



THE SANDPIPER



THE WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER OF THE

KIWANIS CLUB OF SAND LAKE, NY

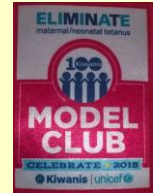


P. O. Box 535, West Sand Lake, NY 12196

www.SandLakeKiwanis.org

SandLakeKiwanis @nycap.rr.com

Meets 6:30 PM Mondays at The Lakeview Inn Restaurant



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MEETING OF JULY 20, 2015

PRESIDENT Linda Ellis presiding

INVOCATION by **Bob Pasquarelli**

GUESTS: Speaker Ralph Enokian



Program Chair Joe Trupia & Ralph Enokian

PROJECT SIGNUP SHEETS

- DOORS OF HOPE, unloading food truck Tuesday 7/21:
Davis, Daniels, Wagner, Patton, Malecki, Loveridge
- BLOOD DRIVE Thursday, August 20 :
Setup 11:00-1:30 (no one);
First Shift 1:00-3:30 Canteen: **Weiss, Registration Ward;**
Second Shift (no one)
- MONTHLY PASTA DINNER @ WSL Firehouse, Saturday, August 8
12 – 7, Setup & Cook: **Ellis X 2, Loveridge**
3 – 5:30, Setup & Serve: **Brownrigg, Metchick, Hamlin**
3:30 – 7, Cashiers: **Ward**
5 – 7:30, Serve & Takedown: **Metchick, Hamlin**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Eve Ward** has a few tickets left for the Valley Cats game Monday, August 10. Contact her if interested.

- **Pat Lane** announced that the Evangelical Church in Poestenkill is considering some sort of food service such as a food pantry. She will ask at the next Board meeting whether SLK should be involved in such a project, and if so in what way. Everyone should be considering this.
- **Pete Stevens** is going away next week, so we will need a substitute at the check-in table.
- **Dave Booker** announced that next week we will need to choose 3 delegates and 3 alternates for the upcoming convention. Anyone planning to attend who is interested in representing the Club should make their wishes known.
- **Jean Hamlin** was asked to tell one of her stories to keep us entertained until dinner was ready: Poor Sven was dying. His friend Oly came to visit for a while, but was so depressed about the impending loss of his friend that he couldn't bear it and prepared to leave. Sven asked him to ask Lena on his way out to send up some coffee and a couple of the cookies she was baking. "Well," Lena said, "I guess he can have some coffee, but the cookies are for the funeral."



PRESENTATIONS

Eve Ward:



14 years' perfect attendance.

Jerry Tysiak:



22 years' perfect attendance.

John Brownrigg:
22 years' perfect attendance.



PROGRAM



Joe Trupia introduced guest speaker Ralph Enokian, music educator, pianist and expert on tonight's topic: the Armenian Genocide. Joe and Ralph both play in the Greg Nazarian Band. Ralph grew up in an Armenian community near Boston. Attending tonight's program were Ralph's daughter Elizabeth and son Tom; and Tom's son Tom and daughter Samantha.



Ralph remarked on the importance of preserving the memory of the genocide to honor its victims and learn the lessons it offers. The Knights and Daughters of Vartan collect funds for schools in Armenia, and the World Bank provides matching funds at \$9 for each \$1 they collect. Armenia is in Indo-Europe/Asia Minor, in the southern Caucasus. It is bordered on the north by Georgia, the west by Turkey, the south by Iran,





and the east by Azerbaijan. There are 3 million Armenians in Armenia, many more in other countries, including about three thousand in our Capital District. The word “genocide” was coined in the 1940’s by Raphael Lemkin from the root words *genos* (Greek for family, tribe, or race) and *-cide* (Latin for killing). In April of this year, the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, Pope Francis remarked that it was the first genocide of the 20th century. The point being that Turkey to this day claims it was a civil war, not genocide. All victims of the Armenian genocide are now recognized as saints.

In 301 AD Armenia was the first country to adopt Christianity. At the time Armenia was part of the Turkish Empire which was governed by the Millet System whereby Muslims were at the top and each subservient faith could practice its own religion and customs and to some extent its own laws. This system continued into the 19th century until, with the rise in national identities, Armenians wanted their own identity. The Millet System was breaking down. Sultan Abdul Hamid decided to break the will of the people, and in 1893-1895 300 thousand were murdered or expelled.

