

ASSYRIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

26 יום חגיגי במסגרת חגיגות חג המולד



26TH EDITION
AUGUST 2018

Lilian Soliemani

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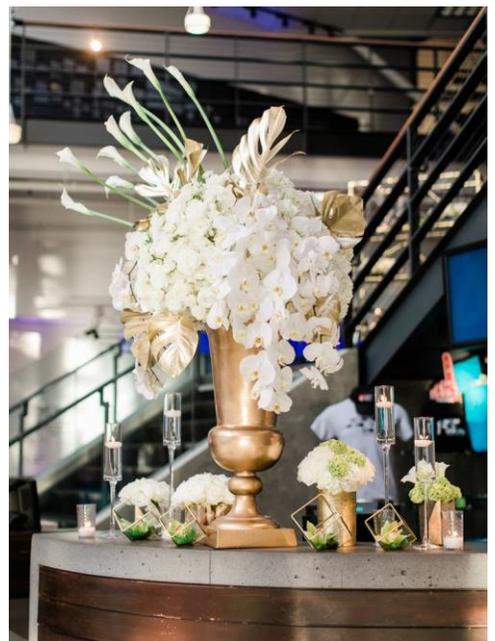
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The Holy Synod



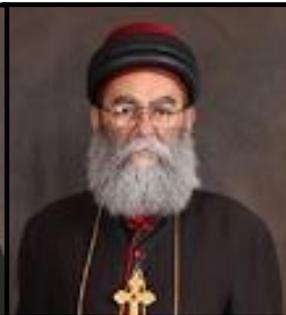
Mar Gewargis III Silwa
Catholicos Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East



Mar Aprem Mooken
Metropolitan of India



Mar Meelis Zaia
*Metropolitan of Australia,
New Zealand & Lebanon*



Mar Yosip Sargis
Bishop Emeritus of Baghdad



Mar Aprim Khams
Bishop of Western USA



Mar Emmanuel Yosip
Bishop of Canada



Mar Odisho Oraham
Bishop of Europe



Mar Aprem Nathniel
Bishop of Syria



Mar Ishaq Yousip
*Bishop of Dohuk, Erbil &
Russia*



Mar Awa Royel
*Bishop of California &
Secretary of Holy Synod*



Mar Yohanna Yoseph
Bishop of India



Mar Awgin Kurikose
Bishop of India



Mar Narsai Benyamin
Bishop of Iran



Mar Paulus Benyamin
Bishop of Eastern USA



Mar Abris Youkhana
Bishop of Erbil



Mar Benyamin Elya
*Bishop of Victoria &
New Zealand*

His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Silwa

Catholics Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East

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His Grace Mar Awa Royel

Bishop of California

ܡܪ ܐܘܐ ܪܘܝܠ ܡܫܝܚܐ ܕܩܠܝܘܢܝܐ

ܡܫܝܚܐ ܕܩܠܝܘܢܝܐ



**The Holy Apostolic
Catholic Assyrian Church
of the East
Diocese of California**



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OFFICE OF THE DIOCESAN BISHOP

July 30, 2018

*Reverend Qasha Lawrance Namato, Parish Priest, the Reverend Deacons, the Parish Motwa and the 2018
Mar Yosip Parish Assyrian Festival Committee: Greetings and Benediction in Maran Esho' Msheekha!*

It gives me great joy to once again greet the Mar Yosip Parish community in San Jose on the occasion of the 26th Annual Assyrian Festival. As our Assyrian community comes together, we find another opportunity to display the richness and beauty of our Assyrian culture to all those who attend, and to our fellow Americans at-large in the greater Bay Area community.

