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Lois Gould-Rafael
Chair

March 25, 1987

Dear Father Kasparian:

The service begins at 2:30 p.m. on May 3 at Christ Church Cathedral, 1210 Locust Street. I hope you will be able to arrive between 2:00 and 2:10 p.m.

We look forward to your being with us and extend our best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

RS: 1 g

enc.

400 Huntwood Rd. - Belleville, Illinois 62221
Office: (618) 277-6400 Residence: (618) 234-9711

Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church

[illegible]

Memo from the desk of...
Very Rev. Shnorh-Dz. V. Kasparian

W. H. D. D. D.



"First a flash.
 A noiseless blast,
 Then white heat.
 A great wind,
 A fire wind
 That burned for two and one-half miles,
 That fused quartz crystals in granite blocks,
 That roasted exposed children - only their shadows remained,
 That welded women into asphalt and stone forever,
 That made eyes into holes . . .
 And then the rain.
 The strange rain,
 Drops as big as marbles.
 The black rain.
 The peeling skin.
 And much later no bodies to be counted,
 Only parts to be named from the beginning."

In the Peace Park in Hiroshima there are inscribed in a stone chest the names of all those known to be killed by the bomb. Across the top are these words: "Rest in peace, for the error shall never be repeated."

CONGREGATION: We are the villagers, who farmed the land outside death camps. We are the spectators who knew and were silent. Auschwitz is the warning.

ARMENIAN

Father Schenork Kasparian

About a death march during the Armenian Genocide of 1915, one witness reported "... Of the between 2,000 and 3,000 people of Upper Armenia marched to Aleppo, there remain forty or fifty living skeletons. With distorted features, they succumb to blows, to hunger, and thirst. Europeans are forbidden to give bread to the starving creatures. Forty or fifty phantoms are heaped together in one court; they are the demented ones, they no longer know how to eat. When offered bread they refused it unconcernedly. They merely groan as they await death. Every day over a hundred corpses are taken out of Aleppo. Young girls, women, children, almost naked on the ground, like between the dying and the coffins already prepared, and breathe their last feeble sighs."

No human language is strong or colorful enough to depict such horrors, or to express the moral and physical sufferings of these innocent martyred people up to the moment of their release in death. Any survivors, hopeless wrecks from the frightful massacres wherein they have seen all their loved ones perish, are sent into concentration camps where torture and degradation worse than death await them."

OF BELLS

ODE

INVOCATION

SILENT MEDITATION

Julie Heifetz

Dean J.C. Michael Allen

Silence speaks.

After death, silence. In shock, silence.

In darkness, silence. In horror, silence.

In ignorance, silence. In hostility, silence.

"Don't bother me!", silence.

Bewilderment, silence. "Teach me!", silence.

Light speaks.

In darkness, light.

In light, lights.

In joy, lights.

In holiness, lights.

In hope, lights.

In companionship, lights.

In unison, lights.

Rabbi Robert Jacobs

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

DRAMATIC READING

Julie Heifetz

CHORAL MUSIC

Antioch Baptist Church Choir

LITANY

AUSCHWITZ IS THE WARNING

A responsive reading for Yom Hashoa 5747

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Rev. William Collins

"Due to my involvement in the struggle for the freedom of my people, I have known very few quiet days . . . I have been arrested five times and put in Alabama jails. My home has been bombed twice . . . I have been the victim of a near-fatal stabbing . . . I am in the Birmingham jail now because injustice is in Birmingham . . . we are all interrelated - all communities and states. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied into a single garment of destiny. What ever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

CONGREGATION: We are the family watching through the window as the Gestapo came to take us away. We never return. Auschwitz is the warning.