



SUMMER 2020

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LOOSAPER

FRIDAY
Flavors of Armenia

FRIDAY FLAVORS PROVE SUCCESSFUL IN PLACE OF TRADITIONAL FESTIVAL

When the going gets tough, the St. Peter Armenian Church community just gets tougher. When it became evident that we could not hold the Festival due to restrictions on large gatherings, and knowing that the Festival was the largest revenue source for our general fund, we improvised. The Friday Flavors of Armenia drive-thru events throughout June were highly successful, much more than we could have even imagined as the volume exceeded our expectations. Thank you one and all who supported these events by ordering, sharing the information with friends and colleagues, and, of course, those who volunteered in a variety of capacities to help bring these events to fruition. It was a challenging time for us all, but we did it together and did it safely and well! We brought delicious Armenian flavors to the greater Capital Region, keeping our very-long standing Festival tradition alive with a twist... and raising over \$34,000 for the church's operating budget.



(continued on page 4)

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- History of Loosaper; time for a change
- Long-time organist, Ralph Enokian, retires
- Learn to speak Armenian
- GoFundMe Campaign to help St. Peter Church get back on its feet
- Our Graduates
- Move with Maria

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ABOUT LOOSAPER

A time for change! For the over 120-year history of St. Peter Armenian Church, printed church periodicals have provided special notice to all the parishioners, informing them of past and future events. In the beginning of the parish's history, this was the primary source of news — other than through conversation and word from the pulpit.

In these times of internet and social media, news and announcements of the church are shared in a variety of ways — e-mail, website, Facebook, YouTube, etc. The printed form of media seems almost obsolete; however, the *Loosaper* constitutes and will continue to be a vital and historical record of the life of the St. Peter Church community. Although different in appearance, the *Loosaper* will continue to highlight major events and serve as a record of sacraments, donations, and messages. We hope you enjoy this new format. All current and past issues of the *Loosaper* can be found on the church's website at stpeterarmenianchurch.com/our-church/loosaper.

Although there were other previous church periodicals, the first *Loosaper* was issued in December 1962, initiated by Very Rev. Fr. Hmayak Intoyan with the help of George Bedian, Edward Kazanjian, and Ralph Vartigian. Marion (Tashjian) Quiroga assumed the role of editor during a time when we had no parish priest with Beatrice Arzoumanian as the Armenian page reporter. In 1970, the *Loosaper* continued under the direction of Fr. Garen Gdanian with Roseanne (Moroukian) Vartanian as editor, followed by Natalie (Paparian) Kachougian. Marion (Tashjian) Quiroga later again assumed the Editor's role, followed by Virginia Belemjian, then Joyce Kenosian.

Since 1995, our Church Office Administrator, Lori Payette, has had primary responsibility for compiling and typing each issue. Currently, a volunteer group performs editorial tasks such as writing, proofreading, and editing of articles. **All materials submitted are subject to editing by the Editorial Staff.** The mailing of the *Loosaper* is also handled by volunteers. If you find errors in this edition of the *Loosaper*, please understand that, while perfection is always our goal, it is one that may remain forever beyond our reach!

LOOSAPER DONATIONS

Many thanks to the most recent donors who offered to help offset the cost of our church publication with donations totaling **\$170: Helga Apkarian; Arleen Drooby; Bertha Kazanjian (MA) in memory of her husband, Edward Kazanjian.**

Donations for *Loosaper* may be sent to "St. Peter Armenian Church" and mailed to PO Box 196, Watervliet, NY 12189 or securely given through the church's website at stpeterarmenianchurch.com/giving.

Pastor's Message

Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian

Greetings Dear Parishioners & Friends,

It is hard to believe that we are in week 20 of the pandemic. Each of us copes with the current situation in our world uniquely, yet we all share in very common struggles as well. Let us continue to be people of the church and of God by offering encouragement, friendship, prayer, and love to each other. This should be our response to COVID-19!

Some days, I am not quite sure what to make of the pandemic and the current world climate. However, one thing I am certain of is God's love for you and me and that His love and faithfulness never ends; "they are new every morning." (See Lamentations 3:22-26)

I know God has a plan with all of this and we should try each day to yield to His plan and will. May He have mercy on us all.

***I know God has a plan with all of this and we should
try each day to yield to His plan and will.
May He have mercy on us all.***

You are welcome to join us for Sunday Worship in the backyard of our church under our beautiful Postoian Pavilion.

Following a one-week absence of church services on March 15, we have offered services every Sunday ever since. On most Sundays, services have been offered virtually as well. On May 24, we began offering services outdoors and, since June 28, we have been offering services under the shelter of the Postoian Pavilion. Our 40+ acre property has always been a blessing, but, being able to worship outdoors on our church grounds, the blessing has been even more evident.

Although we are not together in our church sanctuary on Sunday mornings, we still gather *as* the Church each Sunday. We are the definition of the word for *Church* - the gathering of the people. We are the *Ecclesia/Yegeghetsee*. You are welcome to join us.

Please note that, following Sunday services, individuals/household families will be given the opportunity to enter into the church sanctuary to offer prayers and light a candle. Or, by contacting the church office to make arrangements, you are welcome to come pray in the church during the week.

You all remain in my prayers, as I pray to our Lord God that He brings you peace and mercy.

*God Bless you,
Fr. Stepanos*

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

—Lamentations 3:22-26

Sunday Worship Services will continue to be held outdoors (until further notice)

Sunday Worship Services continue to take place outdoors under the Postoian Pavilion. Greeters, adhering to social distancing guidelines, are available each week to instruct parishioners on where to sit. Although we will be outdoors, please wear a mask for the safety of others. If you forget yours, one will be provided for you. Distancing will expand beyond 6 feet to provide comfort to those participating and attending the services. It remains the considered decision of each faithful individual and household to weigh the benefits and blessings of participating in church services.

NOTE: Please note that, while we are in the midst of the pandemic, it is not possible to eliminate the risk of infection to our people and clergy. Anyone belonging to a high-risk group, or anyone who feels sick in any way (not just with the symptoms of COVID-19), is asked not to attend services or visit the church until returning to full health.



*“A round of
applause to
Chuck Tutunjian,
assisted by Paulette
Doudoukjian,
for coming up with
the vision
for this event
and fearlessly
spearheading the
process.”*

***Thank
you
one
and all!***

Thank you to the Parish Council for helping ensure we were able to successfully and safely execute these events. A round of applause to Chuck Tutunjian, assisted by Paulette Doudoukjian, for coming up with the vision for this event and fearlessly spearheading the process. A special thanks to Sonya Moroukian, who tirelessly worked and coordinated the kitchen activities in addition to making the paklava, kadayef, and sou boreg. She also prepared the beautiful graphics and video content for the flyers and online promotional material.

Other individuals who coordinated in preparing the foods and helping on Fridays, included: Holly Dadekian (yalanchi); Rich DeMartino (greeter); Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian (lahmajune driver and prayer keeper); Paulette Doudoukjian (marketing, volunteers, boreg and gatnabour); John Ekmalian (supply shopping and barbecuers); Lena Guleserian-Hoglund & Heidi Guleserian (eech); R. Paul Moroukian (meat & food assembly); Patty O'Keefe (kitchen coordinator); Carol Tutunjian (kadayef); and Harry Tutunjian (sponsorship).

Additionally, many other volunteers stepped up to help with prep, set-up, and clean-up during the month and/or on every Friday: Zovig Ashjian, John Avakian, Linda Bedian, Dave Belemjian, Alyson, John, Lucy & Sophie Buff, Bridgette, Gil, Emily & Kate Chorbajian, Laura Clark, Sarine & Lou D'Angelo, Adrienne Daniels, Sue Dickinson, Gloria Doudoukjian, Jonah Doudoukjian, Avo Eleyjian, Phyllis Jevanian, Catherine Knauer, Courtney Lamarche, Artie Mahserjian, Alice, Sean, Sarah, Kaelyn & Emily McMullan, Pam Moroukian, Raffi Moroukian, Rebecca Moroukian, Lucy Morton, Bill Nevins, Talin Rutan, Charlotte Sevazlian, Claudia Suppa, Rafi Topalian, Noah Tutunjian, Reyna Tutunjian, Tanya Tutunjian, Neville Woods, and Todd (friend of Bill Nevins).

