

February 23, 1984

The Reverend Father Haik Donikian
Assistant Pastor, St. John Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, Michigan 48075

Dear Father Haik:

This will refer to the letter of Mrs. Joseph Hovanesian dated February 11, a copy of which was sent to you.

Enclosed is the "Ararat Medal" which we ask you to kindly present it to her son, John Hovanesian.

It is regrettable that your correspondence about the medal did not reach the Diocese and consequently this matter was unnecessarily delayed.

Thank you for your help and best regards.

Respectfully,

Michael M. Kermian
Director

February 22, 1984

Mrs. Joseph Julieann Hovanesian
34550 Freedom Road
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48024

Dear Mrs. Hovanesian:

Thank you for your letter of February 11. It is regrettable that the correspondence sent to us by Rev. Father Haik Donikian some time ago did not reach the Diocese, and consequently the Ararat medal for your son was not delivered.

Please note that instructions have been given to send the Ararat medal to Father Haik Donikian who will get in touch with you as soon as he receives it.

Our apologies for the inadvertent delay in getting the medal to your son.

Sincerely

Michael M. Kermian
Director

34550 Freedom Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48024
February 11, 1984

Your Excellency, Archbishop Terken Manegian
Primate of the Armenian Church of North America and Canada
New York, New York 10016

Your Excellency:

You will recall Rev. Fr. Haik Donikian wrote you and spoke to you and even introduced to you, when you were in Detroit, my son, John Hevanesian, who is a 17 year old Armenian Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America, who earned the Ararat medal three years ago and still has not received the medal! It is a great pity I think, for he was most interested in earning the medal when he proudly read about it in the Boy Scouts of America handbook years ago, and he wrote to the Diocese himself for instructions on how to obtain it. He has been raised a faithful member of the Armenian Church. We have encouraged him to love his heritage as well as our Christian faith.....but, to tell you the truth, I am dreadfully embarrassed at the fact that the Church I've taught my children to love and look up to as the preserver of our people has disillusioned us for so long on this matter. He is even embarrassed among his American Scout colleagues who know he has earned the medal and has not received it!!! Why does the Diocese promise this medal to deserving youth and fail to deliver it?! I hope you understand the implications of such a disappointment to youth, and also the shame it brings to parents who try to defend you. This kind of insensitivity, on behalf of the Diocese, can only lead to the eventual loss to our Church of such quality youth!

I am writing this letter to you because some of our parishioners read in the Armenian newspaper that, in either the Holy Martyrs Church in Bayside, Long Island or in St. James Church in Watertown, Massachusetts, Armenian Boy Scouts were recently given Ararat Medals. HOW IS IT THEY CAN GET THE MEDALS AND WE CANNOT DESPITE THE FACT THAT WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THREE YEARS?! Will you please answer the question?! Where did they get the medals? If the Diocese has them, why are you not giving the medal to us also? If the Diocese does not have the medals, where did the other Church get the medals?

I would expect the decent courtesy of your reply. Awaiting a note from you, I remain

Respectfully yours,

Julieann Hevanesian
(Mrs. Joseph)
Julieann Hevanesian

P. S. You will be interested to know, my son tells me he learned more from his study in the effort to earn the medal than he has learned about our Church in all the years he has attended Church School put together (since he was three years old). Incidentally he is a very intellectually gifted boy.

cc.: Rev. Fr. Haik Donikian

The Farmington Forum



FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 1-7, 1982

RECEIVE EAGLE SCOUT AWARDS: Eagle Scout Awards were presented to four Farmington Hills Scouts at Troop 179's Court of Honor held at Farmington high school. From left to right are: Benedict Suh, whose project was cultivating, transporting and replanting approximately 250 endangered wild flowers in an area to be cleared for public construction; Todd Williams, who built a Sun Dial Garden at the Farmington Historical Museum; Mark Richardson, who organized and supervised the cleaning and landscaping of an area behind the Orchard United Methodist church; and John Hovanesian, who restored a deteriorated garden arbor on the grounds of the Warnam Historical Museum.

Eagle Scouts

(Cont. from Page 1)

five cities. The Mayors also gave the boys a framed proclamation from the State of Michigan, signed by Governor Milliken and State Representative Wilbur "Sandy" Brotherton.

The Mayors also presented the new Eagles with letters of congratulations from State Senator Doug Ross and U.S.

Congressman, Rep. William M. Brodhead, and Senator Donald W. Riegle.

John Hovanesian

John Hovanesian was born 12 years ago in Farmington. He has attended Longacre elementary school, the Alan Mancoagian school in Southfield, and presently is a 6th grader at Farmington high school.

Since the age of six, John has been an enthusiastic fan of magic, performing regularly at both public and private events as well as in churches and Sunday schools with what he refers to as Gospel magic programs. He teaches a class in magic to students in the Novi Community Education program.

John has had roles in amateur theater, both on stage as an actor and off stage with set construction and as a crew member.

Aside from magic and theater, John's other hobbies include stamp collecting, cooking, music, fishing, reading, pet training, wood working, model building, and home repairs.

John was active in Cub Scouting for three years. He has been an active member of Boy Scout Troop 179 for 4 1/2 years and, among the positions he has held in the troop, are assistant patrol leader, patrol leader, scribe, and chaplain.

Other activities include attendance since the age of three years in St. John's Armenian church school and participation in the MWAJ Indian Guides program, piano accompaniment and soloist in school activities at Longacre and Mancoagian schools, participant in Longacre and Mancoagian school bands playing saxophone, member, Internat-

4 Eagle Awards Given To Farmington Scouts

Boy Scouts of America Troop 179 held its Court of Honor in Farmington high school and the Eagle Award was presented to four scouts: Benedict Suh, Mark Richardson, Todd Williams, and John Hovanesian.

