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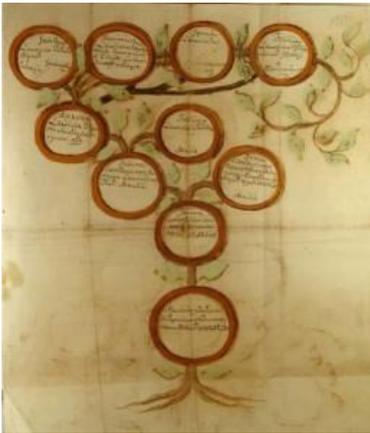
Culture
Heritage
History
Language

Armenian Cultural Organization of Minnesota
Established 1980

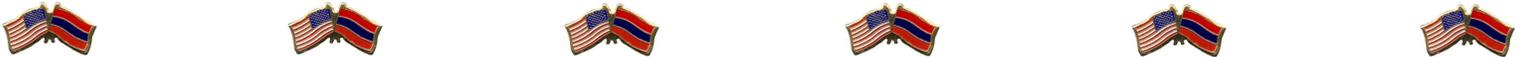
MinneHyeLites

No. 162 Winter 2022

ACOM VIRTUAL GENEALOGY SESSIONS



ACOM INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN VIRTUAL GENEALOGY SESSIONS LED BY RUTH CHARCHIAN
The first one will take place on Sunday, March 27, 2022 at 3 pm
The next two sessions will also take place on ZOOM at 3 pm:
Sunday, May 1, 2022, and Sunday, June 5, 2022
The ZOOM links will be emailed closer to the date
Mark your calendars



ACOM BOARD ELECTIONS

ACOM dues-paid members cast their votes by email and the following were elected to serve on the board for the years 2022 and 2023:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| President: | Steven Usitalo |
| Vice President: | Azad Mesrobian |
| Secretary: | Annie Bulbulian Wells |
| Communications Secretary: | Lynne Gildensoph |
| Treasurer: | Naïry Digris |
| Webmaster and Newsletter Editor: | Terry McGibbon |
| Members-at-large: | Kassian Vaubel, Alarica Hassett, Beth Warner |
| Past President: | John Parker-Der Boghossian |
| Board Advisor: | Tom Keljik |

Sincere Thanks to out-going board members Mark Wiersbeck and Sarah Erickson for their support and many years of service to the Armenian community.

ACOM 2022 - CALENDAR OF EVENTS - January—August

Questions, Suggestions, email: steven.uusitalo@gmail.com
or call ACOM President, Steven at: 248-808-8615



DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT
10-Jan	Mon	5:30 PM	Board Meeting
20-Jan	Thu	7:00 PM	Book Club
22-Jan	Sat		GAGHANT
24-Jan	Sun	1:00 PM	ADE Rehearsal
30-Jan	Sun	1:30 PM	Armenian Dance teaching
14-Feb	Mon	5:30 PM	Board Meeting
17-Feb	Thu	7:00 PM	Book Club
13-Mar	Sun		Daylight Savings Begins
14-Mar	Mon	5:30 PM	Board Meeting
17-Mar	Thu	7:00 PM	Book Club
27-Mar	Sun	3:00 PM	Genealogy Session I Ruth Charchian
11-Apr	Mon	5:30 PM	Board Meeting
17-Apr			EASTER
21-Apr	Thu	7:00 PM	Book Club
1-May	Sun	3:00 PM	Genealogy Session II Ruth Charchian
9-May	Mon	5:30 PM	Board Meeting
19-May	Thu	7:00 PM	Book Club
30-May			MEMORIAL DAY
5-Jun	Sun	3:00 PM	Genealogy Session III Ruth Charchian
13-Jun	Mon	5:30 PM	Board Meeting
16-Jun	Thu	7:00 PM	Book Club
26-Jun	Sun	3:00 PM	ACOM in person Picnic - Digris/McGibbon backyard
4-Jul			INDEPENDENCE DAY
11-Jul	Mon	5:30 PM	Board Meeting
8-Aug	Mon	5:30 PM	Board Meeting

WATCH FOR UPCOMING **ACOM** “VIRTUAL” EVENTS ON ZOOM

Email Announcements with details will be sent soon

**All ACOM meetings and events are currently scheduled to take place
on ZOOM unless noted otherwise.**

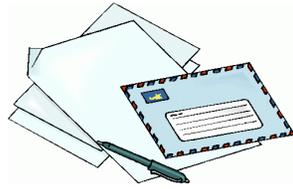
ZOOM Links will be provided before the event via E-mail.

