

## Ararat Home Thanks Supporters for Picnic Success

By Cindy Kaloostian

MISSION HILLS: The Ararat Home Annual Picnic on Sunday, September 23, 2012 was a great success. Chairman of the event, Mike Surmeian, said, "As usual, it was a total team effort." Mike and committee members, William Kevorkian, Galen Petoyan, Shant Derkazarian, Richard Jebejian, Maggie Goshen and Luke Surmeian all did their part as well as an additional 150 volunteers who filled positions on the day of the picnic. While the Los Angeles Chapter of the Triple X Fraternity and the Los Angeles Jr. Triple X did the lion's share of the food ordering, prep and serving, don't forget the ladies of the

Ararat Home Auxiliary and the Guilds who prepared and sold the much sought after baked goods and desserts... always with a smile.

The day was warm, but that didn't keep the Najarian Ensemble from playing wonderful music in the courtyard to the delight of those who couldn't bear to sit still and took the opportunity to get up and dance. The Ara Dance Group, in full costume, was thrilling to see; such attractive young people putting their all into their art. Wonderful! Members of Knights of Vartan Sevan Lodge manned the shuttle vans all day so no one had a long walk to and from the additional parking lots down the hill.

There appeared to be more

## 2012 AUA Interns Discuss Experiences

YEREVAN — Several interns brought their enthusiasm and determination to American University of Armenia (AUA) this summer to tackle projects related to their field of study, interest, and profession.

Typically, the AUA intern program attracts candidates from throughout the world. This year was no exception as interns from the United States: Gabriel Armas-Cardona, Ani Hovaspayan, Nora Minassian, Taylor Phillips, Mary Topchyan, Christine Serdjian, along with Patil Halajian from Canada and Syrian native Beno Balian, worked alongside faculty to conduct research and analysis.

New York University Law School graduate Gabriel Armas-Cardona chose AUA's internship program not only because of the university's prestige, but also because of the engagement of the faculty.

With a keen interest in engineering, Southern California native Taylor Phillips was thrilled to be placed in the engineering department at AUA. "I had a great and enriching experience. The faculty members were all engaging and knowledgeable, and they helped to foster and expand my interest in engineering. I cannot wait to return to AUA in the future," stressed the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) intern.

For University of Aleppo graduate Beno Balian, the internship at AUA was an opportunity to visit Armenia for the first time and to forge new bonds. "I am doing an internship at the American University of Armenia and having fun with my new friends," gleams the mechanical engineer who was placed at AUA through the AGBU Yerevan Summer Internship Program, along with fellow interns Phillips and Topchyan.

Anna Aghajanian revealed she was "pleasantly surprised" by the similarities between her California-based university and AUA. Besides her duties in AUA's Extension office, Anna also worked in an English instruction class.

Born in Yerevan, Ani Hovaspayan moved to Los Angeles and currently attends University of California Berkeley. She chose the AUA summer internship to "best utilize the skills that I've acquired through my education at UC Berkeley, while at the same time benefiting Armenia," stressed Ani.

With a commitment to doing just that, Ani also worked at the Women's Resource Center, Armenia.

Having worked at a centralized application processing company, Boston resident Nora Minassian felt fortunate to gain an internship working for AUA's Accreditation Director and Director of Admissions and Recruitment.

"The experiences I have gained at AUA are immeasurable. Working in both the accreditation and the recruitment offices, Minassian also had the opportunity to visit local villages to fulfill recruitment efforts for the new program. "It was a gratifying and truly mutually beneficial," stressed the Armenian Youth Federation intern.

True to her roots, Luys Foundation Fellow and Birthright Armenia Board Member Christine Serdjian provided valuable assistance in launching AUA's Fall 2013 undergraduate program.

"We are fortunate to have such talented interns," stressed Sharistan Melkonian, Director of Accreditation. "Their perspective and enthusiasm to tackle our many projects are immeasurably valuable."

children, teens and teens present and serving in important capacities this year. Might that have something to do with teenager Luke Surmeian being on the committee? From the parking lots to the carnival booths to the serving lines, fresh young faces were taking on responsibility. Happy to see it, and hopefully, it's a trend.

Certainly, many thanks go to the individuals and organizations, which underwrite and sponsor the picnic each year with monetarily and with product and service donations. It would be much less profitable to hold the picnic without them. And, while the picnic is a great opportunity to eat delicious shish kebab, to win fabulous raffle prizes and to get together and enjoy seeing dear old friends and making new ones, the Home benefits greatly from every penny earned.

Chairman Mike wanted to be sure to mention several key employees of the Home who help in most valuable ways: all the wonderful kitchen staff, Suren from Maintenance, Derik Ghookasian, Contoller and especially Beatrice Malkhasian who works diligently for the picnic "before, during and after."

## TCA Arshag Dickranian School Celebrates Armenian Cultural Month

LOS ANGELES - TCA Arshag Dickranian School held an assembly on October 16 in celebration of the month of October as the Armenian Cultural Month. Organized by the Armenian Language and Literature Department, the theme of the event was the Golden Age of Armenian Literature during the 5th century. This event was one of many activities scheduled this month to celebrate the Armenian culture.

The event began at 2:45 p.m. after students and guests gathered at the school's plush Walter & Laurel Karabian Hall where High school Armenian teacher Anahit Nasoyan welcomed them and invited keynote speaker of the event, editor of The Armenian Observer newspaper and school board member, Osheen Keshishian to the podium. He emphasized on the importance of passing the Armenian identity on, stating that today's student is tomorrow's parent.

Following Keshishian's speech, MC of the event 10th-grade student Menua Yesayan invited 5th grade student Victoria Topalian to the podium, who recited the poem "Armenia" by Hovannes Grigoryan. Next, 10th grade students put on performances highlighting the work of various renowned Armenian writers, poets and musicians. Louisa Hekimyan played the piece "Melody" by Arno Babajanian on the piano, after which 10th grade students Karlen Shahbazyan recited "Armenian Language" by Yeghishe



Mr. and Mrs. Stein

## Haigazian University Trustees Nov. 17 Banquet to Honor Joyce Philibosian Stein

LOS ANGELES - Haigazian University President, Dr. Paul Haidostian and the Board of Trustees will honor Mrs. Joyce Philibosian Stein at a banquet on November 17, at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, 6p.m. Social Hour and Dinner 7p.m.

The celebratory evening will focus on Mrs. Stein's life as she

is fulfilling her father's legacy as Chair of the Philibosian Foundation. Her father, Steven Philibosian, being a young immigrant to New York from Hadjin, successfully built an Oriental rug business. He formed a foundation to serve the Armenian people through the Armenian Missionary Association of America, AMAA. He was also one of the founders of Haigazian University fifty-five years ago—the only Armenian university outside of the Soviet Union.

While living in Philadelphia Mrs. Stein was active in her community involvement and philanthropy by being a member of the support committee and personal friend of Maestro Eugene Ormandy of the Philadelphia Orchestra. She became a major fundraiser for the Children's Hospital in Philadelphia, serving as chair of the "Daisy Day Fund" and persuading Presidents Eisenhower and Reagan to be Honorary Chairs. Most recently, she has supported the Reagan Library in Simi, California.

After moving to Los Angeles with her family, she served as President of the Los Angeles Women's Auxiliary for over ten years. Her many connections in the art and music-world afforded the Auxiliary to hold extraordinarily successful fundraising events—realizing over one million dollars for scholarships to deserving Armenian students at Haigazian University.

Joyce and Pesa Joe, her devoted husband of 58 years, are a couple to be admired. Joe says that he is an "Armenian by Choice". They find great joy in serving their communities together, wherever they are. They, with their two daughters, Stephanie Landes and Tina Segel, along with husbands Michael and David, and their six grandchildren, are totally committed to the Philibosian Foundation's outreach. The family Patriarch, Stephen Philibosian and mother Sirpuhe would be rightfully proud.

All are invited to attend this joyous event. For banquet information, call Joyce Abdulian 323-654-8031 or joyceabdulian@gmail.com

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