Key to the successful organization was once again Lori Payette, who kept it all together behind the scenes by tracking orders, fielding calls/questions, securing protection supplies, assisting every Friday as cashier, preparing the financial wrap up, and so much more!

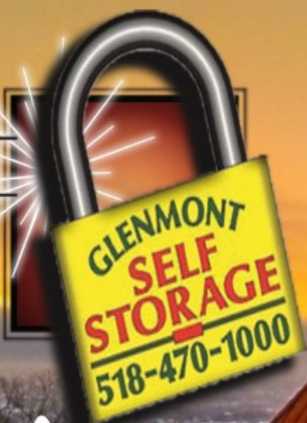


We wish to also thank Raffi Jamgotchian of Triada Networks for generously donating his time in redesigning the church website just in time and also maintaining the ever-changing online order form for each week.

Finally, much appreciation is extended to our dedicated and generous sponsors who stood by our side in support of this new event in lieu of the Festival. Thank you one and all!



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*Warm
Thanks*

To Our Sponsors

FRIDAY
Flavors of Armenia

On behalf of St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church, we extend our warm thanks to those who offered sponsorship support for us in this year's Friday Flavors of Armenia!

We are blessed to have so many wonderful members in our community that have helped us in our fundraising events.
We could not have been successful without your help.

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Message from the Parish Council

Due to the pandemic and cancellation of the Diocesan Assembly in May, approval of our elections held on March 1 at the Annual Parish Assembly had been delayed.

We can now officially welcome newly-elected members of the Parish Council, Varvara Meshkov and Kevork Parseghian.

Parish Council members that had completed their term, were all re-elected and, with the approval of the newly-elected candidates, we have increased the number of serving Parish Council members from nine (9) to eleven (11).

Elections for Parish Council officers were completed on July 14; therefore, we are pleased to present to you the 2020 Parish Council, as well as our newly-elected delegates:

OFFICERS:

Linda Bedian, Chair
Cheryl Ohanesian, Vice Chair
Richard DeMartino, Treasurer
Patty O'Keefe, Ass't Treasurer
Varvara Meshkov, Secretary

TRUSTEES:

Garo Derian
Sharon Foley
Roswita Fragomeni
Dr. Ara Kayayan
Kevork Parseghian

DIOCESAN DELEGATES:

R. Paul Moroukian, Jr.
Cheryl Ohanesian.

We welcome also with gratitude the additional elected officials of the church, as follows:

Nominating Committee: Holly Dadekian, Catherine Knauer, and Winnie Kutchukian.

Auditing Committee: Alice McMullan

2021 Assembly Officers:

Charles Tutunjian, Chair
Ronald Kaiser, Secretary

Several years ago, in one of my earliest "Message from the Parish Council" articles, I began with the often heard quote "Technology – it's a blessing and a curse!" I went on to write about how our Facebook page and the website created by the Eastern Diocese had done so much to improve communication and share information within and about the Armenian community. Then I gushed about the Parish Council preparing to take the next "big step" in putting technology to work for us – we were going to provide online live streaming of our church services!

For the next three years nothing happened. We discovered that we didn't have the expertise or the money to do the things we wanted to do. Then COVID-19 came to town . . .

The government and the Diocese said we could no longer congregate in our sanctuary for church services. Now it was time to make live streaming happen! We didn't need a video camera; a smart phone could simply be used instead. Our Facebook page became a platform for sharing church services live from Watervliet to anywhere in the world! And, that was only the beginning.

The platform called Zoom suddenly became available allowing us to hold meetings and classes and recitals for everyone to attend from the comfort of their own homes. These technologies are not yet perfect. They bring a certain amount of frustration when they aren't working just right. They are also not a substitute for being in the same room together. They have, however, helped us to continue to worship together, to learn together, and to support each other through this stressful time. "Blessing or Curse" these technologies will bring us through to the time when we can all be in each other's company again.

Roswita Fragomeni

Long-time organist Ralph Enokian retires

After much reflection, our long-time organist, Ralph Enokian, made the decision to retire from his playing and directing activities. Ralph dedicated his life to performing and teaching music. He retired several years ago as a music teacher and director for Shenendehowa schools. He then continued his love for music by playing for all occasions with his band *The Pace Makers*. Ralph came to the rescue many years ago as the St. Peter Armenian Church organist.

Through sharing his God-given talents, Ralph has been an example to our community and service to God and His Holy Church. In a letter to Ralph, Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian expressed the gratitude of the St. Peter Armenian Church community for his many years of service saying, "Your expertise, wisdom, and leadership have been greatly appreciated by our choir, deacons, and congregation. Your tireless efforts, selfless sacrifices, and constant work for the betterment of our Sunday Worship services are exemplary and are to be applauded by all. Our church has admired your dedication and loyalty as you have served faithfully on Sundays, as well as at weddings and funerals. . . and, God-willing, when we get back into the church sanctuary, you are always welcome to "open up" the pipes of our organ anytime!"

***"Always perform with your heart on fire
and your mind on ice!"***

—Ralph Enokian

Armenian School

Despite all the restrictions of the COVID-19 crisis, the Armenian School continued its mission of teaching our beautiful language and culture every Friday evening during the pandemic through classes held via Zoom. Also, for the first time ever through a Zoom presentation, students performed, sang, and recited what they had learned throughout the school year during the Year-End Hantess program on July 11, 2020.

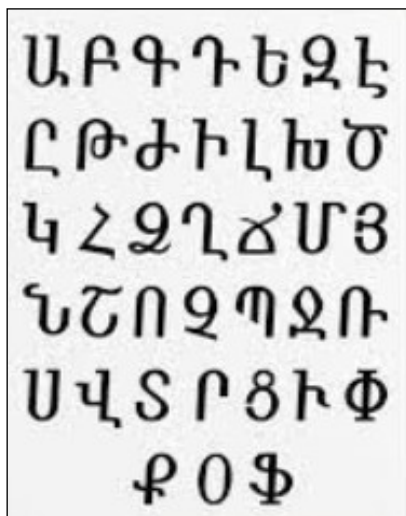
Following the Lord's Prayer and the Armenian national anthem, Fr. Gomidas Baghsarian, Pastor of Holy Cross Armenian Church (Troy, NY), blessed all those present and wished them a successful event. In her opening remarks, school principal, Ani Altounian, encouraged the students to keep learning the Armenian language. Then 22 students, ages 3 to 16, recited poems prepared by their teachers — all presenting with great excitement. The audience was also treated to three individual Armenian dances performed by Perla Tournayan, Jackie Kubikian, and Nanor Karageozian. Suzie, Armen, Satig, and Gregory Amirbekian beautifully sang the "Hoy Nazan," followed by "The Karekin Njtech Song" valiantly sang by Arek Bardakjian and Kevin Kayayan. As a group, all students sang "Tzayn door of Feda." All performances were appreciated by the audience with long applause.

The finale of the program was the singing of "Kilikia" performed by the angelic voice of Jackie Kubikian, while all of the students held Armenian flags and posters they made with the names of their ancestral towns and villages in historic Armenia. In his closing remarks, Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian, Parish Priest of St. Peter Armenian Church, thanked all those present — students, teachers, parents, and guests — for their continued support of the Armenian School activities.

Armenian School Vice Principal, Dr. Ara Kayayan, then presented five of the higher class students with certificates of appreciation for their years of attendance and wished that they continued their studies at the Armenian School next year. These students, Suzie Amirbekian, Rosila Eleyjian, Lily Karageozian, Yervant Bardakjian, and Pagrad Aghayan, were also presented with an Armenian language dictionary for their future use when reading and writing in Armenian.

Pleased with a very successful Year-End Hantess 2020 program, all the students counted down from ten to zero while saying goodbye to their friends and teachers until they meet again next school year.

