



Armenian CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW MEXICO

NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR

February 16, 1981

Incorporators:

Jerry Chakerian
Jacob Carian
Ruth Akgulian
Rita Jamharian Cook

February 20
Friday at 6:00 pm
International Center

1808 Las Lomas, NE

Anyone for
scambil?*

WINTER FESTIVAL POT LUCK SUPPER AT THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER ON THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO CAMPUS

Always a favorite event. Bring your own backgammon (tavloo) board, if you have one. Card games and instruction in Armenian dance--or just visit.

All age groups. For information or if you plan to come, call: #265-7864

February 21
10:00 am

Wesson Room
Comanche at
Carlisle, NE

REVIEW SESSION for the ten who participated in the Armenian Language Workshop, December 20, 21 and 22. Members of the regular Saturday class are invited as observers. (This is your only notice.)

This unique, experimental workshop given under the auspices of the Diocesan Language Laboratory was conducted by its director from New York, Sylva der Stepanian. There were two separate workshops for five persons each. Over a period of eight hours 600 phrases, idioms and sentences were presented to the non-Armenian speaking adults.

A third, abbreviated session followed to introduce reading to three students.

Workshops, guest lecturers and summer sessions are possible if you are interested and will help with the planning. Call your local Board Member; the President, Rita Cook or the Editor, #256-9266.

GALA RECEPTION

February 21
Saturday
5:30 to 7:30

Ethnic
Refreshments
and
Costumes

"From Generation to Generation: Folk Culture in Albuquerque" opens with a reception at the Albuquerque Museum in Old Town, 2000 Mountain Rd, NW.

Bryon Johnson, Curator of History, personally selected an average of fifteen items from each group: Armenian, Chinese, Scandinavian, German, Slavic, Syrian and others. It is a diverse collection of art objects, functional artifacts and memorabilia.

We offered a generous variety. Not included, though offered, was something once found in every Armenian home, a wool-filled quilt--the vermag or yorgan. A quick survey revealed a dozen in use here. This wool was probably brought to the United States before 1915 (except for that from Iran) and skillfully renewed in the traditional fashion over the years. For awhile our elders renewed them as fund-raising projects for nursing homes. Shall we accept the unhappy thought they are inevitably ending up in a Goodwill Store?

Before the genocide the emigrants had a choice, however limited, when packing their bundles. One grandmother added her chopping board, coffee grinder, Bible and a tiny pair of white kid gloves though she had lost the grandchild in the wake of the earlier (1896) massacre. Sometimes that choice was food--a doprag of bulghur and a tenneke (5-liter kerosene tin) of dahn-yough!

The one-way passage from Constantinople, or a Black Sea Port, to New York in steerage, cost \$34 in 1900 and \$24 by 1913, according to Robert Mirak NAASR Journal of Armenian Studies, 1975.

Byron Johnson queried us about the names and dates of the first Armenians to arrive in New Mexico. We don't really know. Perhaps there were miners here in the 19th century as in Utah (ARARAT, Autumn 1980)

*scambil: A popular cardgame in Armenia with partners, prescribed facial signals, songs with verses to match the hands and forfeits. Florence Chakerian and her cousin, Armine Odabachian in Detroit are looking for persons who remember the verses (usually in Turkish)

Folkculture
Exhibit....

One person on record is Alexander Aslanyan, official interpreter with the U.S. Camel Corps here in 1855. Ambitious plans then for the Camel Corps included the Camel Mail Express to serve Santa Fe with Corpus Christi, Texas; Independence, Missouri and Salt Lake City, Utah.

Aslanyan's eligibility as the first resident is in question, though. He may have returned to Smyrna when the Camel Corps disbanded about 1870. And over a century later, another family with paternal roots in Smyrna came to Albuquerque, Garo and Jeanne Antreasian with their sons, Dave and Tom. He is Professor of Art at the Univeristy of New Mexico and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Albuquerque Museum in which this exhibit is now mounted.

Wyatt and Mariam (Apetian) Davis settled in Santa Fe in 1935. Their daughter, Joan Tefft of Albuquerque, loaned the Museum two rag dolls which her mother brought from Armenia in 1920. A child survivor of the genocide, her home had been somewhere in Derjan, an area of many Armenian villages in the province of Garin (Erzeroum) The rag dolls were made for her in Kharpert by other refugee women and are dressed in the costumes of Garin. We consulted the costume book of the Soviet Armenian historian, Arakel Patrik, to identify them.

