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Voice of The Education Committee - Assyrian American Association of San Jose

Issue 2, February 2008

Assyrian Star Student of the Year 2007

Congratulations to Luiza Mikhaylova of Yerevan! She is our Assyrian Star Student 2007! Luiza is a first year Assyriology student at Yerevan State University. She was recognized by the Ministry of Education in Armenia for her excellence and was admitted tuition free under a minority recognition program. As recognition for her achievements, our program awards her one third of her tuition as a cash bonus.

Luiza is highly active in her studies as well as the local Assyrian community. Among other activities, she volunteers her time in the local Assyrian radio. Anchoring the news segment on the radio station, she reads the latest Armenian news translated in Assyrian. Additionally, she shares news and information about the local Assyrian community as well as the community in Diaspora. Luiza was recently interviewed on Armenian TV where she discussed the Assyrian radio program and the activities of the local Assyrian community.

We are proud to be supporting such an exemplary young Assyrian lady in her educational endeavors. She is setting an excellent example as a student and an active Assyrian within her community.



Education Committee's

Mission Statement:

Dedicated to providing financial assistance to Assyrian students in less fortunate regions who demonstrate merit and need in achieving their higher education goals.

Non-Profit Status Attained

It is with great pleasure that we share with you a critical development in the non-profit status of the AAA of San Jose. After several years of diligent work, the AAA was awarded a 501(c)(3), non-profit status in September of 2007! This development opens many doors for the organization and adds incentive and benefits for our supporters.

For the Education Program and the AAA overall, this offers an opportunity for us to tap into sources of contribution that we have not had in the past. Specifically, corporate matching programs can be a significant addition to our revenue stream. To date, several members of the Education Committee have added the AAA of San Jose to the list of non-profit organizations at their respective companies. Donations that they are personally making to the Education Committee are being matched by the corporation. Internally at the AAA, this can be set up such that the matched funds go directly to the organization or to the donor's committee of choice, in this case the Education Committee.

Additionally, many companies encourage community involvement and volunteerism by donating funds to qualifying non-profit organization for the volunteer hours that have been put in by their employees. In these instances, the employee reports verifiable volunteer hours to the employer and the organization receives a grant according to the company's own guidelines. Again, another opportunity for us to leverage existing programs to benefit our Shotapouta and the Education Committee.

We would like to take this opportunity to encourage all of our readers to seize this opportunity. Donations for which you do not receive any goods or services, will instantly double! Time that you are already devoting to the Association can translate into monetary donations!

Don't delay. Please check with your employer and enroll the AAA of San Jose. Inform us about it and indicate how you would like the matched funds to be routed within the AAA. This is a benefit to all parties involved. Let's take advantage of it today and double our revenue stream for 2008! Below are the details you will need:

Assyrian American Association of San Jose
Employer Identification Number: 77-0006253
 P.O. Box 41311, San Jose, CA 95160
 (408) 519-5010

New Addition

Last year's Fellow of the Year becomes the newest member of the Education Committee. A long time supporter and evangelist of our education program, Mr. Mloooan Amrikhas officially joined the Education Committee in 2007. With a broad background in the field of accounting, Mr. Amrikhas brings with him a wealth of expertise in the field and is now managing the accounting related activities for the group. He is full of new ideas and energetic about the expansion of our program in upcoming years. The AAA of San Jose and the existing members of the Education Committee are proud to be in such company and welcome Mr. Amrikhas to the team!



Marcel Josephson, Ramin Daniels, Mloooan Amrikhas, Yolanda Bebla, and Mariana Yadgar

Assyrian Language Book, Beginner's Level on the Internet

Around the world, there is great demand for course material for teaching the Assyrian language. Some of the most popular and highly demanded Assyrian language course books are the works of the late Rabi Kourosh Benyamin. Those individuals who studied these books in grammar school mainly in Iran may still have their old, tattered copies somewhere in their archives. This, of course, is of no use to our Nation and does not serve their original purpose.

The Education Committee of the Assyrian American Association of San Jose took on the task of making these books available to everyone. The solution – the internet. In 2007, the Education Committee presented a soft copy of the beginner's level Assyrian language course book to students and teachers of the Assyrians language. This book covers the first three volumes of the late Rabi Kourosh Benyamin's popular course books.

Now with the click of a mouse, Assyrians around the world can access this material, free of charge. The book is formatted for easy printing on standard 8.5" x 11"

paper (US Standard) or 210mm x 297mm paper (metric standard). Anyone can access, print and bind this book together with a simple stapler and begin studying the Assyrian language.

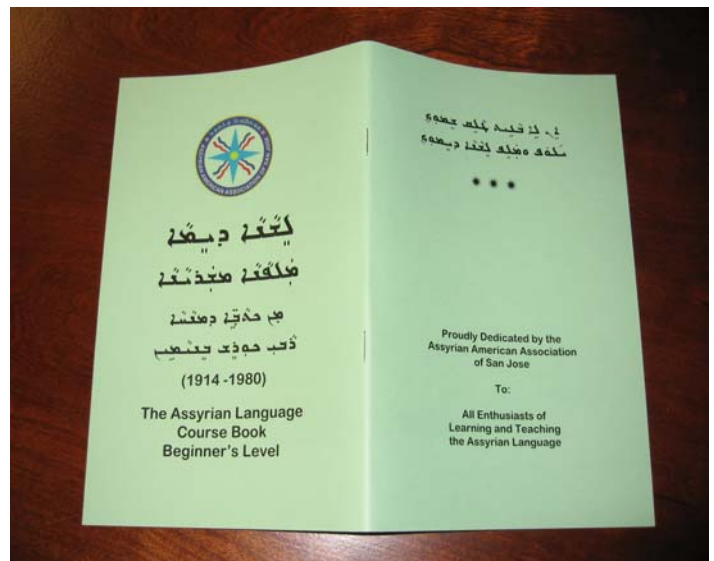
This book cannot be produced for the purpose of revenue. **It is not to be sold.** It is only to be used for educational purposes. It is our hope that our civic and church organizations around the world will produce this book at their expense and will distribute it to Assyrians in their local communities at no cost.

As a man who devoted his life to promoting the Assyrian language, Rabi Kourosh would have been proud to see the sons and daughters of Assyria around the world have access to his works at no cost.

We are grateful to the late Rabi's family members for granting us permission to use the contents of the mentioned course books in this volume. We are pleased to also advise that we are in the process of creating an intermediate level Assyrian language course book. We are planning on publishing a soft copy of the latter book by the end of June, 2008.

To access the beginner's level Assyrian language course book, go to:

<http://www.aaasj.org/educom/AssyrianLanguageBook-Beginner.zip>



Fellows of the Year 2007

The response from our community and the supporters of this program has been remarkable. Many have supported the program financially. Many have given us words of praise and offered their assistance.

In selecting a Fellow of the Year, we had to consider more than the monetary contribution factor. We looked to identify an individual who had taken this program to heart and had become personally involved in helping us meet our goals.

This year we were in the fortunate position of having two individuals who deserved this recognition. It is our pleasure to name Mr. Roomil Baba and Mr. Vladimir Moghadassi as our Fellows of the Year!

Both Mr. Baba and Mr. Moghadassi have been invaluable supporters. They both value the objectives of our program and view education as a key component to building a better future for our nation. As such, each has taken the time to share this program with his respective sphere of influence, raised financial support for the program and taken a sincere interest in the progress being made.

Although they are not formal members of our team, they have served as unofficial good will ambassadors of the program. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank both Mr. Roomil Baba and Mr. Vladimir Moghadassi for their sincerity and dedication and honor them as our Fellows of the Year 2007!



Roomil Baba



Vladimir Moghadassi

The Lifeline of the Education Program

Year 2007 Donors

Assyrian Aid Society	\$1,000
Zinda Magazine	\$1,000
Rachelle Daniel	\$1,000
Assyrian Foundation of America	\$750
Check #1004 of 12/4/07	\$750
Emil & Yolanda Bebla	\$600
Marcel Josephson	\$600
Assyrian American Association of SC	\$500
Sherdin Bet-Babasi	\$500
Check #5233 of 7/30/07	\$500
Rochelle Yousefian	\$385
Agnes Dexter	\$300
Sargon George Ishaya	\$300
Mlooa & Rubina Amrikhas	\$250
Check #465 of 4/4/07	\$285
Annabelle Danielvarda	\$250
Check #1000 of 12/3/07	\$250
Ashour & Gladys Bebla	\$200
Michael & Rima Davejan	\$200
Ramil & Suha Eisho	\$200
Check #2869 of 9/13/07	\$200
Check #2470 of 4/26/07	\$200
Tony Sayad	\$200
Check #2187 of 12/11/07	\$200
Ivan & Romina Karim	\$150
Roomil & Scarlet Baba	\$100
George & Florence Bet-George	\$100
Yosep Betkolia	\$100
Check #3189 of 8/21/07	\$100
George & Mary Khachi	\$100
Fereidoon Es-Haq	\$85
Edison & Louise Bet-Yadegar	\$50
Check #653 of 9/11/07	\$50
Youbert & Carmen Valadio	\$50
Laya Yadgar	\$50
Ramsin Yadgar	\$50
Check #1112 of 11/3/07	\$35

Checks represent anonymous donors

Total **\$11,640**

*Do you believe that you can
change the future?
These fellow Assyrians do.*

*Sponsor a student and make a
difference!*

Our Students

The following is a list of the students who are in our program for the 2007-2008 academic year. They are categorized by schools and for each, their major and admission year is listed.

Yerevan State University

Lilit Ionanova	Philology	Fall 2006
Olya Lazareva	Philology	Fall 2007
Luiza Mikhaylova	Assyriology	Fall 2007
Olya Givargizova	English	Fall 2006

Yerevan State Pedagogical University

Marianna Alexanova	Philology	Fall 2005
Sahak Avdishyan	Culture	Fall 2007
Alyona Chichyan	Philology	Fall 2006
Liana Ivanova	Psychology	Fall 2006
Lusya Mikhaylova	History/Law	Fall 2003

Yerevan State Linguistic University

Anush Mirzoyan	English/Russian	Fall 2006
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Moscow State University Yerevan Branch

Juna Simonova	Tourism	Fall 2007
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European Educational Regional Academy

Okshanna Petrova	Linguistics	Fall 2006
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Ilya Chavchavadze Georgian State University

Irina Khovshamba	English	Fall 2006
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Students in the Education Committee program in Dvin, Armenia photographed with Dalila Arzumanyan (3rd from left), Education Committee's program coordinator in Armenia

*Strengthening Our Nation,
One Student at a Time.*

Our Partners In Georgia

In collaboration with the Education Committee of Mar Shemmon Bar Sabbae, Assyrian-Chaldean Catholic Mission in Republic of Georgia, the Education Committee of the AAA of San Jose was able to assist in supporting the educational endeavors of several deserving Assyrian students for two academic years. The Committee in Georgia consisted of our dear and respected friends, Mrs. Diana Bit-Vardi, Mrs. Olga Bid-Babik, Miss Lena Adamov and Miss. Giuli Gulua and operated under the guidance of Fr. Benyamin Bethyadgar. After two successful collaborative years, the Committee in Georgia decided to continue with their education programs independently. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank them for their partnership and dedication to supporting their local Assyrian students in their educational goals.

In the Republic of Georgia, we continue our partnership with the Assyrian Association and are supporting one student in her studies, Irina Khovshamba. She is a second year English major student at the Georgian State University.



Youth at the gym in Arzni village school, Armenia; among them students sponsored by the Education Committee

Raffle Fundraiser

On an international scale, we Assyrians are a small community. Nothing is more impressive, however, than the amount of will, heart and love we have for supporting worthy causes amongst ourselves. The level of support and encouragement our education committee has witnessed thus far is unparalleled and so heartwarming. As disconnected and miniscule in numbers as we are, we still manage to open our hearts and push forth our causes. Imagine if we were together in proximity and in ideology, we could move mountains!

From all over California and even out in the East Coast, our community once again came together and supported our education program, this time through a raffle event. The New Year's Eve raffle for 2007-2008 was one of the most successful raffles in AAA of San Jose's history. Thanks to our sponsors, we had minimal expense for our prizes as three out of four of them were donated and we had overwhelming support in ticket sales.

We are thankful for the generosity of our supporters, the companies and individuals who donated goods and services as prizes as well as those who purchased the raffle tickets. We also had many individuals who took it upon themselves to help us sell tickets amongst their own circle of friends. With much heartfelt gratitude, we thank each and every one of them for making this fundraising event a success!

In the end, a sum of almost \$5000 was raised to support our education program. During the raffle itself, an impromptu \$1000 donation was also made by an anonymous donor. The outpour of support and enthusiasm was so energizing! To put things in perspective, this sum of \$6000 will pay for the tuition of six students in the next academic year!

We could not have done this without all those involved. Once again, we thank you for your continued support and look forward to expanding this effort in the upcoming year. Based on track record, we are certain that our community will be behind this program 110%!

Raffle Sponsors

We'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our sponsors for their generous donations. Without their support, our raffle fundraiser would not have been such a success.



Our friends at Las Vegas Golf Adventures donated the 2nd place prize, three night stay at Rio/Harrah's in Las Vegas plus one round of golf for two at Siena Golf Club and one round of golf for two at Silverstone Golf Club. This prize had a retail value of \$2000.

Our Friends at Seeb Technologies donated our 3rd place prize, a two night stay at a luxury vacation home in Las Vegas. This was a \$1000 retail value.



Our 4th prize was donated to the program anonymously. It was an Apple iPod nano, with a retail value of \$150.

Our grand prize was a 46" Samsung LCD High Definition TV. With the help of our friend, Roomil Baba, we were able to purchase this prize at a deep discount. The retail value of this prize was \$2500.

Believe in the Vision

Do you believe that you can change the future? We do. This program is an exemplary sample of how coming together as Assyrians, without regard to denomination, political affiliation, social association or dialect spoken, we can build a brighter future for our young Assyrians and our nation as a whole. We hope that reading about this program has inspired you to take action. The long-term vision for this program is enormous and we are only at the tip of the iceberg. With your help, this program can grow and expand to other countries where we can further assist Assyrian students in bringing their dreams to fruition. Please, if you truly believe that together we can make a difference, call or e-mail us today with your support.

Education Committee

Assyrian American Association of San Jose
P.O. Box 41311
San Jose, CA 95160

Phone: (408) 519-5010

e-mail: educom_aaasj@yahoo.com