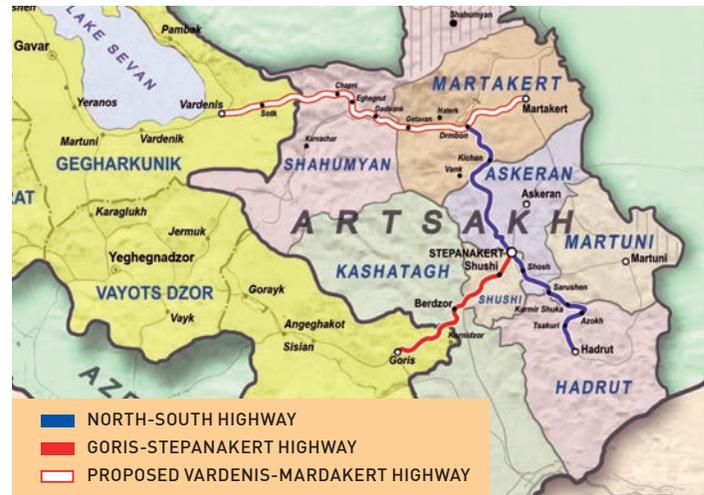


ARMENIA FUND USA ACTION NEWS

Affiliate of Hayastan All-Armenian Fund, US Eastern Region

FALL 2014 | ISSUE 14.1

TELETHON 2014 RENEWS ITS COMMITMENT TO SECURING NORTHERN ARMENIA AND KARABAKH.



Every year, Hayastan All-Armenian Fund, in consultation with its affiliates, introduces a new project to be the driver of the Telethon campaign season. Last year, the focus was the Vardenis-Martakert Highway Project, a groundbreaking initiative designed to link villages across the northern region of Armenia and Karabakh. This year, however, heightened security threats and increased border activity have convinced the Fund's decision-makers to keep this ambitious project top priority and top of mind.



Since breaking ground last year, reconstruction of this critical route has been well under way. Earthworks are being performed simultaneously across 12 sections of the highway. This entails blasting rocks, leveling surfaces, widening roads and transposing existing engineering structures. In addition, crews are installing gutters as well as building embankments and crash barriers.

This phase is expected to be completed before the new year, which will allow for passenger cars to traverse from northwestern Armenia to the Martakert region in Karabakh. As a result, travel time will be significantly reduced and community interaction facilitated as never before.

Projects still needed to complete the Highway include the paving of roadways, installing traffic signage and lane indicators as well as building rest stations. The goal is to raise the necessary funds during the Telethon in order to bring this groundbreaking highway project to completion.

When fully operational, the highway will not only help boost socioeconomic development among the near-dozen communities on its route, but also will facilitate access to urgently needed supplies associated with a robust defense strategy.

Armenia Fund USA will support this effort with its own direct response campaign both online and in print. Donors are encouraged to contribute early and generously. ■



Earthworks under way in 12 sections of the Vardenis-Martakert Highway

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



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Dear Friends:

With so much turmoil on the geopolitical landscape, it's reassuring to know that the work we are doing in Armenia and Karabakh is both relevant and timely. From constructing a northern regional highway to help keep border areas secure to aiding Armenian refugees from war-ravaged Syria, Armenia Fund USA and its affiliates are making a difference on the ground.

Yet, we continue to set our sights on the future with programs and projects designed to stem the exodus of those struggling to improve their lot in life. By providing more "proof points," we can help renew confidence in Armenia's potential to be a good place to work, live and raise a family.

In this regard, we remain committed to ongoing programs in health care delivery, education and community life, all of which generate jobs—for laborers and tradesmen, specialists and professionals, not to mention new graduates eager to start rewarding careers.

Our newest initiative is the reconstruction of the Tchaikovsky Secondary Music School in Yerevan—a "triple play" effort that fulfills our commitment to improve education, infrastructure and community. You will learn more on the opposite page about how this exciting undertaking will ultimately make all Armenians proud, both here and abroad.

At the same time, we are gearing up for our Telethon 2014 campaign, which is appropriately focused on the Vardenis-Mardakert Highway Project. Of late, border tensions and diplomatic engagements have taken troubling twists and turns, making it all the more important to complete this vital roadway without delay. As our cover article points out, the northern border between Armenia and Karabakh is not only good for economic growth but also essential for national security. So please think strategically and act generously during Telethon season.

As always, building a nation is a work in progress with "progress" being the operative word. That's why our work is as relevant and timely today as it was yesterday and will be tomorrow.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Khoren Bandazian".

Khoren Bandazian, Esq.,
CHAIRMAN, ARMENIA FUND USA

NEW INITIATIVE

YEREVAN'S TCHAIKOVSKY SECONDARY MUSIC SCHOOL PREPARES FOR EXTREME MAKEOVER, ORCHESTRATED BY ARMENIA FUND.

Just blocks from the Yerevan Opera Theater stands another cultural institution that reflects on the world-class musical talent that Armenia has produced over many decades. And yet for all the brilliance emanating from the Tchaikovsky Secondary Music School, the walls, floors, ceilings, classrooms and public facilities have certainly seen better days. The premises are long overdue for a complete overhaul to meet the needs of a new generation of musically-gifted Armenian youth.



While there is no shortage of classically trained musical masters in Armenia, the Tchaikovsky Secondary School is the only government-funded school in the country that is uniquely equipped to cultivate aspiring musicians during their formative years. In fact, unlike all other public schools in Armenia, which are all under the domain of the Ministry of Education, the Tchaikovsky School falls under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture. This special status speaks to the national passion and priority for all things musical—especially classical.

A school worthy of Armenia's best and brightest.

When students graduate from Tchaikovsky School, they not only have earned an impressive academic diploma but also the credentials to enter Armenia's music conservatories without first completing certain university requirements. This catapults them into the higher disciplines and more intense rigors of a classical music education, including performance, theory, composition and other subjects associated with professional-level music instruction.

Building on a global reputation disproportionate to Armenia's population.

Khoren Bandazian, the chairman of the board of Armenia Fund USA, points out that, "Even during the soviet years, the abundance of classically trained Armenian pianists, violinists and other musicians was well known in international circles. Yet these talents also served as ad hoc ambassadors from their republic, representing their people at the most prestigious international music competitions, conservatories and music schools in Europe and the U.S. After independence, these national treasures have enjoyed even greater opportunity to expose the world to Armenia's mastery of the classical genre. This gives Armenia special prominence on the world cultural map."

Three core mission goals working in perfect harmony.

The Tchaikovsky School project speaks to three main pillars of the Armenia Fund nation-building model: Education, Infrastructure and Community. As such, Armenia Fund USA believes that this one-of-a-kind institution is well worth the estimated construction budget of \$1,500,000. Reason enough

(continued on page 7)

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS UPDATE

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and those managing projects and programs in the field, Armenia Fund USA is pleased to report progress on all fronts. From health care delivery and infrastructure to education and community life, the seeds of change are bearing fruit.

HEALTHCARE DELIVERY



NEW: SPECIAL INITIATIVE ON CEREBRAL VASCULAR DISEASE

In March 2014, Armenia's then-minister of health met with the former executive director of Armenia Fund USA Irina Lazarian and the rector of Yerevan State Medical University (YSMU) to sign a trilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a long-term program designed to expand and develop treatment for cerebral vascular diseases in Armenia.

The minister of health stated that he looked forward to Armenia Fund USA organizing high-level training courses at leading clinics of the world for the benefit of Armenia's specialists and their patients.

Derenik Dumanyan, former Minister of Health ROA, Irina Lazarian, Armenia Fund USA and Michael Narimanyan, Rector of YSMU.

ONGOING: THE STROKE AND NEUROSURGERY CENTER

Opened last May in Yerevan, this state-of-the-art facility now boasts modern diagnostic and treatment equipment, including the vital angiography equipment that allows doctors to scan brain blood vessels. Another CT scanner is on the way to Ashtarak hospital—a partner institution of the Stroke Center—thanks to the generosity of The Georgia Neurosurgical Institute and the United Armenian Fund. In addition, Armenia Fund USA's ongoing Armenian Physician Training Program is helping neurology specialists receive training at the Georgia Neurological Institute (GNI) in the U.S. The role of Dr. Arthur Grigorian, a highly respected neurosurgeon practicing in Macon, Georgia and mastermind of the program, cannot be overstated.



ONGOING: MARTUNI HOSPITAL

New equipment is being delivered to this brand-new regional hospital. The facility will also serve as an extension of the Yerevan Stroke and Neurosurgery Center. Now patients, who would otherwise miss the critical two-hour window of treatment, can be spared from possible nerve damage. Plus, high-quality ultrasound equipment as well as surgical and diagnostic instrumentation are also raising the standard of care. The neonatal care unit has been equipped with a modern incubator, sponsored by the late Giragos Vapurciyan. The first 10 newborns will also receive Ororotz packages of necessities, thanks to the contribution of the late Antranig Karjian. In addition, selected physicians from Martuni Hospital will participate in the Armenian Physician Training Program, receiving training in Emergency Care and Neurosurgery.

NEW: TELEMEDICINE RESOURCE LIBRARY

Photo Credit: Med-Practic



The Armenia Fund USA HyeBridge Telehealth network continues to expand to remote areas of Armenia and Karabakh in the form of telemedicine “hubs.” Now, the program has been enhanced with a full-scale resource center—the State Medical Library of Armenia. Located on the outskirts of Yerevan, this dedicated physical space is open to all physicians, locally and internationally. The premises have been renovated to accommodate consultations, conferences, presentations and a comprehensive digital library. It is fully equipped with professional grade computer terminals, a new slide projector, and a professional grade flat-screen display connected to the Internet.

There is also an ample conference area, a small kitchen and private office space for visiting physicians. Armenia Fund USA has also contributed to upgrading the infrastructure of the library by providing access to natural gas for heating. A full-time staffer is on hand to arrange schedules, set up and operate audio-visual equipment and help organize special events.

For more information, contact us at info@armenianfundusa.org.

*On screen: Dr. Ruben Fanariyan delivers interactive lecture to Kapan Regional Hospital staff.
Above: Gevorg Yaghjian, the project coordinator of HyeBridge Telehealth.*



EDUCATION



NEW: NORMAN MILLER SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Recipients of this prestigious scholarship will soon have the opportunity to qualify for a new international exchange program spearheaded by Armenia Fund USA in partnership with one of the leading engineering institutes in the US. This program is designed to expose the best and brightest engineering students on both sides to the latest engineering achievements happening on respective campuses. Armenia Fund USA will provide aid to selected exchange students from Armenia, including paying for round-trip airfare and finding nearby local hosts to provide room and board for one student for a maximum of three weeks. Counterpart hosts will be recruited in Gyumri, Armenia, often dubbed as the “Silicon Valley of the Caucasus.”

COMMUNITY LIFE

COMPLETED: ZATIKAVAN FARM COOPERATIVE

Renovations on the Zatikavan Farm are now complete. Established as the first step to independence for Zatik Orphanage graduates, the farm is mostly focused on dairy production. This provides these young adults with an opportunity to earn a stable income and enjoy safe housing, surrounded by fellow orphans with whom they have grown up and consider as their only family. Today, a number of residents are married and have children of their own, thus expanding the community and the necessity for several improvement projects. Thanks to Armenia Fund USA, the farmers now have the advantages of healthy milk-producing cows, a new silo for grain storage and an expanded and renovated barn. Two modern windmills provide round-the-clock electricity.



ARMENIA FUND'S DEMANDING CONSTRUCTION PROCESS ASSURES TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

Over the past 22 years, Armenians around the world have entrusted millions of dollars in support of Armenia Fund infrastructure projects. Never taking such generosity for granted, the Fund puts a premium on accountability when disbursing funds on behalf of its donors.

To that end, the Fund has, over the years, refined its infrastructure bidding process for maximum transparency and efficiency. That means taking no shortcuts when awarding a contract and managing the project from start to finish.

To be considered for a construction project, a bidder must undergo a complex process that requires extensive documentation, including financial records, any outstanding loans, tax payment history, and disclosure of any legal issues. In addition, the bidder must possess proven experience in similar type construction. Last but not least, the bidder must submit a complete set of construction design drawings along with a detailed cost estimate. Armenia Fund does not disclose these proposals to other bidders and keeps them internally for comparison purposes.

Quality comes before the bottom line.

Awarding the project is just the beginning. Ensuring that the work meets Armenia Fund's demanding standards is equally critical. Several quality-control mechanisms are in place to check the construction. Armenia Fund's construction department, composed of experienced professionals, is charged with verifying that the standards are met. If not, they have the authority to halt construction and withhold payment.

In fact, 5 percent of the overall contract cost is withheld for one calendar year after construction is completed and is paid only after all the flaws revealed during one year of operation are eliminated.

Ara Vardanyan, the executive director of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund summed it up this way: "Armenia Fund is an investment by Armenians all over the world in the future of their country, their homeland. The responsibility we feel to these benefactors as well as to our past, to our present, and to our future is what guides our work and our insistence on the standards of excellence we promote."

For more details about how Armenia Fund awards and manages construction projects, please contact us at info@armenianfundusa.org ■

THE ANATOMY OF AN ARMENIA FUND CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

DONATIONS

Generated from individuals and/or groups

PROJECT PROPOSALS

Prepared by Fund's Project Department

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION DESIGN

Submitted by bidding firm

SECOND OPINION

From expert not affiliated with designer firm or bidder to eliminate bidder collusion

COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCESS

Conducted by Fund's Bidding Committee, guided by Fund's legal department. Upcoming bids announced on national TV, newspapers and Fund website.

PROJECT AWARDED

Lowest bid among qualified bidders is awarded contract.

IMPLEMENTATION

Payments made monthly based on construction progress reports and fact checking

CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION AND ONGOING QUALITY CONTROL

By Fund's construction experts, the construction design firm, a technical supervision firm, government agency code enforcers and an independent construction physical audit firm.

FINISHED PROJECT POST-CONSTRUCTION GUARANTEE

5% withheld for one year until all defects are identified and repaired*

*For Vardenis-Mardakert Highway project, guarantee lasts for 5 years.

TCHAIKOVSKY SECONDARY MUSIC SCHOOL *(continued from page 3)*

why the project will be the focus of many fundraising appeals over the two-year window that will see this dilapidated structure transform into a gleaming contemporary landmark.

The groundbreaking phase of the project is scheduled to begin as early as next spring. This means that the fundraising campaign will be mobilized in full force right after the 2014 Telethon this November.

Armenia Fund USA has committed to allocating all funds raised specifically for the Telethon leading up to and during the Thanksgiving Day broadcast to the construction of the Vardenis-Mardakert Highway construction project. At the same time, however, any unrestricted and general funds raised during and post-Telethon will be allocated to the Tchaikovsky Secondary Music School project. ■



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TCHAIKOVSKY SECONDARY MUSIC SCHOOL MAKEOVER

Deconstruction and dismantling: walls and floors; ceilings and doors throughout the building—from basement to fourth floor.

Earthquake proofing: construction of support columns and beams plus reinforcing coverings of the block.

Basement of the academic building and recital hall: new partitions; new granite floors; new windows; evacuation doors; plastering and painting ceilings.

Main academic building: new granite floors in the halls and corridors; new classroom flooring and windows; new windows by the staircases; new staircase banisters; new wooden doors; plastering and painting ceilings and walls.

Resource center: digital library and original archives as well as state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment.

Utilities and furnishings: resurfacing of sanitary unit walls and floors; renovations of internal water supply system; ventilation; electrical wiring and equipment; fire alarm system; internal video surveillance. New and restored furnishings throughout building.

Central hall and staircase, sports hall and events hall: intensive cleaning, plastering, and painting. There will be an “Armstrong” type hung ceiling in the recital/event hall.

Roof: reconstructed with painted and galvanized tin.

Yard-side staircase: covered with painted tin.

Outdoor area: new curbstones and tiling works (marble asphalt, road metal and concrete layer).

For more information about this exciting new Armenia Fund project and to learn how you can support various phases and aspects of the construction, please contact us at info@armeniasfundusa.org

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

FROM NEW YORK TO GYUMRI, WITH LOVE FROM MELINE TUFENKCIYAN.

For well over a decade, Meline Tufenkciyan of Queens, NY has been making a healthy difference in the lives of Armenia's TB patients who are receiving treatment for a highly resistant strain of tuberculosis. The largest medical facility in Armenia dedicated to treating this life threatening disease is the hospital in Gyumri.

Recognizing the importance that nutrition, proper hygiene and consistent administration of medications play in the recovery process for Armenian TB patients, Ms. Tufenkciyan has made an annual donation to Armenia Fund USA to cover the budget for these essential items. This includes nutritious meals with an abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables, brand new bed linens, new furnishings for patients' rooms, and the costly prescription drugs required for treatment.

This "Meds & Meals" initiative has been instrumental in the rehabilitation of TB patients and their families. Reason enough why the name Meline Tufenkciyan is held in such high esteem by patients, family members and hospital staff alike. Some refer to Meline as their guardian angel.

"Though we have never had the pleasure of thanking Ms. Tufenkciyan in person, we have been in contact with her via Armenia Fund USA," stated the TB hospital's director Karine Tonoyan. "We are very touched that Ms. Tufenkciyan is eager to better understand our needs and wants to follow up on the progress of certain patients. She has grown to become a member of our extended family. The genuine love and care she has expressed through such good deeds are surely also part of the healing process."

Ms. Tufenkciyan recently pledged another infusion of funds for 2015, assuring the TB hospital patients that they will have the quality treatment they deserve to survive and recuperate from a disease that affects the Armenian population at a disproportionately high rate.



Meline Tufenkciyan



Even though Ms. Tufenkciyan was raised in New York City, she nevertheless has a very keen interest in Armenia. She keeps up with all the news about the homeland from afar. "I haven't had the wherewithal to make the long distance trip, but I make it my business to know what all the charitable organizations here in the states are doing to make Armenia a better place. I found a way to fill in the gaps by focusing on this small population of afflicted TB patients, who might otherwise have been overlooked in the grand scheme of things," Ms. Tufenkciyan explained. "Giving has a healing affect not just on the receiver, and so I, too, have benefitted from this special relationship with the TB hospital. It is doing a heroic job under challenging circumstances." ■

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

THE MANY COLORS AND STYLES OF GRATITUDE: PROJECT BENEFACTORS SEE THE RESULTS OF THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT.

Two years ago, Armenia Fund USA launched a new initiative designed to accommodate the special interests and preferences of individual donors. Since then, the Project Benefactor Program has generated over \$93,700 in funds earmarked for specific projects in the fields of healthcare delivery, education, community life and infrastructure.



Recently, project benefactors Levon and Laura Ariyan, in memory of Levon’s father, Levon Mardiros Ariyan, were gratified to hear that their adopted Art Classroom has come to life at the Abovyan School in Shushi, Karabakh.

The light-filled space is brimming with the vibrant and exuberant creative energy one would expect of Armenia’s youth, ages 7-18. Now, they are fully equipped with the same art supplies, creative tools and digital software that the most well endowed schools in America offer gifted and talented students. This allows Armenia’s youth to explore their innate artistic talents, find a new hobby, or simply decorate their little corner of the world with color, line, shape and texture.

With all the hardships facing Shushi’s public schools, some of which have suffered the ravages of combat and socio-

economic decay, the art classroom serves as an oasis in which to stretch the imagination and develop visual sensibilities. Historically, Shushi has been a cultural magnet in the region, so reviving this aspect of its rich legacy will send a hopeful signal to the residents.

“We are truly delighted by the positive reports of students’ responses upon starting the school year this month. For all the budding young artists that might otherwise not have an outlet to explore and discover their innate aptitudes, this art classroom will be an inspiration,” remarked Levon Ariyan. “You never know where the next Mardiros Saryan or Arshile Gorky will show up.”

For more information about the Armenia Fund Project Benefactor Program, email us at info@armeniasfundusa.org or visit our website for a complete listing of available project sponsorships at armeniasfundusa.org/project. ■

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

THE HAIG JOHN BOYADJIAN ESTATE INCLUDES MAJOR BEQUEST TO ARMENIA FUND USA.

In accordance with the wishes of the late Haig John Boyadjian, a portion of his estate has been bequeathed to the Armenia Fund USA East Coast Affiliate in the amount of \$750,000 USD. The same amount was also bequeathed to the Armenian Eyecare Project (AECF), Children of Armenia Fund (COAF), Armenia Tree Project, Armenia Assembly and ANCA, reflecting Mr. Boyadjian's desire to help the Armenian homeland rebuild and uplift its citizens in the process.

For Armenia Fund USA's part, funds from the bequest will be allocated among projects that best reflect Mr. Boyadjian's priorities and values, particularly national security and education. As such, \$300,000 of this bequest has been allocated to the construction of the Vardenis-Mardakert Highway that will connect vulnerable border towns across the northern region of Armenia and Karabakh (see cover story); \$300,000 toward the reconstruction of the Tchaikovsky Secondary Music School, a cultural landmark that has spawned countless world-class musicians and performers (see page 3); and \$35,000 toward the Medical Resource Center, a new adjunct of the HyeBridge Telemedicine program (see page 5). The remainder will be allocated to the general unrestricted funds to help kick-start new initiatives.



The late Haig John Boyadjian

A steadfast and loyal supporter of the Fund.

Haig Boyadjian, a long-time resident of New Jersey, proved himself a most reliable and consistent donor to the Fund. In fact, he was among the earliest donors of the Armenia Fund mission, which was initiated 22 years ago. In the past 18 of those years, Mr. Boyadjian made 23 individual contributions for a total of \$32,000, separate and apart from the bequest.

A fascinating life story with a truly global perspective.

Born in Jerusalem, the Mandate of Palestine, on February 13,

1935, Haig was born to Haroutune and Mary Boyadjian. He graduated from Saint George's School in 1953 and from Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania in 1957, with a Bachelor of Arts. Following Swarthmore, he studied at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and earned his Master of Arts in International Relations. After completing his education, Haig became eligible for the military draft and served in the United States Army at Fort Bragg, Georgia, from 1959 through 1961. He remained in the Army Reserves for a number of years following his active service.

Haig joined Chase Manhattan Bank's Executive Training Program. He lived and worked in several countries in Europe and the Middle East. His last assignment was with Midland Bank's (HSBC) London office. Haig co-authored "Risks Reading

Corporate Signals," a book on the banking industry.

"It is with great respect and admiration for Haig Boyadjian that Armenia Fund USA accepts this exceptionally generous show of loyalty and support. We are truly proud to have had him in our corner for all these years," stated Irina Lazarian, the former executive director of Armenia Fund USA and now a member of its board of directors. "With every donation, and finally, with this very generous bequest, it was another nod of approval from someone with the insight and knowledge to discern the quality of our performance and the impact of our results." ■

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

ANTRANIG KARJIAN: MODEST MAN; PROUD ARMENIAN; GENEROUS SPIRIT.

Antranig Karjian passed away at age 92 on June 4, 2014. Overjoyed at having lived long enough to see Armenia and Artsakh become independent, he visited both republics with his wife Alice in 1998 on a tour arranged by the Armenian Relief Society. A few years later, and with the help of his extended family, Antranig was able to send monetary assistance to the families of soldiers who had lost their lives during the Artsakh liberation war.



Now, through the special efforts of Armenia Fund USA and with donations made in lieu of flowers in his memory, Mr. Karjian's family has identified Armenia Fund projects that would honor the memory of their beloved husband, father and grandfather. Through these projects, the life of this dedicated Armenian will be honored for years to come.

Coming of age in tragic and turbulent times.

Antranig was born on July 1, 1922 in Damascus, Syria, the youngest child of Lucia Elmajian-Karjian and Garabed Karjian, both originating from Marash. Antranig was born at a time in history during which Armenians were victims of a genocidal Turkish regime that ultimately took the lives of 1.5 million innocent Armenians. The killings and deportations lasted through 1923, which, in effect, made Antranig a genocide survivor, along with his parents and older sister. Unfortunately, his father passed away while his mother was pregnant with Antranig. Such a loss is perhaps what prompted Antranig to identify with the fatherless children of Artsakh to whom he was able to provide support many years later.

After the passing of his father, Antranig's mother worked as a maid to support the family. For a period of time, Antranig was placed in the Bird's Nest orphanage near Beirut, which was established by Near East Relief (NER), originally known as The American Committee for Syrian and Armenian Relief. At approximately age 9, he moved to Sulaymaniya, Iraq with his mother, sister and her husband. He attended school through 9th grade, but discontinued his studies to support his mother and himself. Thus, from a very early age, Antranig had developed a strong sense of responsibility, hard work and self-reliance.

Finding joy in family and Armenian life.

In July 1948, Antranig married Alice Mouradian. The couple later moved to Baghdad, Iraq so that their daughters could attend better schools and universities, including Armenian school. Antranig was an intelligent man and knew the value of education. He wanted his daughters to have the education that he couldn't have as a fatherless child.

During this time, Antranig operated a successful photography studio. He was an honest, straightforward man and worked very hard to support his growing family. Then, in 1981, the family immigrated to the US, whereupon Antranig became a member of the Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church in Ridgefield, NJ and was very active in his Armenian community.

His family grew to include four daughters, three sons-in-law and seven grandchildren, branching out to include the Karjian, Minassian, Simonian and Samuelian families. Though born without a father, Antranig succeeded in creating a large family. His family meant the world to him.

Antranig was a self-educated man and an avid reader, especially of the Hairenik Weekly. He placed very high importance on the Armenian language, was concerned about cultural assimilation and was focused on the future of Armenia. Such an impressive legacy will drive the projects that Antranig's family has chosen to support in his honor: pre-hospital equipment for an ambulance and Ororotz packages for the first 10 newborns at the Martuni Hospital in Karabakh.

Armenia Fund USA is deeply grateful to the Karjian Family for its thoughtful generosity. ■



Antranig Karjian, second from right, at the Bird's Nest Orphanage, Beirut

LEADERSHIP NEWS

ARMENIA FUND USA CHAIRMAN RECEIVES ALL-ARMENIAN FUND COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL.

It was a farewell ceremony organized by Armenia Fund USA in honor of Khoren Bandazian's special friend—His Excellency Ambassador Garen Nazarian, the permanent representative of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations. Yet to the delight of many guests and dignitaries in attendance, the esteemed guest of honor turned the tables by taking a few moments to graciously present Mr. Bandazian with the prestigious 20th Anniversary of Himnadram Commemorative Medal, an award from the President of Armenia.

Earlier in his remarks, the much-admired Ambassador Nazarian expressed his appreciation for Armenia Fund USA, of which Khoren Bandazian has been chairman since 2011.

“The Armenia Fund has touched so many lives and has reached so many families in Armenia and the Republic of Artsakh,” stated Ambassador Nazarian.

“When establishing the Fund more than two decades ago, we all came together in defense of our self-determination. Now we can reaffirm that we are united again, under the auspices of Armenia Fund, to ensure and bolster that unalienable right.”

Khoren Bandazian has been an impressive figure in the Armenian-American community for many years. After eight distinguished years of dedicated service as the secretary of the board of directors of Armenia Fund USA, Khoren assumed the chairmanship.

To this position, Mr. Bandazian brought a wealth of executive experience gained in his professional life as well as many other Armenian organizations and causes with which he has associated himself since his youth.

He has served on various committees organized by the Armenian Diocese and the Armenian Prelacy, such as the 1700th Anniversary of Christianity in Armenia committee, among others.

He also served on the board of Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church of Ridgefield, NJ. In 2007, Khoren chaired Armenia Fund USA's fifteenth anniversary gala at the United Nations which raised much needed funds in support of the organization's efforts.



Mr. Bandazian (right) presented with the prestigious Republic of Armenia Presidential Award and thanked for his service to the nation.

On a parallel track, Khoren has built a highly successful career as a real estate attorney. He recently rejoined the firm of Winne, Banta, Hetherington, Basralian & Kahn in New Jersey as a Principal in its Real Estate and Corporate and Business Services Practices. ■

LEADERSHIP NEWS

IRINA LAZARIAN IS ELECTED TO THE BOARD OF ARMENIA FUND USA.

Having served as the executive director of Armenia Fund USA (U.S. Eastern Region Affiliate) for over a decade, Irina Lazarian is now a member of its board of directors. In the meantime, she has assumed a new position as managing director of the Howard Karagheusian Commemorative Corporation.

While Armenia Fund USA generates financial support as a primarily grass-roots organization, the Karagheusian Corporation is funded by a perpetual endowment from a single benefactor, allowing Ms. Lazarian to accept both positions without any conflicts of interest.

Ms. Lazarian began working at Armenia Fund USA in 1998. “It will always feel like home to me,” she said. She went on to explain why she accepted the invitation to join the Armenia Fund USA board. “I have had the privilege of coming to know so many wonderful donors and supporters along the way, not to mention the many talented and fascinating board members past and present. It would be sad to break those longstanding relationships after all these years. Fortunately, as a board member, I can enjoy the best of both worlds.

Armenia Fund Chairman Khoren Bandazian is fully supportive of Irina’s decision. “While we understand that Irina deserves to expand her professional horizons to communities outside of Armenia, we are happy to know that she will make the time to serve on our board. Irina possesses a unique perspective gained through many years of managing the day-to-day operations of all facets of our organization. As a highly skilled non-profit specialist, Irina will continue to provide the practical insights, strategies, and know-how that help inform our board’s decisions. Only now, she also gets to vote on them.”

A highly productive and progressive tenure as Executive Director.

During her time at Armenia Fund USA, Irina presided over the launching of many far-reaching nation-building programs, including education and health care delivery, infrastructure, humanitarian aid, and socio-economic development. She oversaw all fundraising and charitable operations and worked hand in hand with members of the board. She also organized 10 telethons and three phonathons as well as planned three anniversary galas.

Ms. Lazarian also mastered several key competencies and developed various interests which she will continue to apply to the implementation of various Armenia Fund projects. Many of these were conceived and spearheaded by Irina. Leveraging her own engineering background, Irina will still serve as a mentor and advisor to recipients of the Norman Miller



Irina Lazarian

Scholarship program for budding engineers and designers in Armenia.

She is also involved with the Meal and Meds program, launched with the generosity of Meline Tufenkciyan for the TB hospital in Gyumri, as well as the neurosciences and neurosurgical Physicians Training Program, masterminded by renowned neurosurgeon Arthur Grigorian.

Irina is a graduate of the State Engineering University of Armenia (SEUA) with a degree in computer science. She also holds a master’s degree from the American University of Armenia (AUA) in industrial engineering with a major in quality control and management. She is a member of various professional membership organizations and is the Armenia Fund USA representative to the United Nations. She resides in Hoboken, N.J. ■

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

CELLIST NAREK HAKHNAZARYAN PUTS HIS MUSICAL TALENT WHERE HIS HEART IS: KESSAB, SYRIA.

In April of this year, Armenia Fund USA was proud to receive the proceeds from a special benefit performance organized to help save the Armenian community of Kessab, Syria.

Thousands of these families were forced to flee for their lives, leaving behind their ancestral lands that have been inhabited by Armenians for centuries.

Thanks to the generosity of one of the rising stars of the classical music scene, Cellist Narek Hakhnazaryan put together an inspired concert to help raise funds. The repertoire included works from the masters: from Khachaturian and Gomidas to Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky, among others. The concert was held in Newton, MA. Over \$3,500 was raised from concert ticket sales and donations.

Narek explained his motivation for performing in behalf of Armenians from Syria. “Based on its long track record, Armenia Fund USA seemed like the best choice for a benefit performance. It has the reputation for successfully implementing humanitarian-based projects, in addition to leading the way in infrastructure development and advancing the arts and sciences in Armenia. I felt I could count on them to make good things happen.” ■



MINI-CLASSES BECOME PART OF ARMENIA FUND USA'S AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGN.

This spring, Armenia Fund USA launched the first in a series of extracurricular one-night learning events, designed to appeal to the diverse community of Armenians living in the tri-state metropolitan community (NY, NJ, CT). Spearheaded by Zara Ingilizian, the secretary of the Armenia Fund USA board of directors and a corporate marketing professional, these gatherings also serve as an opportunity to raise awareness about the Fund's mission and how the community can get involved.

Some participants may be new to the area, either enrolled in local universities or just starting out as young professionals. Others may simply be Armenian-Americans looking to expand their social horizons and special interests.

First up was a Wine Tasting class, organized by the Fund at the Chelsea Wine Vault, one of the most exquisite wine cellars in New York. Attendees learned about six different wines, including how to evaluate aromas, describe what they taste and smell and what fare to pair with each. And in the process, the Fund was able to raise additional funds for its HyeBridge Telehealth program.

Another event is now being planned for as early as this October, so watch for updates and announcements online and in social media. Tell your friends and family members to join the fun while learning something new. For more information and to be included on our mailing list, contact us today at info@armenianfundusa.org. ■