



JULY AUG SEPT 2021 | VOLUME 53, ISSUE 3 | *Quarterly Newsletter*

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WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAY MORNINGS IN PERSON
AND
LIVE-STREAMED ON FACEBOOK
11:00 AM - 12:00 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.”

FINDING TRUE FREEDOM

This is the time of the year when we celebrate our freedom. July 4th is celebrated as America's official split from Britain's rule and the beginning of the American Revolution. There were 13 colonies in America who were forced to pay taxes to England's King George III without having any representation in the British Parliament. For this reason, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

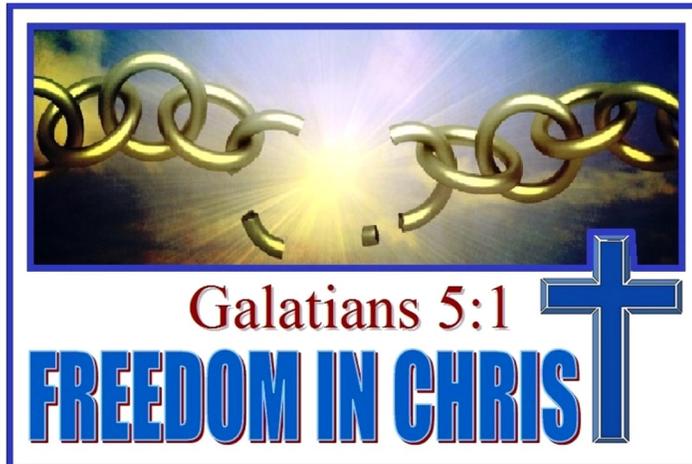
One year later, on July 4, 1777, Philadelphia marked the Independence Day by adjourning Congress and celebrating with bonfires, bells and fireworks. And that custom spread to other towns, both large and small.

In 1941, Congress declared July 4 a legal Federal holiday. Today, across the nation, Americans mark this major midsummer holiday with parades, fireworks, picnics and the playing of the "Star Spangled Banner."

I think many of us take our freedom for granted. We think very little of the freedom that we have. I am proud to be an American because I feel that God has blessed this county. I am also immensely grateful to the many soldiers who bled on the battlefields and gave their lives for the right to have such freedom.

Not only am I proud to be an American, but also, I am proud to be a child of God. There is a song that the group called Casting Crowns sings that is titled, "What if His people prayed."

The first stanza starts out with the words,
"What if the armies of the Lord,
Pick up and dusted off their swords,
Vowed to set the captive free,
And not let Satan have one more.
What if the church for Heaven's sake,
Finally stepped up to the plate.
Took a stand upon God's promise,
And stormed Hell's rusty gates.
What if His people prayed?"



According to Galatians 5:1, Jesus has given us freedom by releasing us from the yoke of sin, We have a freedom in and through Christ Jesus. We are no longer bound by the Law but have been freed from its condemnation by Jesus' amazing grace. As we celebrate our Nation's freedom on the 4th of July,

we also can celebrate the freedom that we have obtained through Christ Jesus.

It is wrong to assume that just because we have entered into a personal relationship with Christ that we have the green light to sin, and then just ask forgiveness for it. Such an attitude is an abuse of grace. The Apostle Paul tells us that since Jesus has set us free, we must be careful not to entangle ourselves with sin and avoid being enslaved by it once again.

Sometimes we are tempted to rate sins by thinking that cheating is not worse than murder. But the truth of the matter is that it takes only one unconfessed sin to keep us out of Heaven. James 2:10 says, "For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all." Sin is disobedience to God and the failure to do what we know is right.

President Calvin Coolidge went to church one Sunday morning, and afterwards was asked by a friend, "What was the subject of the minister's sermon?" "He preached on sin," Coolidge replied. The friend then asked him what the preacher had to say about sin, and the President replied, "He was against it." Similarly, Jesus is against all sinning because He hates sin, but He has consistently demonstrated His love for sinners.

Just as God created the world without sin, His desire is for us all to be without sin. When Jesus healed the leper in John 5:14, the Savior told him, "See you have been made well. SIN NO MORE, lest a worse thing come upon you."

