

# Community News

## Chicago Parish Marks 50 Years

CHICAGO – Parishioners of the St. Gregory the Illuminator Church of Chicago, celebrated their 50th anniversary at the church's current location, during the weekend of October 17-19. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), visited the parish to ordain acolytes, meet with community members, and take part in the celebratory banquet on Sunday.

The Primate celebrated the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, October 19, and gave a sermon on the Holy Translators. Also taking part in the service was the Very Rev. Aren Jebejian, parish pastor, and the Rev. Nersess Jebejian. Rev. Thomas Baima, Vicar for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations at the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, was in attendance. Khoren Mekanejian, the Diocese's director of Music Ministry, led the choir.

At the afternoon banquet, the community welcomed Roman Catholic Archbishop of Chicago Francis Cardinal George. Cardinal George spoke about his close ties with the Armenian Church, and especially the warm relationship he shares with St. Gregory the Illuminator Church.

Barsamian expressed his gratitude to George for his friendship and support, and presented him with a decorative Michael Aram plate. "Cardinal George is a great friend of the Armenian Church, and a personal mentor to the pastor, Fr. Aren Jebejian, Barsamian said. "He is an example of holiness and resolution in this city, and in the larger culture of our country."

He went on to speak about the achievements of the Chicago Armenian community. "I know this is a parish with a proud history behind it," he said. "It has been blessed with leaders of vision: great individuals who loved the church, and truly upheld its spiritual values."

Pianist Marta Aznavourian presented musical selections. Messages were also delivered by Parish Council Chair Arden Karian and Craig Koresian, chair of the 50th Anniversary Committee.

"I could not have been more proud of the way our committee honored all of the men and women of the past 50 years, who dedicated their lives to making sure that we had an Armenian Church in Chicago," Koresian said.

"Fifty years ago I took part in the consecration of St. Gregory and I was honored to participate in the 50th anniversary celebration last weekend," said parishioner George Nahabedian. "It was a wonderful weekend and something I will always remember."

Parishioner Linda Zakarian added that the celebration was a tribute to "a small group who built this church as their legacy."

The banquet meal was prepared by Carrie Nahabedian, an internationally recognized chef, and her cousin Michael Nahabedian. The two operate Chicago's renowned Naha and Brindille restaurants. "It was such an honor to be part of our church's 50th anniversary celebration," they said. "St. Gregory is our home, and to think that our ancestors had the vision, strength, and commitment to build a home for all the Armenians in Chicago, makes us very proud."

The parish now known as St. Gregory the Illuminator Church was formed in Chicago in the early part of the 20th century. Under the guidance of various clergy, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated in a local Episcopal church. It was not until 1925 that the Armenian community purchased its first permanent house of worship at the corner of Hoyne Avenue and Augusta Boulevard. In the spring of 1926, Archbishop Tirayr Hovhannesian consecrated the church and named it St. Gregory the Illuminator.

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YSIP interns enjoying the sights and sounds of Yerevan.

## AGBU Celebrates Another Summer of Programs for Young Adults

NEW YORK – For students about to enter the professional world, the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) offers programs that not only allow them to gain valuable work experience, but also connect with their heritage. This year, Armenian youth participated in internships, musical and community service programs that helped them solidify their career aspirations and strengthen their ties to Armenians around the globe.

In New York, 33 undergraduate and graduate students from Armenia, Brazil, Canada, France, Lebanon, Romania, Syria, the United Kingdom and the United States participated in the New York Summer Internship Program (NYSIP). As the flagship program in AGBU's internship opportunities, NYSIP provided a combination of critical experience in a chosen field and immersion in one of the most energetic and exciting cities. Interns were placed in prestigious institutions like Michael Aram, Deutsche Bank, Human Rights Watch and the NYU Medical Center.

The program also brought students of Armenian descent closer to their roots. For Villanova University student Samantha Testa, the intellectually stimulating environment that NYSIP created prompted her to learn more about her heritage after the program: "I am a quarter Armenian by blood, but I have always felt that I am more Armenian in my heart. Since the end of the program, I have taken it upon myself to start taking Armenian lessons so I can learn to read, write and speak the language. NYSIP has made me appreciate where I came from even more than I already did."

While interns in New York were taking their first steps into the professional world, 20 students from Austria, Bulgaria, Lebanon, The Netherlands, Russia and the United States were also gaining valuable work experience in the Yerevan Summer Internship Program (YSIP). Interns in Yerevan were placed in a diverse range of companies and institutions, including the Armenian British Business Chamber, Armenian Monuments Awareness Project (AMAP), Byblos Bank and Storaket Architectural Studio, as well as medical centers and non-profit organizations.

