



CALIFORNIA  
ARMENIAN HOME

# NEWSLETTER

FALL 2016

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

by Lucy K. Grayson, President CAH Home Board

It's hard to believe it's been four months since the last newsletter. During this time many things have transpired.

Our groundbreaking was a wonderful event with beautiful weather, good food, and a large crowd. Supervisor, Debbie Poochigian, did a great job as Mistress of Ceremonies. A traditional blessing of the land was performed by, Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian of the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America and Father Pakrad Berjekian of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, and many local clergy. Also among those present were past board members and local dignitaries. It was truly a memorable event.

If you have driven by the property you can see the progress that is taking place. The future is moving forward.

In spite of the parking issues all the functions

including two church picnics, the groundbreaking and two wedding that have taken place, parking was not a problem. Mini buses and golf carts were used to transport guests back and forth. Many thanks to all of you who didn't complain about the "maybe inconveniences."

There have been two wonderful music presentations in the Ani Hall. The last one was a violinist & pianist sponsored by Roselle Peters, on Saturday, September 10. The residents and guests thoroughly enjoyed the presentation.

Thanks again to all our Guilds and Home supporters. We couldn't be doing what we do without your support.

Please feel free to contact the Board if you have any questions regarding the Expansion and/or Donor opportunities.

Drive by and see our progress!

PS: NEXT FUNDRAISER SPONSERED BY THE BOARD WILL BE ON OCTOBER 9 AT 2PM AT BULLARD HIGH THEATER. SEE ENCLOSED FLYER.



Expansion  
Groundbreaking

JUNE 16, 2016



## CALIFORNIA ARMENIAN HOME

Located on 40 acres in serenity of countryside, the California Armenian Home offers skilled nursing services and board and care housing to senior citizens.

The beautiful buildings, lush landscaping and exceptional services are maintained by a dedicated, caring professional staff that makes the short or long term stay a very pleasant experience.

The Home is governed by the Board of Directors:

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lucy Kazanjian Grayson  
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George Juarez  
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Administrator of Residential

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Mary Ekmalian  
Armenian American Citizens'  
League

Madeline Arakelian  
Ani Guild

Frances Tusan  
Armenian Home Guild

## MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

*By Simon Holguin Administrator, California Armenian Home*

It seems like I just wrote an article for the newsletter, and now that time is here again. I always say "Time flies whether or not you're having fun". Fortunately, time is flying here because we have plenty to keep us busy.

Maybe it's just me, but it seems like the summer has not been that hot thus far this year. Or maybe I have just accepted the fact that summer is always hot here in Fresno. I see plenty of families here brave the heat with their loved ones at the Armenian Home in the afternoon and evening, and spending short amounts of time out in the summer weather.

Speaking of heat, the construction of the expansion is continuing, and I have a great deal of respect for the guys working out there during the hottest hours of the day! The first concrete pour took place towards the end of July... a particularly momentous occasion for those who have waited many years for this project to get underway! As I drove into work this morning, I saw another of the concrete pads had been poured in the early hours of the morning. Stacks of lumber for the framework of the facility are piled high, and both people and machinery are in constant motion, making the expansion more of a concrete reality (no pun intended) every day.

While on the topic of construction, the facility laundry is scheduled to be remodeled in the early part of September 2016. A generous donation from the trustees of the Lillian Hagopian Trust has once again made an area of renovation at the Armenian Home possible. We are so thankful for the heartfelt donations, both big and small, that our community has provided, and continues to provide. Every amount really does make a difference, and makes so much here possible. (Some particularly large donations in recent months have been making a lot more possible!)

While on the topic of donations, a generous donation of a baby grand piano (from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous) was made to the Armenian Home in the month of May. This donation will be put to use during a piano concert that is scheduled to take place on Friday, August 19 at 2:00p.m. A contemporary pianist named Leonard Hefweitz is set to perform. We hope those who are able to attend this event will do so.

The annual Blessing of the Grapes took place on August 7, 2016 at the Armenian Home. The construction process has taken a toll, and the turnout was perhaps not as large as it has been in the past, mostly due to issues with car parking. Regardless, the event was a success. This event usually takes two weekends, and the second day of the Blessing of the Grapes took place on Sunday, August 14, at the Fresno Fairgrounds. We hope those who came out had a wonderful time.

By the time this newsletter gets out, it will probably be the beginning of September, and with that, it seems that the end of the year will be fast approaching. Soon the holiday season and all its busy-ness will be upon us. This will undoubtedly bring more to take in, and more to talk about.

Hope everyone is managing to stay as cool as possible in what remains of this summer. I look forward to seeing many of you, and hearing from many of you, in the coming months.