We come together as the Assyrian nation today in order to celebrate the ancient and vibrant heritage, language, culture and history of a Nation who are alive and living by God's great goodness and mercy, notwithstanding the vicissitudes of history and countless persecutions. As a people that once made up the Cradle of Civilization, our forefathers made great contributions to the world at large. The advancements of the Assyrians in the fields of science, astronomy, mathematics and politics are but just a few of these contributions. Sadly, today our nation is going through very trying and perilous times. We are being persecuted in the Middle East for our Christian faith, and through various political means our rights as the indigenous people of Iraq are being stripped from us. The repercussions of such a systematic 'pogrom' in the homeland itself is detrimental to the Assyrians in the diaspora as well. Not only are we left without a country that we may call our own, but we are all witnessing our nation continuously suffering very trying times. The persecution against our people in the Middle East, particularly in Syria and Iraq, for our Christian faith continue even today.

We struggle in the diaspora to preserve intact our culture, language and identity. In essence, we are a small nation in danger of extinction when we lose our most cherished treasures of history, language and culture. We endeavor constantly to preserve and hand on our identity to the younger generations who will succeed us, by the help of God. This is a great challenge and a constant struggle for a nation that has suffered countless displacements and persecution. But yet, God has preserved his 'handiwork' – Assyria.

I join you in prayer and in spirit for a most successful 26th Assyrian Festival. I further pray that our non-Assyrian friends, neighbors and well-wishers will continue to join us and to learn more about our ancient history and culture. I pray the abundant blessings of Almighty God upon all those who have brought this year's Assyrian Festival together. May it be a most successful event! May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all; Amen.

With blessings in Christ our Lord,

✠ **Mar Awa Royel**

By Grace:
Diocesan Bishop





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HOLY APOSTOLIC CATHOLIC ASSYRIAN CHURCH OF THE EAST

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DIOCESE OF CALIFORNIA

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MAR YOSIP PARISH

B'shayna teyatoun – Welcome,

On behalf of the Mar Yosip, I would like to welcome you to the 26th Annual Assyrian Food Festival. It is amazing to think what started as a small outdoor picnic has blossomed into the largest Assyrian Festival in the United States. We are proud to host this event to showcase our rich culture, authentic food, and traditional music and folklore dancing to the local community.

Last year, thousands of our closest friends and neighbors joined in the weekend long festivities and one very lucky attendee won our grand prize and walked away- actually drove away with “A Brand-New Car”. We had so much fun giving away a car, we decided to do it again this year. Make sure to get your \$10 raffle, we may be calling your name.



Putting together an event of this size takes a lot of work, effort, and months of planning and it is all worth the outcome of sharing everything that is Assyrian with you. The festival is a family friendly event, come early and stay late and rest assured you are in a safe and inviting environment.

Assyrians are the indigenous Christians of modern Iraq, Syria and neighboring countries. The past decade has been a trying time for Assyrians and Christians in the Middle East and many have been forcibly displaced from their homes. Majority of Assyrians now call Europe, Australia, Canada and United States their home. It is our goal to inform the world of our existence and plight and help Assyrians maintain roots in their home land.

The Assyrian Church of the East Relief Foundation (ACERO) is a non-profit organization helping Assyrians and Christians in war-torn regions. A portion of the proceeds from the festival go to help the needy Assyrians of Iraq, Syria, and other parts of the Middle East. You are encouraged to visit our website and if inclined, please donate to this worthy cause. While the evil forces (ISIS) that caused the chaos and devastation have been marginalized the past two years, the Assyrians of Iraq and Syria still struggle to put their lives back together. It is our goal to lend them a helping hand and improve their situation. While this event is only two days, you can help anytime by visiting ACERO (www.theacero.org).

It has been an honor and pleasure serving as the chairman of the festival. I thank Bishop Mar Awa Royal and Rev. Lawrence Namato for allowing me this opportunity. I would also like to extend a “Big Thanks” to every volunteer that generously donated countless hours to make this event possible. It is only by the generosity of our volunteers that we are able to make this event happen.

Thank you for attending our event and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Mapsimetoun - Enjoy,
Alex Alexander

The Patriarchal Insignia



The Catholicos-Patriarch of Seleucia-Ctesiphon is the supreme and universal head of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East, also known down thru history as the 'Church of the East', the 'Nestorian Church' and the 'Church of Persia'. The primatial see of this most ancient Church is the twin-city Persian royal capital Seleucia-Ctesiphon, modern-day Salman Pak near Baghdad.

