



THE NEWS BULLETIN

the monthly publication
of the

ARMENIAN MARTYRS' CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA

(ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL UNION
OF NORTH AMERICA *and*
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST)

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**This issue is sponsored by the Momjian and Tchilinguirian families
in loving memory of parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents
JOHN & VIRGINIA REED**

The Many Names of Christ (author unknown)

To the ARTIST He is the One Altogether Lovely
To the ARCHITECT He is the Chief Cornerstone
To the BAKER He is the Living Bread
To the BANKER He is the Hidden Treasure
To the BIOLOGIST He is the Life
To the BUILDER He is the Sure Foundation
To the CARPENTER He is the Door
To the DOCTOR He is the Great Physician
To the EDUCATOR He is the Great Teacher
To the ENGINEER He is the New and Living Way
To the FLORIST He is the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley
To the GEOLOGIST He is the Rock of Ages

(Continued next page)

APRIL 2007

- April 1 - Worship-11 a.m. Sunday School-10 a.m., **Palm Sunday;**
“Sharing the Spirit” Forum (8:30 a.m. breakfast; 9 a.m. program)
- 3 - Deacons Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 5 - Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- 6 - **Good Friday**
- 8 - Worship-11 a.m., **Easter Sunday**
- 10 - Trustees Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 11 - Discipleship Group, 7:30 p.m.
- 12 - Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- 15 - Worship-11 a.m. Sunday School-10 a.m., **Second Sunday of Easter**
- 18 - Senior Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.
- 19 - Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- 22 - Worship-11 a.m. Sunday School-10 a.m., **Third Sunday of Easter;**
Armenian Martyrs’ Commemoration, Times Square, NYC
- 24 - **Phila. Intercommunal Committee Armenian Martyrs’ Commemoration, 7 p.m.**
- 25 - Discipleship Group, 7:30 p.m.
- 26 - Sharing the Spirit Education Seminar: “Understanding Child Sexual Abuse,” 7-8:30 p.m.
(see the Sharing the Spirit article for details.)
- 29 - Worship-11 a.m. Sunday School-10 a.m., **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

(Inspiration, continued from cover)

To the HORTICULTURIST He is the True Vine
To the JUDGE He is the Righteous Judge, Judge of All Men
To the JEWELER He is the Pearl of Great Price
To the LAWYER He is the Counselor, the Lawgiver, the Advocate
To the NEWSPAPER He is the Good Tidings of Great Joy
To the OCULIST He is the Light of the Eyes
To the PHILANTHROPIST He is the Unspeakable Gift
To the PHILOSOPHER He is the Wisdom of God
To the PREACHER He is the Word of God
To the SCULPTOR He is the Living Stone
To the SERVANT He is the Good Master
To the STATESMAN He is the Desire of All Nations
To the STUDENT He is the Incarnate Truth
To the THEOLOGIAN He is the Author and Finisher of Our Faith
To the TOILER He is the Giver of Rest
To the SINNER He is the Lamb of God that takes away the Sins of the World
To the CHRISTIAN He is the Son of the Living God, the Savior, the Redeemer and the Lord

Phila. Inter-Communal Committee’s April 24 Commemoration will be on Tues., April 24, 7 p.m.

St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church

Speaker: Dr. Anie Kalayjian, Fordham University, NY

Topic: The Intergenerational Transmission of Trauma: Ottoman Turkish Genocide of the Armenians

FROM PASTOR GARY'S PEN . . .

The Easter story in the Gospel of John centers on the exchange between Jesus and Mary Magdalene. We sometimes forget that it was to Mary that Jesus first appears. Mary had made her way to Jesus's tomb early in the morning in that time between dark and the full dawning.

Two angels confront her, asking, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She responded, "They have taken my lord away, and I do not know where they have laid him." Mary's affect and words convey how she felt about Jesus. Clearly, she loved Jesus, and she offered a statement of faith and understanding about who Jesus was. She called Jesus her lord. It was a personal declaration of faith in Christ. In the midst of the pomp and circumstance and celebration, maybe we ought to take a moment and make the same affirmation: "Jesus is *my* lord."

