Thirty-five members of the Knights and Daughters of Vartan from California to Detroit to New York including newly installed Grand Commander Steven Adams, Grand Master of Ceremonies Dr. Dennis Shamlan and Past Grand Commanders Dr. Gary Zamanigian and Steven Kradjian visited Armenia on a mission trip from September 15-22, 2019.

This was the 4th consecutive “Back to the Homeland” trip. For over 100 years the Knights of Vartan has initiated many projects in US Armenian communities for Armenian Studies, Armenian Research, University Student Scholarships. Its members have served actively as leaders in all Armenian Churches and organizations. Since 1988 the organization has been supporting numerous...
I recently had a few discussions regarding our $15 special assessment along with the upcoming $100 donations for our 100th Anniversary book and at the same time trying to fill a banquet table in Los Angeles at $250 a person, and another upcoming banquet at $350 per person. The question was, “are we putting too much of a burden on our members?” It’s 4 AM in the morning I am lying in bed and this is crossing my mind. It’s things like this that wake me up in the morning. Do we put too many burdens on our members? Should we put burdens on them, and are we asking too much and for that matter why do we even bother taking on these extra tasks?

You were simply a member of the Knights of Vartan, sitting on the sidelines at our meetings. You didn’t need to become a commander, were you crazy?

Life was simple just sitting there listening. But life isn’t that simple and we DO take on these burdens, but why…”are we crazy?” And the answer to that question is …Yes! We really are. It’s now 5AM and this realization just hit me. As Armenians we are crazy, but not in a foolish crazy way but in a passionate, dedicated crazy way. We do things and take on these burdens because we believe in our cause. Vartan Mamigonian took on the ultimate burden of defending our Christian faith. He didn’t need to do that. He could have walked away and said to himself, “someone else will take up this fight.” The victims of the Armenian Genocide didn’t need to die. They could have converted to Islam and probably would have been spared. They could have assimilated themselves into the broader Ottoman culture and disappeared as Armenians, but they didn’t. Here in the United States, we make choices every day. We choose to go to an Armenian Church. We don’t have to…there are Christian churches probably much closer to our homes, yet we will drive for miles to attend OUR church. We take on these burdens every day. We do these things because they are important to us. Our founding fathers didn’t need to take on the burden of helping to save the victims of the Genocide, but they did because they knew that if they didn’t, no one would. Brothers, we are the inheritors of that commitment that our founding fathers made to the Armenian people. We bound ourselves together in an oath to defend our heritage and culture. We knowingly and willingly took on that burden and challenge.

So the answer to the question swirling in my mind is…Yes! We do put burdens on ourselves, it is what we have pledged to do. These burdens come in many different forms, time, money, leadership. There are many ways we are challenged in life and in the life of our brotherhood. It is easy to say, “Let someone else pay for the 100th Anniversary book” or “Let someone else take on the position of Sbarabed.” It is easy to say, but when have we, as Armenians, ever taken the easy way out? If we had taken the easy way out, we would NOT be here today. We live as Armenians today because somewhere in our history, someone stood up and said, “We won’t take the easy way out, we will stand up for what is right and what we believe in. We will stand up as Armenians!”

For a lot of our history, burdens have been placed on us by outside forces, but we as Knights of Vartan willingly take burdens upon ourselves. What are the characteristics that we have inherited from our founding fathers when they established our brotherhood? They are the same characteristics that motivated our patron Saint Vartan Mamigonian…Dedication and faith! We accept the work we have undertaken because we are dedicated to our cause as Knights. If one is not dedicated, there would be no way they can take on the obligations of a Knight. It is only through true dedication that we are motivated to undertake our duties as Knights. Without dedicated heroes in our past and without dedicated Knights today, we will not survive. But as dedicated as one is today, how do we become dedicated to our future. The answer is simple, by seeking out a new generation of individuals to fill the ranks of our brotherhood. Let us remain ever faithful to our vows, let us always remain dedicated to our faith, and let us ensure that a future generation will carry on as true and dedicated Knights of Vartan.
projects in Armenia as well. In 2016 the organization celebrated its 100th Anniversary in Armenia, and instituted the "Back to Homeland" trips. Not only do they support a number of projects financially in Armenia but they also visit many of these projects and meet the people they helped throughout the year. This allows the members to see the changes they made in the life of the people in Armenia and it inspires them to return home to create new projects. The result is the creation of a bond between the supporters, partner organizations and beneficiaries.

Each year the number of members, including friends of members joining the group, has been increasing and the list of projects visited during the "Back to Homeland" trip, has increased also. The weeklong trip was filled with many visits to completed projects and to new projects underway sponsored by Knights and Daughters of Vartan.

After an orientation meeting on Sunday morning the group attended church services at Saint Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral in Yerevan. The delegation then visited the Armenian Genocide Memorial and placed a wreath in memory of our sanctified martyrs. The Grand Commander, Steven Adams watered the tree planted by Knights and Daughters of Vartan delegation last year on the Genocide Memorial grounds and met with the Armenian Genocide Museum Director Harutyun Marutyan. The Knights of Vartan’s Centennial Anniversary Yearbook was presented to Mr. Marutyan.

For more than 25 years the Knights of Vartan (KV) has been renovating and building schools and kindergartens in Armenia through the Armenian Schools Support Project and the Armenian Territorial Development Fund (ASSP/ATDF World Bank). A kindergarten, renovated by the KV in Aparan, was renamed “Knights of Vartan Kindergarten” with a decision of the local Community Council last year. Now 137 children attend this newly renovated and equipped educational facility. The number of students enrolled in the school increased by 31% because of the enhanced learning environment. Such facilities are not only providing a good education but
they are also preparing the future generation of leaders in Armenia. The children performed Armenian songs and dances beautifully in authentic Armenian tradition. Another room was filled with handmade dolls crafted by the children and parents. The Arshakyan family originally from Aparan, now living in San Diego, provided t-shirts for the children with the KV logo on them.

Because the KV has had many projects in Tavush Province which borders Azerbajian, it was not surprising that the group would take the long journey to visit again. The highlight of the trip was meeting with the Governor of Tavush Mr. Hayk Chobanyan who expressed his gratitude to the organization for making a difference in Tavush Provence and its importance especially with regard to education. Projects visited in Tavush included an Aygepar village school where the Armath Robotics Laboratory was opened. This border village school has 58 students of which 14 attend Armath classes. They are preparing to participate in a national competition in November. Commander Tigran Sahakyan of Mamigonian Lodge has supported the “After School Program” in this school for a number of years.

