

Grandfather Hurant Lives Forever

Bells jingled as Grigor pushed open the door of his grandfather's rug shop. The smells of wool, dyes, and cinnamon greeted him.

Grandfather Hurant looked up and smiled. "Ahhh, there's my little Grigor," he said, taking several pieces of red cinnamon candy from his pocket. Handing one piece to Grigor, he put the other in his mouth.

Grandfather Hurant sat at a large work table mending an old Armenian rug. Woven into the rug was an inscription in Armenian.

"What do the words say?" asked Grigor, tracing the Armenian letters with his fingers.

"Armenians will live forever," said Grandfather as he wove threads back in where old ones had worn out, carefully knotting the yarn and matching the colors and textures of the wool.

"Grigor, come feel this." Grandfather Hurant's eyes twinkled. "Tell me where the old stops and the new begins. Use your eyes and your hands."

Grigor ran his fingers across the surface of the rug, quickly at first, then more slowly. He could not feel a difference. He could not see a difference. "You have matched it exactly, Grandfather Hurant," Grigor laughed.

He was proud to have such a talented grandfather. Grigor spent afternoons in his grandfather's shop watching the older man mend and sell rugs. They often talked about Grandfather's old country, Armenia.

"Our village was friendly," said Grandfather, "people from different backgrounds, all getting along. My family made rugs as they had for generations. But times changed, and the Turks wanted the Armenians out, so we were driven away."

"Did you all come to America?" asked Grigor.

"No," said Grandfather sadly. "Many families were killed."

"But you survived," said Grigor, touching the old man's arm.

"Grandfather Hurant, why do you make only Armenian rug designs and write your inscriptions in Armenian?" asked Grigor. "Don't you want to make other designs, to write your messages in English?"

Grandfather Hurant shook his head. "No, in these rugs that I make, my family and my people live on. When I make Armenian rugs, I see my family working on rugs. I hear them laughing and talking. I smell my mother's rich, spicy cooking, and I see my sisters running in and out chasing each other. Working on these rugs keeps my family alive for me, and writing my messages in Armenian keeps Armenia alive for me."

Grigor loved to watch his grandfather work and to imagine him in Armenia, surrounded by his family.

Grigor had a small loom next to his grandfather's. Together, they had used it to make Grigor's first rug. They made sure the rug included two things that Armenian rugs are known for: durable crimson red yarn and an inscription woven in a design of strength and color. On Grigor's rug were the words, "Grigor and Hurant Gedigian, Rug Makers." He had put this rug beside his bed so he could see it every night before he went to sleep and every morning when he got up.

Now Grigor was working on his second rug. He had picked out a design and carefully copied it onto a large piece of butcher's paper the same size that the rug would be.

"The wonderful thing about an Armenian inscription, said Grandfather, "is that there are no rules."

Grigor looked at his grandfather and said, "I want to be a rug maker like you, Grandfather Hurant."

One afternoon, Grigor's mother was at the shop when he arrived from school.

"Where's Grandfather Hurant?" asked Grigor.

His mother gave him a hug. She held him too tight.

"Grigor," said Mother in a quiet voice, "Grandfather Hurant is in the the hospital." Grigor's mother started to cry. "Grandfather is very, very, sick."

Walking down the white halls at the hospital made Grigor feel nervous. The smell was strange, like that of a doctor's or dentist's office; there were no familiar smells of wools, dyes, or cinnamon. The hallway felt and looked cold.

Cautiously, Grigor entered Grandfather's hospital room. A plastic bag of clear liquid dripped into a tube connected to Grandfather's arm. Grandfather Hurant saw Grigor and raised his free arm motioning Grigor closer. Grigor hesitated. Mother leaned over toward him. "It's alright, Honey. Go to your grandfather."

Grandfather hugged Grigor close to him. "Grigor." Grandfather's voice was soft, "I will always be with you."

Grigor gave Grandfather a hug back. "Good. We'll be rug makers together."

"Yes." Grandfather whispered and held Grigor tight.

The next morning, the phone rang.

"Grigor, I have bad news." Grigor's mother stepped toward him. "Grandfather..." Mother stopped, her eyes filling with tears.

"What happened?" Grigor held his breath. He didn't want to know the answer.

"Grandfather died last night."

Grigor felt like someone punched him in the chest. "No," said Grigor. "No, he'll be back.

No, he can't be dead! He can't! He said he would always be with me."

Mother cried, "Grigor, he didn't want to leave you. He didn't have a choice."

For over a week, toys books, and clothes lay strewn around Grigor's room. He didn't care.

