A first photo of the Armenian Genocide Memorial and Church in Der Zor, dynamited by ISIS on Sunday, 9/21/2014.

This is the Church visited by Laura Petrosian at the end of "The Sandcastle Girls."

On Sunday September 21st, 2014, ISIS dynamited the Church and Genocide Memorial in Der Zor This is considered the Auschwitz of the Armenian Genocide

The church was built in 1989-90, and consecrated a year later. A Genocide memorial and a museum housing the remains of the victims of the genocide was also built in the Church compound.

Hundreds of thousands of Armenians perished in Der Zor and the surrounding desert during the Genocide. In the summer of 1916 alone, more than 200,000 Armenians, mostly women and children, were brutally massacred by Ottoman Turks,
Holy Etchmiadzin

Message of His Holiness Karekin II on Armenia’s Independence Day

From the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin we extend our Pontifical blessings to our people in Armenia and the Diaspora on the occasion of Armenian Independence Day.

Today is a sacred day, our nation's day of appreciation, of assessing our achievements, of noting our bright aspirations, and a day of confirming our future possibilities.

Independent statehood enables nations and peoples to live within their values, to build their ideals, to freely express their spiritual potential and capabilities. Let us strengthen this consciousness and conviction in our souls, and make it a force to remain united around, to overcome the current difficulties and to improve our country, while affirming our Christian values and principles, through which we have lived as a nation and society.

We offer our Prayers to God, that he blesses our Homeland, strengthens our statehood, protects and keeps our people in peace and safety throughout the world. With reliance on God, may we build our new life with warm love and strong faith under the auspices of our free Homeland.

Ordination of Priests in the Holy Etchmiadzin

On September 21, during the celebration of Divine Liturgy, the sacrament of ordination and anointment of deacons into the Holy Order of Priesthood was offered in the Mother Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin. 9 Deacons of the Gevorkian Theological Seminary and 4 Deacon graduates of the Accelerated Priest Course were consecrated and ordained by His Grace Bishop Haigazun Najarian, Primate of the Armenian Diocese of Australia and New Zealand, and Pontifical Legate of India and the Far East. The ordaining Bishop Haigazun offered the Service of Calling and consecrated the foreheads and hands of the new priests with Holy Chrism (Muron) and gave them new names:

Deacon Gevork Alaverdian was renamed Father Nshan
Deacon Samvel Harutyunian was renamed Father Khacher
Deacon Garnik Shahinian was renamed Father Shnorhk
Deacon Vardan Hunanian was renamed Father Taron
Deacon Vrezh Mikaelian was renamed Father Poghos
Deacon Harutyun Matevosian was renamed Father Koryun
Deacon Davit Hmayakian was renamed Father Mambre
Deacon Artak Torosian was renamed Father Ghazar
Deacon Tigran Injighulian was renamed Father Tachat
Deacon Arthur Arshakian was renamed Father Nerses
Deacon Gegham Hovhannisian was renamed Father Sarkis
Deacon Grigor Topashian was renamed Father Ghevond
Deacon Davit Abrahamian was renamed Father Smbat

Following the ordination, Bishop Haigazun expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Catholicos of All Armenians for giving him the opportunity to offer his first ordination of priests. His Grace addressed his congratulations and message to his spiritual children; the newly ordained clergy, speaking on the act of giving them new names. “You had secular names that you received from your parents, but today, when the Holy Spirit descends on you, you become a new person, a new being, therefore you are given new names. No matter how many years you have studied in the Seminary, today the influence of the Holy Spirit increases your cognitive ability and your devotion becomes perfect and absolute to the Holy Altar and Holy Church. Therefore, you add to and complete this structure; the Church”, said His Grace.

Bishop Haigazun also spoke on the divine guidance of priesthood: “Pastoral life is not a usual situation, not a typical sort of circumstances that can be replaced with another one, pastoral life is unconditional devotion. Our people need dedicated and humble priests, who must awaken themselves from spiritual darkness and the numbness of sleep. When people become unfeeling and lazy, Satan and evil comes and grabs them. You are the last obstacle, the last soldier, who remains vigilant and a guardian, and what is the duty of the guardian if not the announcement of the advent of the enemy and to awaken the sleeping soldiers so that they’ll be able to resist and repulse the enemy.

Our Armenian Church is the lifelong summation of the saints, martyrs, hermits and devoted faithful, whose throne is visible, but end is not seen. You come to join the beautiful regiment”. His Grace urged the thirteen newly ordained priests to satisfy the spiritual hunger of the faithful with devoted service, and focusing their gaze on our nation's heroic past and best examples of history; to sow good seeds with their anointed Holy right hands.

The new clergy will follow the traditional 40-day seclusion period of fasting and prayer, after which by the blessings of His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, they will be called to serve in the dioceses of the Armenian Church and departments of the Mother See.

At the end of the Divine Liturgy, under the presidency of His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, a Pontifical Prayer was offered in the Mother Cathedral at the Holy Altar of Descent, on the occasion of the 23rd anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Armenia.

On the Web http://www.armenianchurch-ed.net/

July/August/September 2014
Eastern Diocese

A soft breeze carried plumes of incense into the sky as Aghtamar’s Holy Cross Armenian Church was once again filled with the prayers and hymns of the Badarak.

Among the pilgrims gathered there last Sunday was a group from the Eastern Diocese who began a two-week journey across historic Armenia on September 3. Waking to a bright, hot morning, they sailed across the deep blue waters of Lake Van to Aghtamar Island and climbed up a small hill to reach the 10th-century church.

The Diocese’s pilgrimage to historic Armenia will continue until September 15. Additional services are planned at the recently consecrated Saint Giragos Armenian Church of Dikranagert and the Saint Gregory Church in Kayseri. The group also will tour other parts of historic Armenia—Arakir, Mush, Antep, Sivas, Kharpert, and Malatya, among other cities and villages. The trip will include a stop in Istanbul, where pilgrims will visit the Armenian Patriarchate. Assisting Archbishop Barsamian on the pilgrimage is the Very Rev. Fr. Vazken Karayan, pastor of Holy Cross Church of Union City, NJ.

Archbishop Aram Ateshian, Patriarchal Vicar of the Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople, and Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese, welcomed a delegation of clergy representing the Greek, Syrian, and Catholic churches. They included His All Holiness Bartholomew I, the Greek Orthodox Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch, and Bishop Mor Filiksinos Yusuf Çetin, Patriarchal Vicar of the Syriac Orthodox Church in Istanbul and Ankara.

On the Web
http://www.armenianchurch.org/

Give to the Centennial Fund
http://tinyurl.com/CentennialFund
For the opening of the fall semester of Sunday school the CEAB chose “Think Orange” as the theme of the year, based on the synchronization of the colors red and yellow. Red symbolizing the church and yellow symbolizing the family. Only when the Church and family are in rhythm, walking hand-in-hand, united in one faith and in one mind can our shared prophetic mission be transformed into orange, a new and unique color, something completely new yet necessarily comprised from both. As an important ingredient in realizing this new synthesis of one heart and mind, beating together, we realize the importance of mission and working towards the goal of that which our Lord Jesus calls us to. Each and every one of us, every Christian baptized in the church becoming a member of the body of Christ, has a mission—a job, a task, to complete in concert with that of every member. Christ is at the center and throughout our efforts and our individual tasks and it is from Him that “the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” (Ephesians 4:16)

To illustrate the active and synchronous co-operation of the faithful in the mission of the church, five student graduates from last year were officially commissioned for their service in the church throughout the year 2014-15 after a summer of prayer and discernment. Not only symbolic, this is to teach them of their new responsibility as fully integrated members of the community having been educated in our church’s Christian education system. This will also show them that each and every one of us is empowered by God who calls us to serve as members of his body, completing His work of salvation and the redemption of mankind. We may think that our small community here in Rhode Island can’t do much to change the world but this is the devil’s deceit. We ought in fact take a look at the example of our 12 Holy apostles who were called from mundane tasks and lives to come together, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and to preach to the whole world and make disciples of all mankind (Matthew 28:19), thereby establishing the church which now has spread Her message of salvation for the whole world throughout these 2000 years.

The church is the body of Christ and She is alive today and evermore empowered by the Holy Spirit. By faith, we see clearly His presence and hear His promise. We are joyful in the completion of our Christian duty and fulfill our tasks assured of His guidance and His love.

During communion on the Sunday of commissioning one of our youngest Sunday school students came forward and before receiving communion said to me “I am doing my job.” I was struck at that moment that this little boy must have been listening to the words of my sermon and I realized that he too in his young age, felt likewise commissioned to do the work of our Lord as a member of the church. O, if everyone discerned their calling so readily and so enthusiastically?

I was asked some years ago in a former parish by a member of the community who was not a regular worshiper as to what I “do as a priest?” I responded by saying “I see my primary role as one who equips and empowers you to do your ministry.” I’m not sure how much the person understood or cared for my answer, but that in a nutshell is it! As a Christian priest I could never be successful in my vocation without the support, commitment, effort, participation and shared purpose and mission of the congregation. We are called to work together and to be Christ’s presence in the world, to “Let (our) light shine before men in such a way that they may see (our) good works, and glorify (our) Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)
Prayerfully
Fr. Shnork Souin

Parish Council Corner
The summer season finished this year with the sounds of music, the aromas of delicious food, and joy of seeing people working together in support of their church. Yes, we held yet another very successful church picnic which not only concluded what was hopefully a restful and fun summer, but ushered in what promises to be a very exciting and busy fall season for our parish.

Another sure sign that we are entering the fall season is the fact that our numerous educational and cultural programs have begun. Once again we have our Armenian School, Sunday School, Nazeli Dance, and Arts Education available for the children of our parish. New students are always encouraged and welcomed. One change that we have this year in Armenian School is that we warmly welcome our new superintendent, Nvard Danayan, who replaces our long time superintendent, Dn. Hagop Ghajanian. We wish to sincerely thank Dn. Hagop for his many years of leading our school and we have been assured that he we continue to help wherever he can be of service. Under the leadership of Dn. Hagop and Marie Ghajanian, the Armenian School has flourished and we have every confidence that it will continue to be successful long into the future.

We are also fortunate to have educational and cultural programs for our adult parishioners also. We, of course, are continuing our long running Armenian Church History class with Professor Ara Dostourian. We are also privileged to have Der Shnork following up on his very successful Badarak 101 class with Badarak 201. Please consider participating in these classes. Check our church website for more details. They are well worth your time and effort.

Finally, please be aware of the numerous activities that are scheduled over the next couple of months in our parish. We hope that you will continue to support as many of these activities as you can for the benefit of our beloved church. On October 5, we will have a Special Centennial Name Day celebration; October 9, will be “The Providence Men’s Club Dinner”; and on October 18, the Cultural Committee and ACYOA are jointly sponsoring a Centennial Ball featuring a “Battle of the Bands”. November 9 and 10 will be the 84th Annual Food Fair and Bazaar. Please save Sunday, December 14, as we will be celebrating the Twentieth Anniversary of Der Shnork’s Ordination on that day. More details will follow.

John R. Kazarian, Parish Council Chairman
Dear Der Hayr,

After the recent difficult days (I am referring to the fighting and war, when we weren't sure whether it would be possible to have the church consecration) fortunately now everything is fine here and we can go forward with our plans. I apologize for the delay in sending the invitation. Your presence would be a great support for us.

Best regards
Der Aram
The Last Armenians of Myanmar

Reverend John Felix, priest at the Armenian church in Yangon, also known as Rangoon, can't speak Armenian - but then neither can his congregation. Not that there is much of a congregation these days - just seven, myself included, on a recent Sunday morning.

The 150-year-old church enjoys an imposing location, at a street corner in downtown Yangon. It's a beautiful building, a patch of calm in a bustling city. The Armenian Orthodox church of Saint John the Baptist - standing, suitably, on Merchant Street - is almost all that's left of what was one of the city's main trading communities.

"To judge from church records, there were once a few hundred Armenian families in Burma but the last 'full' Armenian died last year. Across the country, there are no more than 10 or 20 families who are part Armenian - and just a handful still come to the church," says Felix.

Rachel Minus, in her mid-30s, can sing in Armenian - and does with reverence - but can't speak the language. She attends on Sundays with her father, who also tolls the church bells.

"My grandfather was full Armenian and our family name is derived from the Armenian surname of Minossian. We're part Armenian and this church and its services mean a lot to us," she says.

On that Sunday, just one other worshipper was of Armenian descent. Percy Everard has been coming to the church for decades. His wedding, the priest believes, was the last to be conducted at the church - but it's so distant no one is quite sure how long ago it took place.

In the early 17th Century, large numbers of Armenians fled the Ottoman Empire and settled in Isfahan in what's now Iran. From there, many travelled on in later years to form a commercial network which stretched from Amsterdam to Manila.

Their influence in the British Raj reached its peak in the late 19th Century, when census records suggest that about 1,300 Armenians were living principally in Calcutta, Dhaka and Rangoon.

Their closeness to the Burmese royal court gave them a particularly privileged status in Rangoon's trading community. The land on which the church stands is said to have been presented to the Armenians by Burma's king.

The region's most prestigious hotels - including The Strand a short walk from the church in downtown Yangon and the even more famous Raffles in Singapore - were established by Armenians.

But bit-by-bit over the past century many in these small Armenian outposts, worried by political and economic instability, have looked for a new home - with Australia the most favoured destination.

John Felix - whose Bishop is based thousands of miles away in Sydney - is a welcoming and enthusiastic clergyman, proud of his church and unbowed by the difficulties of keeping going as the congregation steadily shrinks.

Felix took over as priest of the Yangon church from his father, who died three years ago after more than 30 years as minister. Like his father, he was initially ordained into the Anglican communion and then re-ordained as an Orthodox priest.

He was born in Myanmar, speaks Burmese - but is of south Indian origin, and so has his roots in another of the migrant communities which once made Yangon such a thriving commercial hub.

He worries about the upkeep of the building. "There are three spots in the roof where the water's coming in, and we need to get them fixed."

But this is by any standards a neat, well-kept church, and an important part of Yangon's rich colonial-era architectural heritage which is increasingly attracting tourists and international attention.

Sunday worship has all the hallmarks of an Orthodox church service - icons, incense and, in spite of the slender attendance, entrancing hymn singing. Felix doesn't wear the ornate priestly robes in which his father once conducted ceremonies, but he remains firmly part of the Orthodox tradition.

That Orthodox lineage could be key to the survival of the church - as a spiritual home to all the various forms of Orthodox Christianity as well as a last vestige of an almost-gone Armenian community.

Already diplomats, business visitors and tourists from a range of Orthodox countries and churches - Russian, Greek, Serbian - occasionally swell the numbers at Saint John the Baptist, the only Orthodox church in Myanmar's biggest city.

A new worshipper here, Ramona Tarta, is Romanian, a globetrotting business woman, publisher and events organiser who has lived in Yangon for the last few months.

"My faith is very important to me. Wherever I am in the world, I seek out an Orthodox church. But I was about to give up on Yangon. I thought it was the only city I'd ever lived in which had no Orthodox place of worship," she complains.

She chanced across the Armenian church when driving past, and believes that with a little promotion, this historic building - and the tradition to which it bears testimony - could have a more secure future.

If the church reached out more actively to all strands of Orthodoxy then, she argues, it could attract more worshippers and find a renewed purpose. She's set up a Facebook page for the church as a first step towards getting more attention.

Myanmar has had more than its share of troubles and upheaval over the last century. The country was occupied by the Japanese during World War Two, and suffered greater privation and damage to its infrastructure than almost anywhere else in the region.

Many Armenians were among those who embarked on the arduous wartime trek north through jungle and forest to the relative safety of British India - a memorial in the church lists the 13 members of one Armenian family who died during the journey.

By Andrew Whitehead BBC World Service, Yangon

On the Web http://tinyurl.com/n9a6y8y

“Paros” Saints Sahag and Mesrob
The Cultural Committee & ACYOA
Proudly Present The

Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church

Centennial Ball
Saturday October 18, 2014 - 8PM - ?

Inspired by Dr. Herman Ayvazyan
BATTLE OF THE BANDS

JOE KOYOUTHJIAN ENSEMBLE &
THE SEVAN BAND

EGAVIAN CULTURAL CENTER
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Mezze - Cash Bar - 50/50 Raffle
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dedicate the program in memory of…a specific theme...
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Tel # _____________________________
Donation $ ______________________
Specific request: Date = 1st choice _______ 2nd choice _______
  □ THEME
  □ MUSIC
  □ IN MEMORY OF
  □ MISC

ANY questions please contact: sonya-arih@comcast.net

P.O. Box 414 Providence, R.I. 02901

July/August/September 2014

“Paros” Saints Sahag and Mesrob
Deacons’ Training Program in Jerusalem

Thirteen altar servers, including Sam DeBlois of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church in Providence, returned from a two week Deacons’ Training Program in Jerusalem on July 7. Representing 10 parishes from ours dioceses, the young men age 18 and over participated in the first-ever Saint Nersess conference in the Holy Land. Under the leadership of Fr. Daniel Findikyan and Fr. Daniel Karadjian, the participants were the personal guests of His Beatitude Abp. Nourhan Manougian, Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, where they lived in the Armenian monastery. The program was subsidized through a generous gift from Dr. and Mrs. Garo and Ceci Garibian of Philadelphia in memory of Abp. Torkom Manoogian, former Patriarch of Jerusalem and former Primate of the Eastern Diocese.

During their two weeks in the Holy Land, the young men participated in daily worship with the clergy and seminarians of the Patriarchate. They also assisted at Divine Liturgies celebrated at the tomb of Christ in the Holy Sepulchre, the tomb of Mary in the Garden of Gethsemane, the birthplace of Jesus in Bethlehem, the altar of the apostle James of Zebedee within the magnificent Armenian Church of Saints James, and the Holy Archangels Church deep in the Armenian Quarter.

Acolyte Road Trip with Der Hayr to Canada

On the weekend of August 9-12, 4 acolytes, and Sub deacon Sam DeBlois, travelled with Der Shnork to Ontario Canada. Throughout the weekend, they visited Niagara Falls, the City of Toronto, attended a Toronto Blue Jays game and also toured the Hockey Hall of Fame, even getting pictures with the Stanley Cup!

Hosted by the Tossounian family, the group, had cookouts, had a 2 hour long authentic all Canadian road hockey game, went swimming, and enjoyed the hot tub in the evenings after a walk into quaint downtown Unionville.

On Sunday morning, Der Shnork celebrated the Divine Liturgy at his home parish of Holy Trinity Armenian Church with the boys participating in the Badarak. The pastor Fr. Zareh Zargarian was very pleased to welcome us and shared very kind words about the excellent preparation of our boys and their serious approach to faith and service.

The trip there and back was a lot of fun and many laughs were shared and memories created. On Monday evening, a full Vespers Service was conducted while driving, led by Garen Megrdichian!

ACYOA vs ACYOA Jrs. Softball Challenge

In a doubleheader, the ACYOA and ACYOA Jrs. split victories with the ACYOA Srs. winning the night game in comeback fashion.

It was a great day with lots of spectators and a delicious potluck luncheon at the ball field at Cranston West High School.

In all there was a lot of exciting action, great athleticism, timely hitting and superb base running. Der Shnork even beat out an infield single in the afternoon game with his blazing speed.

The player of the game honors went to Steve Megrdichian for his masterful pitching.

Negotiations are in the works for a tie breaking game TBA—stay tuned.

Windows Book

The Saints Sahag and Mesrob Windows book, “Reflections Of Light Hope and Faith”, is now available for sale. Find out the religious meaning of each of our beautiful stained glass windows as well as the history of the Parishioners that donated the windows and restored them. For sale during the fellowship each Sunday and at the office. $25.00
As the end of May snuck up on me, I eagerly awaited the arrival date of my first pilgrimage to The Holy Land. Growing up in the Church, Jerusalem was a land I had heard of many times. Though I felt so familiar with the teachings of Christ that took place here, it still seemed intangible.

Upon arrival, myself as well as most of the participants had no idea what to expect. Entering The Holy Land with an open mind, I was pleasantly surprised. Though I knew how important Jerusalem was to our faith, I was shocked to see how strong of an Armenian presence occupied the land. It was our people who had the rights to some of the most holy sites in the world, such as the tomb of Christ. Everywhere I went, I was proud to say I was Armenian.

I had always heard stories from my own father about how the Armenians were one of the most trusted and well-liked groups of people back in his home country, Iran. I had always felt a sense of pride in that, but it was not until I experienced it for myself that I really understood it. No matter what vendor we met, or what civilians we came across—when we told them of our Armenian Christian faith, they greeted us with open arms. Our tour guide, Lazar, became more of a father figure to us. And the hotel staff treated us like family.

Shuffling through the memories and experiences I hold with me to this day—there is one that blatantly sticks out. Towards the end of our journey our group was scheduled to wake up at 3:30 am to head to the Holy Sepulcher for an early Badarak Service. With heavy eyelids, we began our walk over to worship in the most important site of our Christian faith. It was here that Jesus Christ was crucified, buried, and then rose again. There was an unspoken feeling that was passed from person to person as we participated in the Holy Badarak. A chill went through my spine as we sang the Hayr Mer, and continued on to receive Communion. I not only felt connected to every person in the room, but I also felt connected to the Holy Spirit. It was the first time in my life I could say without any hesitation, that I could feel the presence of God.

Four months has past and my experience in Jerusalem still continues to influence my everyday life. I find myself constantly looking through old pictures, missing the friends I made, and working to strengthen my faith. Not only was my sense of faith restored, but my pride in culture was as well. I urge anyone who is lucky enough to come across this opportunity to grab it and embrace it.
Thank You Everyone
for a
SUCCESSFUL PICNIC
Saint Vartan Camp

Garen Megrdichian doing poorvar at Saint Vartan during Badarak

Saint Nersess Summer High School Conference

Elise Papazian, Lily Janigian, Chris Parnagian, DH, DMC, Garen Megrdichian, and Pauly Surabian, at Saint Nersess Ouzoonian House

Monthly Meeting of Rhode Island Orthodox Clergy

Armenian School

The Armenian school program includes conversation, reading/writing, singing/dancing and history classes. Cultural events and entertainment programs are scheduled during the intermission time. Children will also use the library and computer room to read Armenian stories and play games specially programmed to teach the Armenian language.

The Armenian school will help your children keep their ethnic identity and learn their mother language, customs and songs.

Classes are Tuesdays 6:00pm – 8:00pm at Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church

We look forward to seeing many of you there!

Nvard Danayan
Coordinator

Bazaar Prep

Parishinors are busily preparing items for this year's 85th Annual Bazaar and Food Fair, being held Saturday November 8th and Sunday November 9th, 2014. Kufta, Cheoreg, Cheese Boereg, Sweet Katah, Yalanchi, and Armenian String Cheese all need to be made. If you're interested in helping out and learning at the same time, contact Marc Janigian and he will help you get connected with one of the groups involved. Have fun, fellowship and help your Parish at the same time!

Torshi being prepared this year!

If you're reading this ad...
...you're 1 of the 1100 Armenian families that read the “Paros” every 4 months
Find out how you can advertise in the “Paros”
See page 20 of this issue…….

Love Thy Neighbor - Outreach

The next outreach dates at the Mary House Meal Kitchen in the basement at Saint Patrick's on Smith Street will be: November 24th 2014
Bazaar Wish List

The Bazaar Committee has established a "Wish List" of Bazaar items. We are providing Parishioners with the opportunity to make a donation towards an item or items of your liking. Supporters will be recognized in our Bazaar program book available over the weekend. Donations can be made toward specific items on a first come first serve basis. Please call the Church office @ (401) 272.7712 to make a donation or fill out the form below and mail with your check or donate securely on-line @ www.ArmenianFoodFairRI.com.

We look forward to seeing you November 8th & 9th.

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Name: __________________________________________
Street: _________________________________________
City: State ZIP: _______________________________
Phone: _______________________________________
MC □ VISA □ Credit Card Number _____________ Exp Date __/___
Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church
84th Annual
Food Fair & Bazaar

Armenian Food & Delicacies
Shish Kabob □ Tourshi □ Cheese Boereg
Kufta □ Kheyma □ Cheoreg □ Yalanchi
Losh Kabab □ Armenian Pastries □ Midia
Vosbov Kheyma □ Piaz □ Lahmajoon

Daily Raffle □ Silent Auction □ Kids Games
Watch Football □ Penny Social
Resource Book □ Balloon Man □ Santa Visit
Kids Movies □ Arts & Crafts □ Jewelry
Scratch Ticket Raffle

For the younger population...
Activities for children of all ages

For the football fans...
A football game viewing room will be open
on Saturday and Sunday with wait service!

November 8th & 9th
Saturday, 11:30 am – 10pm
Sunday, Noon – 6 pm

70 Jefferson St
Providence, RI 02908
401-272-7712
www.ArmenianFoodFairRI.com

Cash, Check, Visa and Mastercard
Accepted

Bazaar Gift Certificates
Please consider purchasing one or more Bazaar Gift Certificates for the special people in your life! They can be written in any denomination. You may purchase them by calling the Church office (401-272-7712). Gift certificates are always a welcome gift so please purchase some today!

For every $50 gift certificate, $5 will be added to the face value for FREE
Avedisian School Opens Doors for New School Year

September 1, 2014

On a beautiful morning in Yerevan, the doors to the new Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School opened to welcome a large crowd of excited teachers, students, parents and friends.

In time, colleges and universities will be invited to offer courses for credit during the summer.

Join Our Cause

The Avedisian family pledged $5 million dollars towards this project. Please help the AMAA reach its goal of matching the Avedisian family's pledge.

Built for the Future

With the love and generosity of the Avedisian and Bilezikian families, and many other generous donors, the AMAA was able to construct this state-of-the-art campus to house preschool through twelfth grade. The building, is the first LEED certified building in Armenia, setting the standard for all countries in the region. Focusing on another exciting project, the AMAA has collaborated with the Armenia Tree Project (ATP) for work on the School's green roof gardens, which will not only provide insulation and lower heating and cooling costs but will be an educational feature in itself.

In addition to continuing offering first-class education for children from the economically disadvantaged neighborhood of Malatya-Sepastia, the campus will serve as a Community center where civic groups can meet, athletic teams can practice and courses will be offered for adults to develop employment skills.

AGBU Interns Meet with Primate at Diocese

On the Web

http://tinyurl.com/m3pdl9t

Did you know you can give in Lieu of Flowers securely on the Web?

http://tinyurl.com/ILOFlowers
Long-Persecuted Yazidis Find Second Homeland In Armenia

ALAGYAZ, Armenia — Just an hour’s drive from Armenia’s bustling capital city of Yerevan, Vazir Avdalyan sat in his living room in this rural village trying to concentrate on the task at hand. As the director of the village school, he should have been preparing for the start of the academic year.

But he had more pressing concerns on his mind: the plight of his people, the Yazidis, in Iraq.

Long considered a minority of a minority in Iraq, these previously obscure adherents to a religion influenced by Zoroastrianism, Christianity and the Sufi tradition in Islam found themselves in the international spotlight last month. Tens of thousands of them had fled into the ranges of Mount Sinjar to escape the murderous advance of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL, prompting an international effort to bring them relief.

It is a religion that has attracted persecution for centuries, from the Ottoman Empire in the 19th and 20th centuries, which forced them to flee to the Caucasus, to the destruction of Yazidi villages during Saddam Hussein’s reign in Iraq.

Avdalyan watched the news unfold out of Iraq in August, horrified at the stories of what the militants of ISIL had wrought: hundreds killed, men buried alive, women kidnapped, young girls sold in markets, children starving or dying of dehydration. And the humanitarian emergency continues, as many families remain stranded on the mountain; others have fled to refugee camps in Iraqi Kurdistan and Syria. Meanwhile, more than 3,000 Yazidi women and children have been captured by ISIL militants and are being trafficked for sex, according to a new BBC report.

The ISIL attack on the Yazidis was, for many outsiders, the first time they had heard of the faith, which has less than a million followers, the majority located in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. But there has been at least one safe space for one Yazidi community: Armenia.

“There hasn’t been any place in the world that Yazidis have lived as normally as they have in Armenia. It’s probably because of this that I haven’t left yet.”

- Vazir Avdalyan, Director of a village school and a Yazidi

Yazidis have lived in this predominantly Christian country for more than a century, practicing their customs with little interference. Perhaps that’s because they have a shared history of tragedy: In the 1915 Armenian genocide, in which 1.5 million people were killed, the Yazidis tried to help Armenians. As a result, many Yazidis perished.

Virtually mono-ethnic and wedged between Turkey and Iran, Armenia has been an unlikely yet strong cultural center for Yazidis, a source of pride for community members who can name dozens of Yazidi intelligentsia in Armenian history. One such figure is Usub Bek, a member of the Parliament of the First Armenian Republic, in the early 20th century. The first ever film in Armenian cinema, 1927’s Zare, focuses on a Yazidi love story that takes place in an Armenian village. More recently, Armenia-born Yazidi Roman Amoyan, a champion Greco-Roman wrestler, brought the country its first Olympic medal in wrestling in 16 years with a bronze at the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics.

In 2012, a Yazidi temple was built in western Armavir province, financed by a wealthy member of the Yazidi diaspora. It was the first religious site built outside of their holy land in Lalish, Iraq, to which Yazidis are expected to make a pilgrimage at least once in their lifetime.

Most Armenian Yazidis make their living from shepherding and other forms of animal husbandry and live in the rural villages of Aragatsotn province, in the west, near Mount Aragats, the country’s highest point. Life is anything but easy here. Winters are unbearably cold, and the chill often manages to penetrate summer nights, too. Families burn cow dung to keep warm, recreational activities for children are virtually nonexistent, and many of the villages face enormous challenges when it comes to medical facilities and adequate infrastructure for schools.

Armenia’s high poverty rate and depressed job market have led to a serious emigration problem with all citizens, not just Yazidis. With close to a hundred thousand people interested in migration, many families rely heavily on remittances, Yazidis among them. In the villages of Alagyaz, Rya Taza and Jamshlu, Yazidi strongholds, the number of residents is dwindling. Many have gone to Russia and Western Europe in search of employment. A good chunk of them, village elders said, do not return.

Still, the connection to the South Caucasus country is deeply entrenched; when Armenian-born Yazidis die abroad, their bodies are sent back to Armenia for burial, according to several Yazidi village leaders in Armenia.

“In Armenia, everyone is a Yazidi, not a Kurd. Armenia was the first country to recognize Yazidis as a separate nationality.”

- Khdr Hajoyan, Yazidi National Union

While scholars mostly identify Yazidis by religion and Kurds by ethnicity, the Yazidi national movement that bubbled up in the late 1980s in Armenia sought to define Yazidi and Kurd as two separate ethnic identities. This effort was born during the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh, during which thousands of Muslim Azerbaijanis and Kurds were expelled from Armenia.

The Yazidi National Union, led by Aziz Tamoyan, is the main organization pushing the idea that Yazidis are separate group from the Kurds, not just on the basis of religion but also ethnicity. The group publishes its own newspaper, called Yezidkhana. Khdr Hajoyan, the vice president of the National Union, said that referring to Yazidis as one ethnic part of the Kurdish community isn’t accurate, especially in Armenia.

“We don’t want anyone confusing Yazidis and Kurds with each other. They are not the same people. We have no ties with the Kurds.”

But not all in Armenia agree. “Everyone has the right to self-identity as they wish, but Yazidis are just one branch of Kurds. Some are Muslim, but we are the same people,” says Jasim Mahmudyan, an economist and Yazidi who was born and raised in Alagyaz. “As a man, as an individual, I identify as a Kurd, but as a Yazidi Kurd.”

But both sides are agreed on one thing: their frustration and grief over the situation of their fellow Yazidis in Iraq.

“My heart is bleeding when I see what is happening,” Hajoyan says. “This is genocide. The world is closing its eyes to genocide.”

September 24, 2014

by Liana Aghajanian

July/August/September 2014 15

“Paros” Saints Sahag and Mesrob
Dear parishioner

Thank you for your continued support for Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church. Your dues are vital to the operation of the church. I am asking you to please fulfill your annual commitment as soon as possible.

Your contributions can be made periodically rather than a one-time payment. Monthly, quarterly etc. payment options are available. You also can pay by credit card on this form, call the office to give Card information or pay securely on-line at www.stsahmes.org through Paypal. On-line Paypal offers many scheduling options to help you plan giving and allows for automatic renewals.

***Also, look for our NEW “Payment Kiosk” by the sanctuary! Make contributions to the church at one handy terminal by swiping your bank or credit card. Pay dues, offerings, youghakin, etc.

Any NEW members of any age will be considered CENTURIONS of the Centennial Year! If you have already remitted your 2014 dues, please accept our profound thanks. We will send letters outlining your total yearly contributions in January for tax season. Have a blessed summer and we hope you will be a regular participant in the life of our parish.

Sincerely,
Der Shnork and Parish Council

Cut and send with payment to Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church - 70 Jefferson Street, Providence, RI

PAYMENT

Member/s: ____________________________

2014 Dues $175/person

(seniors - $125; 18-24 yrs. old - $100)

2014 Stewardship Pledge (any amount) $___________

Total Payment $___________

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT OPTION

Total Amount to charge $___________ Credit. card #___________

Sign: ____________________________ Personal ID #: _______ Expiration date: mm/yr ___/_____

Please include the 3ID digits found on the back of your card (AmEx - 4 on front) or call the office.

☐ Please charge my credit card for the remainder of my 2014 commitment.

All DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE. PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE

For Office Use Only: Amount Received: $ _______ Check Number: _______ Date Received: _______ Call for member #: _______

On the Web

http://stsahmes.org/NewWebsite/dues.shtml
FOOD DRIVE
Every time you come to church, for Badarak, church school, a meeting, an event - make a donation of one nonperishable food and/or personal hygiene item. We deliver an average of 100 cans every 10 - 12 weeks. If we could collect just one can from every man, woman, and child each time we step through the doors of the church it would mean a donation of 400+ items each month. The food pantry supports the unemployed and working poor by offering them a place to get a bag of groceries one or two times a month. Saints Sahag and Mesrob Church is one of several groups who contribute to this effort. Drop-off bins are located in the Church foyer and at the elevator entrance.

Weekly Sunday Fellowship
The Parish is looking for sponsors for the weekly Sunday Fellowship, held immediately following Church services. Parishioners are asked to sponsor a Fellowship to coincide with a Birthday, Anniversary, Hokehankist or other family event. Share your special times and requiems with your extended Parish Family and loved ones. Contact the office at office@stsahmes.org / 401-272-7712

Remember the Church in your Will

Karzooonian@gmail.com
(401)219-2972

BAPTISMS
John Manoug Gagliano, son of Joseph and Katherine (Sungarian) Gagliano, was Baptized on July 19, 2014. The Godparents were Thomas and Taleen Nakashian.
Victoria Astchik Stepanian, daughter of Ruben Stepanian and Armenuhi Bagdasarian, was Baptized on July 26, 2014. The Godparents were Sevak and Shushanik Stepanian.
Aryana Arevik Stepanian, daughter of Ruben Stepanian and Armenuhi Bagdasarian, was Baptized on July 26, 2014. The Godparents were Sevak and Shushanik Stepanian.
Natalie Angin Kazarian, daughter of Andrew and Gayane (Ovanesyan) Kazarian was Baptized on September 28, 2014. Her Godparents were James and Lusine Corsini.

May these children be raised in the love and care of the Lord.

MARRIAGES
No Marriages in JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

FUNERALS
Mac Elmas Adams (Died May 21, 2014)
Tagui Gevorkian (Died July 2, 2014)
Alice M. Avedesian (Died July 8, 2014)
Anahid “Ann” Terzian (Died July 18, 2014)
Mary Khosrofian (Died July 31, 2014)
Aram “Ace” Ohanian (Died August 15, 2014)
Lekar Gevorgyan (Died September 16, 2014)
Arpenig “Penny” Hanoian (Died 9/20/14)

http://tinyurl.com/ILOFlowers
Expressions of sympathy and prayers are extended to the families that their loved ones may be at peace in the care of the Lord.

Armenian Martyrs' Committee Community Meeting Reminder
The next community wide meeting is Wednesday, December 10th at 7:00 PM
http://ammri.org
Armenian Evangelical Church
180 Oaklawn Ave, Cranston, RI 02920
We hope you are able to attend and we welcome your ideas
Refreshments will be served.

Fr. Shnork's Mission Statement
My mission is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ according to the holy apostolic teaching, practice and doctrine of the Armenian Church in order to equip the parishioners of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church with faith, hope and love, to live and to serve as members of His Church in a wholesome Armenian Christian Family.

Web Right Services.net
We Do it Right! Web Right!
Len Arzoomanian 508-959-7391
Complete Website Services www.WebRightServices.net

Kerrin Arzoomanian
Nanny/Childcare Professional
North Providence, RI 02911

July/August/September 2014
17
"Paros" Saints Sahag and Mesrob
Membership / Stewardship

Let’s Start Building Our Future! Become a member and/or a steward of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church of Providence, RI.

It only takes a few minutes to complete the Membership form and $175.00 ($100.00 for students and $125.00 senior citizens) to become dues paying member of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Church of Providence.

While many churches of other faiths use the method of tithing, Saints Sahag and Mesrob Church simply asks a minimum fixed amount to be a dues paying member of the church, and that amount is $175.00. That’s only $3.37 a week! Membership for senior citizens and students is even less: $125.00 a year or $2.40 per week.

Please fill out the form, print it out and mail it, along with a check (unless you choose to use your credit card), to the church office:

Please mail this completed form and payment information to the church office:
Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church
70 Jefferson Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

You can now pay Dues/Stewardship on-line at:
http://stsahmes.org/NewWebsite/dues.shtml

Have You Paid Your 2014 Membership?

If you have not paid your dues for 2014, please complete the form below and send your donation to the church office.

Now you can pay your membership and/or stewardship with your MasterCard or Visa

2014 Membership Application Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church of Providence, RI

I/WE would like to be year 2014 dues-paying member(s) of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church of Providence.

($175.00 adults, $125.00 seniors citizens, $100.00 students)

Members #1 Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms:
_______________________________________

Members #2 Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms:
_______________________________________

Address:
_______________________________________
_______________________________________
City: ______________________  State: __________
Zipcode: _______________________________
Phone: (______) _________________________
Email: _________________________________

□ Check enclosed
□ Charge my MasterCard/Visa/Discover/AE

Credit Card Number:
_______________________________________

Expiration Date: ____/____

(Membership and/or Stewardship donations are tax deductible.)

For Office Use Only:

Account No(s): _______________________________

Date Received: ________ Amount Received: __________

Check # __________________ Amount: __________

START THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT!
LOOK FOR AUTOMATIC PAY BY THE MONTH OPTIONS IN 2014 ON OUR WEBSITE

Stewardship

The logo depicting a stylized Armenian Cross with the threefold elements of stewardship was created by Fr. Shnork Souin, showing that all 3 elements are required of the life in Christ. (DSS Der Shnork Souin)

Membership and Stewardship of Time and Talent and Treasure, are the building blocks of your commitment to the church. By your membership you are an architect in the life and building of the church and community.

Your dues are not only essential, but facilitate the realization of the day to day operations of the mission of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church. In conjunction with your dues, your annual stewardship pledge is a way to express support of, involvement in and concern for the welfare and growth of our church with her many ministries offered.

We kindly ask that you that you fulfill your dues and stewardship pledges now.

Point your smart phone here to pay your dues!

July/August/September 2014 18

“Paros” Saints Sahag and Mesrob
The Newsletter Committee

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- **1100+ newsletters mailed 4 times a year**
- Predominantly Rhode Island addresses
- Predominantly Armenian Subscribers
- Ads accepted on a first come, first serve basis

For more information please call the Church Office 401-272-7712 office@stsahmes.org

No promotional material for credit cards, commercially available insurance and travel arrangements accepted per USPS format, preferably in Microsoft Word, as a text file or email. Please note that the editorial board reserves the right to modify and/or reject articles, photos, etc. All materials must be received no later than the published submission deadlines per issue as published in the church bulletins.

Church Office Hours

The Church Office is open from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If you would like to meet with the Pastor or submit items for the Sunday Bulletin, please contact the office at 401-272-7712 or office@stsahmes.org. If you call after hours, please leave your requests on the answering machine, and the administrative assistant will be happy to process them promptly. For emergencies, please contact John R. Kazarian @ 401-861-2065.

Administrative Information

**Pastor**
Rev. Fr. Shnork Souin, 401-272-7712
dershnork@gmail.com

**Administrative Assistant**
Fran Armstrong, 401-272-7712
office@stsahmes.org

**Parish Council**
Chairperson
John R. Kazarian
Home 401-861-2065
jkazarian@cox.net

Vice Chairperson
John Megrdichian
401-944-3201
jcmartiesian@gmail.com

Secretary
Gary Tariana
Home 508-761-4600
gtariana@comcast.net

Treasurer
Paul Surabian
401 884-1181
psurabian@douglasri.com

Assistant Treasurer
Nicholas Durgarian
508-435-6005
durgarian@gmail.com

Buildings and Grounds
John Avjian
javjian1@cox.net

Advisors
Leonard J Arzoomanian
Home 401-349-0813
Arzoo623@cox.net

Joyce Avedisian
401-724-3978
avedisianj@cox.net

Kenneth Ayarrasian
401-353-4888
Kma1@cox.net

Jason Martiesian
Home 401-455-3975
jcmartiesian@gmail.com

Stephen Megrdichian
Home 401-464-9004
spmeg77@cox.net

Ann Ayarrasian
Home 401-272-4743
istanbul27@verizon.net

Deacon Hagop Ghajanian
Home 401-467-2582
h.ghajanian@verizon.net

Stephanie Masoian
Home 467-6202
hyedeli@aol.com

Stephen Megrdichian
Home 401-464-9004
spmeg77@cox.net

Gary Tariana
Home 508-761-4600
gtariana@comcast.net

Ann Ayrassian
Home 401-861-3573
petroskon@aol.com

Janna Guegamian
Home 401-861-357
Petroskon@aol.com

Marc Janigan
Cell 401-523-3276
mjanigian@cox.net

Marc Janigan
Cell 401-523-3276
mjanigian@cox.net

Marc Janigan
Cell 401-523-3276
mjanigian@cox.net

Gary Nahabedian
Cell 401-871-8331
garynahabedian@hotmail.com

Konstantin Petrossian
Home 401-861-3573
petroskon@aol.com

Hosanna Derderian
hosanna1.netzero.net

Jason Martiesian
Home 401-455-3975
jcmartiesian@gmail.com

Stephanie Masoian
Home 467-6202
hyedeli@aol.com

John Megrdichian
401-944-3201
jcmartiesian@gmail.com

**Arts Education Program**
Janna Guegamian
Home 401-861-357
Petroskon@aol.com

**Altar Guild**
Ann Ayarrasian
Home 401-272-4743
istanbul27@verizon.net

**Bazaar Committee**
Marc Janigan
Cell 401-523-3276
mjanigian@cox.net

**Building Rentals**
Marc Janigan
Cell 401-523-3276
mjanigian@cox.net

**Choir and Junior Choir**
Konstantin Petrossian
Home 401-861-3573
petroskon@aol.com

**Church Library**
Hosanna Derderian
hosanna1.netzero.net

**Sunday School**
Christian Education
Advisory Board

**Organizations**

**ACYOA**
Stephen Megrdichian
Home 401-464-9004
spmeg77@cox.net

**Armenian Language School**
Nvard Danayan
nyarddanayan@yahoo.com

**Cultural Committee**
Konstantin Petrossian
Home 401-861-3573
petroskon@aol.com

**Investment Committee**
George Chakoian
Home 401-726-1697
george.chakoian@cox.net

**Memorial Dinner Committee**
Marc Janigan
Cell 401-523-3276
mjanigian@cox.net

**Newsletter/Website**
Leonard J Arzoomanian,
Home 401-349-0813
Arzoo623@cox.net

**Sports Committee**
Terrance Martiesian
401-272-0269
terrance.martiesian@verizon.net

**Membership/Stewardship**
Jason Martiesian
Home 401-455-3975
jcmartiesian@gmail.com

**Women’s Guild**
Stephanie Masoian
Home 467-6202
hyedeli@aol.com

**Men’s Club**
John Megrdichian
401-944-3201
jcmartiesian@gmail.com

The Saints Sahag and Mesrob Church Newsletter is a publication of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Church of 70 Jefferson St., Providence, RI 02908. Submission of news articles, photos, essays, poetry, book reviews, and letters are welcome, and should be sent to the church office (office@stsahmes.org). All text must be submitted in electronic format, preferably in Microsoft Word, as a text file or e-mail. Please note that the editorial board reserves the right to modify and/or reject articles, photos, etc. All materials must be received no later than the published submission deadlines per issue as published in the church bulletins.

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