To the woman who had been caught in adultery, Jesus said, "I do not condemn you; go and SIN NO MORE" John 8:10-11. The punishment that the Law of Moses prescribed for such an offense was death by stoning. The Pharisees were eager to execute the woman, but when Jesus wrote their sins in the sand, they disappeared and did not dare to throw a single stone at that woman. Jesus showed those Pharisees that they were as guilty as the woman whom they had labeled as a sinner. Jesus showed mercy to the woman without condoning her sinful act.

Unbelievers violate God's Law every day with impunity, and they will be condemned for their actions. Christians, on the other hand, do not plan to sin, but they may sin unintentionally, or they may sin without being aware of it. In either case, God has provided a remedy for the sin problem. The Apostle John says, "If we sin, we have an Advocate (Intercessor) with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous"(1 John 2:1).

In John 8:31-32 we read, "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, If you ABIDE in MY WORD, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

Now the Jews were confused by this saying and said, "What are you talking about? We are not slaves. We have no Master." Then we pick it up again in verse 34, "Jesus answered them, most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

You will have either the slavery of sin, or the freedom of the Son. Jesus urged the Jews who had believed in Him to abide in His word. Doing so would keep them in the truth, which in turn would give them true freedom. It is the nature of sin to enslave, and it is the nature of truth to set us free. Only in Jesus and in His Word can real truth and real freedom be found.

I heard about a prisoner in Sydney, Australia, who tried to escape from jail by climbing underneath the hood of a van delivering bread to the institution. When the van made its next stop, the prisoner sneaked out from under the hood—hot and dirty. He found himself in the yard of another prison just 4 miles from the first. Like that prisoner our own attempts at lasting freedom often leave us in another prison 4 miles down the road of life.

Our attempts at freedom from our sins leave us dejected, dirty, and in another prison. This should not surprise us. We cannot save ourselves. I know it almost sounds anti-American to not encourage you to pull yourselves up by your own bootstraps. But when it comes to our relationship with God, salvation and freedom come from what Jesus has done for us, not by what you or I might do for Him. We do not earn God's love; we are invited to accept it, to embrace it, to experience it and to enjoy it.

Pastor George Terian

CHURCH EVENTS

OUR ANNUAL BANQUET IS BACK AND SCHEDULED!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

If you purchased tickets in 2020, they will be honored.
Our banquet chair will be contacting all individuals who purchased tickets.

*** NEW DATE ***

Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church

90th & 91st
Anniversary

BANQUET
2021

Sunday

OCT
10

1 pm

QUIET CANNON BANQUET HALL
Sunset Room

901 Via San Clemente, Montebello, California

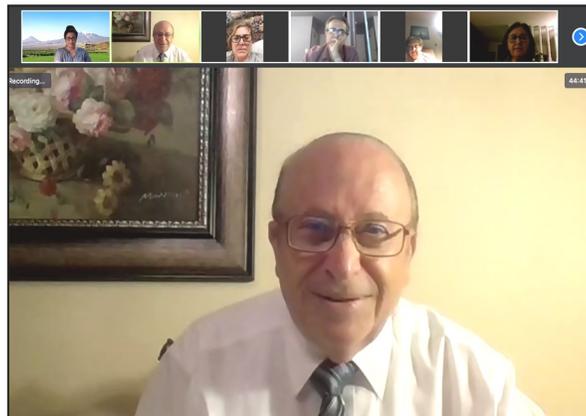
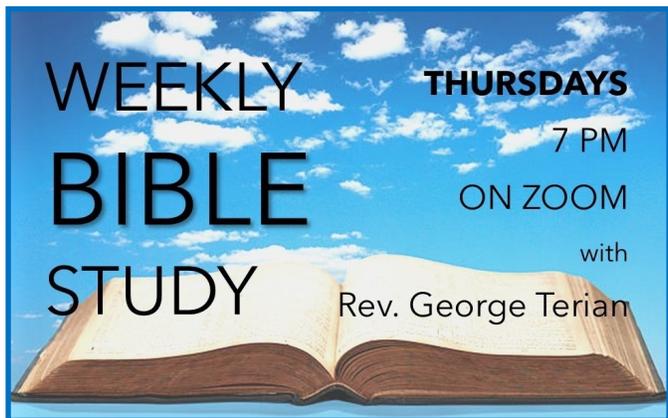
More information will follow as event date gets closer

IACC, 9516 Downey Ave, Downey, CA 90240, 562.862.7012, www.immanuelacc.org

CHURCH NEWS

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY ON ZOOM

Bible Study will be on summer break and will resume after Rally Sunday in September. Notifications will be sent before it resumes.