**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****ACOM WEBSITE**

By the way, impressive website!
Michael S.

THANK YOU

Team NEWSLETTER (Naïry, Terry and others), THANKS FOR THE ACOM Newsletter.

I think it's a very important documentation of the Armenian Community's activities in Minnesota. I appreciate your hard work in putting out this Newsletter. Keep up the good work

Francis B.

The flowers arrived today. The bouquet is beautiful, thank you. (Both of Artur's parents passed away in Armenia.)

Artur H. 🙏

Just a quick note to thank you for the Missahats/Lahmajoun that Naïry and Terry dropped off on behalf of the Board. Viguen and I really appreciate your thoughtfulness and the lahmajoun will definitely be enjoyed. Such a treat to have comfort food in the house...no shopping, no prepping, just enjoying. Until our next Zoom call....

Gratefully,

Patty K. (and Viguen, of course)

Thank you for ACOM's wonderful gift (back in October!) The chocolates are delicious! And it was so nice to catch up with you both - if for just a little while. I've been waiting for things to settle down a bit to do regular life things - but it's been one thing after another! At least we're all healthy and hanging in there.

Jackie H.

Please extend my/our sincere thanks to the ACOM Executive Committee for those gorgeous chocolates. It will be hard saving some for Steve. Our sincere thanks to ACOM for the candy.

Peggy Merjanian

I want to thank you and the whole ACOM Board for the lovely chocolates and kind words. It brings comfort to know that so many were thinking of us.

Thank you again,
Sarah E.

SPEEDY RECOVERY

ACOM sends their good wishes to Adrienne Hayes for a speedy recovery on her recent surgery.

SYMPATHY

January started out in an unbelievably sad and traumatic way for the **Kardashian family**. Vahram and Vali's daughter, **Vega**, passed away in Arizona on January 4, 2022 after many long years of illnesses. She was a fighter and always looked at the positive. She was generous and caring and was concerned about everyone else's wellbeing, totally disregarding her own issues.

Within ten days, Vega's sister-in-law (Viguen's wife) **Patty**, unexpectedly died on January 14, 2022 from cancer complications.

These two deaths have had an extremely stressful effect on mom, Vali Kardashian, brother Vaughn (Susan), Rachel and Abby, cousin Naïry (Terry), Natasha and Alarica, uncle George (Aïda) Yaghsejian, Greg, Michael (Kelly) Yaghsejian, Sophia, Savannah, Ani Soghomonian and Raffi Mikaelian. We believe these two ladies are in peace and no longer suffering.

ACOM expresses their sympathy to **Artur Hakobyan** and his family on the loss of both his parents in Armenia on October 19 and 21 respectively. Unfortunately, Artur did not even have a chance to see them or say goodbye. Our prayers for the entire family.

Condolences to **Art Kourajian** on the loss of his sister, Mary Werner, in North Dakota. Prayers and good thoughts go out for you and your entire family, Art.

It is with great sadness that we heard that **Sarah (Mitchell) Erickson** lost her 25 year-old brother in Wisconsin on January 9th following a snowmobile accident. We feel for you and your family, Sarah. May your fond memories of your brother give you strength and courage to proceed.

Adding more stress to the Digris/McGibbon/Hassett families, **Naïry** was notified on January 17, 2022 that a very close cousin of hers in Montreal with whom she grew up in Egypt, **Kenny Grodsworth**, passed away from pneumonia after a hospitalization of 8 days. This was a shock as he was always "as healthy as a horse." January 2022 has

(Continued from page 3)

been very rough !

VEGA GADARINÉ KARDASHIAN MIKAELIAN

Bio - November 29, 1957 – January 4, 2022

Vega, the eldest of Vahram and Vali Kardashian's children, moved to Arizona from Minnesota in 2008. She suffered from a variety of illnesses for many long years. Both her daughter, Ani, and her son, Raffi, who were born in Minnesota, were always by her side, and currently reside in AZ.

Vega was very involved with ACOM, served as its Social Director for seven years, and was chair of the Armenian Café at the Festival of Nations for quite a few years as well. She missed her Minnesota family connections and always invited people to visit her in Arizona. Disregarding her own health issues, she was always concerned about others; giving advice and making sure they called her back to tell her how they were doing. Vega was a traveler, reader, teacher, organizer, cook, sister, mother, grandmother, a fearless fighter and a wonderful friend.

