Armenian Evangelical Church of New York

Monthly Bulletin

The Rev. Haig Kherlopian, Pastor



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Pounded in 1896, the AECNY, a Congregational Church affiliated with the United Church of Christ, is dedicated to serving the spiritual needs of the Armenian-American community, friends and neighbors in the metropolitan New York City area and around the world.

We aim to provide a variety of ministries in Christian education, music, outreach and fellowship.

All articles submitted for publication are subject to acceptance, rejection and editing by the Publication Committee with no obligations to return the unpublished articles to their authors.

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The Kerrs and the Armenians

"Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you."

"Աստուծոյ եւ Հօրը առջեւ՝ մաքուր ու անարատ կրօնասիրութիւնը սա՛ է.- այցելել որբերուն եւ այրիներուն՝ իրենց տառապանքին մէջ, ու ինքզինք անբիծ պահել աշխարհէն։"

(James 1:27)

State Warriors to the best season in NBA history. He surpassed his own record when he played shooting guard on Michael Jordan's 1994-95 Chicago Bulls. Kerr holds the record for best three-point field goal percentage in league history. He is a six-time NBA champion (five as a

player and one as a coach). But Steve Kerr's accomplishments on the basketball court pale in comparison to his grandfather's humanitarian achievements.

Steve Kerr's grandfather Stanley Kerr worked for the American Near East Relief (now Near East Foundation), which organized the world's first large-scale, modern humanitarian project in response to the Armenian Genocide. After the end of World War I, Stanley Kerr was given the task of relocating Armenian Genocide survivors to Marash. While working in the Near East, Kerr met fellow relief worker Elsa Reckman, who would become his wife. Elsa also taught math at the Marash Women's College. My grandmother Anna (Kalpakian) Kherlopian was from Marash and knew the Kerrs personally.

After the Great War, French forces were in control of Marash. However, war broke out again in the winter of 1920 and the French army abandoned the area. This left the remaining Armenians to face massacre once again. Churches and schools were burned to the

ground with innocent civilians inside. An ancient civilization was completely uprooted.

Stanley Kerr wrote about what he witnessed in The Lions of Marash. His book also incorporates a collection of other eyewitness accounts from missionaries, clergy, doctors, and officials. He concluded his memoir with these words: "Of the eighty-six thousand living in the district of Marash in 1914, only twelve thousand were known to have survived...The ancient city of Marash, with a history extending far into the dim past beyond the Hittite period and once largely populated by the Armenians, had finally become purely Turkish."

Stanley Kerr left Marash in 1922 with a group of Armenian orphans to go to Nahr Ibrahim, Lebanon. He was in charge of an Armenian orphanage there with his wife Elsa before it closed. In 1925, Stanley earned a Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania and became the chairman of the Department of Biochemistry at the American University of Beirut.

Stanley Kerr's son, Malcolm Kerr, followed in his father's footsteps and became an academic. He later went on to become the president of the American University of Beirut. Tragically, on January 18th 1984, Malcolm was assassinated in the midst of the Lebanese Civil War. Steve Kerr was a freshman playing ball for the University of Arizona when he heard of his father's murder.

When reading about the extreme atrocities and massive loss of life in the genocide, it is easy to lose hope in humanity. However, focusing on the people who offered precious help in that circumstance will enable us to see the goodness of humankind. The Kerr family is one of those lights within the dark chapters of Armenian history. They exemplified moral courage by their willingness to leave the comfort of America to educate and serve widows and orphans in a distant land. For us today, the question becomes whether we have a duty not only to celebrate their legacy but also to emulate it.

Sewing the Risen Lord,

Rev. Haig Kherlopian

EASTER SUNDAY SPRING FLOWERS PRESENTED:

- In loving memory of **Zaven Megerditchian**, by Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Picone.
- In loving memory of **Mr.** & **Mrs. Hamparian**, by Marianna Hamparian.
- In loving memory of **Mrs. Dikranouhi Arukian**, by Hratch S. Arukian.
- In loving memory of **Shnork** and **Taline Dadian**, by Ankine Dadian.
- In loving memory of **Armen Tartanian**, by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Tartanian.
- In loving memory of Aram Tavetian, by Esther Tavetian.
- In loving memory of **Arpen** and **Albert Abrahamian**, by Carolana & George Najarian.
- In loving memory of **Lucy Kambourian**, by Armine Mardiguian.
- In loving memory of **John Douthitt** and **Joan Smith**, by Agron & Christing Santana-Smith.
- In loving memory of **George Mazmanian**, by Merze Mazmanian.
- In loving memory of **Krikor** and **Anoush Keyishian**, by Richard Keyishian.
- In loving memory of **Estelle** and **Luther Dogramajian**, by Pearl Vazeos.
- In honor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of NY and your heart for the Risen Lord, by Pastor Mary Brown.
- In loving memory of **Archie** & **Olga Cherkezian**, by Edward & Arpy Cherkezian.
- In loving memory of **George** & **Mary Salibian**, by Harry & Zaro Salibian.
- In loving memory of **Melcon G. Melconian**, by Hilda Melconian.
- In loving memory of **Gloria Bedikian Ayvazian**, by Leslie Ayvazian & Sam Anderson.

In loving memory of parents **Mihran** & **Mary**, wife **Doris**, and sister **Sarah**, by Jack Dokouzian.

In loving honor of grandson **Simon Dokouzian**, by Jack Dokouzian.

In honor of a great American and son of Armenian Congregationalism, **Ben Bagdikian**, by Willaim Nye. In loving memory of **Ruth Philibosian**, by The Stephen Philibosian Foundation, and Joyce and Joe Stein.

In honor of **Rev. Haig Kherlopian**, by Nevart Darmanian. In loving memory of **John W. Margosian**, by Mrs. John (Alice) Margosian and Family.

GIFTS ACKNOWLEDGED WITH GRATITUDE

We wish to thank the following for their generous donation to the church for Easter:

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Picone, Alice Philibosian,
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Tartanian, Esther Tavetian,
Dr. & Mrs. Avedis Khachadourian, Arouss Darpinian,
Richard & Jody Toomayan, Richard Keyishian,
Pearl Vazeos, Heather Ohaneson, Hilda Melconian,
Leslie Ayvazian & Sam Anderson, Souzi Baghdikian,
Kamal Batarseh, Nevart Darmanian, Virginia Arpiarian,
Nurhan & Victoria Becidyan, and Charles Ajamian.



A gift was also made in loving memory of his mother, Victoria C. Ludlum (Takvorian) by her son, Bayard Ludlum.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

We want to express our gratitude to the following for their generous contribution towards Fellowship Hour in the month of March, April & May:



Jonathan Baboian
Dolly Tharp
Ruby Kherlopian
Jon Brothers
Karine Tonyan
Peggy Dingilian
Dolly Tharp



We also extend our thanks to: The Boyadjian & Kilicarslan families for our Palm Sunday luncheon.

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Peggy Dingilian, Vanouhi & Lara Ahad, and Ruby Kherlopian for our Maundy Thursday supper.

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The Tharp family for providing a full fellowship luncheon fundraiser in memory of Arthur, Gloria, and Robert Teager.

CHANCEL FLOWERS PRESENTED

<u>March 20</u> - Palm Sunday Palms were donated in loving memory of most extraordinary and imaginative mother, **Marie Tevonian**, who started this tradition, by Stephanie Tevonian

<u>May 8</u> - In loving memory of mother, **Araxi Kayaian** (on her birthday May 14) and in celebration of her **twin great-grandsons**' birthdays also on May 14, and in loving memory of wife, **Adrina Kayaian**, by Mr. Berge Kayaian.

In loving memory of **Homosie Helen Cherkezian** by her children RoseMarie and Margaret, grandchildren Michael and Donna, Deborah and Lary, great-grandchildren Megan and Stephanie on this very day that she left us seventeen years ago. We love you and miss you.

<u>May 15</u> - In treasured memory of **Arthur**, **Gloria**, and **Robert Teager**, by the Tharp Family.

<u>May 22</u> - In loving memory of her aunt, **Melania Zonich**, by Ivanka Petkovic.

<u>May 29</u> - In loving memory of her sister, **Mary Gillingham**, on her birthday, June 3rd, by Anoush Haig

In loving memory of parents, **Mihran** and **Mary Dokouzian**, sister **Sarah**, wife **Doris**, and his loving angel grandson, **Simon**, by Jack Dokouzian.

<u>June 19</u> - In loving memory of father **Puzant Cherkezian**, uncle **Mehran Cherkezian**, and brother **Nazaret Cherkezian**, by Rose Marie Ashbahian.

<u>June 26</u> - Donated anonymously, in celebration and appreciation of **Karine Tonyan** who obtained a very good settlement for us from ConEd.



Altar Flowers may be dedicated in honor or in memory of a loved one, for a holiday, birthday, graduation, or another special occasion.

Please sign up for a Sunday of your choice by calling the church office at 212-685-3177.

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

Join us for:

Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00 AM

July 3 Sunday Worship Service (1st Cor. 13:1-13)

Love Hymn

*Communion will be served

<u>July 10</u> Sunday Worship Service (1st Cor. 14)

Speaking In Tongues

<u>July 17</u> Sunday Worship Service (1st Cor. 15:1-11)

Resurrection of The Dead

July 31 Sunday Worship Service

Guest Preacher

<u>Aug 7-13</u> AEUNA Camp Arevelk - Greenville, NY Ages 10-16.

*Visit www.camparevelk.com

For more information, please contact our church office: Phone: 212-685-3177

Email: info@aecnyc.org

Visit us online on Facebook or on our Website: www.aecnyc.org