"Grigor, said mother one night, "Mr. Kashian is going to buy Grandfather's rug shop. He's worked there for many years. I think it's right that he have the shop. He said he'd leave your loom up and you can drop by any time to work on your rug."

Grigor yelled, "I don't want anyone to take over Grandfather's shop!" He picked up the rug Grandfather had made with him. "I don't ever want to make another rug! And I don't want to be a rug maker!" Grigor's eyes were burning and his cheeks were wet.

Grigor dropped onto the fallen rug. He lay across it. Then, holding one end of the rug, he rolled up in it, closed his eyes, and cried.

A week later, Grigor walked by the rug shop. Grigor stood outside the shop for several minutes, then hurried home.

One day, Grigor walked up to the shop door. His heart beat fast. He took a deep breath and pushed open the ringing door.

"Mr. Kashian," said Grigor, "I'd like to keep working on my rug if that's OK with you."

"Here," Mr. Kashian said as he moved a chair to Grigor's loom, "I think you should use this chair. It belonged to a fine rug maker who told me on many occasions that you were becoming one yourself."

Grigor smiled, his face feeling warm. "I want to be rug maker like my grandfather."

"From the looks of this rug, you're well on your way," said Mr. Kashian as he ran his hand over the finished part of Grigor's rug. "You've inherited your Grandfather's talent."

Grigor sat in his grandfather's chair and looked over the pieces of yarn lying in the tray. He picked up a strand of crimson yarn and remembered Grandfather's words, "For centuries Armenian rugs were known for their durable crimson dyes." Grigor tied the yarn into the rug, then picked up a piece of cinnamon candy Grandfather had left in the tray. The taste and smell of cinnamon reminded him of Grandfather.

Grandfather Hurant hadn't lied. As Grigor felt the wool yarn, smelled the cinnamon candy, and tied the crimson yarn in place, he saw his grandfather working on rugs. He heard his grandfather's voice. He remembered the stories of Grandfather's people, and knew they were all here, with the making of these rugs.

"Mr. Kashian, can you help me write my inscription in Armenian?" asked Grigor.

"Sure," said Mr. Kashian. "What do you want to write?"

Grandfather Hurant lives forever," smiled Grigor.

Excerpted, w / out permission from Granfather Hurant Lives Forever; written by Susanna Pitzer; Centering Corporation, Omaha NE. Illustrated book may be ordered from through website: www.centering.org.

 Greece • 7th Pan Armenian Games July 21 - Aug. 2, 2005



from left to right.
Kengo Soghoyan, Steve Karapetian (Detroit),
Atrik Isaian (Tehran)



from left to right first row.: Nareen Bagdasarian, Ani Babikian
(OC), Carnie Armenian (Las Vegas), Greg Soghoyan,
Kengo Soghoyan, Peter Manushakian (San Diego)
& Y. Armand Kilijian Western Regional



from left to right.
Nareen Bagdasarian, Ashley Bogosian, Carnie Armenian



Greece • "Thank You's & Results"



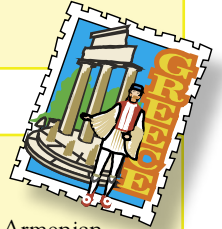
Harkelee Sherchanayn Kouyrer yev Yeghpayrner:

For years Homenetmen has nurtured my brother and I physically and mentally. We have not only gained a vast amount of knowledge from scouting but also from the friendly competition throughout the Navasartian games. So when our chapter, Santa Clara Ani's varchoutyun approached us with the opportunity to compete in the 7th Pan-Armenian Games in Athens, Greg and I were not only excited but we were also very proud. This trip provided us with the chance to prove that our skill extend farther than our local Navasartian competitions. My brother and I went to Greece with high spirits and a mission on our minds. We competed and had an amazing time with our friends and fellow homenetmenagans from around the world. Greg and I just want to say thank you Shurchanayn and Ani Chapter for giving us the opportunity to travel to Greece and compete in the 7th Pan-Armenian Games. It was a phenomenal experience that we will remember dearly for the rest of our lives. We have truly enjoyed making new friends, competing in the games, cheering on our team mates, and keeping the Armenian spirit alive through the Homenetmen family. Homenetmen is

truly a remarkable organization and we are honored to have represented the Western Region on an international scale. We want to thank Shurchanayn for their great support, namely Y. Armand Kilijian, Y. Viken Apelian, and K. Nyree Derderian. Greg and I hope we have set a high precedent for all of the future Homenetmen athletes to come. Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity.