Armenian School for Adults



With enough interest expressed, a series of Armenian classes for adults were held over the summer months via Zoom.

A beginner class was led by Dr. Ara Kayayan and another class for intermediate students as led by Dn. Yervant Kutchukian.

To the left is the Armenian alphabet. The inset to the right contains a sample lesson from the beginners' class.



Learn to Speak Armenian

Over the summer, Armenian classes for adults (beginner and intermediate) have been held via Zoom (see Armenian School article on following page). Here is a sample lesson from the beginner class:

Each sentence has a subject (I, you, he/she, they, we) and a verb (a "to + action" phrase, like to run, to walk, to speak). In order to make a sentence, the verb ("to do" phrase) needs to be conjugated by changing the ending to tell who is doing the action. For example:

- em = I
- es = you
- eh = he/she
- yenk = we
- ek = You (formal)
- yen = they

Sample verbs:

- Kalel = to walk
- Oodehl = to eat
- Dehsnehl = to see

In English, the present tense of the verb "to be" are the words (I) am, (You) are, (He/She/It) is, (They) are, (We) are." In Armenian, the verb "to be" has a special conjugation.

- Yes yem = I am
- Toon yes = You are
- An eh = He/She is
- Menk yenk = We are
- Took ek = You are (plural)
- Anonk yen = They are

To say "I walk," drop the infinitive (the "to" part) by removing the -el and adding -em to make "kalem." To make it present tense, place g' before the verb. For example:

- G'khalem = I walk
- G'khalenk = We walk
- G'oozem = I want
- G'oodenk = We eat
- G'desnehenk = We see

Church Organization News



Painting of St. Peter in the sanctuary of St. Peter Armenian Church.

"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls."

1 Peter 1:6-9

Sunday School

The St. Peter Sunday School finished the school year with classes held via Zoom sessions from March 29 through May 31. Several students participated from the Junior High and High School grades with their instructors, Sean McMullan and Chuck Tutunjian.

There were three graduating students: Gloria Doudoukjian, Gregory Kayayan, and Noah Tutunjian. Congratulations to these students! We look forward to celebrating their accomplishment with a graduation ceremony at a later date.

Thank you to Fr. Stepanos and Holly Dadekian for continuing to meet with our *Little Faithfuls*, pre-K through 2nd grade students, and their families through Zoom. (See following page for more details.)

We look forward to resuming Sunday School classes in the fall on Sunday evenings through Zoom. A start date will be announced in the near future, along with further details. The Sunday School staff is committed to continue to teach students how they can learn and grow in our faith.

Submitted by,

Alice McMullan, Superintendent

Adult Christian Education

We had a wonderful spring semester for the Adult Christian Education program! Our semester studies included the following topics and instructors:

- "God's Love For You Scripturally & Liturgically" and "The Armor Of God" were presented by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian;
- "The Movements of Badarak" with Chuck Tutunjian;
- A weekend of classes were offered by Dr. Roberta Ervine;
- "Liturgy & Time" with Dr. Chris Sheklian;
- "Armenia's Conversion to Christianity" presented by Dr. Ara Kayayan;
- "Armenian Christian Approaches to Creation: Being or Doing" with Dn. Alex Calikyan;
- "Some Thoughts on Following Christ" by Guy Vozzy;
- "The Place and Importance of Non-Armenian Saints in the Armenian Church" with Dn. Timothy Aznavourian;
- "A Reflection on the Armenian Faith Tradition and William Saroyan" presented by Megan Jendian;
- "Does Jesus want us to be Poor?" with Dn. Eric Vozzy

I offered classes on reflection of scripture, St. Peter, and concluded with "The Fruit of the Spirit." On behalf of the Adult Christian Education class, I offer my sincere thanks to all the teachers and students who have helped make this program a thriving and inspiring educational opportunity that is full of wonder.

Classes will resume in the fall through Zoom on Monday evenings. The program schedule will be announced in the near future. I look forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for us!

With prayer and thanks,

Rhonda Boyajian

Adult Christian Education Coordinator

Church Organization News

Little Faithfuls

From time-to-time, a fun interactive program led by Fr. Stepanos and Holly Dadekian, is offered for families with newborns through pre-school age children. The St. Peter Armenian Church community rallied as soon as the COVID-19 pandemic that kept us from meeting in our beautiful church. Parish leaders found an avenue for us to continue our Christian education and Armenian heritage through ZOOM.

Beginning in March, our Little Faithfuls and their parent(s) met every other week. Prior to the first Zoom gathering, the children were asked to make a cross. They came with crosses made out of sticks and wheat, popsicle sticks, and icons. Wherever we look, God is with us!

Always beginning our sessions with Hayr Mer, we all make the sign of the cross and pray. Der Stepanos leads us in singing the hymn "Soorp Asdvadz" (Holy God).

Each session includes a lesson and a craft. In one lesson, Der Hayr spoke of God's love for each of us. There was a "Heart Board" for the children to choose one heart that had a Bible verse on the back. Their chosen heart was then mailed to each family.

We learned about our "Shepherd" by singing "Little Shepherd." Lessons taught about God taking care of his sheep, the love Christ has for each of us, the beauty He created, and how each one of us is important. We even made sheep out of cotton balls — each one unique (see photo below from the May 21 activity).

We treasure our Zoom meetings. We spend these times together to sing, laugh, talk, and pray. The children are so excited to see each other. They give us hope for better days to come. They give us love to warm our hearts. Each child is so special in God's plan. Participation from each family helps us to grow as a church family.



Pray without Ceasing

The *Pray Without Ceasing* group meets on Zoom every other Friday morning at 10:30 a.m. Join these "Prayer Warriors" as they pray for each other, for loved ones, for those in our church community and the greater community, and for those throughout the world. Bring your prayer needs to the group and feel the power of praying together.

For more information, contact Fr. Stepanos, Winnie Kutchukian, or the church office to join these Zoom sessions.



Church Organization News



*“... we, as
Christians,
can build
up the body
of Christ
even
during
these
difficult
and
challenging
times.”*

Women's Guild

As we are all aware, this year has been a year like no other. The St. Peter Women's Guild would be busy finishing up participating in a successful Festival and planning for the next two or three events. Unfortunately, all of our planned activities were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. Therefore, the Guild does not have any past or pending events to report on at this time. It was clear from the start, in March, that this health threat was building up to be fierce and life threatening, especially if measures to protect ourselves and others were not followed.

As Women's Guild Chair, I was able to participate in a Women's Guild Central Council (WGCC) Zoom meeting with over 25 other Guild Chairs from across the Diocese. There was a short 30-minute discussion led by Sr. Pazan Findikyan. Following his remarks, the Diocesan Vicar, Very Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian, addressed the group. Both their comments related only to the pandemic and how we, as Christians, can build up the body of Christ even during these difficult and challenging times.

Unfortunately, we have had several friends and members of our church pass away so far in 2020, including long-standing Women's Guild members Beatrice Arzoumanian, Yn. Zabelle Gdanian, Hrepsime Jevanian, and Rosine Kazanjian. The Women's Guild received a gracious donation from the family of Yn. Zabelle in honor of her many years of membership in the St. Peter Women's Guild. We are truly blessed to have known and worked along side all of these talented and beautiful women. May God enlighten their souls.

One way or another, the Women's Guild will hold their annual Membership Meeting in November, whether together in person, through Zoom, or conference calling. We will find a way!

For more information on the St. Peter Women's Guild, contact any one of the 2020 Executive Committee members: Sharon Foley, Chair; Sonya Moroukian, Vice Chair; Sue Dickinson, Treasurer; Valerie Demarest, Assistant Treasurer; Charlene Hrachian, Secretary; and Advisors: Zovig Ashjian, Phyllis Jevanian, Charlotte Sevazlian, Claudia Suppa, and Carol Tutunjian.

REMEMBER! Wear a mask when you are not at home and stay socially distant whenever possible. Wash your hands often or use appropriate hand sanitizer when washing is not possible.

