



Armenian Cultural Conservancy NEWSLETTER

Editor's Reflections

by Mary Mirigian Ekmalian

Thank you one and all for making the Second Annual Banquet of the Armenian Cultural Conservancy in September at Fresno City College another success. (See the Jendians' article for details and our website for photographs and video.) The Third Annual Banquet has been set for September 8, 2018, at Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church. Save the date.



During the month of November the ACC sponsored a David of Sassoun display at the Library and would like to thank the following for loaning items for display: Armenian-American Citizens' League, Armenian Studies Program, Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School Library, Zar Der Mgrdechian, Vartuhi Diarian, Margarit Dumanyan, Alain Ekmalian, Joyce Kierjczyk, and Jane Knar Lanas. We have reserved another display case for the month of April. Anyone interested in being part of this project is encouraged to contact the Conservancy.

The Christmas season is here and everyone is having a celebration, including the Armenian Cultural Conservancy. We will be blessed to have Very Rev. Dajad Ashegian as a guest to speak about Armenian Christmas on Tuesday, December 19th, 6:30 p.m., at the Woodward Park Library. Please join us for an evening of Christmas cheer and chatter. For those of you who missed the David of Sassoun display, we will have some of the items on exhibit.

We plan on bringing in the new year with a baking demonstration and tea on Saturday, January 20, at Holy Trinity Church Hall. Jane Gamoian has graciously agreed to demonstrate how to make the delicate pastry bourma, which will be followed by a light lunch and, of course, bourma for dessert. A special invitation will be sent separately.

While we will continue to have the ever popular movie nights, we must also focus on our goals for 2018. Take it away, Charles....

continued on back page



PHOTO BY ALAIN EKMALIAN

Phil and Andrea Sweet and Hilda Barrett admiring the Hye Service Award.

Adishian Salutes the Collective Endeavor of the Conservancy at its Annual Banquet

By Allan and Rosemary Jendian

The historic "Old Administration Building" of the Fresno City College was the setting of the Second Annual Banquet of California's Central Valley Armenian Cultural Conservancy on Saturday, September 23, 2017, as guests gathered to celebrate the past year's accomplishments while also looking forward to its future potential. Preceding dinner, guests and community leaders enjoyed a lavish mezze table and wine as they shared in fellowship with a spirit of possibilities.

Archpriest Fr. Vartan Kasparian, Badveli Ara Guekguezian, and Badveli Greg Haroutunian graced the event with their presence, and Der Vartan and Badveli Ara offered the invocation and benediction, respectively.

Michael Rettig, a graduate student and Hye Sharzhoom editor at California State University, Fresno, skillfully served as Master of Ceremony, and acknowledged guests, ACC committee members and the keynote speaker. As a student of History, while working on his Master's Thesis, he conveyed the first-hand experience of curating boxes of family treasures and emphasized "the importance of a place of repository for such items, especially when material is either lost or thrown away in cases

continued on page 2

Annual Banquet

Continued from page 1

where there is not an interested family member. While we may not guarantee that our children and grandchildren will be interested in their heritage, we can ensure that there are institutions in place such as the ACC for those who are motivated and curious to engage with their history." He invited the community to unite in furthering the Conservancy's purpose and mission "To collect, preserve and interpret the evidence of the Armenian experience in Central California."

Co-Chair Charles Barrett presented the ACC's "Hye Service Award," a special tribute, to Linda Hamilton for her unwavering dedication to the Conservancy as a founding member, serving as secretary/treasurer, and for providing an office for the Conservancy. Along with several notables in the community, she has been a constant advocate for the preservation of ethnic heritage - Armenian and other backgrounds - throughout the City of Fresno.

Rettig's introduction of Lena Maranian Adishian, Founder of The 100 Years, 100 Facts Project, highlighted the trajectory of her on-line initiative that evolved into the two-run print publication of the companion book she co-authored with photographer Nareg Seferian - which recently became a recipient of the International Rubery Book Award: "Impact of An Ancient Nation: Bridging the Past, Present, and Future with 100+ Facts About Armenia and Armenians."

