# Zwy Uhpun H A I S I R D



AN INTERNATIONAL PERIODICAL OF THE ARMENIAN RELIEF SOCIETY ՅԱՄԱՅԱՅԿԱԿԱՆ ՊԱՐԲԵՐԱԹԵՐԹ ՅԱՅ ՕԳՆՈՒԹԵԱՆ ՄԻՈՒԹԵԱՆ ԴԵԿՏԵՄԲԵՐ 2003 DECEMBER/ NO. 157



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In February, 2003, the ARS Central Executive received the following letter from His Grace Mesrop Archbishop Ashjian, who, less than ten months later, on December 2, 2003, was to succumb to a massive heart attack, in New York City, depriving our nation of the future contributions of a dedicated and indefatigable servant of the people, the Church and Armenian culture:

#### To the ARS Central Executive Board:

I would like to inform you that we have received your most generous contribution of \$12,000 for the kitchen equipment of the Gyumri Invalids orphanage.

We had already made arrangements for the purchase of the kitchen appliances (i.e. refrigerators, ovens, etc) and would like to assure you that your gift will be used in the best possible way.

I do hope that you, or your representatives, will honor us with your visit to the orphanage once it opens its gates to become a cradle to our little children.

We would like to extend our thanks to the great family of the ARS throughout the world and wish you continuous growth and prosperity in the services of our nation.



#### Dear ARS:

I just want to thank you for letting me and another person go to France from America. It was the best experience of my life! I would go again if the ARS would have us...The camp was a great enjoyment, c'etait si bon! I had a wonderful time there.

The French-Armenians were very kind about having a person, who didn't speak French very well, into their "group". It was nice of them also to really help me learn French. I was very impressed at how well everybody, boys and the girls, got along together; everyone participated. I wish the camp season was longer... as it is, I made lots of friends with kids from France and Canada. I will see some of them in Yerevan next year at Scout Camp.

The last day of Camp was hard on everyone. When we reached Paris after 8 hours on a bus, all the parents were there, waiting. I started to cry because I knew I wasn't going to see most of my new friends again. I will miss them as well as the counselors; the funniest monitors were Laurie, Serge and Shami. I will miss the camp sooo much!

Sincerely,

Sareen Zinzalian

P.S. I love how ARS made and organized such a program, it was the best!!!

#### ԽՄԲԱԳՐԱԿԱՆ

#### ՀՕՄ-Ի ԱՇԽԱՐՀԱԾԻՐ ԱՍՊԱՐԻԶԸ

Ներկայ քաղաքական ու դիւանագիտական պանապան փորձութիւններով ու տնտեսական լուրջ մտահոգութիւններով լի առօրեային մէջ, Հայ Օգնութեան Միութեան նման համաշխարհային վարկ ունեցող կազմակերպութիւնները պարտին իրենց լինելութիւնը արժեւորել՝ շարունակելով իրենց մարդասիրական առաքելութիւնը միջազգային յարաբերութիւններու յաձախ լպրծուն կրկէսէն ներս. նամանաւանդ երբ, որպէս ՈԿԿ (Ոչ կառավարական կազմակերպութիւն, ներկայութիւն են ու պարտաւորութիւններ են ստանձնած Միացեալ Ազգերու Կազմակերպութենէն ներս։

Հայ Օգնութեան Միութիւնը որ, 1998, Մայիս 28-էն ի վեր, պաշտօնապէս կ՛անդամակցի ՄԱԿ-ի Տնտեսական ու Ընկերային Յանձնաժողովին (ECOSOC), իր 23 տարբեր երկիրներու մէջ արդիւնաւետ գործունէութիւն ցուցաբերողմասնաձիւղերով, այսօր կը շարունակէ 1910-ին ծնունդ առած իր առաքելութիւնը՝ վստահ քայլերով հասնելու համար իր մօտակայ հարիւրամեակին ու անկէ ալ անդին՝ շարունակելով եւ ընդլայնելով իր ազգանուէր գործունէութիւնը հայրենի ոստաններէն մինջեւ Սփիւռքի հեռաւոր անկիւններուն մէջ հայապահպանման անդոհանքով ապրող հայ գաղութները։

Ընդարձակ է ՀՕՄ-ի գործունէութեան դաշտը։ Հիմնուած իր Կանոնագրի ոգիին ու տառին վրայ՝ ան կ՛օժանդակէ հայ ժողովուրդի ընկերային, առողջապահական ու բարեսիրական Ճիգերուն՝ յատուկ յատկացումներ ընելով սնունդ, դեղօրայք ու հագուստեղէն հայթայթելու, պատերազմներու եւ բնական աղէտներու ժամանակ, օգնելով չքաւորներու, հիւանդներու եւ աքսորեալներու. հիմնելով առողջապահական, սննդաբաշխումի եւ ընկերային ծառայութեան կեդրոններ եւ, ի հարկին, նաևւ նիւթապէս օժանդակելով անոնց. քաջալերելով հայերէն լեզուի եւ մշակոյթի ուսուցումը՝ հիմնելով հայկական վարժարաններ եւ նիւթապէս օժանդակելով անոնց. օգնելով հայ մշակոյթի յաւերժացման սատարող համասփիւռքային Ճիգերու, եւ նիւթապէս օժանդակելով համալսարանական կրթութեան հետեւող արժանաւոր ուսանողներու՝ որոնք կը մասնագիտանան հայագիտական Ճիւղերու եւ ընկերային ծառայութեան հետ առնչուող մարզերու մէջ։

Այսօր, վերոյիշեալ կամաւորապէս ստանձնուած իր համահայկական պարտաւորութիւններուն գործադրման համար, ՀՕՄ-ը, հակառակ ներկայ համաշխարհային տնտեսական աննպաստ պայմաններուն` որոնք քիչ մը ամէն տեղ դանդաղեցուցած են ակնկալուած բարքաւաձման ընթացքը, իր տասնեակ հազարաւոր նուիրեալ ընկերուհիներով, կը շարունակէ, ու պիտի՛ շարունակէ ապագայ նպաստաւոր թէ աննպաստ պայմաններու տակ, իրականացնել մեր ժողովուրդի բարօրութեան համար յղացուած բոլո՛ր իր մարդասիրական ու բարեսիրական ծրագիրները՝ յանուն մեր համահայկական երազնեու իրականացման ●

#### EDITORIAL

#### THE GLOBAL REACH OF THE ARS

In today's uneasy political, social and economic environment, fraught with unpredictable developments, internationally active organizations such as the Armenian Relief Society, must live up to their commitments by continuing their humanitarian, social and welfare activities in often inauspicious circumstances. Responsibilities assumed as NGOs actively involved in various UN-sponsored programs add an additional burden to those commitments that are the very core of their *raison d'etre*.

The Armenian Relief Society, on the roster of the United Nation's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since May 28, 1998 on a consultative level. continues in a global effort—with the active participation of a vast membership distributed in 23 different countries of the world—a mission started in1910. With justifiable confidence, it moves forward towards a not-too-distant centenary, and beyond, carrying on and expanding its multi-faceted activities, helping widely dispersed Armenian communities in their struggle for survival and growth.

The ARS field of activities is vast. Based on both the letter and spirit of its constitution, the Armenian Relief Society brings its material and moral support to the social, health and cultural needs of the people through grants for food, medicine and clothing at times of war or natural disaster; it brings aid to the poor, the sick and the homeless by founding centers for health-care, food distribution and social services and, whenever necessary, supporting them financially; it encourages and sponsors the teaching of the Armenian language, history and culture by establishing and financing kindergartens and schools; it sponsors various Diasporan programs geared to the promotion of Armenian studies in all its facets; it provides scholarships to deserving college and graduate students who specialize in Armenian oriented fields or various areas of social studies.

Today, to implement projects based on the above-mentioned pan-Armenian programs — in spite of the present unfavorable economic situation that has set a global recessionary trend — the ARS, with its dedicated membership hard at work in well-organized regional entities, continues, and will continue to see its numerous programs through, assisting where assistance is needed, extending its helping hand wherever necessary. Our commitment to our humanitarian mission, made almost a century ago, will be honored until our nation's collective needs and goals are met and realized •



### **The Many Aspects of ARS Involvement...**



As a promoter of learning and education, the Armenian Relief Society, from its inception, channeled a good portion of its energies and resources into the establishment of schools and scholarship funds wherever they were needd in the vast diasporan presence of the Armenian communities, struggling to preserve their heritage.

a) Grants to Schools and Institutions: As ARS/Canada supports the schools of Montreal and Toronto — which have a combined number of 1,400 students — so do ARS/Eastern USA for the schools in Boston, New York and Philadelphia, while ARS/Western USA, France and Greece support the schools in their respective regions. In addition, the ARS/CEB and ARS/Syria provide special grants to academic institutions in Syria and Lebanon.

b) The Kindergarten/Day Care Center in Aleppo: The Aleppo, Syria kindergarten, located in the medical center building since 1997, functions with new programs designed for working mothers' children aged between 3 months and 3 years, who attend the Centerl six days a week, from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Over the last few years, the average number of children has been around 24.

c) Scholarship Grants on primary, secondary, high school and college levels: Scholarships on primary, secondary and high school levels are granted mostly in Syria, Lebanon, Greece and South American regions, while for students on college level, ARS

entities in Syria, Lebanon, the United States, Canada and France have their own regional programs, while the Central Executive Board, offers grants through its **Eremian Scholarship Fund** to second year of college and graduate level students with no geographical restrictions. ARS of Eastern USA offers grants on two college levels: one for undergraduates, the other, through the **Lazarian Scholarship Fund**, for graduate students. ARS/ Canada offers special scholarships for students attending Canadian, Armenian and Artsakh universities.

d) Sponsoring One-Day and Saturday Schools: These schools are ARS instituted and are subsidized by the Society. However, since the end of the 1960s, they are jointly supported with the Armenian National Educational Council (ANEC) in the following two regions: Eastern United States, with around 15 Saturday schools; Canada (Vancouver, Hamilton, St. Catherine and Cambridge) with 100 pupils in 4 schools.

While the Western USA region has 15 Saturday schools with 1,000 pupils attending, there are 10 one-day schools in France, with 450 pupils and 35 teachers. There are additional 8 classes of music, dance, theater, etc. It is worth mentioning that, through the efforts of the Blue Cross of France, for the first time in the history of the community, some of the schools have acquired the right to grade pupils preparing for the baccalaureate exams of the Paris, Creteil and Versailles academies; based on those grades, they participate in the French baccalaureate exams.

The ABC of France collaborates with INALCO (Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales) in preparing accredited teachers of Armenian, encouraging teachers to strive for "A" Listing of Programmed A.R.S. Activities, worldwide. With this accreditation, they can teach Armenian in all francophone countries.



From the early days of its foundation, the ARS has provided social services to its communities, even in the absence of special offices in many regions. Starting on the chapter level, it encompasses regional and central bodies, who - along with their regular chores — do their utmost to extend a helping hand to those in the community who need advice and help in marital, legal or other matters of urgency, visiting the sick and the elderly in hospitals and homes. During the '40s and '50s, these activities started to be handled more professionally in certain regions, to the point where government agencies started helping the program with regular subsidies, expanding the A.R.S. programs' reach and capacity. Included in these ARS services are the Aleppo Refuge and the Rest Homes of South America.

- a) ARS/Armenia: In the Homeland, ARS social service involves general assistance geared to individual cases, within the means of the regional organization, with no pre-established programs. Regular distribution of financial aid and food to indigent families and individuals has become an accepted part of the region's activities.
- **b) ARS/Australia:** With one office in Sidney, the social service effort is mainly involved in offering needed information and guidance to thosethose who require assistance.
- c) ARS/Canada: The Toronto ARS "Rubina" Chapter's social service office, opened in 1987, works with a staff of one, every day until noon, giving needed guidance and help to those who drop in for assistance. The center's services include: employment search, financial aid, translation, health related needs, family counseling, assistance to senior citizens, etc. The Chapter also has ARS Armenian sections in two local old age homes, 18 beds in Seven Oaks, and 10 in North York Seniors'

Health Care Center. Alongside these activities, the Chapter organizes Blood-Donors Days, bone marrow matching searches, collection of clothing, medicine, etc.

- d) ARS/Eastern USA: The ARS Social Service was founded in 1981 in Watertown. It offers help in the form of information, housing, legal advice, preparation of documents, etc. The center also works with senior citizens by, periodically, visiting them, taking them out to dinner, etc.
- e) ARC/Lebanon: The Araxie Boulghourdjian Sociomedical Center of Bourj Hammoud also has a list of free services, among which, laboratory tests, psychological treatment, mental health related lectures, accessible to laymen, on various topics. The demographic scope of this highly professional Center is larger than most, servicing every segment of the multi-ethnic population with the same care and concern.
- f) ARS/South America: The Diarbekirian Rest Home of Buenos Aires was founded in 1985. It can accommodate 70 elderly people in modern, well furnished facilities. In 1990, the "Arpie" Chapter of Sao Paolo, Brazil, started a rest home that today shelters 15 seniors.
- g) ARC/Syria: The social services of the ARC Aleppo Sociomedical Center are more limited since its main thrust is more in the medical field than social, although it provides financial aid, food, employment help, as the need arises. The Aleppo Shelter was established in year 1930. It provides shelter to parentless or abandoned children and teenagers until they are able to secure a safe and normal existence for themselves. The past two International Conventions passed resolutions of support to this establishment and, at the last Convention, the sum of \$30,000 was voted for needed renovations of the building.
- h) ARS/Western USA: This service was started in late 1980, with a main office in Glendale and 4 auxiliary centers in Los Angeles suburbs. Presently, it has a staff of thirty-one. To give an idea of the scope of this program, let us note that during a fiscal year, an average of over 45,000 cases, individual and family, are serviced with much needed advice, information, clarification of offical and legal matters, translation, preparation of documents and applications, employment, distribution of food and other necessities, financial help, etc.



This area of activity was also a necessity, specially in the aftermath of disasters and armed conflicts. Practically every Chapter in the regions had their first aid centers, and in case of the absence of one, they subsidized a certain number of beds in local hospitals for Armenian patients. Today, the governments of certain countries provide health care for their citizens, others offer certain programs to make health care more accessible to all, but, there are also countries where such assistance is nonexstent. It is in those cases that the Regional ARS entities, listed below, have stepped up their programs related to social service activities.

a) ARC/Lebanon's Araxie Boulghourdjian Sociomedical Center: This Center, was founded in 1987, prompted by the urgent necessities created by the Lebanese civil war. The first ARS health center — opened in Beirut in the year 1938 — due to local unsettled conditions was replaced with the Fanar Dispensary, which exists to this day. In 1949, the Eshrefieh dispensary opened its doors, there is also the Ainjar Dispensary, where the evacuees from Jebel Musa (Musa Dagh, of Franz Werfel fame) received treatment. In 1952, the Bourj Hammoud Dispensary was started and, over the years, it turned into the Araxie Boulghourdjian Center. The fundamental aim of the Center's approach is the planned implementation of preventive medicine. The Center is equipped with up-to-date instrumentation for radiology, ultrasound, MRI, and laboratory work, it has an emergency first aid section, dental offices, and offers the services of specialized physicians. Annually, over 58,000 people are treated at the Center whose management and staff cooperate and coordinate their work with various European and United Nations health connected agencies.

b) The ARS "Mother& Child" Health Center of Akhurian: This Health Center is the result of the ARS/Eastern Region's dedicated efforts. It was

officially opened on May 18, 1997. It is the first of its kind in Armenia, officially recognized and supported by the Armenian Government. Children, up to 15 years of age, pregnant — and younger than 50 year old — women of the 8 villages and towns in the Shirak District receive specialized treatment at the Center. In compliance with local laws and regulations, children's vaccinations, medication and all other health services are free of charge for the residents of the District; those who drop in from other districts, receive the same treatment at a nominal fee.

c) New Birthing Center: The Center has laid the foundations of a new maternity ward, adjacent to the center; construction will soon be completed and the new building, totally equipped with all necessary medical instrumentation, and staffed with specialized personnel, will complete the cycle of preand post-natal care, reducing the rate of fatalities caused by untreated pregnancy, delivery and post-partem complications.

d) ARS Optic Centers: These centers in Armenia and Artsakh were opened, by the efforts of ARS/Western USA, in the following locations: Talin (1992), Yerevan (1995), Vanadzor (1996). In 1999, the ARS "Siroun" Optic opened its doors in Stepanakert, Nagorno Karabagh.

e) ARC/Syria's Health Center: This Center also offers the same services, and follows the same procedures, as the Araxie Boulghourdjian Center. Recently its laboratory was renovated and the equipment modernized.



**A** primary ARS activity has been a priority in organizational planning. At the beginning, it consisted of summer camps for youngsters of weak constitution or financially challenged families; presently, summer programs give the youth of different countries an opportunity to get to know each other and to develop cultural bonds of a common ethnicity.

a) The Bellefontaine Camp of the Armenian Blue Cross of France: Operating since 1935, bringing together Armenian youth from many communities of the Diaspora.

b) Internship Program at the United Nations: Each year, the ARS sponsors a young student to spend a summer month at the UN Headquarters in New York as an intern, working at various offices of the largest of all international organizations. The experience acquired through this internship will help our presence in ECOSOC as an NGO, lively and active in many key areas of socio-economic endeavor.

c) **The ARC Lebanon Sanatorium:** Formerly in Shtora, now in Ainjar, this establishment, now over half a century old, was started in 1951.

d) The Khalkidiki Camp of the Armenian Mercy Cross of Thessalonika/ Macedonia (Greece): Founded in 1946 — with construction of present modern facilities started in 1981 and completed in 1989 — this camp boasts one of the most scenic locations in Europe.

e) The ARC of Syria Summer Camp program usually takes place in Kessab: The ARS also contributes to the two Armenian Youth Federation camps: The Eastern USA AYF "Camp Haiastan" and the Summer Youth Camp of the AYF of Western USA. Alongside these annually repeated camp seasons, the ARS has organized a number of camping seasons in Armenia.



The care of orphans has always been an important part of ARS activities. After the "Metz Yeghern" of 1915—the first Genocide of the twentieth century—to save the surviving orphans, scattered throughout the Deir el Zor desert in Syria, the ARS started the "One Orphan, One Gold Coin" project, offering money to native Arabs and Bedouins who returned surviving

Armenian orphans they had harbored after the mass deportations and slaughter ordered by the Turks. The present "Sponsor-A-Child" program started right after the 1988 earthquake that caused over 50,000 casualties in northwestern Armenia.

a) "ARS Day" at Orphanages: Throughout Armenia, there are 51 children's homes and more than 10,000 parentless or abandoned children. Based on this data, the ARS decided to extend a helping hand through appropriate programs.