Sharon Foley, Women's Guild Chair

MISSION OF THE WOMEN'S GUILD OF ST. PETER ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

The mission of the Women's Guild of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America is to nurture the souls and minds of women of the Armenian Church by linking generations together through Faith, Service, and Cultural Heritage to strengthen the Armenian Church and community and the greater community in which the Guild serves.



ACYOA SUMMERTIME SERVICE

These last couple months have been nothing short of unexpected, but the world has shown their love and support for one another. As we have all been independently working out of great care for our country's safety by sheltering-in-place, social distancing, and wearing masks, many have been working together in distant ways for our communities through service. Now that summer is upon us, we wanted to share some ideas with our ACYOA chapters and membership to take part in Summertime Service during these socially-distant times. Be sure to use the hashtag #acyoaservice to promote your service on social media!

BE KIND

Spread kindness and inspirational messages via social media. Share uplifting stories or positive affirmations. Decorate your windows and sidewalks to thank first responders or essential workers.

WRITE LETTERS

Hand write encouraging notes or letters and mail them to your friends, neighbors, and loved ones. Make them as colorful as you want so that people receive bright mail.

OUTREACH

Contact your pastor to see if he needs help with calling senior citizens, just talk to them or run errands for them.

READ

Make a video of yourself reading children's books or bible stories, and post on social media for kids to watch at home.

PETS

Make pet toys out of old t-shirts, sheets, and other household items to donate to your local animal shelter. Check and see if they need donations of towels, blankets, and sheets as well.

DONATE

Make a box of unwanted items to donate, such as clothes, household items, and books.

EDUCATE

Educate and bring awareness through social media. A few ideas to get you started: Bring awareness to endangered animals, especially ones that don't widely get attention. Bring awareness to AYO! and set up an online donation collection. Bring awareness to cyberbullying by researching it and sharing how to effectively report/address it, as well as how to avoid doing it. Bring awareness to service-oriented places, like food pantries or homeless shelters, that can support the community for those who are in need.

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Better Together Group

Thank you very much to Elsie Vozzy for leading our Better Together Group discussions.

In April, when we switched to a Zoom format, we were able to conduct six Zoom sessions over a three-month time period.

Fr. Stepanos led discussions on the following topics: God's Love, Love One Another, Jesus' Resurrection, and God's Light.

We look forward to our gatherings starting up once again in September, continuing to use the Zoom platform.

#acyoaservice

BE KIND

**WRITE
LETTERS**

OUTREACH

READ

PETS

DONATE

EDUCATE

Parish Community News

Sacraments and Rites

Funerals

Due to the COVID19 restrictions, funeral services have not been held in the church since March 15, 2020. The graveside service, according to the tradition of the Armenian Church, was offered for immediate family members at the cemetery of interment.

*"O Lord,
direct our steps
on the path of
peace. O Lord,
direct and guide
our souls and
the souls of
all the faithful
to walk on the
path of
righteousness
and into eternal
life."*



Yn. Isabelle "Zabelle" (Kludjian) Gdanian entered her eternal rest on March 7, 2020. Predeceased by her husband, Rev. Fr. Garen Gdanian, Yn. Zabelle is survived by two daughters, Arpy (Rick Carson) Ernest and Garyn (Brian) A'Hearn; one son, Kyn (Maureen) Gdanian (NH); five grandchildren, Katrina (Chris) Mayba, Lucy (Gregg) Stoyles, Naomi (Dan) McCormack, Josiah (Chelsea) Gdanian, and Gregory Gdanian; seven great grandchildren; one sister, Arpy Kludjian; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews. The funeral service was conducted by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on March 12, 2020.

Rafik Mkhitar Ghazaryan entered his eternal rest on April 2, 2020. Rafik is survived by his wife, Aida Tadevosyan; a daughter, Lusine (Eduard Aghayan) Ghazaryan; a son, Tigran (Nana Gabrielyan) Ghazaryan; four grandchildren; one great grandchild; and four siblings. The graveside service was conducted by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on April 6.

Haigoohi (Mahigian) Smith entered her eternal rest on April 10, 2020. She is survived by a son, Stuart (Josephine) Smith (Israel); a daughter, Shelley (Will) Martin; eight grandchildren, Gavriel (Shimrit) Smith, Naftali (Michal) Smith, Rafael Smith, Benjamin (Michelle) Martin, Christopher (Sarah) Martin, Daniel (Cecilia Iglesias) Martin, Ryan (Rebecca) Martin, Renee Martin (Daniel McKenna); nine great grandchildren; a brother, Haig S. Mahigian; one niece and three nephews. Interment was held in Elmwood Hill Cemetery, Troy. The graveside service was conducted by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on April 15.

Rosine (Djehizian) Kazanjian entered her eternal rest on April 12, 2020. She is survived by two sons, Robert (Ginny) Kazanjian (GA) and Leo (Donna) Kazanjian; a daughter, Karen (Levon) Khachadourian; six grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Marguerite Djehizian and Elisabeth Chamberlain; a sister-in-law, Bertha Kazanjian (MA); and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. Interment was held in Elmwood Hill Cemetery, Troy. The graveside service was conducted by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on April 18.

Hrepsime "Ruth" (Siekertzian) Jevanian entered her eternal rest on April 26, 2020. She is survived by three daughters, Alice (Sean) McMullan, Phyllis Jevanian, and Carol (Charles) Tutunjian; six grandchildren, Tanya, Sarah, Reyna, Kaelyn, Noah, and Emily; a brother, Levon (Sonia) Siekertzian (CA); a sister-in-law; and several nieces and nephews. Interment was held in Elmwood Hill Cemetery, Troy. The graveside service was conducted by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on April 30.

Cecilia "Ceil" P. (Azadian) Burgess entered her eternal rest on May 1, 2020. She is survived by dear friends and caregivers, Cindy & Larry Lavigne; a niece, Mary P. Shanks; a nephew, Gary Shanks, and several other nieces and nephews. Interment was held in St. Mary's Cemetery, Waterford. The graveside service was conducted by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on May 5.

Van V. Moroukian entered his eternal rest on May 10, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Shirley (Hamilton); two brothers, Michael (Denise) Hart-Moroukian (FL) and Robert (Theresa Falasco) Moroukian; a brother-in-law; a sister-in-law; two aunts; an uncle; and many cousins. Interment was held in Albany Rural Cemetery, Menands. The graveside service was conducted by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on May 14.

Beatrice Arzoumanian entered her eternal rest on May 23, 2020. She is survived by her son, Gerald Arzoumanian, and many nieces and nephews. Interment was held in Albany Rural Cemetery, Menands. The graveside service was conducted by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on May 30.

Hokehankist (*Requiem Service*)

On February 9 - **Hampartzoum Karageozian** (40-Day Memorial - Karasoonk) as requested by the Karayan Family.

On February 23 - **Sarkis Cetjian** (40-Day Memorial - Karasoonk) as requested by Lisa & Vartan Karayan & Family.

On July 12 - **Hrepsime Jevanian** (40-Day Memorial - Karasoonk), **Joan Tutunjian** (First Anniversary - Darelectz), **John Jevanian, Hrant & Orzen Siekertian, Stepan Siekertian, and Lilian Badishkanian** as requested by Alice & Sean McMullan & Family, Carol & Charles Tutunjian & Family, and Phyllis Jevanian.

On July 12 - **Garrett Meeson** (First Anniversary - Darelectz) as requested by Sharon & Doug Pauley, Eleanor Meeson, and Meeson Family.

On July 26 - **Arshak Avedesian, Rehan Melkonian, Mariam Melkonian, Setrak Avedesian, Varochian Avedesian, and Araksi Avedesian** as requested by Noryar & Anoush Arakelian & Family; **Aram Bajakian** (Sixth Anniversary) as requested by Helen Bajakian, Vicki Bajakian & Family, and Greg Bajakian & Family; **Yn. Zabelle Gdanian** (40-Day Memorial - Karasoonk), **Fr. Garen Gdanian, Khoren & Ovsanna Kludjian, Beatrice Kludjian Watson, Zareh Berj Kludjian, Kevork & Siranoush Gdanian, Hagop & Puzant Gdanian, Sarkis & Azniv Parseghian, Anna Gdanian, and Robert & Wilda Carson** as requested by Arpy Ernest & Rick Carson, Katrina & Chris Mayba & Family, Garyn & Brian Ahearn, Kyn & Maureen Gdanian & Family, Mr. & Mrs. Gary Parseghian & Family, and Mr. & Mrs. Kevork Parseghian & Family; **Bishop Papken Varjabedian** (Twentieth Anniversary) as requested by the estate of Bishop Varjabedian; **Four Armenian servicemen who lost their lives during the recent crisis on the Armenian border: Junior Sergeants Grisha Matevosyan, Smbat Gabrielyan, Major Garush Hambardzumyan, Captain Sos Elbakyan, and All Victims of Violence everywhere** as requested by *Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern).*

Altar Flowers

Donated on February 9 by **George & Richard Osganian & Families** in memory of *Ann O. Vartigian*.

Roses on the occasion of the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord on July 19 were donated by the following: **Robert & Holly Dadekian** in memory of their grandparents; **Judy Brennan, Sandra Sabonjian, and Nancy Thomas** in memory of *Lynne Hartunian*; **Edward & Adrina Tutunjian** in memory of *Lisa (Tutunjian) Ballmer*.

Altar Candles

Donated on February 2 by **David & Lori (Payette) Belemjian** in memory of *Fr. Garen Gdanian* and in honor of *Yn. Paulette Doudoujian* on the occasion of their birthdays on February 1.

Gift of Prayer Ministry

"You shall be remembered before the immortal Lamb of God." Special prayers may be requested for healing, remembrance (in memory of), or special recognition by contacting the church office. Both the person making the prayer request, as well as the one being prayed for, will be remembered. A beautiful "Gift of Prayer" card will be sent as an acknowledgment of the prayer request. Please continue to keep those for whom prayers have been requested in your personal prayers.

Pew Plate Donations

Pew plates are a nice way to pay tribute to someone special and can be donated in honor of, or in memory of, friends or family members. Consider also donating a pew plate in honor of someone for a special occasion such as a wedding date/anniversary, birth announcement, baptism, graduation, etc. The required donation for each plate is \$150. Please contact the church office for more information or to make arrangements for a plate engraving.

Thank you to the following for their recent Pew Plate donations:

Phyllis Burger, Catherine Knauer, and Mary P. Shanks in memory of *Cecilia (Azadian) Burgess*.

Mariam Aghayan, Lusine Ghazaryan, and Aida Tadevosyan in loving memory of *Rafik Mkhitar Ghazaryan 1941-2020*

Catherine Knauer in memory of *Gabriel Zadigian*.

Easter Yughakin Donations

Sincere appreciation and acknowledgement are extended to the following for their generous Yughakin/Easter offering donations:

Brian & Garyn (Gdanian) A'Hearn
 Anonymous (3)
 Ashby Family (OH)
 Nazar Bakerian
 Mr/Mrs Robert Bedian
 Richard & Judith Brennan (CA)
 Mr/Mrs Charles Chorbajian
 Adrienne Daniels
 John & Debbie Ekmalian
 Irina Ermolenko
 Roswita Fragomeni
 Charlene Hrachian
 Raffi Jamgotchian / Triada Networks
 Hrepsime[†] & Phyllis Jevanian
 James & Mary Kalteux
 Bertha Kazanjian (MA)
 D. Eddy Kebabjian
 Catherine Knauer
 Isabel Krempa
 Mr/Mrs Arthur Mahserjian
 Sally Mahserjian McNeff
 Mr/Mrs R. Paul Moroukian
 Elsie Nigohosian (PA)
 Ohan & Rita Ohanian
 Florence Paparian
 David F. Quinones
 Mr/Mrs George Scaringe
 Lucille Sogoian
 Pat & Claudia Suppa
 Vartan Vartanian, Jr.

Vartouhi Allahverdi
 Helga Apkarian
 Andre & Anne Assalian
 J. Albert & Alice Barsamian
 George & Elsie Bedrosian
 Mr/Mrs Richard Buchakjian
 Mr/Mrs Gilbert Chorbajian
 Paul Dichian
 Ralph & Elizabeth Enokian
 Arpy Ernest
 Mary Hartunian
 Charles & Delia Israelian
 Vartan & Lynne Jerian
 Fran Kaiser
 Murat Kasparian
 Hagop Kazanjian
 James & Linda Khachadourian
 Mike & Dyanne Koshgarian
 Steven Krempa
 Shelley & Will Martin
 Sarkis & Ida Mihranian
 Robert & Theresa Moroukian
 Cheryl Ohanesian
 George & Elizabeth Osganian
 David & Breann Parseghian
 Richard Roomian
 Leon Sedefian
 Susan Sogoian
 Harry J. Tutunjan
 Patricia Vartigian

Rosemary Ammian
 John S. Arakelian
 Aram & Judy Atashian
 Linda Bedian
 Sam P. Boyian
 Herb & Linda Chorbajian
 Mike & Joanne Coogan & Family
 Rev/Mrs Stepanos Doudoukjian
 and Family
 Alan Eskandar
 Mr/Mrs Richard Hartunian
 Marion Jaffarian
 Mr/Mrs John Jerian & Family
 Leon & Susan Kaiser
 Girard Kasparian (CA)
 Linda Kazanjian
 Russ & Sandy Kilidjian
 Arthur Koshkorian (VA)
 Kyaruns Family
 Katrina Mayba
 Mary P. Minassian
 John & Karen Nevins
 Robert & Barbara Ohanesian (VA)
 Mary Panjarjian
 Mr/Mrs Kevork Parseghian
 Theodore Sapino (FL)
 Toros Shamlian, Jr.
 Artin & Mary Sukljian
 Mr/Mrs Gary Vartanian

TOTAL: \$7,155

Yughakin *What does it mean?*

It is customary in the Armenian Church to provide *Yughakin* especially around the feasts of Christmas and Easter. This practice dates as far back as the time of Moses in the Old Testament. What does this custom mean and how does it affect us? *Yughakin* in Armenian means “price of oil” ~ “*Yugh*” meaning oil and “*kin*” meaning price. Each local church community would donate money specially earmarked towards the purchase of oil, which in return would keep the lanterns burning and ultimately the doors open of the church. Of course, today

we do not have oil-burning lanterns in church; however, we do have gas heat, electricity and other essential operating expenses. As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, let us remember and continue in the custom of *Yughakin*, so we can keep our “oil-burning lanterns” always burning and our doors always open at St. Peter.

“And you shall command the people of Israel that they bring to you pure beaten olive oil for the light, that a lamp may be set up to burn continually.” Exodus 27:20



In Lieu of Flowers Donations

Sincere appreciation and acknowledgement are extended to the following for their donations:

In memory of BEATRICE ARZOUMANIAN

Betty Avakian
George & Elsie Bedrosian
Mr/Mrs Charles Chorbajian
Isabel Derian
Stu & Debra Halejian Duckman (NJ)
John & Debbie Ekmalian
Joanne Hartunian
Jackie Jerry
Bertha Kazanjian (MA)
Grace Koshgarian
David & Isabel Kubikian
Cliff & Lynne Mergerian (OH)
Cheryl Ohanesian
Joseph & Patricia O'Keefe
Florence Paparian
Toros Shamlian, Jr.