Sincerely,

Kengo & Greg Soghoyan



Homenetmen Ani Athletes Dominate

When told about the incredible chance to travel half way across the globe to represent their country in the Pan-Armenian Olympic Games held every four years, a couple of our Ani athletes felt like they had been handed a golden key to an opportunity of a lifetime. These young, aspiring athletes could now put to use the skills they had worked so hard to build up by participating in the **7th Pan-Homenetmen World Games in Athens, Greece** this July. We sent 3 swimmers and 1 volleyball player to join with other athletes from the Western US Region to compete against teams from across the globe including: Eastern USA, Australia, Cyprus, Argentina, Bulgaria, Egypt, Iran, Lebanon, Canada, France, and of course Greece.

While "Aussie" swimmers have quite a reputation, they came no where near our Ani athletes, including **Nareen Bagdasarian** and **Kengo** and **Greg Soghoyan**, who joined together with 3 other swimmers from Southern California to represent "Team Western USA Swimming". In between sight-seeing, downtown souvenir shopping, and dodging crazy traffic in the busy streets of Athens, the swimmers held practices in the days before competition. The hard work sure proved valuable once the races got started...

Kengo Soghoyan came home with a second-place finish in the 50m butterfly, two third-place wins in the 100m backstroke and the 100m freestyle, and two fourth-place finishes! The men's relay team which included Kengo and his brother Greg, earned a silver in the 200M freestyle. **Greg Soghoyan** finished with a second place medal in the 100m breaststroke, third in the 100m butterfly, as well as placing fourth in a close 100m freestyle!

Nareen Bagdasarian won 7 overall second place finishes in the 50m backstroke, 50m butterfly, 50m freestyle, 100m freestyle, 200m freestyle, 100m breaststroke, and 200m breaststroke! She came in a very close fourth place finish in the 50M breaststroke and led the race for the first place spot in the 200M breaststroke, just barely being touched out by her competition.

The triumph did not end there. our brave and determined volleyball star, **Ani Bagdasarian**, fought her way through a few arguments to land a starting position on the West Coast MEN'S volleyball team!!! On top of that, Ani was ranked amongst the top three best volleyball players from the West Coast and was recognized by coaches from many countries including Greece, whom we fought in the finals game. With a close battle, W.USA pulled through with the second place overall trophy.

"From all of the Ani athletes who participated, we would sincerely like to thank the leaders of our wonderful chapter for stepping up as the backbone behind a chance."

-Nareen Bagdasarian

"Why the Navasartian Games are so special!"

the food



the music



last minute "touch-ups"



making new friends



having to smile to all the cameras



playing, even when it doesn't count



our parents carry the "hardware"

the heat



parent participation



Track/Field & Swimming Weekend



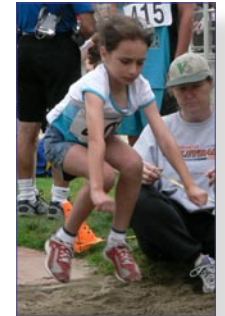
Y. Sevan
Yeni~Komshian



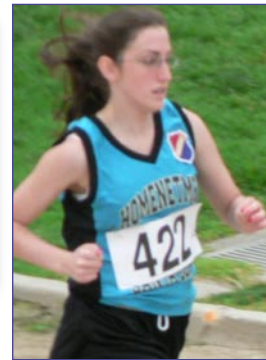
Y. Aris Deylan



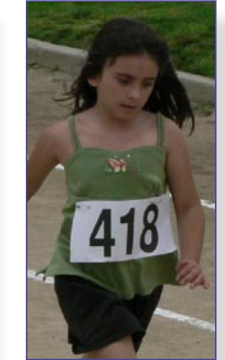
Y. Ara Nazarian



K. Alexa Nazarian



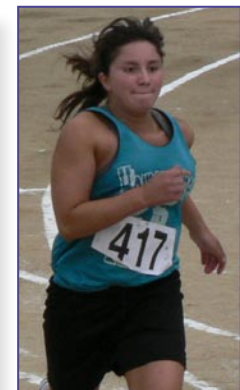
K. Angela Soghoyan



K. Natalie Matian



Y. Vatche Moroyan



K. Nareen Bagdasarian

Year in, year out, our swimming and track & field athletes make us proud. It's not just the sheer number of medals, but the spirit and how they conduct themselves that make us very proud. The swimmers who participated in the meets were the following: Kengo, Greg, & Angela Soghoyan, Areg Manoukian, and Ani, Nareen, and Alex Bagdasarian. ☆

"B" Division Mens Basketball



"D" Division Mens Basketball



Team work and camaraderie is the best way to characterize our basketball teams. Thank you to our coaches for coaching our B & D Division basketball teams. We are proud of your hard work. ☆

"A" Division Womens Volleyball



Champions once again! Our volleyball girls did not let us down. In a close championship final game, with a crowd of Ani supporters on the edge of their seats cheering for their team, our girls put on quite a performance. We would like to thank Y. Armen Zakarian for coaching our young ladies. ☆

"A" Division Mens Soccer



Good Job! The A Division soccer team is a cohesive group of individuals, who never fail to put on a good show. We would like to thank Y. Vahe Baronian for coaching these talented young men. ☆

Our Future Stars "D" Division Girls Basketball Team



Our chapter is especially proud with the debut of our D Division girls basketball team. Thank you Y. Nareg Arzoumanian and Y. Ashod Ayanian for taking on the coaching task. The team has come a long way since they started practicing, and will continue to improve in seasons to come.*



"Rough & Tough" "D" Division Boys Soccer Team



Thank you Y. Alex Khajehtoorian for volunteering to coach our boys. The coach organized "Pasta Night" on a regular basis so that the team can have an opportunity to socialize and bond together. This idea was fabulous and very successful!*



"Show Time" Parade



Medals & Trophies



Finally ~ Unforgettable Memories



Thank You to all the parents, coaches, athletes, scouts, and committee members for another successful Navasartarian Games. See you all same time, next year!

Car Wash

July 10, 2005



As a fundraising event, Ani scouting committee organized it's first car wash of the year. The scouts had loads of fun washing cars! ☆

and on a "lighter" note...

- TOP TEN REASONS TO ATTEND THE NAVASARTIAN GAMES**
10. Games are casually late AKA "AST" Armenian Standard Time
 9. Having to sit through the opening acts for Harout.
 8. To drive 400 miles only to realize that you forgot something.
 7. To reach a venue only to find out that the game has been relocated.
 6. To stay up and party 'til 4:00 a.m. and play a game at 8:00 a.m. the next day!
 5. To score an own goal.
 4. To watch the basketball teams win-lose to Ararat!
 3. To attach a badge to your jersey by any means such as (chewed gum, staples, or duct tape).
 2. Getting caught trying to get in using an athlete pass that isn't yours - from last year.
 1. To participate in the games under a name that isn't yours.



continued from the first page...

Հ.Մ.Ը.Մ. Անի մասնաճիւղի վարչութիւնը, ընդառաջելով կեդրոնականի ծրագիրներէն մէկուն, ուրախութեամբ ընդունեց հայրենիքի մէջ գործող Հ.Ա.Ս.Կ.-ի (Հայաստանի Ազգային Սկաւորական Կազմակերպութիւն) Աբովեան մասնաճիւղը իբրեւ «քոյր» մասնաճիւղ:

Հայրենիքի հետ կապերը ամրապնդելու և զարգացնելու համար բազմաթիւ սփիւռքեան մասնաճիւղեր պիտի ունենան նոյնպիսի «քոյր» մասնաճիւղեր որոնց գործակցութիւնը պիտի պարճառ դառնայ որ միասնաբար այս մասնաճիւղերը «բարձրանան և բարձրացնեն» զիրար:

Կը յուսանք որ այսպիսի գործակցութիւններ մեզի աւելի կը մօտեցնեն Հ.Ա.Ս.Կ.-ի մեր եղբայրներուն և քոյրերուն, եւ իրենց ճամբով հայրենիքի հետ մեր կապերը աւելի կը սերտանան:

Յաջողորով էջերուն մէջ, կը ներկայացնենք Հ.Ա.Ս.Կ.ի պարմութիւնը Անգլերէնով:



Calendar of events

**Upcoming Social Activities
Mark Your Calendar!**

- September 24, 2005:
 - Bingo Night
- October 8, 2005:
 - Latin Night
- November 12, 2005:
 - Bingo Night

Homenetmen 2005 Raffle Ticket Winners!

1st Prize: Ticket #409 won by Mrs. Janet Doushgounian:
Trip to Las Vegas for two

2nd Prize: Ticket #255 won by Mrs. Sirpouhi Garabedian:
Bed & Breakfast~2 nights~Barkeley Homestead in Sierra foothills

3rd Prize: Ticket #497 won by Mr. Herand Gaspar:
\$150 cash. This prize was donated back to Homenetmen by Mr. Herand. Thank you for your generous donation!

★ We would like to thank all our members who supported us and made this raffle event possible!