

# Կամաւորի Ձայնը

Voice of the Volunteer



Մայիս 2018

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

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## **2nd Preparatory Pan-Homenetmen Scout Seminar Held in New Jersey held By: Iskander Tnkjian Boston Homenetmen**

Jamboree is right around the corner and the scouts are eager to start preparations for the trip of a lifetime. The Homenetmen East Coast scouts got together at the Sts. Vartanantz church located in New Jersey for their second seminar out of three to further prep the scouts for the trip. This seminar was unique because it was not the scouts getting together to hear lectures and partake in activities like the past. This seminar's main focus was how the East coast wanted to represent itself and it was conducted by the scouts.

During jamboree, even though the main point is to meet new Armenian scouts from all around the world, it also is an opportunity to show what the East Coast Armenians have to offer. For this seminar, the scouts were tasked to organize a few things. The scouts were broken up in their separate committees to design ways to resemble who the East Coast is. These committees were the Dagharav (pavilion/ presentation tent), Kharouyghantes (show around a bonfire) , Ashdarag (structures made of sticks and rope), and Armenian History committees. These committees had their own separate objectives but had the same goal, and that goal was how are we going to make the East Coast stand out.

The Dagharav and Kharouyghantes are significant towards what would sent our region apart from others. They both show the creative minds that the scouts have. The Dagharav is held on one of the days of the Jamboree. It is where each region sets up a tent that represents the country a region is from. The Kharouygh or informally known as a skit or skits, are put on by a region every night, the East Coast 4 years ago had the most fun Dagharav tent and Kharouyghantes, and the scouts knew they had to deliver in that department.

The Armenian History committee put together a presentation for the leaders and scouts about famous landmarks that we will be visiting this summer. As a region, we collectively know the importance of knowing our history and what makes each landmark significant. Having background knowledge of these landmarks will give the scouts more appreciation of where they are from.

Last but certainly not least, was the Ashdarag committee. This committee had scouts that are engineering majors complemented with others that have excellent rope tying skills. Together they are

working on a design to show the “man power” that the scouts have and that we are more advanced in there Ashdarag building skills and can compete with the best regions.

The group going to jamboree is unique, we have a healthy balance of youth and scouts who are going on their 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> jamborees. The ceiling is high for this group and we are excited to show the world what we are made out of and what it means to be a Homenetmen East Coast scout.



**Sign up for AYF Junior Seminar Today!**  
**By: Kaliaana Maronian AYF-YOARF South Florida “Arev” chapter**

**AYF Junior Seminar will be taking place May 25th-28th at Camp Kweebec in Schwenksville, Pennsylvania**

Year after year, hundreds of members gather on Memorial Day Weekend for Junior Seminar. This prominent event for our Armenian Youth Federation (AYF-YOARF) Juniors, hosts educational lectures on Armenia’s history, *Hai Tahd* (the Armenian Cause), culture, religion, and future taught by Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) members, AYF alumni, parents, and community members. Junior campers are accompanied and supervised by fellow Senior counselors.

A typical day at AYF Junior Seminar begins with flag raising and two morning lectures followed by lunch and free time where members can meet AYF members from all over the region. The day continues with two afternoon lectures followed by dinner and free time and ends with an exciting night activity. Lectures and activities will be centered around this year’s theme of “Inspire Our Youth, Empower Our Leaders.”

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Don’t miss this memorable and purposeful opportunity!

**Junior Application:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ayf-junior-seminar-2018-junior-app-tickets-43046097035>

**Senior Application:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ayf-junior-seminar-2018-senior-tickets-44077431785?aff=es2>

**LIT Application:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ayf-junior-seminar-2018-lit-tickets-43176859148?aff=es2>

**Facebook Event Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/741699706030570/>





## Chicago and Detroit 11th Pan-Homenetmen Jamboree Preparatory Seminar

Detroit April 14-15, 2018

By: Talar Aroyan Chicago Homenetmen

In order to get our strong scouts ready for Pan-Homenetmen Scouts Jamboree in Armenia, our Chicago and Detroit scouts spent the weekend together preparing for that spectacular event. With the help of Kouyr Tamar Samuelian (New Jersey), Yeghpayr Gevork Dramgotchian (Philadelphia), and hosted by the Homenetmen of Detroit Scout khorout (scouting council), we were able to take away many well-learned lessons and still have a wonderful time while doing it. We learned many important traits and skills to take on to our trip to Armenia and as well, to bring back to our chapter to teach the other ari and arenoushes and of course, to our younger kayligs and ardzivigs. Although we weren't able to spend this seminar with the other east coast chapters, we had as much fun and enthusiasm and we were able to experience the best.

Some things that we learned was basic information regarding Armenian sports, our other chapters, the country, and the culture. Everyone interacted with one another and no one was left out. Even though we had a very small amount of people together, we were able to bring positive attitudes and joyous spirits. When we were put into groups for bringing ideas for our kharougahantes, everyone contributed with well-thought of ideas. When performed, many laughs and smiles were present. The best part of the whole seminar was when everyone came together, hand by hand, shoulder by shoulder, to sing our Armenian heghapokhagan songs. Everyone sang with loud, proud voices that came with respect. Overall, we couldn't have had a more well put-together, amusing seminar and we left with sad faces and tears when it was over.



## **It's Happening at Camp Haiastan!**

**By: David Hamparian**

FRANKLIN, Mass. (A.W.)—Thanks to the generosity and dedication of Mr. Gregory Arabian of Belmont, Mass. and the Rafaelian-Caruolo family of Cranston, R.I., AYF Camp Haiastan is set to embark on yet another significant infrastructure upgrade this spring. Three major projects have been already completed in the past three years: a new camp-wide septic system, a new water well, and most recently, a new shower and bath facility.

**Demolition and construction at Camp Haiastan (Photo: AYF Camp Haiastan)**



Arabian is increasing his commitment to the Armenian Cause by donating \$250,000 to renovate and add a second floor to our aging Director's Quarters in Franklin. This dramatic transformation will allow our summer directors to live in enhanced quarters on the second floor with increased privacy and a second bedroom while adding four bedrooms on the first floor for semi-private accommodations for head counselors, assistant directors, guests and more. This donation was spurred by the love felt by Attorney Arabian during his numerous visits to AYF Camp Haiastan while executing the wishes of Neshon Hagopian as the executor of Mr. Hagopian's Estate.

"I have decided that this is how I wish my legacy to be," Arabian said, while pointing to the 50-plus-year-old building. "I like what you are doing here."



Having been an active supporter of the Hairenik Association while following in his father's footsteps, Arabian has also made a significant contribution there as well. Well-known in the Watertown, Mass. community, Arabian has been involved in the development of the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center (ACEC), advised Camp Haiastan for numerous years, and has been an Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) member as well. His commitment to the Milford Armenian-American Veteran group has resulted in various fundraising efforts including a previous donation to AYF Camp Haiastan for the Hye Hope Pavilion. Arabian has also made significant contributions to St. Gregory's Church in North Andover, Mass. as well.



**Demolition and construction at Camp Haiastan (Photo: AYF Camp Haiastan)**

The office at the lower camp has been the headquarters of all staff during the busy summer months, an office to the summer director and head counselors in addition to doubling as our camp store. Being one of the oldest buildings at camp, Rebecca Rafaelian-Caruolo and her mother have been constant donors to Camp Haiastan. Wanting to do more, Rebecca began to inquire about projects they “could get involved in.” Settling on renovating a crumbling office, a large donation was made. When bids were received at a significantly higher amount, the Rafaelians quickly realized that demolishing the old building and erecting a larger building was the right road to travel. “I can hear my father saying it to me now: ‘Don’t just paint it, fix it right!’” said Rebecca. Within hours, the project went from renovating an

undersized decaying building to a new, larger building with a much needed conference area, more functional office layout and a new camp store.



#### **Demolition and construction at Camp Haiastan (Photo: AYF Camp Haiastan)**

The motivation to help has been based on a generational love of the impact of Camp Haiastan on their family. Having attended as campers and working as staff members, the Rafaelian family holds the importance of the camp and the future of the Armenian youth close to their hearts. “It’s all about giving back,” said Rebecca when commenting on the desire to make a difference at Camp Haiastan. “The camp has meant so much to all of us, we want the next generation to have the same experiences we had”.

Ralph Rafaelian was a pillar in the Rhode Island Armenian community, contributing under the radar without much fanfare. From sponsoring families coming from overseas and helping them settle in America, to being part of creating Sts. Vartanantz’ endowment fund and its driving force, Rafaelian and his wife Lucy were engaged with supporting the Armenian community. Shipments of clothes they sent to families in Armenia were often accompanied with hidden “surprises” in their pockets. He was always there when the community needed a helping hand, and his memory will never be forgotten by his family or Camp Haiastan.



As AYF Camp Haiastan continues its impressive growth and revitalization, many more projects are in the planning phases. Projects include the re-purposing of the old washstands, bathrooms and showers; installing a new sprinkler system in the Tzamhour Hall to complete renovations begun four years ago; and exploratory planning of a new multi-purpose field and new cabins for the cabin circle.

If you or anyone you know are interested in any of the potential projects at AYF Camp Haiastan, please contact me at 508 520-1312. Donations can be made directly to Camp Haiastan as we are a 501(c)3 and donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.

We hope to see you in Franklin this summer!

**Camp Haiastan Is Fun for Everyone!**  
**By: Aris Givlekian AYF-YOARF New York “Hyortik” Junior, Age 11**

AYF Camp Haiastan is fun for everyone!

Kids ages 7-17 travel to this amazing camp from all over the States. Now that I have experienced Camp Haiastan I know why.

Camp Haiastan is the first Armenian camp in America. It was founded in 1951 and is located in Franklin, Mass. Uncas pond is part of this beautiful campus and where many activities take place. All the cabins are situated in a circle, which surround a courtyard. There are basketball courts, volleyball nets and the largest vinyl pool in New England!

While at Camp Haiastan, you learn more about our amazing Armenian culture. It is awesome to learn about our culture with fellow Armenian friends. But it's not like your ordinary school day—you learn through songs, prayers, and engaging projects. The best thing is when you are in your groups you get to socialize with your friends while you are learning.

The activities offered by Camp Haiastan are where memories are made. There are so many fun activities it would be hard to list them all. Here are some of my favorites...  
Traveling back in time to play a game of stickball, which is similar to baseball.  
Another favorite is boating in Uncas pond. Boating in Uncas is endless fun! You can go canoeing, kayaking and paddle boating. I would recommend for you to go kayaking because it is so peaceful. I love being able to relax and enjoy myself.

Set in the woods, the adventure ropes course is a blast! You can swing from tires, balance on seesaws and work on ropes. The best part is you have your friends to help you. There are so many other fun activities like swimming, creative arts and lots of sports.  
During my stay at Camp Haiastan I went on several field trips and there are planned activities every night of the week. Field trips include glow in the dark mini golf and a visit to the ice cream shop. Night activities vary and there is something for everyone to do. There are dances, movie nights, song nights, talent shows and more! My favorite was detective night. You get to move around the camp in search of clues about a certain topic.

You might think that all camp food is ordinary camp food, which is less than delicious, however, this is not the case at Camp Haiastan. Every day, the food is made fresh and there are tons of healthy options. There are so many choices everyone is always happy.  
During the second week of camp, specifically Thursday Friday and Saturday, the Olympic Games are held. I loved this part of camp! Earlier in the week, your teams are announced. You play so many sports including soccer, hockey, kickball and more. It is a fun way to wrap up the week with a friendly competition.

While the camp is beautiful and the activities are aplenty, nothing beats the friendships formed with fellow Armenians. On the first day, you meet your cabin mates who may be strangers, but after a few days you have gained tons of new friends. The friendships I've made will last forever. After camp, I got the phone numbers of some of my friends and we kept touch throughout the year. Now I cannot wait to see them again in July.

I feel like nothing beats being Armenian and getting to go to an awesome camp like Camp Haiastan!

For more information about AYF Camp Haiastan, visit: <http://camphaiastan.org/>





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**

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

Homenetmen 28th Navasartian Games June 30th - July 4th Washington DC

<https://www.navasartianeusa.com>

85th Anniversary Gala of the AYF-YOARF July 21st Warwick, Rhode Island

<http://ayfgala.org>

84th AYF-YOARF Olympics August 30th - September 3rd 2018 Philadelphia

<https://ayfolympics.org/>