Helped by her faith and in spite of her health issues, Vega remained hopeful throughout the years. She passed away on January 4th and both a virtual and live funeral were held for her by her children on January 20, 2022.

The following link has Vega's funeral program, photos and more.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6azczmpjiqq9vvi/AAC8AWhx-54zt-rXvCIHWLMHa?dl=0>

PATRICIA ANN (CLARK) KARDASHIAN

Bio - February 4, 1960 – January 14, 2022

Patty Kardashian, married to Viguen, the youngest of Vahram and Vali Kardashian's three children, was involved with the ACOM Board for eight years and served at different times as Secretary, Treasurer and Cultural Director. She was very Armenian "in spirit" and a great support to the Board. Her suggestions were always very valuable to the ACOM Committee. She was generous, always caring and giving, and very creative. Her positive attitude, her bright smile, her contagious laughter, and her faith carried her through her previous bout with cancer. Unfortunately, she came out of remission this past June and underwent chemotherapy. Her death on January 14, 2022 was totally unexpected, leaving her husband Viguen, son Alexander and the rest of the Clark and Kardashian families in

absolute shock.

A beautiful mass celebrating Patty's life took place on Saturday, February 5, 2022 at St. Jude of the Lake Catholic Church in Mahtomedi, MN. It was live streamed so those who could not personally attend the service were able to watch online. It was followed by a reception where Patty's family and friends packed the hall – standing room only! It is our belief that God had a different plan for her and really wanted someone as cheerful as Patty by His side.....

CONGRATULATIONS

One of our own, Beth Warner, was mentioned in the Variety section of the Star Tribune on October 22, 2021. She traveled with me to Armenia in 2011. I believe the work they are mentioning of hers was displayed at Mitchell Hamline Law School a couple of years ago in a display organized by World Without Genocide.

Cynthia E.

Twin Cities art shows to help you keep that fall feeling , by Alicia Eler Star Tribune -- OCTOBER 22, 2021 — 8:00AM

*In the "Voice to Vision" exhibit, I was moved by "Niagara Falls 1912," a mixed-media work by **Beth Warner**, the granddaughter of Armenian genocide survivors. She inserts the Armenian genocide monument into Lady Liberty's crown, a reminder of the realities of forced migration.*

<https://www.startribune.com/four-twin-cities-art-shows-to-help-you-keep-that-fall-feeling/600109002/>

VOSKI ASHOUN

Once again, ACOM celebrated Voski Ashoun on Zoom and sadly, not in-person. It took place on Sunday, October 24, 2021 and was hosted by MARK KELJIK.

Mark had prepared a "quiz bowl" with a multitude of questions, all related to Armenian subjects. Participants were asked to be ready with a paper and pencil, Mark asked the question, and each person marked his or her answer. Final results were tallied and many of us ended up learning at least one or two new things.

The event was totally fun-filled as people came up with some very silly questions and answers to Mark's questions. It was a very successful afternoon, and if you missed it, there may be an opportunity for this "quiz bowl" to be presented again by Mark.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, **MARK KELJIK** !

Shenorhagalem Nairy! What a wonderful event--I practically fell down laughing (re: Voski Ashoun)
Kassian V.

ACOM SPECIAL EVENT

John Del Vecchio, Attorney-at-Law of St. Paul, generously donated his time and expertise to present to the ACOM community a talk about Advanced Directives. This took place on Zoom Saturday, November 20, 2021 and a Q and A session followed his presentation.

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.

Please get in touch with us if you have comments, suggestions, or would like to submit an article for an upcoming ACOM Newsletter.

From: Der **Yeprem Kelegian** <kelegian@att.net>
Date: Wed, Jan 26, 2022 at 9:50 AM
Subject: Hungry children in Armenia

Brothers and Sisters,
So many of you have been responsive to our needs in Armenia.

To those who put Fund for Armenian Relief in your e-letters, THANK YOU.

I believe we must keep our people aware of what can be done to help Armenia.

"Set the table."

Many organizations are supplying food to school children, but many facilities lack proper furniture, kitchenware, and dishware. Help fuel the brains of 462 bright children by going to:

Weareayo.org (<https://www.weareayo.org/home>)

ACOM Book Club News

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

ACOM Special Presentation!!

An in-person meeting with Artyom Tonoyan took place at the St. Paul Merriam Park Library on January 8th 2022, starting at 3PM.