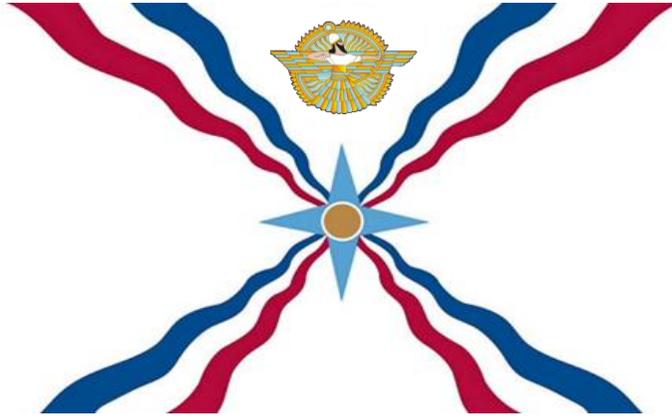
The Patriarch of the Assyrian Church is the successor of the blessed apostles St. Peter, who wrote his epistle from Babylon (cf. I Peter 5:13). St. Thomas, who traveled as far as India through Persia, and Ss. Addai and Mari who disciplined the ancient Assyrian vassal kingdom of Edessa. It was St. Mari who arrived at Seleucia-Ctesiphon around the year 80 A.D. and founded some 300 convents and churches, and who was later laid to rest at the church he founded in Deir Qoni.

The patriarchal insignia is laid against the background of the rising sun, which denotes the East – the birthplace of Christianity. The mountains and two rivers indicate the remains of the ancient Assyria and the rivers, Tigris and Euphrates, which watered the Garden of Eden. The open book is the Gospel which the missionaries of this most ancient Church preached as far as China in 635 A.D.

The ancient Aramaic inscription translates 'Our Lord is Risen', which embodies the summary of the whole of the Gospel message. The pastoral staff symbolizes the fact that the Catholicos-Patriarch is the supreme pastor of the Church of the East, and the two keys surmounting the Cross recall the spiritual authority of binding and loosing given by Our Lord to St. Peter (cf. Matthew 16:19).

The distinctive Cross on the patriarchal insignia is a replica of the Cross incised on the 'Nestorian Monument of China', fashioned in the year 781 A.D., which commemorated the centenary of the mission of the Church of the East to that country. The triple-pointed crown at the very top of the Cross denotes the three *Qnome* of the Blessed Trinity. The nine circles represent the nine orders of the priesthood: reader, sub-deacon, deacon, priest, cor-bishop, archdeacon, bishop, metropolitan and patriarch. The Aramaic inscription in the middle of the Cross is the 'Yod-Heh', which is the biblical representation of the unpronounceable name of God.

The Assyrian Flag



The Assyrian flag is designed with a white background on which three waving stripes emerge from each corner of a center design, in the shape of a four headed star. At its center, the star encompasses a golden circle representing Shamash the Assyrian sun-god who was believed to give life to all things on earth. The four wedges of the star are a bright blue color and represent happiness and tranquility.

The waving stripes emerge from the four joints of the star and stretch to the four corners of the flag. The Stripes symbolize the three major rivers flowing through the land of Assyria. The mighty Euphrates, represented in blue, denotes abundance. The great Zab, in white, portrays peace, and in red, the mighty Tigris represents the Assyrian national pride. Symbolizing the dispersion of the Assyrian people to the four corners of the world, the manner in which these stripes emerge from the star also symbolically portrays the eventual return of the Assyrians to their ancestral homeland which is represented by the center of the star.

Hovering over the star and the emblem of Shamash, there is a representation of the image of God Ashur, the ancient Assyrian supreme deity. The emblem of Ashur features the deity standing in a circle with two eagle wings spanning and over stretching its length on two sides. Ashur has drawn a bow and his arrow is ready to fly. This emblem is in the same shape and color scheme of the original ceramic work preserved in the British Museum in London.