God bless,

# Activities... for the Young at Heart!



Pauline & Herb Merk, Mary Perch and Jeanette Kostecka (back) during an exercise class



Armenian Relief Society 2016

## Activities Report

by Angelica Rodriguez,  
CAH Activities Coordinator

It's been one hot summer! During these hot summer months our residents receive a little extra TLC. Residents are cool and hydrated by providing popsicles, watermelon, ice cream sundaes, and lemonade socials. All of the outdoor groups take place in the early mornings under the cool fans in the pergola or in the gardens near our beautiful fountains.

Residents would like to thank the Armenian Relief Society of their generosity. As our residents enjoyed refreshments, dancing and socializing. We loved that our Administrator Simon Holguin joined in the fun and learned to dance the Armenian way (*please see photo below*).

Lunch at St. Paul's is always a great experience for the residents. Church members assist with serving lunch and playing Bingo! All residents came home with a smile on their face. Thank you.

The Activity staff continue to enhance the lives of our young at heart as we look forward to the upcoming holidays, outing and events.



Violet Jamgochian, Rick Petree and Esther Hodoian at St. Paul's



Residents, seated from left, Violet Jamgochian, Margaret Ross, Sirramoush Derboghossian and Laurice Tanielian



Edda Wroten at the St. Paul's



Dancers at the Freedom Band concert



Charles Deutinger enjoyed the Freedom Band



Orena (Mikie) Kapigian and Esther Hodoian



Miche Erganian and George Juarez



Simon dancing with the ladies of ARS

## Resident Council Report

by Joan Dodd, President Resident Council

I arrived at the California Armenian Home on February 18, 2010 and became a resident. I soon made a best friend who was president of the Residency Group. This group is open to all residents. It has a meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 3 o'clock. It is a closed meeting and only residents can attend. At this meeting they can participate by voicing their opinion on something, making a suggestion, making a complaint, etc.



Joan Dodd

Soon after my best friend advised me that she was moving to the coast to be close to her family, she asked me if I wanted to be President of the Residency Group and it has been almost three years since I've agreed to take over.

The Armenian Home is truly beautiful. Everything is so clean and neat. There are approximately ten large water fountains scattered around the beautiful landscape.

Everyone is courteous and respectful; I am very happy here and am proud and honored to call it my home!

## Residential Report

by Florence Muktarian, Residential

June 16, 2016, was an unforgettable day at the California Armenian Home, where the Groundbreaking for the new building took place. Clergy, Board Members, Residents, and guest were present for the very special occasion. We remembered and thanked the Founders for having the foresight to purchase this land. Following this memorable event, a delicious buffet was served. To celebrate, there was wine served in embossed glasses making this an unforgettable date for each guest. It was a very meaningful event for all.



Florence Muktarian



Home Guild's kofta lunch

## Home Guild Report

by Frances Tusan, President Armenian Home Guild

Home Guild members concluded our June luncheon with a Lu Lu Kebab lunch cooked to perfection by our chefs, Tarjian Bedoian and Bob Tusan. Thank you, guys! Singing of patriotic songs led by Vice President Loretta Artenian and accompanied on the piano by Gayanne Korkmazian concluded meeting.

We are on hiatus for the months of July, August and September. We will resume our monthly luncheon/meetings on October 21 at 11:30 a.m. Guest speaker will be Mr. Varoujan Der Simonian. Please come and enjoy and join our group of dedicated women who work and donate to the California Armenian Home.

October is the month we will be making kofta to fill our orders. Interested people need to call Frances Tusan at 266-7301 or Elsie Berosian at 298-4813 to get on the list, because we only make according to our orders.

We are watching the progress of our Expansion and looking forward to the completion soon.

Take care, stay well. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

## Ani Guild Report

On Friday, August 19 at 2pm we planned an Inaugural Piano Concert and reception with Richard Cencibaugh as the featured pianist. Ani Guild served light refreshments. This first concert on the beautiful Yamaha Grand Piano was graciously donated this year by an anonymous benefactor and has been located in the Ani Hall.

Katherine Bedrosian coordinated the event that we hope will become a frequent musical experience for the residents. Please feel free to join us as well!

Our big fundraiser is fast approaching! We hope to see you at Casino Royale! Fun, games and of course great food! Join us on October 1, bring your friends and enjoy the festivities. For ticket information and Raffle drawing tickets contact Debby Bagdasarian at 559-251-2912. Casino Royale's fundraising will be used to modernize and update the Ani Hall.

Ani Hall is an important part of the Home, a large multi-purpose area that enables staff to work more efficiently and to serve the residents and their families. Ani Guild holds their monthly craft events there that include Armenian coffee and treats! Ani Guild was very pleased to be a part of the exciting ground-breaking ceremony for the Expansion project, a lovely evening full of promise, and more opportunities to serve at the Home. We are an engaged and active group, and would be interested in like-minded individuals for membership. Please contact Lynn Brown for more information at 559-231-7450.

In April we helped with the residents' visit to the Chaffee Zoo and the African exhibit; it was an amazing experience for the residents and they enjoyed lunch in the Zoo as well! Thanks to Roselle Peters for planning these wonderful monthly excursions and activities staff for their diligent work as well!

