



The Youth Newsletter

Երիտասարդական Լրագիր

PROVIDED BY THE ARMENIAN YOUTH FEDERATION & HOMENETMEN EASTERN REGION USA

Volume 2, Issue 3

March 2017

Armenian Genocide Movie will hit the Big Screen in April

By Kevork Ourfalian

Kirk Kerkorian's legacy will include him being one of the richest men in Los Angeles, building the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas and purchasing the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Movie studio. For Armenians around the world, he will be remembered even more for his philanthropic contributions. Through his charitable foundation, he covered half the cost of an 80-kilometer highway connecting Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh. He financed more than \$200 million worth of infrastructure projects in Armenia. And in 2005, he donated another \$60 million to reconstruct schools and streets in Armenia.



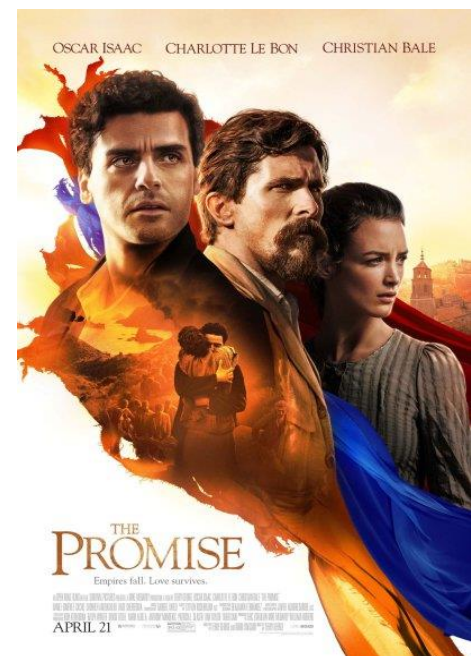
Kerkorian (above) at his 95th birthday in 2012

Prior to passing away, Kerkorian had one last project that would only be fitting for his legacy. Because of Kerkorian, Hollywood would be producing its first mainstream film about the Armenian Genocide. The movie, called *The Promise*, is about a love triangle between an Armenian medical student, an American journalist based in Paris and an Armenian-born woman raised in France taking place towards the end of the Ottoman Empire. The movie is produced by Eric Esraillian, Mike Medavoy and William Horberg and directed by Terry George, who also directed the Academy Award nominated film, *Hotel Rwanda*.

The movie stars Academy Award winning actor Christian Bale, Golden Globe Award winning actor Oscar Isaac and actress Charlotte Le Bon. The movie began filming in 2015 in Portugal, Malta and Spain and was completed in 2016.

The first showing of the film was at the 2016 Toronto International Film Festival, one of the largest publicly attended film festivals in the world, in September of 2016. Being a movie about the Armenian Genocide, the controversy surrounding the film wouldn't come as a surprise. After only 3 public screenings, where less than 5,000 people had seen the film, there had been nearly 100,000 reviews for the film on the popular movie website, IMDb. Just to put it into perspective, the movie *Moonlight* that just won the Academy Award for Best Picture has the same amount of reviews. On the website the movies are scored from 1 to 10 stars (1=worst, 10=best). Nearly 99% of the reviews are currently either a 1 or 10. 63% of them are a one-star and 36% are 10-star with very few reviews falling anywhere in between. It is obvious that the ratings are based on political reasons, largely from the country of Turkey without having watched the film.

Fortunately, shortly after the release, Open Road Films acquired the distribution rights to the film and set April 21st as a release date for the movie opening up in most theaters across the



country.

Kerkorian had a vision to make an epic film like this that included some of the world's best actors. It was his personal dream. Unfortunately Kerkorian is not able to see the product of his vision, but without him we wouldn't have had this and for that we should show our appreciation to him by not only seeing this movie but encouraging those around us (including non-Armenians) to see it too.

Junior Seminar 2017: The Power of Purpose

By the AYF Junior Seminar Committee

Everyone has a purpose. Now, here's something to think about—what's yours? It's our reason for being here, it's the contribution we have to make, it's the thing in life we're drawn to do. Join Junior Seminar Committee this Memorial Day Weekend as we examine the many purposes of the AYF, of the Armenian people around the world, and of the programs that benefit us all.

As AYFers, we often look at our organization as a way to give back to the Armenian community. We volunteer our time tirelessly, we

provide help to our fellow members, we consider our unique talents as contributions to the group. This year at Junior Seminar, we are asking our members to think critically and to reflect on the purpose of the AYF and of each of our roles in it. Educationals will take a look at different forms of expression, their importance to the Armenian community, and their purpose in this world.

We will challenge the notion that the AYF is only something we give to, and we instead hope to instill in our membership the belief that the AYF is a tool in finding our purpose. Give, and continue to give, for as long as you can, but know that the AYF is yours for the taking as well. If you wish to live a purposeful life, rich in culture, art, music, sports, education and so on, look no further than the AYF, for that is in part its purpose.

