

# Կամավորի Ձայնը

Voice of the Volunteer



Ապրիլ 2018

# Կամաւորի Զայնը

Provided By: The Homenetmen Eastern Region USA & Armenian Youth Federation - Youth Organization of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation  
Eastern Region USA

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2 - APRIL 2018



## AYF-YOARF Providence 'Varantian' Chapter Holds Open House

By: U. Garo Tashian Providence "Varantian" Chapter

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (A.W.)—On the evening of March 16, the Providence chapter of the Armenian Youth Federation (AYF-YOARF) held an open house for the first time in several years. AYF Seniors, AYF Juniors, alumni, and—most importantly—prospective future AYF members attended the event.



The room of over 50 attendees started their evening by listening to welcoming remarks by *unger* Garo Tashian, chairman of the AYF Providence Senior chapter. Tashian then gave a presentation that discussed the work of the AYF and some background on the organization's 85-year history. Topics discussed included the founding members of the organization; the history of the first convention; the opening of AYF Camp Haiastan in Franklin, Mass.; the start and current state of the AYF Olympics; the Javakhk *Jampar* program; the AYF internship in Armenia. The presentation also described what it meant to be an AYF member and the responsibility one takes on by taking an AYF oath—a responsibility to oneself and to one's community.



The night continued with a presentation from AYF Providence Junior chapter president, *unger*Nerses Donoyan, who touched upon the several activities and events the juniors organize both locally and regionally. Events such as AYF Junior Seminar, AYF Junior Winter Olympics, and AYF Junior Conferences were discussed and explained to prospective members, most of whom were junior-aged. The evening concluded with words from various alumni and AYF members,



sharing their thoughts on how the organization has shaped their lives for the better and how joining the organization was one of the best decisions they have ever made.



“We hope to continue to hold open houses within our community, to shed light on how the AYF plays a vital role in keeping our Armenian youth active within the community and how the opportunities the AYF presents its youth will forever be life changing—both in and out of the organization,” the chapter chairman said.

## Scores of Armenian College Students Take in ARS Norian Youth Connect Program at Columbia University

By: Armenian Weekly Contributor

NEW YORK (A.W.)—Despite less than ideal weather conditions, approximately 100 college students from around the country participated in the Armenian Relief Society (ARS) Eastern U.S. Norian Youth Connect Program (YCP) at Columbia University on March 3.

The YCP is organized by the ARS of Eastern U.S. twice a year. This latest installment was co-sponsored by the Armenian Society of Columbia University, and featured discussions on film production, human rights, Armenian identity, and Armenian culture.



ARS Eastern U.S. chair *ungerouhi* Talin Daghljan kicked off the weekend by welcoming attendees and presenting the various activities and the programs of the ARS, which include the ARS undergraduate and graduate scholarships; camperships provided to youth attending AYF Camp Haiastan; the rebuilding of the Stepanakert Soseh Kindergarten in Artsakh; helping families of martyred soldiers of Artsakh; sponsoring Metz Tagher Soseh Kindergarten in Hatrut region; and sponsoring orphans and students in Armenia and Artsakh. Daghljan also noted that this was the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the YCP and presented slideshow of photos from past programs.

Former president of the New York Women in Film and Television and its advisory board's current chair Alexis Alexanian was the first presenter of the weekend. Alexanian's film credits

include “Bonfire of the Vanities,” “A League of Their Own,” and “Striptease.” She co-founded InDigEnt with Gary Winick, John Sloss, and IFC. Alexanian also produced the television series “Long Way Round,” starring Ewan McGregor as well as the Ethan Hawke-directed “The Hottest State.” Alexanian spoke about her own Armenian heritage and reflected on her long career in film production. She shared stories of her work and discussed new distribution avenues. Alexanian’s inspirational talk was followed by a question and answer session with her on filmmaking, identity, and gender in the film industry.

Dr. Hayk Demoyan, Director of the Armenian Genocide Museum and Institute (AGMI) in Yerevan and U.S. Fulbright visiting scholar at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies of Harvard University then presented his newly published book *Armenian Legacy in America: A 400-Year Heritage* with a slide show featuring documents, artifacts, and photos documenting four centuries of Armenian presence in America. He said with the book, he wants to inform the American public on the role and place of the American Armenian Community in the U.S. and their contribution to this country.