With the "ARS Day" project, the Society presently helps 533 children through the sustained efforts of the following ARS entities: Armenian Blue Cross of Athens, Greece (210 children at the Special Boarding School #8 of Yerevan); Armenian Blue Cross of France (85 children at the Nork School #2 of Yerevan); ARS of Canada (50 children at the Yerevan Special Nursery, Boarding School #8 of Yerevan, and 90 children at the Hrazdan Special Boarding School #1); and ARS Western USA (98 children at the Ashtarak Boarding School #18). In various ways, our ARS entities of England and Cyprus bring their contribution to this little known, but exemplary, project.

b) The ARS "Sponsor-A-Child" Program: This program, initiated in 1992, as a consequence of the great and devastating earthquake in northwestern Armenia as well as the Karabagh Region liberation war; two major debacles that cost Armenia thousands of casualties, leaving a large number of children without parents.

It is the desire and cherished goal of the Armenian Relief Society, that not a single child in our Homeland be allowed to remain without support and shelter, and that all individuals enjoy the blessings of family and home, in peace and security. In order to make this possible, all those who care to give their moral and financial support, are given the chance to do so by getting in touch with their local - or nearest - Armenian Relief Society entities at their office.

Today, with the presently active participation of eighteen ARS regional entities, more than 4,500 parentless children in the homeland receive an annual sum of US\$120.00 each, provided by volunteer sponsors, who additionally donate US\$10.00 to the Armenian Relief Society Central Executive to cover the on-going administrative costs of the project. In spite of this sustained effort, there still remain over 1,780 orphans on our list, waiting for sponsors.

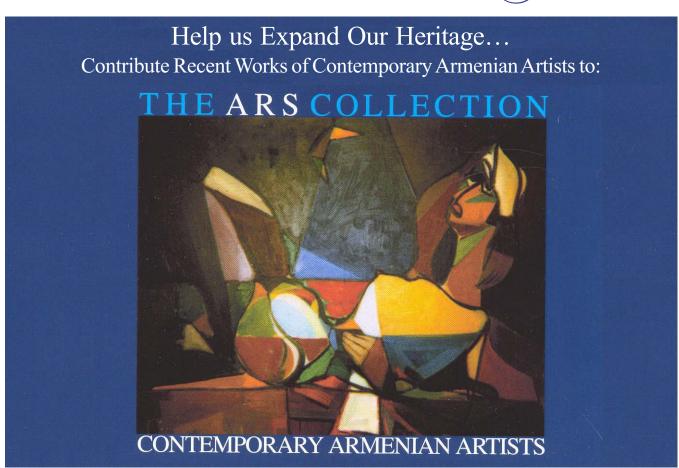


**C**ultural activities of all kinds, designed to enhance the Armenian awareness of the communities, are encouraged by the ARS; functions are organized in all regions where, through lectures, artistic presentations, concerts, exhibitions, etc., various aspects of Armenian culture are kept alive and visible.

- a) Arts and Crafts Centers in Syria and Lebanon not only help to perpetuate Armenian needlework, crafts and designs, but also provide a livelihood to many a craftsman whose talents are kept functional and productive in the creative atmosphere of these centers.
- **b) The Ethnic Armenian News Media** receive regular support from the ARS in the following regions of the Diaspora: Canada, France, Greece, Syria, Lebanon, and the Americas.

- c) The "Maralik" Children's Choir was initiated by the ARS of South America 10 years ago as an unprecedented project that brought together the talents of 40 children between the ages of 5 -15. The "Maralik" has, thus far. issued 3 albums: "Nor Serund" (New Generation) in 1993; "AybBenGim" (ABC) in 1995; "Hayordiq" (Sons of Armenia) in 1998. "Maralik" was the first to come up with Armenian CDs in South America.
- d) The "Narod Ardhaljian" Children's Library of Lebanon was founded in Bourj Hammoud in the year 1993. The new generations are given access to Armenian culture through song, dance, recitations, arts and crafts, etc.
- e) The "Nayiri" Dance Group was initiated by the Regional Executive of ARS/South America. It was started in 1978 and, in a very short time, had become a prominent cultural wonder in the Armenian communities of Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil. The dance group brings together Armenian youngsters to become performers and presenters of one of our national culture's important manifestations. Encouraged by Nayiri's success, the Regional executive founded the "Shirak" Dance School for Youngsters which has an enrollment of around 80 children.







After months of preparation, on September 25, 2003, organized by the Central Executive Board of the Armenian Relief Society, Inc., the 2nd NGO Conference took place in Yerevan's Congress Hotel. This highly motivated gathering went through its pro-ceedings under the gracious auspices of Armenia's First Lady, Dr. Bella Kocharian.

After due consideration to many pressing so-

cial issues, the organizers of the Confer-ence had chosen the following multi-faceted topic as a general theme: "National Plan for Action: HIV/AIDS, Disabled Children's Rights, Human Trafficking, and Domestic Violence". Addressing participants and

guests, welcoming remarks and opening statements were made by the ARS Chairperson, Mrs. Maro Minassian, Dr. Bella Ko-charian, US Ambassador to Armenia, John Ordway, Minister of Social Affairs, Agh-van Vardanian, UN Resident Coordinator, Lise Grande, and OSCE Ambassador, Mi-chael Wygant.

After the keynote speakers – Health Minister, Norayr Davidian, Artak Apitonyan of the Minis-

try of Foreign Affairs, Lala Aslanian of the Dept. of Migration and Refu-gees, Karine Hacobian of the Ministry of Social Affairs - concluded their presenta-tions, four round table discussions, with the participation of representatives of inter-national



and national NGOs analyzed thoroughly the various issues emanating from the chosen general theme of the Conference. The lively discussions were enhanced by the effective use of audio-visuals. This 2nd Annual NGO Conference was attended by over 200 highly interested, select participants from various organizations, ARS members from around the world and many private individuals interested in the timely topics of the Conference.

For all those who may be interested, the proceedings and conclusions of the Conference's discussions are available on the ARS, Inc. website www.ars1910.org.

Present at the conference: RA National Assambly member, Alvard Petrosian, US Ambasador to Armenia John Ordway, and ARS CE Chair, Maro Minasian







## Entrevista de HOM con la diputada uruguaya Escribana Beatriz Argimon

l martes 22 de julio, la Diputada uruguaya por el Partido Nacional, Escribana Beatriz Argimon invitó a un almuerzo de trabajo a las integrantes de la Comisión Regional Sudamericana de HOM Licenciada Isabel Attarian y Escribana Diana Itutmazian. La temática de la reunión versó sobre la participación de la Diputada Argimon en la 56ª Conferencia Anual de O.N.G de las Naciones Unidas como panelista invitada por la Comisión Central mundial de HOM.

La oportunidad sirvió para departir sobre estrategias de trabajo en el área social y económica, referidas fundamentalmente a la infancia y a la mujer en el contexto de la realidad latinoamericana de hoy. La Diputada — pese a su juventud — tiene una vasta experiencia en esos temas, ya que fue durante años Presidenta de INAME (Instituto Nacional del Menor) y trabaja activamente en auspiciosos proyectos de micro empresa para mujeres rurales, donde desarrolla con gran éxito una tarea muy difícil.

Precisamente su destacada labor en ese ámbito fue muy positivamente evaluada a nivel nacional e internacional, y también percibida por HOM, quien a través de su Presidenta Maro Minassian tuvo la oportunidad de entrevistarse con la Diputada en el año 2002 e interiorizarse con su trabajo y capacitación. Esos méritos la hicieron acreedora a la invitación como disertante en la Conferencia de la ONU señalada, que se realizará en septiembre próximo. El tema a desarrollar en base a la propuesta de las compañeras de la Comisión Regional será "La realidad de la mujer latinoamericana de hoy".

En oportunidad de este almuerzo le fue entregado a la legisladora un portfolio con las actividades desarrolladas por la institución a nivel mundial y regional, prometiéndole —en base a sus requerimientos— más material sobre el trabajo que se lleva a cabo en Uruguay.

Para HOM es un orgullo contar con el aporte y cooperación de esta joven legisladora, cuya participación en la 56° Conferencia, será sin duda, brillante ●

# ՀՕՄ-Ը,ՀԱՅԿԻՆԸ,ԵՒ ՀԱՅՐԵՆԻՔ-ՍՓԻՒՌՔ ՅԱՐԱԲԵՐՈՒԹԻՒՆՆԵՐ

այաստանի ապագան մեծ չափով կախուած է կիներէն․ կինն է ազգի շարունակութիւնը ապահովողը, ազգի կենսունակութիւնն ու բարոյական կերպարը կերտողը, ապագայ սերունդներու համար դաստիարակներ հայթայթողը։ Այսօր,երբ Հայաստանը վերջին տասնամեակի սայթաքումներէն ու տարուբերումներէն ազատագրուած կանգնած է ճակատագրական անկիւնադարձի մր առջեւ, երբ Հայրենիք-Սփիւռք կամրջումը կր դիտուի իբրեւ կարեւոր մէկ գրաւականը հայրենաշինութեան, ան աւելի քան երբեք կարիքը ունի կանանց ներդրումին հայրենաշինութեան բոլո՛ր բնագաւառներէն ներս։

Սփիւռքի տարածքին ցրուած հայկական գաղթօճախներուն ազգային նկարագիր տալու, հայ լեզուի, կրօնի, աւանդութիւններու, այսինքն՝ հայ հոգիի փոխանցումը սերունդէ սերունդ ապահովելու եւ վերջապէս նոր սերունդի ազգային ինքնութեան ու պատկանելիութեան ձեւաւորման ու պահպանման գործին մէջ առանձնայատուկ դեր ունի սփիւռքահայ կինը։ Այսօր, երբ Հայաստանի անկախութեան այս նոր փուլը նոր տեսլական է բացած սփիւռքեան իրականութեան առջեւ, երբ Հայաստան-Սփիռք կամրջումը կր դիտուի իբրեւ կարեւոր գրաւական մր Սփիւռքի հայապահպանման, յիշեալ



«Կինն է ազգի շարունակութիւնը ապահովողը, ազգի կենսունակութիւնն ու բարոյական կերպարը կերտողը»:

#### Ռուբինա Փիրումեան

բոլոր բնագաւառներէն ներս, Սփիւռքը, աւելի քան երբեք, կարիքը ունի կանանց ներդրումին:

Այս հիմնաւորումներէն ելլելով, կանանց ներդրումը թէ Սփիւռքի եւ թէ Հայրենիքի տարածքին, կարելի է տեսնել երեք մակարդակի վրայ. անհատական՝ ընտանիքէն ներս, աշխատանքային՝ իբրեւ մայր եւ ուսուցիչ. հասարակական՝ տարբեր կազմակերպութիւններու գործունէութեանց եւ ղեկավար մարմիններուն իր մասնակցութեամբ:

Կեդրոնանալով երրորդ մակարդակին վրայ, այսինքն՝ կանանց կազմակերպութիւններու խողովակով, հայ կնոջ գործունէութեան եւ ապագայ կարելիութիւններուն վրայ, մանաւանդ շեշտելով Հայրենիքի եւ Սփիւռքի կանանց կազմակերպութիւններու փոխյարաբերութիւններու կարեւորութիւնը:

Բազմազան են Սփիւռքի կառոյցներուն մէջ գործող կանանց կազմակերպութիւնները, եկեղեցասիրաց կանանց օժանդակ միութիւններէն մինչեւ աղքատախնամ, բարեսիրական, կրթական, մշակութային կամ, վերջերս մեծ յաւակնութիւններով, համաշխարհային բնոյթի ու տարողութեան ձգտող միութիւններ:



Այդ բոլորին մեջ, Հայ
Օգնութեան Միութիւնը, վստահօրեն
անհամեմատելի մակարդակի վրայ
է կանգնած։ Բայց աւելի ճիշդ
ընկալուելու համար, հարկ է նշել
ցաւալի իրողութիւն մը. այս
կազմակերպութիւններեն եւ ոչ
մէկը, եւ ոչ նոյնիսկ ՀՕՄ-ը, մեծ
դերակատարութիւն ունի Սփիւռքի
ազգային քաղաքականութեան
բանաձեւման մէջ. այլ խօսքով, կինր

դերակատար չէ Սփիւռքի կառոյցներու ղեկավարման, ուղղութիւններու եւ քաղաքականութիւններու ճշտման ու դէպի ապագայ առաջնորդման մէջ։

Գալով Հայաստանին, մանաւանդ վերջին տարիներու կնոջ իրավիճակի վատթարացումէն ետք, անոր դէմ ի գործ դրուած խտրականութեան եւ ճնշումներու շեշտաւորումէն բխած, ստեղծուած են քսանէ աւելի կանանց կազմակերպութիւններ, իւրաքանչիւրը իր հասարակական-ընկերային նպատակներով ու գործունէութեամբ։ Այստեղ եւս, նոյն դառն հաստատումը. Հայաստանին մէջ, հայ կինը կամ կանանց կազմակերպութիւնները իրենց կառոյցի, գործունէութեան եւ կարողականութեան համեմատութեամբ, դերակատար չեն Հայաստանի րնկերային ու քաղաքական կեանքիէն ներս։ Հայաստանի Հանրապետութեան օրէնսդրութիւնը երկրի քաղաքական, ընկերային, մշակութային եւ այլ բնագաւառներու մէջ կանանց մասնակցութեան որեւէ արգելք չի դներ։ Սակայն իրականացման րնթացքին՝ հաւասարութիւնը կր ոտնակոխուի, հակառակ անոր որ կան մեծ թիւով բարձր կրթութիւն ունեցող կանայք․անոնք չեն ներառնուիր երկրի քաղաքական, ընկերային-տնտեսական ու մշակութային շրջանակներէն ներս։ Գոյութիւն ունեցող օրէնքները աշխատանքի ու աշխատունակութեան վերաբերմամբ, աշխատանքի չգոյութեան պատճառաւ, չեն իրագործուիր։

Այս հաստատումները կարելի է հիմնաւորել

վիճակագրական տուհալներով,
սակայն պատկերը ինքնին, յստակ է
ու անժխտելի: Այսօր, ամբողջ հայ
ազգը իր երկրի ու արտերկրի
կառոյցներով, բացարձակօրեն կը
ղեկավարուի սղամարդկանց կողմէ։
Բացի մշակութային ու
բարեսիրական միութիւններու
ղեկավարութենէն, հազուագիւտ
պարագաներու է որ կինը առիթը
ունի մուտք գործելու ղեկավար
բարձր շրջանակներէ ներս, եւ նման
պարագաներու, առնուազն գլուխ մը
աւելի բարձր պարտի ըլլալ իր

**Թ**է Սփիւռքի եւ թէ Հայրենիքի մէջ, կանայք ներգրաւուած են հասարակական այն կազմակերպութիւններուն մէջ, ուր նպատակը մարդասիրական է. օգնութիւն աղքատներուն,որբերուն, անօգնականներուն։ Բայց միթէ՞ միայն այս է կնոջ տաղանդր: Ուշադիր նայեցէ՛ք Հայաստանի մէջ կազմուած կանանց կազմակերպութիւններու հետապնդած նպատակներուն. մէկ կամ երկու բացառութիւններ՝ որոնք կուսակցական հովանիի տակ կր գործեն, մնացեալի գործունէութիւնը կ'ընդգրկէ նմանօրինակ բնագաւառներ.բարեսիրական օգնութիւն, խնամք կարիքաւոր մայրերու եւ երեխաներու, պայքար՝ կանանց դէմ խտրականութեան վերացման համար թէ ընտանեկան եւ թէ հասարակական կեանքի մէջ, պայքար՝ գիտութեան, արուեստի ու քաղաքական մարզերու մէջ կանանց մասնակցութիւնը

«Բացի
մշակութային ու
բարեսիրական
միութիւններու
ղեկավարութենեն,
հազուագիւտ
պարագաներու է
որ կինը առիթը
ունի մուտք
գործելու
ղեկավար բարձր
շրջանակներէ
ներս»

քաջալերելու եւ ապահովելու համար: Որոշ չափով կը տարբերին աւելի նեղ իւրայատկութիւններով կազմակերպուած միութիւնները, օրինակ՝ օրէնսդիր մարմիններու մօտ կանանց համահաւասար իրաւունքի պաշտպանութիւն, զօրակոչիկներու համար բարենպաստ պայմաններու հաստատում, կամ ուսուցչուհիներու իրաւունքներու

Ուժերը չջլատելու, աւելի նպատակադրուած ձեւով ու առանց ճապաղումի աշխատելու համար, հարկաւոր է միացում, կամ աւելի ճիշդ՝ վերադասաւորում եւ վերակազմակերպում։

ՀՕՄ-ը ատակ է դիւրացնելու այդ ճամբան, իր տասնամեակներու փորձառութիւնն ու արեւմտեան կարգապահութեան, աշխարհայեացքի ու գործելակերպի ծանօթութիւնը ի սպաս բերելու այդ վերադասաւորման, նպատակներու եւ ուղղութեան, համազգային թէ միջազգային բեմ դուրս գալու ճամբուն։ Սփիւռքի եւ Հայաստանի կանանց կազմակերպութիւններու փոխյարաբերութիւնները այս մարզին մէջ անփոխարինելի արդիւնքներու կարող են հասնիլ։

Հարկ է հոս նշում մը կատարել կարծիքի մը մասին որ յաճախ կր լսուէր վերջին տարիներուն, թէ հայ կնոջ հաւասար իրաւունքները- կրթութիւն, րնտրելու եւ ընտրուելու իրաւունք, բժշկական ասպարէզ, արուեստ ու ճարտարարուեստ, գիտութիւն, եւն.- նախատեսուած ու յարգուած էին խորհրդային վարչակարգի ընթացքին, բայց անուշադրութեան են մատնուեր յետխորհրդային, անկախ եւ ժողովրդավար Հայաստանի մէջ։ Ի հարկ է, այդ օրերուն ալ այդքան փայլուն չէ եղած իրավիճակը, բայց բոլոր այլ բնագաւառներու նման, քանի որ համեմատաբար աւելի բարենպաստ էին պայմանները, անցեալը երանելի կը թուի։ Այս երեւոյթը կարելի է կոչել վտանգաւոր կարօտախտ (nostalgia) որուն ազդեցութիւնը կը դրսեւորուի տնտեսա-քաղաքական ելեւէջներու ընթացքին։ Իրօք, աւերներ շատ գործուեցան, որոնք պիտի սրբագրուին.աւերներ՝ ընկերատնտեսական,

քաղաքական, կենցաղային բնագաւառներէ ներս․իսկ այդ աւերներուն ամենախոցելի, ամենադժբախտ զոհը եղած է կինը։ Ան տառապեր է իր անձին վրայ կրելով խտրականութիւն, շեշտուած զրկանք ու գործազրկութիւն: Տառապեր է տեսնելով իր քոյրերը բարոյական ստորնացումի ճահիճներուն մէջ ներքաշուած՝ մինչեւ պոռնկութիւն, մինչեւ առուծախի ու երկրէն արտածման նողկալի սահմանները։ Տառապեր է իր ընտանիքի տնտեսական խղճալի վիճակին անկարող ականատեսը ըլլալով։ Տառապեր է իր ընտանիքին տղամարդոց բացակայութեան, երբ տղամարդը աշխատանք փնտռելու, ընտանիքին հացր հայթայթելու պարտադրանքին տակ, հեռացեր է հայրենիքէն։ Եւ կինը, ամենադժուարին պայմաններու տակ, ստանձներ է թէ հօր եւ թէ մօր պարտականութիւնները:

Համայնավար վարչակարգի կործանումէն ետք սկսած նոր փուլը Հայաստանի Հանրապետութեան պատմութեան մէջ պիտի ըլլար անցումային շրջան. պիտի դրուէին րնկերային, տնտեսական ու քաղաքական նոր արժեչափեր։ Պիտի իրականանար Հայրենիքի ու Սփիւռքի կամրջումը. պիտի իրականանար մէկ Ազգ մէկ Հայրենիք գաղափարը։ Փոխարէնը, յաջորդող տարիները եղան անկումի ու ժողովուրդի կեղեքման տարիներ, առանձնաշնորհեալ փոքրաթիւ խաւի մր յոփացման, հայ կնոջ տառապանքի, մտաւորականութեան

«Օտար
բռնապետութիւնները,
խաւար ու
յետադէմ
մշակոյթներու
ազդեցութիւնները
հայ կինը պահեր
ու մղեր են ետ՝
յառաջդիմութեան
դէմ պատնէշներ
բարձրացնելով»

բարոյալքման, սոսկալի չափերու հասնող արտագաղթի եւ, վերջապէս, ներքին ու արտաքին ապազգային քաղաքականութեան հետապնդման շրջան։ Այժմ, այդ տարիներու կորուստէն ետք, կր վերսկսինք անցումային շրջանը, բայց այս անգամ ոչ թէ զերոյէն, այլ զերոյէն ալ վար մակարդակէ։ Այս իրականութեան լոյսին տակ, կանանց կազմակերպութիւնները, մանաւանդ ՀՕՄ-ը, մանաւանդ սփիւռքեան իրականութեան մէջ, իրենց հարազատ ու մտերիմ մթնոլորտով, հասարակական աշխատանքի առիթ կ'ընծայեն, կանանց վարժեցնելով վարչական գործընթացին, ժողովրդավարական որէնքներուն (parliamentary procedure) ու ժողովներու եւ հասարակութեան առջեւ ելոյթ ունենալու։ Այս կազմակերպութիւնները, եւ դարձեալ մանաւանդ ՀՕՄ-ը, Սփիւռքի տարածքին, կարեւոր ու շատ անգամ միակ գործօններն են կրթելու կանանց, զարգացնելու անոնց տաղանդներն ու կարողութիւնները, անոնց միջոցաւ թէ ուղղակիօրէն ազգային դաստիարակութիւն ջամբելու մատաղ սերունդին։ Բայց չոգեւորուինք անմիջապէս. կանգ առնենք ու հարց տանք մենք մեզ որպէս կին, որպէս Հայաստանի եւ Սփիւռքի յառաջատար կանանց ներկայացուցիչներ․արդեօք կը փափագինք տղամարդոց հաւասար իրաւունքներ ունենալ, պատրաստ՝ գործելու նշուած բոլոր ասպարէզներէն ներս։ Արդեօք իսկապէս կուզենք յառաջդիմել, մեր արժանի տեղը գրաւել հասարակութեան մէջ, թէ մեր սահմանափակ, տաքուկ ու հարազատ շրջանակներուն մէջ, մեր ունեցած սահմանափակ դերերով կր գոհանանք։

Այս կարճ գրութեան սահմանները չեն արտօներ պատմութիւնը քննարկել եւ յստակ օրինակներով փաստել «պատմական աւանդոյթ» կոչուած հասկացողութեան իրական իմաստը, որ հասեր է մեզ կատարելապէս խեղաթիւրուած մեկնաբանութեամբ եւ որ կնոջ պարտադրեր է ստորադաս իրավիճակ։ Օտար բռնապետութիւնները,

խաւար ու յետադէմ մշակոյթներու ազդեցութիւնները հայ կինը պահեր ու մղեր են ետ՝ յառաջդիմութեան դէմ պատնէշներ բարձրացնելով: Այդ պատնէշներու վերացման համար անհրաժեշտ են՝

ա. Ցաւելեալ ճիգերով պիտի
յառաջդիմենք, զարգանանք,
ընդլայնենք մեր մտային
հորիզոնը, ինչ տարիքի ալ ըլլանք,
ինչ ընկերային-տնտեսական
դասակարգի ալ պատկանինք՝
գիտակից ու ծրագրուած
հաւաքական աշխատանքով եւ
իրարու զօրավիգ կանգնելով։
UNICEF-ի եւ UNESCO-ի
հովանաւորութեան տակ,
մերօրեայ միջազգային կանանց
կազմակերպութիւնները կարող են օժանդակել մեր

բ. Պէտք է թիրախ դարձնել ներկայ
ղեկավարութիւնը, իբրեւ դաշնակից ու զինակից մեր
կողքին ունենալով ղեկավար շրջանակներուն
պատկանող այ՛ն անձերը որոնք զարգացած են,
կրթուած են ու շփում ունին այսօրուայ զարգացած
աշխարհի տարածքին տեղի ունեցող կանանց
շարժումներու եւ ընկերային յեղաշրջումներու հետ։
Հարկ է մղել այդ անձերը որ աշխատին փոխել
տիրող մտայնութիւնը՝ յառաջդիմութեան առիթներ
ստեղծելով ատակ ու գործունեայ կանանց:

գ. Հարկ է, պետական մակարդակով, Հայաստանի մէջ աշխատանք տանիլ սրբագրելու համար Սահմանադրութեան մէջ տեղ գտած այ՛ն օրէնքները որոնք կարգիլեն կնոջ ազատ զարգացումը բոլոր բնագաւառներէ ներս։ Պէտք է աշխատինք արգիլել ամէ՛ն խտրականութիւն եւ հաւասարութիւն հաստատել։ Պետութիւնը պէտք է դիւրացնէ համապատասխան օրէնքներու իրականացումը՝ զանազան նախարարութիւններու մօտ յատուկ



մասնաբաժիններ հաստատելով:

դ. Անհատական գետնի վրայ պէտք է հիմունքէն սկսիլ, հող պատրաստելով որ մեր արու զաւակները չգերադասուին աղջիկներէն եւ յատուկ առանձնաշնորհումներով չդաստիարակուին։ Տղոց կրթութիւն տալը աւելի կարեւոր չդասե՛նք քան աղջիկներուն: Այսինքն պատրաստենք ո՛չ թէ male chauvinist-ներ, այլ կանանց դատի պաշտպան, սեռերու հաւասարութեան հաւատացող, հակառակ սեռի նկատմամբ յարգանք տածող արու զաւակներ։ Իսկ մեր աղջիկները դաստիարակենք ո՛չ իբրեւ վաղուայ համեստ ու հնազանդ տանտիկինն ու ապագայ ընկերային կեանքին անմասնակից, կրաւորական հանդիսատեսը՝ այլ իբրեւ հաւասար բաժնեկիցը իր ապագայ ընտանիքին, մեր ազգային դատին զինուորագրեալը, զարգացած ու կարող դեկավա՛րը մեր համայնքի բոլո՛ր մարզերուն մէջ, րնկերային-հասարակական, կրթական, կրօնական, մշակութային ու բարեսիրական։ Մեր աղջիկները դաստիարակենք րլլալու վճռակամ, իր ուրոյն անհատականութեան համար պայքարող՝ թէկուզ եթէ ան պահպանողական մտքերու հակադարձութեան հանդիպի ընտանեկան, աշխատանքի կամ ընկերային շրջանակէ ներս:

Այս կէտը ամենակարեւորն է, որովհետեւ եթէ անհատներու, կնոջ եւ տղամարդու մտայնութիւնը պատրաստ չըլլայ՝ լաւագոյն օրէնքներն իսկ իրաւունք ու հաւասարութիւն չեն ապահովեր։

Հայ կնոջ հաւասար իրաւունքներու հաստատումն է որ, ի վերջոյ, պիտի ապահովէ ապագայ ազատ մտածող, յառաջադէմ հասարակութիւնը թէ՛ Սփիւռքի եւ թէ՛ Հայաստանի մէջ։ Եւ մենք, մեր համազգային նպատակներուն հասնելու եւ մերօրեայ համամարդկային ընտանիքէն ներս մեր արժանաւոր տեղը գրաւելու համար անհրաժեշտ կարիքն ունինք այդպիսի հասարակութեան։ Եթէ Հայրենիքի եւ Սփիւռքի հայերը պիտի մերուին եւ իրենց նկարագրի, աշխարհայեացքի, կենցաղի, աւանդութիւններու եւ սովորութիւններու – եւ նոյն իսկ լեզուի – տարբերութիւնները, որոնք շատ մր պարագաներու խոր են գահավէժ վիհի նման, պիտի վերնան՝ հայ կանանց կազմակերպութիւնները պիտի րլլան դերակատար՝ իրենց ծրագրաւորուած ու միացեալ աշխատանքով, արհեստավարժական հիմունքներով բաժնուած պարտականութիւններով, եւ սեւեռուն ու անսեթեւեթ քայլերով՝ դէպի վերջնական նպատակ 🍨



«Հայ կնոջ
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# The ARS At The UN

# Joint ARS/UNDP Efforts In Support of Schools in Armenia

► The
Diaspora,
a world-wide
community that
supports the
Homeland in a
variety of
ways. ◀

he Armenian Diaspora is a powerful, worldwide community that supports the Homerland in a variety of ways. The United Nations — and UNDP, in particular, with its social development agenda — is therefore a natural partner to Diasporan organizations, or individuals, who wish to invest in the on-going development of the country.

In late 2002, UNDP Armenia and the Ministry of Territorial Administration of Armenia started an "umbrella" project – Partnerships for Implementation of Community Based Development Projects – aimed at mobilizing resources to address several major areas to reduce poverty in Armenia, such as rehabilitation of the social infrastructure, increased public service accessibility and income generation in the poorest and most disadvantaged communities.

A perfect example of the difference the UN and the Diaspora can make when they work together is the Rehabilitation of Indoor Heating Network of Charentsavan School #4, Kotayk Region sub-project carried out jointly by UNDP and the Armenian Relief Society (ARS). The school building that currently hosts 600 schoolchildren is of a standard type: it consists of three wings – two buildings for educational purposes and a sports/meeting hall. Before the energy crisis in 1992-1993, this school was integrated into a centralized heating system. There was an urgent need to perform the rehabilitation of the indoor-heating network as well.

With UNDP and ARS financial and technical support, an indoor heating system is currently being constructed. The renovation activities are organized and executed in such a way as not to hamper the education process at school, i.e. predominantly during evenings and Sundays. To date, the first wing of the school building is completed, and the entire rehabilitation of the network will be completed in early March 2003

## The 56th Annual Conference of Non-Gov

## **ARS Workshop**

# Attracts Notable Speakers, Active Participation



since 1978, the Armenian Relief Society has been recognized by the United Nations as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). In 1998 the ARS was placed on the roster of NGO's with consultative status with the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and as an NGO associated with the UN Department of Public Information (DPI).

The Armenian Relief Society once again participated in United Nations DPI/NGO Annual Conference which was held Monday, Sept 8th through Wednesday, September 10tth in Manhattan, New York, at the United Nations Headquarters. The 56th Annual Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), having as a theme "Human Security and Dignity: Fulfilling the Promise of the United Nations", highlighted issues such as "Psychological Aspect of Human Security and Dignity", "From Oppression to Empowerment", and gave civil society organizations a forum to express their ideas about human rights, people's empowerment and global well-being. This year, the conference planning committee included five members of the ARS, all actively involved in organizing the Conference. The Armenian Relief Society was represented by members from its three North American Regions, including Canada, the Eastern and Western United States, with over 30 participants.

The conference was divided into morning and afternoon plenary sessions. Among the notables present at the conference were, Shashi Tharoor, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, former President of Brazil, currently Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General, and noted film star, Danny Glover, a goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). There were over 2,600 individuals in attendance from 687 registered Organizations and 93 coun-tries.

Monday Evening a reception was held for the registered attendees where one could mingle with Secretary-General Kofi Annan and members of other organizations.

The Armenian Relief Society, once again, had an active role in the Conference not only in numbers but as an organizer of a Midday Workshop. On Tuesday, Sep-tember 9, in

correlation with the conference topic, a workshop was organized titled "Micro Finance: Empowering women and person disabilities toward economic secu-rity". The session was moderated by ARS Eastern region member and UN Liaison Stephanie Mesrobian, the panel of speakers consisted of Ms. Nance Barry, President of Women's World Banking, Ani Kazarian, Research Scholar from the C.A.K.E. Foundation, David Helm, Ph.D., Director, Interdisciplinary Training, Institute for Community Inclusion, Susan Foley, Ph.D., Senior Research Associate, Institute for Community Inclusion, and Mary Sereno, Minister Counsellor of the Permanent Mis-sion of Uruguay to the United Nations, who substituted for Beatriz Argimon, Repre-sentative Montevideo, Camara de Representantes, Republica Oriental del Uruguay, who was unable to make the trip. The workshop was located on the 11th floor of the UN Church center across the street from UN headquarters, allowing the public to at-tend without having to register to enter UN grounds. There were over 100 Individuals in Attendance at the workshop.

Stephanie Mesrobian welcomed the attendees, briefly spoke

## ernmental Organizations In Manhattan

about the ARS, its relations with the UN and explained what the goal of the workshop was. Briefly put, the workshop intended to explore micro-financing, the quest for empowerment, leadership in women and persons too disabled to challenge the status quo.

The first speaker, Nancy Barry of the Women's World Banking (WWB) de-scribed the role of WWB in empowering low income women. She stated that, "poor



women can become entrepreneurs and can change the financial system of the poor minority." She also stated that the WWB was established in 1975 at a similar conference and is currently in cooperation with over 40 countries. The Women's World Bank reaches poor women by providing and organizing support to its member organizations, which in turn offer direct services to these women.

The second Speaker was the young Ani Kazarian, a Research Scholar, for the C.A.K.E. Foundation presenting the topic of "Community Microfinance: Providing financial and social support services to women and individuals with dis-

abilities of Armenian Heritage". Miss. Kazarian's Power Point presentation assessed the situation in Armenia, establishing that Armenian women are a driving force for change, and that individuals with disabilities are often neglected and shunned. She also ex-plained that C.A.K.E.'s community micro-financing initiative provides financial and social support services to the above mentioned individuals, helping to empower women and disabled individuals to strive for a bet-

ter existence. Furthermore, she de-scribed the steps that the C.A.K.E. Foundation has taken to make micro-financing a reality in Armenia.

Dr. David T. Helm of the Institute for Community Inclusion was the third speaker; he presented an overview of practices at the Institute and their findings in human patterns when it comes to people with disabilities. He showed the barriers that people with

disabilities have to face, including attitudes of people, programs and pro-fessionals. Dr. Helm stated that healthy people often look at the obvious weaknesses of disabled individuals instead of paying attention to the positive abilities. Furthermore he stated that there are successful practices in dealing with the disabled as in empowering the individual in planning, financial and job situations, by including the disabled.

The fourth speaker, Dr. Susan Foley, also from the Institute for Community Inclusion, discussed the subject of "Women with Disabilities and Employment." Dr. Foley pointed out that it is not



about disability, it is about ability, and action instead of mere planing. She further discussed the study that included 45 working women with disabilities, and used sample cases where two women were compared and their abilities were used to empower them instead of concentrating on their disabilities. Dr. Foley showed how the practices set forth by the Institute for Community Inclusion were realized.

The final speaker was Dr. Mary Serano, from the Permanent Mission of Uru-guay to the United Nations, speaking in Spanish with a translator, about established projects to empower women in South America.

This Midday workshop, organized by the Armenian Relief Society, was a suc-cess. It remained focused on Empowerment on a global, transnational level, inviting both Armenians and non-Armenian to become involved in issues that concern all of humanity, without exception.

**Nayiree Derderian** 

# Marriage And Love In America By Isabel Kaprielian-Churchill

This article is based on a speech for Valentine's Day, delivered at St. Paul's Armenian Church, Fresno, CA, in 1998. Also, my thanks to Robert Mirak for providing me with the immigration statistics.

or Americans, the "Roaring Twen ties" stand out as the age of the Charleston, the flapper, Prohibition, speakeasies, women's suffrage, the Harlem Renaissance, and the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti. World War I had been fought and won; the Red Scare had been silenced, and the Depression was yet beyond the horizon. "The business of America is business," quipped President Harding. As if to prove his point, automobiles, Coca Cola, and the "talkies" swept across the country and beyond. If any single word symbolized the decade, it was optimism. By contrast, for Armenians the 1920s epitomized sorrow and grief, deprivation and dispersal, political and religious tension and conflict. An entire people suffered from nerves raw and exposed. But the 1920s also marked a decade of rehabilitation and reconstruction when the remnant survivors set about to rebuild their lives. At a time of collective bereavement and adjustment, Armenian family reformation became, more than ever before or since, the most powerful force binding together a traumatized people.1

Let me begin with a rather free translation of the lyrics of an Armenian song popular in the 1930s and 1940s. It's a man's song, not a particularly joyful one, but a complaint laced with a touch of humor, nevertheless.

"Iworked for seven years, saved \$1000. Decided to marry. Went to Cuba to find a wife. Many pretty girls in Cuba, but one caught my eye. She smiled and said she didn't care for riches. Just wanted to make me happy. She loved me, she said. I married her and brought her to America. A year passed. She wanted a diamond ring. I bought her a diamond ring. She wanted a fur coat. I bought her a fur coat. She wanted an automobile. I bought her an automobile. Then she told me She didn't like my pillow."

This song has a companion story, a true event about a man from Fresno who brought a refugee girl to America in the 1920s and married her. After a couple of years, he complained to his friends in the *serjaran* [coffeehouse] that his wife was getting out of hand. She was disobedient. She didn't do as she was told and she even had the audacity to talk back to him. His dissatisfaction continued for some months, and each time he received sympathy from his fellow scambil and backgammon comrades.

Nodding. Yes, yes, we understand. Vakh, Vakh, Vy, Vy. One day, exasperated, he told them he intended to teach his wife a good lesson, long overdue. He'd made up his mind to spank her. Shaking his hand, he repeated, "the five brothers." Chè chnes" shouted his companions. "No. You can't hit your wife. This isn't the old country. This is America. If you beat your wife, the police will put you in jail. Grin and bear it. There's no other solution." A few weeks passed; then, at the end of his patience, he announced to his coffeehouse buddies, "I've found the answer. I've made up my mind to take my wife back to the old country, give her a good beating, teach her a lesson she'll never forget, then bring her back to America!"

