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# Outreach

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## Colonel Harry Sachkalian Receives Cilician Award



Archbishop Ashjian decorating Col. Sachkalian with Knight of Cilicia Insignia.

Colonel Harry Sachkalian, a well-known Armenian American leader, received the Order of Knighthood by His Holiness Karekin II during ceremonies held at the annual banquet of the Holy Cross Armenian Apostolic Church of Greater Washington, November 16. The Knight of Cilicia insignia was presented to Col. Sachkalian by Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian on behalf of the Catholics.

The banquet, under the auspices of Archbishop Ashjian, was held on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the Holy Cross Church and was attended by 300 people. Special Guests of Honor were Dr. and Mrs. Dertad Mangigian.

Colonel Sachkalian, U.S. Air Force (Ret), was born in Hartford, Connecticut, September 20, 1914. He is a graduate of Syracuse University as well as the Army Command and General Staff School in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; the Army Navy Staff College, Washington, DC., and Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Washington, DC.

During his military career, which started in 1937, Colonel Sachkalian has received the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, British Mentions in Despatches, and numerous service medals. In 1986 he was nominated by the Armenian National Committee and subsequently designated by "Americans by Choice" as an "Honored American."

On Sunday morning Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian presided over the Divine Liturgy and delivered the Sermon. After his words of praise for Rev. Khoren Habeshian and the reading of the encyclical, the Prelate presented the *pilon* to Der Hayr.

Following church services Dr. and Mrs. Dertad Mangigian hosted a luncheon in honor of Archbishop Ashjian at their residence. Scores of community leaders had the opportunity to meet the Prelate and his guests.

## President Levon Ter Petrosian in Second Visit to U.S. Meets with George Bush and Brian Mulroney



President Levon Ter Petrosian with Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, Prelate of the Prelacy of the Armenian Church (left) and Bishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church, during a meeting with community and religious leaders.

President Levon Ter Petrosian of the Republic of Armenia met with President George Bush in the Oval office of the White House on Thursday, November 14 in a 45-minute meeting which was described as "cordial and constructive."

Mr. Ter Petrosian arrived on Tuesday, November 12 and was welcomed by several hundred Armenians from the Washington metropolitan area. The State Department's Protocol Officer officially welcomed President Ter Petrosian to the United States.

A variety of issues were discussed during the meeting including multilateral cooperation between the two countries, and how the United States could directly help Armenia this winter with the critical food and fuel shortages expected.

President Ter Petrosian's meeting with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney took place on November 15 during which time "the foundation for serious relations between Canada and Armenia was set," according to a spokesman.

## Archbishop Ashjian Issues Food for Armenia Appeal

In response to an appeal by Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian to all of the churches within the jurisdiction of the Prelacy of the Eastern United States and Canada, December 7, the third anniversary of the earthquake in northern Armenia, was observed as a "Fast Day" with the cost of one day's meals donated to the "Food for Armenia" appeal.

Realizing that the coming of Winter means tremendous hardships for the people of Armenia, Archbishop Ashjian several months ago urged all of the churches to form "Outreach for Armenia" committees in order to have a network ready to mobilize assistance through the winter months.

On December 8 requiem services



հոկտեմբեր 1992 թվական

Your 1992 Prelacy Diary, dedicated to Movses Khorenatzi, is on its way. Watch for it.



### Ordination of Deacons in New Britain



Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian visited St. Stephen's Church in Connecticut on October 19 and 20 at which time he attended meetings with the Board of Trustees and the Ladies Guild. On Sunday morning during the Divine Liturgy, Archbishop Ashjian ordained two deacons, Aram-Sunpat Khachoyan and Sebouth Asadourian both of whom are active members of St. Stephen's Church and have served in various capacities during their many years of devoted service. Following the Divine Liturgy a banquet took place honoring the Prelate and the new deacons.

### Hratchik Simonian Visits Prelacy



Mr. and Mrs. Hratchik Simonian visited Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian at the Prelacy on November 13. Mr. Simonian is the newly-appointed president of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Armenians Abroad and has been visiting various areas of the United States. Joining the Prelate and his guests was Dr. Herand Markarian, a member of the Central Executive of the Hamazkain organization. The group enjoyed a dialogue about the future role of the *Spiurk* committee within the current political situation in Armenia.

