

Ararat Lodge Trestle Board

May 2010

Ararat Lodge No 848 F. & A.M.

33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre, Ca 91024

<http://www.ararat848.org>



Calendar of Events

May 6 th	7:00 Stated Meeting
	7:30 Cinco De mayo Celebration, Fellowship Night
May 13 th	7:00 Dinner Reservation is a must due to limited seating in the Lodge room Cost \$15.00 First Degree Initiation in the Armenian Language with the Armenian Degree Team
May 20 th	7:30 OSI at Maya Lodge No 793 278 S. Mission Dr. San Gabriel, Ca 91776 Ararat Lodge Dark
May 27 th	7:00 Dinner Second Degree for Brother Karo Shirinian

Our stated meeting is on the first Thursday of each month



Սիրելի Եղբայրներ,

Ահա այսպէս բոլորեցինք այս տարուայ մէկ երրորդը, տօնեցինք եւ տեսանք Ծնունդը եւ Յարութիւնը, անցուցինք պաղ եւ տաք օրեր, թէ պայծառ թէ փոթորիկ, թէ հանդարտ թէ երկրաշարժ: Կը շարունակենք տեսնել շրիեղիեղ եւ ձիւնամրիկ երկիրներ, խաղաղ եւ պատերազմի շրջաններ, առողջ եւ վատառողջ անձեր եւ ասոնց նման տեսակ տեսակ հակապատքեր խնդիրներ:

Մենք Արարատ Օթեակն ալ ունեցանք անցնող 4 ամսուայ մէջ նոյնչափ գեղեցիկ եւ տքեղ հանդիպումներ, առողջ եւ վատառողջ անդամներ, թիմումներ, անդամագրուողներ եւ ապա հրաժարողներ, մասնակցողներ եւ ոչ մասնակցողներ: Հին հարազատներ եւ բարեկամներ եղան իրարու դարիպ, նոր դարիպներ եղան իրարու հարազատ: Աստուած աշխարհին եւ մեր բոլորին տայ իմաստութիւն, խաղաղութիւն եւ լուսաւոր օրեր որպէսի բարեբեր ըլլան մեր քալիք օրերը եւ յառաջ տանինք այս մեր սուրբ գործը հայ օթեակին:

Մայիս՝ գարնան ամիս ծաղիկներով եւ գեղեցիկ օրերով լի ի մասնաւորի Մայրերու ամիս: Կը շնորհաւորեմ բոլոր մայրերը եւ իրենց կը ձանկամ առողջ եւ երկար կեանք:

Մայր կը նշանակէ կեանք տուող. անոր համար ունինք Մայր Հայրենիք, Մայր Լեզու, Մայր Աթոռ:

Իբր առաջին եւ միակ Հայկական Օթեակ կը նկատենք Արարատ Օթեակը իբր մեր հայերուն Մայր Օթեակը: Սիլվա Կապուտիկեանը ըսած է, թէ մայրդ անգամ մտքից հանես քո մայր Լեզուն չմորանաս: Մենք ալ հետեւելով այս խօսքին, ինչ որ ըլլայ մեր կարծիքը կամ գաղաբարը, պէտք չէ մոռանանք մեր մայր օթեակը ի գին ամեն ինչի նախ կարչած մնանք մեր օթեակին եւ միշտ ցանկանք օգտակար ըլլալ, հառաչ տանիլ, բարձրանալ, բարձրացնել եւ բազմացնել գայն. մինչ հնազանդ ըլլալով մեր երդումի սկսպունքներուն: Յարգանքով եւ պատիով զարգացնենք մեր այս գեղեցիկ Մայր Օթեակը:

Յարգանք բոլոր մայրերուն,
Յարգանք մայր հայրենիքին,
Յարգանք մայր Լեզուին,
Յարգանք միակ հայ եւ մայր Արարատ Օթեակին,
Յարգանք Քալիֆօրնիո Մայր Օթեակին...

Լաւագոյն Մաղթանքներով եւ Եղբայրական Սիրով,

Ժիրայր Ծիրիքճեան, Մ.Վ.

Dear Brethren,

It's hard to believe a third of the year has passed. This time has encompassed celebrations of birth and resurrection. It's been a season of cold and warm weather with both bright days and gloomy rain. We've enjoyed calm days and ones that rumbled with the earthquakes. We continue to see flooding and severe cold in various lands, areas of peace and war, and all the other dichotomies of good and bad both in people and in the world around us.

In the last four months, Ararat Lodge too has had its good and not-so-good experiences. We've welcomed new prospects and members as well as bid farewell to those resigned. With both the healthy minded and weaker links in mind, let's pray for peace and positivity that the days ahead may be as productive and fruitful as possible.

May, the month that Springs us out of the cold, filled with flowers and bloom, especially the month that celebrates and honors our mothers. I'd like to wish all the mothers a Happy Mothers' Day, wishing them all a happy and healthy life.

"Mother" is a word that signifies that which gives rise to others. For this reason we have such notions as Mother Nature, Motherland, our Mother tongue, etc...

As the first Armenian Lodge, Ararat Lodge is considered the Mother Lodge for Armenians. As Silva Kaputikian once wrote, "even if you abandon your mother, don't abandon your mother tongue." Following in those words, regardless of our thoughts or ideas that we find in our 'motherboards', we cannot abandon our Mother Lodge and rather we should stand united and be constant in our efforts to assist in the progression of our great organization; to rise, to raise, and expand it successfully, while remaining dutiful to our oath of freemasonry. Progression comes with a level of respect and pride in our great Ararat Lodge.

Respect to our mothers,
Respect to our motherland,
Respect to our mother tongue,
Respect to the only Armenian and our Mother Ararat Lodge,
Respect to the California 'Mother' Lodge...

As always, I sign of with Best Wishes and Brotherly Love,

Gerard Shirikjian, P.M.
Master



Ararat Lodge Annual Banquet
Friday June 25, 2010
8:00 PM

De Lux Banquet Hall

237 E Olive Ave, Burbank, CA 91502

818-955-7777

<http://www.deluxebanquethall.com>

International Singer & Entertainer
Koko Haytayan

Donation \$65.00 per guest



From the Secretary's Desk

Brethren,

We are already in the 5th month of the year; time is flying by and we are heading into the summer months. What a beautiful time is ahead of us; our children will soon be out of school and we will be planning our vacation to spend quality time with our kids and grand kids.

Brothers, as we head into May we put behind us April which in the Masonic community is the month when we honor our local schools and students with recognition letters and financial support from our lodges. This year, Ararat lodge did so once again with a slight difference; in the past years, under the leadership of past committee chairman, we always had the functions in our banquet room in the lodges. These functions were always well attended but were limited to a small number of family and community members which were invited to the function.

This year, Brother Tony Agajanian did something totally different thinking outside the box. He put forward a challenge to the children; they could participate by writing an essay about their favorite hero. The children loved the concept; it engaged and challenged their mind and stirred them to compete in an academic environment. The teachers also noticed great enthusiasm and participation from the kids.

Brother Tony, Brother Aren Soulahian and Brother Vardan Kasabyan with worshipful Gerard Shrikjian PM were busy reading all the essays which were submitted. In general, it was a wonderful event for the kids as well as the teachers and the school administration.

The awards were presented to the children in the school auditorium by Brother Tony and Worshipful Master as well as Brother Soulahian. There were more than two hundred parents and guests present in the Assembly which was held in the auditorium of the school. After presenting the students with the awards the principle acknowledged the Masons of Ararat Lodge and their role in Sierra Madre community.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge Brother Tony and his committee members for the fine work in organizing and delivering this task.

Fraternally

Alex Ashjian

Secretary of Ararat lodge #848

From the desk of the Assistant Secretary

Brethren,

I represent the third generation of Masons in my family. My grandfather was a Mason, my uncle is a Mason, and I am a Mason. I am proud to be a member of the Ararat Masonic Lodge # 848, the first duly constituted Armenian speaking lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in California. I was born in 1955 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, East Africa. I attended an all-boys Catholic school in Addis Ababa. Upon graduating high school in 1971, my father could have afforded to send me to Europe or to the United States to continue my higher education, but chose to send me to Armenia (then the Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia) to study medicine and become a better Armenian. From September 1971 through June 1978, I was a disaporan student in Armenia. While in Armenia, I was fascinated by its rich culture: its language, literature, history, architecture, arts, etc. Instead of studying medicine, I devoted myself to studying the Armenian culture, and in 1978 graduated from the Yerevan State University (YSU) with a Master of Arts Degree in Armenian Language and Literature. I met the love of my life, Karine, at the YSU. We got married at Hripsime Church in Etchmiadzin, Armenia. Our daughter, Gabriella Ovsana Djerrahian, was born in Yerevan. From 1978 through 1986 we lived in Addis Ababa, where my wife and I taught in the Armenian School. I also played the keyboard and sang in a band. From 1986 through 1988 we lived in Armenia as I was doing my Ph.D. In 1988 we moved to the United States. For about ten years I taught in one of the Armenian Schools in the Los Angeles area. I also sang in a band. For the past ten years I have been working for the County of Los Angeles (CoLA), currently as a manager in one of the Human Resources Bureaus of CoLA. My hobby is singing and playing Texas Holdem for fun.

In 2002 I was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason at Torrance Masonic Lodge. I was one of the chartered members of the Awesome Armenian Shrine Club (AASC); a Past President of the AASC; one of the chartered members of the Ararat Masonic Lodge under dispensation; and subsequently the Ararat Masonic Lodge # 848. I had the distinct privilege of being the first secretary of the Ararat Masonic Lodge # 848. I was involved in translating the California Masonic ritual into Armenian and had the privilege of sitting in the East to present a mock first degree (opening and closing) in the Armenian language in front of the Grand Lodge Officers of California Masons, the Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Armenia, and the brethren of the Ararat Masonic Lodge # 848.

I am a Mason and proud to be a member of the Ararat Masonic Lodge # 848, the first duly constituted Armenian speaking lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in California.

Brother Dikran Djerrahian
Assistant Secretary
Ararat Masonic Lodge # 848



Aram
Yegiazarian
May 3



Roland
Altounian
May 9



Scott
Wilde
May 17



Alex
Mandoyan
May 26



Abraham
Topdjian
May 30

Happy Birthday to our Brethren

BETTER PAY ATTENTION TO THIS ONE.

AT \$754.00 ALMOST LIKE A D.U.I.

NEW TRAFFIC LAW - 2010

New Law: If a patrol car is pulled over to the side of the road, you have to change to the next lane (away from the stopped vehicle) or slow down to at least 20 mph under the posted speed limit. Every State except Hawaii and Maryland and the D.C. has this law. In California , the Move-over law became operative

ON January 1, 2010. <http://www.moveoveramerica.com/> A friend's son got a ticket for this recently. A police car (turned out it was two police cars) was on the side of the road giving a ticket to someone else. He slowed down to pass but did not move into the other lane. The second police car immediately pulled him over and gave him a ticket. He had never heard of the law. It is a fairly new law that states if any emergency vehicle is on the side of the road, if you are able, you are to move into the far lane.

The cost of the ticket was \$754, with three points on your license and a mandatory court appearance. Please let everyone you know that drives about this new law. It is true

(See details at the following web address). www.moveoveramerica.com

*Public School Award Presentation – April 1, 2010
Sierra Madre School – Junior High*



Winners of the 2010 Masonic Public School Essay Contest (front, from left) Isaiah Basu, Megan Tcheng, Rebecca Liu (with her aid), Renatta Cooper (PUSD Board Member) and Gayle Bluemel (Principal, Sierra Madre School). Ararat Lodge Brothers (rear, from left) Aren Soulahian (Contest Co Chair), Tony Agajanian (Contest Chairman) and Master of Ararat Lodge, Gerard Shirikjian (PM).

Our commitment to the California Public Schools continues as in April the Ararat Lodge #848 Free and Accepted Masons recognized students from the Sierra Madre School. This year, unlike the formats of our previous Public School events, which focused primarily on the 8th grade; our 2010 event invited all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students to participate and enjoy the benefits of our philanthropy through an *Essay Contest* focusing on the strength of character of our first president of the United States of America, George Washington. Our theme this year was motivated by the centennial celebration of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria Virginia, and also to commemorate Washington's singular role in founding this great country. The Sierra Madre Middle School had an overwhelming response to our challenge as it produced 222 fantastic essays! The winners (6th Grade) Isaiah Basu, (7th Grade) Megan Tcheng, and (8th Grade) Rebecca Liu each received a \$75.00 cash award and a framed certificate in recognition of their achievements.

Sierra Madre Upper Campus

160 N. Canon Ave. Sierra Madre, CA

April 18, 2010

Ararat Lodge

Dear Tony,

I want to tell you how much I appreciate your writing contest for our middle school students. When I first read the topic, I was eager to give the assignment. I have taught for many years and biographies of famous people are always a part of the curriculum. I was amazed, however, at my students' lack of knowledge about "heroes". Many drew a blank when it came to defining a hero. Most of the students wrote about their parents, which was fine, but your contest was the impetus for a hero lesson.

My students worked in pairs to write a definition of a hero. They shared these definitions with their classmates and then chose to write a short essay about a person who met their hero definition. Their definitions included such qualities as: bravery, selflessness, compassion, patriotism, loyalty, and philanthropy.

I thank you not only for the contest and the monetary awards given to the students and teachers, but you provided me with an excellent lesson that went beyond the original contest. I'm inclosing my assignment so you can see what an inspiration your competition was to me and my students. They wrote about war heroes, presidents, sports figures (who did more than hit the ball), people who overcame great difficulties, and people who made a difference in the world. Their papers were fantastic! Thank you!

Sincerely,

Helen Pontarelli,

Sixth Grade English and Social Studies

MOTHERS DAY MAY 9TH 2010

This holiday was declared officially by the state of West Virginia in 1910, and the rest of the states followed quickly. On May 8, 1914, the US Congress passed a law designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day and requesting a proclamation. On May 9, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation, declaring the first national Mother's Day, as a day for American citizens to show the flag in honor of those mothers whose sons had died in war. In 1934, U.S. President Franklin D Roosevelt approved a stamp commemorating the holiday. In May 2008, the U.S. House of Representatives voted twice on a resolution commemorating Mother's Day, the first one unanimous so that all congressmen would be on record showing support for Mother's Day.

Ararat Lodge No 848 Officers

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