

For Immediate Release

TCA ARSHAG DICKKRANIAN ARMENIAN SCHOOL
1200 CAHUENGA BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CA 90038

TCA ARSHAG DICKKRANIAN SCHOOL 2011 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

Los Angeles, June 30, 2011 - Rapt in an air of pomp and circumstance and marking the school's 30th anniversary graduates, the commencement ceremonies of the 5th Grade (Elementary), 8th Grade (Middle) and 12th Grade (High School) graduates of the Tekeyan Cultural Association Arshag Dickranian School took place on Saturday evening, June 25, 2011, at the school's Walter and Laurel Karabian Hall.

Very Rev. Fr. Dajad Dz. V. Yardemian, Archpriest Fr. Manoug Markarian, benefactresses Mrs. Eleanor Dickranian and Mrs. Laurel Karabian, members of the Tekeyan Cultural Association Board of Directors were amongst the honored guests, joined by members of the school board of trustees, faculty and a capacity audience comprised of jubilant parents, relatives and friends.

The processional entry of the three graduating classes was followed by the school choir's rendition of the national anthems of the United States, the Republic of Armenia and the hymn of the Dickranian School.



MC Parsegh Kartalian

Acting as the Master of Ceremonies, Vice Chairman of Board of Trustees Mr. Parsegh Kartalian delivered the opening remarks

of the event, introducing and welcoming guests and graduating students alike. "We are gathered here today to graduate 16 students into the next chapter of their lives," said he. "They will leave this school and pursue higher education in prestigious universities and make us all proud."

Following Mr. Kartalian's opening remarks, Principal Vartkes Kourouyan took the podium and presented awards of excellence to 5th and 8th grade students. He then invited Board of Trustees Secretary Miss Gia Aivazian to present the 5th graders with their diplomas as Mrs. Ashley Kirakossian, their home room teacher, called their names. Respectively, the 8th graders were then called one by one by their homeroom teacher Miss Alvard Uzunyan to receive their diplomas by their one time teacher Mr. Vatche Semerdjian.



Class of 2011

Board of Trustees Chairman, Mr. George K. Mandossian, and TCA Board of Directors Chairman, Mr. Haroutiun Arzoumanian, were then called upon to jointly present the 16 graduates of Class of 2011 with their diplomas as Mr. Soukiassian read names, thus calling on: Lusine Aleksanian, David Aghabekyan, Rozi Demirtchian, Lusine Zeitountsian, Khachik Haladjian, Alex Garibyan, John Gukasyan, Mariam Meliksetyan, Anahit Mestchyan, Harout Mishikyan, Ani Nercessian, Hykouhi Shamlyan, Grace Chilyan, Shake Dzhulfayan, Vardan Vardanyan and Gevork Keshishyan.

Valedictorian Anahit Mestchyan, recipient of Mrs. Eleanor Dickranian's coveted \$1,000 "Arshag Dickranian Award" and Salutatorian Hykouhi Shamlyan, recipient of the \$500 Armenian Educational Foundation "Arshag Dickranian Memorial Award", presented their speeches in Armenian and English, reflecting upon their experiences and memories of their school days.

Aside from the awards received by the valedictorian and salutatorians, Board Treasurer Mrs. Angine Garibyan presented monetary prizes in the total amount of \$2,800 to winners in various intramural competitions such as recitation, composition, arts and sciences. The prizes were donated by respective sponsors

The keynote speaker of the event was school alumna Mariam Danielyan, Esq., (Class of 2002). She was introduced by the MC as a graduate of UC Berkeley and University of San Francisco School of Law. One of the highlights of her career was attending the 13th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva where she presented a 3 minute intervention to the Council and delegates on the Right to Food. Ms. Danielyan began her address by memorializing her youthful days at ADS. "I began my life with tears as I enrolled in Kindergarten and left with tears when I graduated" she said, "Later on, during my 4 years at UC Berkeley, I found out that Arshag Dickranian School had given me a solid foundation to face my challenges," said Mariam reflecting upon her college years.



Keynote Speaker Mariam Danielyan, Esq.

The congratulatory message of the School Board of Trustees was delivered by Chairman George K. Mandossian. "Tomorrow, as you start attending the college of your choice, you will not find your current teachers there," said he addressing to the Class of 2011. "Hence, it will be your sole duty to safeguard your mother tongue and heritage." Apart from addressing the graduates, Mr. Mandossian expressed the Board's appreciation to the faculty and working committees for their dedication and hard work and to the benefactors for their continued support. Mr. Mandossian then acknowledged Principal Vartkes Kourouyan for his 30 year service at the school and presented him with a plaque of recognition.



**Principal V. Kourouyan receiving recognition plaque from
TCA chair Dr. H. Arzoumanian and school board chair George K. Mandossian**

Principal Vartkes Kourouyan then gave his message bidding farewell to the graduates of the Class of 2011, most of who were enrolled as Kindergarten toddlers.

The program was concluded by the Reverend Father. Dajad Dz. V. Yardemian closing remarks and benediction, after which the graduates, parents and friends all gathered at the school grounds for carousing and picture taking.

Located at 1200 North Cahuenga Blvd., Los Angeles, the TCA Arshag Dickranian Armenian School is a federally tax exempt, Pre-K to 12th grade private educational institution. For more information visit www.dickranianschool.org.

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