

October 2005

Ararat Newsletter

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In recent months, our Chapter has been very, very busy. As we celebrate our 27th anniversary, we remember that Ararat Chapter continues to provide safe, secure and developmentally excellent programs and opportunities for Glendale's youth.

The Divisions have each been working very hard implementing their goals and making them realities. We were honored and humbled as His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia to celebrate the 1600th Anniversary of the Armenian alphabet at Ararat Center.

Through hard work, unwavering support, and generous contributions from corporate and individual donors, we have been able to grow with Glendale's youth building successively better programs and facilities.

As construction continues, to

make our current center safer, we have received a \$5,000 sponsorship for the current construction. We are looking for more interested sponsors.

I am proud to announce that we are now actively looking for a new center in Glendale. Our current facility has served the community well, but the center can no longer accommodate the growing numbers of young people and programs. With more comprehensive facilities and acreage available, we will be once again "rise to the occasion" and provide for the ever-growing needs of our youth, as we have done for almost a century both here and abroad.

The Platinum Committee has already had a successful Kick-off Night and is looking forward to Platinum Night on November 4th. The road to the second Homenetmen "Ararat" Center looks very

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bright and promising. Please contact us today and let's work together to help build a better future for everyone by nurturing our youth today.

1600-TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Homenetmen Glendale Ararat Chapter was honored to welcome His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia of the Armenian Apostolic Church to Ararat Center. His Holiness visited Ararat Center on Thursday, October 6, 2005 to celebrate the Armenian alphabet's creation and meet with the community.

The event, hosted by Ararat's

Cultural Division, featured 38 artworks from Armenian artists who were each assigned a letter of the alphabet and were asked to portray that letter in some way. The committee worked for many months and dedicated countless hours in organizing an event of such a magnitude. The Cultural Division was able to make this event a reality with dedicated and devoted committee mem-

bers and volunteers.

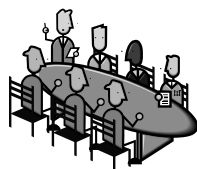
The artwork creations ranged from sculptures to paintings, symbolizing the letters in different forms. Celebrating the 1600th anniversary, the event honored Saint Mesrob Mashtots of Armenia who invented the Armenian alphabet in 405 A.D. in order to provide the Armenian

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ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

Please be aware that Homenetmen Glendale Ararat Chapter will be



holding its Annual Division Meetings.

The meetings are vital in planning next year's activities. Please attend the meetings of Divisions of which you are registered for:

Scouting—Nov. 13,
10:00 A.M.

Programs—Nov. 21,
7:30 P.M.

Cultural—Nov. 17,
7:30 P.M.

Basketball—Nov. 30,
7:30 P.M.

Gen. Athletic—Dec. 1,
7:30 P.M.

Fundraising—Dec. 6,
7:30 P.M.

All meetings will be held at Ararat Center. Please be advised that the Chapter Representative Meeting will be held on December 11th at 10:30 A.M. Your attendance is much appreciated.

HOMENETMEN ARARAT HONORS ITS EXEMPLARY MEMBERS



On October 22nd, our Chapter celebrated its 27th anniversary at Ararat Center. The night was not only a celebration of the years of volunteer dedication in making Ararat be what it is, but also to the many, many promising years it has in its future.

Among its many volunteers, the night was extra special as three of our volunteers were honored for their years of selfless dedication and diligent work. Beatrice Savadian, Victor Martin, and Edvart Marootkhanian are remarkable examples of our volunteers.

Beatrice Savadian joined Ararat Chapter in 1982. She was a co-founder of the Volunteer Division, also known as Yeretsakan Division. She

was elected as a member of the Chapter Board of Directors for five years. She has also participated in innumerable amounts of committees providing her admirable talents. She always shows her love of this organization through her efforts.

Victor Martin joined Ararat Chapter in 1983 as a member of the Volunteer Division where he was elected as a member of the Division's Board that year. For three years, he was elected as a member of the Chapter's Board of Directors. Martin had a pivotal role in the planning phase of Ararat Center. Because of his strong dedication, the Chapter entrusted Martin with the construction phase. Martin's dedication

influenced every aspect of the project and all those working alongside him.

Edvart Marootkhanian has been a member of our Chapter since 1995. He was a member of the Chapter's Board of Directors from 1998-2002. He has been a member of the Volunteer Division where he was elected to the Division Board in 1998. Marootkhanian had significant input in the construction phase to which he was appointed to from 1999-2001. He was in charge of overseeing the construction, specifically the Multipurpose Hall. He carried out the project meticulously. As a result of his efforts, Ararat, along with Glendale Adventist carried



ATHLETES COMPETE IN ARMENIA

Homenetmen Glendale Ararat Chapter's Basketball Division had a very exciting summer! Our men's basketball team, representing the City of Glendale, had the opportunity to return to Armenia to compete in the Pan-Armenian Games. Fifteen athletes and three coaches made up the team. Some of the members

of the team were visiting Armenia for the first time while others were returning for a second or third time.

Either way, they were all excited to be able to compete with Armenian teams from around the world. The team was honored to be able to compete with Armenian teams from around the world. The team was honored to

be able to play basketball in Armenia while having the opportunity to visit historical sites. The team came home with a third place trophy and wonderful memories and many new established friendships with Armenian athletes from around the world. We are all anxiously waiting for the next Pan-Armenian Games.

TEAM/TROOP SPONSORSHIP

Scouting and sports are a great way to teach teamwork, build self-esteem, and promote healthy minds and bodies in our young people, as well as a great way of building future leaders.

By sponsoring your favorite athletic team, scout troop, or cultural class, you are helping one of the most active youth organizations in Southern California fulfill its commitment to

our youth and our community.

For a yearly donation of \$500, your company has the opportunity to sponsor one of our many troops and teams in our scouting and athletic divisions.

In order to highlight your contribution, your organization will receive a plaque containing a photograph of your sponsored troop or team, and another will be placed in our hallway for

one year.

In addition, your company will enjoy knowing that you are helping to provide healthy after-school activities for young people.

For additional information and to learn about more ways you can help our Program's Division please contact us at (323)256-2564.

MATCHING FUNDS PROGRAM

Now you have the option of doubling your donation. A very effective way of promoting charitable contributions to Homenetmen Glendale Ararat is the Matching Funds Program. Under this plan, the company elects to match any employee's gift to our Chapter.

"Only one third of our monthly expenses and operational cost are covered by membership fees."

The money collected will be beneficial in advancing our programs. Some examples of

Inc., ITT Industries, Morgan Stanley, and New York Life Insurance Co. Only one third of our monthly expenses and operational costs are covered by membership fees. The remaining two-thirds are raised through the generous support of individuals and businesses like yours.

Through these tax-deductible donations, Homenetmen Ararat can help promote community spirit and teamwork

companies who support matching funds are: American National Bank, Bank of America Corp., Boeing Co., Cingular Wireless, Hallmark Cards,

We can think of no better investment for your company's charitable dollars. For information please contact us at (323)256-2564.

CELEBRATION OF THE ARMENIAN ALPHABET

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community with an outlet to worship in their own written language.

His Holiness was greeted by Homenetmen Ararat's Board of Directors, City Officials, Division Executives, scouts, athletes, and members of the Ararat community. His Holiness addressed the Ararat

community and congratulated them on their efforts through the years. He praised them on their ability to carry their roots from the "Ararat" Organization from Iran and unite with the Homenetmen family in the United States.

His Holiness stressed the significance of the creation of the Armenian alphabet and the importance of remembering

and preserving the Armenian language. He also emphasized the importance of the unification of the Armenian people, especially in the Diaspora. "It's really symbolic," said Ani Aghajani, who has been a member of the Scouting Division for 18 years. "This event brought together two really important aspects of our people together."

SCOUTING DIVISION'S ANNUAL CAMP

During the summer, Scouting Division leaders were hard at work preparing for their annual camp. Long hours of meetings, weeks of preparation, and with a lot of enthusiasm, leaders finally greeted scouts on August 15th at Mataguay Scout Reservation in San Diego County.

The week was filled with many fun and educational activities. Activities included a day-long rally that combined scouting

knowledge and team-building activities. Troops competed in sporting games including water polo and volleyball.

Troop spirit was apparent as each troop wore their colors proudly and sang their troop songs. Scouts also participated in presentations ranging from cultural to scouting topics.

Many guest speakers, including past scout leaders, came to share their knowledge with our

current scouts and leaders alike. Scout leaders took part in management training and learned about the essence of Homenetmen and their role as leaders. Boy and girl scouts danced the night away at their annual camp dance while cub scouts enjoyed a carnival filled with music and games.

Camping is a fundamental aspect of scouting and this year's annual camp proved to once again be a success.

CLASSES IN COOKING AND HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Do you love to cook or just want to learn? Here is your perfect opportunity!



The Circle of Friends Committee is pleased to announce that it is launching its first series of educational classes in Cooking and Holiday Entertainment. The series will consist of four classes, each covering a different topic or featured ingredient.



You will learn how to make

delicious dishes, and innovative ideas on table setting and decorating. Please register before November 10 to ensure you don't miss out. For registration or for more information, visit www.ararat.org or email araratcircleoffriends@hotmail.com

ARARAT IN THE COMMUNITY

Homenetmen Ararat, in recent months, has participated in City of Glendale Graffiti Clean Up Day and the Revlon Cancer Walk. During the Graffiti Clean Up, Ararat members joined other city volunteers to help keep our city clean. Participants also participated in the Revlon Cancer Walk which raises money to fight against breast and ovarian cancer. At the end of the day, participants of each activity felt a great sense of accomplishment. For further information on activities organized please contact our Programs Division.



Since 1987, this navigational TSD car rally, also known as Ararat Rally, has been an exciting annual event organized by dedicated volunteers. Created in support of Homenetmen Glendale Ararat Chapter, the rally's purpose is to help the organization as it serves the community's youth in Scouting, Sports and Cultural activities.

Participating cars and enthusiastic participants left the Ararat Center on San Fernando Road in Los Angeles to reach the finish line on October 15. The rally took approximately nine hours to complete, as the participants followed the road-book instructions to the set destination in San Diego. Each car was manned by a driver and a navigator, with a limit of four passengers per car. Though the event's primary goal is charity, each team's goal is to reach all of the randomly selected checkpoints and the final destination at a precise time. We would like to thank Andre and Desiree Gulanians for organizing this event so devotedly for so many years. The event ended with participants returning the next day. We would like to congratulate this year's rally winners: Roubik Aftandalians, Oshin Khachikan, and Arsho Melik-Jahanian. If you are interested in participating or planning for next year's rally, please contact the Volunteers Division at (323)256-2564.

SCOUTING DIVISION LEADERS ATTEND WOOD BADGE

"Back to Gilwell, happy land, I'm going to work my ticket if I can." You may have heard this song if you have attended a Wood Badge beading or even participated in it yourself.

This year, ten scoutmasters from Homenetmen Glendale Ararat Chapter's Scouting Division attended the six-day (held over two weekends) training session. Wood Badge is the most advanced training available for scout leaders who are involved in the programs of the Boy Scouts of America.

The training includes presentations covering various topics including listening to learn, celebrating team success, situational leadership, project planning and problem solving, and leaving a legacy.

At the end of the six-day practical, scoutmasters must complete five tickets. Tickets are contracts made between each scout and their patrol guide. The contract is the commitment each scout makes to practice using the leadership skills taught at Wood Badge in scouting. The purpose is to help each

scout realize their personal vision of their role.

The scouts from our Chapter had the opportunity to learn a lot from



other scout leaders and to also bond as leaders themselves. They were able to teach other scout leaders about Homenetmen and the Armenian culture. They made many friends and one leader stated, "This was an amazing opportunity that I am glad I did not miss out on." The leaders

have returned inspired and prepared to do an even better job of providing Scouting to boys and girls.

The scout leaders will now be working on their tickets as they prepare to be beaded in a Wood Badge ceremony. At the ceremony they will receive a certificate, a neckerchief, a leather woggle and two small wooden beads on a leather necklace.

Keep an eye as our scout leaders finish their tickets and become official Wood Badgers!