After spending the summer discovering their homeland through YSIP, many interns have returned to work on special projects. A 2011 YSIP participant, Shushan Sargsian, returned to the program this year as the activities coordinator because of the wonderful experience she had as an intern: "As activities coordinator in 2014, I had the opportunity to work with AGBU in Yerevan. It was an

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Discover Armenia participants help build a new home for a local family through the Fuller Center for Housing.

## Hrant Dink Memorial Lecture Nov. 13

By Tom Vartabedian

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – It has been nearly eight years since Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink was gunned down in the streets of Istanbul, causing an international outcry.

Yet his memory still lives on, even stronger than before.

To say it saddened an entire habitat of 8 million Armenians is putting it mildly, not to mention the hundreds of thousands of Turks who still mourn his loss.

Hrant Dink's death resonated around the world. And time has not diluted the influence he carried as an editor, journalist and columnist for a bilingual newspaper, *Agos*.



The late Hrant Dink

"His death resonates to this day and carries with it a vengeance that underscores man's inhumanity toward man," said Harry Parsekian, president, Friends of Hrant Dink. "His legacy will never fade. Justice still has not been served."

A Hrant Dink Memorial Peace and Justice lecture will take place Thursday, November 13, at 6 p.m. at Yenching Auditorium, 2 Divinity Ave., on the campus of Harvard University.

The event is being sponsored by the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard.

Keynote speaker will be Rashid Khalidi, Edward Said professor of Modern Arab Studies at Columbia University. His subject will be: "Unhealed Wounds of World War 1: Armenia, Kurdistan and Palestine."

Introductory remarks will be rendered by Dink's widow, Raket, representing the Hrant Dink Foundation in Istanbul.

Khalidi is a Palestinian-Lebanese American historian of the Middle East and professor of Modern Arab Studies at Columbia. He is director of the Middle East Institute of Columbia's School of International & Public Affairs, also known for editing the scholarly *Journal of Palestine Studies*.

Dink was best known for advocating Turkish-Armenian reconciliation, marked by human rights in Turkey. He was often critical of Turkey's denial of the Genocide and was prosecuted three times for denigrating Turkish policies while receiving numerous death threats from Turkish nationalists.

"Who can forget the man and his allegiance to his beloved heritage?" Parsekian added. "He lived for it and ultimately died for it."

The program is free and open to the public. Seating is limited.



Rashid Khalidi



## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Rakel Dink Will Be Special Guest at AIWA Reception on Nov. 14



Rakel Dink

ARLINGTON, Mass. — Rakel Dink, widow of the Hrant Dink, the Armenian journalist shot on the streets of Istanbul in January 2007, will be the special guest at a reception hosted by the Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA) at the Armenian Cultural Foundation (ACF) on Friday, November 14.

Dink is widely admired for the courage and dignity she has exhibited in the years since her husband was assassinated by a Turkish nationalist in broad daylight in front of his office at *Agos*, the newspaper he had founded in 1996. His funeral brought out an unprecedented number of Armenian and Turkish mourners to the street of Istanbul.

Since that time she has dedicated her life to contin-

uing the humanitarian principles espoused by her late husband.

Rakel Dink will be in the Boston area to make introductory remarks at the Hrant Dink Memorial Peace and Justice Lecture on November 13 at the Yenching Auditorium, Harvard University.

At AIWA's fifth international conference in Buenos Aires in 2008, she was presented with a special Humanitarian Award, in recognition of her efforts to advance justice and human rights in the world. She was also the special guest at a reception sponsored by AIWA in Boston in early 2009.

A native of Silopi, a small town in Turkey near the Iraqi border, Rakel Dink was one of 13 children. Her

mother died when she was 8, and the following year she was sent to school in Istanbul. During the summers, she attended a camp in Tuzla, a suburb of Istanbul, where she met her husband. Following their marriage in 1976, the newlyweds took over the administration of the camp and the care of countless Armenian children.

After the camp was closed, in 1983, Rakel Dink devoted herself to the care of the couple's three children. She now has also several grandchildren.

"An Evening With Rakel Dink" is open to the public free of charge and will take place at the Armenian Cultural Foundation, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Reservations are encouraged by contacting AIWA at aiwainc@aol.com.

## AGBU Celebrates Another Summer of Programs for Young Adults

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amazing experience to see how all kinds of businesses and organizations are being run in Yerevan and it made me begin to think about the possibility of ending up in Armenia long-term at some point along my own professional path."

For Beverly Gantt, a 2012 YSIP participant, YSIP inspired her to stay in Armenia immediately after the program's end: "After I completed the program, I knew I wanted to return to Armenia. In 2013 I was awarded a 2013-2014 Fulbright grant in Armenia by the US Department of State. After the completion of my grant, I returned to Armenia once again and am currently employed as a teacher at both the American University of Armenia's Extension Program and the Armenian National Lycée after Anania Shirakatsy."

### Musical Armenia Program (MAP)

Together with the AGBU Musical Armenia Program (MAP), the YSIP interns traveled to Nagorno-Karabagh for a long weekend, participated in the AGBU Antranik Scout Camp's bonfire night and lived in the brand new AGBU Vahe Karapetyan Residence Hall. This strong cross-program cohesion helped the students

solidify their sense of identity, establish meaningful peer friendships, and better understand Armenia's rich history and bright future.

With a goal of nurturing the diverse talents of musically gifted young Armenians in their homeland, MAP united 12 participants from Canada, Cyprus, Lebanon, Qatar, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, Uruguay and the United States and brought them closer to the artistic heritage of the Armenian people.

Taking one-on-one lessons with renowned professors from the Komitas State Music Conservatory and attending lectures on the ancient Armenian notational system [*khaz*], in addition to Armenian classical, jazz and minstrel genres, the students focused exclusively on Armenian music, which they showcased during the Gala Concert at the Naregatsi Arts Institute at the close of the session. Alik Jébéjian, a young flautist from Cyprus, notes the importance of these lessons in her experience: "My teacher taught me how to express my feelings through my instrument, my flute, and most importantly, how to live out my music, especially



A NYSIP intern hard at work at the NYU Medical Center.



A Musical Armenia participant practices the kanun.



JANUARY 12-22, 2015

A SPIRITUALLY-UPLIFTING 10-DAY JOURNEY to the Holy Land.

VISIT THE HOLIEST SITES OF OUR FAITH, including guided tours of Jerusalem, Jericho, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea, the Jordan River, Tiberias, and Qumran.

TOUR JERUSALEM'S ARMENIAN QUARTER, the Sts. James Armenian Monastery and the Armenian Patriarchate, and be received by His Beatitude Archbishop Nourhan Manougian, the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem.

TRAVEL TO THE CITY OF OUR LORD'S BIRTH—Bethlehem—to celebrate Christ's Nativity with a Christmas procession and a midnight Divine Liturgy on January 18-19.

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Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)  
630 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10016  
www.armenianchurch-ed.net

The cost of \$2,598\* (plus \$50 administrative fee) per person includes:

- \* Roundtrip airfare from JFK to Tel Aviv, via El Al Airlines (depart January 12, return January 22)
- \* Accommodations at Jerusalem's Notre Dame Hotel, double occupancy (single rooms available for an additional \$550)
- \* Buses, driver, guide, entrance fees
- \* Breakfast and dinner daily
- \* All gratuities and taxes

\*Per person cost without airfare is \$1,698 (plus \$50 administrative fee)

For details, contact Fr. Mardiros Chevian, the pilgrimage coordinator, at (914) 636-2003; or e-mail dean@stnersess.edu

Questions about registration can be directed to Educational Opportunities Tours, at (800) 247-0017, ext. 385. You can also contact your local parish pastor for information on the trip and the application form.

A \$300 deposit is required with registration.  
Full and final payment must be made by December 1, 2014.

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY

www.armenianchurch-ed.net/programming/pilgrimages

Armenian music. I still am so overwhelmed by the amazing welcome we had from AGBU. MAP 2014 was a way to reconnect with my roots – my homeland – through what I love doing most: playing music."

Though MAP is one of the youngest AGBU programs, it has already established itself as an entry point for the professional world and for repatriation. Some alumni made the decision to call Armenia their new home and continue their involvement with the program; other MAP students were offered professional contracts in Armenia and Europe. Still others are now work-

ing on projects in their own cities to bring recognition to Armenian composers.

### Discover Armenia

Also in Armenia this summer were a record number of participants in the Discover Armenia program, which has been bringing together diasporan youth from all over the world for 11 years to connect with their heritage over the course of three weeks in their ancestral homeland. Among the main goals of the program is for youth ages 15 to 18 to form lifelong bonds with their global peers and return home with a greater sense of responsibility toward their Armenian community.

This year, 44 teenagers from Canada, France, Lebanon, Russia, Syria and the United States helped build a new home for a local family through the Fuller Center for Housing, a US-based non-profit housing ministry. They also served lunch and chatted with the pensioners at AGBU's Senior Dining Center, spent time with children in an orphanage, took Armenian folk song, dance and pottery classes at the AGBU Nork Children's Center and visited landmarks in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh. For the first time in the history of the Discover Armenia program, the group also visited the ruins of Ani from the Armenian side of the Turkish-Armenian border.

### Seeking Advertising Representative

The *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* is seeking a part-time advertising sales representative, starting immediately.

Salary will be based on commission only. Hours are flexible.

If interested in the position, contact Hasmik Saroyan at 617-924-4420 or email resume and contact information to [mirrorads75@gmail.com](mailto:mirrorads75@gmail.com)