In 1968, a serious effort was undertaken to address the need for the Assyrian nation to have its own official national flag. To realize this dream, it was decided to appeal to various Assyrian artists and knowledgeable people, for the purpose of soliciting ideas and layouts on this important national task. Layouts and suggestions were collected from across the world in order to be presented for approval.

This worldwide effort netted a large number of designs which were duly received and noted. Following meticulous consideration, a decision was reached in favor of one particular design which best captured the Assyrian essence from the past and the present. The design was created by a well-known Assyrian artist, Mr. George Bit Atanus of Tehran, Iran and was approved in the year 1974.

The main reason for the approval of this flag was that the artist had not merely presented his own views. Rather, he had brilliantly blended ancient Assyrian designs representing the former glory of the Assyrian empire, to create an attractive fusion between the past and the present. In this way, the artist had succeeded to bridge the gap between a glorious Assyrian past and the present day struggles and ambitions of the Assyrian nation.

Introducing the Assyrians

By Gareth Brereton, Curator: Ancient Mesopotamia | PUBLISHED BY THE BRITISH MUSEUM, JUNE 19, 2018

Where and when was 'Assyria'?

The mighty Assyrian empire began as the small city-state of Ashur in what is now the north-eastern region of Iraq. It first asserted control over a large area in the 14th century BC, but by the 12th century BC it had collapsed.

During the 10th and 9th centuries BC, Assyria gradually recovered, reclaiming lost lands, and campaigning in new ones. By the 7th century BC, the last great Assyrian king, Ashurbanipal, ruled over a geographically and culturally diverse empire, shaping the lives of peoples from the eastern Mediterranean to western Iran. When people talk of 'Assyria', it generally means the time of its great flourishing between the 9th and 7th centuries BC, sometimes referred to today as the 'Neo-Assyrian empire'.

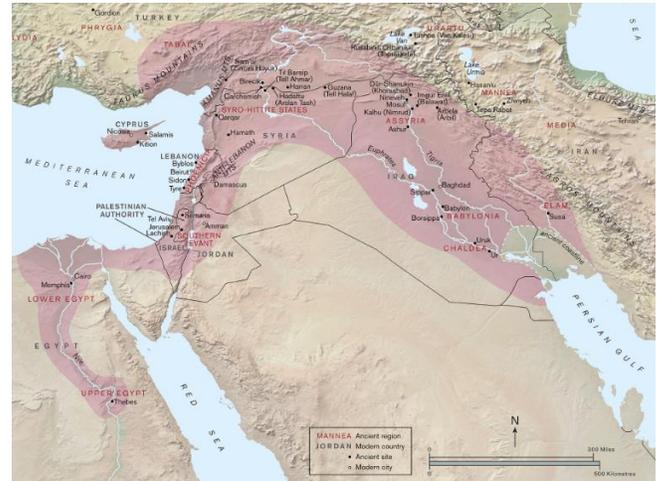
Living in luxury

The kings of the Neo-Assyrian empire built on a lavish scale. They ruled from their capital cities at Ashur, Nimrud, Khorsabad and Nineveh. When a king decided to move his capital or to simply rebuild it, they made sure it was bigger and better than what came before.

Nineveh was transformed by King Sennacherib (reigned 705–681 BC) into a metropolis whose size and splendour would astonish the ancient world. It covered 7 square kilometres and its palaces and temples were adorned with colossal sculptures and brilliantly carved reliefs. An intricate system of canals and aqueducts watered the king's pleasure gardens and game parks. Sennacherib's grand residence, the 'Palace Without Rival', was built 'to be an object of wonder for all the people'. Visitors entered the palace through massive gateways flanked by colossal human-headed winged bulls (called *lamassu*) that protected the king from dangerous supernatural forces. Sennacherib's grandson Ashurbanipal ruled from this palace for most of his reign (668–631 BC), before moving to a new royal residence at Nineveh. His 'North Palace' was decorated with reliefs painted in vivid colors that glorified his rule and achievements.