COOKING
ARMENIAN

In response to a number of requests and, possibly, an Armenian fixation on food, Sophie Garvanian is preparing a month of cooking classes by various members of the community.

Men: Can you bone a leg of lamb for shish kebab?

The classes will begin Tuesday, March 10, at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the home of the demonstrator. They will continue for the following three Tuesdays, March 17, 24 and 31. The fee is \$5.00 for each person each night in addition to paying a share for the cost of the ingredients.

Women: Why is the Armenian cuisine economical?

Class size must be limited since kitchens are not large and the students will want to see what is going on.

Sophie Garvanian comes well qualified to coordinate and demonstrate. She taught a similar course for the Community College at UNM and was an instructor at The Cooking School, a private school for culinary art.

To register,
Call by Feb. 22

#265-7864
or
#256-9266

If you have a special dish to share, a particular request or suggestions for this and future Armenian cooking workshops, she will be happy to hear about it.

---Time to save yellow onion skins to dye Easter eggs an Armenian red.

Springtime in
New Mexico

and

Day of Rembrance

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

A significant ceremony for the Armenians of New Mexico will take place this spring. A sycamore tree, presented to the Museum of Albuquerque as a living commemoration of the 1915 genocide of the Armenian nation by the Ottoman Empire 66 years ago, will be dedicated.

Saturday, May 2, 1981 is the date awaiting final confirmation. The Program Chairman is Jerry Chakerian.

It will be an honor for anyone who shares the Armenian heritage to pay tribute to our martyrs at this commemoration.

We will make every effort to advise you of the date, time and program in order for you to plan in advance to be present.

In observance of this day of remembrance, April 24, 1915, the Association is presenting the Albuquerque Public Library and Zimmerman Library of the University of New Mexico copies of Ambassador Morgenthau's Story which is "The Documented Account of the Armenian Genocide...First of the Century... Reported by America's Ambassador to Turkey."

cont'd

People...

Charles Klanian, Deputy Project Manager of the Westinghouse Corporation WIPP project received a promotional transfer to Pittsburgh. He was a responsible and active Board Member; Alice, his wife equally so on whichever project required her attention; and their daughter, Loree, a senior in high school, was one of our outstanding folk dancers. Their loss to us is personal, organizational and profound. We wish them success and happiness in their new home. Fortunately their final departure is not until May. We know they will miss Albuquerque weather.

Haig Farman, brother of Belle Knadjian, moved here from Los Angeles and solemnly assures us he is responsible for that fine mild weather. Welcome.

Congratulations to Michael Garvanian. He is a National Merit Scholar Semifinalist and captain and leading scorer of the Albuquerque Boys' Academy soccer team.

Congratulations, too, to Lori Larson, daughter of Oliver and Beverly (Knadjian) Larson, named to "Who's Who in U.S. Colleges, one of 36 from the University of New Mexico. She is a Junior in Accounting.

Debra Jane Krikorian, daughter of Nerses and "Pat" Krikorian of Los Alamos visited home recently. Awarded her Ph.D. in Molecular Biology she is currently a post-doctoral fellow, University of California Medical School, San Diego at La Jolla.

Many Association members were pleased to see Haig Bodour's bid for a place on the Board of Education. He and his wife, Kathleen, are parents of two children, Armen, 12 and Adria, 9.

Michael Bayan's Psycho Acoustical Laboratories received an impressive play in the Albuquerque Journal, January 6. You heard his music at two New Year Eve celebrations and at the Armenian Booth, Saturday Night Downtown Festival

Welcome to Avedis Semerjibashian, his wife, Tzhai and their five children who flew in from Ethiopia. They join his sister, Alice, and her husband, Zelalem Alemayehu. They are a multilingual-family, comfortably and variously speaking in Armenian (learned at home and in school in Ethiopia and Cyprus) English, French, Italian, Arabic and Hebrew while the children slip in and out of French, German, English and Amharic.

At the reception following the Holiday Family Service, the five young children from the Saturday Language School sang the song*they have been practising and received a gratifyingly warm audience response. They are Carol and Mickey-Lucero, Ryan Bargas, and Anais and Sarah Chakerian. Carried away by this success, Anais has mastered the melody on her violin (she is 8) and Sarah astonished herself by playing it on the kazoo (and she is 6.)

*Ge hunché zanguh--The schoolbell rings

Associate members Behjet and "Jackie" Khoudary are contemplating life in Saudi Arabia. They may remain there two years. He is with Westinghouse. Aleppo was the home of his grandparents and Baghdad of his childhood. Our pool of Oriental musicians will be seriously diminished. We 'll miss them.

Associate members, Dr. and Mrs. Nabavi (Mehdi and Patricia) and their two children are in Virginia this year. We missed them New Years Eve, at the International Center and will again at the Dance Workshop party.



People...

This is the second year Aram Djirdjirian of Poughkeepsie, New York was in Albuquerque to visit his daughter, Laura Debevec and four grandchildren, during a pastoral visit by His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian. On both occasions Mr. Djirdjirian joined the small choir and provided the needed vocal support. Moreover, he came prepared with a gift this year, four volumes of the complete Badarak, the Divine Liturgy.

Music, Gomidas and Albuquerque

During a visit with Mr. Djirdjirian later, a courtly modest gentleman, we learned that he was one of the organizers of the Gomidas Choir in 1913 at Yerevan Sourp Khatch Church in Kurutchesme, on the Bosphorus. There Easter 1916, Gomidas Vartabed celebrated mass, one year after the terrible events of April 24, 1915. Although he had survived he was seriously ill and it was evident that day said Mr. Djirdjirian. Before the mass Mr. Djirdjirian photographed Gomidas, seated, surrounded with some members of the choir and friends. Is it not an astonishing fact that four members of that choir are in the United States today and one is in Paris, France?

People in Art from Albuquerque

Prof. and Mrs. Garo Antreasian donated to the new acquisitions show at the Museum of New Mexico in the Fine Arts Center as well to the Albuquerque United Artists Benefit Art Auction some months ago...as did Paul Akmajian, a graduate student in Fine Arts. Vahe Guzelimian, donated his work to the current acquisitions exhibit at the FAC. He is from Egypt and awarded his Master of Fine Arts from UNM.

Paul Sarkissian's paintings could be seen at the Nancy Hoffman Gallery, West Broadway, New York City this past October.

At the Schelu Artisans, 306 San Felipe, NW, Old Town you can see Ralph Najarian's hand crafted Bosque cottonwood cannister set. It won a first place ribbon in the Valencia County Fair. Other Najarian items on display include covered jars, miniature pots and candle holders.

Academe

George Harutunian, who teaches Russian at the Career Enrichment Center, lectured to the Saturday Language School on the learning of a second language. Gerald Hurley, scientist at Sandia Base, whose hobby is the learning of languages and reads and speaks Armenian, discussed the joys, application, and trials of doing so. "Purify your language!" he admonished us. Hratch Ter Hacopian gave a four part series on Armenian history as affected by Christianity. The guest lecturers will continue this semester with Nerses Krikorian, scientist at Los Alamos, tentatively scheduled to speak on Armenian poetry and George Arzoumanian on the Armenian vocabulary of mathematical and engineering terms.

Albuquerque Public Library, Downtown: New acquisition in the record loan department. Armenian Festival, Tatul Altounian. Monitor

DANCE!

April 25-26

Yes, at long last another workshop in ARMENIAN DANCE WITH TOM BOZIGIAN April 25 and 26. The workshop will be open to all age groups and ability.

Flyer with details pending

Tom Bozigian is a dynamic, exhilarating instructor. He is a world-renowned specialist in Armenian dance and song, has studied extensively in Armenia and taught all around the world. Time and place will be announced. For information call #265-7864 after April 10, 1981. The fee is nominal.

Juanita Healy, who directs our dance group and instruction and who is primarily responsible for our exceptional quality, gave her first mini-workshop for children at the Saturday School this semester. Featured were the dances prepared by Gary and Susan Lind-Sinanian of Boston, Mass. (They are the happy parents of Raffi, born November 17, 1980)

Our acknowledgement to friends from elsewhere who have encouraged us with letters of congratulation, encouragement, gifts--of books, donations, services--was planned for this newsletter but is delayed again. Our appreciation as an Association is no less for that.

An Important
Announcement

Rabbi Isaac H. Celnik, Congregation B'Nai Israel proposed recently that the study of the Armenian Genocide and the Jewish Holocaust by the religious classes at B'Nai Israel be augmented by students of Armenian descent and further, that the Armenian Genocide be presented by the Armenian Cultural Association. The Genocide has not been presented to the Jewish children in the past and, for us in Albuquerque, only briefly last year at the Saturday Language School.

The proposal follows: Sunday, March 29, 10 am, the Armenian presentation to a combined class of 6th and 7th grades. Monday, March 30, 4:30 to 6 pm, the Armenian presentation to 8th grade and older. The program will be essentially the same although the contents may be modified to protect the younger children.

April 5, the Jewish Holocaust for the 6th and 7th grades, and, Monday afternoon, the same for the older students. Both Armenian and Jewish lecturers will contribute to the summary.

The decision to teach this subject is a serious one. It will be presented carefully, conscientiously and by qualified persons.

Coordinating the plan is Gregozy Devejian. He has asked Annette and Armen Chakerian and Jerry Chakerian to meet with Rabbi Celnik.

We will advise you of developments. If you are the parent of a child whom **you** wish to attend call #256-9266 or #884-3801.

Condolences are offered to the bereaved family of Khoren Karaian, age 88, in Brockton, Mass., father of Azad Burnett (Mrs. Richard Burnett) of Albuquerque. Born in Divrig, in the province of Sepastia (Sivas), he lived in Constantinople before emigrating in 1905. He remained the sole survivor of his family after 1915.

Condolences to the bereaved family of Adrienne Haig, in Los Angeles, sister of Bill Knadjian and the late Jack Knadjian of Albuquerque. With the exception of their father whose death is documented in Viscount Bryce's Blue Book, the family survived the destruction in Urfa (Edessa.) She and her mother were examples of that indomitable strength said to be a characteristic of many Armenian women.

Condolences to the family of Astkhik Kandarian, in Los Angeles, age 93, mother of Zabelle Knadjian of Albuquerque. Daughter of Rev. Soukiasian, province of Garin(Erzeroum) , she was placed in a German orphanage in Smyrna after the death of her mother. A brother in the United States sent for her in 1905 when she was 17 years of age. Those of us who knew her from her visits to Albuquerque will miss this gentle, gracious woman.



Editor: Florence Chakerian
1512 Alvarado Drive, N.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
(505) 256-9266
(505) 265-7864 for A.C.A. of NM

Business

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS FOR NOV 1980--NOV 1981

Elections,
New Officers

- Rita Jamharian Cook, President (1982)
- Jerry Chakerian, Vice President (1982)
- Armen T. Chakerian, Treasurer (1982)
- Elizabeth ("Liz") Carian Lucero, Secretary (1981)
- John Boyadjian (1981)
- Alexander Hachigian (1982)
- Sam Pachanian (1982)
- Garabed Tejirian (1981)
- Gregory Devejian (1981)

For New Mexico
Readers

The enclosed envelope is for your payment of dues this fiscal year, January 1, 1981 to December 31, 1981. Address your check to the Armenian Cultural Assn. of N.M., Inc. Your cancelled check is your receipt. Except for dues, all donations are tax deductible and receipts are provided upon request. Dues: \$10/adult over eighteen A membership card will be provided.

The multipurpose form is for your use. Your opinion is important and, as you can see, the direction of the organization can be influenced accordingly. After the information is processed a Membership and Friends Directory can finally be prepared and sent to you. Thank you.

Cut and mail with your remittance

/ / Dues / / Contribution

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Name/ages children

Others

Do you want a copy of the By-Laws of the Association?

Please check, circle
or explain...

As a member of the Armenian Cultural Association of New Mexico what interests you in its program?

Do you want
the program
expanded?

Social: International Center activities are available on a regular, twice a month basis.

Cultural: We can have guest lecturers on Armenian history, art, music, musical performers on native instruments. We can organize workshops on language, develop tours for young people and/or adults to Armenia, forums on the different aspects and problems of the life of the Armenian people in the world today.

Do you want childrens' activities, young peoples, adults? Religious emphasis? Singing?.....

Please note,
however, that...

Only with a pool of volunteer help can any activity develop. Already our commitments and community participation has run ahead of volunteer personnel. Are you interested in the following? If so, will you help?

International Center activities, folk dancing, fund raising, cultural program(s), secretarial, hospitality, and organizational trouble-shooting.

Your comments: (use the reverse side, if necessary)

Your opinion of the Newsletter: