

## Executive Director's Notes

As the year draws to a close, Homenetmen Glendale "Ararat" Chapter has had another successful year. With the help of North Campus planning committee, we have been able to make preliminary improvements to the North Campus so that our young members can utilize the facility until we start the main renovations of the building. As of now, basketball, soccer, volleyball, table tennis, martial arts practices in addition to choir and dance classes are being held in that location.

Through the unbelievable efforts of North Campus Fundraising committee we have been able to recruit major donors who have committed considerable amount of funds which offsets approximately 50% of our monthly mortgage. We thank both committee members without whom we would not have been able to accomplish our goals in regards to North Campus.

In addition to our generous donors, we received a grant in the amount of \$100,000.00 from Forest Lawn Foundation to be used for the renovation of the North Campus. In appreciation of their generosity, during a ceremony, we dedicated the Cultural Hall in their name.

We had a year long 30th Anniversary celebration which included membership group picture, family camp, reunion of past Chapter Board members and of course the celebration at Liberty Hall which brought additional recognition and appreciation from elected officials and tears to our eyes. The conclusion of our 30th Anniversary celebration will be the Gala Banquet which will be held on December 6th, 2008 at "Ararat" Center.

Our Public Relations committee promoted our Chapter in community events and succeeded in attracting media attention. Through monthly e-news, we also tried to inform our membership of the upcoming events.

Finally, as in the past, I would like to encourage all of our members to attend the upcoming Division General Meetings and use this opportunity to contribute to the advancement of our Chapter and its programs.

On behalf of the Chapter Executive Board, I would like to thank all our volunteers for their tireless effort and support and look forward to the upcoming year and its challenges.

## Glendale "Ararat" Chapter Turned 30!

Homenetmen Glendale "Ararat" Chapter's 30th anniversary celebration which was held on September 28th at Hall of Liberty was an extraordinary evening of greeting old friends, honoring the organization's legacy and celebrating chapter's achievements. The event was attended by over 1000 members, city and state officials, community and church leaders, and many of chapter's past and present leaders and supporters who have helped the chapter to grow and thrive.

The highlight of the evening was the interactive performance of various divisions of the Chapter. As Ararat scouts of all ages marched onto the stage, the last 30 years of Ararat's history literally unfolded as a part of the unprecedented program that also included a comprehensive look at the chapter's General Athletic and Basketball programs. To energize the program, children displayed the diversity of Ararat's athletic program through gymnastic and martial arts routines. A 12 minute video presented highlights of chapter's 30 years of accomplishments. The evening's cultural program featured performers from the Ararat Youth Dance group and solo song performances followed by renditions by Ararat Adults Choir.

The 30th anniversary celebrations was kicked off with the unraveling of the 30th logo in December of 2007, a reception honoring over 100 chapter's past board members in March, a chapter photo taken in Glendale High School, an impressive 30th themed Navasartian parade in July and an unforgettable first-time family camping in Mid July where many generations of Ararat chapter spent a weekend at Homenetmen Campground.

The Celebration events and projects will wrap-up on December 6th Gala Night at Ararat Center, where the 30th Anniversary Commemorative Book will be presented to over 500 guests for the first time.

None of these would have been possible without the help, support and commitment of our dedicated members, volunteers and generous donors. Thanks to all for their continued support.





## General Athletics Achievements

The General Athletics Division follows Chapter's overall objective of serving the community by creating the best family atmosphere for the physical and intellectual growth of our members through Sports. The division offers volleyball and soccer programs and individual sports such as, tennis, table tennis, martial arts, chess, gymnastics and rhythmic gymnastics.

As in the previous years, this year our athletes were trained and thrived in various tournaments.

### To name a few of our accomplishments:

- Our soccer teams participated in the Arcadia League and the City of Pasadena's Villa Parke League reaching to the playoff rounds. In addition, our "A" division star, Vardan Adzemian signed a one-year contract with the L.A. Galaxy team.
- In table tennis arena, our players took part in Glendale Friendship Games where Robert Sargsyan of Ararat ranked first impressing many players and spectators.
- Our tennis players played host to the 7th Annual Ararat Tennis Tournament; the largest community tournament in Glendale where close to 200 players were brought together in 20 categories.
- In Volleyball, the 11th annual Allen Hovagimian games were organized
- and finally after being qualified at the regional meet in Thousand Oaks, California, two of our Rhythmic gymnasts competed at the Junior Olympics in Columbus, Ohio.

## Rhythmic Gymnastics

This year Ararat Rhythmic Gymnastics team's hard work and dedication soared to new heights. After being qualified at the regional meet in Thousand Oaks, California, two of our gymnasts – Natalie Keleshian and Ella Mokhartians – competed at the Junior Olympics in Columbus, Ohio. Our team competed in a USAG sanctioned event for the first time. Not only did they advance from their Region but also participated in Junior Olympics – now this is what we call a major accomplishment. We are congratulating our team and their coach – Ovsana Mkhchian – and looking forward for brighter future for our Rhythmic Gymnastics program at Ararat.



## Introducing Programs Division

Programs Division was created in 2003, with the objective of developing solutions to our chapter's common problems. As with any organization with over 2500 members, the day to day operation of the Athletic, Scouting and Cultural divisions consume our chapter and division executive boards' limited time. In order to plan and implement programs that will ensure our success for the next 30 years, a separate entity - Programs Division- was created, to solely concentrate on identifying and devising solutions for our chapter's principal challenges. Programs Division members possess diverse backgrounds and represent all divisions. Many are former executive board members, while new members are recruited for the purpose of utilizing their professional and organizational expertise in Ararat's youth-oriented community-based setting. In essence, Programs Division provides a perfect platform for former members, as well as new members to participate in our chapter using a modern and up-to-date approach to managing a non-profit organization.

### Some of Program Divisions current projects are:

- Parent Participation Program (PPP)
- Ararat Alumni Club Program (AAC)
- Leadership Training
- Strategic Planning
- Funds, Grants and Endowments
- Annual Scholarship Program

If you are interested in our activities, please contact Armond Gorgorian at [info@ararat.org](mailto:info@ararat.org)



## Glendale Friendship Games... a BIG Success!

Sports is the universal language of choice for our chapter as it helps unite The Glendale Community with the annual Glendale Friendship Games held during the month of October. The event is fast becoming a tradition in Glendale, as hundreds of athletes and supportive friends and family members come together for friendly competition, a lifetime of memories and a lasting sense of community solidarity.

"Our obligation goes beyond our members", said Executive Board's Vice-Chair Serge Grakasian in an interview with the Armenian Reporter. "We love to promote sports to our kids and members, but as a community organization we would like to provide service to the community at large. It is good for us not only to get involved in the Armenian Community, but beyond it. We are part of the city"

This year, the 3rd annual Friendship Games played host to table tennis, tennis, basketball, soccer and volleyball and brought together about 430 teens and 140 adult athletes. The games received praise from the members of Glendale City Council and Glendale Unified School District Board members and a wide coverage from the media.

A big thank you to Volvic Natural Spring Water, Glendale News Press and Joola Sporting goods supplier for sponsoring our games.

**The games final standings are posted online at [www.araratgfg.com](http://www.araratgfg.com)**

### Newsletter Contributors:

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### Ararat Chapter North Campus Renovations are Underway

After successfully securing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the City of Glendale through the Federal Housing and Urban Development Program in early March 2008, the Planning and Implementation Committee has been systematically and aggressively pursuing the implementation of the various phases of the construction and renovation work at the Ararat Chapter North Campus.

A prominent Glendale architectural firm was retained to assist with the drafting of the plans and facilitation of the permits and approvals from the cities of Glendale and Los Angeles. Renovation plans have been completed for the conversion of the existing warehouse area to an over 9,000 square foot youth, pre-teen athletic gymnasium, which will include basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer fields and other multi-purpose floors and amenities. A modern 500 square foot reception and parents waiting area with active security control is also being planned as well as new restroom facilities for the athletes and visitors. The renovated backyard area will include ample parking facilities for over 90 to 100 cars and a clear one-way circulation/drop-off area for members with access from both side streets of Dolores and Rosslyn.

Other major construction and renovation elements include electrical and lighting, structural, air conditioning, flooring and installation of athletic equipment. Adjacent, but separate from the gymnasium, the North Campus also includes two large and medium size activity halls for other athletic programs including ping-pong, martial arts, gymnastics as well as various cultural programs. Preliminary construction and renovation plans for the gym and parking area have already been reviewed by the City with final drawings expected to be submitted for approval in early November. Bids for construction will be advertised in late November or early December with construction scheduled to begin in January 2009.

Possible completion of all renovation activities is expected in early spring 2009.

#### Երկու ՅՄԸՄ-ականներ նուաճեցին «Արարատ»ի գազաթղ

Արարատի նուաճելու համար եթե հոգուց բաղկացած ժողովրդը, որին մաս էին կազմում Յ.Մ.Ը.Մ.-ի երկու անդամներ՝ Սան Ֆրանսիսկոյի մասնաճիւղի անդամ՝ Կորին Չայրապետեանն և Գլենդեյի Արարատ Մասնաճիւղի անդամ՝ Վաչիկ Չաքարեանը իրենց ճամբորդութիւնը սկսեցին Երեւանից սեպտեմբերի 6-ին: Խումբը հանրակառքով կտրեց՝ Երեւան, Գիւմրի, Ախալքալաք, Ախլցխա, Կարս, Իգդիր, Չին Բայազետ ճանապարհը, և 9 սեպտեմբերին սկսեց իր վերելքը՝ Արարատ լեռան գագաթը նուաճելու համար, որը և յաջողութեամբ իրականացւեց:

### Cultural Division's Sponsored Events

This year the Cultural Division has introduced new activities to bring the rich Armenian culture and literary history to our members as well as the Armenian Community in general.

