

Cleveland

St. Gregory of Narek
Armenian Church

TESTIMONIAL BANQUET

HONORING

Mr. & Mrs. Kevork Arslanian
Mr. & Mrs. Garbis Balderian
Dr. & Mrs. Kegham K. Goekjian

Sunday, July 11, 1976

SPECIAL GUEST

His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate of the Eastern Diocese
of the Armenian Church in America

M E N U

Champagne
Chilled Fruit Cup
Fresh Summer Salad
Charcoal Grilled Boston Strip Steak
Baked Potato Rigatoni
Green Beans with Mushrooms
Relish Tray Bread & Butter
 Cake
Coffee, Tea, Milk

3
P R O G R A M

National Anthem Mrs. Adele Ourlian
Opening Prayer Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian
Toast Mr. Robert Bagdasarian
Welcome Mr. Robert Bagdasarian
Reflections Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian
Piano Selections Miss Darice Avedisian
 Impromptu in "C" Minor by Schubert
 Selected Armenian Folk Tunes
~~Main Speaker Archbishop Torkom Manoogian~~
"Artiok Keedes Too?" Mrs. Sue Mirakian, Soloist
 Accompanist Mrs. Ruth Hodel
Presentation of Plaques .. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Acceptances Honored Guests
Closing Comments Mr. Robert Bagdasarian
Benediction Archbishop Torkom Manoogian

KEVORK ARSLANIAN AND VERGIN SARKISIAN ARSLANIAN

Kevork Arslanian was born in Malatia in 1908. Having survived the massacre of 1915, he arrived in the United States, via Cuba, in 1927 and finally settled in Philadelphia.

Vergin Sarkisian was born in 1910 in Arabker and is also a survivor of the 1915 holocaust. She arrived in Philadelphia from Syria in 1926, where, through mutual friends, she met Mr. Arslanian. While there, Miss Sarkisian was a member of the Young Ladies' organizations and taught Sunday School.

On October 11, 1936, Kevork Arslanian and Vergin Sarkisian were married in Philadelphia and subsequently moved to Cleveland, Ohio. Three sons, daughters-in-law and seven grandchildren complete the family.

A highlight of the Arslanians many years together was the celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary in Armenia.

Mrs. Arslanian has been an active church member for many years and is currently the Secretary of the Ladies' Auxiliary.

Mr. Arslanian has served the church in many capacities. He is a former choir member, diocesan delegate and church secretary. He was the first chairman of the building committee and has served as chairman of the parish council several times. Mr. Arslanian is a 50-year member of the Educational Society of Malatia, a 40-year member of both the AGBU and ADL, and has been in the Knights of Vartan for 33 years and is a past Commander of the organization. On many occasions he has submitted articles to the Armenian periodicals on behalf of the church and community.

GARBIS BALDERIAN AND OSKY DERDERIAN BALDERIAN

Garbis Balderian and Osky Derderian were both born in the village of Everek, Gysere; Garbis in 1897 and Osky in 1901.

Surviving the Turkish massacres which took the lives of many family members, the Balderian and Derderian families settled in Adana.

During World War I, from 1916 to 1918, Mr. Balderian served in the Turkish Army. From 1918 to 1921 he served in the French Army as a Gendarmes.

On May 19, 1921, Garbis Balderian and Osky Derderian were married in Adana. They arrived in the United States at Ellis Island, New York on July 4, 1923, and came directly to Cleveland, Ohio.

In 1964 Mr. Balderian retired from Ryerson Steel Company after 36 years of employment as a machine operator and crane operator.

Over the years the Balderians have dedicated their lives to serving the Armenian Church. Mr. Balderian has served as a member of the Parish Council and the choir. In 1959 he was appointed to serve as a stole bearer by the then Primate, Archbishop Sion Manoogian. He was elevated to sub-deacon in 1969 by the Primate, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian. Mrs. Balderian has been a long-time faithful member of the Ladies' Auxiliary and for many years has provided the Mas (Holy Bread) for church services.

Mr. and Mrs. Balderian are active in other Armenian organizations. They have been members of the ADL for 56 years and the Cleveland Chapter of the AGBU for 46 years. Mr. Balderian has served in the Knights of Vartan for 41 years.

KEGHAM K. GOEKJIAN AND FLORENCE KUNTZ GOEKJIAN

Kegham K. Goekjian was born in Cilicia, Turkey. He survived the 1915 genocide but became a prisoner during the Smyrna disaster. Following his freedom he worked as an interpreter in Greece, and later came to the United States.

In 1926 Kegham Goekjian enrolled in the Veterinary School of Colorado State University. He graduated with honors in 1930 and remained at the school for two years as an instructor.

Dr. Goekjian came to Cleveland in 1933. In 1934 he became veterinarian-in-charge of Shaker Heights Veterinary Hospital, purchased the clinic in 1939, and has practiced there since that time.

He has served the church as chairman of the parish council for several years and is a sub-deacon and former choir member. Because of his continued support and interest in building a church in Cleveland, Dr. Goekjian was designated "Godfather" of St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church. He is a member of the AGBU and served as chairman for 15 years.

Florence Kuntz is a native Clevelander. She received her B.S. degree from Western Reserve University and taught in the Garfield Heights Public School System.

In 1939 Dr. Kegham K. Goekjian and Florence Kuntz were married in Cleveland. They are the parents of three children.

In 1953, Mrs. Goekjian helped organize the Armenian Church School and served as Superintendent until 1958. Throughout the years she has been a teacher and is presently the religious education advisor. She was the church organist for several years and holds memberships in the Armenian Church Women's Auxiliary and Guild as well as the Armenian Bible Study group.

Both Dr. and Mrs. Goekjian are active members of numerous civic and professional organizations.

WE ARE PLEASED . . .

that you were able to attend this testimonial banquet, the first of what we hope will be an annual event. In this manner, we, the church community, can express our appreciation to those members who have given many years of devoted service to St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church.

Pastor and Parish Council
St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church