Judith E. Barlow
Helen Bezjian
Robert & Holly Dadekian
Suzanne Dickinson
Sherry Edwards
Francine Frank
Mr/Mrs Richard Hartunian
Leon & Susan Kaiser
Levon & Karen Khachadourian
Isabel Krempa
Diane Malkonian
Mr/Mrs Edmond Megerian (MI)
Ohan & Rita Ohanian
Christine Oliver
Richard & Sheila Patterson
Teal, Becker & Chiaramonte

Linda Bedian
Christine Chakmakian and
Mark Badach (NJ)
Robert & Arleen Drooby
Michael Egan
Christine Hagopian (MA)
Barbara Hrachian
Dr/Mrs Ara Kayayan
Mr/Mrs John Khachadourian
Steve Krempa
Shelley & Will Martin
Mary Minassian
Dicken & Aline Ohanian and
Andrew & Alice Simon
Martha & Arnold Proskin
Edward & Adrina Tutunjian

TOTAL: \$3,535

In memory of YN. ZABELLE GDANIAN

Mr/Mrs Kirkor Agopyan
Harry & Mary Ammian
Linda Bedian
Peter & Patricia Boorujy (NJ)
Mr/Mrs Charles Chorbajian
Robert & Holly Dadekian
Richard DeMartino & Barbara Derian
John & Debbie Ekmalian
Arpy Ernest & Rick Carson & Family
George Hachigian and
Helena Ekmalian & Son
Seren & Pamela Hrachian
James & Mary Kalteux
Linda Kazanjian
Dana, Susan & Geena Kludjian (MA)
Louis & Molly Laviolette
Mr/Mrs Samuel Mahserjian & Family
Sean & Alice McMullan
R. Mihran & Ovsanna Mooradian
Mr/Mrs R. Paul Moroukian
Cheryl Ohanesian
Mary Panjarjian
Eugene & Linda Rowinski and
Ron Ernest
Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church (MA)
Mr/Mrs Charles Tutunjian
Harry & Jennie Zeroogian (MA)

Anita A'Hearn
Winifred Ammian
David & Lori (Payette) Belemjian
Donald & Rhonda Boyajian
Laura Clark
Violet Mirzoyan Dadekian
Suzanne Dickinson
Ralph & Elizabeth Enokian
Armig Ferris (NH)
Joanne Hartunian
Barbara Hrachian
Dn. Hagop Injajigian
Dr/Mrs Ara Kayayan
Levon & Karen Khachadourian
Catherine Knauer
Light of the World Christian Church
Shelley & Will Martin
Yn. Yefkin Megherian
Mark Moroukian
Lucy Morton
Joe & Patty O'Keefe
Daniel Parseghian
Toros Shamlian, Jr.
Lucille Sogoian
Mr/Mrs Raymond P. Tellalian
Vartan Vartanian, Jr.

Brian & Garyn (Gdanian) A'Hearn
Ara Baligian
Helen Bezjian
Carolyn Carson
Mike & Joanne Coogan & Family
Adrienne Daniels
Robert & Arleen Drooby
Bill & Dorothy Ernest
Roswita Fragomeni
Mary Hartunian
Charlene Hrachian
Francine Kaiser
Bertha Kazanjian (MA)
Russ & Sandy Kilidjian
Grace Koshgarian
Virginia Mahserjian
Carol Mattozza
Ida & Sarkis Mihranian, Jr.
Pamela Moroukian
John & Karen Nevins
George & Elizabeth Osganian
Stefanie & Nick Rawlings
Linda Simidian
Susan Sogoian
Edward & Adrina Tutunjian
Dr. Haig & Louise Yardumian (FL)

TOTAL: \$5,485

We also acknowledge with gratitude the additional donation of \$4,000 to St. Peter Armenian Church and \$1,000 to the St. Peter Women's Guild from the estate of Yn. Zabelle Gdanian.

In Lieu of Flowers Donations

In memory of LISA (TUTUNJIAN) BALLMER

Hermine Azarian
David & Lori (Payette) Belemjian
Mr/Mrs Charles Chorbajian
Robert & Arleen Drooby
Joanne Hartunian
Charlene Hrachian
Linda Kazanjian
Shelley & Will Martin
Mr/Mrs Joseph O'Keefe
Hirant & Alis Rakijian (CA)
Amy & Rob Scully (SC)
Linda Simidian

Gregory Bachinsky and
Wayne & Pamela Kelly
Robert & Holly Dadekian
Marcia Seduski Gordenstein (CT)
Mary Hartunian
Bertha Kazanjian (MA)
Levon & Karen Khachadourian
Mr/Mrs R. Paul Moroukian
Florence, Glenn, Rene, Seth, and
Patricia Paparian
John & Ustinjya Shahdanian (NJ)
Marie VanAlstynne

Families of Lisa Tutunjian Ballmer
Bob & Geri Carmody
Suzanne Dickinson
Caryl Halburian and
Harry Koshgarian (FL)
Leo Kazanjian
Barbara & Donald Lebentritt
Matthew Natcharian (CT)
Jim & Jenny Quirk
George & Joanne Scaringe
Toros Shamlian, Jr.

TOTAL: \$2,440

In memory of CECILIA (AZADIAN) BURGESS

Steve & Joyce Feeley

TOTAL: \$25

In memory of JOAN DINNEEN

Barbara Derian & Richard DeMartino

Isabel Derian

TOTAL: \$300

In memory of RAFIK GHAZARYAN

Nazik Aghazarian
Mr/Mrs R. Paul Moroukian

Mr/Mrs Garo Derian & Family
Alice Semerdjian & Family

Mr/Mrs Ara Kayayan & Family
St. Peter Armenian School

TOTAL: \$375

In memory of HREPSIME JEVANIAN

Richard Badishkanian (NJ)
Mr/Mrs Charles Chorbajian
Suzanne Dickinson
Roswita Fragomeni
Joanne Hartunian
Barbara Hrachian
Diana Malkonian
Mr/Mrs R. Paul Moroukian
Mr/Mrs Joseph O'Keefe
Toros Shamlian, Jr.
Peter & Teresa Urban

Linda Bedian
Robert & Holly Dadekian
Sherry Edwards
George Hachigian and
Helena Ekmalian & Son
Leon & Susan Kaiser
Shelley & Will Martin
Mary, Eric & Chris Nizibian (CA)
Donna Olchoway
Levon & Marina Siekertzan (CA)
Linda & Richard Varjan (NJ)

Donald & Rhonda Boyajian
Garo & Maria Derian & Family
John & Debbie Ekmalian
Christine Hagopian (MA)
Mary Hartunian
Russ & Sandy Kilidjian
Sean & Alice McMullan
Cheryl Ohanesian
George & Joanne Scaringe
Edward & Adrina Tutunjian
Kai & Susan Wendt

TOTAL: \$2,440

In memory of VAN MOROUKIAN

Diane C. Andonian (MA)
Edward & Denise Buffone (NJ)
Suzanne Dickinson
Christine Hagopian (MA)
Robert Kazanjian (GA)
Pamela Moroukian
Mark Moroukian & Family
Carole Kazanjian Smith (FL)

Paula D. Bohigian (MA)
Mr/Mrs Charles Chorbajian
Robert & Arleen Drooby
Leo Kazanjian
Levon & Karen Khachadourian
Mr/Mrs R. Paul Moroukian
Michael & Denise Hart Moroukian (FL)
Edward & Adrina Tutunjian

Peter, Patty & Sarah Boorujy (NJ)
Mike & Joanne Coogan & Family
John & Debbie Ekmalian
Linda Kazanjian
Shelley & Will Martin
Robert & Theresa Moroukian
Shirley Moroukian
Vartan Vartanian, Jr.

TOTAL: \$1,785

In memory of LUCY KURKJIAN

Norma Kurkjian Derr (CA)

TOTAL: \$100

In Lieu of Flowers Donations

In memory of ROSINE KAZANJIAN

Rosemary Ammian
Linda Bedian
Lucy Chagachbanian (NJ)
Melanie Ciampolillo
Robert & Holly Dadekian
Suzanne Dickinson
John & Debbie Ekmalian
Christine Hagopian (MA)
Marjorie Hotaling and
Thomas & Virginia Lynch
Bertha Kazanjian (MA),
Edward & Nirva Kazanjian (MA),
Lisa Harootunian (RI),
Ara & Nancy Balian (MA), and
Raffi, Ari, Lauren, Isabella & Alexa
Mr/Mrs Joseph O'Keefe
Harry & Katherine Shamlian
Mr/Mrs David Shamlian
Carole Kazanjian Smith & Family (FL)
Edward & Adrina Tutunjan
Kay, Jack, Kris & Ava
Vartigian Rogers/Kolba (PA)

Winifred Ammian
Peter, Patty & Sarah Boorujy (NJ)
Herb & Linda Chorbajian
The Ciannamea Family
Maria DePaul-Tobey
Marguerite Djehizian and
Elisabeth Chamberlain
Joanne Hartunian
Marion Jaffarian
Linda Kazanjian
Chris & Diana Keller
Sam Mahserjian
Shelley & Will Martin
Mary P. Minassian
Mr/Mrs R. Paul Moroukian
Sabrina & Hank Pope (GA)
Lucille Shamlian
Toros Shamlian, Jr.
Susan Sogoian
Vartan Vartanian, Jr.