Artyom introduced his edited book of Russian news articles about Nagorno-Karabagh. Artyom talked about the development of the book and presented some interesting insights into the background of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabagh. He indicated that he had

read, either in the original or in rigorously translated Russian, accounts of the conflict over the last 30 years. His expert take on the region's geo-political climate was extremely interesting for the attendees.

The edited collection was entitled "Black Garden Aflame: The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict in the Soviet and Russian Press." The present collection of articles – carefully translated, edited, and culled from a vast repository of Russian-language press curated by East View – presents, in book form for the first time in English, some of the most important material that has appeared from 1988 to the present.

Artyom gave the attendees an important perspective on the Russian position, and some interesting but discouraging commentary on the future direction of the conflict in this area. There was a brief Q and A session following the formal presentation.

The book is available through <https://www.eastviewpress.com/resources/books/black-garden-aflame/>.





Suki Dardarian named Star Tribune editor as Rene Sanchez departs

Sanchez has held the top post at Minnesota's largest newsroom for the past eight years, leading the newspaper to a Pulitzer Prize in 2021.

By **Kristen Leigh Painter** Star Tribune



The Star Tribune's top editor, Rene Sanchez, is resigning to become the editor of his hometown newspaper in New Orleans.

Suki Dardarian, the newsroom's second-in-command, will succeed him as the Star Tribune's editor and senior vice president.

Sanchez has held the top post at Minnesota's largest newsroom for the past eight years, leading the newspaper to a Pulitzer Prize in 2021.

"It's hard to leave such a dedicated, talented newsroom," Sanchez said. "We've been through a lot together, and I am particularly grateful for the entire staff's heroic work of the past two years.

"But after nearly nine years in this role, it feels like the right time to embark on a new challenge. The opportunity in my home state is very appealing. And Suki will be a truly great successor."

Dardarian, who joined the Star Tribune as senior managing editor in 2014, helped guide the newspaper during a period of relative internal stability under the ownership of Minnesota businessman Glen Taylor.

She has played a critical role in the paper's coverage and support for its 230 journalists over the past two tumultuous years in Minneapolis and the surrounding communities.

"The Star Tribune has been changing ever since the day I walked in the door and that will continue, I guarantee that," Dardarian said. "We want to serve this whole community, we want to engage people in a way that they can connect with each other and help improve this community."

Star Tribune Publisher and CEO Mike Klingensmith said he expects a smooth leadership transition that will take place over the next two months. The company will immediately begin a nationwide search to fill the role vacated by Dardarian.

"The decision on Suki was one of the easiest decisions I've had yet on personnel matters since I arrived at the Star Tribune. She is completely ready for the task. She is deeply experienced," Klingensmith said. "Her news judgment is impeccable, but also her creativity and energy is infectious."

Sanchez is returning to his hometown of New Orleans, where he will become the vice president of news and executive editor of the Times-Picayune/the Advocate/Nola.com. His parents, sister and entire extended family still live in Louisiana. Sanchez's daughter, raised in Minnesota, is a sophomore at Tulane University in New Orleans.

He spent much of his early journalism career at the Washington Post, holding reporting positions in Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles. Sanchez has spent the past 17 years at the Star Tribune, where he quickly ascended leadership ranks.

During his tenure, the Star Tribune redoubled its commitment to local, public-service journalism.

"Local journalism doesn't have to mean parochial journalism," Sanchez said. "Anything we cover is a lens into national life."

He spurred reporters to deliver high-value stories to readers that could not, or would not, be delivered elsewhere.

"What a pleasure it's been to work with Rene," Klingensmith said. "I've worked, going back in my magazine career, with a lot of editors and I've never worked with a better one."

Even before the Louisiana paper came calling, Sanchez said he'd been reflecting on how leadership change can be healthy for an organization and the leaders themselves.

"To step back, have some humility, appreciate what you've done," Sanchez said, "and also recognize it can be really invigorating — not only for you to have a new challenge — but for a newsroom to get a fresh jolt, to have a different perspective."

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

He added: "It wasn't that I was eager to go at all, but it felt like a good time, here in year nine, knowing someone as good as Suki could step in."

The newspaper industry has faced immense challenges in the past two decades as consumption of news and information has rapidly evolved. Small and midsize newspapers have been hurt the most as readers flock to free, digital sources of information and entertainment.

Klingensmith and Sanchez resisted the urge pursued by many industry peers of forsaking its print products in exchange for a full-throated digital approach. Sanchez consistently pressed the news staff to pursue meaningful, deeply reported and carefully written articles.

