

For Immediate Release

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

## **Arshag Dickranian School Celebrates 30th Anniversary**

**Over \$110,000 Raised At Benefit Gala Banquet**

Los Angeles, April 12, 2011 - TCA Arshag Dickranian School celebrated its 30th anniversary with a Gala Banquet held on Saturday, April 2nd, at the Taglyan Cultural Center. The event was one of the series of affairs taking place throughout the scholastic year in observance of the milestone anniversary.



**Members of 30th Anniversary Banquet Committee**

Traditionally being solely hosted by the PTO, this year the Banquet Committee had integrated into including members of the Board of Trustees, past PTO chairpersons and several alumni to give more luster to the event.



**Members of the Committee at the Reception Table**

The Social Hour was 7:00-8:00 P.M., at which time the arriving guests were first greeted by the hosting committee, then moved to join the gathering at the lobby to rub shoulders with old and new acquaintances in attendance, amongst who benefactors, prominent officials, past and present parents, committee and faculty members, alumni, upper grade students and friends. It was heartening to see the assemblage of 350 devotees gathered for the common purpose of paying tribute and offering their support to Arshag Dickranian School. At the end of the social hour, the doors of the banquet hall were opened and the guests were admitted to occupy their places, after which, Fr. Manoug Markarian, Archpriest of St. John Church, offered the invocation.

Mrs. Houri Taglyan-Kourouyan acted as the MC of the event. She introduced herself as a persona embodying the 30 year success story of TCA Arshag Dickranian School for being an alumna of the first Class in 1990, for pursuing higher education, for marrying a former classmate, for enrolling her child at ADS and finally for continuing to be associated with her school as a member of the PTO. After sharing her thoughts about the merits of her alma mater, Mrs. Kourouyan concluded her opening remarks by acknowledging the presence of several dignitaries, amongst them the banquet's Guest of Honor, Mr. Hmayak Baltayan, Los Angeles City Council Member Paul Krekorian and the Hon. Grigor Hovhannisyan, the Consul General of the Republic of Armenia, inviting the latter to the podium to present his congratulatory remarks.

Following the Consul General's remarks, the lights of the hall were dimmed for the video presentation of the blessings and congratulatory message of Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Armenian Church Western Diocese.



**Councilman Paul Krekorian      MC Houri Taglyan-Kourouyan      Consul General Gigor Hohannisyan**

Council Member Paul Krekorian delivered the keynote address. Being the first Armenian-American ever elected to serve in the Los Angeles City Council, Mr. Krekorian commended Arshag Dickranian School for its accomplishments throughout the past 30 years. "Armenian schools are the only bastions for preserving our language and heritage. Hence, their presence in our communities and the tremendous effort rendered to preserve their existence should not be taken for granted," he said, adding that the only reason why he can't express himself in his mother tongue today is because there were no Armenian schools in his time as a student.

The entertainment portion of the program was provided by singer Gaguik Badalyan, who pleased the audience by offering a bouquet of Armenian songs, after which the lights were dimmed again



**Armenia's Popular Singer Gaguik Badalian**

for the twenty minute video show depicting the land acquisition, the ground breaking, the Opening Day and the 30 year journey of ADS, produced by Meher Kourouyan (Class of 1994).

Being her last year serving as Chairperson of the PTO, Mrs. Ophelia Garibyan then presented her members with token gifts in appreciation for their devoted service to the school.



**Principal Vartkes Kourouyan surrounded by his students**

Principal Vartkes Kourouyan then took the podium to conduct the candle lighting ceremony with all those who donated \$1,000 or more for the occasion. "The thirty candles on display depict the years Arshag Dickranian School has served this community," said he, calling the name of every donor to approach and light a candle. He then announced that aside from the candle lighting ceremony, the school had received over \$50,000 from various donors, including the \$10,000 gift from Mr. Hmayak Baltayan, the \$10,000 donation from the TCA Board of Directors and the \$5,000 from the TCA Pasadena-Glendale Chapter. He further added that the complete list of donations will be published soon.



**Dr. Missak Kitchian & son Nareg Mr. Hmayak Baltayan Mr. & Mrs. G.K. Mandossian**



**The participants at the Anniversary Candle Lighting Ceremony**

The ceremony then continued with the raffle drawing and into the midnight hours of merriment and dancing to the tunes of the disco music by DJ Chris Shahbazian.

Located at 1200 N. 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 the school website at [www.dickranianschool.org](http://www.dickranianschool.org).

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