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A Creative God and His Creative Creatures

Creativity. You've either got it, or you don't, right? You're right-brained or left-brained, into art or into computer science, a painter or a mathematician. Creative folks do creative things, like paint, write, and walk barefoot through the woods. Non-creative folks do non-creative things, like make spreadsheets and money. Right? Wrong, everyone is creative. Creativity is hardwired into our DNA by God himself.

All of us were made to be creative people. We see this clearly in Genesis 1:27, which says: *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."* God, the greatest of all creators, the One who fashioned the Sun, Moon, and Stars all of the creatures from the smallest ant to the humpback whale, made us in His image. We alone are made in the image of God. God has given us the glorious task of representing Him on the earth. Of showing the world what our God is really like. Of showing the watching world that our God is a creative master who loves to bring beauty out of chaos.

When an accountant takes piles of raw data and fashions the data into a meaningful sales report, he is reflecting the image of God. When a woman works the raw soil and causes it to bring forth flowers and vegetables and herbs, she is reflecting the image of God. When an electrician corrals the wild, dangerous electrical currents into light bulbs, he is reflecting the image of God. When a writer assembles letters into sentences, and sentences into paragraphs, and paragraphs into books, he is reflecting the image of God.

Every man, woman, and child is creative. When we create, it pleases God, because He sees us reflecting His image. But creativity is hard work. It takes work to create a poem or garden or car engine or piece of furniture. It's easier to not make anything at all, to be a consumer. To suffocate the creative gifts that God has given us. Pastor John Piper writes: *"If you are God, your work is to create out of nothing. If you are not God, but like God — that is, if you are human — your work is to take what God has made and shape it and use it to make him look great."* (*Don't Waste Your Life, 139*).

You have creative gifts. You are a gifted musician or mechanic or teacher or dancer or woodworker or organizer or landscaper or quilter or preacher, and God wants you to use your gifts for His glory. He doesn't want you to waste them or hoard them. He wants you to use them to benefit those around you and to bring Him honor. He wants you to be good stewards of your gifts. Your church needs your creative gifts so find a way to use them and plug into a ministry or a need in the church. You have gifts that no one else has, so stop making excuses and start making stuff for the glory of God!

**Soli Deo Gloria (Glory To God Alone),
Rev. Shant Barsoumian**

Church School News

Armenian Congregational Church will embark upon a new Sunday School year (2013-2014) on Rally Sunday, September 8, with excitement and promise. With strong support from teachers, a loving and serving congregation, plus an opportunity to grow and learn what God has in store for us, the possibilities are endless.

There are few things of higher priority among Christians than the nurture of children in the faith. And the Sunday School is one of the major ways of doing just that.

The Sunday School meets each Sunday morning from 11:00 to 12:00 noon. The classes are held simultaneously with the morning Worship hour in order that families may take advantage of the teaching, which leads into creative and inspired Worship in the House of God.

Our Sunday School staff looks forward with our children, helping them to gain an understanding of Christ and become a community of young Christians with a life to share.

Book of Life

Born: Allison Araz Collar, daughter of Mr. Mark & Mrs. Catherine Beylerian-Collar, and granddaughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jack and Rose Beylerian, born on April 5, 2013, at William Beaumont Hospital, Troy, Michigan.

In Christian Sympathy

We Extend Our Heartfelt Sympathies to Dan and Sandra Haroutunian, and the Trinity family on the passing of Sandra's father, Frank Trinity, who made his transition from this world to eternity on Wednesday, July 3rd.

Thank You to Mike Mousigian

On behalf of the Armenian Congregational Church, The Board of Trustees, and Rev. Shant Barsoumian, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Mike Mousigian for donating his valuable time and printing the Armenian Congregational Church Monthly Bulletin – newsletter each month.

Children's Sunday



Left to right: Camille Sanchez, Joseph Sanchez, Conner Dawson, Ethan Dawson and Kylie Basmadjian.

On Sunday, June 9, Armenian Congregational Church held its Children's Sunday during the Morning Worship Service, The Sunday School students participated in the worship services through singing, reading scriptures, greeting and collection offering, We also presented Bibles to our graduates Michael Banerian, Lucy Bolerjack and Aaron Keteyian.

Special thanks to all who participated in our Children's Sunday and congratulations to all the graduates.

ACC Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Donations Received

Dicran and Aralynn Haidostian – in honor of Rev. Tootikian

Rev. Dr. Vartkes Kassouni – donation

Mark and Catherine Collar – in honor of Allison's Baptism

Rev. Dr. Vahan and Mrs. Rosette Tootikian - on the happy occasion of his birthday, and their 22nd wedding anniversary

Fellowship Hour

Is your anniversary, birthday or graduation approaching? Why not share your celebration with the church family by sponsoring the Fellowship Hour or donating flowers. Please sign-up on the bulletin board or call the church office.

Artist and Authors



Pictured L-R: Susan Harrison, Mark Kadian, Pastor Shant Barsoumian and Cathy Jacobs-Brito

On Wednesday, June 19, 2013, the A.C.C. Women's Fellowship held a book-signing event, titled "Artist and Authors." Chairperson and organizer, Carole Basmadjian, opened the program at 7 p.m. in the Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian Social Hall, welcoming the audience and the featured artist and authors of the day: Cathy Jacobs Brito, Mark Kadian and Susan Harrison. The purpose of this event was to celebrate the talents of our members with our congregation and to introduce them and their works to the Armenian community at large.

Carole Basmadjian introduced artist Cathy Jacobs. "She likes to create beautiful and evocative pictures that people will enjoy...making pictures has been the most important activity of her life since she was four years old." Now, a Master of Fine Arts candidate at Eastern Michigan University, several of her large oil paintings were on display in the social hall. Very often she draws her inspiration from her sisters or her Armenian grandmother. The picture called "Interface 2" started out as a painting of two dolls facing each other. As she worked on the piece, she decided to replace the dolls' faces with her sister's face. Her thoughts then evolved into the variety of concepts represented by the painting: one could think of the left side and the right side of our brain, which serve different functions, or two sisters in a family who look alike, yet are so different from each other. The most poignant explanation about this painting came from her ethnic origin: it made her think of "our background as Armenians, living with Turks. When I went to Turkey, I saw them as being our brothers; they looked like they could be my cousins or my relatives. How could we be enemies?" Cathy lives in Ann Arbor with her husband and chief encourager, Leonardo Brito.

Our next featured talent was Mark Kadian, author of Anahid Played Soorp, the Finding of Aran Pirian.

Mark's daughter, Gabriel, introduced her father and his work. A short while ago, Mark surprised his daughters by presenting each of them with a copy of his book, which he had been working on for the past nine years. Based on a true story, told to Mark by his grandmother, this historical novel is about the 1915 Genocide of the Armenians. It is also "the story of survival and the preciousness and the beauty of life." Once Gabriel had read a few pages, she could not put the book down; she finished it in forty-eight hours. She almost could hear her father's voice reading the lines to her, just like the bedtime stories he read to her when she was a child.

"I wrote this book because of all those who survived the Armenian Genocide, and for all those who perished," explained Mark. An English major in undergraduate school, he went on to receive a Juris Doctor from Case Western Reserve University. He now practices law in the Detroit area, where he lives with his wife, Ronnie, and his four daughters, Gabriel, Samantha, Bailey and Tess. Surprisingly he offers a divergent view about the Armenian Question: "Often, as Armenians, we try to make our point as to what happened to us in the Genocide; we think we need proclamations, to have it recognized formally. The great genius of fiction is that you could convince people, on a much greater scale, of the importance of what happened by showing how it impacted on a particular person at the time."

Hourig Jacobs introduced Susan Harrison, author of The Wintry Unraveling. Susan is an accomplished musician and a teacher of piano, violin and cello. She is also our church organist and choir director. She and her husband, Glenn (a full-fledged Armenian), have three daughters, four granddaughters, one grandson and one great-grandson. Susan takes care of her husband who has multiple sclerosis, and enjoys cooking for him. She leads Bible studies at her clubhouse, and pays weekly visits to the Manoogian Manor, where she plays the piano and leads the residents in singing, Bible Study, and prayer. Susan's love of music and fairy tales was evident from a very young age. The first part of the book is a series of modern 'fairy tales', told by a lady named Gayaneh. (Susan used some Armenian names from our church, but the characters are fictitious.) The second part, titled "The Wintry Unraveling", is a Christian novel. "I know that Christ died for us, and because of Him we can have eternal life. I wanted, when I see Christ, not to be ashamed. I wanted to use some of the gifts that he has given me, and that I would have that to put at his feet."

Pastor Shant Barsoumian closed the program with some encouraging verses from the Bible and a prayer, after which we had a chance to visit with our talented artist and authors, have our books signed, and to enjoy the pastries prepared by the members of the Women's Fellowship.

-Hourig Jacobs

Fathers Day Luncheon

We celebrated our Dads with a special Kebob lunch after the Worship Service on June 16th. To thank them for all their hard work, love and support. We showered our father's with thanks and enjoyed a special meal together as a church family. Thanks to all those who made this event possible.

Important Dates

September 8 Rally Sunday
October 13 Family Night
November 17 Thanksgiving Banquet
December 24 Candlelight Service

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Save The Dates

**AEUNA 22nd Biennial General Assembly
and
AEYF 20th Biennial Convention**

**June 26-29, 2014
Fresno, California**

**Hosted by
Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church**

To obtain more information
e-Mail aeuna@aeuna.org

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