Մ. ԼՈՒՄԱՒՈՐԻՉ ՀԱՅՑ. ԱՌԱՔԵԼԱԿԱՆ ՄԱՅՐ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ ՆԻՒ ԵՈՐՔ

ST. ILLUMINATOR'S ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CATHEDRAL NEW YORK, NY

E-NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2012

REV. FR. MESROB LAKISSIAN, PASTOR



St. Illuminator Cathedral's Christmas Tree

221 East 27th Street, New York, NY 10016 Tel: 212-689-5880 Fax: 212-889-1174 E-Mail: office@stilluminators.org Website: www.stilluminators.org

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2012

A VERY BUSY DAY AT THE ST. ILLUMINATOR'S CATHEDRAL Divine Liturgy, Santa's visit, Ladies Guild Christmas Bazaar and Ambassador's visit



Sunday school students help the Ladies Guild



Community enjoys shopping and supporting their church



Children are waiting for Santa's arrival



Santa gave each child a special gift



Students are making Christmas crafts



Children are opening their gifts

ԵԵԼԵՑԵՄ ՄՍՋ ՄԱԾ ՄԱՐՄԵՐ ՎՈՂԵՆՔ ՄԱՀՄՆ ՀԱՆ ՀԵՖԸՐՆ ԱՅՑԵԼԵՑ Մ. Լ. Լ. ԱՌԴԱՄ ԵՎԻՐԵՑԻ



Archbishop Oshagan presents a book "Yergir" to the Ambassador

Արեւելեան Թեմի Առաջնորդ՝ Բարձ. Տ. Օշական Արբ. Չօլոլեանի հրաւէրով, Հայաստանի մօտ Միացեալ Նահանգներու Դեսպան ճան Հեֆրըն այցելեց Առաջնորդանիստ Ս. Լուսաւորիչ Մայր Եկեղեցի։ Դեսպանին կ՛րնկերանային իր տիկինը՝ Լիպի եւ Դեսպանի օգնական՝ Ճեֆրի Բարեջան։ Եկեղեցյու ճան Փաշալեան սրահին մէջ տեղի ունեցաւ ժողովրդային հանդիպում։ Առաջնորդ Սրբազան Հայրը իր բացման խօսքով նախ յարգեց Sandy Hook Վարժարանի ողբերգական դէպքի անմեղ զոհերու լիշատակը եւ ապա բարի մաոթեզ հիւրերուն։ Onnuuû գալուստ հանդիսավարն էր Ugguijhû Վարչութեան ատենապետ՝ Ստեփան Յակոբեան։

TOWN HALL MEETING WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR

The United States Ambassador to Armenia, John A. Heffern, was hosted by Archbishop Oshagan and the Prelacy at a Town Hall Meeting on Sunday evening, December 16, at St. Illuminator's Cathedral. The Ambassador was accompanied by his wife Libby and Jeffrey Paretchan, USAID Armenia Public Private Alliance Specialist and Diaspora Outreach Coordinator. A large group of community leaders had gathered for the Town Hall Meeting.

Archbishop Oshagan opened the meeting with a prayer and asked everyone to remain standing for a minute of silence in remembrance of the tragic loss of lives in Newtown, Connecticut.

Stephen Hagopian, chairman of the Executive Council, served as the Master of Ceremonies and introduced Ambassador Heffern.

Ambassador Heffern presented the Embassy's mission in Armenia with a slide-show presentation.

The Q&A period that went one-half hour beyond the allotted one hour, continued individually during the reception that followed hosted by the Cathedral.



Rev. Mesrob Lakissian, Ambassador John Heffern and Christopher Parnagian, Esq.



Community members filled Pashalian Hall to hear the Ambassador's message

CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR SENIOR CITIZENS OF ST. ILLUMINATOR'S CATHEDRAL

Rev. Fr. Mesrob Lakissian joined with the senior citizens group of St. Illuminator's Cathedral to celebrate Christmas on Tuesday, December 18. Der Mesrob performed a short service at the church, followed by Christmas party with the seniors and wished them good health and happiness. Seniors received Christmas gifts from Santa.