Find yours at AYF Junior Seminar 2017.



The Armenian Men's National Soccer Team gets Big Win over Kazakhstan

By Kevork Ourfalian

Armenia got off to a very rocky start for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Qualification process. With three losses to Poland, Romania and Denmark, they decided to fire their coach. It seemed like the sky was falling for the Armenia men's national team and so to help clean up the mess, the team hired legend Artur Petrosyan in October. Petrosyan was one of Armenia's best players in the 90's scoring 11 goals in 69 matches for his country. Prior to taking over, Petrosyan had been managing FC Zurich's second team in Switzerland and had served as an assistant on the Armenia men's national team in 2015.

Petrosyan understood the expectations when taking over and knew he had a big hole to climb out of in order to qualify for the World Cup. His first match was against Montenegro in November, and it would be one he wouldn't forget. After falling down 2-0 at the half, the team rallied back in the second half and with a Gevorg Ghazaryan goal in stoppage-time they would complete the 3-goal comeback for their first victory in the qualification.

The next match for the team came against Kazakhstan on March 26th at Vazgen Sargsyan Stadium in Armenia. With a retooled approach, Armenia was able to register their second consecutive win with second-half goals from Henrikh Mkhitaryan and Aras Ozbiliz.

This put Armenia at 6 points overall in the table and currently fifth place in their group but only 1 point out of 2nd place (only 1 point separating team #2-5). The next match will be in June against 2nd place Montenegro, with a shot for Armenia to continue moving up the table. Armenia would need to finish in the top 2 in their group to have a chance because while only the top team in their group automatically qualifies for the World Cup, the second-place team would have a chance to make it through an additional playoff. Even though it seems like only an outside chance of making it to the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia, there is still a chance and as a fan, that is more than we could hope for.



Mkhitaryan after scoring his goal against Kazakhstan (Photo: Getty)

Philadelphia Hosts Successful NATs

By Gevork Dramgotchian

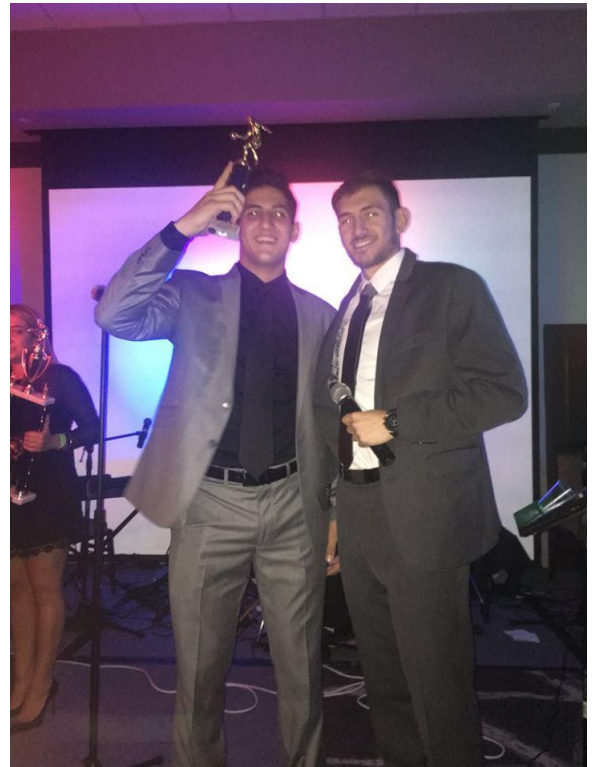
In the past few years, NAT's grew to be one of the most exciting events throughout the AYF. Members from all regions would gather for a 1 day, 2 night event that would leave most exhausted from play or party. By the end of the weekend, win or lose, everyone would go home with everlasting memories. This year, the Philadelphia chapter decided to host a 2 day, 3 night event, taking advantage of the holiday weekend.

Friday night, featuring DJ Mikey, kicked off the entertainment portion of the weekend. Although it started off slow, in typical Armenian fashion, the party really got going around 11pm when members flocked in by the dozens. The dance floor was packed, the music was loud and the crowd loved it.

Saturday night, the committee was skeptical about hosting all 3 night events at the hotel so they decided to bus everyone to the city. Hosted at Monarch Lounge, the venue was packed and to our luck the weather was incredible. Members enjoyed all corners of the venue, from the dance floor, the VIP lounge and the outdoor modern courtyard.

Sunday night, featuring Kevork Artinian and friends, was the most anticipated night of the weekend. Athletes, non-athletes, locals, and spectators all came for what turned out to be an amazing night.

All in all the weekend turned out to be a huge success! The Philadelphia chapter would like to thank everybody for coming out and making the event as great as it was. NAT's has taken a step into a broader horizon and we look forward to seeing what next year will bring.



Worcester “Aram” Juniors’ Thirst For Knowledge

By Rita Bahnan

All chapters tend to experience change in activeness among their junior and senior members. This year, the Worcester “Aram” juniors have become the most powerful asset to the chapter. Considering senior presence can be difficult due to school and work, eight of the chapter’s junior members (five of them new to the chapter) have contributed to a majority of the presence at meetings thus far. The juniors are already tightknit and hungry for AYF knowledge, as well as eager to execute their imaginative ideas for socials and fundraisers!

The first educational of the year was simple, yet necessary. Senior members worked closely with the juniors to teach them the Armenian alphabet, how to write their names in Armenian, and when to use varying letters with similar sounds. The juniors were intrigued in the activity for quite some time, eager to master how to write their names. The second educational involved an interactive way of learning how the Armenian Youth Federation was created. Juniors had fruitful conversation about how in awe they were that General Karekin Nejdeh gathered forty chapters at the first convention in such a short amount of time. Although this is a simple start to igniting the AYF fires in these juniors, we hope that they will attend Junior Seminar to meet a larger community of little AYFers with big ideas!



My First NAT’s Experience

By Victoria Selverian

This past President’s Day weekend was my first experience at NATs. I had the chance to see my camp friends from the various chapters and was able to spend the whole weekend with them. Whether it was competing against them, or enjoying the nights at the dances it was fun reconnecting and making new friends. I also had the opportunity to compete in women’s basketball and co-ed volleyball. In my opinion playing basketball with the Philadelphia team was a very entertaining, enjoyable, and exciting experience. The highlight of my weekend was winning 1st place in basketball and treating a few of my out- of-town



friends to cheesesteaks back at my house. I applaud the Philadelphia chapter for doing a great job hosting the events, and especially my teammates for making it a wonderful first experience. Personally, NATs has quickly become one of my favorite Armenian weekends hosted by the AYF. I would highly recommend any senior thinking about attending NATs next year to most definitely be a part of the weekend.

Book your rooms for 2017 Navasartian Games Today!

We are pleased to inform you that the website for the 2017 Navasartian Games in Providence is up and running! The website is at www.navasartianeusa.com, and you can find information to book rooms at the hotel and about the athletic venues. Through the website, you can also purchase entertainment packages and submit ads for the Ad Book.

The hotel information is the following:

The Providence Biltmore, located in the heart of downtown Providence, will be our headquarters for the weekend. Rooms are available to book for an affordable rate of \$129 for a single and \$139 for a double.

Please call [401-421-0700](tel:401-421-0700), and mention "Homenetmen" for the discounted rate.



**Homenetmen Eastern Region Navasartian Games
WEEKEND ENTERTAINMENT & VIP Pass**

**Sunday Night
Dance | July 2nd at
The Providence Biltmore Hotel**
**KEVORK ARTINIAN
and BAND**
& DJ Rams from Boston
Dance starts at 8PM
Dance Prices
\$45.00 Adults
\$20.00 for children under 12

**Monday Night Victory Gala
Dinner Dance | July 3rd: at
The Rhode Island Convention Center**
**ELIE BERBERIAN and
BAND**
& DJ Rams from Boston
Dinner starts at 7PM
Dinner & Dance
\$75.00 Adults
\$40.00 for children under 12
Dance Only after 10PM
\$50.00 Adults
\$20.00 for children under 12

**VIP DANCE PACKAGE
(Deadline June 7th, 2017)**
\$80.00 (\$15.00 Savings)
Includes access to both dances without dinner
\$100.00 (\$20.00 savings for adults)
Includes access to both dances and dinner
\$50.00 (\$10.00 savings for children under 12)
Includes access to both dances and dinner
*Children under 4 are free of charge

Որպէս



84th A.Y.F.-Y.O.A.R.F. Senior Olympics

Downtown Milwaukee

Hosted by:

Racine Armen Garo

August 31 - September 4, 2017

website at www.ayfolympics.org
information on how to purchase a hypass and information on how
to support the AYF by purchasing an Ad in the souvenir Adbook.

BOOK TODAY for only \$120/night (plus tax)!!!
Hyatt Regency Milwaukee: 1-888-421-1442 or <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/AYF2017>
Deadline for reservations is July 31, 2017 (Cancellation policy is two (2) weeks prior to arrival)

Did you miss us in 2006? Curious
what all the hype was about? Here's
your chance to experience (or re-experience)
what many have said was one of the best
Olympics ever! Plan to attend August 31 -
September 4, 2017 for an affordable,
hospitable, walkable, diverse and unique
weekend that is sure to please. We can't
wait to see everyone! Make sure to visit our

Հոսէ