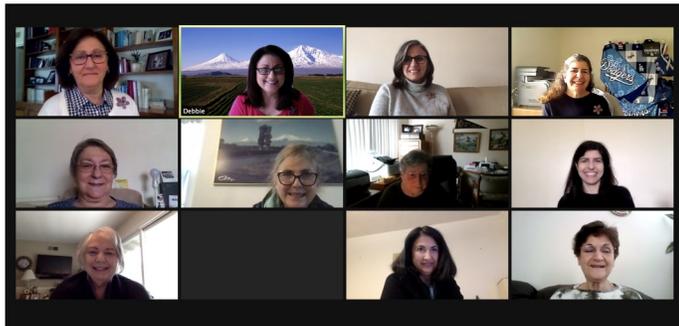
WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP ON ZOOM



On March 27, 2021, Sylva Hekimian led our Bible Study based on the scripture, *“For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth. He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.”* Psalms 33:4-5

On April 24, 2021, the study was based on the scripture of James 3:17.

“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”



May 22, 2021, the study was led by Lisa Khojikian who spoke on, *“The prayer of Jabez for Women”*. *“Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, ‘Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.’ And God granted his request.”* (1 Chronicles 4:10)

BIBLE STUDY WILL BE ON SUMMER BREAK UNTIL SEPTEMBER, FUTURE DATES WILL BE ANNOUNCED ONCE SCHEDULED

CHURCH NEWS

Our New 2021 Mother Of the Year! Alice Terian



Alice Terian and Lucy Deyan

We had the privilege to vote this year for the 2021 Mother of the Year: Alice Terian. Alice was presented with flowers from the 2019 Mother of the Year, Lucy Deyan. It is much deserved as her hard work, enthusiasm and dedication to the church goes above and beyond. We are very blessed and fortunate to have her as part of the Immanuel Family. Congratulations Alice!



Ladies of the church on Mother's Day



Gohar Martirosyan recited a beautiful poem on Mother's Day and Father's Day.



**OUR NEW
2021
FATHER OF
THE YEAR!**

**HAGOP
KETENJIAN**



On June 20, 2021, our new Father of the Year was elected, Hagop Ketenjian. Hagop had been a long time member of the church and graciously, with his family, accepted at the last minute to perform a song on Father's Day during the Worship Service. Thank you and congratulations Hagop!

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.

Melik Kumjian
Chair, Board of Trustees

Current pending church repairs:

- ◆ Paint the exterior of the church buildings - bids range from \$14,000—\$20,000.
- ◆ Replace extensive damage to wood around windows and facia.
- ◆ Place/replace drain on outdoor concrete to prevent water puddling on east side of the social hall wall.



We will proceed with these projects dependent on funding and final approvals.



VISIT WITH LUCY SCHLAUCH on May 19, 2021

Left to right; Renee Agajanian, Debbie Fermanian, Kate Nelson,
Lisa Khojikian, Mia Nelson, Souzi Baghdikian
Front Row; Lucy Schlauch

If you would like a visit, we would be happy to visit you and will provide the coffee and dessert! Just let us know.

Contact the church office at 562-862-7012.



CHURCH NEWS - MINI MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC/BBQ

After a year off and at the very last minute, we decided to have a mini picnic/bbq. We provided our traditional kebab meal, mini bake sale and mini raffle. We would like to thank all those supported, contributed their time, donated, and helped to make this picnic a success.



MINI MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC/BBQ



BIRTHDAYS



FEBRUARY
LUCY DEYAN



APRIL
SOUZI BAGHDIKIAN, ASDGHIG ABAJIAN,
ROSEMARY SAATJIAN



MAY
GOHAR MARTIROSYAN



JUNE
HRAG, MARGANIAN, JOSEPH MARTIROSYAN
JEAN BEESON, LEVON BAROUTJIAN



ERIC ASHKARIAN graduated from Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach, CA on June 17, 2021. In the fall, he will be attending UC Irvine majoring in Chemistry. Eric is the son of Steve and Aida Ashkarian and the grandson of Vahe and Chris Ashkarian and Vanoush Balalian. Congratulations Eric!

AREK TERJIMANIAN graduated from Schurr High School in Montebello, CA, with highest honors. He will be attending UC Santa Barbara in the fall and will major in Chemical Engineering. Arek is the son of Shahe & Houry Terjimanian, grandson of Anahid Terjimanian and the late Hagop Terjimanian and Papken & Sossy Tikijian. Congratulations Arek!



BRADLEY THOMAS MURRAY, son of Tom and Mindy Clark Murray, grandson of (the late) Marilyn Kasparian Clark and grand nephew of Alma Jean Kasparian Beeson, graduated from Carrillo High School with his second letter in Varsity Baseball. He is currently enrolled at Hancock College and his plans include transferring to UC Santa Barbara. Congratulations Bradley!

RAYMOND CLARK, son of Todd Raymond Clark, grandson of (the late) Marilyn Kasparian Clark, grand nephew of Alma Jean Kasparian Beeson, graduated from Northview High School with the Presidential Education Award and a Golden State Seal Award for his scholastic achievement. Athletically he was a Triathlon in varsity Football, Swimming and Wrestling and won the All American National Wrestler title. He has earned a scholarship and will be attending Azusa Pacific University. Congratulations Raymond!



HALEY SURMEIAN graduated from UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles), continued her education and received a master's degree in Public Health. Haley is the daughter of Jim Surmeian and Lynn Surmeian and granddaughter of Asien Surmeian. Well done Haley! Congratulations!

May God grant you the desires of your heart and make all your plans succeed!



IN MEMORIAM



Louise Frances Chookoorian

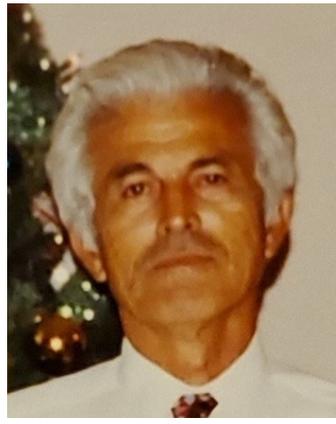
1926-2021

Louise Chookoorian of Granada Hills, CA was born in Fresno, CA on August 26, 1926 to Arshag (Arthur) and Berjouhi (Virginia) Paul. Soon after, the

family relocated to Los Angeles, where she lived until her passing on April 11, 2021, at the age of 94. The family was very active at Immanuel Church, where they were charter members, and where Arthur served as the church's first deacon. She graduated from John H. Francis Polytechnic High School in Los Angeles in 1945. Louise was sweet, kind, loving and selfless, always putting others first. A talented musician, she served here proudly and faithfully as the church's organist for over 60 years. In 1951, she married Guy Chookoorian. Together they worked as a team for 50 years as choir director and accompanist. They had 2 children and made a home together for almost 70 years. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister and aunt, who deeply loved the Lord and her family.

Louise is survived by her son and daughter-in-law Arshag and Sona Chookoorian, daughter and son-in-law Araxie and Michael Marderosian, granddaughter Ani Marderosian, grandsons Armen and Ara Chookoorian, and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. She is preceded in death by her husband Guy Chookoorian and brothers William Paul and Earl Paul.

Private funeral services were held. Donations, designated for The Louise Chookoorian Memorial, can be made to: United Armenian Congregational Church, 3480 Cahuenga Blvd W., Los Angeles, CA 90068, uaccchurch.org **OR** Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, 2226 Ventura St. Fresno, CA 93721, holytrinityfresno.org



George Katanjian

1934 - 2021

George Katanjian was born on September 17, 1934 on an 11-Acre farm in Downey. He had four older sisters, Nellie, Helen, Gladys, and Roxie. His only surviving sibling is his eldest sister, Nellie. George had fond memories of his days on the farm. In school, George was more interested in sports than academics. He won many medals in both football and track. He was offered a football scholarship to Oregon State College, but refused.

In 1955 George married Robin, his high school sweetheart, and together they had two children, Gregory and Renee. They bought their first home in Bellflower. Then suddenly, the first of several tragedies befell George when his 10-year-old daughter, Renee, was killed in an auto accident. Then, only a few years later, his wife, Robin passed away unexpectedly.

As a carpenter/framer, George had a successful career. He was an exceptionally hard worker and took great pride in his work. His stories about work always had common themes: work hard and do the job right. He did not like shortcuts if they led to poor results. He often did remodeling jobs for friends. Word of his exceptional work and attention to detail spread and he was asked to accept projects for others. He was always busy.

In 1974, George was invited to the Babigian home to discuss adding a room onto their house. Instead of adding on a room, he married their daughter, Betty, and began a new chapter in his life. He used to tell her parents that he should have added on the room before he married her because once she was out of the house they didn't need the room and he lost a job. George and Betty were happily married for 47 years.

In 1992-1993, George and Betty spent a year in Kauai taking part in the reconstruction efforts after the island was hit by hurricane Iniki. George supervised a crew rebuilding a condo complex and Betty worked in the office.

Sometime during his working career, George realized that investing in property had substantial financial benefits. Along with the help and encouragement from Betty, they began to build an inventory of rental homes.

George retired in 1993 but continued to purchase and remodel property. In his retirement, George enjoyed dining out and visiting with friends and family. Seeing animals of all kinds was fun and reminded him of the good times on the farm.

In March of 2020, one last tragedy would strike; his son, Gregory, passed away. Misfortunes aside, George had a very productive life. While we celebrate his long and well-lived life, we nonetheless are saddened that George's life could not have been a bit longer. We can try to smile for a long life, well lived, but it is still with deep sadness that we say good-bye to George, loving husband, brother, father, uncle and friend. For us, 86 years was just not long enough. May he rest in peace. He deserves to.

THIS 'N THAT

WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

Visit our website at www.immanuelacc.org for up-to-date information.

Follow us on Facebook, "Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church", "Immanuel Church Downey" for Live-stream



DEDICATED TO GUY

For fifty years we did not need to search... Guy, you were our musical complement and with your wit and humor as well. A perfect fit in our beautiful little church.

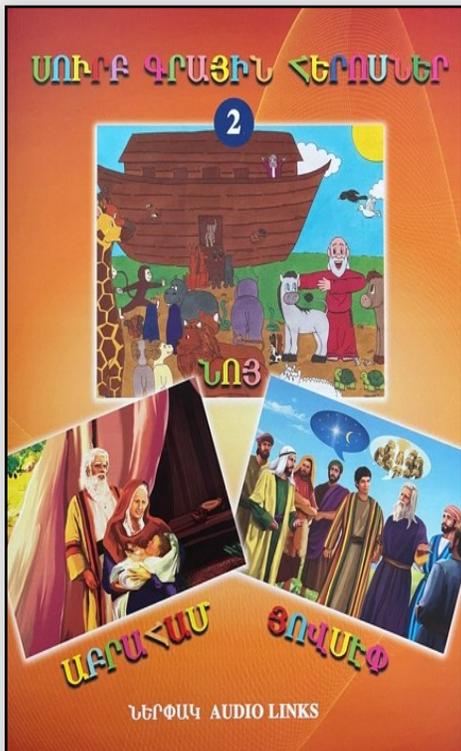
And you were a true hero: a tail gunner on a B52 during the great World War... your friend Spencer you would never forget on Memorial Day... may you reunite now forever more.

In your ninety-seven years with us, you were everything to which I could ever hope to aspire... A true gentleman. Guy now in heaven... Someone I will always admire.

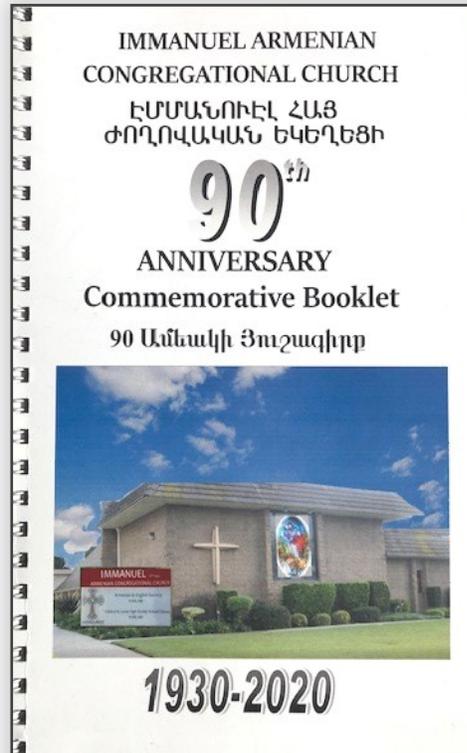
Written by Peter Vetrano



AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE



Armenian Children's Bible Story Book in Western Armenian. Published by the AEUNA. \$10 donation. Contact the church office for your copy.



We still have Anniversary Booklets available! If you would like to purchase a booklet, please contact the church office. \$20 donation.

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:

IN LOVING MEMORY OF LOUSIE CHOOKOORIAN

Maggie Anderson
Levon Baroutjian
Anoush Birebirian
Armen & Debbie Fermanian
Michael & Pam Mooradian
Patti Parrish
Jesse & Marcy Sahagian
& Family

IN LOVING MEMORY OF GEORGE KATANJIAN

Maggie Anderson
Levon Baroutjian
Lillian Harootunian
Betty Katanjian
Baghdo & Lisa Khojikian
Thomas Mushegain Sr.
Richard & Peggy Newman
Jo Ann Ohanesian
Patti Parrish
Jesse & Marcy Sahagian & Family

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ARAM BOULJHOUDJIAN DERIAN

Anahis Derian

IN LOVING MEMORY OF PROF. VICTORIA DODD, ESQ.

Dicky Dodd

MOTHER'S DAY DONATION

Patti Parrish

DONATIONS

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Richard & Gayle Moore
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Sam & Ruth Proodian
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Stephen Philibosian Foundation

TOWARDS THE MARGARET ARZOIAN MISSIONS FUND

Levon Baroutjian
Dr. Hrag Marganian
Harry Noorigian & Family

IN HONOR OF LILLIAN HAROOTUNIAN'S 101ST BIRTHDAY

Jesse & Marcy Sahagian & Family

IN LOVING MEMORY OF SAM & HELEN ARABIAN

Charles & Sally Arabian

MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC/BBQ, DONATIONS

Suzie Abajian
Vahe & Chris Ashkarian
Levon Baroutjian
Marie Birebirian
Armen & Debbie Fermanian
Lucik Gabriel Manoukian
Hrag Marganian
Todd & Rosanna Moreland
Patti Parrish
Rosemary Saatjian
Rev. George & Alice Terian

MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC/BBQ, RAFFLE DONATIONS

Suzie Abajian
Souzi Baghdikian
Armen & Debbie Fermanian
Sona Minakian
Patti Parrish
Rosemary Saatjian
Hye Cuisine Restaurant

Continued

CHURCH RENOVATIONS DONATIONS

Berj & Dawn Adrouni
Vahe & Chris Ashkarian
Souzi Baghdikian
Jean Beeson
Lynne Mushegain
Patti Parrish
Flora Sakalian
Lorraine Sogomian
Rev. George & Alice Terian

Continued EASTER DONATION

Levon Baroutjian
Garabed & Nadia Bogosian
Anoush Birebirian
Araxy Ekhsigian
Barbara Gasparian
Sona Minakian
Jo Ann Ohanesian
Patti Parrish
Gayle Samarin
Peter & Melanie Vetrano

Continued NEW FLOORING DONATIONS

Anoush Birebirian
Melik & Marlen Kumjian

Continued

IN LOVING MEMORY OF GUY CHOOKOORIAN

Armen & Debbie Fermanian
Barbara Gasparian

Continued

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ART CARPENTER

Souzi Baghdikian
Barbara Gasparian
Michael & Pam Mooradian
Michael & Suzie Noorigian

*The quarterly publication of
Immanuel Armenian
Congregational Church.*

*The 2021 editorial staff includes:
Rev. George Terian,
Debbie Fermanian
and Rosemary Saatjian*

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