Our guest speaker related an example of Armenians contributing to the Central Valley and its impact on others for generations. Adishian shared this personal story: "During a chat with a fellow mom at my child's pre-school in Redondo Beach, she told me that her 'grandmother and several Japanese families farmed in Reedley among Armenian neighbors who even taught them how to make dolma. When the U.S. Government rounded up Japanese-Americans during World War II, her grandmother's family had to leave their home and was placed in an internment camp.' She went on to say that 'their Armenian neighbors took care of the farm for them until they were able to return two years later' and added, 'we will always remember our Armenian family friends with gratitude and appreciation.'" Adishian stated, "Stories like this remind us all of the deep ties, the immense



Linda Hamilton accepting her Hye Service Award from Co-Chair Charles Barrett



Chris and Lena Adishian, Fr. Vartan Kasparian, Dn. Allan Jendian and Congressman Jim Costa at book signing.



Master of Ceremony
Michael Rettig

ALL PHOTOS BY
ALAIN EKMALIAN

contribution, and the heart that Armenians have given in the Central Valley. It is so important to preserve these types of stories for our future generations and for there to be a place designated for these stories to live, to be shared, and to be learned." She commended those present for their support of the Armenian Cultural Conservancy which represents a collective endeavor toward an enduring institution of learning. "The Armenian footprint in the Central Valley has made a deep and positive impact since the 1890s. While the Armenian legacy lives on in us as individuals, it also lives on in our institutions to preserve our cultural heritage. I know the Conservancy will showcase that legacy for posterity."

Both Rettig and Maranian-Adishian, the grandchildren of genocide survivors, agree that the Conservancy will be a valuable receptacle from which young Armenians, as well as community members at large, can learn more about their identity and also explore the richness that an ancient heritage has to offer in today's modern world.

The second annual banquet of the Armenian Cultural Conservancy was

co-sponsored by the Foreign Language Department of FCC and Heritage Fresno.

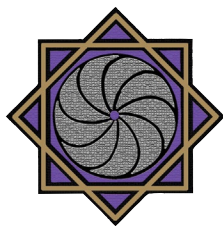
The Educational Employees Credit Union and the Daughters of Vartan - Fresno Alidz Chapter were major Corporate Sponsors; and Banquet Sponsors included: Midge & Charles Barrett, Mary & Alain Ekmalian, Edward V. Hagopian & Raffi Dorian, Margaret & Paul Hokokian, Edward M. Kashian, Sue & Mike Kilijian, Lee & Don Leone (In Memory of Brother Vartan Torosian), Arpeni Mirigian, Walter Vosganian and the National Raisin Company.

ACC's committee members are: Chuck and Midge Barrett, co-chairs; Linda Hamilton, treasurer; Gary Becker, secretary; Mike Kilijian, banquet chair; Dn. Allan Y. Jendian, program and public relations; Mary Ekmalian, newsletter editor and invitations; Margaret Hokokian, membership and decorations; Helen Moordigian, decorations; Herb Arden, mailing; and Larry Johnson and Dn. Van Der Mugerdechian, website.

The reception committee and mezze contributors were Midge Barrett, Mary Ekmalian, Margaret Hokokian, Rosemary Jendian, Mike Kilijian, Helen Moordigian, Barbara Mortanian and Patty Torosian.

Fresno's Armenian Cultural Conservancy, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, community benefit organization, welcomes your membership. For further information call (559) 226-1984 or visit our website: armenianculturalconservancy.org.

To collect, preserve and interpret the evidence of the Armenian experience in Central California in an enduring institution of learning.



Armenian Cultural Conservancy Logo
The six- and eight-pointed stars have a long history in pre-Christian Armenia and have been adopted in Church architecture and decorative arts. They are thought to have magical powers and are used extensively in astronomy and sacred art. The logo's wheel of eternity signifies life; the eight-pointed star represents the eight architectural pillars of the Armenian Church; the color purple represents the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Genocide; the gold color is the richness of the Armenian culture.

This logo was created by Alain Ekmalian.

A special thank-you to Allan, Rosemary and Megan Jendian for their editorial assistance.

Armenian Cultural Conservancy
2930 North West Avenue
Fresno CA 93705-3901
559-226-1984

Community Calendar

Tue., Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m., Armenian Cultural Conservancy, Woodward Park Library, Guest Speaker, Very Rev. Fr. Dajad Ashekan, "Armenian Christmas," refreshments, free to the public, 559-261-1026.

Sun., Dec. 24, 5:30 p.m., St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church of Fowler, Christmas Eve Candle Light Service followed by potluck finger foods and desserts.

Sun., Dec. 31, 8:00 p.m., Armenian Cultural Foundation, New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance, Mezze, Dinner, Raffle, Santa, Adults \$50, Children 12 & under Free, Garo & Alice Gureghian Cultural Center, 2348 Ventura, Fresno, RSVP 559-341-3312.

Fri., Jan. 5, 2018, 5:00 p.m., Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church Christmas Eve Service, Jrakalouyts Badarak, Dinner at 7:00 p.m., Adults \$15, Under 12 \$7, RSVP 559-486-1141.

Fri., Jan. 5, 5:00 p.m., St. Paul Armenian Church Christmas Eve Service, Jrakalouyts Badarak & Blessing of Water, Dinner at 7:00 p.m., Adults \$15; Children 12 and under Free, RSVP 559-226-6343.

Sat., Jan. 6, 9:50 a.m., Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church Armenian Christmas Badarak & Blessing of Water.

Sat., Jan. 6, 6:30 p.m., Knights & Daughters of Vartan Annual Christmas Party, Mezze 6:30 p.m., Dinner at 7:00 p.m., St. Paul Haig Berberian Hall, Adults \$20, Children 12 and under \$10, RSVP 559-696-4298.

Sun., Jan. 7, 10:00 a.m., St. Paul Armenian Church Christmas Badarak & Distribution of Blessed Water, fellowship following services.

Sun., Jan. 7, 10:30 a.m., St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church of Fowler, Armenian Christmas Badarak & Blessing of Water, Christmas Banquet & Program following services.

Sun., Jan. 7, 10:00 a.m., Sts. Sahag-Mesrob Armenian Church of Reedley, Armenian Christmas Badarak & Blessing of Water, Fellowship following services.

Sun., Jan. 7, 10:30 a.m., St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettem, Armenian Christmas Badarak & Blessing of Water, Christmas Kebab Luncheon by Ways & Means following services.

Fri., Jan. 12, 9:00 a.m., Armenian Cultural Conservancy, breakfast business meeting, Eddie's Bakery, all members who would like to contribute are welcome, but call first because the location may change, 559-436-8338.

Sat., Jan. 20, 11:00 a.m., Armenian Cultural Conservancy, Winter Tea/Pastry Demonstration, Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, \$20, 559-261-1026, invitation to follow.

Sun., Jan. 21, 2:30 p.m., Holy Cross Armenian Church of Turlock, Armenian Christmas Celebration, Badarak & Blessing of Water, Fellowship following services, St. Francis Anglican Church of Turlock.

Sat., Jan. 27, 6:00 p.m., Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church Founder's Day Celebration, honoring founders and architect Richard Manoogian, guest speaker Dr. Victor Davis Hanson, Pardini's, \$75, RSVP 559-229-2915.

Thurs., Feb. 8, 6:00 p.m., Vartanantz Celebration, St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church in Fowler, with the participation of Valley Armenian Clergy, fellowship hosted by the Knights & Daughters of Vartan.

Fri., Feb. 9, 9:00 a.m., ACC business meeting, 559-436-8338.

Sun., Feb. 18, ARS, Mayr Chapter, Foul (Lebanese) Breakfast, Gureghian Armenian Cultural Center, Call 559-298-0445 for more information.

Tues., Mar. 6, 6:30 p.m., ACC Movie Night, Woodward Park Library.

Fri., Mar. 9, 9:00 a.m., ACC business meeting, 559-436-8338.

Sun., Mar. 11, Armenian Studies Program 30th Annual Banquet, Fort Washington Country Club.

Sun., April 1 thru April 30, Woodward Park Library, ACC Armenian display.

Fri., Apr. 13, 9:00 a.m., ACC business meeting. 559-436-8338.

Tues., April 24, Armenian Genocide Commemoration, Fresno State Genocide Monument.

