-1358 (dept.)

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Reno, NV 89557 USA.

Web: <https://berchb.blogs.unr.edu>

ACOM Library

Did you know that ACOM has a library? Over the years (37 and counting!) members have donated many books to ACOM, covering a variety of different subjects. Recently, the library has been re-organized and catalogued (well, most of the books, still working on the Armenian-script ones.) We have accomplished the goal of having the list of books available via the ACOM website and allow members to check books out by submitting requests through the web, email or phone calls. Alternately, if you have access to the “**Goodreads**” website you can look for the member “Armenian Minnesota” and check out the bookshelf “[acom-library](#)”. If the book is listed on the bookshelf “checked-out”, then somebody else has it. Otherwise, it’s available for check-out.

If you would like to check a book out, send an email to Leroy.erickson@minnmicro.com. I’ll make arrangements

to meet you somewhere to hand the book over and get it back when you’re done.

Currently we have 82 books available. There are about another two dozen books in the library, but they are printed in Armenian script and I haven’t had the opportunity to get the names and titles translated so that they could be added to the catalogue. Sometime in the (near?) future that will be done. Also, ACOM has many video and audio recordings. These will be added to the catalogue and also made available.

If any of you have any old books that you think other ACOM members might be interested in reading and you would like to donate them to the library, we would be happy to accept them.

So, happy reading!

Leroy Erickson



ACOM MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

Valid January 1 to December 31, 2018

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: _____

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Complete this form and
Return it with your check to  

Nairy Digris
1703 Skillman Ave. W.
Roseville, MN 55113

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We're on the Web
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