



## Dr. Asatur Travels Throughout Armenia To Restore Sight

NEW PORT BEACH, CA - Dr. Asatur Hovsepyan is very special to the EyeCare Project. He has been with the Southern California organization since the Mobile Eye Hospital (MEH) arrived in Armenia nearly 12 years ago on November 6, 2002, and was named Chief Surgeon and Medical Director by Dr. Roger Ohanesian, President of the AECF, and Dr. Alex Malayan, Chief Ophthalmologist at the Malayan Eye Hospital.

As medical director of the MEH, Asatur travels to remote regions of Armenia and is away from home six months of the year — missing his wife, Sousanna, and their four young children.

Working morning through midnight, the MEH often does 24 surgeries a day. Since 2002, the MEH has completed 13,000 surgeries — most of them cataracts — with Asatur performing 9,000 of them himself. He has gained the trust of the people and the regional governments throughout the regions and he enjoys widespread popularity. The patients adore Asatur and bestow words of thanks and blessings upon him when the bandages are removed following surgery. For most of his patients it is the first time they have seen the faces of their family members in years.

## Hiroshima Stone Monument For Peace Unveiled in Yerevan

YEREVAN. — The unveiling of a Hiroshima Stone for Peace took place in Yerevan on June 23.

The ceremony was attended by 300 guests from Hiroshima, representative of Japan's embassy in Armenia (residence in Moscow), representative of presidential administration, parliament, municipality and guests including Armenian Ambassador to Japan Grant Pogosyan.

Hiroshima Peace Stone is one of the 188 plates extracted from pavement railway line passing close to the riverbank Ayoi located in the zero zone of the tragedy, 200 meters from the hypocenter where the Americans dropped a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima.

The stone is engraved with an image of the Buddhist goddess of mercy.

Addressing participants of the ceremony, head of the Stone for Peace Association of Hiroshima Umimoto Michiko thanked the President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan for the decision to install a monument in Yerevan.

"It's an honor to be able to convey to the Armenians a part of warmth from the hearts of Hiroshima. These plates are mute evidence of the tragedy. A few years after the bombing of Hiroshima, the local residents decided to collect them and present to the heads of states as a sign of call for peace and brotherhood," he said.

Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui sent a message to the ceremony.

## Marseilles Donated

## Wheelchairs to Yerevan

YEREVAN - Due to the cooperation between Yerevan and French city of Marseilles, about 180 wheelchairs for disabled people, medical equipments- negatoscopes, blood-testing device, books and other things were sent to Yerevan Municipality.

In Yerevan, Deputy Mayor Davit Ohanyan distributed the wheelchairs to Armenian disabled people "Pyunik" Union.

Fifteen additional wheelchairs and medical equipments are intended for the city's "St. Astvatsamayr" medical center. Books were distributed to the Isahakyan library.

ny, saying, "I am convinced that the people of Armenia, a country which suffered a bitter history of persecution, understand and share the wish of Hiroshima better than anyone else."

Assistant to the president Varuzhan Nersisyan noted actively developing cooperation between Armenia and Japan, that was contributed by the opening of Armenia's Embassy in Tokyo in 2010 and will be contributed further by the opening of Japan's embassy in Yerevan next year.

Takashi Kurai, deputy chief mission at the Japanese Embassy in Moscow and in charge of matters pertaining to Armenia, said Japan is hard at work to open its n embassy in Yerevan in January to further deepen bilateral partnership in political, economic, cultural and other fields.

## AUA to Modernize Student Services With \$465,000 Grant from ASHA

YEREVAN—The American University of Armenia (AUA) recently received a grant for \$465,000 from the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) to create the AUA Student Services/Student Excellence Center—a modernized space aimed at encouraging collaborative learning, offering up-to-date technological resources, and providing an increased scope of student support services.

With the launch of AUA's undergraduate programs in 2013, growth in the student body, especially in the international student population, has already begun and will continue over the coming years. Thanks to the support of ASHA, AUA will be able to maximize the use of its facilities and to support the growing student body, as well as the greater public, with a comprehensive system of services.

The AUA Student Services/Student Excellence Center will be comprised of the Information Desk, the Collaborative Learning Center, the Information Technology (IT) Suite and the Student Health and Counseling Suite. The Information Desk will serve as the first contact point where prospec-

tive students, enrolled students, and visitors may come with any type of inquiry. The Collaborative Learning Center will provide an ideal space for students to gather and study together in a relaxed atmosphere. The IT Suite will provide technological resources for course instruction, internet-based standardized testing, and will also function as a writing center for students. The Student Health and Counseling Suite will take a holistic approach to individual development and wellbeing in order to provide physical and mental health services to students.

AUA President Dr. Bruce M. Boghosian shares, "We are grateful for ASHA's continuous support in creating an advanced and dynamic learning environment for AUA students. This support from the American people allows us to empower students to make the most of their educational experience and to promote a culture of lifelong learning here at AUA."

With a globally competitive grant application process, ASHA is a USAID program that provides assistance to schools, libraries, and medical centers outside the US.



Christine Vartanian-Datian with her mother, Mrs. Alice Vartanian in the kitchen at their home in Fresno around the holidays.

## Vartanian-Datian's Recipe Selected As Editor's Choice in Sunset Magazine

LAS VEGAS - Christine Vartanian-Datian, a resident of Las Vegas, is the daughter of Mrs. Alice Vartanian and the late Mr. Arthur Vartanian of Fresno. Her latest recipe, "Grilled Chicken and Bulgur Salad," is featured in the June 2014 Sunset Magazine as the Editor's Selection and received a \$250 prize. She is known for her recipes that have been published in publications, including Sunset and Cooking Light Magazines. Several of her Armenian recipes have been posted on the popular theArmenianKitchen.com website based in Florida. She has also been published in The Fresno Bee.

Christine attributes her accomplishments and interest in writing, cooking and creating recipes to her mother, Alice, and late grandmother, Mrs. Levon Sarkisian from Los Angeles and Lowell, Massachusetts. "My mother and grandmother were energetic, talented, and exceptionally generous women and mothers who took great pride and time in creating memorable dishes and recipes for family celebrations, parties, and special events throughout our lives; I learned so much by watching and listening to them laugh, talk (in Armenian and Turkish) and work together in the kitchen at our Fresno home, and they instilled attention to detail and an interest in Middle Eastern and traditional Armenian recipes, flavors, ingredients, and cooking techniques at an early age," she says. "They cooked with love, and that made all the difference..."

"I can still taste my grandmother's fragrant Armenian green bean 'fasoulia' stew she made for our family when she came to Fresno, with fresh green beans, tomatoes, peppers, garlic, onions, spices, mint, and lamb. It was a feast all by itself." Her grandmother, Pepay Sarkisian, who was born in Adana, Turkey,

endured a turbulent and tragic childhood; she was in an orphanage at a young age, and survived with the determination to ultimately come to America with her new husband Levon, a successful barber, have a home and a family business, and to raise their family in Lowell with many other new immigrants at the time.

Christine's mother, Alice recently celebrated her 85 th birthday and is still known for her superb yalanche, dolma, rice and bulgur pilaf, cheese boureg, and specialty cookies, nut breads, gata, biscotti, and desserts, including her celebrated Armenian "shakarische" or sugar cookies," she adds.

Christine graduated from California State University, Fresno (CSUF) and worked in public radio, marketing, and advertising in San Francisco and in Reno for Harrah's Reno and Harrah's Lake Tahoe award-winning casino/resort properties before moving to Las Vegas to work at R&R Advertising, Nevada's premier advertising and public relations company for President Sig Rogich, veteran Nevada advertising executive and former U.S. Ambassador to Iceland. She served at the Yucca Mountain Project (YMP) for the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Nevada Test Site.

Christine and her husband John reside in Las Vegas.

California Courier readers can find Christine's recipes by going to the Sunset or Cooking Light Magazine websites or to <http://www.thearmeniankitchen.com/>.

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