These songs and stories, each in their own way, are metaphors, interpreting Armenian life and culture. They reveal a much larger picture of marital culture among Armenians during the post-Genocide period.

Armenian family life had collapsed during the Genocide. Uprootedness, family fragmentation, separation, and loss left a mere shadow of the world of intimacy. Regardless of where they found sanctuary or what conditions they encountered, survivors instinctively knew they had to reconstitute family life. In America a shortage of Armenian women reflected the pre-Genocide movement of Armenian male sojourners to the new world. By contrast, in the countries of refuge, the vast majority of survivors were women and children. The imbalance meant that men and women were obliged to meet across an ocean and across different cultures. Armenians quickly devised a host of creative mechanisms to bring together refugee women in countries of survival and bachelors and widowers in America: by letter, picture, and the always ingenious matchmaker. But forces, stronger than will and determination, threw up major barricades to family reconstruction.

To understand the situation we must look at American immigration regulations. After the Civil War, during the latter part of the 19th century,

technological inventions, like the elevator, the telephone and the electric light, and great industrial corporations, like Carnegie's Homestead steel mills and Rockefeller's Standard Oil changed the nature of work in America. With increased mechanization, railroads, bridges, factories, mines, highways, and canals required young, strong, unskilled, and relatively obedient workers. Labor flowed to capital as America opened her doors and immigrants from Eastern and Southeastern Europe flooded in to find opportunity and freedom. With them they brought different languages, foods, religions, values, and cultures. Little by little, these newcomers changed the demography of America. The face of the United States in 1910 was unlike the society in 1880. Jewish peddlers, Polish miners, Ukrainian factory laborers, Armenian rug merchants, Greek bootblacks, Italian construction workers appeared and acted differently from the white, Anglo-Saxon, Protestants.

These massive changes generated nativist opposition which, in turn, rationalized its bias citing "scientific" evidence. Herbert Spencer in England and William Graham Sumner in the United States applied Charles Darwin's theory of the survival of the fittest to human society and concluded that man forged ahead through competition in which the strong survived and dominated the weak. For the proponents of social Darwinism, "whites,' i.e. Anglo-Americans were the "fittest." These ideas, coupled with the quest for national unity after the harrowing divisiveness of the Civil War, redefined what it meant to be an "American," and recast who should have the privilege of admission. With the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882, America established the precedence of race as a criterion for admission. While health, literacy, morality, political affiliation, and pauperism could prohibit entry, race remained the single most powerful factor in keeping America "pure." In 1921, Congress passed the so-called Johnson Act which limited entry to 3% of the foreign-born as evident in their numbers based on the 1910 census. But nativists, still bent on "purity," found this law

inadequate to exclude eastern and southeastern Europeans. After considerable controversy, Congress approved the Johnson-Reid Act in 1924, which extended the restrictions to 2% of the total ethnic group according to the 1890 census. In effect the Johnson-Reid Act limited admission mainly to northern and northwestern Europeans. These groups had immigrated to the United States before the period of mass migration from eastern and southeastern Europe, which was commonly called the New Immigration period (roughly 1890-1921). In the same year, by terms of the Oriental Exclusion Act,, Congress prohibited the entry of those who were ineligible for citizenship - in effect, nonwhites. This restriction was directed specifically at Asians. As non-whites Asians were classified as aliens ineligible for citizenship and were, therefore, barred from admission to the United States. By 1929, a quota system based on national origins was fully in place.

Examining the statistics, we see that in 1913, about 9,355 Armenians entered the United States; in 1920, 10,212 more arrived, and from 1920-24, another 20,559 passed through Ellis Island. We can reasonably assume that from 1913 to 1920 approximately 50,000 Armenians<sup>2</sup> were admitted to the United States, a high figure given that World War I had interrupted migration. After 1925, however - Cartozian's victory notwithstanding -Armenian immigration to the United States plummeted because of a quota of a few hundred a year, at best. The Cartozian case made headlines in 1925, when Tatos Cartozian, a naturalized immigrant, was sued by the United States government. The government sought to revoke Cartozian's naturalization on the grounds that he was an alien ineligible for citizenship since he was not "white," and therefore was not entitled to naturalization. Color, of course, was the code word for race. The government was, in fact, trying to prove that Armenians were Asians and as such was ineligible for citizenship. Cartozian's defense successfully argued that he was "white," assimilable, of "Alpine stock," and of "European persuasion;" he was

therefore eligible for citizenship.

Despite Cartozian's victory, American immigration quotas thwarted Armenian efforts to reconstitute family life. To cope with the stringent restrictions, Armenian refugees were forced to wait their turn, often in intermediate countries like Cuba, Mexico, Argentina, or Canada. When, for example, a group of young refugee girls were brought to Canada as domestic servants during the 1920s, the news of their arrival spread to the United States and generated a mini-movement of men to Toronto to "look over the girls." The same desire to find a suitable bride motivated our woebegone hero in the "Cuba" song I translated above.

American regulations were not the only problems plaguing family reformation. Arranged marriages and marriages between young women and older men had occurred in the Ottoman Empire. But in the old land, families arranged marriages at least among their acquaintances, sometimes because of family relationships, sometimes because of suitability, sometimes because of wealth or lack thereof, and sometimes, probably less often, because of love. After the Genocide, however, these family and community structures and controls fell apart. In a world of chaos, traditions and customs crumbled, if they were remembered at all; and people were compelled to fend for themselves and construct new ways to deal with both old and new dilemmas. For instance, many picture brides, young and inexperienced, felt deceived to find that their fiancées in America were older, less wealthy, or less handsome than the girls had been led to believe. In their turn, men complained that women cheated, too. A man would pay the passage of his "betrothed" from Bolis, Beirut, or Marseilles, only to be saddled with a big debt while she ran off with a younger or richer man, or, dare I say it, with her husband already in America.

Yet men and women did marry and as often as not, they were ill-matched because of differences in age, in education, in temperament, and in socioeconomic background. These couples were faced with the loss of loved ones, with adjustment to a new society, and frequently with poverty and prejudice. More than that, they had to learn to live on intimate terms with a stranger, for the courtship periods were exceedingly short - seldom more than two or three weeks. Still, the vast majority of people somehow managed to carve out a life together, driven perhaps by a sense of resignation, duty, shame, destiny, pragmatism, or their children's welfare. Some tried to take a light view of the situation, like the interviewee who chuckled that the coffeehouse had saved her marriage. Whenever pressures intensified at home, she would give her husband a few cents and send him to the serjaran to check on the latest gossip.

These couples worked, had children, bought a house, opened a store, laughed, wept, faced adversity, learned English, grew old. Somehow, most of these marriages survived. Do not be misled. These relationships were not altogether loveless nor were they lacking in mutual respect. Sometimes it took many years or a family crisis to bring out the tenderness of the relationship.

Let me recount an interview I carried out some years ago with an elderly woman in Detroit. Frequently, as in this case, the interview process itself is as important an historical phenomenon as the substance of the interview. We were sitting in her living room in approaching twilight; she had not turned on the lights yet. The furniture was vintage 1940s, with doilies and anti-macasars. Probably, the most striking feature of the room was the large number of photographs: baby pictures, graduation pictures, wedding pictures, portraits. She explained that she had immigrated as a 17 year-old picture bride and married a man who was about 32. Staid, austere, proper, and formal, he did not call her by her first name, but rather addressed her as "aghchi" or "girl;" and she, in turn, addressed him as "mart" or man. He forbade her to leave the house without something to cover her head and arms. If any affection existed between them, it was never displayed in public, not even in their home. They had four children. After the third - she would have been around 27 - she became seriously ill. He took her to a doctor and after examining her, the doctor explained that he saw no other way, absolutely none, but to amputate her arm, and indicated he would have to amputate from the elbow. It took a minute or so for the "foreigners" to grasp his meaning. For the rest, I give you her words:

"Then, this man, this quiet, polite man, jumped up from his chair, his face on fire, eyes bulging, and in broken English, shouted, 'You no doctor. You butcher. You butcher man. Never. Never I gonna let you cut off this little woman's arm.' I was sitting there," she remembered, "with my arm in a sling, in great pain, tears pouring down my cheeks. Then I looked at this man that I'd been living with. And for the first time in ten years, I saw the real man. It was like a thunderbolt struck me. Right then and there, in that crazy doctor's office, I fell deeply in love with my husband."

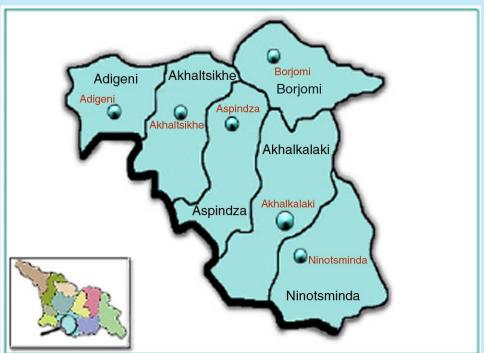
She paused. Leaned over and picked up his photograph. Held it in her two healthy hands, kissed it, and pressed it to her heart. She was totally entranced in her own world. Then, after several minutes, aware of my presence, she turned to me, smiled, and whispered. "We had such a happy love."

from the traditional marriages which preceded them in the old country and they differed dramatically from the marriages which followed in America. The marriages of Genocide survivors represent transitional marriages unlike those of their parents in the Ottoman Empire and unlike those of their children in North America. A consequence of the Genocide, these marriages can reasonably be classified as survivor marriages. As such, they were new and unique and, therefore, should hold a special place in Armenian Diasporan history.

# The Armenians of Javakhq

### An Overview

#### Richard Giragosian



espite the international assistance provided to the Southern Caucasus over the past decade, there has been little attention to the worsening situation in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region of Georgia, a strategically located region of southern Georgia with an ethnic-Armenian majority population. The severe economic conditions and poverty of the Javakhq region pose challenges to both national and regional stability and greatly influence bilateral relations between Armenia and Georgia, as well as relations with Russia by virtue of the large Russian military base in the region.

The historically Armenian Javakhq region consists of the districts of Akhalqalaqi and Ninotsminda, with the Armenians constituting 95 percent of the population. Javakhq lies about twenty kilometers east-

southeast of Ajaria, shares a roughly 80-90 kilometer border with Turkey to its west and southwest, and has approximately 45-50 kilometers of common border with Armenia, which lies to its south, and is just west of the ethnic Azeri populated region of Marneuli. In recent years, Javakhq was incorporated by the Georgian central government into a much larger administrative unit (mkhare) known as the Samtskhe-Javakheti region, with an area of nearly 6413 square kilometers, representing about 9.3 percent of Georgia proper, and a total population of almost 235,000 (as of 2000).

Today Samtskhe-Javakheti is composed of six districts (Adigeni, Aspinadza, Akhalqalaqi, Akhaltsikhe, Borjormi, and Ninotsminda), with Akhaltsikhe as the regional center, and the historical

Armenian Javakhq as its core. Within this greater region, the Armenian population's majority has been steadily reduced to about sixty-one to sixty-two percent of the overall population of the six districts. There are seven major towns, sixty-six smaller administrative units and over 250 villages.

## Economic Neglect and Underdevelopment

For decades, Javakhq was the most underdeveloped region of the country. And since independence, the Georgian government's economic policies and neglect laid the foundations for the economic suffering and hardship that plagues Javakhq today. This neglect is most evident in the pronounced state of disrepair of the regional infrastructure, but can also be seen in the poor state of the labor market as the region has recorded over a decade of net job loss and labor migration.

Local industry is virtually nonexistent in Javakhq, aside from the service industry affiliated with the local Russian base. For Javakhq residents not fortunate enough to have work associated with the local Russian military base, conditions force much of the male population to seasonally migrate to Russia in search of work, only returning to their families in winter. The most vulnerable of the population, the elderly, are forced to rely on such family support in the absence of reliable pension benefits or even basic health care and social services. During the peak month of work in Russia, seasonal workers remit an estimated \$25,000 a day in transfers to families in Javakhq.

Roads and highways continue to be in severe need of investment and reconstruction, as the only improvement in transport in the past ten years has been on the Armenian side of the border. In fact, almost all of Javakhq's roads and external trade routes are southward toward Armenia, further strengthening the ties between Javakhq and Armenia. This isolation from the rest of Georgia is another key element of the region's economic difficulties with the Georgian government. These overwhelming needs, therefore, only tend to exacerbate the effects of the overall economic decline in the rest of the country and the deepening poverty of Javakhq, consistently below the national level, only heightens Javakhq's vulnerability and isolation.

#### Education In Javakhq

Under Georgian law, education is free through the first nine grades until the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades, which operate according to a fee-based enrollment system. For Javakhq, the state of education is verey similar to much of the country, with the real problems not being of access to schooling but rather that of the schools themselves.

There is viable access to schools through the first nine grades but primary education is demonstrably limited by a lack of resources, such as textbooks, and poor facilities, often with little or no heat and electricity. Funding for school supplies, the maintenance of school facilities, and teacher salaries all come from the central Georgian education budget. This reliance on central funding that has become, at best, sporadic, has led to the recent practice by several villages and towns in Javakhq to raise their own community funds for their local schools. Primary school teachers in Javakhq face a unique form of discrimination, however, with the central government paying Georgian teachers three times as much as Armenian teachers. Officially defended as an appropriate means to attract teachers to come to Javakhq, the result is problematic and has led to resentment by local Armenian teachers

Most villages in Javakhq have a small school with pupils receiving education through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and some of the larger villages have schools up to the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades. According to 2001 estimates, there are about 110 Armenian schools operating in Javakhq, with more than 22,000 students. In a large number of villages throughout Javakhq, the local school operates on the sole support of local families. The families of the local school children donate heating fuel, collect and contribute money for the purchase of textbooks and supplies, and even pay the teachers directly.

Under an agreement between the Georgian and Armenian governments, the Armenian ministry of education is allowed to supply Javakhq schools with specific textbooks and related teaching materials. The agreement limits Armenia to providing only textbooks dealing with science and mathematics instruction, however, as the Shevardnadze government specifically bans any history textbooks or instruction material. An additional problem for students is that even though the Georgian government bans the use

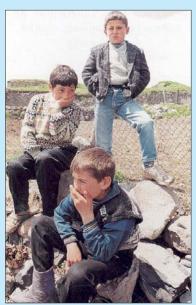
of Armenian textbooks for history instruction, it fails to provide any alternative books or educational material. The Armenian program for assisting the Javakhq school system was further expanded by Armenian President Robert Kocharian with greater levels of financial assistance and educational scholarship. Currently, the Armenian government allocates approximately one hundred million dram (about \$180,000) annually for textbooks and supplies to Javakhq schools.

An important component of this Armenian aid program is the specialized scholarships for Javakhq students in Armenian state universities. Administered by the Armenian ministry of education, the Javakhq scholarship program waives all admissions requirements and testing, including the financial enrollment fees, for university students from Javakhq, in return for the pledge to return to Javakhq upon graduation. There are currently 600 students enrolled in Armenian state universities participating in the Javakhq scholarship program. Additionally, the education ministry has also established a new teacher-training program for teachers in an attempt to improve the overall quality of education in the region..

#### Public Health

The serious lack of adequate medical services and the widespread shortages of medicines and other supplies make public health a rare and costly luxury in Javakhq. Nearly all medical facilities lack electricity and heating and have been known to require that patients bring their own medicine and supply their own heating fuel for their hospitalization.. The hospital in Akhalqalaqi is the only adequately equipped hospital functioning today in all of Javakhq, forcing most of the sick to travel to northern Armenia to seek medical care. The Armenian alternative is also the only way to overcome the overall breakdown in the region's health care system. Ambulance service, for example, has been non-existent for several years now and the one operating emergency ambulatory service is operated by the Russian military base and not readily available to residents.

Pre-natal care, for example, is virtually nonex-



istent beyond the village practice of engaging a midwife and the cost for hospital care at the time of birth often runs between \$100-400, explaining both the decline in the overall birthrate and, for newborns, the marked increase in home births over the past decade. And although all hospitals throughout Georgia are required by law to provide free medical care to infants up to twelve months of age, there is neither general awareness of this benefit nor much realistic expectation of such free care in light of the overall state of public health in the country.

#### The Armenian Church

There are more than 100 Armenian churches in the villages throughout Javakhq, with many affiliated with Ejmiatzin, but also with a significant presence of Armenian Catholic Churches. As a historic part of the Armenian nation, Javakhq is endowed with a number of ancient Armenian monuments and other archeological evidence of the Armenian presence there. Unfortunately, the Georgian government has done little to preserve these artifacts, and many of them are in a state of decay or being destroyed by the elements

#### Insecurity and Vunerability

National identity in Javakhq today is strongly Armenian, and plainly evident in most aspects of everyday life. Although three languages, Armenian, Georgian

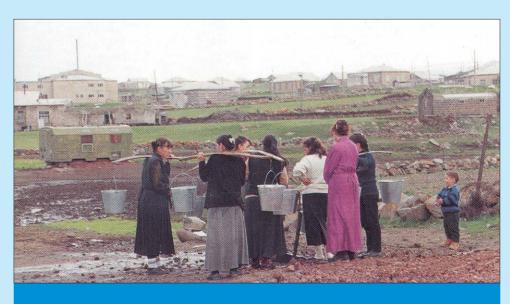


and Russian, are seen in the street signs throughout the region, the Georgian presence virtually ends there. Armenian television, not Georgian, is watched in Javakhq due to both easier reception and popular preference. The Russian ruble, the Armenian dram and, to a lesser extent, the American dollar are the only forms of currency to be found in Javakhk. Faced with a transaction involving the Georgian lari, most Javakhq businessmen are not even sure of the official exchange rate. All schools in Javakhq today are dominated by Armenian-language instruction, with the only exception being a few Russian classes. The relative isolation of the region, combined with the existing cultural autonomy, has reinforced this strong Armenian identity despite being under Georgian rule.

Overlooking the heart of Javakhq from its perch high on a cliff, the Russian military base at Akhalqalaqi is seen by the Javakhq population as much more than a straightforward guarantor of physical security. The Russian military presence in Javakhq is both a strategic deterrent and a central element of the Javakhq economy. The Russian base is the region's largest source of employment and provides a reliable income from work both directly and indirectly tied to the base for several thousand local Armenians.

#### The Meskhetian Turks

An even more threatening factor to the viability and security of the Armenian Javakhq majority is the issue of the Meskhetian Turks. Prior to their World War II deportation by Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin, the Meskhetian Turks resided in the district of Meskhetia adjoining Javakheti. The district itself was ceded to Georgia by the Adrianople peace treaty between Russia and Turkey and the Meskhetian Turks have always considered themselves as ethnic Turks, continuing to more closely identify themselves with Turkey than with Georgia proper. Following their deportation to Central Asia, their native lands in the district were repopulated by settlements of Armenians, Georgians, and to a lesser degree, by Russians. But



With a border with Turkey twice as long as with Armenia, Javakhq is quite vulnerable to any potential Turkish military assault. The Russian military presence, therefore, also meets the security concerns of the population as a strategic defense against the Turkish threat. The perception of a threat from neighboring Turkey stems, not only from history, but, presantly, it is also visibly reinforced by the constantly increasing Turkish military role in Georgia over the past few years. The threatening proximity of Turkey means that a military assault would only have to penetrate twenty miles into Javakhq to reach and capture the heart of the region. The natural vulnerability of Javakhq, as a border region, is also a constant reminder of the existing insecurity in the face of such a threat.

with the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Meskhetian Turks have renewed their demands to return to their ancestral homes in southern Georgia. An influx of Meskhetian Turks would significantly alter the already delicate demography of the region and would only exacerbate tensions

#### The Baku-Ceyhan Pipline Project

According to the latest version, the planned route for the \$3 billion pipeline from Baku to the Turkish port of Ceyhan would pass through three of the six districts of Samtskhe-Javakheti, accounting for roughly 38 percent of the Georgian section of the planned route. Specifically, the planned route would enter into Gardabani, traverse Rustavi at the north, cross the northern parts of Tetri Tskaro and Tsalka, pass through Borjomi, and transit Akhaltsikhe, before crossing the Georgian-Turkish border.



There are several implications for Javakhq stemming from the Baku-Ceyhan pipeline plan. First, the presence of the pipeline and its proximity to the Armenians of Javakhq would invite an even greater Turkish military threat, under the guise of providing "pipeline security." It would also threaten the local and regional environment, with serious repercussions for the biodiversity, underground water and springs of Javakhq.

#### Javakhq: Armenia and Diaspora

In March 2001, even Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze has publicly recognized Armenia's special interest in the Javakhq region. Accepting the special Armenian role in Javakhk offers an opportunity for Armenia and the Diaspora to directly alleviate the poverty and underdevelopment of Javakhq. For his part, the Georgian president has promised to draft a new 7-10 year economic development program. But as details have not yet been released, and as the Georgian economy further declines, Javakhq is increasingly looking to Armenia and the Diaspora for assistance.

#### Georgian-Armenian Relations

Throughout the last decade, Armenia has sought to maintain a cooperative relationship with Georgia as the severe restraints imposed on Armenia by the dual blockade of the landlocked country by Azerbaijan from the east and Turkey from the west made the outlet to the north through Georgia a vital necessity. The Azerbaijani and Turkish blockade of Armenia's railway and transport links, their disruption of the regional energy network and the breakdown of com-

munications links all contributed to a serious Armenian dependence on Georgia for all essential commodities.

These constraints on Armenian foreign policy regarding Georgia have greatly influenced Armenian policy on Javakhq, generally limiting it to a secondary role. When circumstances have provided an opportunity, however, Armenia has been able to offset these constraints, as seen by Georgia's need for supplies of Armenian electricity. With an energy crisis worsening over the past year due to Russian manipulation of its energy shipments, the

Kocharian and Shevardnadze governments have concluded new bilateral accords whereby Armenia began to supply electricity to Georgia.

Most importantly, this arrangement included the modernization of the 35,000-kilowatt Ashotsk-Ninotsminda-Akhalqalaqi electrical power line by Armenia, an element that allows Armenia to supply electricity directly to Javakhq without connecting to the main Georgian national energy grid. Although some outstanding issues remain regarding the Armenian-Javakhq energy deal, it allows Armenia to directly meet an important need of the area's population and sets an important precedent in establishing a special Armenian role in assisting Javakhq.

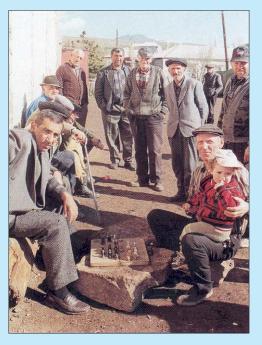
#### Conclusion and Outlook

The trend of devolution of power from the central state to the increasingly assertive autonomous regions and republics underway in Georgia is determining the future of Georgian statehood. It has become apparent that Georgia is on a course toward reconstituting its statehood and transforming itself into a confederation. For Javakhq, the most attractive path toward security and greater potential for economic development is autonomy within a new confederate Georgian state.

There is also a set of potential economic benefits to be realized through an autonomous Javakhq. The most realistic of these benefits include the possible share of proceeds from the lease agreement for the Russian military base in Javakhq currently being negotiated between Tbilisi and Moscow. A second

benefit lies in the possibility of sharing in the profit from the utilization of Javakhq territory for a possible oil pipeline or for the proposed Tbilisi-Kars railway. There are some precedents for an autonomous region negotiating a share of transit fees in this way, as the Ajarians are paid for the use of their Black Sea port Poti or as the Chechen government has received tariff payments for the pipeline from Baku through Chechnya to the Russian port facilities on the Black Sea. Even more encouraging and constructive would be the possibility of utilizing such revenue in a spe-

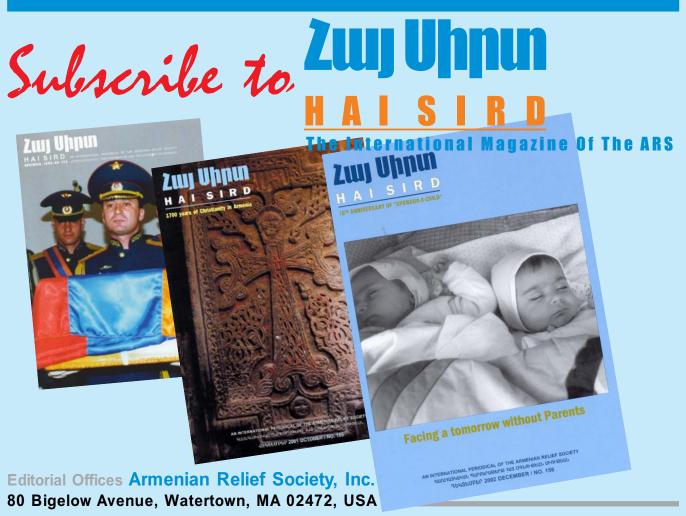
cial "Javakhq Development Fund" to be put to use and administered by the regional government of an



autonomous Javakhq and with the possible cooperative involvement of both the republics of Armenia and Georgia.

By following this course of Georgia's evolvement into a confederation, an autonomous Javakhq, at this time, represents the most promising and practical avenue for securing the rights and meeting the needs of the Javakhq Armenians. With the opportunity for security and the promise of stability through autonomy, Javakhq may effectively overcome the geopolitical, economic and cultural challenges in

its path by remaining within a new, forward looking Georgian Federation.



# La Croix Bleae en haat de l'affiche



# La 51ème Assemblée

Les 17 et 18 mai, 2003, s'est tenue la 51ème assemblée générale annuelle de la Croix Bleue des Arméniens de France, l'occasion de faire le point sur les activités de cette organisation humanitaire, qui œuvre depuis plus de 70 ans dans les domaines de l'enfance, de la culture et de l'aide sociale.

29 déléguées représentant les 690 membres répartis dans les 19 sections existant en France se sont réunies pendant deux jours à Marseille-Beaumont pour dresser le bilan des actions entreprises et définir le programme à venir.

Fidèle à sa mission de transmission du patrimoine culturel et de l'identité arménienne, la CBAF dispose de 9 écoles accueillant au total 330 élèves où sont enseignés la langue, l'histoire, et dans certaines localités, la danse, le théâtre et le chant. Les sections qui n'ont pas de structure de ce type apportent leur aide financière et morale à celles qui gèrent ces écoles. L'assemblée générale a décidé de renforcer cet échange entre sections afin d'accroître ce soutien indispensable à la poursuite de ces

activités éducatives. Elle a en outre été décidé d'organiser des manifestations destinées à financer le fonctionnement de ces structures d'enseignement: « une journée des écoles est prévue » en 2003 - 2004, sous forme de dîner, kermesse, ventes de dessin d'enfants

Ce volet éducatif est essentiel dans la communauté arménienne de France qui, rappelons-le, ne dispose que six écoles quotidienne sur le territoire. Pour freiner l'intégration et même l'assimilation pure et simple, il faut maintenir les jeunes générations dans un contexte arménien, leur enseigner la langue et la culture arménienne et impulser aux enfants le sens de leur identité. C'est ce que la Croix Bleue accomplit sans relâche depuis toujours. Elle a depuis 1980, date de l'ouverture de l'école quotidienne Hamaskaïne de Marseille, apporté une subvention régulière de 80 000 Francs (12 200•) par an à cet établissement scolaire, le seul en France à mener les études secondaires jusqu'au BAC. En 2002, pour aider à la reconstruction et à l'agrandissement

de l'école, elle a organise des manifestations exceptionnelles dans ses trois régions Ile de France (Paris), Rhône-Alpes (Lyon) et PACA (Marseille). La plus prestigieuse était le récital Aldo Ciccolini, organise en région parisienne avec Hamaskaïne et auquel le grand pianiste international apportait son généreux concours. Au total, ces manifestations diverses ont permis de verser 25 800 pour la construction de l'école Hamaskaïne.

Toujours dans le cadre de ses actions en direction de l'enfance, la CBAF poursuit l'organisation de séjours pour les enfants et les adolescents dans son centre de vacances de Bellefontaine, ainsi que d'un camp itinérant dans les régions du sud de la France pour les plus âgés.

Fidèle à sa vocation humanitaire, la CBAF accueille à Bellefontaine des enfants arméniens favorises, de France mais aussi d'autres régions de diaspora, en dehors ou dans le cadre des échanges du HOM. Ainsi des enfants de Serbie ont pu passer leur mois d'août 2002 à Bellefontaine et 25



enfants ont été totalement ou partiellement pris en charge à la colonie pour un montant de 8 500. L'accueille des enfants de Serbie parachevait l'action entreprise par la Croix Bleue au profit de la communauté arménien de Serbie. L'opération « Noël pour les enfants de Serbie » a permis d'envoyer, en janvier 2002, 1 tonne de marchandises vêtements, jouets, matériels scolaires - à cette petite communauté fortement éprouvé.

En dehors de ces actions menées auprès de la communauté arménienne de France, la CBAF a engagé, dans le cadre des actions du HOM, un programme en Arménie en faveur des enfants et principalement des orphelins.

Depuis 1995, la CBAF finance une fois par semaine le coût des trois repas d'une journée dans le centre pour enfants de Nork, dans les faubourg de Erevan où sont accueillis une centaine d'enfants et d'adolescents, orphelins ou dans une situation familiale précaire. Le centre les héberge, les nourrit et leur assure une scolarité et une formation professionnelle. Cette action représente un investissement d'environ 5 000 \$ par an.

Parallèlement à cette aide apportée à l'orphelinat de Nork, la CBAF s'est engagée depuis 10 ans dans la campagne de parrainages orchestrée par le HOM pour les orphelins d'Arménie et du Karabagh. A ce jour, ce sont 415 enfants qui ont bénéficié de ce programme, et l'association demande régulièrement de nouveaux dossiers pour remplacer ceux qui sont arrivés à termes ou pour accroître le nombre de parrains.

Enfin, les problèmes de Javakhq ont été évoqués. La Croix Bleue a participe activement aux cotes du Nor Seround à l'action lancée par la FRA Dachnaktsoutioun de France « Un hôpital pour Stepanakert » dont le but était de réunir des fonds pour l'équipement d'une salle chirurgicale dans le futur hôpital de la région. Une fois cette campagne terminée, elle envisage de mobiliser autour du Javakhq ou œuvre déjà le HOM. Des actions de

présentation du Javakhq, de sensibilisation à ses problèmes et différentes manifestations dont, dont les modalités restent encore à définir, sont prévues.

De plus, depuis l'été 2003, une campagne de collecte fonds a été également lance e faveur de l'Irak et va être renforcée grâce a une intervention dans les medias et la distribution de tracts.

La CBAF fidèle à ses engagements et à ses objectifs a poursuivi son action dans ses multiples domaines d'activités. Par l'organisation de soirées, de bals elle préserve également la vie communautaire dans sa convivialité. Elle continue son action sociale auprès des malades, des personnes âgées et nécessiteuses. Présente à tous les niveaux de la vie communautaire, la Croix Bleue est reconnue pour son activité et son dynamisme dont elle a fait la preuve en organisant de grandes manifestations à l'échelle nationale.

C'est ainsi qu'un fevrier dernier,

# The ARS Armenian Summer Studies Institute

## An Overview, 1971-2003

Vith a far reaching resolution in the field of education, the delegates at the 82nd Annual Re-gional Convention of the ARS/Eastern USA took the important step of approving a \$40,000 budget for a new and improved ARS Summer Studies Program, to be held annually for three weeks, beginning in June 2003 at the University of Connecticut-Storrs.

Summer Studies' revitalization was finally realized through the efforts of the 2001-2002 Board of Regional Directors, which made Summer Studies' rebirth one of its top priorities. Many months of discussions between Regional Board and University of Connecticut representatives culminated in an agreement in May 2002 that will see the development of a three-credit course in Modern Armenian History and the retention of the best of Summer Studies.

Now dubbed the ARS Summer Studies Institute at the University of Connecticut-Storrs, the three-week-long session will be open to students who have completed at least one year of college or university work. All students will be required to register with the University for the three-credit Modern Armenian History course, which will be augmented by non-credit "traditional" Summer Studies courses, including Armenian Language (beginner and intermediate), Armenian Literature, Ancient Armenian History, and mini-courses and lectures.

The Board chose to have the ARS Summer Studies Institute convene in June to permit Summer Studies students to have an opportunity to participate in other worthwhile Armenian experi-ences during the rest of the summer, like counselorships at AYF Camp Haiastan and internships that are available through the ARS, AYF, ANCA, and Hairenik Association, as well as others.

Two \$600 scholarships will be offered by the Board as authorized by the ARS Eastern USA 82nd Annual Convention to deserving Summer Studies students. Summer Studies information and applications will be available in the early winter. Information will also be available on the ARS Eastern USA's website, which will be unveiled for public use soon.

Established in 1971, the Armenian Relief Society Summer Studies Program has given college and university students an introduction to Armenian language, Armenian ancient and modern history, and Armenian literature. For over three decades, students who have attended the three-week program testify to being enriched and forever changed by the Summer Studies experience. Some students often pursue Armenian Studies degrees back at their institution of higher learning as a direct result of their ARS Summer Studies experience and all leave with a life-long appreciation for the Armenian language, history, and culture.

There is also an important and undeniable social component to the program. Life-long friendships are established at Summer Studies where members of successive "classes" keep in touch with one another long after their courses end.

#### **COURSE PLAN**

Presently, the ARS Summer Studies is founded on three core courses: Armenian Language, Survey of Armenian History, and Armenian Literature. Students are required to attend all classes, typically held Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Evening lectures, panel discussions, and cultural performances augment the Summer Studies lesson plan. Weekends are devoted to social activities and rest and relaxation.



The Survey of Armenian History course is worth three credits through the University of Con-necticut. Students may wish to transfer these credits to their own institution of higher learning. The Armenian Language course is usually divided into two sections to accommodate the needs of students just learning Armenian and those who have intermediate to advanced knowledge of the spoken and written language.

In addition to the core Summer Studies courses, one-week-long mini-courses are offered to enrich the educational experience. The mini-courses center on Armenian culture, including Armenian dance, Armenian film, Armenian music, and Armenian art and architecture. Other recent week-long mini-courses have included Armenian Village Life and Oral History, Armenian Art History, Medieval Armenian Art, Modern Armenian Art, and The Armenian Cultural Experience.

Evening lectures and panel discussions have included Armenian Women in Turn-of-the-Century Iran: Education and Political Activity; Internships: Acquaintances, Friendship, Courtship, Marriage; The Last 60 Years in Soviet Armenia; Armenia and Karabagh; and The Armenian Cause. Cultural performances have included a concert by the Garni Folk Ensemble.

Where appropriate, evening lectures, panel discussions, and cultural performances are opened to the community-at-large for their education and entertainment.

#### DIRECTOR AND FACULTY

Since the inception of the ARS Armenian Summer Studies Program at Boston University, the Armenian Relief Society has hired directors and faculty

who are experts in their field and have the appropriate degrees of higher education.

#### THE STUDENT BODY

Summer Studies students must be enrolled in a college or university to attend Summer Studies. Students apply from all over the world. Past students have hailed from as far away as France, the Middle East, and, increasingly, Armenia. The ARS Board of Regional Directors selects Summer Studies students.

#### **PROGRAM FUNDING**

The ARS Eastern USA funds the Summer Studies Program, including faculty salaries, student room and board, and facility costs. Students pay a \$350 application fee, the costs associated with the three-credit course (approximately \$608 according to UConn's per credit 2003 fee schedule) transferable to their own institution of higher learning, and are responsible for their travel expenses to and from Summer Studies.

The ARS Eastern USA Board of Regional Directors will select two students, each to receive a \$600 scholarship to defray their Summer Studies three-credit course expenses to the University of Connecticut. The awards will be based on merit and will be given in the sole discretion of the ARS Eastern USA Board of Regional Directors. The two lucky students will be informed by the ARS Eastern USA Board of Regional Directors when they receive their letter of acceptance into the Summer Studies Institute at the University of Connecticut.

Interested individuals who still have more questions about Summer Studies may call the ARS Eastern USA office at (617) 926-3801 or e-mail the office at arseastus@aol.com.

## **ARS Eastern USA Holds**



Over 50 delegates and guests from throughout the eastern United States gathered in Waltham, Massachusetts on July 17 to attend the ARS Eastern USA's 83rd Annual Regional Convention. A full Convention agenda and related activities were completed by the close of the Convention on Sunday, July 20. The Convention, held at the FourPoints Sheraton in Waltham, was jointly hosted by the ARS Watertown Leola Sassouni and ARS Cambridge chapters.

The Convention opening ceremonies began with a prayer and welcoming remarks by the Rev. Archpriest Torkom Hagopian, retired pastor of the St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church in Watertown. Other remarks, wishing for a constructive convention, were addressed to the gather-ing by Hrair Arzoomanian, representing the ARF Central Committee of Eastern United States; Marcel Karian, representing HMEM; Margaret Stepanian, representing the ARS Central

Executive Board; and Lauryn DaSilva of the AYF Central Executive Board.

There were welcoming remarks also from the ARS Convention Committee Co-Chairwomen Mayda

Melkonian and ungh. Lucy Essajanian. Following the opening ceremonies, the local Con-vention host chapters invited all delegates and guests to a reception in the hotel function room. The Convention began its deliberations immediately after the reception.

ARS Eastern USA Regional Board Chairwoman Georgi-Ann Oshagan (ARS Detroit Maro) opened the Convention with a roll call of delegates and election of a temporary divan. The perma-nent divan consisted of Manoog Kaprielian of the Providence Ani Chapter, English language chairman; Knar Kiledjian of the Hudson County, NJ Shake Chapter, Armenian language chairper-son; Aida Gharibian of the Hudson County, NJ Shake Chapter and Naro Khandjian Cunningham of the Cambridge Chapter, English language secretaries; and Reba Pilibosian of the Detroit Tzolig Chapter and Sona Mishigian of the Detroit Sybille Chapter, Armenian language secretar-ies. Arppie Charkoudian, of the Springfield Ararat Chapter, served as Convention parliamentarian, while Jacquline Abounayan, of the Detroit Tzolig Chapter, served as Convention sergeant-at-arms.

Convention guests of the ARS Eastern USA

Board of Regional Directors were Penny Giragosian of the Providence Arax Chapter, Sossy Jeknavorian of the Lowell Lusintak Chapter, and Nartouhi Abrimian of the Watertown Leola Sassouni Chapter. Elected guests of the

ARS 83rd Annual Regional Convention were Mayda Melkonian and Artemis Minassian, both of the Watertown Leola Sassouni Chapter. At the inception of the proceedings, on behalf of the ARS Eastern USA Board of Regional Directors, Georgi-Ann Oshagan presented the Board's annual report to the Convention in a Powerpoint presentation prepared by the Board of Regional Directors treasurer, Salpi Sarafian.

The report depicted a number of achievements over the fiscal year 2002-2003, including an in-crease of over 200 in the sponsorship of orphans in Armenia and Artsakh, bringing the total of orphans sponsored to over 630; the collection of nearly \$30,000 for identified projects in Javakhq; and the very successful rebirth of the ARS Armenian Summer Studies program, which was held during the month of June, 2003, at the University of Connecticut-Storrs. Following the report, Suzanne Tikirian, of the Cambridge Chapter, presented an informative workshop for the delegates on the mechanics of completing the annual fiscal year chapter report to the ARS Regional Board.

After the passage of an annual budget and a number of resolutions to guide the programs of the ARS Eastern USA during the 2003-2004 fiscal year, elections took place for the new Regional Executive Board of Directors. Three seats were open for election this year, held by Georgi-Ann Oshagan, Shakeh Basmajian, and Salpi Sarafian, all three eligible for re-election and, as expected, all were reelected by unanimous acclamation. Elected first alternate was Lisa Dagdigian of the Lowell Lusintak Chapter, while Mary Arabian, of the Watertown Leola Chapter, was elected sec-ond alternate. A Convention banquet was held on Saturday, July 19 at the FourPoints Sheraton at-tended by ARS delegates, guests, friends and supporters. Entertainment was provided by Harout Zenian and his band.

The ARS Board of Regional Directors thanks the ARS Cambridge and Watertown Leola Sassouni Chapters for the several months of hard work in preparation of one of the most successful Conventions in recent memory. The Board also thanks Garo Lachinian, who took the official Convention photograph of delegates and donated his professional services

# TWO RECENT POEMS By Alvard Petrosian

### Armenia

I try to say farewell to you, As I cross the gate, to fly abroad, Where gardens of Eden call me, And I leave my dreams behind...

Like malingering homing birds, Driven onwards sheer instinct, They fly me back once again To our very own, humble nest.

Spun around and split in two I turn my journey backwards, Towards mother, father, child, And land, my very own, my only.

03

### Autumna

Is it my soul that sheds those tears, Or are these raindrops from above? Are these mine or God's very own Tears that keep flowing inwards?

The twin streams sear my soul With a drifting, amorphous ache, They ram and rant at my door From both sides of the threshold.

Unabashed, childlike yet valiant, They say "Stand up! It is time! The homeward trek is never hard, Winter awaits, all dressed in white."

G3

Translated by Tatul Sonentz

# Suph Unug...Zuj Uhnunh

# ԱՌԱՋԻՆ ՔԱՅԼԸ ԱՌՆՈՐԵՑԱՐ

Ամերիկահայ Կրթական Յանձնախումբը, որ կազմուեցաւ անցեալ գարնան, Հ.Յ. Դաշնակցութեան, Հայ Օգնութեան Միութեան, Հայ Երիտասարդաց Դաշնակցութեան եւ Ազգային Կեդրոնական Վարչութեան նախաձեռնութեամբ, արդէն գործի սկսած է եւ ուրախութեամբ կը լսենք որ դպրոցներ բացուած են քանի մը հայաշատ կեդրոններու մէջ:

Աւելորդ է ըսել որ «դպրոց»
բացատրութիւնը այս գաղութին կամ, օրինակ,
Ֆրանսայի մէջ, չի նշանակեր թէ շէնք մը գնուած
է, ուսուցիչներ վարձուած են, 100-200
աշակերտներ կարգի կը սպասեն եւ առտուան 9էն մինչեւ իրիկուան ժամը 4-5, հայ մանչուկը եւ
հայ աղջնակը հայակական մթնոլորտի մը մէջ
կ՝անցնեն իրենց ժամերը եւ շարք մը դասեր
կ՝առնեն հայերէնով:

Պատկերը այդքան մխիթարական չէ։
Տեղական պայմանները թոյլ չեն տար որ մեր
երախաները ամերիկեան կամ ֆրանսական
վարժարաններէն ասդին բերուին եւ իրենց
նախակրթութիւնը ստանան մե՛ր ձեռքին տակ,
մե՛ր միջավայրին մէջ, մե՛ր ուսուցիչներով։ Եթէ
նոյնիսկ նիւթական լայն միջոցներ ունենայինք,
դարձեալ օրինական դժուարութիւններ մեր
նիգերը պիտի խափանէին։

Այդ պայմաններուն մէջ, մենք կը փորձենք մեր կարելին որպէսզի, օտար վարժարանէն իրիկուան դէմ արձակուող Սօնան եւ Տիգրանը, ժամու մը չափ ալ, ականջ տան իրենց հայ ուսուցչուհիին կամ ուսուցչին: Դժբախտաբար, ա՛յդ դասարանն անգամ կ՚ունենանք շաբաթը մէ՛կ կամ, շա՛տ շա՛տ, երկու անգամ:

Այս կացութիւնը, սակայն, չի՛ կրնար վհատեցնել մեզ: Ո՛չ մէկ խոչընդոտ կրցաւ կասեցնել մեր ընթացքը՝ կեանքի այս կամ այն երեւոյթին դիմաց:

Կրթական Յանձնախումբը իր կարելին կը փորձէ, որպէսզի մեր ծաղկահասակ սերունդը քանի մը բառ հայերէն սորվի եւ մի քանի ընդհանուր գիծերով ծանօթանայ մեր պատմութեան հետ:

Յանձնախումբը յաւակնութիւններ չունի թէ իր աշակերտները պիտի կարենան, քանի մը տարիէն, մրցումի ելլել, օրինակ, Լիբանանի կամ Իրանի իրենց տարեկիցներուն հետ «հայերէն»ագիտութեան մէջ։ Անգնահատելի ծառայութիւն մատուցած կ'ըլլայ այդ Մարմինը եթէ, առնուազն, պարզ գրել կարդալ եւ մաքուր հայերէն խօսիլ սորվեցնէ մեր երախաներուն։

Բայց, Յանձնախումբին ճիգը իր լրումին չի կրնար հասնիլ եթէ ծնողները անտարբեր մնան եւ ճիգ մըն ալ իրենք չընեն անոր աշխատանքները աւելի արդիւնաւոր դարձնելու համար:

Ծրագիրը կէս ճամբան կը մնայ, եթէ
Յանձնախումբին անդամներն են որ դռնէ դուռ
պիտի պտտին եւ պիտի խնդրեն որ «ձեր երախան
ալ մեզի յանձնեցէք, որպէսզի իրեն հայերէն
սորվեցնենք»: Անշուշտ, Յանձնախումբին
անդամները սրտանց նուիրուած են
առաջադրուած նպատակին եւ անհատնում եռանդ
ու խանդավառութիւն ի յայտ կր բերեն. բայց,

Անցեալ Էջերէն..

այդքանով պէտք չէ՛ գոհանանք։

Սօնային ու Տիգրանին հայրն ու մայրը, իրե՛նք պիտի վազեն հայ ուսուցչուհիին եւ ուսուցչին ետեւէն, եւ իրե՛նք են որ պիտի խնդրեն. «մեր երախան ալ ձեզի, առէ՛ք, տարէ՛ք եւ ի սէր Աստուծոյ, հայերէն սորվեցուցէք...»:

Ըսել կ՚ուզենք որ սերտ գործակցութիւն մը պէտք է ստեղծուի Յանձնախումբին եւ ծնողքին միջեւ, եթէ մեր նպատակն է որ նորահաս սերունդը, իր անգլերէնին զուգընթաց, քիչ մը մտերմանայ մեր լեզուին հետ զոր իրիկուան, դպրոցէն վերադարձին, պիտի լսէ իր հայրիկին ու մայրիկին շրթներէն:

Ջերմօրէն կը յանձնարարենք, հետեւաբար, մեր Միութեան անդամ-անդամուհիներուն որ բացառիկ ճիգ մը ի գործ դնեն եւ թիկունք կանգնին Յանձնախումբին՝ մասնաւորաբար այ՜ն շրջաններուն մէջ, ուր բազմութիւն ունինք ու դպրոցներ բանալու եւ աշակերտներ ճարելու հնարաւորութիւններ չեն պակսիր:

Կրկնե՛նք անգամ մը եւս, որ առա՛նց հայերէնի չենք կրնար «հայացնել» այն սերունդը, որուն պիտի յանձնուի ազգին ճրագը՝ վաղուան ճամբան լուսաւորելու համար:

Խմբագրական՝ Յոկտեմբեր, 1953 -ԺԴ. Տարի, Թիւ 4 (56)



# Zaven Nalbandian's "David of Sassoon"

### "David of Sassoon",

Armenian Folk Epic. Told and sung by more than forty generations of Armenian Bards.

Rendered into English by **Zaven Nalbandian**. Illustrated by **Mihran Sosoyan**,

Yerevan. Hayastan, "Mooghni" Ed. 2002. 286 pages.

ith justifiable pride, we welcome all cultural achieve-

ments that introduce the best of our national talents and their work to the international public.

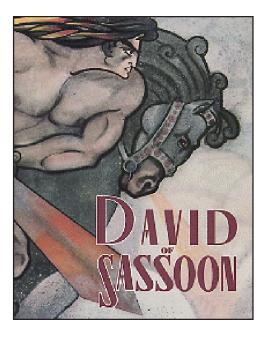
And when that achievement is truly of the highest quality, our hearts are filled with the kind of satisfaction that can only be described as elation.

I consider Zaven Nalbandian's English translation of the heroic legend "David of Sassoon" a unique present to our entire nation. The result of obvious care and enormous amount of work, this translation has been published in a quality edition, in Armenia, some 29 years after Nalbandian's death in 1973.

We owe the publication of this work to Prof. Hrach Abrahamian of Washington, DC, whose tireless efforts saved the manuscript of this valuable translation from being forgotten in some obscure drawer; a fate all too common in the case of misplaced literary work.

The entire financial support for the publication of this volume was generously provided by a Long Island couple, Vazken and Ani Kassabian. The introduction is written by Shake Der Melkonian-Minassian. The biographical notes of the translator are by Khachig Tololian.

As we find out, reading Hrach Abrahamian's acknowledgements piece at the beginning of the volume, Mesrob Archbishop Ashjian has brought his valuable moral support to this project. Others who have



By Shake Melkonian-Minassian

contributed by performing various tasks that the production of such a volume implies include: Levon Palian, Haig Gakavian, Anne Atanossian, all of Washington, DC.

In the developmental progress of the Armenian-American community, up to 1960-70, the input of Zaven Nalbandian and his intellectually prominent spouse, Zaruhi Kalantar-

Nalbandian has been noteworthy. In the front matter of the volume, Khachig Tololian's biographical notes refresh in our minds the distinguished profile of Zaven Nalbandian:

He was born in 1890, in Antioch. When his parents are killed during the massacres of 1895, he is put into the Aintab orphanage, later he finishes the local Athenian School, and graduates from the American College. After teaching for a few years at the Athenian School, in 1913 he leaves for the United States with the intention of studying at Harvard University and returning with a few colleagues to the homeland in order to raise the cultural/educational level of the community through teaching. However, the 1915 Genocide prevents it. He graduates in 1917 and remains in the US.

Still in his teens, Zaven Nalbandian had taken a solemn oath to serve his nation. Becoming active in community life, he is elected to the Central Committee of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, serving on the Executive. In 1919, he participates as a delegate in the 9<sup>th</sup> ARF World Congress in Yerevan.

In 1923, Zaven Nalbandian marries Zaruhi Kalantar who later acquired fame as a recognized expert in the ancient history of the Near East. She has also assisted her husband in putting together a volume,

unique in its kind, called "United and Independent Turan", published in 1926 under the pen name of Zarevant, translated into English by Prof. Vahakn Dadrian in 1971, given its timely importance in the study of Pan-Turanism.

Remaining true to his ideals, Zaven Nalbandian went on to found the very first society of American-Armenian scientists and served as editor of their publication called "Scientific Movements". He has also translated into Armenian Longfellow's "Song of Hayawatha" as well as poems by Charles Baudelaire.

Undoubtedly, it was with the intention of introducing our cultural treasures to our non-Armenianspeaking generations that Zaven Nalbandian had tackled the difficult task of translating "David of Sassoon".

Difficult because, even in simplest terms, the art of translation requires a certain expertise so that the result does not give a hint of being a translation and retains the aura of an original.

How much harder, when the text to be translated is in verse and rhymes in a lively medieval style, when there are hardly any linguistic, stylistic or grammatical similarities between the original language and the one into which it must be translated.

To remain faithful to the original, the mere mastery of both languages, in these circumstances, is not enough to assure a successful outcome. There needs to be a total sensitivity and commitment to the integrity of the original text, boundless patience in revising, over and over, until the translation reflects, without distortion, the true character and clear image of the original text.

With his "David of Sassoon" Z. Nalbandian has overcome all the obstacles mentioned above because his inspiration was heightened by a deep love, care and commitment towards the task ahead. The result is this volume of timeless value. A gift that one can give and receive with gratitude, on any occasion.

# The Gyumri

# **Orphange for**

# **Handicapped**

# **Children**

**Receives \$12,000** 

# from ARS, Inc.

In August 2002 the ARS Central Executive received a letter from Armenia signed by the late Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, requesting ARS assistance to purchase the necessary equipment for the kitchen of an orphanage in Gyumri, Armenia. This is a special orphanage for handicapped children. The ARS Central Executive decided to contribute to this effort with a sum



of \$12,000. The check was delivered to Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, personally by Armenian Relief Society Chairperson Maro Minassian, in the presence of central office manager Ojig Gregorian, during the late Archbishop's visit to the ARS Central Executive Offices in January 2003, eleven months before his passing.

# SFPFFUPUФ



Հայ Կապոյտ Խաչի Նուիրեալ Սպասարկու

# Ընկերուհի Տալիթա Մէքթուպձեան Ոչ Եւս Է

Յունաստանի Յայ Կապոյտ Խաչի հաւատաւոր ընկերուհի, Տալիթա Մէքթուպճեան, 18 Յունուար 2003ին, իր եղբօր զաւկին՝ Ռուբէն Թէրզեանի հետ, ոճիրի մր ցոհ գնաց։

Շրջանային վարչութեան երկարամեայ ատենապետուհի ընկերուհին, պատանեկութեան օրերէն մինչեւ իր եղերական մահը նուիրուած մնաց իր հարազատ ժողովուրդին։ Տարիներով եղաւ 3.Մ.Ը.Մ.ի մարզիկ, խմբապետ, ու մինչեւ վերջ մօտէն հետեւեցաւ 3.Մ.Ը.Մ.ի գործունէութեան. ան դրական ներկայութիւն էր բոլոր ձեռնարկներուն եւ բանիւ ու գործով եռանդ կը ներշնչէր միութեան դրօշին տակ հաւաքուած երիտասարդ շարքերուն։

Արժանացած միութեան «Ծառայութեան շքանշան»ին, ընկերուհի Տալիթա, միաժամանակ, անդամ էր Թեմական ժողովին։ Սակայն, հո՞ն, ուր ան իր անջնջելի դրոշմը ձգեց՝ անկասկածօրե՞ն Յայ Կապոյտ Խաչն էր։ Շուրջ կէս դար, ան իր անձն ու կորովը նուիրեց Յ.Կապոյտ Խաչին, մնալով անոր հաւատաւոր անդամը։ Քսան երկար տարիներ, բծախնդրութեամբ ստանձնեց Շրջանային Վարչութեան ատենապետութիւնը, մասնակցելով Յ.Օ.Մ.ի համահայկական Պատգ. ժողովներուն։ Անաղմուկ, տարիներ շարունակ ան իր նպաստը բերաւ Յունաստանի ազգային վարժարաններուն, Յայաստանի որբախնամ ծրագիրներուն, 1988ի երկրաշարժի տուժածներուն եւ Արցախի ազատամարտիկներու ընտանիքներուն։ 1994ին, 3.Կ.Խաչի 70ամեակին առիթով, օրուան Շրջանային Վարչութիւնը, գնահատելով անոր բացառիկ վաստակը, շջանշանով մը պատուեց զինք։

Իր համեստ նկարագրով, պարտաճանաչութեամբ ու զոհաբերութեան ոգիով, ան հեղինակութիւն դարձաւ Յ.Կ.Խաչի ընտանիքեն ներս։ Քաղցր խօսք ուներ ըսելիք բոլորին, կը տխրեր եւ կ՚ուրախանար հարազատ իր շրջապատին հետ։

Ամուսնացած էր հաւատաւոր կուսակցական ու գործիչ՝ ընկ. Յարութիւն Մէքթուպճեանի հետ, սակայն բախտաւորութիւնը չէր ունեցած զաւակ ունենալու։ Շնորհիւ իր լաւատես նկարագրին սակայն, յաջողած էր կեանքի այս ժլատ խաղն ալ դիմագրաւել 3.Կ.Խաչի նորահաս սերունդները ընդունելով որպէս իր հարազատ զաւակները։

Իր կորուստը մեծ բաց մը թողուցԿապոյտ Խաչի ընկերուհիներուն սրտերուն մեջ, որոնք վերջին հրաժեշտի պահուն, խոր յուզումով երգեցին իր այնքան սիրած ու պաշտած միութեան՝ Յայ Կապոյտ Խաչի քայլերգը։

### **3.Կ.Խաչի Տեղեկատւութեան Գրասենեակ**

### JEANNETTE MADOYAN.

### une Khatchouhie exemplaire

La Croix Bleue des Arméniens de France a eu la douleur de perdre au mois de septembre 2003, enguerouhie Jeannette MADOYAN, vaincue par une douloureuse maladie qu'elle a combattu avec courage et obstination pendant près de 3 ans.

