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Outreach

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A Publication of the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America

Volume XVI, Number 4 — October 1993

ARMENIA FUND U.S.A. APPEALS FOR FUNDS FOR FUEL LINCY FOUNDATION WILL MATCH FUNDS 2 TO 1

Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian sent the following appeal on behalf of the Armenia Fund U.S.A., Inc., which together with the United Armenian Fund hopes to raise enough money to purchase 200,000 tons of heating oil.

Dear Friends:

Your generous response last year to our GIFT OF LIFE appeal provided food parcels to more than 20,000 Armenian families in Armenia and Artsakh. I saw first hand, through several trips to Armenia, the tremendous success of this humanitarian effort. Perhaps, the greatest testimony to the campaign's success is the many letters of thanks we received.

This year, thanks largely to the OPERATION WINTER RESCUE program, there will probably be adequate food supplies. I spent two weeks in Armenia in August to assess the situation and to find out how best we can help this winter. It became very clear to me that the greatest problem this winter is going to be the lack of energy for heating and cooking.

Armenia Fund U.S.A. and the United Armenian Fund are joining forces to raise \$21,000,000 to provide 200,000 tons of heating oil to Armenia. The Lincy Foundation, a member of the Glendale, California based United Armenia Fund has volunteered to double match every dollar we raise. They will donate \$14,000,000 if Armenians worldwide raise \$7,000,000.

All of the organizations belonging to the Armenia Fund U.S.A. have agreed to make every effort to raise as much money as possible to reach the goal of seven million. Because of this challenge, we decided to cancel our 1993-94 appeal for Armenia which we had prepared for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and to put all of our efforts toward this project in order to qualify for the matching funds.

Please give and give as generously as you can. For every dollar you donate, the Lincy Foundation will give two additional dollars. All monies raised by Armenia Fund U.S.A. will be turned over to UAF for the purchase of oil. The 200,000 tons will be ample to operate central heating for at least 2,500,000 people through the winter. **Time is short. The oil must be purchased soon.**

We are turning to you once again because, quite frankly, if not you and me, who? Be mindful of the words of our Lord and Saviour, "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to him, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." (James 2:14-16)

Please make your tax-deductible donation immediately and remember that every dollar you donate will earn two additional dollars from the Lincy Foundation. Your donation will make a big difference. You can help keep Armenia warm this winter!

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ARMENIA FUND, U.S.A.
Mail to: 31 West 52nd Street, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10019-6109

FATHERLAND

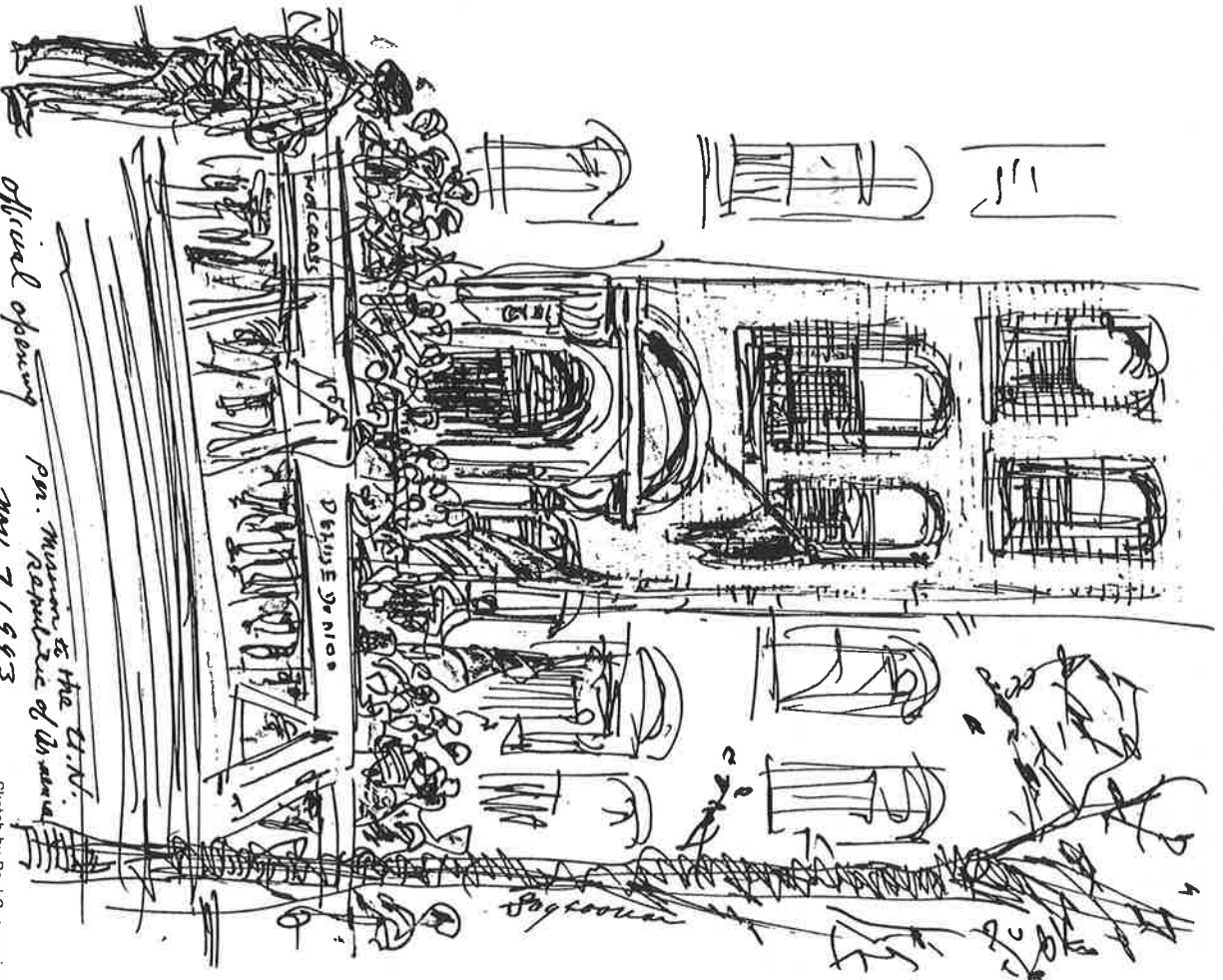
by Hovanness Girgorian

Translated by Diana Der-Hovannessian

I am standing up to sing this song
because you are the one
for whom peace is praised, no holds barred.
You are the one for whom war
would be waged without orders;
because you are the one,
the only one, for whom absent longing,
longing from a distance, grows.

You are the toast at foreign cafes
ships at sea (and for ship-wrecked souls).
I sing this song from the beginning
because you are the only thing if lost
would leave nothing more to lose,
because without you dazzling snow
is ordinary water and green hills
bare stone. And without you
love is only an ornament called sex,
having children an individual quirk.

You are the one for whom I sing
this song bareheaded in the wind
because yours is the hand
that must bless our foreheads,
our coming and going, our rising
and falling, when we begin the day
and end a sentence,
when we give birth to the idea
and when the heart delivers
what was difficult to put into words,
what is difficult to bring to light
what the heart bears in silence.
You are the song I must sing
that I sing
as long as I am, as long as you are.



Sketch by Paul Sagssoorian

The new home for the Armenian Mission to the United Nations was dedicated on Sunday, November 7. Located on East 36th Street in New York City, the four-story building was purchased and refurbished for the Mission by Mr. and Mrs. Kevork and Sirvat Hovannian. On Saturday evening Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, accompanied by Very Rev. Anoushavan Tanielian and Professor Hrach Zadoian, attended a private reception for about 100 patrons of the Mission.

National Association of Ladies Guilds Announces First NALG Essay Contest

The National Association of Ladies' Guilds announces its first annual NALG Essay Contest. The theme of the essay must be about the following topic: "What are the Biggest Challenges Facing the Armenian Church Today?"

The contest is open to any candidate interested in Biblical studies who has demonstrated active leadership in the church; to a candidate currently enrolled in theological studies leading to the priesthood in the Armenian Church or to a student who has completed theological studies leading to the priesthood in the Armenian Church.

Scholarships will be awarded to the two top finalists. Papers should not be more than 500 words in length. Contestants may submit more than one essay for consideration but only one scholarship will be awarded per student.

The essays will be judged on the basis of originality and creative impact. Essays should discuss major issues of the Armenian Church and explore creative ways to make the Church relevant to current times.

Entries must be postmarked no later than *February 28, 1994*. Entries will become the sole property of the sponsors of the contest. The winning essays will be published in OUTREACH.

The title page of each essay must include the following: Writer's name, home address and telephone number, age, and educational qualifications.

All entries should be mailed to: First Annual NALG Essay Contest, c/o Mrs. Charlotte Donabedian, 9 Garwaine Drive, Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865.

The essay contest was developed by the NALG following the 10th Annual Conference of the National Association of Ladies' Guilds which took place in Bethesda, Maryland, in May 1993, which recommended that the NALG executive find ways of preparing our youth as the future leaders of the church.

During the conference Archbishop Dr. Gorun Shirikian from Dearborn, Michigan, lectured on "Conversation of the Environment—Our Position Toward God's Creation." He stressed the need for awareness of the dangers to survival and the "abuse and misuse" of our planet. "Ecology must be a worldwide concern," he said.

Rev. Nerses Manooagian from St. Gregory the Illuminator Church in Philadelphia, spoke about the "Tradition of Vartavar" and "Poon Paregentsan," in keeping with the Ladies' Guild's theme, "The Role of the Armenian Woman in Keeping Our Armenian Traditions Alive."



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A MONTHLY OVERVIEW OF PRELACY & PARISH ACTIVITIES

PILRIMAGE AT ST. NISHAN CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE, ONTARIO

For the last several years the heroism of the people of Musa Dagh has been commemorated on the Feast of the Holy Cross, during the pilgrimage to the St. Nishan Church in Cambridge, Ontario.

As in past years, thousands of people gathered on the weekend of Sept. 11-12 at the St. Nishan Church and the Armenian community center of Cambridge to celebrate this glorious page of our history and to pay homage to the martyrs. On Saturday evening, September 11, after the Vespers Services and the blessing of the Madagh, hundreds and hundreds of people gathered under the huge tent and enjoyed the traditional music of Musa Dagh and patriotic songs rendered by Lewon Katarjian. The guest speaker on this occasion was Mr. Rouben Hagobian from Yerevan.

On Sunday morning on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, His Eminence Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Armenian Community Center Hall. Very Rev. Khajag Hagopian, pastor of St. Mary Armenian Church in Toronto and Rev. Hrant Yereztian, pastor of St. Nishan Church, assisted the Prelate at the altar. Archbishop Ashjian delivered the Sermon which concentrated on the meaning of the cross and shared his experiences during his recent trip to Armenia. He urged the people to follow the footsteps of their forefathers and look forward to the future of Armenia as one nation under God.

Following the Divine Liturgy, the traditional blessing of the four corners of the world was held with the distribution of basil and the sprinkling of rosewater, as dictated by tradition.

Hokelankist for the repose of the souls of the heroes of Musa Dagh took place at the monument dedicated in their honor. Immediately afterward the *Herrissa* was blessed and distributed. Hundreds of pilgrims were in attendance from various communities in Canada and the United States.

INDEPENDENCE OF ARMENIA CELEBRATED IN WASHINGTON

The second anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the Republic of Armenia took place on

Letter to the Editor...

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to the article, "Ethical Issues and the Armenian Church," that appeared in the May 1993 OUTREACH. A statement I found most disturbing and unconscionable is the following sentence: in reference to surrogate motherhood, abortion, and euthanasia, the article read, "It is important to note here that the Armenian Church has not officially formulated a position for any of these issues." Why not? Where is the teaching authority and pastoral leadership that is required to determine these crucial moral questions? If shepherds will not guide their flocks, who will lead the sheep? The liberals in Congress, the radical feminists, the gay lobbyists, and the media elite fill the vacuum that is created when leaders of the church do not fearlessly proclaim the Gospel in season and out of season. The Church should not fall victim to the "political correctness" that has corrupted the integrity of universities and accept popular, trendy ideas such as "pro-choice" politics.

After twenty years of legalized abortion under Roe v. Wade, after the killing of close to 30 million pre-born children through the atrocities of burning, poisoning, or mutilating their bodies, after the untold physical and psychological violence inflicted upon women in the name of "choice" and a "safe, legal" abortion, and after the unprecedented rise in child abuse that has followed legalized abortion, I find it shocking and scandalous that the Armenian Church remains inde-

pendent, September 21, in Washington, D.C., at a reception hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Ruben Shugarian, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the United States. Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, accompanied by Mr. Onnic Marashian, a member of the Prelacy's Executive Council, Rev. Khoren Habeshian, Pastor of Holy Cross Church of Washington, D.C., and Mr. and Mrs. Giragos Poochigian, chairman of the Board of Trustees of Holy Cross Church, attended the reception and extended best wishes to the Ambassador on behalf of the Prelacy.