Seniors are praying



Rev. Fr. Mesrob Lakissian with the senior citizens during the Christmas party

EXPLORING THE EUCHARIST (Soorp Badarak)

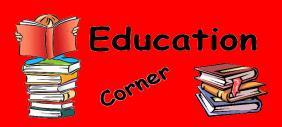
The last of a four-part program on the Eucharist (Soorp Badarak) was held on Wednesday, December 19, at St. Illuminator's Cathedral in New York City, under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Mesrob Lakissian, pastor. The program was cosponsored by the Prelacy's Armenian Religious Education Council (AREC) and the Cathedral. The speaker of the series was AREC's director Dn. Shant Kazanjian.

Dn. Shant first discussed what biblical vision of worship is, highlighting its basic assumptions, contents, vocabulary, images and symbolic language. He then presented the origin and history of the Soorp Badarak, the central act of Christian worship, as well as its two-part structure – the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The bulk of the program was to walk the participants through the service, step-by-step, facilitated by a Badarak video and a detailed outline of the Badarak cross-referenced to the Prelacy's Badarak book, explaining various elements, prayers and chants, as well as liturgical actions and symbols.





The participants of the four-part program on the Eucharist



CHRISTMAS: DECEMBER 25 OR JANUARY 6?

This Tuesday, December 25, most of the Christian world will celebrate the birth of Christ. Originally all of Christendom celebrated the birth, baptism, visit of the Magi, and First Miracle at the Wedding of Cana, on January 6.

Rome adopted December 25 in the year 336, and this date gradually became popular and December 25 was officially adopted as the birth of Christ at the Council of Chalcedon (451)—a Council the Armenians did not attend and never accepted. Therefore, the Armenian Church has remained faithful to the original date of January 6.

The first clear reference to Christians celebrating the Epiphany on January 6 can be found in the writings of Clement of Alexandria (c. 150-216), who refers to Christians who celebrate both the Birth of Christ and His Baptism on January 6.

Of course, the actual date of Jesus' birth is unknown and both traditions are centuries old. What are important are the spirit and the meaning of the Nativity. So, we Armenians are lucky to have two Christmas's to celebrate. And as one old-timer said to me many years ago, "Our Lord deserves to have two birthday celebrations."

Armenian-American households may exchange Christmas gifts on December 25, since it is the custom in American society to do so. In traditional Armenian circles gifts were exchanged on January 1, which is not a day of religious significance. Replacing that tradition with a gift exchange on December 25 is not a major deviation, since the January 1 is only a few hundred years old and is taken from the West. As in American society, Armenian families may have their reunions and dinners on December 25. In some of our churches in the United States it has become traditional to hold the feast of St. Stephen the Proto-martyr on Christmas Eve (December 24), though that feast is movable and may not always fall on December 24.

TWENTY CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS HAVE BEEN DONATED BY

Mr. & Mrs. MIHRAN and SALPI GHARIBIAN



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2012

Ե. ԿԻՐԱԿԻ ՅԻՄՆԱԿԻ

ԱՒԵՏԱՐԱՆ ԸՍՏ ՂՈՒԿԱՍՈՒ (18:9-14)

Այս առակն ալ պատմեց անոնց, որոնք իրենք իրենց համար այն համարումը ունէին թէ արդար են եւ ուրիշները կ՛արհամարհէին։ -"Երկու հոգի տաճար գացին աղօթելու. մէկը Փարիսեցի, միւսը՝ մաքսաւոր։ Փարիսեցին մէկ կողմ կեցած՝ ինքնիրեն կ՛աղօթէր. «Աստուած իմ, շնորհակալ եմ քեզմէ՝ որ ուրիշ մարդոց նման՝ յափշտակող, անիրաւ, շնացող չեմ, կամ այս մաքսաւորին պէս ալ չեմ։ Այլ՝ շաբաթը երկու անգամ ծոմ կը պահեմ եւ ամբողջ եկամուտիս տասանորդը տաճարին կու տամ»։ Իսկ մաքսաւորը հեռուն կեցած, աչքերը առանց վեր բարձրացնելու՝ կուրծքը կր ծեծէր եւ կ՛րսէր. «Աստուա՜ ծ, ներէ՛ մեղաւորիս մեղքերը»։

"Կ'ըսեմ ձեզի"- եզրակացուց Յիսուս, "մաքսաւորն է որ արդարացած տուն գնաց, եւ ոչ թէ Փարիսեցին. որովհետեւ ով որ իր անձր կր բարձրացնէ՝ պիտի խոնարհի, եւ ով որ իր անձր խոնարհեցնէ՝ պիտի բարձրանայ"։

ፕՇ. ԸՆԹԵՐՑՈՒՄ

Ես. 40:18-31 **Երր.** 4:16-5:10

FIFTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE (18:9-14)

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

"I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

BIBLE READINGS

Is. 40: 18-31 Heb. 4: 16-5:10



Ms. Marine Mussaian, born on June 28, 1926 in Romania, passed away on December 11, 2012 at the age of 86. Funeral services took place at the Glascott Funeral Home. Interment service was held at the All Saints Cemetery, Great Neck, NY, on December 17, 2012.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to her family.

Asdvatz hokeen lousavoreh. May God illuminate her soul.

Mr. Zaven Antonyan, born on April 16, 1960 in Yerevan, Armenia, passed away on December 17, 2012 at the age of 52. Funeral services took place at the Lisovetsky Memorial Home, Brooklyn, NY. Interment service was held at the Ocean View Cemetery, Staten Island, NY, on December 19, 2012.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife Marina and children Arsen and Ani.

Asdvatz hokeen lousavoreh. May God illuminate his soul.



GRIEVING FOR THE TRAGIC LOSS IN CONNECTICUT

The news came in bits and pieces last Friday morning about the unspeakable horror at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, a small bucolic town that suddenly became international news.

The loss of life through violence is tragic in every sense, but when the victims are six, seven, and eight—year olds, whose parents took them to school in the morning never to see them alive again, the outrage and grief is overwhelming. Misinformation and rumors circulated on news outlets and the internet before the awful truth was confirmed: 20 children and seven adults dead.

There is no way to make sense of this tragedy. There are no words in any language that can comfort those parents who lost their precious children. We can only pray that our Lord and Savior will heal the hearts that are broken and bless those who mourn.

Armenian Prelacy – "Crossroads"



Requested by:

Pastor and Board of Trustees of St. Illuminator's Catheral In memory of

ZOHRAB GORGINIAN – 2nd Anniversary

Requested by:

Mr. Sarkis Sarkissian In memory of his beloved mother

YOUHAPER HAZAROSSIAN – 3rd Anniversary

Requested by:

Mrs. Irma Topsakalian

Mr. & Mrs. Haoutiun and Kelly Topsakalian and daughter Karine

In memory of their beloved husband, father and grandfather

ATANAGHINE TOPSAKALIAN – 5th Anniversary

Also in memory of their beloved relatives

ARTIN, VARTUHI, ZACAR, LEVON TOPSAKALIAN AHAVNI, AVEDIS, LORANCE, MAXUD KRIKORIAN

KEVORK, HERMINE, ZAVEN, DESKOON and AVEDIS BOIAGIAN

Requested by:

Mrs. Anais Tcholakian and children Jirair, Hury, Hrair and grandchildren In memory of their beloved husband, father and grandfather

AVEDIS TCHOLAKIAN – 13th Anniversary

Also in memory of their beloved parents, grandparents and great grandparents

MIHRAN & SHAHANIG MELEKIAN

Requested by:

Mrs. Nelly Aprahamian

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Aprahamian and sons

In memory of their beloved husband, father and grandfather

APRAHAM APRAHAMIAN – 32nd Anniversary

In memory of their beloved parents, grandparents and great grandparents

SAHAG & ANNIG APRAHAMIAN

FROM CATHEDRAL'S MAIL BOX



Դեկտեմբեր 6, 2012

Արժանապատիւ Տ. Մեսրոպ Քինյ. Լագիսեան Հոգեւոր Հովիւ Ս. Լուսաւորիչ Մայր Եկեղեցւոյ

Սիրելի Տէր Հայր,

Հայ Օգնութեան Միութեան «Մայր» Մասնաճիւղի Վարչութեան եւ բոլոր անդամուհիներուն անունով, հաճեցէք ընդունիլ մեր յատուկ շնորհակալութեան եւ խոր գնահատանքի խօսքը՝ որ Ձեր ներկայութեամբ յատուկ փայլք տուիք, Դեկտեմբեր 2, 2012 Միութեանս կազմակերպած ճաշկերոյթին, «Պիպլօս» ճաշարանին մէջ, Մանհադան, ի նպաստ Սուրիահայութեան։

Այստեղ կ՛ուզենք շեշտել եւ մեծապէս շնորհակալութիւն յայտնել Ձեր նուիրած սքանչելի նուէրին` Հայոց Ցեղասպանութեան զոհերու յիշատակին կառուցուած Անթիլիասի Մատրան կոթողը (փոքրիկ արձան), վիճակահանութեան համար:

Լաւագոյն մաղթանքներով`

Հայ Օգնութեան Միութեան «Մայր» Մասնաճիւղի Վարչութիւն

December 12, 2012

Dear Rev. Fr. Mesrob Lakissian, Pastor

Thank you so much for giving us such a beautiful wedding service on Saturday, December 8. It was truly moving ceremony for both of us as well as for our families and friends.

We look forward to seeing you at the Cathedral soon.

Merry Christmas to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Viken and Sabine Kaloutian

ՀԱՂՈՐԴԱԳՐՈՒԹԻՒՆ

Սուրբ Լուսաւորիչ Հայկական Շաբաթօրեայ Վարժարան 69-23 47th Ave., Woodside, NY 11377 Թղթատարական հասցէ` 221 E. 27th St. New York, NY 10016 Ելեկտրոնային հասցէ` satarmenianschool@gmail.com Հեռաձայն` (212) 689-5880

Բացում՝ Սուրբ Լուսաւորիչ Մայր Եկեղեցւոյ Շաբաթօրեայ Վարժարանի

ՆԻՒ ԵՈՐՔ- Սուրբ Լուսաւորիչ Մայր Եկեղեցին վերջերս հաղորդած է, որ Սբ. Լուսաւորիչ Շաբաթօրեայ Վարժարանը իր դոները պիտի բանայ Նիւ Եորքի Քուինզ շրջանին մէջ, Յունուար 12-էն մինչեւ Մայիսի 18, 2013-ը, առաւօտեան ժամը 9:45-էն մինչեւ 1:00:

Վարժարանին յանձնախումբը յայտարարած է, թէ Սբ. Լուսաւորիչ Շաբաթօրեայ Վարժարանին հիմնական նպատակն է հայ մանուկներուն ու պատանիներուն փոխանցել իրենց մայրենի լեզուն, պատմութիւնն ու մշակոյթը, ինչպէս եւ զանոնք քով-քովի բերել իրենց տարեկիցներուն հետ` իրենց արմատներուն կառչած պահելու համար։ Մանկավարժական ժամանակակից մօտեցումով կազմուած ծրագիրը պիտի աշխատի հայ աշակերտը ընտելացնել իր մայրենի լեզուին, երաժշտութեան, պարին, արուեստին ու պատմութեան։

Արձանագրութիւնները արդէն իսկ սկսած են։ <mark>Հարցաթերթիկներ եւ այլ տեղեկութիւններ ստանալու համար հետեւեալ</mark> հասցէներէն ոեւէ մէկուն կարելի է դիմել.

ե-նամակով` <u>satarmenianschool@gmail.com</u> համացանցի հասցէով` <u>www.stilluminators.org</u> ֆէլսպուքով` www.facebook.com/StilluminatorsSatSchool.

Նաեւ կարելի է դիմել` Մբ. Լուսաւորիչ Մայր Եկեղեցւոյ գրասենեակ։

ANNOUNCEMENT

St. Illuminator's Armenian Saturday School 69-23 47th Ave., Woodside, NY 11377 Mailing Address: 221 E. 27th St. New York, NY 10016 E-mail: satarmenianschool@gmail.com

Phone: (212) 689-5880

St. Illuminator's Cathedral to Launch New Armenian Saturday School Program

NEW YORK—The St. Illuminator's Armenian Apostolic Cathedral recently announced the launch of a new Armenian Saturday School program to be held in Queens, New York. The school will open its doors beginning January 12, 2013 and run on Saturdays from 9:45-1:00 pm until May 18, 2013.

The organizing committee announced in the mission statement that the school's primary goal is "To teach Armenian language, history, and culture." It further states that through a "nurturing environment children will meet Armenian friends and stay close to their roots." A fresh new approach will be used to present a curriculum that aims to inspire students by giving them the core skills in the Armenian language, enhanced by special subjects like art, music, and dance that will also be taught in Armenian.

Registration is now open on a first come, first serve basis. Forms and more information can be obtained by emailing satarmenianschool@gmail.com or downloading forms from www.stilluminators.org or www.facebook.com/StilluminatorsSatSchool. Hard copies are also available at the St. Illuminator's Armenian Apostolic Cathedral office.

MARATHON WOMAN AIDS DIVERSE CHARITIES



From left to right: Makrouhi Kalayjian, Magardich Nercessian, Anahid Ugurlayan, Stepan Ipekian, and Manoug Hazarian

By Tom Vartabedian

Jackson Heights, NY --- Anahid Ugurlayan is not your typical marathoner.

The more she runs, the better it gets for American and Armenian charities both here and abroad.

Of the eight marathons she has entered and completed, the endurance specialist has collected a grand total of \$20,232.40. For those unfamiliar with the distance, a marathon covers 26 miles, 385 yards and received its origin in the 1890s. More than 500 marathons take place annually throughout the world.

Ugurlayan runs her races, not particularly for self-merit and pride. She looks to create a better society for those in need. No doubt, her cheering section at each event reflects high esteem and passion for the sport.

"The first time I ran track was in college," she recalls. "I did the sprints because distance running didn't appeal to me. I started running after my grandmother passed away. Her death devastated me and running was a great stress release. I'd watch marathons on TV and thought it would be fun."

She entered three races and was rejected each time, finally qualifying in 2005. Her goal isn't to win, but to break 5 hours and raise a respectable sum of money for a mission. The training can be chaotic but like any challenge, Ugurlayan tends to persevere.

"I prefer training alone," she says. "Your life sometimes revolves around your workouts. It's 3-4 months of constant training leading up to a marathon. I know of other Armenian runners, some of whom are my friends, who are marathoners and do it for charity. It's taken me to other parts of the world."

Her first two were the prestigious New York City Marathon, joining some of the world's elite looking for Olympic status. She's done five others in the Hamptons and in 2008, ran the Paris Marathon, pushing herself over the brink after insufficient training.

Here are her accomplishments: ARS Mother & Child Clinic and FAR Children's Center in Yerevan, \$5,500; St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, \$2,000; Make It Right (Brad Pitt's foundation to rebuild homes in New Orleans), \$1,300; Armenia Fund's Elderly Home in Yerevan, \$4,000; Joyful Heart Foundation (actress Mariska Hargitay's foundation to help victims of domestic violence), \$550; Tufenkian's School in Aragamough, Karabagh and Armenia Fund's Elderly Home in Yerevan, \$2,500; American Cancer Society, \$1,200, and ARS Sosseh Kindergarten and FAR soup kitchens, \$3,182.40, which took place in September.

Her selected charities are not without reason. Twice she has run for FAR (Fund for Armenian Relief) and the Armenian Relief Society of which she's been an active member since 1996. After visiting soup kitchens in Gyumri and the Sosseh Kindergarten in Medz Tagher (Hadrut Region), she answered an urgent appeal for help.

In total, some 65 children and 11 supervisors at the Sosseh Kindergarten benefit from her run and the work being performed there by the ARS since 2000.

Ugurlayan maintains her own strategy for completing the distance. She keeps a steady pace until the last six miles, then guts it out with a spiritual focus, reciting mantras, encouraging phrases, prayers and whatever else it takes in getting her wilted body to the end.

"I don't run with music anymore but I have a mental soundtrack of great music," she confirms. "Throughout my run, I always think of my guardian angels who keep me going and the charities for which I am running. Sometimes, you get sidetracked by the pain you are experiencing."

In 2006, a troubled knee raised havoc toward the end but like all the others, she managed to finish.

"I was running for St. Jude's Hospital and I had on my St. Jude's shirt," recalled Ugurlayan. "Others along the way noticed the anguished look on my face and shouted words of encouragement. That was all the inspiration I needed to hear."

Ugurlayan is an ARS member by design, taking after her mom, Makrouhi Kalayjian. Both are members of the Mayr Chapter and involved with humanitarian work, especially with issues relating to women and children. Anahid attended her first ARS Eastern Region Convention this summer in Florida and involved herself with the discussions.

She was born and raised in Jackson Heights, coming from a Romanian lineage and a family of genocide survivors. Her scholastic merits are equally as noticeable.

Ugurlayan graduated magna cum laude from Hamilton College with a degree in World Politics and France, then secured a law degree from Hofstra University. She worked at the National Advertising Division of the Advertising Self-Regulatory Council (NAD). Her assigned area was arbitration and advertising law, settling false advertising disputes.

She is currently involved with the New York City Bar Association, chairing the Consumers Affairs Committee, along with various other associations connected with her practice, particularly with women's issues.

She sings with the choir at St. Illuminator's Armenian Apostolic Cathedral and remains actively involved with the Armenian National Committee of New York.

Taking it all in stride, Ugurlayan looks to her grandmother's words in guiding her toward the Promised Land.

"She always told me there's no such thing as 'I can't' but only 'I don't want to.' I think everyone should challenge themselves to perform an act that seems impossible," says Ugurlayan. "It doesn't have to be a marathon, but something that gives you an indescribable feeling of satisfaction. Push yourself to the limit and you'll be amazed at what you can accomplish."

As for future marathons, Ugurlayan plans on continuing her quest with regularity, meeting her many missions with each step she takes --- through snow or the blistering heat.

"I love hearing stories about elderly marathoners," she notes. "I hope that's me some day, running with (or after) my grandkids."

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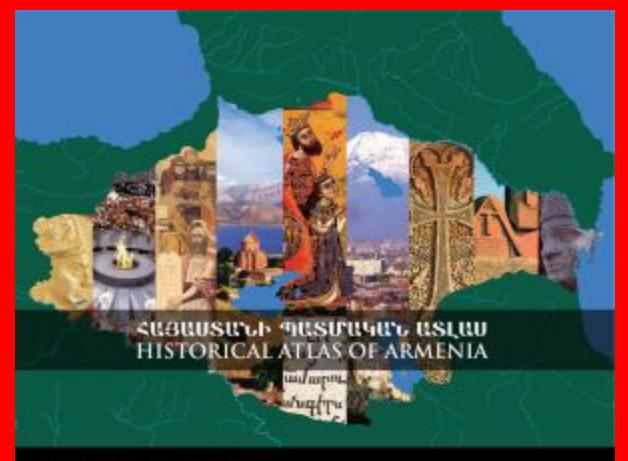
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