Membre de la Croix Bleue des Arméniens de France depuis près de 40 ans, elle avait, entre 1978 et 1996, participé à plusieurs conseils d'administration où elle avait assumé entre autres les fonctions de présidente.

Authentique militante du HOM, association qui constituait pour elle une véritable raison de vivre, elle a œuvré avec enthousiasme et ferveur, pour défendre nos objectifs et nos valeurs.

En France, comme en Arménie, tous se souviennent de sa générosité exceptionnelle et de son dynamisme communicatif. L'aide sociale et l'enfance étaient ses domaines de prédilection, ce qui ne l'a pas empêché de participer activement à des commissions pour la préparation de grandes soirées



ou de concerts à Paris.

Dès décembre 1988, elle était présente en Arménie avec les premiers convois humanitaires de la Croix Bleue. Elle y est ensuite retournée de multiples fois, visitant les zones sinistrées, les orphelinats, les hôpitaux, pour aider, pour encourager, faisant chaque fois triompher les

valeurs d'entraide et de générosité du HOM.

Tant pour l'Arménie que pour la colonie de Bellefontaine, à laquelle elle était très attachée, elle n'hésitait pas à convaincre, à solliciter, à exiger... Rien ne lui paraissait impossible pour l'accomplissement de nos projets.

Jeannette MADOYAN parlait avec son cœur, agissait avec son cœur et nous stimulait avec son cœur.

A nous de croire, comme elle, en notre mission et de poursuivre l'action essentielle du HOM, pour la survie de l'identité arménienne en diaspora et pour le renouveau de l'Arménie.

La Croix Bleue des Arméniens de France

## Ընկի. Գոհարիկ Համալեան

### Հայրենի Որբերու Ծրագրին Առաջին Խնամակալը



Ընկհ. Գոհարիկ Յամալեան ծնած է Յալէպ 1921-ին։
Աւարտած է Ազգ. Յայկազեան վարժարան։ Պաշտօնավարած՝ համանուն մանկապարտէզէն ներս, բծախնդրութեամբ եւ գուրգուրանքով սորվեցուցած է Մայրենին։ Եղած է նուիրեալ դաստիարակ, երկրպագու՝ հայ գիրին ու գիրքին։

Եղբօր մահէն վերջ իրենց տան սեփական գրադարանի

գիրքերը նուիրած է Ազգ. Քարէն Եփփէ ճեմարանին, Ս. Օ. Խաչին, իսկ արժէքաւոր հատորները՝ Կիլիկիոյ Կաթողիկոսարանին։ այս առթիւ, օրին, 1993-ին, Գարեգին Բ. Կաթողիկոսէն ստացած է շնորհակալագիր նամակ մը, որուն համար այնքան հպարտ էր ու երջանիկ։

Յալէպահայ Օգևութեան Խաչի, մանաւանդ Պատսպարանի պատմութեան մէջ տիրական դէմք էր, յիշատակութեան արժանի։ Կեանքը համակ նուիրում ու ծառայութիւն էր։ Իրեն համար միութեան հասկացողութիւնը ազգային եւ հասարակական աշխատանքներու անթերի սպասարկութիւն էր։ Պարտաճանաչութիւնը, բծախնդրութիւնն ու հետեւողականութիւնը յաջողութեան մեծագոյն գրաւականը։ Այս հասկացողութիւնն էր, որ զինք դարձուցած էր խիստ ու պահանջկոտ, թերացումներու նկատմամբ աններող։

Յայրենիքը իրեն համար վեհ գաղափար էր, անոր հետ ոգեղեն իր կապին լաւագոյն դրսեւորումներեն մէկն էր այն հանգամանքը, որ ՅՕՄ-ի Յայրենի որբերու ծրագրին առաջին խնամակալը եղած էր ու իր կտակին մէջ առաջին հերթին յիշած «Որբս անտէր չմնայ» խօսքը, որ կը պահէ իր հնչեղութիւնը։

Օր. Գոհարիկ վարած է նաեւ պատասխանատու պաշտօններ ազգային եւ հասարակական կեանքի մէջ։ Ան եղած է Բերիոյ Թեմի Ազգային Ժողովի անդամ։ Իր կրթական տարիներու ծառայութեան համար արժանացած է Կիլիկիոյ Կաթողիկոսութեան «Մեսրոպ Մաշտոց» շքանշանին, ինչպէս նաեւ ՅՕՄ-ի Կեդրոնական Վարչութեան Յիսնամեայ ծառայութեան նշան-գնահատագրին։

Տակաւին, կեանքին վերջին օրերուն չմոռցաւ նիւթական կտակը նուիրել իր պատկանած սիրելի միութեան։

Արդարեւ, U.O. Խաչը, իր կարգին, U.O. Խաչի բարձրագոյն շքանշանով զինք պարգեւատրելէ ետք, արդար որոշում մը կայացուց եւ, յետ մահու, U.O. Խաչի ընկերաբժշկական կեդրոնի սրահը անուանակոչեց կտակարարին անունով՝ «Օր. Գոհարիկ Յամալեան» սրահ։

Ս.Օ. Խաչի Գրասենեակ



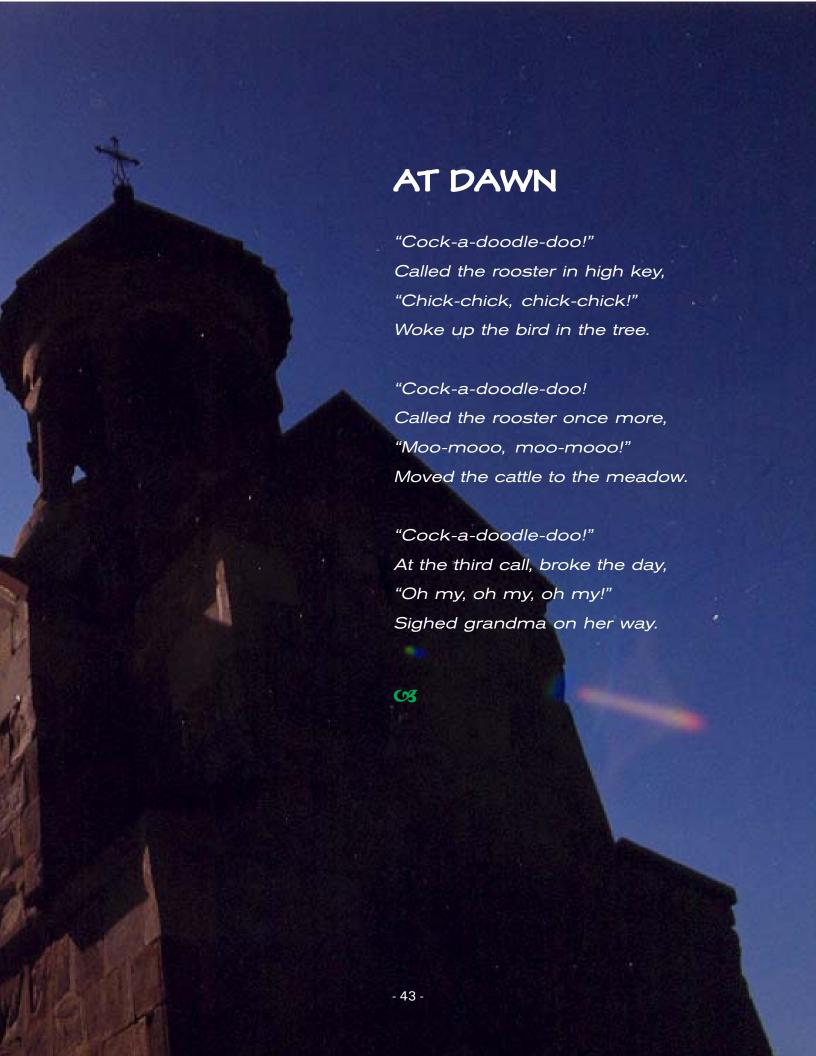
# A Tumanian Sampler

Hovhannes Tumanian (1869-1921),
one of the giants of Armenian literature,
who has dedicated his outstanding career
to the re-creation of popular themes
based on Armenian legends and folklore.
Many of his poems have inspired
Armenian composers in their creation
of operas and popular songs.

Tumanian is well known also for his many works written for children – poems, short stories and fables. In all his works a lyrical and romantic spirit is a distinctive feature, making him a popular author both among adults and children.

Many of Tumanian's works have been translated into Russian, Arabic, and English. In Armenian literary history he is the only one to enjoy the title "Amenayn hayots banasteghtz" (Poet of All Armenians).

On the following pages, we present a few of his poems written for children, translated by **Tatul Sonentz**:



# MORNING

Crowed the rooster
For a third time:
"Hey, sleepy-heads,
Time to wake up!
The crimson dawn
Surrounds us,
Now is the time
To get up!

Darkness is gone
With the night,
Gone far, far away,
Out of sight.
The day is bright
With the goodness
Of a new light.

In the village,
Laughter and noise;
The air, clear
As a bell, echoes
The happy noise of
The farmer's chores.

Cog .



# BEADS

Spring arrived
with clouds,
the clouds arrived
with rain;
let me take the rain
to the field
so the field
will give me
grain;

let me take the grain
to the mill
so the mill
will give me flour;
let me take the flour
to the tub
so the tub
will give me
dough;

let me take the dough
to the oven
so the oven will give
bread to me;
let me take the bread
to the Gypsy
so the Gypsy
will give me
beads;

let me take the beads
to Granny,
and let Granny grab
and beat me
let her spank me
and throw me
out of the
house....

# THE WIND

Wheee, wheee...
It's the wind, the wind!
Look, look,
What a crook!
With no mouth
It howls and blows,
With no wings
It flies and soars,
With no hands
It pulls and rips.

Away with you!

Mean old windbag!

Here, hear, my dear,

Have no fear,

Just grab my skirt

Good and tight!

I'll never let

The wind carry you

Out of sight!

C3

# CRANES

Cry, Cry,

The cranes cry,

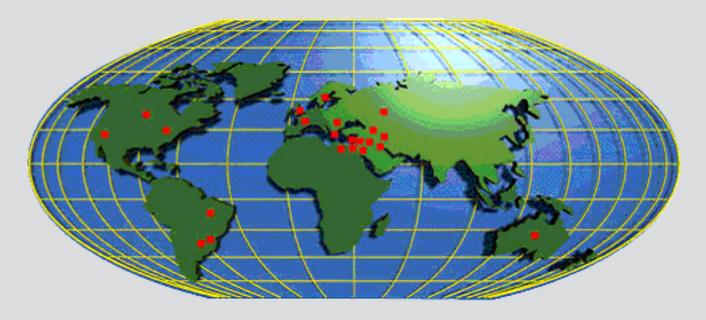
Then they fly;

Beneath their wings,

Spring arrives

At our door.

CS.



# THE ARMENIAN RELIEF SOCIETY

# Around the Regions, Around the World



### ► ARS/South America Elects New

Regional Executive: On Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 2002, ARS/South America (Asociacion Civil Armenia de Beneficencia para America del Sur) held its 46th annual regional convention with delegates from all chapters. The ARS, Inc. Central Executive Board was presented by Chairperson Maro Minassian and Advisor Silva Kahtalian. After serious deliberation and evaluation of past and present performance, plans and projects for future activities were formulated and proper resolutions passed by the convention.

Before adjournment, the delegates elected the following eleven members to a new Regional Executive Board: Maral Torigian, Chairperson; Zabel Attarian, Vice-Chairperson; Graciela Kevorkian, Clerk'Secretary; Ani Caprielian, Treasurer, and Vartanoush Casbarian, Cohar Mserian, Betty Barsamian, Santouhi Papazian, Diana Itoutmazian, Anahid Cahvedjian, and Hourig Bedoyan, Advisors.

### ► ARS-Sponsored School Publishes

**Periodical for Beginners:** The Board of the "Seferian" Primary School of the Khrimian Educational Foundation (Colegio Armenio Jrimian de la Asociacion Cultural Armenia), has published the first issue of a periodical called "Our Ancestors Speak". Designed for children and novices in Armenian history and culture, the publication will be distributed free to all Armenian schools through the network of ARS entities •



### World AIDS Foundation Funds ARS

**Project:** An HIV/AIDS Education and Prevention Project was announced on July 22, 2003, by the ARS International office to be implemented at the ARS Mother & Child Health Center in Akhourian, Armenia. The project, funded by a grant from the World AIDS Foundation, is the result of a collaborative effort with the University of Massachusetts,

Worcester. Project team members include: Dr. Carol Bova, Assistant Professor of Nursing and Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, who will serve as Senior Researcher; Dr. Sevak Avagyan, Director of the ARS Mother-Child Health Center since its inception, will serve as Co-Senior Researcher; Carol Jaffarian, Nurse Manager/Nurse Practitioner of the HIV Clinic at U Mass Memorial Healthcare, and member of ARS, will serve as Project Coordinator; and the Executive Director of the ARS Mother & Child Health Center, Dr. Mkhitar Mkhitaryan will serve as In-Country Coordinator.

The purpose of this project will be to develop a decentralized model of HIV/AIDS education and prevention that can be replicated throughout Armenia and possibly in other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) nations. In addition, it will begin to establish a climate that will support HIV health care delivery in the near future. The project is scheduled to begin in September 2003

### ► President Kocharian Receives ARS

**Delegation:** An Armenian Relief Society delegation, led by the organization's chairperson Maro Minassian, met with President Robert Kocharian. Mrs. Minassian briefed the President on ARS healthcare and educational programs as well as small business assistance initiatives in Armenia, Artsakh and Javakhq. President Kocharian praised the ARS for the implementation of the vital programs and expressed hope that its productivity and history of cooperation with Armenian authorities would continue in the future.

### > ARS Donates \$50,000 to "Haiastan" All

Armenia Fund: The Armenian Relief Society (ARS), a member of the Fund's Board of Trustees, recently announced that it is contributing \$50,000 to the Fund for the completion of the North-South Highway in Nagorno Karabagh. The ARS — with its world-wide entities actively involved in humanitarian programs throughout the Diaspora and the Homeland — has supported programs initiated by the "Haiastan" Fund from its very inception. The Fund held its most recent Board of Directors meeting in Yerevan, Armenia in May 2003.



### **Celebrations of Christmas, Women's**

Day and Easter: All ARS "Soseh" Kindergartens in Karabagh celebrated the New Year and Christmas in January 2003. The Kindergarten in the village of Togh celebrated the International Day for Women on March 8. The event consisted of various songs and dances performed by the students.

The ARS "Soseh" Kindergarten in the village of Avdur celebrated Easter on March 22. After making their Easter wishes, the students recited the Ten Commandments and various poems dedicated to this special occasion. Parents were present during the celebration which included the distribution of colored eggs. Students had grown wheat in small bowls especially for this occasion.

Easter was celebrated in the Kindergarten of Stepanakert on April 25. The Parish Priest of Stepanakert, invited to participate in the event, started the celebration with a prayer with students and their parents joining in. After a short homily, Father Minas answered many questions concerning the spiritual meaning of Easter and Resurrection. The second part of the celebration was "taken over" by the students, who started by singing three prayers, followed by the recital of the Ten Commandments and two poems glorifying the Almighty.

These recitations were followed by songs dedicated to the Homeland, springtime and child-hood. The celebration was concluded with a special luncheon, with traditional Armenian pastries and a competition withcolored eggs.



### ► Melbourne Chapter Has New Execu-

tive: The Melbourne "Nairi" Chapter of ARS of Australia, Inc. has a new executive consisting of the following members: Vanouhi Martyrosian, chairperson; Marie Vahrijian, secretary and Sona Altunian, treasurer. Assisting the executive, Mr. Khachik Atamian has volunteered as contact person with the State Grants Administration.

### **ARS Member Elected to Office:** ARS

of Australia "Soseh" Chapter member Gladys

Berejiklian, after a well run and successful campaign as a candidate in the New South Wales state municipal elections, is the new representative from the Willoughby District. Upon this memorable occasion, representatives of various Armenian organizations were invited to the Parliament House to hear Ms Berejiklian's maiden speech



### **RRA7II**

### **▶** Getting Set for 70th Anniversary:

Along with ARS/Argentina and ARS/Uruguay, ARS/Brazil has been preparing for the celebration of of the 70th anniversary of the ASOCIACION CIVIL ARMENIA DE BENEFICENCIA PARA AMERICA DEL SUR (ARS/South America), scheduled to take place in the Buenos Aires "Hilton" Hotel, on October 4, 2003, with the participation of distinguished guests and dignitaries •



### BULGARIA

➤ ARS/Bulgaria to Host ARS/Europe Seminar: In the coming months, the Armenian Relief Society will hold its long-planned seminar bringing together its European entities — a project planned sometime ago that was postponed due to the situation created by the crisis in Iraq — now being rescheduled.

Including Bulgaria, the host entity, nine ARS entities, Armenia, Artsakh, Cyprus, England, France, Germany, Greece, and Sweden will send representatives to Plovdiv, Bulgaria, to discuss the post-crisis situation and coordinate future ARS activities in Europe and elsewhere.



### CANADA

### ► ARS/Canada's 13th Regional Conven-

tion: On July 11, 12 and 13, ARS/Canada held its 13th annual regional convention in Laval, Quebec. On Friday, 11 July, after the registration of the delegates and the welcoming ceremony by the host Shoushi Chapter, chairperson Maro Frounjian

invited all present to rise and sing the national anthems of Canada and Armenia, after which a minute's silence was observed in memory of departed members.

All the convention agenda items were discussed and resolved over the next two days' deliberations. On Sunday evening, before adjournment, elections were held for three regional executive members to serve during the 2003-2004 term; the delegates elected the following members: Anna Boulgarian, Naomi Yaghdjian and Arpie Dolmadjian; elected from the previous term: Armine Garabedian, Flora Guiragossian, Hasmig Jandu, Penna Tarzi. Maral Hovsepian and Salpi Khozozian were elected as alternates.

### ► Tenth Anniversary of the ARS Laval

Chapter: On July 12, 2003, the ARS "Shoushi" Chapter of Laval celebrated its 10th anniversary in the Aharonian Hall of the Montreal Armenian Center. Starting at 8:30 p.m. with the opening remarks of Zevart Varvarian, who presided over the function, the evening proceeded in a festive atmosphere.

In a very informative presentation, Hermine Manouguian conveyed the message of the day, followed by a videotape presentation depicting the activities of the Chapter over the past ten years. Pastor of the St. Gevorg Armenian Church, Father Hrayr Nicolian and ARF Central Committee representative, Mher Karakashian both praised the humanitarian work of the ARS, that transcends boundaries, encompassing Diaspora and Homeland in one, indivisible family.