Beatrice[‡] & Gerald Arzoumanian
Kathleen (Simonian) Burke
Mr/Mrs Charles Chorbajian
Mike & Joanne Coogan & Family
Andrea (Kazanjian) Detterick (CO)
Mr/Mrs Robert Drooby
Ralph & Elizabeth Enokian
Mary Hartunian
Arthur & JoAnn Kazanjian
The Family of Rosine Kazanjian
John & Sossy Khachadourian
Diana Malkonian
Sally (Mahserjian) McNeff
Mark Moroukian
Matthew & Lisa Natcharian (CT)
George & Joanne Scaringe
Mr/Mrs Craig Shamlian
Linda Simidian
Arda Tchekmeian (FL)
Patty Vartigian

TOTAL: \$6,005

In memory of LEON NIGOHOSIAN

Mr/Mrs Charles Chorbajian

TOTAL: \$100

In memory of HAROUTUN SEMERDJIAN

Laura & Robert Barren

NEW TOTAL: \$1,235

In memory of HAIGOOHI SMITH

Linda Bedian
Crescentia M. Brynalfson
Irene Czelusniak
Garó & Maria Derian & Family
John & Debbie Ekmalian
Roswita Fragomeni
Mary Hartunian
Charlene Hrachian
Francine Kaiser
Levon & Karen Khachadourian
Sue & Pat McKenna and
Kathleen & Ron Winnie
Mr/Mrs Joseph O'Keefe
Edward & Adrina Tutunjan

Arcie Bedrosian (CA)
Herb & Linda Chorbajian
Robert & Holly Dadekian
Suzanne Dickinson
Ralph & Elizabeth Enokian
Christine Hagopian (MA)
Lisa M. Howard
Seren Hrachian
Leon & Susan Kaiser
Renee Martin
R. Mihran & Ovsanna Mooradian
Matthew Natcharian & Family (CT)
George & Elizabeth Osganian
Kai & Susan Wendt

Judy F. Bellamy
Mr/Mrs Charles Chorbajian
Barbara Derian & Richard DeMartino
Mr/Mrs Robert Drooby
Nancy Fonda
Joanne Hartunian
Barbara Hrachian
Mitch & Mary Johnson
Linda Kazanjian
Shelley & Will Martin
Mr/Mrs R. Paul Moroukian
Cheryl Ohanesian
Toros Shamlian, Jr.
Susan Zawoysky

TOTAL: \$2,095

In memory of GREGORY T. ZORIAN, SR.

Raiche Family (MA)
Mary, Lee, Sheryn, and Paul

TOTAL: \$100

Special Donations

Help St. Peter Church Get Back on Its Feet campaign

GoFundMe Campaign #Giving Tuesday

Since March 15, worship services as well as all classes, programs, and activities have been cancelled at our church in Watervliet. Our mid-sized parish not only provides a spiritual home to over 400 Armenian families, it showcases the rich heritage and culture of the Armenian people with a wide variety of programs, activities, and cultural events for the whole community.

In conjunction with Giving Tuesday (on May 5), GoFundMe presented a fund matching program in an effort to aid charities and nonprofits affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds raised through online donations by each individual charity, up to \$1,000, were to be matched.

Thanks to the quick response by faithful and friends, St. Peter Armenian Church surpassed that goal in under 12 hours! Funds raised through this effort helped St. Peter Armenian Church continue to offer support to the Armenian community of the Capital District of Upstate New York and beyond.

Monies raised also provided much needed funds for the general operating expenses of the church and keeping the small staff working to bring as many of our services, programs, and rich Armenian Christian faith to our community through new and innovative ways with the help of modern technology. As with so many, we are all adjusting to a new "normal" until gatherings can once again take place in our beloved St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church, the "Family Church on the Hill."

Thank you to all those who answered the call to "Help St. Peter Church get back on its feet" during these uncertain times. Donations raised through the GoFundMe campaign as well as donations sent directly to the church for this effort raised over \$19,000, including the \$1,000 gift matched by GoFundMe. We are blessed to have so many support us through this effort.

Brian Apkarian	Stephen & Denise Arata	Andre & Anne Assalian
George & Elsie Bedrosian	Donald & Rhonda Boyajian	Christopher Buchakjian
Leonard Buchakjian	David & Roseann Caruso	Herb & Linda Chorbajian and Family
Frank & Carol Colluccio (NJ)	Jonathan Dadekian	Janet Demirjian
Robert & Holly Dadekian	George & Karen Dayian	Fr. Stepanos & Paulette Doudoukjian
Garod Derian & Family	Katherine & John Doudoukjian (SC)	Katherine Englehardt
Chip Drusano (FL)	Levon Eleyjian	Joanne Hartunian
Marianne Drusano (FL)	Sarkis & Heidi Guleserian	Ronald Kaiser
GoFundMe Organization	Francine Kaiser	Roxann Kasparian (CA)
Kimberly Kachougian (NJ)	Marilyn Kasparian	Melanie Kilian (CA)
Stephanie Kaiser	Marion Kehrher	Christopher Le
Gregory Kechejian (MA)	Knights of Vartan, Davros Lodge	John Malool
Philip Knauer	Douglas Martaian (NJ)	Christopher Martin
George Mahserjian	Lori Megherian	Louis Mikitarian (MA)
Marylinn Markarian	Serena Moroukian (NJ)	Thomas Nevins
Shelley & Will Martin	Steve Nigohosian (NJ)	Elizabeth A. Osganian
R. Mihran & Ovsanna Mooradian	Janet & Steve Rith-Najarian (MN)	Kathleen Robinson (CA)
Daniel Parseghian	Berjouhi Saladin	Laura Sanderson
Roma Foods Importing Co.	Jean Shahnasarian (FL)	Toros Shamlian, Jr.
George & Joanne Scaringe	Ari Terjanian (OH)	Anne Toomajian
Richard Stepanian (NJ)	Tanya Tutunjian	Kai & Susan Wendt
Alexander Torossian	Mary Yegoryan	
Kristin Winn		

Additional Stewardship Gifts

Additional contributions were given for a variety of reasons, such as for "virtual plate collection," "Fr. Stepanos' encouraging words," "just because," etc. We thank all those listed below for their additional love and support.

Vardan Amirbekian	Andre & Anne Assalian	Linda Bedian
Judith Brennan (CA)	Adrienne Daniels	Charles Mahserjian
Thomas Nevins	Sandra Sabonjian (CA)	Lori Schindler
Kathleen Shortell	Janis Urban (GA)	

TOTAL: \$2,500

Other Donations to the General Fund

An additional Christmas Offering was given by **The Ashby Family (OH)** bringing the total amount of donations for the 2019-2020 Christmas season to \$6,567.

Thank you to the **St. Peter Armenian Church** for a \$200 donation for support of the concert/dinner/dance they hosted at the church on February 8 featuring singer/performer, Margar Yeghiazaryan.

Donations totaling \$200 were given to the church from **Brian & Garyn (Gdanian) A'Hearn** and **Hariton Sprinceanu** for grave blessings conducted by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian.

Special Donations

Armenian Church Endowment Fund (ACEF)

We recently received our annual distribution check from the ACEF for the year 2019. Most of the distribution is from endowments established with St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church, but managed by the ACEF. Additionally, some of the distribution is received from endowments established by individuals directly with the ACEF, with the Church as the beneficiary of the income distribution.