You may have seen some Ani members and their school-age kids recently around the Home during summer break. You could see them assisting in the Ani Shop and visiting with residents. On those hot summer days it is a treat for all!

We would also like to recognize Martin's Floral, the Soligan Family and Bob Soligan for



their extraordinarily generous donation of new Christmas decorations, ornaments, floral, ribbons and many other things that took two pick-up loads to transfer to the Home! Their history of generosity to the Home is remarkable and we want to expressly note this huge donation that will be long remembered for the joy and cheer it will bring to our residents. Christmas at the Home will be very special this year, and many years to come, due to their kindness! Thank you to the Soligan Family!

Ani Guild will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2017. To start preparing a committee will be formed to organize a commemorative booklet for the Ani Guild 50th Anniversary. In the meantime, we are looking for some historical perspective from all the decades of membership and encouraging past and present Ani members to contribute by writing a small paragraph to be included in the booklet. There will be advertising, sponsorship and in Memoriam pages to be included as well.

We also are searching for photographs and memorabilia. If you have any of these items you would share OR you know someone with items to share please contact Paulette Kalebjian at 559-431-6525.

Don't forget; make your reservation and hope to see you at Casino Royale!

## Armenian-American Citizens' League Report

The American flag was adopted on June 14, 1777, and in 1916 President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed June 14 as Flag Day. To celebrate this day, on Sunday afternoon, June 12, the Armenian-American Citizens' League hosted a AUSA Sounds of Freedom Military Band concert in the AACL Hall. The California Armenian Home residents, their families, and AACL members enjoyed an hour and a half of foot-tapping music and refreshments. Some could not resist getting up and dancing and marching around the room (*see photos*).

During intermission an AACL Scholarship Award for the 2016-2017 school year was presented to Allen Keshishian Namagerdi, who is attending California Health Sciences University to become a pharmacist (*see photo*). Applications for the 2017-2018 school year will be available in October and the deadline for submitting them is April 1.

On Friday, July 8, the AACL had a potluck and game night. The game of the evening was "Skambil," "Iskambil" is a Turkish term for a playing card or the name of a card game. Dikranagerdtsis use the term "Skambel" for playing cards and the term "Ooshli Oy In" for the game others call Skambil. Many of us had played it in our younger days and tried to refresh our memories with the aid of three Home residents Florence Muktarian, Isabelle Kabrielian, and Rose Kevorkian, who were coaxed into joining us. If any of our readers remember the game, please contact Mary at 261-1026, as we need clarification on some aspects of this card game and would like to invite you to our next get-together to master this time-honored game.



### A LOOK BACK AT OUR HISTORY

New Wing Groundbreaking,  
November 8, 1986

# Thank You to Our Donors

If you are interested in making a donation to the California Armenian Home, please send us a note with your check and use the enclosed envelope to be mailed to:

**California Armenian Home**  
**6720 East Kings Canyon Road**  
**Fresno CA 93727**

Every donation is greatly appreciated.

## MAY - JULY 2016 GIVING

### In Memory of:..... Donor:

Nevart Antatamian .....	Andrew Casparian Tom Casparian Louise Najarian
Charlie Adanalian .....	Fresno Triple X Fraternity
Paul Armo .....	John & Madeline Arakelian Armenian Home Guild
Norma Bargamian.....	Helen Fort Sara Hamilton
Betty Crum .....	Barbara Garabedian
Armand Cabraloff .....	Armenian Home Guild
Linda Gutierrez .....	Barbara Garabedian
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### Donations made for Birthday Recognition

Stella Ananian  
by John & Madeline Arakelian

Armene Bagdasarian  
by George Bagdasarian

### Donations made to California Armenian Home Expansion Project

by Kenneth & Patricia Abrahamian,  
Armenian Home Guild,  
Andrew Casparian,  
Roxie Moradian,  
John & Karyn Robertson

### Donations made to Beautification Project

by Kirk & Kathy Yergat

### Donations made to California Armenian Home

by Paul Dictos,  
Jerry Emerzian,  
Kathleen Elia,  
Jeff & Carol McMullen,  
Leo & Marlene Pilibosian

### Donations made in recognition of good health

Mary Kachadoorian  
by Armenian Home Guild

Pat Sevoian  
by Armenian Home Guild

### Donations made in honor of Wedding Anniversary

Vahack & Elizabeth Haroutunian  
by Barbara Garabedian  
Randy & Terri Garabedian

### Raffle Ticket Winners

May 2016

First Place – Georgia Sample

Second Place – Anita Bagdasarian

Third Place – Jerry Emerzian

June 2016

First Place – Tarjan Bedoian

Second Place – Dennis Hamamjian

Third Place – Grace Rustigian

July 2016

First Place – Lucy Grayson

Second Place – Diane Gilbert

Third Place – Kenneth Abrahamian