For having served the ARS for over 15 years, devoted members, Zvart Varvarian and Elizabeth Tahanian, received specially prepared commemorative pins from the regional chairperson, Maro Froundjian. After dinner, through the drawing of a lottery, the winners received custom made jugs, designed and produced in Armenia, each one representing the regional costume of a particular province. All proceeds of this function will go to projects in the Homeland •



### CYPRUS

➤ "Soseh" At-Large Chapter Elects New Executive: On May 30, 2003, the Armenian

Relief Society of Cyprus held its 15th general membership meeting in Nicosia. The gathering listened to the reports of activities and the progress made in the implementation of various projects and programs. After proper evaluations and the passage of resolutions for the coming year, the members elected a new executive board consisting of the following members: Vera Davitian, chairperson; Mayda Nshanian, vice-chairperson; Astghik Takljian, clerk; Alice Davitian, treasurer; Maral Adurian, advisor.

Delebration of "Children's Day": On January 1, 2003, to celebrate "Children's Day", the "Soseh" Chapter-at-large executive had prepared small packets of cookies and candy to be distributed to the children at a gathering at the ARS Center in Nicosia. Both children and adults attending this function had a good time in a distinctly festive atmosphere.

➤ Visit to the Elderly: On January 12, 2003, members of the "Soseh" Chapter's public relations committee, as part of its many faceted activities, paid a visit to the Kalagian Rest Home and served dinner to the elderly residents •



by the executive of the ARC/Cairo, on Friday March 21, 2003, the traditional gathering to celebrate Mothers' Day took place in the Heliopolis "Houssaper" Club, with Mrs. Diana Simonian presiding. A great number of members and friends were in attendance, showing their support to our internationally active humanitarian organization. After Mrs. Simonian's opening remarks, Mrs. Bairamian, addressing the gathering, referred to the numerous programs initiated and carried out by the great ARS family of world-wide entities throughout the Diaspora and the Homeland.

Following those remarks, Dr. Irina Manasarian, wife of the Armenian Ambassador to Egypt, was invited to the podium to say a few words on the occasion of Mothers' Day. The good doctor, thanking the organizers for this opportunity to address members of the community, praised the lofty mission of motherhood, not only within the

family circle, but within the wider arena of the community itself, where women are actively involved in the welfare of those most vulnerable in today's society.

Dr. Manasarian mentioned the fact that, in Armenia, every year, the International Day of Women and the Feast of the goddess Anahit are also celebrated. Then, upon the request of the ARC/Cairo executive, she presented veteran ARC members, Araxi Cazazian and Mary Kezelian with inscribed silver plates in recognition of their long and devoted service to the ARS, the foremost Armenian charitable organization.

The celebration continued its program with dinner and a lottery, the proceeds of will help finance various ARC on-going programs •



> A Lecture in London on the Present Cultural Life in Lebanon: On April 29, 2003, during a well attended membership meeting of the ARS of Great Britain Trust, Ms Garineh Alexandrian, a member of the Armenian Relief Cross of Lebanon and Hamazgayin Cultural Association, on a visit from Beirut, spoke to the membership about Armenian cultural life in Lebanon. For more than an hour, Ms Alexandrian presented facts, figures, and analysis of the rich and multi-faceted cultural activities of the Lebanese Armenian community. Her cogent evaluations and conclusions kept her audience keenly interested in the subject so ably presented. The lecture was followed by a reception that lasted until 11:00 P.M



### ► The 51st Annual Convention: On May

17 and 18, 2003, the Armenian Blue Cross of France held its 51st annual convention in Beaumont. The 29 delegates, representing the 690 members of all19 chapters, took stock of the society's accomplishments over the past twelve months, particularly in the three areas that dominate the list of its various activities: Children, Culture, and Social Service. After thorough delib-

eration, decision was passed to increase funding for programs in the educational field. In addition to activities within the French-Armenian community, the CBAF (Croix Bleue des Armeniens de France) participates in numerous ARS (Armenian Relief Society) projects in Armenia, Artsakh, Javakhq, as well as in Serbia •



### For a New "ARS House" in

Akhalqalaq: The ARS Akhalqalaq Chapter-atlarge recently announced receipt of a \$20,000 grant from the Armenian Relief Society, Inc. Central Executive Board for the purchase and furnishing of an "ARS House" to serve as a community center, catering, particularly, to the social, educational and cultural needs of the youth in Akhalqalaq and neighboring communities in Javakhq.

### ► ARS Chairperson Visits Javakhq:

While in the region, visiting Armenia and Artsakh, Chairperson Minassian traveled to the predominantly Armenian populated southern Georgian province of Javakhq to discuss with the regional ARS chapters the implementation of health, educational, and social programs in the area to be implemented over the next two years, and to review plans for a medical diagnostic center in Akhalqalaq.

► Kocharian's Visit to Tbilisi: In the meantime, non-official sources have reported that President Kocharian, during his visit to Georgia, has met with Georgian counterpart Shevardnadze, Georgia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Irakli Menagarishvili, and Georgia's State Minister Avtandil Jorbenadze, raising the issue of the present socio-economic problems of the Armenian-populated province •



### ► A New Executive and a New Momen-

tum: On July 20, 2003, the Armenisches Hilfswerk in Deutschland e.V. (ARS/Germany) held its general membership meeting and elected its new executive board, consisting of the following members: Dr. Margarit Asoyan-Link, chairperson; Mrs. Annik Palian, vice-chair; Miss Gayaneh Shoghikian, secretary; Mrs. Nounik Vitus, treasurer and Mrs. Seda Papanian, administrative advisor.

The membership of this small but active entity has by now increased to 34. The Chapter has secured the sponsorship of ten orphans, actively participating in the ARS "Sponsor-A-Child program. In other areas of activity, the AHD, with the cooperation of the German Medical Association, has sent much needed medical equipment to hospitals in Artsakh, It has also shipped children's winter clothing to the ARS office in Yerevan for distribution in Armenia, and participated in the fund-raising for the ARS sponsored Socio-cultural programs in Javakhq, and the Khrimian School in Argentina



Annual Bazaar: On March 31, 2003, after considerable planning and work on the part of the Armenian Blue Cross Regional Executive and the membership of the chapters, a very successful bazaar, supported by the community, raised funds for ARS children's programs in the Homeland. It is planned to secure more TV announcements and coverage for such events in the future.

### **Blood Drive to Commemorate the**

Genocide: On April 13, in Fiks, and on April 24, 2003, in Kokinia, took place the community wide annual Blood Drive in memory of the million-and-a-half Armenians who perished in the Ottoman Empire as a result of the first genocide of the 20th century. Members of the Armenian Blue Cross Regional Executive actively participated in this commemorative event.

### **▶ Camping Season at Khalkidiki:** Be-

tween July 16 and August 2, 2003, 10 to 17 year old Armenian youth, from many communities of the world, spent over two weeks together, to know each other and get a taste of Armenian history and culture in the uniquely beautiful surroundings of the Khalkidiki Camp, run and maintained by the ARS of Macedonia & Thrace since 1990



### ▶ Urmia Concludes another Busy Year:

The ARS Chapter-at-large of Urmia, Iran, with a dynamic membership of sixty devoted ladies, continues to maintain its kindergarten staffed by two qualified teachers and attended by 13 pupils, For many years now, The Chapter also provides a monthly stipend to local needy families, helping them survive harsh economic times, and supplies much needed schoolbooks and related items to disadvantaged schoolchildren.

➤ Tabriz Maintains Kindergarten: The small ARS Chapter-at-large of Tabriz, Iran, still organizes occasional functions in a fast shrinking local Armenian community; its main program is its well staffed Nursery/Kindergarten where 18 children receive excellent care while they get ini-tiated into their ethnic culture and history •



### Promoting Armenian Crafts and

Artifacts: The three small, but very active, ARS chapters-at-large in Israel continue, in spite of rather difficult political and economic conditions, their active involvement in community life and the promotion of Armenian issues in that embattled part of the Middle East. Their periodic bazaars exhibiting and selling Armenian artifacts gives the non-Armenian public to see and appreciate Armenian needlework, ceramics, jewelry etc. at the same time raising much needed funds for the community's many needs in the areas of social services and education



### ► Assisting the Orphans in the Home-

*land:* Over the past months, alongside its sister ARS entities across the Diaspora, the ARS Chapter-at-large of Amman, Jordan, increased its efforts to secure sponsors for as many Armenian orphans as

possible. As one of the most important of its social, cultural and charitable activities, the "Sponsor-A-Child" program has occupied a prominent area in the multi-faceted work of this versatile Chapter-atlarge. •



► Entity Focuses on Local Needs: Given the prevailing political situation in the region, and its adverse influence on the economy of the country as well as the small Armenian community, the ARS Chapter-at-large of Kuwait, while fulfilling its basic obligations as an ARS entity, has been concentrating its relief efforts on the immediate needs of local community structures •



### First Lady Visits "Araxie Bulghurjian"

Center: On January 15, 2003, Andree Lahoud, First Lady of Lebanon, visited the ARCL's (Armenian Relief Cross of Lebanon) Bulghurjian Sociomedical Center, to get better acquainted with that outstanding institution's activities in social and medical service to the multi-ethnic communities of the country.

As befits a distinguished guest of honor, the First Lady was shown all the departmental facilities and introduced to the specialized staff of the Center. Together with Bourj Hammoud Mayor Andranik Msirlian, the Mrs Lahoud dedicated a new radiography/tympanography room which will bear the name "Mayoralty of Bourj Hammoud". This new addition will make examination of nose, throat and ear ailments much more efficient and thorough. As a gesture of appreciation, and a memento of her visit, the First Lady presented the Center with a brand new ambulance.

### ► A New Publication on Armenian

**Costumes:** On March 21, 2003 the ARC Regional Executive of Lebanon held a dedication ceremony for "Armenian Traditional Costumes" (Haikakan Taraz), authored by Dr. Heghoush Papazian, one of the founding members of the ARS.

The ceremony took place in the Tenjougian

Hall of the "Araxie Boulghourdjian Socio-Medical Center" of ARS/Lebanon. Following opening remarks by Mrs. Seta Hedeshian, Chairperson of ARS Lebanon, Mrs. Diki Torigian presented highlights on the life and times of the author, Dr. Papazian describing how she studied Armenian traditional costumes in Eastern and Western Armenia, while serving as a medical doctor in the Armenian Voluntary Units during World War I.

The closing remarks of this event were offered by the noted writer, Shahandukht



Supporting Humanitarian Center in the Homeland: In their June, 2003 meeting, the Executive Board of Stockholms Armeniska Hialpforening (ARS/Sweden) pledged its support to the Alaverdi Family Assistance Center that shelters many orphaned and destitute children. Having received a report from the Director of the Center, that there is a dire need for basic furniture and utensils, the at-large-chapter decided to send the necessary items, in August, with its Chairperson, Berdjuhi Vartanian.

➤ Yuletide Gathering for Children and their Parents: On the occasion of Christmas and the New Year, ARS/Stockholm organized a Santa Claus evening for 30 children and their parents. During an evening of fun and games, the children received presents and all were treated to a traditional buffet •



► ARS/Syria Invited to Signing of Formal Agreement: The Department of Labor and Social Affairs of the Arab Republic of Syria invited the ARS Regional Executive of Syria to send a representative to the formal signing of an agreement of cooperation — in the area of assistance to institutions that work with the deaf-mute — between the governments of Syria and Japan. The agreement was signed in Damascus, on January 22, 2003.

### ► ARS/Syria Participates in Red Cres-

cent Fund Drive: The ARS, as a prominent humanitarian organization, with a long history of relief work in the Middle East and Syria, in particular, the Jamaeyat Essalib Elaana Elarman Alorthodoxy – the Syrian entity of the Armenian Relief Society – has participated in the annual fund drive of the Syrian Red Crescent Society. With the support of the local Armenian community, ARS/Syria has contributed 20,000 Syrian pounds to the fund drive.

### > Scholarship Grant to Student from

Armenia: As a continuation of an already successful program of assistance to Armenian students studying at home or abroad, ARS/Syria has granted a scholarship of 10,000 Syrian pounds to Yeghik Berberian of Armenia, currently studying at the European University of Yerevan



➤ ARS Eastern USA Holds 83rd Annual Regional Convention: Over 50 delegates and guests from throughout the Eastern United States gathered in Waltham, Massachusetts on July

17, to attend the ARS Eastern USA's 83rd Annual Regional Convention. A full agenda and related activities were completed by the close of the proceedings on Sunday, July 20. The Convention was held at the Four Points Sheraton in Waltham, and was jointly hosted by the ARS Watertown Leola Sasuni and the ARS Cambridge chapters.

# The Productive Spring of the Chicago "Zabel" Chapter: A busy and fruitful was season initiated by the ARS Chicago "Zabel" Chapter on March 13, 2003, when the ARS participated in a fund drive, initiated by a local merchant, who offered coupons to the participating organizations to sell to interested donors and to the general public supportive of humanitarian groups. A large number of the Armenian community members actively participated in this funds collection effort.

On April 6, 2003, in cooperation with the American Red Cross, the Chapter organized its Blood Drive. This symbolic offering of Armenian blood was made to coincide with the 88th Com-

memoration of the Metz Yeghern — the 1915 Genocide of the Armenians at the hands of the Ottoman Turks.

- On May 10, 2003, took place the celebration of the 93rd Anniversary of the ARS; the festivities took place at the Armenian Center. The evening started with a home-cooked dinner served by ARS and AYF members. Popular Armenian standup comedian, Vahe Berberian presented an entertaining monologue, following which new ARS members took their oath in the presence of an enthusiastic audience. After this stirring ceremony, DJ Armen Papazian kept the festive atmosphere alive with a well-selected musical background enhancing the enjoyment of all those present at this well planned and most congenial function.
- ▶ The Chapter's seasonal agenda included the traditional festivities of Palm Sunday (Tzaghkazard) celebrated by the ARS with an annual banquet. Following a long tradition, after the church services, the Chapter Executive treated members, supporters and community members to abundantly served ethnic dishes.

► Eastern USA Chapters Organize First ARS "Walk Armenia" Fundraiser: On Saturday, May 3, 2003, wearing T-shirts and walking shoes, enthusiastic ARS chapter members and ARS supporters throughout the eastern United States walked – in Detroit, Providence, Racine, Watertown and Granite City — to benefit various local and regional ARS projects in the first annual regional "Walk Armenia" fundraiser. It was announced that 25% of all funds generated through "Walk Armenia" will be channeled to ARS programs in the Homeland ●

### **WESTERN U S**

### > Second Annual Armenian Festival:

As advertised on the CNN Larry King Show, on May 17 and 18, 2003, thousands attended the 2nd Annual Festival of the Armenian Relief Society's Western Region in celebration of the organization's 93rd Anniversary. Festivities were officially kicked off on Saturday, with the welcoming remarks of Chairperson Sonia Peltekian. Dignitaries present at this highly successful 2-day event included Congressman Adam Schiff, who presented the Chairperson with a Certificate of Recognition.

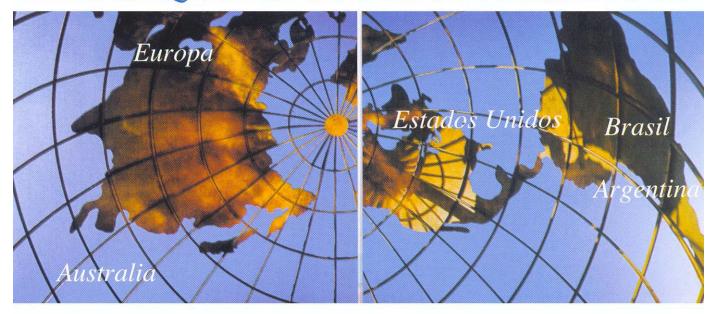
- Unveiling the ARS Tree: On June 23, 2003, the formal unveiling of the ARS "Everlasting Tree" and a bust of ARS founder, E. Aknuni, donated by sculptor Puzant Meymarian, took place with the participation of ARS members, families, supporters and specially invited dignitaries.
- Clothing Drive: In view of the urgent need for warm clothing for the children of Armenia, the ARS/Western USA Regional Executive organized a drive and shipped 4 containers of clothing through the facilities of the UAF. Noteworthy was the community's prompt response to appeals made through the media; within two weeks, the much needed clothing was on its way. Donations were also received: the Greek-Armenian Society alone made a generous contribution of \$2,000 ●



Beatriz Argimon Meets with ARS: On Friday, July 22, 2003, the Honorable Representative Beatriz Argimon, of the Uruguayan National Party, invited Isabel Attarian and Diana Itutmazian of the ARS/SouthAmerica Regional Executive to a working luncheon. The discussion centered around the participation of Ms. Argimon in the 56th Annual NGO Conference as a panelist invited by the Central Executive Board of the ARS Inc. This meeting also offered the opportunity to discuss new strategies in areas of social and economic issues involving children's and women's welfare, within the context of today's Latinamerican reality.

In spite of her youth, Ms Argimon has extensive experience in those areas, being a past president of the National Institute of Minors and having been actively involved in small-enterprise projects designed for rural women, achieving considerable success under difficult circumstances. Her efforts in these fields were duly recognized both on the national and international levels, including by the ARS which, through its chairperson, Maro Minassian — who met her in 2002 — invited her to be a speaker on the ARS panel at the September UN NGO Conference. It is a great opportunity and honor for the Armenian Relief Society to have this young and energetic legislator as an active participant in its UN panel discusión

# MAS QUE UNA MERA PRESENCIA



Como organización independiente, no gubernamental ni sectaria, con ramas en 23 países diferentes, sirviendo a las necesidades educacionales y sociales de las comunidades, buscando preservar la identidad cultural de la Nación Armenia. donde y cuando la necesidad apremie. brindando ayuda humanitaria a todas las comunidades en emergencia (sean o no armenias), la institución persigue los siguientes propósitos: Contribuir al bienestar físico y espiritual de nuestras comunidades; promover y mejorar la instrucción de los miembros de la institución. fortaleciendo su desenvolvimiento en el servicio público; alentar la participación en organizaciones locales comprometidas en actividades comunitarias y servicios sociales, compatibles con los principios de HOM; y cooperar con organizaciones con propósitos comunitarios similares.

Areas de particular interés para HOM son publicaciones referentes al bienestar familiar, base de una sociedad sana. Uno de los programas de mayor importancia de HOM, en la misma linea del Programa Padrinazgo de Huérfanos, es el programa de servicio social, que en algunas comunidades recibe ayuda financiera de organizaciones privadas y estatales. El programa de Campamentos de Verano para jóvenes y el asilo de Aleppo, Siria, son algunas de las actividades dirigidas a fortalecer la creación de familias y comunidades en la diáspora. El programa Padrinazgo de huérfanos que ayuda a miles de niños en la Madre Patria a sobrevivir en circunstancias difíciles y mantener un decente standard de vida. Fuertemente sostenidos por el esfuerzo voluntario, todos los programas de HOM necesitan, sin embargo, un ineludible respaldo financiero y moral



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ARS Programs

Can Make

A difference

Between

Despair and



**Contribute Generously!**