On April 24, 1915, the Ottoman Turks invaded Armenia, led by three Pashas referred to as the “Young Turks” who in 1908 had overthrown the Sultan. World War I gave cover to their activities against Christian minorities including, in addition to Armenians, Greeks and Assyrians as well. The Ottoman Empire allied itself with Germany in order to gain strength. They followed a three step plan: 1. Identify the target and remove leaders. 2. Get rid of men and weapons. Armenian men had been serving in the Turkish army, so they had weapons. 3. Deny wrongdoing by claiming it was a civil war. They accomplished this plan by invading villages, killing all educated people who might be leaders. They then drove the rest of the men out, taking their weapons and sending them to work camps where they died of exhaustion, starvation and disease. Women and children were killed, raped, and used as servants and prostitutes. Rather than face that fate, many jumped off the cliffs into the River Tigris. People were shipped on trains to concentration camps or marched into the desert where they were assaulted by released criminals. Back in the villages all their belongings were stolen.

Mustafa Kemal Ataturk was involved with the Young Turks, but later became the first president of the Turkish nation. To appease world opinion he accused the Young Turks of genocide, but they had by then fled the country. All three were later assassinated by Armenians. The world was aware of the events taking place, but most nations were busy putting their own countries back together after WWI. Later, Hitler was to remark that no one would pay attention to Nazi atrocities because after all, who remembers the Armenians? Some of his nefarious practices were patterned after the Armenian genocide. Presidents of the USA, which has military bases in Turkey, carefully avoid the word “genocide,” referring instead to the “massacre.” Some Turkish and other scholars, however, refer to the genocide as such.

Ralph brought a personal touch to his presentation by telling us that some of the women who escaped the genocide and eventually made it to the USA were two sisters: his mother and aunt. The stories are real, told to him by them and the other people in the Armenian community where he grew up. He poignantly observed that the genocide created a generation of orphans and a generation with no grandparents. It is important that we remember events like this and retain the lessons they offer. Jerry Tysiak presented the Certificate of Appreciation to Ralph, and thanked him for “bearing witness” to this tragic piece of history. The club gave Ralph a standing ovation for his moving presentation.



HAPPY DOLLARS

- \$ **Kevin Sarsfield** is happy that son #3 Bret, a former Key Club VP who has always enjoyed soccer, is the new Assistant Coach to the Colgate University women's soccer team.
- \$ **Eve Ward** is happy for grandson Drew, who brought back a trophy from the Scottish Games in New Hampshire. Not sure for which event.
- \$ **Pat Lane** was happy for Ralph's presentation, and especially for how he pronounced "aunt:" ahhnt. (*Ants are insects. Aunts are people.—Ersatz Ed*).
- \$ **Jim Rogers** is happy for daughter Lisa and her son Eric who climbed their 35th of the 46 high peaks, in a 20 mile round trip.
- \$ **Joe Trupia** was happy that he invited Ralph to speak. The Club is too.
- \$ **Joe Behson** is happy that at 12:15 today the work crew left after spending weeks putting a new kitchen in his house. Now he's going to sell it!
- \$ **Barb Fioravanti** was happy for a family reunion in New Hampshire with several cousins she doesn't see often, and getting together for the first time in years with both of her brothers and her sister at the same time.

DOOR PRIZE, provided by **Joe Trupia**, was won by **Stu Nippes**.

50/50 for \$22.00 was won by **Joe Trupia**

PROGRESSIVE 50/50, worth \$572.00 this week with \$20.50 added, eluded

Craig Daniels, who could only come up with the 3 ♦. There are 18 cards left.



COMING WEEKS...

Next meeting: **PROGRAM CHAIR Jim Colabelli**: "Are You Protected From the Bogeyman?"

GREETER/INVOCATOR/CERTIFICATE: Doug Baldrey

August 3: **PROGRAM CHAIRS: John Mulligan, Barb Fioravanti, Janet Malecki, Stuart Nippes & Linda Ellis**: Service Leadership Program Updates. Board Meeting.

GREETER/INVOCATOR/CERTIFICATE PRESENTER: Bill Whipple

SPIRITUAL THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

*First they came for the communists, and I did not speak out - because I was not a communist;
Then they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out - because I was not a socialist;
Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out - because I was not a trade unionist;
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out - because I was not a Jew;
Then they came for me - and there was no one left to speak out for me.*

--Martin Niemoller(?).