### ՏԱՆՈՒ ՔՐԻՍՏՈՆՆԻԱԿԱՆ ԸՄՔՈՒՄԻՏԵ

2007. ԷՁ 2-ԷԸ

Բրուսելում այգիերը եւ գանձոց լեցնէ մեր խոնկերուն ու ջուրերուն կատարյալ երազով:

Հայեցի գատախարակութիւնն է, որ պիտի ողորէ անոնց հուրիւնը մեր պատմութենէն հոսող մարդկայնութեան եւ ազատաիրութեան զգացումներով ու գանձոց գարնէն ընդունակ նըւիրումի եւ գոհարներութեան:

Հայեցի գատախարակութիւնն է, եւ անկէ ծնունդ առած ոգին, որ պիտի կամրջէ հայ ցեղի բոլոր գաւազներուն հոգիները ու սրտերը, ուր որ ալ ըլլան անոնք, եւ ինչ պայմաններու մէջ ալ ազդին:

Հայեցի գատախարակութիւնն է, վերջապէս, որ անասան հիմը պիտի դառնայ ՀԱՅ ՏԱՆ, որդէպէտ անոր հոգին կազմող հայ մայրը իր գաւազներուն շրթներուն հայ ստաներ դրոշմի, անոնց մտադաշ հոգիներէն ներս հոգեւոր եւ ազգային շունչ փչէ՝ իր հայաշունչ օրօրներով, ազգայնաշունչ դարձապնով, հայ արժէքներու, հայ բնութեան եւ աւանդութեանց հարուստ կտակումով, որովհետեւ, արանց հայ մօր չկայ հայ սունն, չկայ Հայ Դաստ, չկայ հայ եկեղեցի եւ հայութիւն:

Այո՛, լեզուն ունեցիր եւ մշակութիւն ու հասարակ շահուած ոգին, ապահով եւ գուն, գաւազները պաշտպանուած են հոգեկան ցրտութեան եւ երաշխի դէմ, օտար վարակներու եւ խոցերու դէմ: Ու՛, քովը են գաւազները, քովը՝ ապագան, իսկ կատարութիւնն ու ապահովութիւնը՝ բարձիւր ընկեր:

Այո, սանք, որովհետեւ հոն ուր գոհարներութեան ոգի կայ հոն կայ հասարգ ու հպարտութիւն, հոն կայ տեսիլք եւ՝ փրկութիւնն ու օրհնութիւնը սերունդներուն:

«Տու՛ք որ սրտի ձեզի...»:

Այո, սանք, որ սրտի մեղի վեհութիւնն ու բերեղացունը մեր հոգիին, հայրենիք, հայրենիքն նկարագրելը մեր հուրիւնն միացաւ եւ անքամանիւր հայր-քրտոսեանայ բնութիւնը մեր անձին եւ՝ յաւերտութիւնը մեր ցեղին:

Օրհնաւ ըլլա՛ք զուր:



Participants in ecumenical gathering in Worcester.

During the weekend of September 21 and 22 the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Worcester, Massachusetts, celebrated the 50th anniversary of their church, the 11th anniversary of the consecration of the new church structure, and the 13th anniversary of the ordination of Rev. Fr. Vazken Bekarian, pastor of the church.

The events began with a meeting at 10:00 a.m. Saturday with Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian and members of the Worcester Aram AYF Chapter. At noon an ecumenical reception was held. Among the many clergymen of various denominations attending were Rev. Richard Hennigar, Executive Director of the Worcester County Ecumenical Council (WCEC) and Rev. Donald Whitcomb, President of WCEC.

Evening Vesper services took place with Archbishop Ashjian joined by Archpriest Moushegh Der Kaloustian, Archpriest Arshag Daghlian, Rev. Fr. Zareh Sahagian, Rev. F. Antranig Baljian, and Rev. Fr. Vazken Bekarian.

Immediately following Vespers, a banquet took place at the Worcester Holiday Inn with His Eminence Archbishop Ashjian as Guest of Honor. Among those seated with him at the head table were Mr. Jordan Levy, Mayor, City of Worcester; Mr. Vasken Gopoyan and Mr. Sarkis Der Bedrosian, Chairman and Treasurer of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church Board of Trustees, respectively; the Most Rev. George Reuger, Auxiliary Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Worcester; Rev. Donald Whitcomb, Archpriest Moushegh Der Kaloustian, Rev. Fr. and Yeretsgin Vazken Bekarian, Rev. Fr. Antranig Baljian, Mr. and Mrs. Bedros Tashjian, representing the Prelacy Executive Council, and Drs. Siran and Seta Apehlian. Distinguished guests included Archpriest and Yeretsgin Arshag Daghlian, Rev. Fr. and Yeretsgin Zareh Sahagian and Rev. and Mrs. Ardashes Kerhabian of the the Armenian Church of The Martyrs, Worcester.