The keynote speaker was E. Earl "Sonny" Hays, Chief Scout Executive of the BSA, Clinton Valley Council. The "Charge to the Eagles" was delivered by Ken Milliken, former Troop 179 Scoutmaster.

Presentation of the Eagle Awards was by Hays.

Also present were Mayors Jack Burwell of Farmington Hills and Mayor Alon Bennett of the City of Farmington. The Mayors presented each of the four boys with a framed proclamation from their respective cities.

(Cont. on Page 16)

national Brotherhood of Magicians; member Fellowship of Christian Magicians; and member Student Council at Farmington High.

For his Eagle Service Project, Mark organized and supervised the cleaning, painting and landscaping of a greenbelt area behind the Orchard Street Methodist church. The area was overgrown and wild grapevines were killing trees. He also prepared flower planters, trimmed shrubs and wooded planting areas. As a result of this effort, others in the church were inspired to seed and trim other areas of the church property not included in Mark's project.

Mark's hobbies and leisure activities have included: model rockets, remote radio controlled cars and boats, both water and snow skiing and fishing. He has also sung in the Teen choir at Orchard church and presently serves as an acolyte. He has played the baritone in both junior and senior high school bands.

Mark Richardson
Mark Richardson was born 16 years ago and has lived all his life in his present neighborhood in downtown Farmington. He attended Longacre elementary school, Power Junior high school, and he has just completed his sophomore year at Farmington high school, where he maintains a 3.75 grade point average.

Mark has participated in competitive athletics with the Farmington Hockey Assn. and the Farmington Soccer Assn., being selected team captain and named to various All Star Teams over the years. He has participated in track and cross-country along with being an avid golfer and is a member of the Farmington high golf team.

Mark has been a scout for five years and has held nearly every elective and appointive position in the troop. He is presently serving as assistant senior patrol leader and, during his scouting career, has served as senior patrol leader, quartermaster, patrol leader, assistant patrol leader, scribe, and librarian. He is in the Leadership Corps and is also a member of the Order of the Arrow. He attended the National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, in the summer of 1961.

Ben was born on Feb. 22, 1966, in San Francisco, Calif. He attended school at Longacre elementary, Power junior high, and Farmington high school.

Benedict Suh
Ben was born on Feb. 22, 1966, in San Francisco, Calif. He attended school at Longacre elementary, Power junior high, and Farmington high school. While attending school at Power junior high, in both seventh and eighth grades, Ben was a two year winner in the National Piano Auditions. Also in Ben's seventh and eighth grades at Power, and his ninth grade at Farmington high, he received superior ratings for three consecutive years in the National Federation Festivals to receive the gold cup award. He received three Honor Awards in the junior high for his superior grades, best attendance records, and citizenship. Presently attending Farmington high, he is a third year member of the Student Council as a Senator representing the junior class. He is also a third year member of the Farmington High School Marching Band. He is both the section and squad leader of the drum line and has previously received two awards for outstanding service to the marching band program.

Ben has been a scout for five years and has held nearly every elective and appointive position in the troop. He is presently serving as assistant senior patrol leader and, during his scouting career, has served as senior patrol leader, quartermaster, patrol leader, assistant patrol leader, scribe, and librarian. He is in the Leadership Corps and is also a member of the Order of the Arrow. He attended the National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, in the summer of 1961.

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Top of the week of July 1 - 7, 1962

16-Year-Old Magician Performs for Adults & Children

On Oct. 22, 16-year-old John Hovanesian, who bills himself as "John the Magician," performed a special complimentary magic show for a Halloween Party to benefit UNICEF at the Faith Community United Presbyterian Church in Novi, Mich. The Halloween theme magic program included a feature which he does upon special request and at special occasions — some Gospel Magic — whereby he illustrates and reinforces Gospel messages with



**Amazing John
the Magician**

magic effects. For John, who has performed magic professionally since he was 12 years old, it was a return performance at the Church by popular request.

John's captivating, stimulating approach to his audience won him an outstanding award at Colon, Michigan, the "Magic Capital of the World," in a special contest for children's performers in Novem-

ber 1982, in competition with magicians of all ages and from many states. John uses live doves and a rabbit in his act and has a good time with his audience, presenting amazing feats of magic that are usually followed by a balloon sculpture program.

A member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and the Fellowship of Christian Magicians, John is also a teacher of magic to elementary-age children in the Novi Schools Community Education "after school" program. A teacher of magic since he was 13 years old, he likes to build upon young children's imagination. He himself became interested in magic at the age of 6, when he received a magic set handed-down from his brother, Charles.

Most recently, John's professional magic business features the addition of a "close-up" magic performing style in which he delights audiences as a table hopper; he does this for adult and family audiences in restaurants and at dinner events. He has been developing his stage performances for many years and works at banquets, social and holiday occasions of all kinds and for all ages. At birthday parties, he usually performs for audiences of children, but sometimes does shows for adults only. At birthdays he gives magic trick and balloon favors to all the guests, and his programs usually last about one-half hour.

'At Farmington High School,

John is an "all A" student in the academically gifted program of the 11th grade, a member of the student council, a class officer, and member of the National Honor

Society. He is an Eagle Scout in Troop 179 in Farmington and, as Chaplain of his Troop, performs Gospel magic at Sunday Church services on campouts. He is an acolyte,

a Church School student, and a member of St. John's Armenian Church in Southfield, Mich. He is the son of Prof. and Mrs. Joseph Hovanesian of Farmington.

November, 1983

I talked to Father Donikian regarding the attached.

He said that he has a copy of the letter and called the writer to say that such a letter could not be sent to the Archbishop, etc.

He said that the boy deserves the medal and that he was writing to that effect to us.

Meanwhile I will send the Ararat medal to Father donikian so that he may give it to the boy.