# **UCFF**



# AREV

Երկամսեայ Տեղեկատաու

**Bimonthly Newsletter** 

Սբ. Գրիգոր Լուսաւորիչ Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական Եկեղեցի St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church Indian Orchard, Massachusetts

July - August 2024



OCTOBER 7, AT 6 PM, ST. GREGORY WELCOMES
HIS HOLINESS CATHOLICOS ARAM I
OF THE GREAT HOUSE OF CILICIA

# **AREV** is The Official Bimonthly Newsletter of

St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church P.O. Box 51064, 135 Goodwin Street Indian Orchard, MA 01151

Tel: (413) 543-4763

e-mail: stgregorymass@yahoo.com

website: http://www.saintgregoryarmenianchurch.org

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PASTOR: Rev. Fr. Bedros Shetilian 24 Edison Drive, Ludlow, MA 01056 Tel: (413) 775-3186 (cell) e-mail: shetilian@gmail.com

#### **CHURCH AREV STAFF & POLICY**

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Liz Setian

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The deadline to submit to Arev, is the 15<sup>th</sup> of every even month, (Feb., April, June, August, October, December).

ALL ARTICLES ARE SUBJECT TO EDITING

#### **CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS**

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Chairperson Tanya Garibian (413) 250-0059 V. Chairperson Vartan Derounian (857) 236 5347 Secretary Ardemis Babaeghian-Walen (413) 567-1775 Co-Treasurers Ed Garibian (413) 218-6243

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ARF Chairperson Gary Setian (413) 567-6514

ARS Chairperson Sonia Arakelian (413) 567-6622

### CHURCH SERVICES TABLE

#### BAPTISM

Church Service Members (Parents only): \$100

Non-Members: \$200

Services of the Priest Members: \$125 Non-Members: \$150

Non-Members:

# WEDDING

Church Service Members (Bride or Groom): \$150

Non-Members: \$350

Services of the Priest Members: \$200

Non-Members: \$250

Services of the Deacon (optional) \$ 50 Services of the Soloist (optional) \$ 50

Services of the Organist (optional) \$ 50

\* \* \*
FUNERAL

Church Service Members: \$ 0

Non-Members: \*\$200
\*There will be no fee charged if the church is named recipient of in-lieu of flowers donations.

Services of the Priest Members; \$175

Non-Members: \$200

If some individuals find the financial services of the Priest a burden, please contact Der Bedros.

\* \* \*

### CHRISTMAS & EASTER HOME BLESSING

Services of the Priest

Honorarium

#### MEMORIAL DAY GRAVE BLESSING

Services of the Priest Honorarium

### CHURCH HALL RENTAL

With Kitchen Members: \$150
Non-Members: \$250
Without Kitchen Members: \$100
Non-Members: \$200

#### ADVERTISEMENT COST

The advertisement page contains business card size spaces. Each space costs \$150 annually or \$25 per issue.

A MEMBER IS A PERSON WHO HAS PAID HIS/HER DUES IN FULL FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS

# → PASTOR'S MESSAGE /

# WELCOME YOUR HOLINESS

For someone like me who grew up in Aleppo, in one of Diaspora's traditional communities, a visit by a Catholicos is significant. I remember back in Aleppo such a visit turned everything upside down not only for the Armenian community but the entire city of Aleppo, of around two million people at that time. The city's traffic stopped completely because Armenians with their hundred cars came to the city's entrance to meet His Holiness. Then all these cars escorted him to the historical Armenian Church of Forty Martyrs in the old part of the city. Imagine Aleppo with its narrow streets and poorly organized traffic. Local Arab people used to say, "The Armenian King is in town". Yes, they called him a king, because that was the impression.

In reality, after the collapse of the last Armenian Kingdom in Cilicia in 1375, many attributes that were once for the king passed to the Catholicos. The most visible of these is the title Vehapar, which originally used for the King. Vehapar is a word made of two words; "veh" means high or highness, "par" means glorified. The Catholicos started using a red seal, which was also one of the king's attributes. And it is not just about the attributes. Since we didn't have an independent country for about six hundred years, the world looked upon the Catholicos not only as a spiritual but also as a political leader of his people.

Some of our people may know and some may not, Aram Vehapar is familiar to our church and community. Still a young priest back in the 70s His Holiness came to the US for his education at Fordham University in New York. During this time he visited our community several times and substituted for other clergy. He stayed at the Setians. Then when he became a Catholicos in 1995, he made his first pontifical visit to the US in 1997 during which he visited our community. So, after twenty seven years, he is visiting us again and every single community of the Prelacy. By the way, this tradition of a Church leader visiting every single parish is common to the Catholicosate of Cilicia and the Prelacy. Not every Church does it. We have the

privilege, but we should not take this for granted and should appreciate the effort of His Holiness as he is now 77 years old.