VISIT WITH PRIME MINISTER OF LEBANON



Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian and Onnic Marashian (right) welcoming the Prime Minister of Lebanon, H.E. Rafiq Hariri. At left is Lebanon's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Bouez.

Attending the dinner at the Waldorf Astoria are, left to right, Professor Hrach Zadoian, Father Armen Garabedian of the Armenian Catholic Church, Khachig Babigian, former member of Lebanese Parliament, Archbishop Ashjian, Onnic Marashian and Anila Babigian, vice president of Bank Audi.

His Excellency Mr. Rafiq Hariri, the Prime Minister of Lebanon was in New York City during the week of September 26 to attend the opening of the 48th Session of the United Nations.

Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian visited the Prime Minister on Monday, September

27, along with a group of religious leaders representing the Maronite, Orthodox, Druze, Shiite, and Sunni communities. During the meeting, Mr. Hariri expressed optimism for the future of Lebanon and was hopeful that the ban on U.S. citizens visiting Lebanon will soon be lifted. That same evening the religious leaders were guests at a dinner hosted by the permanent representative of Lebanon to the United States, Mr. Khalil Makkawi.

On Thursday, September 30, the Prelate Ballroom of the Hotel Pierre in New York City. Rabbi Arthur Schneider, President of the Foundation, presented this year's awards to His Holiness Aleksey II, Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia, and Mr. J. T. Balbut, President and Chief Executive Officer of W. R. Grace & Co. Among the distinguished personalities addressing the banquet were His Excellency Andrei V. Kezreyev, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, and the Honorable Strob Talbot, Ambassador at Large and Special Adviser to the Secretary of State.

25th ANNIVERSARY OF HOLY CROSS CHURCH, TROY, N.Y.

The Holy Cross Church of Troy, New York celebrated its 35th anniversary on Sunday, September 26, which was the Feast Day of the Holy Cross of Varak. His Eminence Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, assisted by the Pastor, Rev. Khachig Megerdichian, celebrated the Divine Liturgy and delivered the homily. Following the ceremony a banquet took place at St. Sarkis Hall at which time Archbishop Ashjian presented certificates of Merit to two faithful members of the church, Mrs. Zepure Ovgigian and Miss Anna Avakian. In his remarks, the Prelate urged the parishioners to be faithful to God, to the nation, and to work toward new achievements and new challenges in serving our Lord.

75th ANNIVERSARY OF HOMENETMEN

On Saturday, September 25, more than 500 people gathered at the Marriott Hotel in Teaneck, New Jersey, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the HMEM. Members from near and far gathered to mark this milestone. Many speakers, including the representatives of the Homenetmen worldwide organization, Mr. Yeghishne Khosroeghian, and the representative of the HMEM—Eastern USA, Mr. M. Mooradian, as well as the Chairman of the HMEM of New Jersey, Mr. Vartkes Caprielian, addressed the gathering.

Mr. and Mrs. Ohan Ohanian from Albany, New York, were the honorary presidents of the banquet and received a special commemorative plaque in recognition of their many years of commitment to the HMEM.

Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian attended the banquet accompanied by Very Rev. Nareg Alemezian, Pastor of Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church in New Jersey. His Eminence addressed the guests and spoke highly of the tremendous service the organization has rendered to Armenian youth in Armenia, the Middle East, and in the United States. He went on to say that the HMEM has a great role to play in Armenia in helping the population of the newly independent country—especially its youth—realize its potential.

APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE FOUNDATION DINNER

Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian attended the 28th annual Awards Dinner of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation which took place September 26 in the Grand together with Mr. Khachig Babikian, former minister in the Lebanese Parliament, attended the General Assembly of the United Nations at which time Prime Minister Hariri delivered his message.

The Prelate, together with executive council members, Mr. Onnic Marashian

PRELACY BOOKSTORE (continued)

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| Aivazian, Aram P.
ARMENIA: USURPED BY
GENOCIDE AND TREACHERY
Montreal, 1992, 420 pp.
Soft cover \$30.00 | Kirakossian, John S.
THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE
<i>The Young Turks Before
the Judgment of History</i>
Connecticut, 1992, 277 pp.
Soft cover \$24.95 | Ashjian, Archbishop Mesrob
St. Nerses of Lambron:
Champion of the Church Universal
New York, 1993, 134 pp.
Hard Cover \$15.00 |
| Avdoyan, Levon
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ARMENIANS OF JERUSALEM
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Manuscripts Armeniens Enlumines
du Catholicoassat de Cilicie
Antelias, 1991, 137 pp.
& 307 Illustrations
Hard Cover \$75.00 |
| Bakalian, Army
ARMENIAN- AMERICANS
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REVOLUTION AND GENOCIDE
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Genocide and the Holocaust</i>
Chicago, 1993, 363 pp.
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From Isfahan
Brussels, 1986, 217 pp.
Hard Cover \$50.00 |
| Bounoutian, George A.
A HISTORY OF THE
ARMENIAN PEOPLE
Volume 1
<i>Pre-history to 1500 A.D.</i>
California, 1993, 174 pp.
Soft cover \$15.00 | <i>An Oral History of the
Armenian Genocide</i>
California, 1993, 242 pp.
Hard cover \$25.00 | Der Nersessian, Sirarpie
Armenian Manuscripts in the
Walters Art Gallery
Baltimore, 1973, 108 pp.
& 240 plates
Hard Cover \$50.00 |
| Bounoutian, George A.
THE KHANATE OF
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QAJAR RULE, 1795-1828
California, 1991, 356 pp.
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AND THE DIVINE
LITURGY OF THE ARMENIAN
APOSTOLIC CHURCH
Compiled by Fr. Kouken Yaratian
New York, 1993, 223 pp.
Hard cover \$7.00 | Thierry, J.M.
Eglises et Couvents du Karabagh
Antelias, 1991, 303 pp.
Hard Cover \$75.00 |
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SHORT STORIES
Armen Donoyan, Editor/Biographer
California, 1992, 197 pp.
Soft cover \$18.00 |

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BOOKS OF INTEREST:

- Der Nersessian, Sirarpie
MINIATURE PAINTING IN THE ARMENIAN KINGDOM OF CILICIA
Washington, 2 volumes (hardcover), 620 pages, 666 illustrations, 63 color plates _____ \$165.00
Mirzoyan, Alvida
LE RELIQUAIRE DE SKEVRA, New York, 1993, 146 pp. (hardcover) _____ 20.00
Mutafian, Claude
LE ROYAUME ARMENIEN DE CILICIE, Paris, 1993, 158 pp. (softcover) _____ 40.00
CROSSROADS CRUSADES POSTER _____ 5.00
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Overview of Activities

(Continued from page 2)

and Dr. Hratch Zadoian, attended a reception at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in honor of the Prime Minister.

VISIT TO NIAGARA FALLS

On Sunday, October 3, Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian visited the small community of Sourp Hagop Church in Niagara Falls, New York. Archbishop Ashjian celebrated the Divine Liturgy, assisted by the pastor of the church, Rev. Archpriest Vahan Chazarian and deacons Manuel Shehrian and Varoujan Boyadjian of Toronto. The parishioners of the small congregation were encouraged with the attendance of faithful members from western New York State, southern Ontario, and Rochester.

During the banquet which followed the Liturgy, Archbishop Ashjian presented a Certificate of Merit to Mrs. Marie Sarkissian Viscomi who was recognized for her devoted service to the church.



Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian presents Certificate of Merit to Mrs. Marie Sarkissian Viscomi in recognition of her service to the Sourp Hagop Church in Niagara Falls.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR SPRING

"TREASURES IN HEAVEN"

THIS SPRING The Pierpont Morgan Library in New York presents "Treasures in Heaven: Armenian Illuminated Manuscripts" (May 4 - August 7, 1994), the first major exhibition in this country devoted to the art and culture of medieval Armenia. The focal point of the exhibition will be approximately 88 Gospel Books borrowed from American public and private collections. Among the manuscripts on view will be two masterpieces of the great Cilician painter, Toros Roslin. The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue. From May 21-22 the Morgan Library will host a scholarly symposium on Armenian art, history, and religion. The exhibition, which is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, and The Hagop Kevorkian Fund, will travel to Baltimore's Walters Art Gallery in the fall. For further information, contact: Public Programs, Morgan Library, 29 E. 36th St., New York, NY 10016. (212) 685-0008.