As a result, the Star Tribune has maintained a far more robust physical newspaper than similar-sized outlets and is now the third-largest daily metro newspaper in the United States by circulation.

The paper's leadership also has sought to balance print stabilization with its long-term future, which is digital.

Dardarian, who had a distinguished 14-year career at the Seattle Times before coming to the Star Tribune, has spearheaded the paper's digital evolution, which now boasts more than 100,000 digital subscribers. She has led the company's strategy of refocusing on local news and public-service journalism, leaning hard into digital storytelling with an eye on growing the newspaper's online audience.

"The transformation to a converged multiplatform newsroom will definitely continue apace; it must," Dardarian said. "We do a phenomenal job in print and we do a phenomenal job digitally, but we need to get more skillful at the choreography of it. And I think our journalism gets better as we do it."

Dardarian started her career as a reporter in Everett, Wash., and Tacoma, Wash., before climbing the editor ladder at the Seattle paper. Those experiences, and the ones she's had in Minnesota, have reinforced her commitment to freedom of the press, open government and local news that covers the entire community.

An Email received from Gina Bonsignore, ADE member

I thought you might be interested in this story of my husband's great, great aunt Effie. One of his Iowa relatives puts lots of family history on facebook. The first link is a post about her on the Keghart site by Vahe H. Apelian PhD, Columbus, OH, USA, 4 November 2009. The text below is from a message

someone (Ani) who read Vahe's article and messaged Rick's (Gina's husband) family historian, who then shared it on Facebook.

Gina B.

[Link to Vahe article: Miss Chambers - The Beloved Missionary in Kessab - Keghart](#)

My name is Ani Boghikian-Kasparian. I recently Googled "Miss Chambers Kessab Missionary" and found Dr. Vahe Apelian's article online about your great aunt, Miss Chambers. I'm writing because of your invitation to contact you with any information we can share. My grandfather, Dickran Boghikian was a teacher in Kessab during the years that Miss Chambers was there. Although he was not born in Kessab, he married my grandmother who was a native Kessabtsi and they raised their family there for most of their life. A few years ago I came across my Uncle's memoirs and in it he mentions Miss Chambers. He writes with warm sentiments that as she was leaving to return to the United States, she gave her camera with all its parts to my grandfather. He adds that this camera saved the family during the massacres. My grandfather was called upon by Turkish officials to take pictures of them and was liked by all. He was a well read man, knew many languages including French and Ottoman Turkish, and with the camera, he became a valued person to keep around. Later on, he became known as the photographer of Kessab along with being a beloved teacher to most Kessabtsi's. The camera not only saved the family during the atrocities, it also helped him provide for his family during very, very hard times. The camera played yet another role. The profession was passed down to my father who became a photographer in Beirut and later brought his family to Detroit, Michigan. Our immigration to the States was possible through the sponsorship of an Armenian photographer. In other words, we were able to get our permanent residence cards because of my father's profession. For years, my father was the photographer in the Armenian community, taking pictures of weddings, school programs, church, and community events. You can see that Miss Chambers' gift to my grandfather had a lasting impact on the generations that were not even born when she was in Kessab. On behalf of my family, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for Miss Chambers' kindness.

ACOM Gaghant 2022 Virtual, again

Plans were well underway for a return to a traditional in-person Gaghant for 2022. However, the best laid plans got laid low by that insidious virus that is still around and interfering with our everyday lives and with our celebrations. We planned to use a new event space at a community center in Roseville (MidPointe fell victim to the times and to some destructive violence during early 2020 and ceased to exist). We had the caterer (Mim's again) ready to go, band (Music Mundial) signed up, and early preparations in hand when we found out that we didn't have the numbers of people confirming their attendance to make it economically feasible for ACOM to hold the in-person event.

Back to square one. The board decided that we should go with a virtual Gaghant similar to what we did last year. The musicians were contacted and two of them were available to play a set during the session. The decision was made to move the day to Saturday, January 22, 2022 keeping the time (6 PM start) the same.

On the evening of January 22nd, ACOM held its second virtual Gaghant. A quick business meeting introduced board members for the new years, 2022 and 2023.



New President, Steven Usitalo,
New Vice-President, Azad Mesrobian, and new at-large board member Beth Warner. Current board members were also introduced. Two

members left the board. Sadly, another board member was Patty Kardashian who passed away in early January. Steven and Naïry both had memories of



Patty to relate to the group. Truly a great loss to ACOM, she will be sorely missed.

Music Mundial (Tim O'keefe and Eric Ray) played a number of Armenian pieces for those who attended. Well done.

A short Video Retrospective of ACOM Gaghants from 2004 through 2021 was shown and elicited great memories for those watching.

The evening ended with socializing and catching up on what is happening with our lives during this challenging time.

Here is hoping that January 2023 will present us the chance of holding an in-person Gaghant event.



ADE Calendar 2022

January-April

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT
20-Feb	Sun	1:00 PM	ADE Rehearsal
27-Feb	Sun	1:30 PM	Armenian Dance teaching
6-Mar	Sun	1:00 PM	ADE Rehearsal
13-Mar	Sun	1:00 PM	ADE Rehearsal
20-Mar	Sun	1:00 PM	ADE Rehearsal
27-Mar	Sun	1:30 PM	Armenian Dance teaching
31-Mar	Thu	2:00 PM	ADE @ Jones Harrison
24-Apr	Sun	1:30 PM	Armenian Dance teaching
26-Apr	Tue	7:00 PM	ADE @ Village Shores

May-August

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT
2-May	Sun	1:00 PM	ADE Rehearsal
29-May	Sun	1:30 PM	Armenian Dance teaching
26-Jun	Sun	1:30 PM	Armenian Dance teaching
31-Jul	Sun	1:30 PM	Armenian Dance teaching
10-Aug	Wed	7:00 PM	ADE @ Centennial Lakes
28-Aug	Sun	3:00 PM	Armenian Dance teaching

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 in person. 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

We are continuing the trend started on Sunday, August 30, 2020, teaching Armenian folk dances on ZOOM on the **last Sunday of each month**. The 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 set up for each month starting at

1:30 pm.

There has been a substantial amount of interest for this event on line, and the participants have been Armenians and non-Armenians alike, from all around the US as well as overseas. 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

ARMENIAN DANCE ENSEMBLE (ADE)

ADE is starting the new year with regularly scheduled in-person rehearsals every other Sunday at 1 pm. If you are a newcomer to dance and/or the Twin Cities, and would like to be part of the group, WELCOME!! Email me and I will give you more specifics: yekibdos@gmail.com – and, you DO not have to be of Armenian descent. Anyone interested in Armenian culture, music and dance, is welcome.

I had the opportunity to choreograph three new Armenian dances that I am teaching on Zoom. I did some research and found out there were no steps associated with the well-known Armenian songs: Noubar Noubar; Karnan Mekhag, and Soudé Soudé. Since I liked these pieces, I decided to share them with the folkdance community and choreographed some simple, yet Armenian-style inspired steps.

While ZOOM dancing on Friday, December 17th with friends from all over the USA, I taught the dance steps to Noubar Noubar, and here are the encouraging comments I received from the viewers/participants. The more I share Armenian dance and music with others, the better acquainted people become with Armenians!.

Nice Armenian styling!

Noubar Noubar - great dance. Very pretty!

Yes, very nice dance. Thanks!

Thank you - that is such a beautiful dance and I love the lively music too.



ACOM BOARD MEMBERS 2022-23

President:	Steven U.
Vice President:	Azad M.
Past President:	John P-D B.
Secretary:	Annie B.
Communications Secretary:	Lynne G.
Treasurer:	Naïry D.
Members at Large:	Kassian V., Alarica H., Beth W.
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 2022 PAID MEMBERS

Andeweg, George, Jeanne
 Aroutiunian, Margarita; Usitalo, Steven
 Arslan, Arnold
 Asgjan, Phil
 Baradaran-Cafesjian, Kathleen, Jaff
 Bulbulian, Francis, Barbara
 Daniels, Kathleen; Myers, Marcie, Mari
 Digris, Naïry; McGibbon, Terry & Hassetts
 Favre, Margaret, Jim
 Gauro, Boghos, Lana
 Gildensoph, Lynne
 Hajinian, Peter, Brooke & family
 Hakobyan, Artur; Papyieva, Nina & family
 Hayes, Adrienne
 Kelegian, Der Yeprem, Judy
 Keljik, Mark; Grantz, Caren
 Keljik, Jeff, Susan
 Kourajian, Art
 Meketarian, Martin, Mara & family
 Mesrobian, Azad, Karen
 Ohannesian, Judy; Tiffany, Doug
 Poritsky, Joan
 Rith-Najarian, Janet, Steve
 Savayan, Peka, Maria & Stephen A.
 Vaubel, Kass, Carol, Jamaica P.
 Warner, Beth
 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, 2022

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

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We're on the Web

www.mnarmenians.org