Aram Vehapar is a very interesting person: highly educated and fluent in English. He is also a good speaker. When I attended the Seminary of the Holy See of Cilicia between 2001-2003, I had the chance to know him. He taught us "Introduction to Theology". I could see how he met with dignitaries who visited him, what he said, and what he did. All of this convinced me that His Holiness is a strategic thinker. I keep saying that if the leaders of Armenia, both the current government and the old one, had listened to him, Armenia would have been in a much position regarding its security international status. It was not a coincidence that between 1991-2005, His Holiness served for two terms of seven years each, as the Chairman of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches headquartered in Geneva, organization similar to the United Nations when it comes to Churches.

For me, this visit brings the privilege of conducting a concert with the Springfield Symphony Orchestra in His Holiness' honor on October 12 at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library's hall in Lexington, Massachusetts. This will also boost our community's image. In fact, this will be the second time for me conducting a concert in His Holiness' honor. Back in 2000, while still a layperson and living in Russia, I was invited to conduct such a concert in Aleppo during one of his pontifical visits. This is truly historical, and we must meet His Holiness on October 7th with proper numbers and in a proper way. Especially after a challenging year for us, I know that His Holiness' visit will bring inspiration and hope in a time when we need them most.

Welcome	Your	Ho.	liness	
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— Pastor —

# COMMUNITY NEWS A

# Our deepest condolences:

- ☐ To the family of Kavork "Mike" Merigian Jr. on his recent passing.
- ☐ To the family of Sonia Meregian her recent passing.

May God illuminate their souls.

# **Prayers:**

☐ Our prayers for Bethel Charkoudian (Karoun Charkoudian's mother) and her family. She was put on hospice care at her home in Newton, MA and is surrounded by her husband Levon, her four children and a son- and daughter-in-law.

Please submit community news to Liz Setian at (413) 596-3411.



# St. Gregory Memorial Garden



Persons wishing to remember their loved ones, should consider an engraved brick in our Memorial Garden. The name or names of the individual(s) you wish to remember will be engraved on the brick and placed in the Garden Walkway. The cost is \$150 for each brick. Interested parties should contact Bedros Setian (413-552-6336) and provide an exact written description of what is to be placed on the brick.

# WEDDING AND BAPTISM PLANNING

When planning any weddings or baptisms, please check with Der Hayr first to confirm his availability before making other arrangements. Thank you.

#### **HOUSE BLESSINGS**

It is a tradition to have a house blessing once a year. Those wishing to do so, please contact Der Bedros at the church office 413-543-4763 or call his cell phone 413-775-3186 and he will be happy to bless your home.

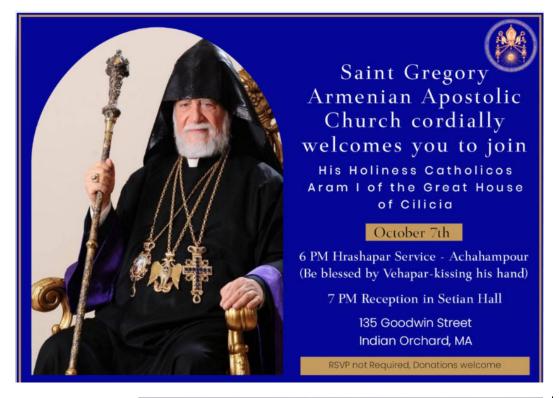
**Church website:** 

http://www.saintgregoryarmenianchurch.org
@armenian.st.gregorys



# SAVE THE DATES

- ☐ October 7:
  Aram
  Vehapar will
  visit Indian
  Orchard.
- October 12:
  Concert in
  honor of
  Vehapar
  Conducted by
  Rev. Bedros
  Shetilian in
  Lexington, MA at
  6:30 pm



□ November 2: St. Gregory Fall Festival. Details to follow.



# CONCERT IN HONOR OF HIS HOLINESS CATHOLICOS ARAM I OF THE GREAT HOUSE OF CILICIA

SARGIS KARAPETYAN, VIOLIN
REV. Fr. BEDROS SHETILIAN, CONDUCTOR

Works by J. Strauss, Barber, Vivaldi, Mozart, and Fr. Komitas-Aslamazian

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024, 6:30 P.M.

SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC MUSEUM & LIBRARY 33 MARRETT RD, LEXINGTON, MA 02421

# ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS A

# **BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS**

In recent times, our community has encountered a series of challenges. However, it is truly inspiring to witness the way in which we have come together with love, support, and care for one another. We have planned a range of events and activities for the upcoming fall season to further foster this connection and continue to build up our community.

We are delighted to announce that the Vehapar will be visiting us on October 7th. To honor his presence, we will be hosting a special service in our sanctuary followed by a reception in our Church Hall. The Prelacy will also be sponsoring a concert which will be conducted by Der Hayr and performed by the Springfield Orchestra symphony on October 12th in Lexington, MA. This promises to be a memorable event.

We are excited to announce our annual fall food festival on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, which is sure to be a joyful celebration of our community. Additionally, we are relaunching our online Bible studies, providing a valuable opportunity for spiritual growth and connection. Of course, our weekly church services on Sundays remain a cornerstone of our community. We encourage you to join us and experience the strength and support that comes from gathering together in worship.

We would also like to take a moment to congratulate Armenia's Olympians for their outstanding achievements. Artur Aleksanyan won the silver medal in Men's Greco-Roman Wrestling, Artur Davtyan won the silver medal in the Men's Vault, Malkhas Amoyan won the bronze medal in Men's Greco-Roman Wrestling, and Varazdat Lalayan won the silver medal in the men's +102 kg weightlifting division. We are immensely proud of their accomplishments and wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

The Board is actively working on several initiatives including some renovations of our Church Hall this fall to enhance our Church life. To stay informed about upcoming events and news, we encourage you to sign up for our weekly email updates on our website at www.saintgregoryarmenianchurch.org.

Your continued support and participation are greatly appreciated.

Thank you, and may we continue to grow in love and unity.

— Board of Trustees —



#### ARMENIAN RELIEF SOCIETY NEWS

We pray for good health for our *ungerouhis*; Margaret Garibian, Varteni Murphy, Ginny Remillard and Kaline Arakelian.

We plan to resume our meetings in the fall. We wish you a good summer!

— Sonia Arakelian —



# **THRIFT SHOP NEWS**

The Saint Gregory Thrift Shop was initiated two years ago for the purpose of raising funds to help with the operational costs of the Church. We are happy to have helped.

The secondary purpose was to make a better presence in the Indian Orchard/Springfield and surrounding communities by providing an affordable venue for the community. We attracted many neighbors to the church shop, making good connections.

We also provided much needed survival goods, free to those who needed assistance. We have given to our neighbors, the Salvation Army, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and the Indian Orchard Survival Center.

The operation of the Shop was very time consuming for our few volunteers and therefore, we will be CLOSED after the final sale of September 6-7.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. Y our contributions have made a significant difference and we are grateful for the support you have shown us.

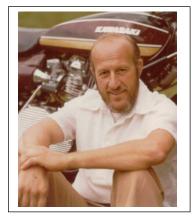
— Ginny Remillard — — Nora Santourian —

— Diane Benson — — Kenneth Menard —

— Thrift Shop Volunteers —



# ✓ IN MEMORY / ✓



# KAVORK "MIKE" MERIGIAN JR. OBITUARY

Kavork "Mike"
Merigian Jr., 89, a
lifelong resident of
Indian Orchard,
passed away after a
long illness on July 24
at LifeCare Center of
Wilbraham. He was
recently deceased by

his devoted, loving wife of 54 years, Marion (Derderian) Merigian. Mike was the son of Areknaz & Kavork Merigian. His sisters Alma & Virginia, brother George, nephews Sam & Jeff, and grandniece Toni predeceased him.

Mike attended vocational school and served in the U.S. Army in Ft. Benning, GA. A businessman in the Springfield area for many years, he and Marion owned and operated the original Top of the Hill restaurant in Wilbraham, Verge Street Auto, Route 20 Auto and the Bottom of the Hill restaurant.

Mike leaves his dearest brother-in-law Harry Derderian, Jr. (Margo). Uncle Juni, as he was known, also leaves nieces and grand nieces and nephews in the Wilbraham area. Mike was a loving, caring uncle and cousin to the Merigian, Meregian, Dirazonian, Derderian and Peligian families.

A heartfelt, sincere thank you to the LifeCare Center staff for all they did for Mike and Marion since 2020.