Immediately after Mary says these things, she turns around and sees Jesus. However, she doesn't recognize him. In fact, she believes he is the gardener! I am always astonished by the lowliness of Jesus's resurrection appearance. Why isn't he shining bright as the noonday sun, descending from the clouds with trumpets blowing and a thousand Mormon Tabernacle Choirs singing his praise? Could it be we are meant to learn something about who Jesus is as one who suffers and serves?

Mary did not recognize Jesus until he called her name. There is something unique about the way people call our name, especially people who love us. "Mary," he says, and she answers with a Hebrew word that means "my dearest master." Now she recognizes him; now she knows him. Now she is certain of his love for her.

And so I believe we are to see and understand that the first miracle of Easter is the message that death cannot destroy love. Death cannot extinguish love! All that is good and holy survives the grave! Love is stronger than the grave!

In the last two months, we have lost too many people near and dear to us. Our sorrow is real. But also real is this Easter truth: Our love for them and their love for us still lives on in our hearts and minds, our souls and spirits. Thanks be to God! And because that is true, we can, with joy, greet each other saying Happy Easter!

Pastor Gary

SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us for a special worship service and potluck luncheon in honor of Pastor Gary on Sunday, June 3. Stay tuned for further details.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S WERFEL EXHIBIT

Beginning January 16 until April 13, there is a mini-exhibit of Franz Werfel's "Forty Days of Musa Dagh" at the University of Pennsylvania's Van Pelt-Dietrich Library, Rosenwald Gallery. The free exhibit is open Mon. through Fri., 9-5. Please show photo ID at the entrance. Questions? 1-800-390-1829, or friends@pobox.upenn.edu.

FOOD FOR THE HOMELESS

Most food banks are in short supply after the rush of giving during the holiday season, but "hunger knows no calendar."

The Missions Committee would like non-perishable food and monetary donations only, please. "Sharing the Spirit" can come in a variety of forms, including food donations.

— Diane DeMirjian

WWW.BASHDE.ORG

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

About eight to ten months ago, a few dedicated Christian men and women got together and dreamed about an internet Armenian Christian worship station accessible to all Armenians around the world. As they put together ideas, the internet radio station named www.bashde.org was born. Today, after many hours of prayer and hard and tedious work, the Christian Armenian Worship Radio is online and readily accessible to many people.

We would like to invite you to try it out and see how you like it. We would also like to invite you and those whom you might suggest to join us in prayer that God use such a ministry to reach out to the Armenian world.

The idea is in its beginning stages, but it has great potential. We would love to see many people get involved and prayerfully consider assisting its progress. Those who initiated it have great dreams that this kind of internet radio will become a great tool to spread God's word through music and with the spoken word, as well.

We would entreat our brothers and sisters in Christ join us in prayer to advance our Lord's cause through this ministry.

Thank you and God bless you.

— Daniel Albarian, Setrag Khoshafian,
Rev. Nerses Balabanian, Bernie Getzoyan, and
Nishan Khoshafian, the bashde.org ministry team

LETTER FROM BEIRUT

Around the time young university students were rioting here in January, reports came of a 20-something Lebanese student in France doing groundbreaking cancer research. That student might have been rioting with the others that day had he been here. I wonder what other latent talents are there in Lebanon, sidetracked by the intransigence of short-sighted leaders? How much productive, visionary energy of young people is being redirected into civil tension? A friend's 5-year-old recently regaled me with an imaginative story of a family of cats, as I wondered, "In a few years what will happen to her dream of becoming a veterinarian?"

The prophet Joel indicated that a vision is a powerful thing ("Your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions..." 2.28-30). Solomon's proverb states that lack of vision causes disarray and ruin ("Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained." Prov. 29.18). Providing hope is an important part of ministry, but without some connection to reality it becomes fantasy, not hope.

The permanent political crisis here is the "soundtrack" behind all conversations, actions and decisions. We, along with most Lebanese, think carefully about where we travel, and what events to attend in the evenings. Even our Easter preparations, for example, include the long-unheard question, "Should we plan to have a sunrise service at Kchag (our conference center outside the city)?"

At the beginning of March we took a group of over a dozen Haigazian students out of the city to a retreat at the Dhour Choueir Evangelical Center, and they were thrilled not only with the beauty of God's creation, the crisp air, the snow-covered mountains, but they were especially happy to be far from the tensions that surround them on a daily basis. So, the atmosphere was conducive to discussing how to connect with people who are intellectually, morally or religiously opposed to them. Their concern was sincere and their ideas were relevant; it was one of the Lord's gifts to us to be there to facilitate that time of sharing, praying and encouraging with them. We hope that they will capture a renewed vision, and in turn rejuvenate their surroundings with their God-given, youthful energy.

— Rev. Nishan and Maria Bakalian
[15 March 2007]

“Sharing the Spirit” Community Event

On Thursday, April 26, from 7:00-8:30 p.m., AMCC will host a special community education event, “Understanding Child Sexual Abuse.” This seminar, presented by the Family Support Line (FSL), will include a discussion of the characteristics and dynamics of this serious issue that exists in families of all demographics.

About the Family Support Line

The FSL was founded in 1984 to help children and families who have been the victims of child sexual abuse. In addition to providing supportive and caring treatment programs, they offer programs and seminars to educate members of the community in order to reduce the risk that more children will be harmed. It is critical that community persons become educated, since the issue of child sexual abuse is surrounded by denial.

About the seminar

This seminar confronts denial by providing information about the characteristics, red flags and effects of sexual abuse on children. Participants will learn how to identify and challenge an offender's inappropriate behaviors so children can be protected. Content of the seminar includes:

- Definition and scope of the problem
- Characteristics and effects
- Offender behavior and emotional grooming tactics
- Secrets and tricks
- Dynamics of power and control
- Stages of the offense
- Red flags
- Handling a sexual abuse disclosure
- How to help

Mary Hove, FSL Education and Training Director, will lead the seminar, which will include discussion and a video presentation. Joining her will be a parent who will speak about the experience of child sexual abuse in her family. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the presentation.

The importance of this event for AMCC

As we continue to grow in “Sharing the Spirit,” we need to reach beyond the doors of AMCC to embrace and serve our neighbors. This event will

help us begin to develop our skills and commitment as disciples as we reach out to invite members of the community to a program that can educate and benefit them. It will also give us the opportunity to take a fresh look at our church facility and how we can be welcoming to our guests.

Our Sunday-morning Forum meetings are being devoted to planning for the promotion of the seminar as well as hospitality the evening of the event. All members are encouraged to play a role in making this a successful evening for the participants, the Family Support Line and for our church. We hope you will join us!

See the FSL Web site for more information about their programs:
www.familysupportline.org

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month

— Karen Bogosian, Mary Loiselle, Harry Stephey and Tim DeMirjian (Strategic Planning Task Force)

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

The Senior Fellowship will meet on Wednesday, April 18, 10:30 a.m. All members and friends of the church 55 and older are welcome. Grace Ohnigian will present a book review.

Join us for a delicious lunch, followed by this informative program.

— Lucille Tashjian

HALLELUJAH CHORUS

You are invited to sing with the choir in its annual Easter performance of Handel's “Hallelujah” chorus from *Messiah*. Rehearsals take place on Thursday, April 5, after the Maundy Thursday service, and on Easter Sunday before worship. Please contact Mary Loiselle if you would like to participate.

— Mary Loiselle, Music Director

Attention All Families of Graduates!!

Please send your graduate's information for inclusion in our May “Special Graduates” issue of the Monthly News Bulletin.

amcchavpa@yahoo.com

100 N. Edmonds Ave., Havertown, PA 19083

FLORENCE GULEZIAN

April 11, 1921—February 12, 2007

Florence Kelian was born on April 11, 1921, to James Garabed and Esther Kelian in Philadelphia. Mom is survived by her wonderful younger sister Betty Sarian.

Mom graduated from Germantown High School in June of 1938 and graduated from the Franklin School of Science and Arts with a Diploma in Medical Secretaryship in June of 1940.

In April of 1942, Dad's grandmother, who was living in West New York, NJ, paid a visit to her daughter (Satenik Gulezian) and grandchildren. During this visit, Satenik and her sons, John and Richie Gulezian, went to an Armenian picnic on the grounds of Central High School in Philadelphia. While at this picnic, Mom's sister Betty and their cousin Pauline recognized Dad's family and invited them to visit with Mom's and Betty's grandmother. It was during this visit that dad met mom, and eight months later, in December of 1942, they were engaged.

The euphoria of this engagement was short-lived because on January 16, 1943, Dad was drafted into the Army. In November 1944, Dad was sent to Europe, captured by the Germans and was declared MIA on March 20. My mother told me on several occasions that, during Dad's captivity and MIA status, she never doubted that God would deliver him home safely. She was right! On V-E Day, May 8, 1944, Dad was liberated.

John Gulezian and Florence Kelian were married on July 14, 1945, at Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church on Ludlow St. in west Phila. Dad was still in the Army. Following their wedding, John and Florence moved to Kentucky where Dad was stationed. In November 1945, Dad was discharged from the service, and John and Florence began their civilian life together.

On a Saturday in 1962, I ran into the street to chase after my baseball, and my left leg was run over by a car. The subsequent 9-months involved an arduous recovery period. For any parent, this kind of development is very traumatic. For my mother it was even more of a challenge. Back then, there was very little understanding and insufficient treatment for bi-polar manic depression. Treatment was very Paleozoic, and medications were basically tranquilizers. My mother endured and battled with manic depression for most of her life, in fact, for as long as Lynne and I can recall.

Her mental health notwithstanding, Flor-

ence Gulezian faithfully took public transportation to be with me every day while I was hospitalized. In May of 1963, I was permitted to return to public school. (Until then, I was a home-bound 4th grader.) One of the fondest memories of my mother was holding her hand as I struggled to walk, resting on peoples' front steps as I traveled to and from school. Throughout this entire ordeal, my mother was steadfast and strong. She mustered up everything within her and miraculously navigated through a very severe mental condition.

Due to the difficulties brought on by mom's mental illness, she was very appreciative of all the good times. She always loved being with others and took an active interest in their lives. It was her strong love for her sister Betty and Betty's children, Lisa, Carol, and Greg, which fostered a very strong and close relationship that Lynne and I had with our aunt and cousins. We found great joy in the simplest of pleasures, whether going for Italian water ice, having fun at the amusement park on Roosevelt Boulevard in northeast Philly, having a backyard barbecue, or just hanging out together.

Following his retirement with the Frankford Arsenal, my dad went into the philatelic supplies business. Over the years, mom and dad attended lots of stamp shows and throughout that time, my mother made it a point to learn everything she could about the personal lives and interests of the dealers, their immediate, and extended families. She kept a mental tickler and always followed up with others, particularly when they were experiencing difficult times. Affable and outgoing, she always received warmth and affection from those with whom came in touch.

Lover of WAWA's café lattes, truffles, chocolates, shopping for clothes and cosmetics, and tracking down great bargains, Flo always engendered a deep and fond reaction from others. She became the surrogate mom and best friend to all the young women at the Center Stage hair salon. As an avid reader of devotional materials, she sensitized us to important spiritual values.

As painful as it was watching my mother die, I take great comfort in knowing that she went peacefully, that the pain and suffering is no longer. It is in gratitude of who my sister and I are today and in gratitude to God for bringing my mother into His kingdom on the 53rd anniversary of my entrance into this world, that I celebrate the life of Florence Gulezian.

—James Gulezian

WITH THANKS

To strengthen the ministry of our church and to help nurture faith, stewardship and a deeper sense of mission, we welcome the following gifts with thanks:

For Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church

John & Narthouhi Mkhalian

For the Habitat for Humanity Armenia Fund in Loving Memory of Ann Vartigan and Dorothy Tashjian

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For the Chopourian Christian Education Fund in Loving Memory of Rev. Chopourian

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John & Ruth Melian

Karl & Laurel Doghramji

Dorothy Missirlian

Louis Fitzpatrick

Albert & Esther Momjian

Rose Garabedian

Paul & Shoushanik Oflazian

Robert & Jane Porter

STEPHEN MARTIN NAJARIAN

April 24, 1926 – March 6, 2007

Stephen Martin Najarian, 80, of Newtown Square, PA, died March 6 following complications from heart surgery. Steve was born April 24, 1926, in Brooklyn, NY, to Acabie and Joseph Najarian. Immediately after graduating from Fort Hamilton High School in 1944, he entered the Army Air Corps. After completing his training, he was stationed in the Marianas with the 20th Air Force 73rd Bomb Wing from 1944-46.

Steve graduated from Colgate University in 1950 with a degree in economics. On December 2, 1950, he married Christine Bedrosian, his constant companion for the next 57 years. After his first job with North American Airlines, Steve entered a 37-year career with IBM as a computer and telecommunications consultant, retiring in 1986. He was an avid fisherman and enjoyed camping, boating, flying and motorcycling.

During his retirement, he realized his passion for aviation by earning his private pilot, commercial and seaplane licenses. He was on the board of directors for the Aero Club of Pennsylvania. He is survived by Christine, their children Jane Porter, Laurel Doghramji, Stephen Rith-Najarian, and six grandchildren. Memorials can be sent to the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, the Aero Club of Pennsylvania Scholarship Fund, or the St. Nerses Seminary Armenian Language Education Project.

— Stephen Rith-Najarian

VISION STATEMENT

Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church will be a church community that is Christ-centered, spiritually alive, growing in worship attendance, Armenian- and community-based, and welcoming all people.

100th ANNIVERSARY VIDEO

A 100th Anniversary video of our church is being produced for the 100th Anniversary Banquet in December. Please contact Karen Bogosian or Linda Preske if you have photos for the video. We are looking for photos of our church, members, families and events depicting the history of our church. Please mark your photos with your name so they can be returned to you, unharmed in their original condition. Please indicate the full names of the individuals in the photos, the date and year and the name of the church event on a post-it note attached to the back of your photo. Movies or slides that have been transferred to video are also acceptable. Deadline for photos and/or videos is May 1. Any questions call Karen-610-355-9051 or Linda- 610-359-9866.

The Stewardship and Missions Committee is still accepting donations toward the Habitat for Humanity in Armenia Fund. The work will be this June in the Gumyri area. Please be generous!

Deadline for submissions for the May issue of the News Bulletin — Sun., April 15

Some of the Opportunities for Donation Currently Available at Armenian Martyrs'

- Chopourian Christian Ed. Fund
- DeMirjian Music Fund
- Sunday School
- Stewardship and Missions
- Sanctuary Décor Committee
- Coffee Hour
- Flowers
- Youth
- School Supplies (for Armenian Children)
- Pastor's Discretionary Fund
- "Sharing the Spirit"
- News Bulletin

SPONSOR A SENIOR FELLOWSHIP MEETING

The opportunity is available to sponsor a Senior Fellowship meeting, the third Wednesday of the month, March through October. Sponsor the food, pick the topic, provide an entertainment, whatever you want. And people are always needed for setup and clean up. Contact Lucille Tashjian with any questions or to volunteer, 610-793-2548.

Anyone 55+ is welcome at Senior Fellowship!
— Lucille Tashjian

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