During the program Rev. Fr. Vazken presented Archbishop Ashjian with a gift on the occasion of his 30th anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood and his 14th anniversary of his elevation to the rank of Bishop.

Certificates of Merit from the Prelacy were presented to Mrs. Florence Eknoian, Mrs. Baidzar Kopoyan, Mrs. Dikranouhi Shrestinian, Mr. Jack Kachadoorian, and Mr. Kourken Der Bedrosian, posthumously.

Archbishop Ashjian in his remarks reminded the gathering that we are not only celebrating the 50th anniversary of Holy Trinity Church, but the 100th anniversary of the first Armenian Church in America, which was established in Worcester in the late 1890's and consecrated on January 18, 1891. He praised our forefathers who faithfully and courageously carried the Altar from one place to another to serve God.

### Impressive Exhibit by Yevkine Pleases Many



The artist Yevkine (left) and Mrs. Suzanne Haggopian pose with the sculpture titled "Sartarabad" which was purchased by Mrs. Haggopian as a gift for the Great House of Cilicia in Antelias, Lebanon.

The delicate and beautiful sculptures by Yevkine Yepremian de Greef graced the Vahakn and Hasmig Hovnanian Hall at the Prelacy headquarters in New York City for eight days providing a glimpse at the expertly crafted works of this talented artist. The exhibition also included a limited number of watercolors by the artist, but without doubt the sculptures demanded the undivided attention of the viewer.

Sponsored by the Prelacy Ladies Guild, the exhibit opened Friday, November 15 with a reception attended by art enthusiasts who studied and enjoyed the delicate yet bold works executed by Yevkine.

Some of her most impressive works seen at this exhibit included Sartarabad, The Dream of Icare, The Night, Shourchebar, Circle of Life, and Instant of Earthquake.

Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, welcomed the guests during the reception and paid tribute to the artist as well as those who attended to enjoy and encourage her artistic endeavors.

## Alan Hovhanness' 80th Birthday: Glorious Day at Carnegie Hall

by FLORENCE AVAKIAN

For a few hours on Sunday afternoon, October 6, at Carnegie Hall, the world with all its tensions and turmoil was shut out, as Alan Hovhanness' unique musical creativity was celebrated in an 80th Birthday tribute to him. Sponsored by the Prelacy of the Armenian Church, it featured some of his best known music, and the world premiere of his "Artsakh" Symphony No. 65, commissioned by the Prelacy and Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian.

Alan Hovhanness is anything but an ordinary composer. His prolific works are not just notes on staves, but profound images imbued with deep spirituality and feeling. In his own words, he aims to "create music, not for snobs, but for all people, music which is beautiful and healing... as an inspiration in man's journey through the universe."

Introduced as a "singular creator" by the well known radio and television commentator Martin Bookspan, the tall, ascetic composer with head modestly bowed, slowly strode to the stage greeted by a thunderous standing ovation lasting several minutes. The composer himself conducted the American Composers Orchestra in his lyrical and serene "Armenian Rhapsody No. 1" written in 1944, and based on Armenian mountain village tunes given to him by his friend, the legendary "ashugh" (troubadour), Yenovk Der Hagopian.

The unmistakable Hovhanness melodic, emotional, and communicative style was again seen in his Prelude and Quadruple Fugue, this time under the baton of the Pulitzer Prize-winning conductor and composer Karel Husa who also conducted one of Hovhanness' best loved works, "Mysterious Mountain, Symphony No. 2." This deeply religious and powerful composition was originally commissioned by Leopold Stokowski who conducted it for his first program with the Houston Symphony in 1955.

The prayer-like first and third movements of "Mysterious Mountain" with its sweeping melodic lines evoke the spiritual power of nature's highest forces rising to heavenly heights. A true celestial meditation. Hovhanness himself has said, "Mountains are symbols, like pyramids, of man's attempt to know God... the symbolic meeting places between the mundane and spiritual worlds."

Following intermission, tributes from well-known composers were read by Martin Bookspan. Calling Hovhanness, "music's Saint Francis of Assisi," Donatnick Argento, who studied with Hovhanness 33 years ago, thanked him for teaching him about the "importance of naturalness, the rewards of humility, the necessity for honesty, the value of simplicity—not so much about notes, as about the person who chooses the notes."

Alan Hovhanness has "gifted us with extraordinary singing," wrote Lou Harrison. "Musical fashions change fast now," but "Alan is a joyous center... one of the few artists who are technoproof." And David Amram wrote, "He is a shining light in the field of music. He has always followed his heart."

John Duffy, President of Meet the Composer organization recalled being impressed by the composer's "deep spirituality and great prolific output"—over 400 works during his lifetime. To the delight of the audience, he remembered seeing Hovhanness leaning against a pillar of the 59th Street subway writing music on scraps of paper, totally immersed in his music. "Like Bach, he has abiding faith and discipline. Like Bach, he heals and replenishes our spirit," Duffy said. Among the many musicians attending were composer John Cage.

Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, in presenting to the revered composer the St. Mesrob Mashdotz Medallion—the Cilician See's highest award for "achievement in the arts" bestowed by Catholics Karekin II—called him "America's premiere composer, and a beloved son of



Alan Hovhanness conducting the American Composers Orchestra in the world premiere of "Artsakh," Symphony No. 65.



Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian presenting the Mesrob Mashdotz Medallion to Mr. Hovhanness.



The two conductors—Alan Hovhanness and Karel Husa—greet each other following the successful concert at Carnegie Hall.



Alan Hovhanness with Larry Sobol at press conference at Broadcast Music Incorporated several days prior to the concert.

the Armenian nation like another Armenian-American, William Saroyan. Alan Hovhanness has taken aspects of his ancestral heritage and woven it into the fabric of this great nation, the United States of America."

Richie Havens, the internationally known folk singer who grew up listening to Hovhanness' music on his car radio, movingly narrated the prologue from William Saroyan's "The Time of Your Life," dedicating it to the "small and big parts of Alan Hovhanness in all of us." Offering two of his most famous renditions, he sang and played on guitar George Harrison's "Here Comes the Sun," and John Lennon's "Imagine." In the background was a Denny Dent oil painting of Hovhanness commissioned by Havens.

To thunderous applause, Alan Hovhanness came center stage to conduct his long-awaited "Artsakh" Symphony, commissioned by the Prelacy. As his tall, lean figure bent forward, his arms and long tapered fingers rising, he resembled the mountains he so reveres. The Symphony evokes a strong Armenian, intermixed with an Oriental, feeling.

The first movement of hymns and love songs "inspired by the mountains of the world," has a sacred 7/4 time beat, three beats representing the "heavenly elements and four for the strength of the earth," he has said. "A city of brass expresses human and nature's suffering." The second movement with its flowing beautiful melodies paints serene pastoral visions. The final movement, again in 7/4 time unites the earthly and heavenly forces, followed by a powerful figure and violent percussive sounds, and ends with a heroic, majestic theme over the percussion, symbolizing a victory of hope and prayer.

A standing ovation continuing for many minutes, brought the humble composer on stage again and again. Graciously, he offered as an encore the second movement from his Concerto No. 8, a delicate, gentle, lyrical and very



Photo by KANTZABED

Alan and Hinako cutting the birthday cake during the reception following the concert. With them, from left to right, Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, Larry Sobol, artistic director, and Martin Bookspan, host and commentator.

Hovhanness ending to a "glorious event" in the words of John Duffy.

A reception with sumptuous delicacies took place at the Prelacy headquarters in New York. In attendance were family and friends of the performers, including singer Hinako Fujihara, wife of the composer; musician and concert impresario Lawrence Sobol, artistic director of the day's tribute; Dr. Betty Gregory who had been instrumental in helping Hovhanness during his early performances in Boston; and Iris Papazian, project director of the 80th birthday celebration.

"Today is a great day for all who love music, art and beauty in man," said Archbishop Ashjian, in welcoming the guests. He expressed the hope that the venerated composer would conduct his music in Armenia where "you stole the

hearts of four million Armenians and 180,000 in Artsakh. Through your music, we reach higher peaks," he said emotionally, then introduced Bruce MacCombie, Dean of the Juilliard School of Music, and Armen Sumptarian, Pro Tem President of Yerevan's Gornidas Conservatory. A friendship agreement has been reached between the two schools which will admit two students from Armenia to Juilliard on full scholarship.

As Richie Havens led the crowd in the singing of Happy Birthday, a smiling Hinako and Alan Hovhanness cut the huge birthday cake. With the guests pressing around him, the gentle maestro said to this writer in his typically humble way, "I'm in fear and trembling. How can I deserve all this." One wonders, can there be anyone more deserving?

Photo by HARRY KOUNDAKJIAN