Here is a brief recap of this year's activities:

Two Art Exhibitions featuring Armenian artists were sponsored.

Storybook reading sessions targeted to the younger members of our organization were introduced. In addition a formal and interactive book reading/show production was organized.

Ararat Art class students participated at the Armenian Allied Arts Competition and once again were recognized and awarded for their talent.

For the first time, the newly formed "Vernadon" Theater Group produced their first successful production of "Komitas" and finally

We started publishing the monthly cultural newsletter featuring important figures from our history with the objective of familiarizing our members with our national heritage

#### Upcoming Events

On November 23rd we will have the 3rd Annual popular "Ararat" Choir concert at the Ararat Center.

In February of 2009, we will celebrate our yearly Cultural Division talent event where we will portray the "Kaj Nazar" play with our dance class students as a dance recital and lastly,

We will continue offering our very popular Monday evening Armenian cultural dance classes (shoorj bar) to the members and non-members 18 and over where the participants will have an opportunity to learn and show off some old and new dance steps.

We would like to take this opportunity to provide you with the Cultural Division's class schedules and hope to see you there soon:

- Art Classes: Fri. 6:00-7:30pm at A.C.\*
- Youth Dance Classes: Fri., 4:00-8:00 pm at N.C.\*
- Adult Dance Classes: Mon. 8:00 pm at A.C.\*
- Theater Classes: Fri., 7:00-9:00 pm at A.C.\*
- Choir Practices: Wed. 8:00-10:00 pm at N.C.\*

\* AC - Ararat Center NC - North Campus

Յ.Մ.Ը.Մ.-ի Գլենդեյի Արարատ Մասնաճիւղի կողմից շնորհաւորում ենք Կորին Չայրապետեանին և Վաչիկ Չաքարեանին՝ այս կարեւոր աշխատանքը իրականացնելու և իրենց տարիների երազանքը ի կատար ածելու համար:

### Fundraising Division, the Driving Force!

The year is coming to an end and the Fundraising Division is still busy working on the remaining programs to wrap-up the year successfully and raise money above and beyond the promised budget amount.

So far the division has implemented over a dozen programs organized with the help of more than 100 dedicated committee members and volunteers.

Just to name a few of our popular events, we organized our Annual Easter Festival, 12th Annual Fashion Show featuring fashions by Nordstrom, Raffle Drawing and a Silent Auction & Bazaar. Its worthwhile to mention our first ever spook-tacular Halloween Party for the kids which created a safe and fun-filled atmosphere for the parents and their children to play, dance, laugh, and mingle with each other.

Some of the most popular programs are still underway including the Chapter's 30th Anniversary Banquet.

As always, the division's goal is to continue support our chapter throughout the coming years with new events and new ideas.

#### 3Ds of Ararat Scouts

Discipline. Determination. Domination. These are the three D's that describe the scouting character of the Ararat Chapter. Looking at this year in 3D, the scouts have put together events covering all aspects of scouting, while having a great time doing it.

A major marching competition in September tested the discipline of the scouts. Earlier in the year, the scout division put on a camp specifically to train patrol and troop leaders, how to guide their troops in the best way. Also in September, the scouts held the annual, and much anticipated, Olympic Games, where the troops competed against each other in a big rally type event. Additionally, all assistant patrol leaders and up visited San Francisco in May for the annual retreat, where they enjoyed the company of fellow scouts. One of the most exciting experiences throughout the year included the 5th Western Regional Camp held in August at Camp Tecuya. The one week long camp was composed of all Homenetmen scouts. Homenetmen Ararat participated with almost 200 scouts.

These events are enabled by the young and energetic leadership of the Ararat Scouting Division; they strive to organize quality events giving the Armenian youth an experience that cannot be acquired in any other aspect of life. And they, in turn, grow up to continue the tradition.



The Homenetmen Glendale Ararat Chapter

**ARARAT**  
**URUPUS LINK**

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Chapter Division's General Meetings

- Scouts Div. Nov. 23rd
- Genearl Athletics Div. Dec. 2nd
- Programs Div. Dec. 3rd
- Basketball Div. Dec. 4th
- Cultural Div. Dec. 7th

Be Part of the Future of Ararat!  
Participate in General Meetings...  
Call 323-256-2564  
info@ararat.org

**Ararat Gets Involved In Community Outings**

Glendale streets were just a bit cleaner by the end of Saturday May 17, 2008 thanks to the efforts of hundreds of volunteers including our chapter's which participated in the 20th Annual Great American Clean Up Day. Ararat's team was 29 strong and made a real impression. Once again our scouts came through with flying colors. They worked hard, acted smart, and looked great, too. We also had a chance to talk to former Mayor Yousefian and a number of Glendale Police Department personnel about future plans and activities at Ararat.

Our chapter also took part in Glendale's Relay for Life Fundraising Event held on September 29-30, 2008 at Scholl Canyon Baseball Fields. The event was designed to educate, celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs of the American Cancer Society. With the hard work of our chapter's participants we were able to raise \$1,300.00 in donations

**Ararat Fitness Center**

Tired of telling yourself and others "I need to lose weight"? Do gyms and health clubs intimidate you?

Do you think gyms' membership fees are costly? Don't you wish doing something more productive than sitting idly at Ararat's parking lot in your car while waiting for your child's practice or class to finish?

If you answer YES to any of these questions, then we have the perfect solution for you. Ararat opened it's Fitness Center in May of 2008, where you could find updated cardio and strength equipment among other equipments. Its operating hours are 4:00PM – 9:00 PM. Come and join us and take advantage of Ararat's membership special. Ararat members pay NO initiation or membership fees.

**Ararat Family Camp Experience of a Lifetime!**

The first ever Ararat Family Camp was held on July 11-13 at Homenetmen Camp Tecuya at Frazier Park. Approximately 120 people participated in this event. The camping provided an opportunity to strengthen our family bonds, learn more about the environment, and form enduring friendships. From hilarious entertainment by Arick and Garen, and various activities such as archery, chess, backgammon, bingo, volleyball, swimming, music and dance there was something for everyone to enjoy. Not to mention the great food! *Here are some comments from the campers:*

"Can we live there?" was what our kids told us when we returned home. This was a wonderful first "tent" camping experience for our kids. And for us, what better than being surrounded with old friends in a beautiful, refreshing and relaxed surrounding. THANK YOU" -From Edwin, Arline, Derrick & Sophie

"...This was by far one of the best camping trips we have gone in a long time and such a memorable experience for the kids. We are looking forward to the next camp-out" - From Willie, Lucy and Raffi Martirosian

"...Personally speaking it was a true flash back for me, bringing back some great memories of my teen years as a girl scout..." - From Mary Minassians

"We had loads of fun...It was one of the best camping trips we've had in a long time... Thanks for organizing this and let's do it again!" - From Arlet and Hratch Davtian

"Thank you to the committee for the hard work in organizing this event. Alex had a lot of fun playing "tonbak (drums)" with Uncle Arig and Uncle Garen. Thanks to you, his first camping experience was wonderful and a memorable one..." - From Eddie, Aline and Alex Mirzabeigi

Հ.Մ.Ը.Մ.-ի Գլենդեյի Արարատ Մասնաճիւղի նախաձեռնութեամբ, Դոկտեմբեր 18-ին եւ 19-ին Արարատի կենտրոնում, Glendale High School-ում ու Glendale Sports Complex-ում տեղի ունեցաւ Գլենդեյի Ընկերական 3-րդ շրջանի խաղերը՝ հայ եւ Գլենդեյի այլ համայնքների մարզիկների միջեւ՝ նպատակ ունենալով հունի մէջ դնել Գլենդեյի համայնքի մարզական աշխատանքներն ու զարգացնել յարաբերութիւնները: Խաղերը տեղի ունեցան բասկետբալ, վալիբալ, ոտնագնդակ, թենիս, փինգ փոնգ եւ ճատրակ մարզաճիւղերում:

Սեպտեմբեր 28-ի երեկոյեան «Hall of Liberty»-ում աւելի քան 1000 ներկաների մասնակցութեամբ մեծ շուքով սշուեց Հ.Մ.Ը.Մ.-ի Գլենդեյի Արարատ Մասնաճիւղի հիմնադրութեան եւ գործունեութեան 30 ամեակը: Պաշտօնական հանգամանքով ձեռնարկին ներկայ էին Թեմակալ Առաջնորդը, ազգային ու նահանգային պետական պաշտօնատարներ, որոնք ողջոյնի խօսքով կամ գրութեամբ իրենց շնորհաւորանքի խօսքն յայտնեցին օրուայ առիթով: Ձեռնարկն պարունակում էր գեղարուեստական յայտագիր՝ պար, երգ եւ երաժշտութիւն, մարզական շարժումների ներկայացում, կարճ տեսաժապաւենների ու սահիկների ցուցադրում, որոնք ներկայացնում էին Մասնաճիւղի զանազան բաժանմունքների աշխատանքները: Ձեռնարկը կազմակերպւել էր խնամաւծ եւ պսակեց յաջողութեամբ: