



# IMMANUEL

ARMENIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
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JAN FEB MAR 2025

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 1

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY MORNINGS AND  
LIVE-STREAMED ON FACEBOOK

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

ENGLISH AND ARMENIAN SERVICE

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of IACC is to unite together believers in Jesus Christ for worship, prayer, instruction, fellowship, service and evangelism for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. The Church shall make the will of God, as revealed through the Holy Scriptures, preeminent in the lives of men individually and collectively.*

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## Dear Church Members & Supportive Friends,

Recently, I read a poem that has had a powerful impact on me because it is packed with Christian virtues and ideals. As we prepare to welcome and start another **New Year**, I thought to share this poem with you because it encourages us to do what is good, right, decent and honorable regardless of what others may say or think. The poem advocates for persistent kindness and positive action, even when faced with negativity, misunderstanding, or lack of appreciation from others. Its central message is to "do good anyway," regardless of how people react, as the ultimate value lies in the act itself and your personal integrity.

Although the authorship of this poem is still debatable, it is commonly attributed to **Mother Teresa** because the virtues it extols are aligned with her personal character and unselfish service.

### Do It Anyway!

"People are **unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered.** –  
**Love them anyway!**

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish and ulterior motives. -

### Do good anyway!

If you are successful you will win false friends and true enemies. - **Succeed anyway!**

**The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. -**

Do good anyway!

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. - **Be honest and frank anyway!**

The greatest people with the noblest ideas can be shot down by the smallest people with the smallest minds. -

### Think big anyway!

People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs. - **Fight for an underdog anyway!**

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. -

### Build anyway!

People that really need help often attack you if you help them -

### Help people anyway!

Give the world the best you've got, and you'll get kicked in the teeth. -

### Give your best anyway!"



The following is an analysis of the main points that the poem emphasizes.

### Unconditional Kindness

The poem repeatedly encour-

ages acts of kindness, forgiveness, and honesty, even when people might be unreasonable, ungrateful, or deceitful.

### Inner Motivation

The poem emphasizes that the motivation for good deeds should come from within us, not from external validation.

### Acceptance of Challenges

It acknowledges that doing good might lead to criticism, rejection, or even betrayal, but encourages us to persevere despite these obstacles.

### Focus on Conscience

In the final analysis, what you decide to do is between you and God. This thought reinforces the idea that the true value of your actions lies in your own conscience and not in the opinions of others.

If we all resolve to live by the sublime ideas that are expressed in this poem, we will definitely exert a positive influence on the people in our communities, and our church will stand out as a paragon of goodness and integrity. Resolve to glorify the Lord Jesus by your upright living and righteous deeds throughout the New Year.

Rev. George Terian,  
Senior Pastor  
IACC, Downey, CA



# AEUNA LUNCHEON

On Sunday, October 27, 2024, a luncheon was held following the Worship Service. Souzi Baghdikian spoke about the ministry of the AEUNA. Thank you to the church ladies for cooking a delicious meal. All proceeds were forwarded to the AEUNA.



## ANNUAL THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON, NOV. 24, 2024



**Speaker:**  
Lisa Khojikian



**Soloist:**  
Baghdo Khojikian



# ANNUAL THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON, NOV. 24, 2024





# CHRISTMAS PARTY, DECEMBER 8, 2024





# CHRISTMAS SUNDAY SERVICE & BAKE SALE



Soloist:  
Kayla Fermanian



Ladies Aid Bake Sale

Top photo, left to right: Patti Parrish, Jean Beeson,  
Anoush Tchakalian, Debbie Fermanian, Rosemary Saatjian,  
Janeen Dinkel, Barbara Gasparian, Alice Terian

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We will continue with our efforts to keep IACC's buildings and grounds looking their best. Our Lord and our congregation deserve it as do our visitors who come and praise Him with joy. Please keep an eye on your surroundings and contact the church office to let them know if you see any needed repairs.

To maintain the grounds and to beautify our Lord's house, the following items have been taken care of to date:

1. Door closures on main double doors were replaced.

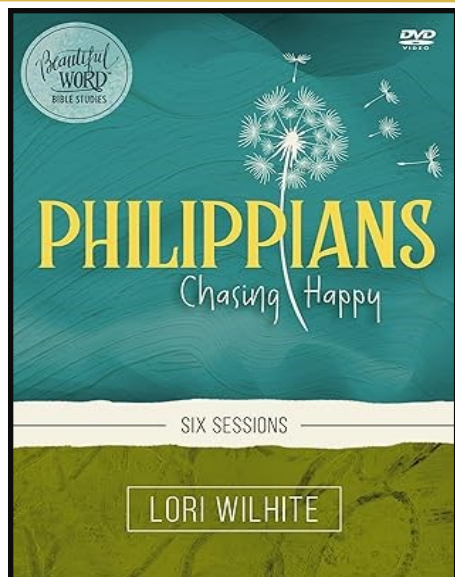
### UPCOMING PROJECTS

1. Change vinyl flooring in Sunday School building hallway.

Board of Trustees  
Chair, Sona Minakian







## Women's Spiritual Fellowship

We invite all women to join us for fellowship and study.  
10 am breakfast followed by the study.

### FUTURE DATES

January 18, 2025, February 15, 2025, March 15, 2025, April 26, 2025,  
May (no study due to Mother's Day Luncheon)

*On December 14, 2024, the women gathered for breakfast and then had the study that was led by Lisa Khojikian who spoke about the three women of Christmas - Mary, Elizabeth and Anna. Following the study, the women had a white elephant and exchanged gifts. A great time was had by all! We invite to join us for the remaining dates listed above.*



## BIRTHDAYS

### OCTOBER

Marie Birebirian  
Marlen Kumjian  
Tom Kazarian  
Rev. George Terian

### NOVEMBER

Chris Ashkarian  
Armen Fermanian  
Barbara Gasparian  
Melik Kumjian  
Rosanna Moreland  
Melanie Vetrano

### DECEMBER

Dicky Dodd  
Peter Vetrano



# JOINT ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS SUNDAY WITH ST. NAREG ARMENIAN CHURCH



On January 5, 2025, Armenian Christmas Sunday, the Worship Service was a joint service with St. Nareg Armenian Church. A special program was arranged with soloists, Tamar Albarian, Arpy Aintablian and Garo Sulahian. The sounds of Christmas music, both in English and Armenian, filled the sanctuary. Rev. George Terian of IACC delivered the English sermon and Rev. Sam Albarian of St. Nareg delivered the Armenian sermon.



Rev. George Terian



Rev. Sam Albarian



Tamar Albarian



Garo Sulahian



Arpy Aintablian







**Vartkes Ketenjian**  
**1930 - 2024**

Vartkes Ketenjian was born to Hagop and Beatrice Ketenjian in Beirut, Lebanon on March 6, 1930. He was the second of four siblings and was raised in a loving, Christian home. His older brother Edward, sister Sirvart and younger brother Boghos were taught to love God, love others, and appreciate their identity as Armenians.

Vartkes spend his childhood and early adulthood in Lebanon and came to the United States in 1956. He married Berjouhi Gurlekian in Chicago, Illinois on May 11, 1957. They were blessed with 3 children: Ruth, Hagop, and Samuel.

Vartkes and Berjouhi moved to California in 1962 and began attending Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church. They continued their membership their entire lives. Immanuel became the Ketensians' second family. He attended church faithfully

and served in different ways through the years, most regularly, as weekly greeter. His last outing was to church on July 14, 2024.

Thanks to the church family who have encouraged and cared for him. Special thanks to the ladies who blessed him weekly with delicious care packages to take home and enjoy since Berjouhi's passing.

Vartkes worked for ITT Grinnell for 25 years in the fire protection equipment sales. He was an avid walker and walked until age 90. He also enjoyed bike riding, going out to eat and spending time with his family. He was a man of few words but when he spoke, he had wisdom to share. He was quietly generous to those in need, both here and abroad. He loved his family, and many special memories were made over the years at his home in Granada Hills.

Vartkes is survived by his loving sister, Sirvart and brother, Boghos, his sons, Hagop (Cynthia) and Samuel (Lena), his grandchildren Heather (Chris), Timothy, Mark (Jennifer), Hannah (William), Rachel, Taline (James), and Andrew, and his great-grandchildren Samantha, Ryan and Kacie.

## DONATIONS

### IN LOVING MEMORY OF VARTKES KETENJIAN

Vahe & Chris Ashkarian  
Rev. Daniel & Susie Albarian  
Souzi Baghdikian  
Levon Baroutjian  
Marine Barsumian  
Arteen & Angele Bedirian  
Marie Birebirian  
Janeen Dinkel  
Armen & Debbie Fermanian  
Barbara Gasparian  
Boghos Ketenjian  
Sam & Lena Ketenjian  
Baghdo & Lisa Khojikian  
Louis & Grace Kurkjian  
Robert Kurkjian  
Hrag Marganian  
Marie-Louise Meneshian  
Michael & Pam Mooradian  
Hratch & Kohar Mouradian  
Rosanna Moreland  
Jack & Lori Muncherian  
Hratch & Hasmig Nuyujukian  
JoAnn Ohanesian  
Patti Parrish  
Rosemary Saatjian  
Theodore & Ann Sarafian  
Araxi Sarchisian  
Ray & Denise Savoian  
Gregory & Shogher Shanoian  
Rev. George & Alice Terian  
George & Marsha Zakaroff







*JoAnn Ohanesian*

1951 - 2024

JoAnn was born on July 5, 1951 to Bob and Henrietta Ohanesian at the California Hospital in Los Angeles. She spent her early years in Fresno living on the family farm until they relocated to Arcadia in 1961. After she finished her formal education she began working at Pasadena City College Library in 1971 and remained there for 43 years until she retired. After retirement she enjoyed traveling extensively.

JoAnn used her gifts and talents to tirelessly serve the Lord and the Armenian community with great joy and generosity all her days! When she wasn't at work at PCC she was dedicated to family, friends, her church at Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church and the Massis Guild and other charitable organizations.

The Ohanesian Family gatherings and milestones were celebrated with Armenian food lovingly prepared by JoAnne's mother, Henrietta, and aunts and sisters. This is where JoAnn "apprenticed" and became an Armenian Master Chef and Master Pastry Chef. Those family recipes were handed down but not always written down and JoAnne worked hard recreating the special dishes from memory - "achke chop" - then wrote down the recipe. She was an oral historian and with her amazing memory she would tell dear stories of her family and the good old days. At home she cultivated a lovely flower garden of calla and day

lilies, irises and of course her lovely roses with intoxicating scents. She would bring them to church on special occasions or bring them to you on visits. She had fruit trees too and made wonderful batches of apricot preserves this past summer.

At Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church where she was a long time member, she served as Deaconess, Council member and was the Chair of Ladies Aid. She spearheaded and organized Bake Sales to raise funds for the AMAA's Child Sponsorship and Educational Program in Armenia and Lebanon. She baked a good portion of the baked goods for these bake sales and for special occasions, as our Anniversary Banquet and Mother's Day Luncheon. She faithfully attended the Immanuel Women's Spiritual Fellowship Bible study which met monthly to grow in God's Word. At our October Bible study JoAnn shared how she met a lady in the line at the grocery store who was going through chemo and JoAnn encouraged this lady and shared her own cancer experience with her and uplifted this stranger at this divine meeting.

She was also a member of Massis Guild which meets monthly to benefit the Armenian Ararat Home for the Aged and Infirm in Mission Hills, Eagle Rock, Glendale area.

The main ingredient JoAnn used throughout her life was service in action! She lovingly, generously and joyfully served the Lord and was a blessing in each of our lives, and her loving legacy will live on in our hearts!

On November 13, 2024 JoAnn Ohanesian, beloved daughter, sister, aunt, and friend, was called home to the Lord at the age of 73 in Arcadia, California.

She is survived by her sister Jacquie, nephew Derek, and niece Kelly and Kelly's son, River, who was the joy of JoAnn's life! JoAnne was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Pat, and her brother Bob.



By Lorraine Sogomian,

*My first face to face encounter with JoAnn was at a funeral at Rose Hills in 2004.*

*I say face to face because I was living on the east coast while the rest of my family was still in California. I had been hearing stories from afar from my mother, Bernice Shamlian, about a very special and dear friend. By the time I actually met JoAnn I felt I already knew her.*

*The stories and experiences with my mother's dear friend she relayed to me were so hard to believe...how could one person be so selfless, caring, generous and kind to so many people? Impossible!! No, it was not impossible — it was a given fact. JoAnn was this true, lovely, generous friend not only to my mom but to so many that have most certainly been touched, somehow by her acts of kindness and her priceless love.*

*Months after meeting JoAnn, my husband, Rev. Jirair Sogomian and I returned to California and settled down to be near our family. Immanuel Church, at the time, was without a minister so he became interim pastor at the church and our own personal journey began with sweet JoAnn. She was a constant source of support to us and gave her all in every way. Her talents in the kitchen—and we all know what a great baker she was—her willingness to serve on boards and committees—you name it she did it. She loved her church and showed it in numerous ways.*

*JoAnn lived her faith when she was diagnosed with breast cancer and with the help and support of her family, especially Pat, her sister who advocated for her as she navigated surgery, chemo and other therapies and countless appoint-*



ments. JoAnn, slowly regained strength and became a survivor. It was a heartbreak for JoAnn when Pat was diagnosed with cancer in 2008 and JoAnn ministered and supported her until she went home to the Lord.

When health issues and death hit our family we were once again surprised by this amazing friend we were privileged to have. We would receive a call from her asking how things were going, how we were feeling and just about our day in general. Little did we know that in a few hours JoAnn would be at our door with a beautiful smile on her face and arms loaded with packages of food—enough for an entire week. She would come in, put everything away, share a few minutes with us and be on her way home—mind you she had just driven over 50 miles to do her acts of kindness—but no matter how hard we tried to have her stay awhile and relax a bit before the long drive back—she would simply smile, say thank you and be on her way. This didn't just happen once but went on and on!! There was no end to her acts of kindness to all of us and so many others she touched while here on earth. Although JoAnn had serious health issues, she never worried about herself. Her only concerns were to reach out to her family and friends and help in any way possible. Family and friends were everything to her. Her love for all was endless.

I'm sure you have similar stories and have been touched by our dear JoAnn in a special way.

We will all miss her and never ever forget her or her beautiful spirit and love for all. Heaven's gates were opened wide as an angel came and took her by the hand to her place with our Lord. God bless her memory.

By Patti Parrish

JoAnn loved to travel and I was her travel buddy. Together we shared many adventures to far off places and also some local ones too. A favorite was a trip to Lake Tahoe with The Greek Armenian Association, every summer. The bus ride was half the fun. The bus was always full of about 50 people and we'd always sit in the back. Since our Armenian wasn't as good as the others, we'd hold up a sign with the word "English" printed on it and they would help us out by repeating instructions or a joke in English for the two of us. We also went on many trips with a group that Jack Birebirian would set up, many from church and others sometimes as many as 30 or more. Travel with Jack was so very easy since he took care of organizing all the details. JoAnn and I would always room together and was a great roommate. We got along so well that half the time people would mix us up and call us the others' name. We didn't care because we were usually together so it didn't matter, we would answer to either name.

Jo Ann was a great shopper and so very generous. On our trips, she was always looking to bring back something for her family and friends as a remembrance of her travels.

My devotional said it best, she loved to bestow gifts to everyone, from the gardener, mail carrier, the neighbor, and house cleaner. She loved to give all year long and we all benefited from her generous heart.

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOANN OHANESIAN

Vahe & Chris Ashkarian  
Souzi Baghdikian  
Levon Baroutjian  
Marie Birebirian  
Janeen Dinkel  
Armen & Debbie Fermanian  
Barbara Gasparian  
Betty Katanjian  
Baghdo & Lisa Khojikian

Alyce Mashikian  
Rosanna Moreland  
Stella Meketerian  
Sona Minakian  
Carol Noorigian  
Liz Papazian  
Patti Parrish  
Rosemary Saatjian  
The Sahagian (Garabidian) Family  
Ray & Denise Savoian  
Araxi Sarchisian  
Lavonne Sherman  
Lorriane Sogomian  
Leon & Anoush Tchakalian

## Lillian May Harootunian

May 21, 1920—February 3, 2024

Lillian was the last surviving sibling of Thomas Hart (Hazel), Jerry Harootunian (Verna), Nellie Mushegan (Mack), Kanarie McNeil (Mack), Ann Garabidian (John) and loving Aunt of Marcy (Jesse) Sahagian.

Our dear Auntie "E.C." passed away quietly, pain and disease free in her own home with Marcy, Jesse, Jon, Jace, and J-Jay by her side, to send her into the arms of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

E.C. was a dedicated Auntie to Marcy, her three sons (her great-nephews) and her nephew, Jesse. She constantly showered her great-nephews with kisses, wisdom, and "God Bless You's". She poured her love and attention into the boys from the moment they were born, and in turn, they took care of her until the very end. Lillian also had a very close, loving bond to her little sister Annie, who passed away in 2008; they were lifelong companions. Lillian was always a part of the Garabidian and Sahagian families.

Lillian was born to original IACC members, Matthew and Eliza Harootunian on May 21, 1920, in Selma, California, the fifth youngest of six children. As with her parents and several siblings, she was a lifelong member of IACC. Although she could no longer attend IACC in her later years, she always donated generously to the church. Her relatives and friends from IACC predeceased her — IACC members that the Harootunian's grew up with.

At her passing, Lillian was nearly 104 years old. She worked over 45 years, and as a single woman saved her earnings, until she acquired and became successful in real estate, owning numerous properties in Orange County and Los Angeles.

Our Auntie EC was truly pure, loving, full of wild stories, loved to tell clean jokes, and as a Christian woman loved her Lord dearly. We were blessed to have had her constantly in our lives, whether at her house, at church, at our Grandma Ann's house, our house, or on our many trips to Palm Springs. We will carry her love and kisses in our hearts forever.

From, Sahagian (Garabidian) Family



# DONATIONS

To strengthen the ministry of our church and to help nurture faith, stewardship and a deep sense of mission, we welcome the following gifts, with thanks:

## THANKSGIVING DONATIONS

Garabed & Nadia Bogosian  
Raymond & Thelma Kay  
Sam & Norma Makhanian  
Sam & Ruth Proodian  
Leon & Anoush Tchakalian

## THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON SPONSORS

Souzi Baghdikian  
Levon Baroutjian  
Marie Birebirian  
Dicky Dodd  
Barbara Gasparian  
Baghod & Lisa Khojikian  
Melik & Marlen Kumjian  
Sona Minakian  
Rosanna Moreland  
Patti Parrish  
Rosemary Saatjian  
Rev. George & Alice Terian

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF JERRY TURPANJIAN

Rosemary Saatjian

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF SHARON MADZOEFF

Barbara Gasparian

## TO THE AMAA ORPHANS FUND IN LOVING MEMORY OF TRUDI AMERKHANIAN

Sharie Abajian

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF TRUDI AMERKHANIAN

The Sahagian (Garabidian) Family

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR AUNT LILLIAN "EC" HAROOTUNIAN

The Sahagian (Garabidian) Family

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS, JOHN & ANN GARABIDIAN

The Sahagian (Garabidian) Family

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR GRANDPARENTS AND GREAT GRANDPARENTS, MATTHEW & ELIZA HAROOTUNIAN

The Sahagian (Garabidian) Family  
IMMANUEL

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF VANOUHI BALALIAN

Baghdo & Lisa Khojikian

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF PARENTS, HARRY & SARA GARO

John & Alicia Blair  
Elizabeth Garo

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF BARKEV & ARAXI BAGHDIKIAN

Steve & Sylva Hekimian

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF MARGARET ARZOIAN

Carol Noorigian

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF SHARON MADZOEFF

Barbara Gasparian

## TOWARDS THE EXPENSES OF THE COFFEE HOUR

Levon Baroutjian

## CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

Suzie Abajian  
John Ashkarian  
Vahe & Chris Ashkarian  
Souzi Baghdikian  
Levon Bartoutjian  
Armen & Debbie Fermanian  
Barbara Gasparian  
Rev. Joseph & Susie Matossian  
Sona Minakian  
Patti Parrish  
Sam & Ruth Proodian  
Sirarpi Stepanian  
Leon & Anoush Tchakalian

## AMAA CHRISTMAS JOY PACKAGES

Vahe & Chris Ashkarian  
Levon Baroutjian  
Janeen Dinkel  
Armen & Debbie Fermanian  
Melik & Marlen Kumjian  
Rosanna Moreland  
Patti Parrish  
Leon & Anoush Tchakalian  
George & Marsha Zakaroff

## DONATIONS

Levon Bartoutjian  
Ronald & Goharik Gabriel  
Rev. Vartkes Kassouni  
Rosanna Moreland  
Ray & Denise Savoian

## TOWARDS THE MUSIC EXPENSES FOR THE ANNUAL BANQUET IN MARCH 2025

Barbara Gasparian

## Continued IN LOVING MEMORY OF TODD MORELAND

Marie Birebirian  
Baghdo & Lisa Khojikian  
Barbara Gasparian  
Rosemary Saatjian  
Leon & Anoush Tchakalian  
Rev. George & Alice Terian

## thank you

The Ketenjian Family has been one of the backbones of IACC for many years. Vartkes, the Patriarch, who recently went to be with our Lord, along with his wife, Berjouhi, were stalwarts of our congregation. Pictured is their son and daughter-in-law, Hagop and Cynthia, who took it upon themselves to have the last vestiges of the original church, the chairs on our altar, refreshed and reupholstered. We are so grateful to God for this family, for their service to our church and loving devotion to our Lord.





## SAVE THE DATE:

### 95th Anniversary Banquet

Sunday, March 16, 2025

Stay tuned, more information to follow

**IACC & St. Nareg Young Adults** - Both groups continue with their weekly Bible Study in the IACC Sunday School building.

Barbara Gasparian has furniture she no longer needs. If you are interested, please contact the church office at 562-862-7012.

## CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Jan 5, Sun	-	Joint Worship Service, Armenian Christmas
Jan 12, Sun	-	Worship Service, 11 am Council Meeting, 1 pm
Jan 18, Sat	-	Women's Bible Study, 10 - 12 pm
Jan 19, Sun	-	Worship Service, 11 am
Jan 26, Sun	-	Worship Service, 11 am
Feb 2, Sun	-	Worship Service, 11 am. Annual Congregational Meeting.
Feb 9, Sun	-	Worship Service, 11 am
Feb 15, Sat	-	Women's Bible Study, 10 - 12 pm
Feb 16, Sun	-	Worship Service, 11 am
Feb 23, Sun	-	Worship Service, 11 am
Mar 2, Sun	-	Worship Service, 11 am
Mar 9, Sun	-	Worship Service, 11 am
Mar 15, Sun	-	Women's Bible Study, 10 - 12 pm
Mar 16, Sun	-	Worship Service, 11 am 95th Anniversary Banquet following Worship
Mar 23, Sun	-	Worship Service, 11 am
Mar 30, Sun	-	Worship Service, 11 am

*The quarterly publication of  
Immanuel Armenian  
Congregational Church.*

The 2025 editorial staff includes:

Rev. George Terian  
Debbie Fermanian  
Rosemary Saatjian

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