Distribution for the year 2019 received in 2020 from the ACEF for Church endowments amounted to \$48,983.78 plus \$1,736.72 from direct endowments for a total of \$50,720.50. This amount was reduced by transfers, in accordance with provisions of special purpose funds, totaling \$2,606.39 and reinvestments of \$1,359.73, resulting in a net endowment income of \$46,754.38.

Two new endowments were established in 2019 in the names of *Martin & Joyce Kenosian* and *Rose Foley*. Additional amounts were added in 2019 to existing endowments in the names of *Alice & Paul Moroukian*, *Philip & Sarah Natcharian*, and *Toros Shamlan*. Total additions in 2019 for new and existing endowments was \$93,810.14

Additions to existing funds can be made at any time during the year. If interested in establishing an endowment fund, please contact the St. Peter Church office.

***Remember St. Peter
Armenian Church in your will!***

BLESSING OF GRAPES SERVICES, August 16



The Armenian Church celebrates the Assumption of the Holy Mother of God on the Sunday closest to the 15th of August. This year, the celebration will be observed on Sunday, August 16. For the feast, we will conduct the traditional Blessing of the Grapes Service following worship service that morning. *Those wishing to donate toward the grapes for this occasion are asked to contact the church office.*

Words of Thanks

In response to a call for help, St. Peter Armenian Church donated \$1,000 to the Diocese for the purpose of offering aid to Armenia during the worsening crisis of COVID-19. Funds will be used entirely to support the Ministry of Health for the purchase of much needed equipment and supplies. In a letter of acknowledgement sent by Diocesan Development Director, Laurie Onanian, she writes, "Thank you for answering the call and helping Armenia and for all you do to support our Diocese! We are truly grateful. We wish you and your loved ones the very best of health and to remain safe during these challenging times."

FINANCIAL GUIDELINES for Endowments

Definition

Endowments are funds or property donated to St. Peter Armenian Church. The income from the endowments shall be used as follows:

Special Purpose Funds

(Restricted endowments)

Funds or property donated for a specific purpose or use defined by the donor in cooperation with the Parish Council. Such purposes may include: scholarship, educational experience, or a specifically funded program.

Special Considerations: Any Special Purpose Fund shall require a minimum of \$2,500 and the approval of Parish Council. Additions to the fund may be made at any time. No subsidiary organization for the Church may establish or contribute to a Special Purpose Fund.

Permanent Funds

(Unrestricted endowments)

Funds or property donated without any specific purpose or use identified by the donor. The income from these endowments may be used for general operating expenses or as designated by the Parish Council.

Special Considerations: Any Permanent Fund shall require a minimum of \$1,000 as an initial principal. All interest generated from the Permanent Fund shall be transferred annually to the General Fund.

Community News

Class of 2020

The class of 2020 will always be remembered as the class to graduate under the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic. After years in the making, years of learning and growing, and years of study and advancement to reach their graduation goals, there were no big ceremonies nor grand celebrations to mark the occasion.

We are proud to offer our congratulations to the graduating seniors of the St. Peter Armenian Church community and wish them much success in their future endeavors.

What a story you will have to share!

In Loving Memory



Our Graduates

Daniel Kenneth Kehrer, son of Jim & Marion Kehrer, graduated with honors from Utica College. Daniel earned a degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Homeland Security and looks forward to pursuing his career. He is the grandson of Gregory & (the late) Marjorie Nazarian and Jim & Elaine Kehrer.

Kaelyn McMullan, daughter of Sean & Alice McMullan, graduated from Shehenderhwa High School. Kaelyn plans to study Health Sciences at Hudson Valley Community College in the fall. Kaelyn is the granddaughter of the late Hrepsime & John Jevanian and David & Suzanne McMullan.

Elizabeth (Ellie) Shamlian, daughter of Harry & Kate Shamlian, graduated from Shaker High School with honors and plans to study marketing and entrepreneurship at Babson College in Wellesley, MA. Ellie is the granddaughter of Lucille (Dolly) & the late Harry Shamlian and John & Rosemarie Wagner.

Victoria (Tori) Shamlian, daughter of Harry & Kate Shamlian, graduated from Shaker High School with honors and plans to study government at Smith College in Northampton, MA. Ellie is the granddaughter of Lucille (Dolly) & the late Harry Shamlian and John & Rosemarie Wagner.

Luke Vozzy, son of Chad & Teresa Vozzy, graduated from Niskayuna High School. Luke is the grandson of Guy & Lucy (Elsie) Vozzy. Luke has been accepted for an internship in preparation for his pursuit as a youth pastor.

Birth Announcement

Congratulations to Johnny & Susanna (Kyaruns) Shamounian on the birth of a daughter, Mariam Irina Shamounian, born on July 19, 2020. Congratulations also to big sister, Christina, and to the grandparents, Fouad & Berjouhi Shamounian and Sahag & Irvina Kyaruns.

In Remembrance

We offer our sincere condolences to the families and friends of:

- † **Mary Ahigian**, who entered her eternal rest on February 13, 2020. Mary is survived by two daughters, Darlene Ahigian and Adrienne Cali; and one son, Kenneth Ahigian. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian conducted a graveside service at Albany Rural Cemetery on April 14, 2020.
- † **Leon Nigohosian, Sr.** who entered his eternal rest on March 9, 2020. Leon is survived by his wife, Elsie (Tatoian) Nigohosian; two sons, Leon (Tina) Nigohosian, Jr. (PA) and Stephan (Tanya Vartivarian) Nigohosian (NJ); and three grandchildren.
- † **Carmen J. Giunta** who entered his eternal rest on April 25, 2020. Carmen is the son of the late Charles & Dorothy (Nazarian) Giunta and is survived by a sister, Nancy (Carl) Haverly; a brother, Jerry (Marias Sorriento) Giunta; and several extended family members and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.
- † **Gregory T. Zorian, Sr.** who entered his eternal rest on May 29, 2020. Gregory is survived by his wife Antoinette Zorian; a son, Gregory "Junior" (Kathy) Zorian; a daughter, Nikki (Ernie) Zorian-Bovee; a sister, Mary Zorian; and two grandchildren. Fr. Stepanos conducted a graveside service on June 3.
- † **Lisa (Tutunjian) Ballmer** (Switzerland) who entered her eternal rest on June 14, 2020. Lisa is survived by her parents, Edward & Adrina Tutunjian; her husband, Yves Ballmer (Switzerland); three sons, Max (Maude) Ballmer, Alex (Valentina) Ballmer, and Sam Ballmer (all of Switzerland); two sisters, Dina (the late Brian) Carroll, and Brenda (Jeff) Roberts; three grandchildren; and several nieces.

Community News

Move with Maria

Dance instructor, Maria Derian, has offered an exercise class via Zoom, Monday-Saturday at 10:30am. This has become a very popular class during this time of social distancing and with public gyms closed. There is no charge for these classes; however, Maria asks that participants consider a donation to "St. Peter Armenian Church." As of July 20, 100 classes have been held and a total of \$1,250 has been donated to the church from those participants listed below. Thank you one and all and special thanks to Maria for sharing her talent, dedication, and energy to benefit each and every participant as well as St. Peter Armenian Church. Contact Maria at dmgd2797ny@hotmail.com for information on how to join in for fun and fitness.

Noushig Atamian
Nectar Derian
Heidi Guleserian
Charlene Hrachian
Shakeh Orangian
Carol Tutunjian

Linda Bedian
Suzanne Dickinson
Diane (Bedian) Harff
Phyllis Jevanian
Berjouhi Shamounian

Rosalee Bedian
Christine Figueroa (TN)
Elaine Haroutunian (MA)
Alice McMullan
Claudia Suppa



Move with Maria class t-shirt logo (above); class photo on Zoom (below).



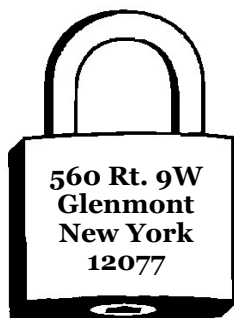
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