

# Կամավորի Ձայնը

Voice of the Volunteer



Յուլի 2018

# Կամաւորի Չայնը

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

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## Beyond the Barrier

By: Knar Topouzian

Going into this adventure in Hayastan and Javakhk, I was not certain that my very minimal understanding of the Armenian language would be enough. Thankfully, I am able to get by in the simple interactions like hellos, buying my daily ice cream and small conversation with/directions to the badanis during Jampar.

I was anxious to see what role I would fall into as a counselor for Javakhk Jampar because I do lack the language skill, that in most eyes, seems necessary (but not required). Actions spoke louder than words in my case. Through a combination of my love of sports, some memory of the Armenian language understanding I once had as a young girl, and learning from the children and my co-counselors allowed for me to form a connection with the campers in the best way I could. Knowing my personal limitations, the crave to engage became stronger day after day. I started to notice myself wanting more and more be able to join in on the morning small talk with the old women who were preparing lunch in the kitchen. Knowing this, I understood something about myself and my own experience, and I know this can relate to many others.

The ongoing debate about “if being fluent in the Armenian language makes you more Armenian” has always caused slight insecurity for me. As I observed and interacted with the kids this past week, I took in many things. The most important being: I did not sense disappointment from the kids, but saw wishing in their eyes as I shook my head at them (and myself) when I didn’t know how to answer their questions.

I realized that while my Jampar experience was not at all lessened because of what I lacked, i know that it would have been enhanced and different in an even more amazing way if I could speak Armenian.

While we come from different parts of the world and live very different lives, language is what unites us, language is our common ground. The first week of Jampar leaves me impacted, inspired and determined to press the need for our language in a personal sense but also in the

sense that without it, our connection with brothers and sisters around the world have the possibility of fading.



## **From One Jampar to the Next**

**By: Gasia Oknayan**

I have had hundreds of days of jampar in my life, but today was different than any other. New country, new people, new jampar. Going into this experience, I had nearly no expectations except for the ones guided by U. Sanan's non stop praise of Camp Javakhk and everything that comes with it. Even with that, I was overwhelmingly nervous coming into this experience, especially because of the language barrier. Every other jampar I have been to has been filled with familiarity and is bursting with faces that have been constant throughout my childhood. This was different. With my heart pounding in anxiety and full of excitement, I walked into my first day of Javakhk Jampar. Our path into the agoump was lined with a crowd of beaming smiles and my heart instantaneously lit up. An inkling in my soul had a feeling these two weeks would change my life forever. Throughout the day's ups and downs, a smile seldom left my face. The laughs and smiles of the day surpassed the implications of my weak Armenian language skills and ample miscommunication. A deep gratitude and a cultural connection with my ungers compensated for today's chaos. I am ecstatic to see what the next two weeks bring me. My biggest hope for my Javakhk experience is that it be full of open hearts & open minds. With an open heart and and open mind, there is room for the love of my Armenian brothers and sisters I have yet to meet.



## ՆԱՄԱԿ ԻՄ ՍԻՐԵԼԻ ՔՈՅՐԵՐՈՒՆ ԵՆ ԵՂՔԱՅԻՆԵՐՈՒՆ

Սիրելի Քոյրեր եւ Եղբայրներ,

Հայ իրականութեան մէջ, եղած են, եւ տակաւին գոյութիւն ունին միութիւններ կամ հաստատութիւններ որոնք մեր պատմութեան էջերուն մէջ պատուաւոր տեղ կը գրաւեն մինչեւ օրս:

Սակայն 100 ամեայ սա երիտասարդ հաստաբուն կաղնին, որուն չորս սքանչելի տառերը անջնջելիօրէն դրոշմուած են, եւ պիտի մնան ամէն մէկ հայու մտքին եւ հոգիին մէջ:

## Հ.Մ.Ը.Մ.

Հայ Մարմնակրթական Ընդհանուր Միութիւն:

Այս հրաշալի միութիւնը, հաւատալով առողջ միտք, առողջ մարմնի մէջ սկզբունքին 100 տարի «Բարձրացիր Բարձրացուր» նշանաբանով կը բարձրանայ, իր հետ բարձրացնելով իր հաւատաւոր քոյրերը եւ եղբայրները, լոյս եւ յոյս ներշնչելով ամենուրեք:

Հ.Մ.Ը.Մ.-ը մարզական պարզ միութիւն մը չէ, սուլիչ ու փողկապ չէ, ծրագիր ու կանոնագիր չէ, այլ բռնուցք է, մնայուն պայքար է, ազգային արժէք է, հայ դպրոց է, հայ ակումբ է, աշխարհացրիւ հայրենագուրկ սերունդներուն մէջ ապրող հայրենիք է: Այս բոլորն է Հ.Մ.Ը.Մ.-ը:

Հ.Մ.Ը.Մ.-ականը սիրտը տուած է հայրենիքին, միտքը Արարատին, սերը հայ ժողովուրդին, իսկ լուսաւորութեամբ տոբորուած կը սլանայ դէպի լուսաշող ապագայ, փառապանծ 100 ամեակի սեմին:

Սիւլի քոյրեր եւ եղբայրներ, մենք այս ամառ պիտի մասնակցինք համա Հ.Մ.Ը.Մ.-ական բանակումի, որ տեղի պիտի ունենայ Բիւրական Հայաստան: Չորս տարի անգամ մը, մենք մաս կը կազմենք Հ.Մ.Ը.Մ.-ի Միացեալ Նահանգներու, Արեւելեան Ճրջանի դեսպաններու խումբին: Բարութեամբ եւ հպարտօրէն պիտի ներկայացնենք մեր շրջանը:

Հ.Մ.Ը.Մ.-ական սերունդներուն համար, բանակումները բնութեան մէջ չարքաշ կեանք վարելու եւ հայ սկաուտի դաւանանքը հաւաքական կեանքին մէջ իւրացնելու անմոռանալի օրեր են: Հ.Մ.Ը.Մ.-ականը ունի ոգի մը, որ պատրաստ է ծառայելու հայ ազգին ու հայրենիքին առողջ եւ կորովի մարմնով, պայծառ եւ արթուն մտքով՝, ուղիղ եւ գաղափարապաշտ նկարագրով:



Իբր երիտասարդ Յ.Մ.Ը.Մ-ական, պետք է Յ.Մ.Ը.Մ-ի բոցավառ ջահը լաւապէս փոխանցենք սերունդէ սերունդ: Պէնք է խոստովանինք որ միշտ մեր մէջ այդ հաւատքն ու սէրը Յ.Մ.Ը.Մ-ի հանդէպ վառ պիտի մնայ:

Մեր սիրելի միութեան կը մաղթեմ նորանոր յաղթանակներ եւ հազարամեակներ: Այս առթիւ բարի ճանապարհի սիրելի քոյրեր եւ եղբայներ, յաջողութիւն մեր բոլոր աշխատանքներուն, եւ հպարտ վերադարձ:

Սիրով,  
Քոյր Մեղրի ՏերՎարդանեան



## Nature in Armenia

### By Daron Pogharian - Philadelphia “Sebouh” Chapter

Recently, I had the opportunity to experience the natural beauty of Armenia during the AYF Internship. One Sunday we had the chance to visit Garni Temple and Geghard Monastery. I'd been to both sites before on previous trips to Armenia, so I didn't think much of it. However, the view of Garni temple overlooking the canyon below it was as breathtaking as ever.

Our trip to the Khosrov Natural Reserve was by far one of my best experiences of the program. It truly gave me a view of what Armenia really is, and how beautiful our homeland is. The first thing you see walking down into the gorge are huge cliffs flanking the valley on both sides. Walking between the towering black walls was both humbling and awe-inspiring at the same time. I'd looked down into this gorge before, from Garni temple, but that doesn't compare to being there oneself.

The further down the trail we walked, the more we heard the sound of rushing water. Looking down from a beautiful bridge built in the 12th century, we could see the Azat river running blue and strong. The river's color was something to behold: it was a beautiful combination of blue and green, with the shades changing in the sunlight. Next to it is what's known as the “Symphony of Stones”, imposing hexagonal basalt columns that cover the cliffs in their entirety. On the underbelly of these cliffs, hundreds of swallows had created little cave-like nests, seemingly defying gravity. Formations like this continued for the duration of the valley to create one of the most breathtaking scenes I've ever seen.

Later on in the summer, we visited the Armenia Tree Project (ATP) nursery in Garin. Located on what was once a desert-like plain, ATP had breathed life into this land, turning it from brown to green. Their nursery, though not the largest, was extremely well kept and



professional. Samvel Ghandilyan, who gave us the tour, knew the place like the back of his hand. As the Nursery Manager, it was clear that it was because of his love and care that this project continued. Not only was he extremely knowledgeable about the plants and how they're grown, but it was apparent that he cared for them, and by extension, the plants of Armenia.

Furthermore, the work explained to us about the Armenia Tree Projects mission seemed extremely professional. Everything they do there is thought out and well planned, all to ensure the rejuvenation of the local flora. The variety of plants at the nursery was astounding, and Mr. Ghandilyan was explaining to us how certain plants are better suited for certain places, and why that is the case. As an Intern, it was very inspiring to see professionalism and care being put in to the nature of our homeland, something we as Armenians deeply cherish.

I'm very glad I got to experience these opportunities through the AYF Internship, as these are experiences I'll never forget. Not only was it refreshing to get out of Yerevan for a while, but I got to see parts of Armenia that I'd never seen before. The natural beauty of Armenia is something that we should all be proud of cherish for generations to come.



## Winners of the 28th Annual Eastern U.S. Homenetmen Navasartian Games Announced

From June 30 to July 4, the Homenetmen Washington D.C. chapter hosted the 28th Annual Homenetmen Eastern United States Navasartian Games . This year, the games were dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the founding of Homenetmen. Nearly 450 athletes from all over the Eastern United States and Canada came to participate in basketball, soccer, volleyball, track, and swimming events. The opening ceremonies for the Navasartian Games took place on July 1 at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, emceed by Aram Hamparian, the executive director of the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

Prelate Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, honored guests, scouts, athletes, and coaches marched into the large ballroom to properly open up the weekend. Artsakh's Ambassador to the United States, Robert Avedisyan, was present at the opening ceremony and spoke later that evening at the Navasartian Games Dinner along with Armenia's Ambassador to the United States, Grigor Hovhannissian. Mr. & Mrs. Samig and Varteni Jarian of the Washington D.C. chapter were honored as the King and Queen of the Navasartian Games. There was also a moment of silence for Yeghpayr Aram "Sonny" Gavoor. Yeghpayr Sonny devoted his life to Homenetmen as a coach, regional committee member, and as a recruiter of young Armenian athletes to the organization. In his honor, for the next 5 years, the Navasartian Games Sportsmanship Trophy will bear Yeghpayr Sonny's name. The Navasartian Games steering committee organized nightly entertainment throughout the weekend. At the "victory ball" on Tuesday evening, which featured world-renowned singer Armenchik, trophies and awards were distributed to the athletes and chapters.

















**The results of the game are as follows:**

PW Soccer

Champion: Washington DC

Runner-up: New York

Midget Soccer

Champion: Detroit

Runner-up: New York

Sr Men's Soccer

Champion: Boston

Runner-up: Florida

Sr Women's Volleyball

Champion: Chicago

Runner-up: Washington DC

Sr Men's Volleyball

Champion: Washington DC

Runner-up: Merrimack Valley

PW Basketball

Champion: New York

Runner-up: Washington DC

Midget Boy's Basketball

Champion: Detroit

Runner-up: Chicago

Jr Boy's Basketball

Champion: New York  
Runner-up: New Jersey

Sr Women's Basketball

Champion: Boston  
Runner-up: Chicago

Sr Men's Basketball (Y. Mark Alashaian Trophy)

Champion: New York  
Runner-up: Chicago

Veteran's Basketball

Champion: New York  
Runner-up: Chicago

Track

Champion: Chicago  
Runner-up: New York

Swimming

Champion: Washington  
Runner-up: Merrimack Valley

Points Breakdown:

1st Place (Overall Winner) Tie – Washington DC and New York (43 points)

3rd Place – Chicago (38 Points)

4th Place Tie – Boston and Detroit (18 Points)

6th Place – Merrimack Valley (10 Points)

7th Place – New Jersey (5 Points)

8th Place – Toronto (4 Points)

Providence, Philadelphia, Florida and Albany (0 Points)

Most Improved Chapter Award – Chicago

Sportsmanship Award (Y. Aram “Sonny” Gavoor Trophy) – Boston

The Homenetmen Public Relations Committee Eastern Region USA would like to thank the Washington D.C. Chapter, Regional Athletic Committee and community for hosting a memorable Navasartian Games.

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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**

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

<https://ayfolympics.org/>

AYF-YOARF Senior Seminar September 28- 30 Camp Haiastan

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1743522589064901/>

Homenetmen 100th Anniversary Celebration Weekend October 26th-28th in Boston, MA