Sat., Apr. 28, 6:00 p.m., Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School 40th Anniversary Gala Banquet, Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, 559-323-1955.

SAVE THE DATE – Sat., Sept. 8, 2018, ACC 3rd Annual Banquet, Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church.

A request to all Armenian community organizations – Please e-mail your events as soon as you set them to maryekmalian@att.net so they may be included in our next newsletter and our website.

Thank You to Our Recent Donors

Corporate Membership, \$1000
Educational Employees Credit Union

Conservator Membership, \$500

Charles & Midge Barrett
Alain & Mary Ekmalian
Edward Hagopian
Paul & Margaret Hokokian
Mike & Sue Kilijian
Arpeni Mirigian
National Raisin Company
Walter Vosganian

Benefactor Membership, \$250
Dr. Dennis & Rita Shamlian

Founding Membership, \$100
John & Linda Abdulian
Randy & Mary Baloian
Sahag & Mary Egoian
Rev. Ara Guekguezian
Linda Hamilton

Laura Jean Hawkins
Rev. Vartan & Danna Kasparian
Anton A. Kismetian
Robert & Jackie Manselian
Mark & Margaret Shirin
Barbara Vartan

Individual Membership
Elinor Chalekian
Elizabeth Derderian
Kristina Garabedian
Darlene Mickaels
Katherine Kevorkian
Stockdale

Student Membership
Alexander Hokokian

Other Donations
Charles & Midge Barrett
Pauline Basmagian
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Ensher
Dr. Matthew Ari Jendian

Please remember the ACC in your end-of-year giving.

Yes! I want to become a member of the Armenian Cultural Conservancy

- ☐ Student membership.....\$20
☐ Individual membership.....\$50
☐ Family membership.....\$75
☐ Founding membership.....\$100
☐ Benefactor membership.....\$250
☐ Conservator membership.....\$500+

All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

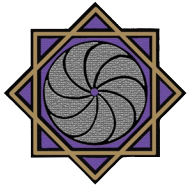
PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Please, make checks payable to Armenian Cultural Conservancy mail to: 2930 North West Avenue Fresno CA 93705-3901

You can help. Become a member. Spread the word. Host or assist with an event.

*"For when two of them meet anywhere in the world, see if they will not create a New Armenia."
– William Saroyan, 1936*



HERITAGE FRESNO

Armenian Cultural Conservancy

2930 North West Avenue
Fresno, California 93705-3901

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 174
Fresno CA

Continued from page 1

Looking to 2018

By Charles Barrett, ACC Co-Chair

You have frequently asked, "When will you be ready to accept my Armenian relics that I have been keeping for you?" We have not given you a date because we have yet to find a space suitable for housing and safeguarding these precious treasures. We need that spot and the volunteers to staff it. You are the key to making these things happen!

We have all heard of the "Fresno Grapevine." We know it works. Just think about it. This newsletter is being sent to over a thousand households. Just multiply the eyes and ears. One of you out there has a space, knows a friend, or has an idea about where we can start up in 2018.

There are also some other things to get done in 2018 as well. First, we must grow our organizing committee in order to reap the benefit of the amazing knowledge, talent, and experience in our Hye community. Then, finally, we must begin to place cultural and interpretive content on line – on our website – thus making it available to the public today. You can also help to make that happen.

In a sense, the ball is in your court. Think about what you can do to help the ACC start "stepping up our game." Let's make 2018 our year of progress. Those of you with a lead on space or other ideas, call Midge Barrett at 436-8338 or Mary Ekmalian at 261-1026 or attend one of our business meetings listed in the calendar.

Did you know?

Applications are now available for the **Armenian Assembly of America Internship Programs** in Washington, D.C., and Yerevan, Armenia. For more information go to www.armenian-assembly.org/students

Armenian-American Citizens' League scholarship applications are now available for high school seniors and college students of Armenian descent for the 2018-2019 school year. Deadline for receiving completed applications is April 15. Contact maryekmalian@att.net for an application.

The **Armenian Genocide Commemorative Committee Education Subcommittee** is seeking interested educators to be part of their committee for 2018. Please contact Zar at 559-431-5259 or dancing-zar@yahoo.com to be notified of the next meeting