Funeral services were held on Monday, July 29, 2024 at Nowak Funeral & Cremation Services, 15 Ludlow Ave, Indian Orchard, MA. Calling hours were from 10-11 a.m. followed by a funeral service at 11 a.m. and burial at Oak Grove Cemetery in Springfield.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to St. Gregory Armenian Church, <a href="https://saintgregoryarmenianchurch.org/donate-">https://saintgregoryarmenianchurch.org/donate-</a>

today, P.O. Box 51064, 135 Goodwin St., Indian Orchard, MA 01151.

To offer online condolences, please visit www.nowakfuneral.com.

To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of Kavork Michael Merigian, Jr., please visit our <u>Tree</u> Store.

In Lieu of Flowers donations:

Robert Boghosian Harry & Margo Derderian Sonia Meregian Varoujan & Nora Santourian
Gary Setian Total: \$770
Leo & Liz Vartanian

### SONIA MEREGIAN OBITUARY

Sonia (nee Mangasarian) Meregian passed away peacefully at home on August 4, 2024 at the age of 86. Born and raised in Whitinsville, MA to the late Krikor and Elizabeth (nee Derderian) Mangasarian, Sonia was a devoted Daughter, Wife, Mother and Grandmother whose deep faith guided She will forever be every aspect of her life. remembered for the unconditional love and kindness she bestowed upon her family and friends. A native New Englander born to Armenian immigrants, much of Sonia's childhood was shaped by the relationships she fostered within the closeknit Armenian-centric community of Whitinsville, as well as her Father's untimely death when she was 6 years old. She was regarded as a true "hometown girl" who was proud of her humble upbringing and never forgot her roots by visiting Whitinsville as often as she could throughout her life. graduated from Northbridge High School in 1956 where she honed her musical ability as a member of After graduation, music the school chorus. continued to be a prominent part of her life. She became a member of the Armenian Choral Group which originated in Whitinsville and was founded under the direction of Hayr Soorp Oshagan Minassian. She held the title of Church Soloist at St. Gregory Armenian Church in Indian Orchard for nearly 50 years, and whose angelic voice graced thousands of church services, weddings, funerals and events during that time. Sonia always said that God gave her the gift of a beautiful voice which she enthusiastically shared with others.

Sonia earned a Medical Secretary degree from Becker College in 1958 and subsequently worked at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester for many years. It was during this time that she was set up on a blind date with John Meregian, a fellow Armenian from Wilbraham, MA, whom she fell in love with and dated for a short nine months before marrying him in October 1963. She was predeceased by John in 2021, but together for 57 years, John and Sonia built a life of love, honor, and lots of golf! It was John who introduced and encouraged Sonia to play golf. And golf they did! They played several times a week for close to 50 years and were longtime members of both Twin Hills Country Club in Longmeadow, MA and Martin Downs Country Club in Palm City, FL.

Sonia's love for her family was rivaled only by her pride for her Armenian heritage and religion. During her teen and early adult years, she was a very active member of the Armenian Youth



Federation (AYF) where she met many lifelong friends. She continued to be active in the Armenian community later in life as a member of the Armenian Relief Society (ARS) and the St. Gregory Armenian Church Ladies Guild. Sonia was also known for baking exceptionally tasty breads and cookies, which she made for family, friends and many church bazaars and functions.

Perhaps most of all, Sonia was regarded for her vibrant and gregarious personality. She could light up a room with her infectious smile, while her warm and self-assured demeanor put others at ease and made her very easy to talk to. This was evident in the work she engaged in over the years. Sonia worked in retail at Steiger's and Cherry & Webb in Longmeadow for almost 20 years where she enjoyed servicing her customers while also engaging with them socially. Sonia was a civic minded woman who worked as a long-time election poll worker in East Longmeadow and volunteered weekly, until her death, at both the Longmeadow and East Longmeadow Senior Centers. Through her knitting circle, she spent hundreds of hours knitting shawls for cancer patients at Baystate Medical Center. She was a person who found pleasure in simple everyday events like chance meetings with friends at the grocery store and volunteering at the Senior Center Café where she was known as the "lady with the best tasting coffee".

Sonia was the loving and devoted mother to Tanya (nee Meregian) Minassian and her Husband Serge, and Nicole Meregian and her longtime partner Stephen Hahn. Sonia especially adored her two Granddaughters, Arianna and Sophia Minassian, with whom she loved to knit, bake choreg and paklava, and share her words of wisdom. Sonia was the most compassionate, most wise and most loving Mother and Grandmother that our family could

have ever asked for. She was the consummate Matriarch and fountain of strength and humility, who inspired our family. Her passing leaves a void in our hearts and we will miss her dearly.

The wake was held at Byron Keenan Funeral Home 1858 Allen Street, Springfield, MA on Friday, August 9th from 4-6pm. The funeral was held at St.

Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church, 135 Goodwin Street, Indian Orchard, MA on Saturday, August 10th at 10am followed by burial at Longmeadow Cemetery. Donations in memory of Sonia may be sent to Camp Haiastan of the AYF, P.O. Box C, 722 Summer Street, Franklin, MA 02038.

# In Lieu of Flowers donations:

ARS Springfield Chapter	Calliope Hoffman	Dorothy Piligian
Helen & George Coulombe	Arlene Meregian	Tom & Ardemis Walen
Harry & Margo Derderian	Marguerite Meregian	
Vartan & Grace Derounian	Naomi Noyes	
Aram & Rita Fereshetian	Nick Panasian	<b>Total: \$525</b>



# IN LIEU OF FLOWERS DONATIONS FOR SIMA SETIAN PARISEAU & DYLAN PARISEAU

Isabel Avedikian	Carmen Muradian & Family	Linda Scibelli
Lilian Avedisian	Nick Panasian	<b>Dawn Soave</b>
Helen & George Coulombe	Dorothy Piligian	Pat Tessier
Claudia Muradian-Brubach	Rice Fruit Farm	
& Family	Hasmig Samurkashian	Total: \$975



# **July 2024**

,			For:	Sima & Dylan Pariseau 40 days		
For:	Lukas Noyes on his birthday 7/15	, Adrienne	By:	Liz & Leo Vartanian	\$ 100	
-	Mchtessian	<b>0</b> 40		Zarouhi & Veken Kebabjian	\$ 20	
By:	Naomi Noyes	\$ 40		Sonia Arakelian	\$ 25	
For:	Milena Aro Zeren			Gabriel & Simone Arakelian	20	
By:	Nadin & Roland Zeren	\$ 200		Harry & Margo Derderian	\$ <b>50</b>	
Dj. Tuum w Holand Zeren	1 (WWIII OF 110 WILL 201 OI	Ψ <b>2</b> 00		Tom & Ardemis Walen	\$ <b>200</b>	
For:	Hagop Daugher			Vartan & Grace Derounian	\$ <b>50</b>	
By:	Susie Daugher	\$ 200		Mari Tarpinian	\$ <b>200</b>	
For:	Cousins: Hugo Sourmeyan, Silvya Aram Babaeghian, Kevork Babae			Varoujan & Nora Santourian Susan & Arianna Tarpinian Lucy Tarpinian	\$ 30 200 200	
By:	Tom, Ardemis & Alexandra Walen	\$ 100		Harry & Liz Setian, Peter Setian, Steven Setian, Sophie Pariseau		
Augu	st 2024			Ed & Sue Lantzakis Richard & Sonia Matulewicz	\$ 100 100 50	
For: By:	Sara Mary Matulewicz Richard & Sonia Matulewicz	\$ 50		Sandra Villante	\$	
Dy.	Michai u & Sulla Matulewicz	y Ju				

# ∧ GIFTS ∧

Wishing Joy for grandson Axel Zeren For: Susie Daugher By:





Michelle Wirth

mobile main email

web

direct | 413.624.4111 201.312.5427 413.624.4100

mwirth@mbspringfield.com www.mbspringfield.com

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# **WORSHIP HOURS**

Divine Liturgy 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Visitors are warmly welcomed to come and join us in worship. Fellowship hour is held every Sunday after the Divine Liturgy (Badarak).

# CHURCH CALENDAR A

**SEPT** 

Sunday 1 Coffee hour by Retired Ladies' Guild members

**Sunday 8** Coffee hour by Armenian Relief Society

Sunday 15 EXHALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS; Coffee hour by Board of Trustees

Sunday 22 Coffee hour by Men's Club

Sunday 29 HOLY CROSS OF VARAK; Coffee hour by St. Gregory community

**O**CTOBER

Sunday 6 Coffee hour by Retired Ladies' Guild members

Monday 7 VEHAPAR VISIT

Saturday 12 VEHAPAR CONCERT

Sunday 13 Coffee hour by Armenian Relief Society

Sunday 20 ASSUMPTION; Coffee hour by Board of Trustees

Sunday 27 Coffee hour by Men's Club

**NOVEMBER** 

Saturday 2 ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL AT ST. GREGORY CHURCH

Please Remember St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church in Your Will