ARS Norian YCP Director Dr. Khatchig Mouradian lecture, entitled “Love in the Time of Genocide” featured letters, poems, and memoirs from the Armenian Genocide. He shared several stories of the tragic period of our nation. He examined love letters and love poems written during the genocide, arguing that “Armenian deportees often found in romantic love a sense of normalcy in a world gone mad, and a form of resistance against the Ottoman Turkish effort to break apart, destroy, and annihilate.”

Sato Moughalian’s presentation concluded the program. Moughalian is a flutist in New York City with more than 30 chamber music recordings to her credit and artistic director of Perspectives Ensemble founded at Columbia University in 1993. For the past eight years, she has conducted archival research in Turkey, Israel, England, and France on the life and work of her grandfather, ceramicist David Ohannessian, and traced the history of his monumental tiled installations. Her presentation, titled “From Kütahya to Al-Quds: David Ohannessian and the Armenian Ceramics of Jerusalem,” took the students on a photographic journey into the history of Armenian Ceramics in the Ottoman Empire, and the incredible influence Armenian Ceramic artists had. In her presentation, she portrayed the beautiful pottery shops at Jerusalem and reflected on her grandfather’s efforts who survived deportation under the worst conditions and came to Jerusalem and mastered this art. He would later build an extensive export network and participated in the international exhibition.



ARS International Office Executive Director *ungerouhi* Verginie Touloumian and coordinator of the ARS, Inc. activities at the United Nations *ungerouhi* Aleek Sherikian presented the ARS' involvement at the United Nations since 1975. The ARS has been involved in the affairs of UN through its various activities.

Throughout the day, the group of intellectually curious youth participated in question-and-answer sessions and discussions. The ARS YCP Director also announced that the next Youth Connect Program of the year will take place on Nov. 3, at Yale University, New Haven, Conn. The day of activity ended with a social dinner at Amity Hall, where all enjoyed the social atmosphere.



## **Boston Hosts Homenetmen 'Tivan' Meeting**

**Y. Kevork Ourfalian Boston Homenetmen**

NEWTON, Mass.—The Homenetmen Eastern United States Regional Executive held the first tivan (executive) meeting of its 2017-2019 term on March 10, 2018 in Newton, Mass.. Hosted by the Homenetmen Boston Chapter, the meeting was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The following chapters' *tivans* were in attendance: Albany, Boston, Detroit, Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Providence, and Merrimack Valley.



The meeting agenda included chapter reports, a regional executive report, the 2018 Navasartian Games in Maryland, public relations and social media report, Regional Scouting Council report, the 11th Pan-Homenetmen Jamboree in Armenia, the Armenian Youth Federation (AYF-YOARF)/Homenetmen Joint Newsletter, the 100th Anniversary of Homenetmen, a financial outlook, and youth programs for the Homenetmen Eastern U.S.



Region. The meeting also tackled some other important issues, including a presentation on bullying and also on how to be good role models/coaches in volunteer organizations.



The Regional Scouting Council informed the members of the meeting about the planning and preparation for the 11th Pan-Homenetmen Jamboree taking place in Armenia this summer. The Jamboree is an international gathering of Homenetmen scouts from around the world that takes place every four years at a campsite in Pyuragan, Armenia, which provides an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet and learn from scouts from over 26 different countries. This year, there are over 1,000 scouts from around the world expected to attend the Jamboree. The council is planning a couple of regional seminars to prepare the scouts for the trip.



The Homenetmen of Washington Chapter presented details of the highly anticipated event, the Homenetmen Eastern Regional 28th Navasartian Games, which will be taking place June 30-July 4, in Maryland. The representatives from D.C. were thrilled to convey their plans for a weekend full of sportsmanship, entertainment, and celebration. Hundreds of athletes and scouts from throughout the Eastern Region and Canada will come to Maryland to participate in these games. Sports will include basketball, soccer, volleyball, track, and swimming. The games will take place at the Maryland SoccerPlex and Discovery Sports Center in Boyds, Maryland, and participants will be staying at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Rockville.

The representatives from the Homenetmen of Washington chapter were especially eager about the entertainment package for the weekend. On Sunday night, July 1, the entertainment includes singers Zareh Kasbarian, Steve Iskenderian, and Hrant Gulian. Monday night, July 2, will feature Super Sako, renowned singer Harout Balyan, Marc 2-Ray, Armenian-band HyeTension, and DJ Chris "Kidbibz" Habibian. The victory ball on Tuesday, July 3, will have world-renowned singer Armenchik.



Visit the official Homenetmen Navasartian Games website at <http://www.navasartianeusa.com> for more information and purchase ticket/VIP passes in advance at the discounted rates.

Other noteworthy moments from the meeting included the valuable contributions from the younger generation of members. New ideas from the promising youth are being implemented to move the organization forward. There was a plenty of optimism and a positive outlook from the members at the meeting, and the region looks forward to continuing this this momentum!



## **AYF and Homenetmen Lenten Fish Dinner**

**By: Alysha Phillips Providence AYF-YOARF / Providence Homenetmen**

On Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> the Providence AYF and Homenetmen Chapters gathered together in the Fermanian Hall of Sts. Vartanantz Church to have their annual Lenten fish dinner.

The event was well attended by each chapter and the church community, with about 60 people in attendance. The AYF and Homenetmen Chapters served a delicious dinner consisting of salad, baked scrod, roasted potatoes, cooked vegetables, and ice cream to finish it all off. Der Kapriel Nazarian said a few words about the community and how wonderful it is when they all come together to help provide for their church. Following dinner, there were Lenten services held in the church. All proceeds from the dinner were donated to the Syrian-Armenian Relief Fund.

The AYF and Homenetmen want to thank everyone for their continual support of their organizations.



**My Junior Winter Olympics Experience**  
**By: U. Arpi Donoyan Providence “Varantian” Chapter**

This year I attended Junior Winter Olympics hosted by Middlesex County West. I participated in three activities basketball, checkers and tavloo. There was also chess. This years JWO was very fun. I enjoyed every moment of each activity. The whole day went smoothly and I enjoyed meeting new people and seeing friends from other AYF events. I am happy to say we placed second overall. I hope to attend JWO again next year it was a great experience for me to have.



## **Junior Winter Olympics: A weekend filled with so much more than sports**

**By: U. Araxie Tossounian Detroit "Kopernik Tandourjian Chapter"**

Junior Winter Olympics (JWO), a weekend for the AYF-YOARF Eastern Region Juniors that involves so much more than sports. JWO is a weekend filled with basketball, board games, gym activities, and most importantly friends. While the focus of the weekend may seem like games and sportsmanship, the junior AYF'ers always leave talking about their friends, the great time they had, and the countdown before the next junior event.

This year JWO took place in the three districts the AYF Eastern Region is comprised of: Midwest, Mid Atlantic, and New England. Midwest JWO was hosted by the Racine "Armen Garo" Chapter, Mid Atlantic host was the Philadelphia "Sebouh" Chapter, and New England was hosted by the one year old Middlesex County West "Musa Ler" chapter. Each JWO consisted of juniors traveling to the host chapter, participating in the games, enjoying meals with their friends, and making memories that will last forever. While the three JWO's consisted of different logistics and structure, each host chapter worked hard to make sure the juniors had a weekend filled with fun; and each and every one did.

While the Central Junior Council worked with the host chapters to plan these weekends, the host chapters Junior Advisors and senior members worked hard to make sure the event was something the junior would all enjoy and look forward to for the next. The juniors who attended JWO were a great display of how strong, fun, and able the AYF youth is. The seniors involved left feeling inspired and empowered by the number of the juniors who participated and are already looking forward to the next JWO.

Junior Winter Olympics is an amazing opportunity for the juniors to get together, play, laugh, have fun, and form friendships that will grow and last forever. The Central Junior Council, is inspired and empowered by the amount of juniors who attended JWO, the seniors and parents who helped throughout the weekend, and the memories made by the AYF junior membership.





**Mid-Atlantic Junior Winter Olympics**  
**By: Victoria Ezgilioglu New Jersey “Arsen” Chapter**

The Mid-Atlantic Junior Winter Olympics were underway on March 10th, 2018! The Philadelphia Sebouh chapter welcomed the New Jersey, D.C, and the Manhattan chapters with open arms. The juniors arrived bright and early to the games that at the Armenian Sisters Academy in Radnor, PA.

The day began with the boys basketball game, New Jersey vs Philadelphia. A nail biting game all four quarters and quite the show, each team displaying their great plays and game strategies. The New Jersey boys team coach, Armen Alashaian, led the team to a well deserved victory. The girls were up next; New Jersey and Manhattan vs. Philadelphia. Both teams were filled with not only excited members, but also great athletes and team players. In a thrilling overtime, the New Jersey Arsens brought in another win thanks to the fantastic coaching of Theresa Jelalian and Victoria Ezgilioglu. What’s JWO without an intense game of knockout? All of the kids played together and put their teams aside to play knockout. Once everyone was fueled up and ready to go, the younger boys, Jersey and Philadelphia, played another impressive game of basketball. Between games, members also challenged one another in checkers and chess. Seniors stepped in and played as well! The day followed with an exhilarating game of dodgeball. Seniors from all chapters joined in and played a very entertaining and skillful game; seniors vs juniors. The games for the day came to an end and all members began to get ready for dinner.

All juniors and seniors headed to the agoump at St. Gregory’s for a delicious homemade dinner that included chicken, pilaf, salad, and yummy desserts. Members relaxed, enjoyed each other's company, played card games and discussed highlights from all the games that day. The day ended on a wonderful note and members both near and far went home with great memories.

A special shoutout to the wonderful Sebouh chapter moms, who made the dinner at the agoump possible, and to the AYF members that volunteered to be referees. Thank you to the Philadelphia Sebouh chapter for hosting and to all members that attended the 2018 Mid-Atlantic JWO. Hope to see you all next year!



**Homenetmen Chicago Scouts Lock-In**  
**K. Marissa Ovassapian Chicago Homenetmen**

On March 10th 2018, the Homenetmen of Chicago chapter Scouts attended their annual lock-in at the Buehler YMCA in Palatine, Illinois. Both the Khorurt and leaders were blown away at the level of excitement, preparation, and effort all scouts put into helping the leaders make the YMCA trip as successful as it was!

Every year, the scouts and leaders have a great time and engage in a variety of unique activities and games. For the 2017-18 year, our leaders have focused on getting back to the basics and finding creative ways to teach and lead all scouts to be well rounded, responsible, and strong members of the Homenetmen community. With this goal in mind, they created a unique schedule full of activities for both the Kayleegs, Arzvigs, Aris and Arenoushs alike.

While the scouts all swam, climbed the various rock walls, and played basketball and soccer all night long, they also completed other activities. The scouts participated in a scavenger hunt and had to answer questions on topics ranging from Homenetmen/Armenian history and survival skills, to entertainment and how well they know their leaders. Asdijanavors had the opportunity to practice their leadership skills and led small groups, where scouts worked together to put on a short Kharougahantes. The Khorurt and leaders loved sitting back and watching the scouts' energy as they put on a great display of the new ganches and skits they learned.

Overall, the YMCA has always been a successful and highly anticipated field trip for the scouts, and this year was the best yet. The Chicago chapter is looking forward to attending the YMCA again next year!

If you would like to submit any articles for the Gamavori Tsaynuh, please contact us at [prc.eusa@homenetmen.org](mailto:prc.eusa@homenetmen.org) or [pr@ayf.org](mailto:pr@ayf.org)

Articles must be submitted by the 20th of the month.

### **SAVE THE DATES**

Homenetmen Scout Seminar April 6th - 8th New Jersey

Homenetmen Scout Seminar 13th - 15th Detroit

AYF-YOARF Junior Seminar May 25th - 28th Camp Kweebec

Homenetmen Navasartian Games June 30th - July 4th Washington DC

<https://www.navasartianeusa.com>

85th Celebration of the AYF July 21st Warwick, Rhode Island

<http://ayfgala.org>

AYF Olympics August 30th - September 3rd 2018