Fr. Aram Mirzoyan, a long-time KV partner presented other projects being supported in the Berd area.

The Knights of Vartan Sports and Cultural Center in Veryn Karmiraghbyur, Tavush Province, which had its ground breaking in 2016 has grown every year. This year the swimming pool was completed and added to the list of facilities operating at the center already (Soccer Field and Outdoor Movie Theater). The complex serves 7 communities, namely Verin Karmiraghbyur, Norashen, Movses, Artsvaberd, Aygedzor and Chinary with a population totaling 22,000. The aim is to provide a high level of education for children living in border villages, so that the future generation will be healthy and strong.

The Fuller Center for Housing Armenia has been on the list of KV charities for over a decade. The organization has gifted one or two homes every year. During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the organization donated two homes in memory of the late Past Commander Reverend Fr. Dajad Davidian, who was also a very good friend of the Fuller Center Armenia. The KV group was able to visit one of the families, the Mkrtchyan family in Avan village, Aragatsotn Region, where everyone was amazed by the breathtaking view from the house and the garden. The young family (husband wife and two children) finally have a home of their own. Throughout the years the organization has seen an increase of newborn children in families who received newly completed homes. Donating such homes to families who qualify raises their hopes for the future and allows them to give their children a good environment in which to live.

One of the special stops in Yerevan was the KV School #106 which received its name in 1995 after a number of KV projects were implemented. Last year Nareg-Shavar-
shan Lodge and Zabelle Otyag of Greater Detroit donated the entire cost for the renovation of the gym and Arshavir Lodge in Worcester donated new equipment. The school, built in the nineteen sixties, was, after previous KV contributions, a good environment in which to learn for the students except for the gymnasium. Today the old windows have been replaced, a new drainage system and new heating system installed. State of the art gymnasium flooring over a cement base now are in place instead of warped wood over the ground. The entire construction was implemented by KV partner the Paros Foundation. The KV delegation had a ribbon cutting ceremony and a beautiful program was presented by the students in their renovated gymnasium. The group was then invited to the auditorium where the children presented Vartanank Novel by Derenik Demirchyan. The play was presented in cooperation with the Derenik Demirchyan Museum and the KV #106 School. Principal Marine Vartanyan expressed her gratitude and hope for continued cooperation with the Knights and Daughters of Vartan.

After the devastating 1988 earthquake in Gyumri, Armenia, the KV responded immediately and over 150,000 USD was delivered. A number of individual members went to Gyumri throughout the years but this was first time that the “Veratarts Hayrenik” group made such a trip. Visits to KV projects, museums and a tour of the city were combined. Two kindergartens were completed after the earthquake and they have been fully operational ever since. They were part of the ATDF (Armenian Territorial Development Fund) World Bank and the KV ASSP (Armenian Schools Support Project). Seeing the kindergarten children dancing and singing at these schools filled the hearts of every Knight and Daughter with pride and reminded them of what the Knights of Vartan is all about – to protect the Armenian Homeland and the Armenian Church, to prepare Armenian Community Leaders and to maintain the Armenian spirit.

For over 15 years the Knights of Vartan has provided scholarships to 10 students each year from Yerevan State University and National Polytechnic University of Armenia. Each of the students selected come from low income families and have high grade point averages. This partnership has been ongoing and the “Back to the Homeland” group stops at each of these universities every year. For the second year in a row the KV granted Scholarships to two students at the American University of Armenia and the delegation had the opportunity to meet with the new AUA President Dr. Karin Markides. A group of the KV delegation visited Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences where Commander Tigran Sahakyan sponsors an annual school-
This year nine students with high test scores received scholarships and one student received an award as the winner of the essay contest whose essay was presented at the New York Times Square Armenian Genocide Commemoration in April.

Coming from the Diaspora, it is important to have a connection with the Government of the Republic of Armenia in order to be able to raise concerns and learn about additional opportunities to be of assistance to the country. The delegation had a special meeting with the new High Commissioner of Diaspora Affairs Mr. Zareh Sinanyan. The group heard first hand about the Commissioner’s future plans, his new vision for Armenia-Diaspora relations and of his priority being recognition of the Diaspora and promotion of a “strong Armenia-strong Diaspora” concept. A question and answer period followed.

Armenian Independence Day on September 21st was celebrated by climbing Mount Ara and raising the Knights and Daughters of Vartan flag on top of the mountain. The hikers were amazed by the beauty of surrounding landscape.

Concluding the weeklong mission trip, a celebration with all of the Knights and Daughters of Vartan delegation took place. Around 80 Knights and Daughters, Mission Partners and friends gathered at the beautiful Meagerian Carpet Museum for dinner, a tour and fellowship.

The evening gave the KV the opportunity to acknowledge all of our partners in Armenia, some of whom traveled from border villages to Yerevan to be present at the event.

The “Back to Homeland” IV is over, but as Grand Commander Steven Adams indicated, KV members are leaving back to the USA, but their hearts will stay in Armenia. They will remember every step they have made.

Plans for next year’s “Knights and Daughters of Vartan Mission V Trip” have already started – Kal Daree Hayasdan!

By Gohar Palyan
KV Liaison

Photo below: during the meeting with High Commissioner of Diaspora Affairs Mr. Zareh Sinanyan
Historic Moment

October 29, 2019

US House Recognizes Armenian Genocide

After decades of lobbying by the Armenian community in the United States, where Knights of Vartan had lots of support as well by initiating and organizing the Times Square annul events, building and supporting Armenian Genocide memorials, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the resolution HR 296 recognizing the 1915 genocide of Armenians in Ottoman Turkey.

Our heartfelt thanks to ANCA, AAA, Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, Senator Robert Menendez, Senator Charles Schumer, Dr. Taner Akçam and many many other people who believed, put their hearts and efforts to this resolution.
The Avak Khorhourt have been busy with meetings reviewing our Bylaws and Visitations. Sunday, October 13th was the Southern California Tri Lodge Picnic where Avak Sbarabed Steve and Avak Dirouhie Alice met. Then on Monday, October 14th, AD Alice Kalustian along with 4 members from the Avak Khorhourt drove up to Fresno after receiving an invitation from Dirouhie Pam Ude of Alidz Otyag.

The Avak Khorhourt were first welcomed at the home of NAD Sarah and NAS Bob Der Matoian. In the evening, the Avak Khorhourt members were welcomed to a delicious dinner at Alidz Otyag and Yeprad Lodge. The dinner program honored the many NAD’s and ND’s of Alidz Otyag. They also had a beautiful presentation of Armenian Artifacts from the personal collections of many of the members as a tribute to Armenian Cultural Month. It was a pleasurable evening visiting with AS Steven Adams, members of the Avak Tivan and the many Sisters and Brothers from Fresno. After the dinner, the Avak Khorhourt attended a very nice meeting with a formal ritual. It was great to see many sisters in attendance.

The Avak Khorhourt had made an official visitation to Gayane Otyag #22 in September. It has been a special time meeting our Sisters and the Avak Khorhourt is grateful for the wonderful hospitality. The Avak Khorhourt is planning more official visitations.

Alidz Otyag #8 Otyag honored their NAD’s and ND’s at the October Meeting with AD Alice, APD Lucille, AK Norma, AG Barbara and AT Nancy attending as an official visitation.
Knights of Vartan Presented Dr. Taner Akçam a Lifetime Achievement Award for His Research on Armenian Genocide

On October 25, at the St. Leon Armenian Apostolic Church Abadjian Hall in Fair Lawn, NJ took place a special event honoring Dr. Taner Akçam. The event was hosted by the Knights and Daughters of Vartan and Times Square Armenian Genocide Commemoration Committee led by NS Hirant Gulian. During this event Dr. Taner Akçam received a Lifetime Achievement Award presented by Knights of Vartan Avak Sbarabed Steven Adams.

Dr. Akçam, a professor of Armenian genocide studies at the Clark University in Massachusetts, is one of the first Turkish intellectuals to acknowledge and openly discuss the Armenian Genocide.

Dr. Akçam authored the groundbreaking book Killing Orders – Talat Pasha’s Telegrams and the Armenian Genocide, verifying archival evidence that the Turkish government continues to deny in relation to the Armenian Genocide. In an interview with the New York Times, where Akçam was referred to as the “Sherlock Holmes of the Armenian Genocide,” he states his hope that the evidence uncovered in Killing Orders would “remove the last brick of the denialist wall.”

“My firm belief as a Turk is that democracy and human rights in Turkey can only be established by facing history and acknowledging historic wrongdoings,” said Akçam, who received in PhD in 1996 from the University of Hannover with a dissertation titled Turkish National and the Armenian Genocide: On the Background of the Military Tribunals in Istanbul between 1919 and 1922.

“We are indebted to Dr. Akçam for dedicating his career to researching the Armenian Genocide,” said NS Hirant Gulian. “This milestone event is our way of showing our gratitude to his years of service.”

During the event special recognitions posthumously were provided for Aram Andonian and Rev. Fr. Krikor Guerguerian, who initiated and preserved the Istanbul Military Tribunal Documents of 1919-1921. Dr. Edmund Guerguerian, the nephew of Rev. Fr. Guerguerian, also was recognized for providing the Guerguerian archives.

Dr. Mary Papazian, president of San Jose State University and Daughters of Vartan served as the keynote speaker.

During the event the audience was able to hear again the remarkable speech by Dr. Taner Akçam at the Times Square Commemoration Event in 2015.

Remarks from prominent scholars and — continued on page 10
menian Genocide.

I believe the day will come when the Republic of Turkey will honor restitution. I may not see it, but as long as we have righteous Turkish scholars and intellectuals, like Taner Akcam, Hasan Cemal, Fethiye Cetin and hundreds more… Truth and Justice Will Prevail.”

Hasan Cemal, grandson of Cemal Pasha wrote, “Taner, with his brave books and well written articles in the 1990’s, went fearlessly after subjects considered as untouchable taboos in Turkey. He also is one of those individuals that lifted the heavy and burdensome stones off the Turkish official history; and of course he is one of those that exemplifies the meaning of the words: peace, democracy and freedom.”

NS Hirant Gulian said, “I believe the day will come when the Republic of Turkey will recognize the Armenian Genocide.

elected officials were heard during the program.
The organizing committee prepared a book (76 pages) about the event, which is posted on kofv.org web site as well.

AS Steven Adams stated, “Dr. Akçam’s work in the area of Armenian Genocide research has placed him in the top of his field. His methodical and deliberate approach to uncover history is akin to a surgeon.”

As Steven Adams stated, “Dr. Akçam’s work in the area of Armenian Genocide research has placed him in the top of his field. His methodical and deliberate approach to uncover history is akin to a surgeon.”
Promoting the Knights and Daughters of Vartan and having fun doing so is just what Asbed David Medzorian of Ararat Tahlil Number One in Boston is doing. A member of the Knights since 2017, Medzorian is now producing a podcast series focused on profiling Knights and Daughters of Vartan lodges across the country and the work they are doing on behalf of the Armenian community both here in the states and in Armenia. He is the fifth family member to join the organization. His paternal grandfather joined the Knights nearly a century ago and both of his parents are former commanders of their respective lodges along with a sister who is also a member of Arpie Otyag Number 9.

“Talking Vartan: The Knights and Daughters of Vartan Podcast” made its online debut in February 2019 with a profile of his own Boston lodge, Ararat Tahlil Number One as well as Arpie Otyag Number Nine.

Medzorian says the aim of the podcast is to promote the humanitarian work of the Knights and the Daughters and what a positive difference that work is making both in the United States and in Armenia. He says he enjoys hearing about how members band together to make things happen, whether it be to raise money or help build a school in a remote Armenian village. “We are not looking for nor want any accolades,” says Medzorian. “He hopes that the “Talking Vartan” Podcast will help spread the word about what the Knights and Daughters of Vartan are all about and encourage others to join.

The “Talking Vartan” Podcast is for Medzorian, just one more step in a career that began in his early twenties when he began anchoring and reporting the news in Bangor, Maine, followed by anchoring stints in Portland, Maine and Manchester, New Hampshire.

Medzorian left broadcast news on a full-time basis in 1990 and formed his own video production company. Medzorian is also a professional photographer and Voice-Over Artist. He served as official photographer for the Knights and Daughters of Vartan during 2018 and 2019 Grand Convocations.

The “Talking Vartan” podcast can be heard online at any time via the “Talking Vartan” Facebook page, or even downloaded using apps such as iTunes and SoundCloud. Plans are for a new episode every three to four weeks.

To listen to and download the “Talking Vartan” Podcast:

1. Visit the “Talking Vartan” page on Facebook. All episodes are posted there, as well as on the Ararat Lodge and Arpie Otyag Facebook page.
2. Use the direct link to the podcast provided in the email sent by our Communications Liaison as soon as a new episode is produced.

TO LISTEN AND DOWNLOAD USING SOUNDCLoud:
Using the web browser on your computer, tablet or smartphone, go to soundcloud.com

In the “search” window at the top of the screen, type in “Talking Vartan” and be taken to our page.

Once on the “Talking Vartan” page, you will see a list of all our podcast episodes. Simply click on the episode you would like to hear. You can also click on the “follow” link on the same page if you would like to be notified of future episodes.

TO LISTEN AND DOWNLOAD USING ITUNES:

On your Apple product or PC, open iTunes and click on the “Store” link at the top of the page, underneath the Apple logo. Once on the Talking Vartan Podcast Page, simply click on the podcast you wish to listen to and it will begin playing. To download the podcast to your computer or mobile device, simply click “Get” and the download will begin.

For further questions, you may contact me at talkingvartanpodcast@gmail.com.
Impressions on Veratarts Hayrenik IV Trip

By NS Nishan Dulgerian

For years I planned to take a trip to my ancestral home in Sepasdia but realities sunk in and I sought another vehicle to relieve my desire to visit my forefathers’ land. For me this desire was superseded with my participation to Veratarts Hayrenik (Back to Homeland) Trip IV which took place in Yerevan, Armenia during September 14-22, 2019. This well-organized trip had a clear purpose of seeing in real life what Knights and Daughters of Vartan have been accomplishing through their benevolent and charitable activities to improve social and educational infrastructure in Armenia’s various regions during a period spanning more than two decades.

I shared my joy of witnessing various success stories benefiting number of schools and needy families with more than two dozen Knights and Daughters of Vartan members who took part of this year’s Veratarts Hayrenik Trip.

Assisted by Sbarabed Tigran Sahakyan of Mamigonian Tahlij and NS Hunan Arshakian of Gomidas Tahlij, Ms. Gohar Palyan, our Liaison at the Knights of Vartan Communications Office in Yerevan, had painstakingly organized Tahlij project site visits in the capital city of Yerevan and in cities like Aparan and Gyumri, plus project sites near Berd in Tavush Marz. For her credit, Gohar had arranged numerous opportunities to visit Government officials in the capital city and other town and city officials on our travel route.

We were welcomed and entertained by hundreds of bright-eyed and very talented school children at every school construction and reconstruction project sites we visited through the week. What we saw and experienced was out of ordinary. The joy of interacting with students patiently awaiting our group’s arrival, meeting their principals and teaching staff, talking to students’ caretakers, and listening their words of gratitude at every step of the way made us feel like royalty!

This trip provided all participants the knowledge and personal exposure to real life circumstances at the KOV project sites. What we usually hear at our home Tahlijes and Otyags as second-hand news was replaced with real life observations and first-hand insight obtained from project’s beneficiaries. Meeting people like Harutyun Manucharyan, Governor of Tavush Marz, and his field man, Hayk Chobanyan; Marine Vardanyan, Principal of Yerevan’s Basic School No.106, named after the Knights of Vartan; Khachanush Hakobyan, Exec. Director of the Armenian-American Wellness Center; Professor Karin Markides, President of American University of Armenia; and such luminaries as Zareh Sinanyan, the former mayor of Glendale, California, and now the newly-appointed High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs for the Republic of Armenia and having Q&A sessions with them could never be measured in dollar figures.

Our trip was accentuated by visits to historic sites and famous eateries along our travel route where we savored local delicacies literally hot off the grill! Planned or not, our site visits and interactions with the locals, taught us to accept lifestyles different than ours and try to see the prospect of goodness along with the bad and the inescapable our fellow countrymen in Armenia must live. I think KOV’s Veratarts Hayrenik Trips help us appreciate these realities and feel content that our contributions to erect another school or reconstruct potable water distribution system in a remote village are helping to improve our Fatherland’s social and educational infrastructure.

Photo by ND Salpy Adams
My Life Under Three Flags

By NS Nishan Dulgerian

For most passionate Diaspora Armenians visiting Armenia invokes an irresistible feeling of ‘belongingness’ to the Fatherland. I am told for some Diaspora Armenians living in the United States, this feeling has led to physical relocation of family abode to the land our forefathers lived for millennia.

I recently returned from my third trip to Armenia, this time as a participant to KOV’s Veratarts Hayrenik IV trip, totally immersed in the spirit of an inescapable feeling of ‘belongingness.’ Surrounded by the omnipresent view of Mt. Ararat and her younger kin Sis to the south, visible through the windows of my apartment in central Yerevan, I found myself instinctively responding to what I believed to be the constant calling of Mt. Ararat hovering over me from its massive foothold across the border to the east. For days on end I kept telling myself “This land is my land. This is where I belong.”

After a while the belongingness part of this response troubled my psyche. “Be true to yourself Nishan,” I queried in earnest. “Do you really belong to these lands or you are just overwhelmed by the grandeur of the endless vistas of fertile lands and quaint villages you saw nestled within the valleys and over the foothills of a rugged territory you have been traveling through with the Veratarts Hayrenik group?” I kept questioning myself through my extended stay this time in Yerevan and later in Vanadzor up north in Gougark Marz, seat of the Diocese of Gougark.

I had no clear answer to my query. Any attempt of rationalization on my part about where I have been better part of my life and where am I headed to would have required some personal documents one of which, my birth certificate, I no longer possessed.

Like some of my Armenian friends I chose to become an American by Choice, or ABC, as some refer to this process of naturalization. I was born in Western Armenia, smack in the middle of our historic homeland, and lived in Istanbul until my 18th birthday, under a flag that featured the shape of a white crescent moon capturing a five-pointed white star on a red background, reminding me the bloodied fate of my victimized maternal ancestors. Soon thereafter I easily adapted to a new life as a college student in my new country of abode, the United States of America, with its colorful flag displaying 50 white stars on a blue background, all positioned in the corner of a larger flag body with 13 red and white stripes. I always felt and still feel like marching in sync when our national march, The Stars and Stripes Forever, is played by the marching team of U.S. Marine Band musicians following one Marine up front carrying a fluttering flag of the United States of America, my adopted home for 50 plus years!

But why do I feel a profound affinity to yet another flag, the tricolor Red, Blue and Orange of the Republic of Armenia? Why can’t I hold my tears when I sing Mer Hayrenik, in Armenia or elsewhere in the Diaspora, at every gathering I attend, Armenian or not? How do I manage to accommodate this new flag on my soul and in my life?

For years I felt like the protagonist in Jack London’s Call of the Wild, Buck, the domestic dog, who lives a pampered life in California’s wine country but is ‘dognapped’ to be sold as sled dog and becomes more feral when taken to the wilderness of Klondike region of the Yukon territory in north-western Canada. Why do I feel like the human incarnation of Buck who will go native for sure once exposed to the highlands of Armenia where I am destined to find a — continued on page 14
redefined purpose in life and be immersed in a new life among my people?

So how should I handle this personal affinity towards this third flag which gradually surfaced on the horizon of my ABC life? Realization of pending mandatory changes of lifestyles and habits formed over decades sets in and I am forced to think and think again. What if I maintain my respect to my Stars and Stripes forever and uphold Mer Hayrenik as a precious relic of my ancestral lands? I could visit our Fatherland as frequently as I can and bring with me goodness and perform charitable work that will positively impact Armenia's infrastructure, mostly in the educational arena.

Convinced that education of Armenia’s future generation of doers and fighters to protect our ancestral lands, I resolved to support this system on its way to become a model of excellence for all the world to see and wonder: How in the world can such a small country with limited resources and no seaport raise an educated citizenry of its own and set a wonderous example to all?

I rest my case by citing the words of Plato, “Good actions give strength to ourselves and inspire good actions in others.”

— continued from page 13

October is the cultural month. After Summer holiday and travel season, settling with work and school, is the time to get back together with Knights and Daughters of Vartan lodges and otyags in more of non-formal way as well. Here is why three lodges in Los Angeles area: Ardaz, Ghevont, and Sevan, annually hold a Tri-Lodge Picnic in October every year.

This time it was assigned on October 13th. Avak Sbarabed Steve Adams along with wife ND Salpy Adams traveled to Los Angeles to attend the Tri-Lodge Picnic. Avak Dirouhie Alice and KV Southwestern District Rep. NS Jim Surmeian also were in attendance.

Over 100 people gathered to this nice and relaxing event, to greet their fellow members, socialize, play table games, share and discuss new plans for the lodges.

Tri-Lodge Picnic in CA
Activities from Ani Lodge

By Sbarabed Kevork Marashlian

Interment of John Kavookian at Arlington National Cemetery

The Interment of late brother John Kavookian took place on August 14, 2019 at Arlington National Cemetery Columbarium Wall. We were finally able to put John to rest in the place where he wanted to be.

The ashes were transported by car to the Columbarium led by sister June Kavookian. The military performed the flag ceremony, a minister did the prayer ceremony. After the services, three gun salutes, and bugler playing taps took place, and the ashes were carried to the niche in the wall, where the final prayers said.

At the end, led by Knights and Daughters Vartan, all prayed the Lord’s Prayer, Hayr Mer, in Armenian.

Brothers and sisters Jake Bournazian, Varti Marashlian, Mike Tashjian, Naira Tashjian, Malvina Brown, Nayiri Pakoyan, Kevork Marashlian, Seda Gelenian, Sarkis Satian, Mary Satian, Greg Manouguian, Maggie Avedissian and Yeretsgin Anahid Kalaydjian participated to the heartfelt ceremonies.

Photos by Naira Tashjian and Maggie Avedissian.

Food Festival of St. Mary Armenian Church of Washington DC

From October 3 to 6, 2019 St. Mary Armenian Orthodox Church of Washington, DC organized its annual Armenian Fall Food Festival. Daughters of Vartan members along with members of the Women's Guild of the church worked very hard for more than two months to prepare the delicious Armenian delicacies, and Knights worked hard to cut the meat and control the barbecue. During the Festival members assisted the church with their volunteer work.

Photo from left: Dirouhie Malvina Brown on the right and sister Lucy Murad heading the white elephant table. Photo from right: Asbeds Michael Tashjian, Kirkor Bolat and Sister Naira Tashjian on the drinks table.
Activities from Ani Lodge

Donating Military Boots

Ani Lodge and Dikranouhie Otyag members of Washington DC, GDR Jake Bournazian, NS Ara Avedisian, GDR Margie Satian and sister Maggie Avedian visited the “Aram Manukian Military Lyceum” in Noubarashen section of Yerevan and donated 50 military boots that were specially ordered from a company in Armenia, who makes the shoes of the Armenian Army. Knights of Vartan Armenia Liaison Gohar Palyan assisted our lodge and organized the delivery of the packages to our Yerevan office.

On September 19, above mentioned brothers and sisters, who were in Armenia as participants of the Avak Tivan organized 4th Veratarts Hayrenik, rented a mini van and visited “Aram Manukian Military Lyceum” and made the delivery. They were greeted by our future soldiers of 12-17 years old, toured the facility, dialoged with the students and discussed the needs of the Lyceum with the director.

With this act, we fulfilled the desire of all donors and accomplished the purpose of the successful theatrical presentation of “ALL RISE, THE COURT IN SESSION” about the assassination of murderer Talliat Pasha in Germany. Earlier this year Ani lodge organized fundraising event - theatrical presentation to help a selected project in Armenia.
Celebration of the 28th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Armenia

Knights and Daughters of Vartan Washington, DC Chapters invited Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the United States of America Varuzhan Nersesyan to be the main speaker during the Celebration of the 28th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Armenia, on September 10, 2019, before his departure to Los Angeles to execute and welcome Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan’s US visit.

Present were Representative of the Republic of Arstakh in US Robert Avedissian, Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, staff members of the Armenian Embassy, representatives of Armenian Community organizations. The event took place at the hall of St. Mary Armenian Apostolic church. Master of ceremonies, Daughters of Vartan Matron Malvina Brown introduced the Ambassador and presented his rich biography. He has started his diplomatic career at the age of 24 and had many high level posts including Assistant to the President of the Republic of Armenia; Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia, Washington DC; Head of the External Relations Department, National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia; among other diplomatic assignments. Mr. Nersesyan has the Diplomatic Rank Of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and Decorated with Medal of “Mkhitar Gosh” by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Armenia.

Ambassador Nersesyan touched upon the achievements gained during the years of Independence 28 years ago, the victory in the Artsakh liberation war as well as the Diaspora’s role in developing and strengthening of Armenia. In this context he stressed the importance of Pan-Armenianism concept. Speaking about the Armenian non-violent, velvet, democratic revolution of 2018, and the achievements gained since the Velvet Revolution, the Ambassador highlighted the vision on the development of Armenia till 2050 pronounced by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in Stepanakerd, Artsakh. He went on describing the foreign policy of Armenia through the difficulties of closed borders. During questions and answers he touched upon the importance of the help of the Armenian Diaspora during the last 100 years for the revitalization of the Armenian entity in Armenia.

Kevork Marashlian, commander of Knights of Vartan expressed his gratitude to the Ambassador for accepting the invitation and delivering the speech, and wished him endurance during the difficult task of receiving the prime minister in Los Angeles and New York.

Ecumenical Director and Diocesan Legate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America Archbishop Vicken Aykazian made the closing remarks and mentioned that 28 years ago when the Independence was announced he was in Athens, Greece, and upon receiving the news went to the central palace entrance where all the flags of the independent countries fly, sat and watched for hours the Armenian Flag. How he felt that we will be a great country again like during Tigran the Great. He then complimented the staff of the Armenian Embassy, who were all were presented, for their difficult work and being young diplomats. The event was concluded with his blessings.
October 14, 2019

Steven Adams
Grand Commander of Knights of Vartan

Dear Mr. Steven Adams,

We are humbled by the recent expression of support from Knights of Vartan for our work. It is truly said that whatever we possess becomes of double value when we share it with others. We know that there are lots of other ways you could have spent this money, but you believe in our cause, so you chose to invest in our program. We're in this together and our success is your success.

I'm writing you this brief note to express my gratitude for your generous donation of $10,500 made on September 19. The ongoing support to our mission from Knights of Vartan is so highly appreciated.

A few updates on our program: This year we hosted 9 Global Builders international volunteer teams who joined and worked with our families to finish their house constructions sooner. The year is also very busy with many local partners and international groups joining us for 1-3 day home builds. Since 2008, we have assisted over 800 families. This year, the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia plan was to assist 119 low-income families. All these families will have an opportunity to celebrate Christmas and New Year in their first ever simple, decent and affordable homes.

If you have questions on the program, please do not hesitate to contact us at fcarmenia@fcharmenia.org

Again, thank you for the generous investment in our mission. Thank you for making a real difference!

With gratitude,

Ashot Yeghiazaryan
FCHArmenia President

PS If you would like to receive quicker updates on our projects please visit our web site at www.fcharmenia.org or FB page at https://www.facebook.com/fullercenterarmenia or send us your email address

53 A. Tigranyan Street, Apt. 26, Yerevan 0037, Armenia
fcarmenia@fcharmenia.org, www.fcharmenia.org
On September 18th, 2019 the official opening of the SMART Caffe took place at Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences.

The functions of YSULS SMART Caffe and Career Center are aimed to create a mutual co-working space for youth, that will allow the introduction of new ideas, start-up suggestions and projects, start business.

The establishing and furnishing of the SMART Caffe have arrived to complete the list of those projects that in the recent 5 years have been initiated and realized through efforts of Tigran Sahakyan, YSULS graduate and already a good friend of students. It was a great honor to host Tigran Sahakyan during the opening ceremony.

Dr. Karine Harutyunyan, the Rector of Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences, had an opening speech. Appreciating the interrelationship between universities, graduates and YSULS Graduates Association, Dr. Harutyunyan emphasized the main idea of her speech with a slogan “The University is strong due to its graduates”.

The opening ceremony was proceeded with conversation between Tigran Sahakyan, the faithful friend, graduate and benefactor of the University and the youth, students from Yerevan as well as schoolchildren from regions. Tigran Sahakyan displayed a lecture called “How to Start Your Business”.

At the end of the meeting was the awarding ceremony of the Essay contest that had earlier been announced by the “Sahakyan Bagramyan Fund” Foundation. Ten students and graduates of YSULS got certificates and cash rewards for winning the Essay contest with the title “I am Rich, as I…”

The opening of the SMART center was the proof to the comment given by one of the volunteer students: “We have numerous SMART students, only the center was missing.”
Dear Knights and Daughters of Vartan,

I am writing to you to thank you for your kindness and generosity. I was over the moon when I received a letter from Financial Aid that I have been chosen to receive your scholarship. It was the happiest moment not only for me but also for my parents, who were stressfully waiting for that life-changing letter. Since the situation in Armenia is not that good and there is a shortage of workplaces my father is currently unemployed, and we don’t have an opportunity to cover tuition fee fully. Because of your bounteous work, I will be able to study at the best university in Armenia at AUA.

Starting as a freshman in English and Communications I have plans to complete a major in Political Science. I think that Armenia needs educated political scientists who will scrupulously do everything for the greater good. In the nearest future, I see myself as one of those politicians ready to build powerful Armenia that will easily overcome all upcoming obstacles.

Every single hour that I spend at AUA is invaluable; here I get the motivation to study every minute. I was very excited on August 27 when I attended my first class there - Freshman Seminar 1 during which I realized that indeed I am now an AUA student. For sensing this unforgettable feeling, I am thankful to you for your magnanimity. I am also delighted and proud that you are a California based Armenian organization.

Being a freshman student I am not yet well familiarized with the AUA buildings, but I have already been in the Papazian library where are created all kind of possibilities to gain knowledge. I am impatiently waiting to spend time there and do my upcoming assignments and projects. I am very grateful to you for enabling this opportunity. I can’t express my happiness that I feel now writing this letter to you. Once more thank you very much I assure you that your kind support will not be in vain and that I will approve your and my parent’s expectations.

I hope one day we will meet and will have a face to face conversation which I will appreciate a lot. Again, thank you a lot, sending you the best wishes.

Regards,
Vanik Arakelyan, AUA student
In 2019 a research project “Vardanants’ Sanctuaries in Armenia” funded by NAASR was carried out. It should be noted that the Vardanants movement has been thoroughly examined especially from the view of historiology. And almost insignificant are the studies of sanctuaries dedicated to Vardanank. So the scientific project is a new page in the field of Armenology, and studies within the program are important breakthrough in Vardanank research. Vardanants’ sanctuaries are more than four dozens, which are located in different parts of historical Armenia. The objects of our study are the monuments of Republic of Armenia and Artsakh, which related to different episodes of Vardanants’ uprising.

In result of our works about 12 monuments in different regions of Republic of Armenia and Artsakh were registered and preliminary studied (without archaeological excavations), and was gathered scientific literature on them.

During the fieldworks were found new structures and monuments important for the theme. The concepts of “Vardanants’ Martyrs” and “Vardanants’ Sanctuaries” have been studied, and also the problems of their study. Vayots Dzor monuments of Vardanank have been studied separately, which have a special place for research on the topic. Example, Stepanos Orbelian notes that after the Ava-rayr battle an Armenian detachment tried to go to Artsakh passing through Vayots Dzor region. They were pursued by the Persian army, and four battles took place between them in different parts of Vayots Dzor. And Orbelian indicates the places of the clashes, the number of victims, saying that later the churches were built in that places. According to researchers one of the battles took place near the Kyoshk fortress, the ruins of which are still preserved.

Some structures were excluded from the list of monuments to be studied as their relation to Vardanank is not scientifically substantiated. Instead new ones have emerged.

With the funds allocated by the Fund during the reporting period it was possible to partially examine the monuments in question. At the same time the research reveals new horizons to be explored, continuing the exploration of monuments related to Vardanank.

List of the monuments in Armenia
5. St. Vardan church (new) - v. Madina, Gegharkunik region
7. St. Vardan Sanctuary, Vardenis town, Gegharkunik region

List of the monuments in Artsakh

Tigran Aleksanyan
Archaeologist
Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography NAS RA

Harry Guzelimian (1930 - 2019)

Harry L. Guzelimian was born in Cairo, Egypt to Lucine and Ludere Guzelimian. He was raised in the Armenian Evangelical Congregational Protestant Church and attended the Kaloustian and Mekhitarian Armenian Elementary Schools, the Junior High Coptic Egyptian School, the American Lincoln High School followed by Freshman and Sophomore years at the American University of Cairo.

He arrived in the United States in the fall of 1952 to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy, NY, studying Engineering and majoring in Building Construction. He graduated with a BS Degree in 1955. He then attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), on a Research Assistant Internship Program, in Cambridge, MA, majoring in Building Engineering and Construction. He graduated with an MS degree in 1958. During his college years he was active in various sports, track and field, and the theater, as well as being a member of the Armenian Students Association (ASA).

Upon graduation he worked as a structural engineer at Stone & Webster Engineering & Construction Company, in Boston, MA. In 1959 he transferred to the Kuljian Corporation in Philadelphia, PA as a structural engineer.

He met Alice Z. Gulasarian from Philadelphia, PA at an ASA party and they were married in 1960. In Philadelphia they attended the Armenian Congregational Church. They were blessed with two daughters, Nadya and Melina. In 1964, his family moved to San Diego, CA, where Harry started working as a structural engineer at General Atomic Company. There, he designed the structural skeleton of the Power Plant Building for the first prototype of a nuclear reactor, known as the HTGR, the High Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor, for the Public Service of Colorado.

In 1969, Harry changed his engineering career to real estate sales in which he sold vacant land for investment; with the vision of San Diego becoming a growing real estate market. In 1970 he received his broker’s license and started his own real estate brokerage business called Solana Realty, selling residential and investment properties.

Harry was an active member of the San Diego Chapter of the Triple X Fraternity since 1977 and served as the Grand Master from 1995-1996. He was an Ashed of the Gomidas Lodge of the San Diego Knights of Vartan since 2001 and served as “Sentinal” from 2001-2003. Harry also served on the Avak Tivan as the Grand Sentinel from 2014 through 2017.

In San Diego he attended the Solana Beach Presbyterian Church where the Pastor was Deran Yalian of Fresno, CA until St. John Garabed Armenian Apostolic Church was established, where he attended with his family.

Harry Guzelimian is survived by his two daughters, Nadya Malconian, married to Joseph Malconian, their children Michael and Sara Malconian; and Melina Ounjian, married to Charles Ounjian and their children Paul and Nicolas Ounjian, along with his two sisters Anahid Balian of Montreal, Canada and Hermine Nazarian of Loudonville, NY.

Harry often said “God has been good to me and my family. We have been blessed!”

As Avak Ted, member of the Avak Tivan, a role for which he twice visited Armenia and had the honor to meet His Holiness Karekin II, Catholics of All Armenians, government ministers and local leaders of Knights of Vartan mission projects.

Father Yeghia Hairabedian (1953 - 2019)

Archpriest Fr. Yeghia Daniel Hairabedian, parish priest of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church in Fowler California, passed away on Thursday, August 8, 2019 at the age of 66. Following in his parents’ footsteps, Fr. Yeghia dedicated his life to serving the Lord.

Born as Daniel Kerukian on April 13, 1953 in Beirut, Lebanon, Daniel and his family moved to America and changed their family name to Hairabedian in 1959. Before entering the priesthood, Fr. Yeghia and his family organized bible study and prayer groups in their communities while living in the Midwest and Los Angeles, CA. Fr. Yeghia attended L.I.F.E. Christian College in Los Angeles and received a B.A. in Religious Education in 1981.

On August 4, 1984, Fr. Yeghia married Roberta Adams at the
St. Paul Armenian Church in Fresno, CA, a marriage which was blessed with two children, Rakel Ani and Daniel Russell. After marriage, Fr. Yeghia and Yeretzgin (Yn.) Roberta moved to Chicago, IL to enter the Seabury Western Theological Seminary where he graduated with a Master of Theological Studies in 1988. In the same year he was ordained as a priest of the Armenian Orthodox Church by then primate, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian. Fr. Yeghia’s parishes include Holy Martyrs in Bayside, NY; St. Stepanos in Elberon, NJ; St. James in Sacramento, CA; and St. Gregory in Fowler, CA.

Fr. Yeghia’s pastoral works were a continuation of the ministry he led with both of his parents. He continued the “Renewal in Christ” family ministry which his father founded in 1968. Fr. Yeghia wrote and distributed hundreds of thousands of booklets across the United States and Armenia in the “Renewal in Christ” name.

Fr. Yeghia was preceded in death by his parents, Archpriest Fr. Krikor and Yn. Sara Hairabedian; and brothers-in-law, Valer Oganessian and Gregory Megurian. Fr. Yeghia is survived by his wife, Yn. Roberta; daughter, Rakel; son, Daniel and his wife, Mikelle; sisters, Claire, Rose, Maral, Ruth and her husband, Tony Markarian, and their families.

Knights of Vartan services were conducted by the Avak Tivan on Monday August 19 with 100 members in attendance.

The Divine Liturgy and the final anointing was conducted by Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese at St. Paul Armenian Church in Fresno California on Tuesday, August 20, 2019. May God bless the memory of His faithful servant.

Marjie Sarkesian (1922 - 2019)

Marjie Sarkesian was born in Detroit, Michigan and passed away in Palm Desert, California. She was the daughter of David and Mary Chorluian, who both immigrated to United States from Armenia. She was the eldest of four children, along with her brothers Barkev and Burt and sister Dolly. Her father David was the Executive Chef of the Tuller Hotel in Detroit, and her mother was a homemaker. Marjie’s mother died at the young age of 32 and Marjie, then age 10, became a de facto mother to her younger brothers and sister.

Even though her young life was not easy, she still found time to enjoy life. While she was in Business College, she played baseball (they called it baseball in those days, not softball) on an amateur baseball team. Her position was second base which as a left hander was very rare because of the awkwardness of throwing a baseball from that location. In time she became the manager of the team and a lifetime baseball fan and sports fan, with the Dodgers and UCLA as her favorite teams.

In 1942, Marjie married Prince Sarkesian in Detroit, Michigan. A few months after their wedding, Prince was drafted and sent overseas for the D-Day invasion during World War II. In 1943 while Prince was at war, Marjie gave birth to her son, Ronald and four years later, Lynda, her daughter was born. In 1948, they moved to Valley Village, California. Prince passed away in 1981 and her son Ron passed away in 2008. Marjie is survived by her daughter, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Marjie was a constant volunteer. She was very active at St. Peter Armenian church and worked hard in the St. Peter Ladies Society. She was also an active member in the Daughters of Vartan Gayane Otyag and served as Dirouhie. She was a member of the Valley Guild of Ararat Home and volunteered there every week as a receptionist. For her family, she was the consummate grandma, always babysitting and helping her children whenever they needed her.

Marjie loved God and she loved her country. She was proud to be an American and she used to say that she was a Christian first, an American second, a Republican third and an Armenian fourth. She was very politically involved, belonged to The Republican Women of Encino and always did her civic duty in voting in every election and serving on juries. During elections she would volunteer at the local, county, state and federal election boards, and even assisted every decade in the census count.

To sum up, Marjie was a strong independent woman with a great - and often sarcastic - sense of humor. She loved her family, she sacrificed for her family, she loved her country and her faith in the Lord sustained her throughout her life. She was blessed with a long and enriching life that crossed multiple generations. We loved her dearly and will always miss her.

Marjie Sarkesian was a marriage which was blessed with two children, Rakel Ani and Daniel Russell. After marriage, Fr. Yeghia and Yeretzgin (Yn.) Roberta moved to Chicago, IL to enter the Seabury Western Theological Seminary where he graduated with a Master of Theological Studies in 1988. In the same year he was ordained as a priest of the Armenian Orthodox Church by then primate, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian. Fr. Yeghia’s parishes include Holy Martyrs in Bayside, NY; St. Stepanos in Elberon, NJ; St. James in Sacramento, CA; and St. Gregory in Fowler, CA.

Fr. Yeghia’s pastoral works were a continuation of the ministry he led with both of his parents. He continued the “Renewal in Christ” family ministry which his father founded in 1968. Fr. Yeghia wrote and distributed hundreds of thousands of booklets across the United States and Armenia in the “Renewal in Christ” name.

Fr. Yeghia was preceded in death by his parents, Archpriest Fr. Krikor and Yn. Sara Hairabedian; and brothers-in-law, Valer Oganessian and Gregory Megurian. Fr. Yeghia is survived by his wife, Yn. Roberta; daughter, Rakel; son, Daniel and his wife, Mikelle; sisters, Claire, Rose, Maral, Ruth and her husband, Tony Markarian, and their families.

Knights of Vartan services were conducted by the Avak Tivan on Monday August 19 with 100 members in attendance.

The Divine Liturgy and the final anointing was conducted by Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese at St. Paul Armenian Church in Fresno California on Tuesday, August 20, 2019. May God bless the memory of His faithful servant.

Marjie Sarkesian (1922 - 2019)

Marjie Sarkesian was born in Detroit, Michigan and passed away in Palm Desert, California. She was the daughter of David and Mary Chorluian, who both immigrated to United States from Armenia. She was the eldest of four children, along with her brothers Barkev and Burt and sister Dolly. Her father David was the Executive Chef of the Tuller Hotel in Detroit, and her mother was a homemaker. Marjie’s mother died at the young age of 32 and Marjie, then age 10, became a de facto mother to her younger brothers and sister.

Even though her young life was not easy, she still found time to enjoy life. While she was in Business College, she played baseball (they called it baseball in those days, not softball) on an amateur baseball team. Her position was second base which as a left hander was very rare because of the awkwardness of throwing a baseball from that location. In time she became the manager of the team and a lifetime baseball fan and sports fan, with the Dodgers and UCLA as her favorite teams.

In 1942, Marjie married Prince Sarkesian in Detroit, Michigan. A few months after their wedding, Prince was drafted and sent overseas for the D-Day invasion during World War II. In 1943 while Prince was at war, Marjie gave birth to her son, Ronald and four years later, Lynda, her daughter was born. In 1948, they moved to Valley Village, California. Prince passed away in 1981 and her son Ron passed away in 2008. Marjie is survived by her daughter, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Marjie was a constant volunteer. She was very active at St. Peter Armenian church and worked hard in the St. Peter Ladies Society. She was also an active member in the Daughters of Vartan Gayane Otyag and served as Dirouhie. She was a member of the Valley Guild of Ararat Home and volunteered there every week as a receptionist. For her family, she was the consummate grandma, always babysitting and helping her children whenever they needed her.

Marjie loved God and she loved her country. She was proud to be an American and she used to say that she was a Christian first, an American second, a Republican third and an Armenian fourth. She was very politically involved, belonged to The Republican Women of Encino and always did her civic duty in voting in every election and serving on juries. During elections she would volunteer at the local, county, state and federal election boards, and even assisted every decade in the census count.

To sum up, Marjie was a strong independent woman with a great - and often sarcastic - sense of humor. She loved her family, she sacrificed for her family, she loved her country and her faith in the Lord sustained her throughout her life. She was blessed with a long and enriching life that crossed multiple generations. We loved her dearly and will always miss her.

In the path of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death.

Proverbs 12:28
Save the Date
Grand Convocation
July 14-19, 2020
Los Angeles, CA