Supreme power

The king's power was absolute, assigned through the divine will of the Assyrian deity Ashur. For the Assyrians, the heartland of the empire, with its magnificent cities, was the perfect vision of civilized order. Foreign lands were thought



Map of the Assyrian empire at its greatest extent during the reign of Ashurbanipal (668 BC to c. 627 BC)



Sculpture of a winged bull (*lamassu*) from the Assyrian city of Nimrud. 865 – 860 BC. Similar sculptures would have flanked the entrance to King Sennacherib's palace in Nineveh.



Relief depicting Ashurbanipal hunting a lion. 645 – 635 BC.

to be full of chaos and disorder. As the earthly representative of the gods, it was the king's duty to create order in the world by conquering foreign lands and absorbing them into Assyria. As the shepherd of his people, the king also protected Assyria from foreign enemies or wild animals. The most dangerous animal in Assyria was the lion, which came to symbolize all that was wild and chaotic in the world. Assyrian kings proved they were worthy by hunting these fearsome beasts. The royal hunt was a drama-filled public spectacle staged at game parks near the cities. Lion hunting was represented in Assyrian art, most famously in the reliefs from king Ashurbanipal's palace.

Military might

Assyria's rapid expansion was achieved through force. By the mid-8th century BC, Assyrian kings commanded a professional standing army with chariots, cavalry and infantry. This massive army was supplemented by the king's personal bodyguard of elite troops. The army grew as it absorbed members of defeated enemy armies, which gave rise to a multicultural military force drawn from all corners of the empire.

The Assyrians preferred to mount surprise attacks against an inferior force to guarantee an easy victory. Large fortified cities with multiple moats, walls and towers could take years to capture. A city's fortifications could be breached using siege engines, battering rams and sappers. To avoid heavy casualties, the Assyrian army would blockade a city with siege forts to cut off its supplies, reinforcements, and any means of escape.



Relief depicting the siege of an Egyptian fort. 645 – 635 BC



Relief showing the looting of the Elamite city of Hamanu. c. 645 – 635 BC.

Military conquest was followed by the extraction of wealth through plunder, tribute payments, taxation – and even people. Entire populations from defeated kingdoms were forcibly deported and resettled elsewhere within the empire. Deportees could be exploited – conscripted into the army, made to populate newly established cities, and resettled in underdeveloped provinces to work the land. The most valued – elite families, specialist craftsmen and scholars – were settled and put to work in the major cities. Here they could support public works, produce luxury goods, and generate knowledge for the benefit of the empire.

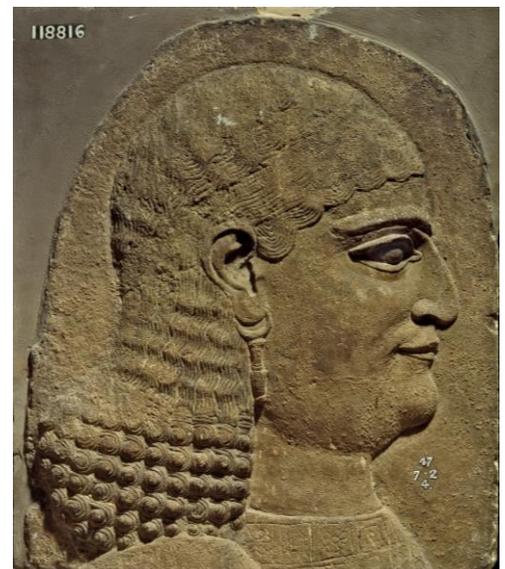
Divine punishment

As the earthly representative of the gods, it was the king's duty to punish Assyria's enemies. Captured enemy leaders and rebels were displayed alongside the spoils of war and publicly humiliated in triumphal parades. Some were forced to wear the heads of their accomplices around their necks, others were chained to the gates of the city like dogs, or hitched up to the king's chariot like horses. The message was simple – mess with Assyria and you will face the consequences. This kind of violence was thought to be a form of divine justice against those who had opposed the king and the gods.

Trusted eunuchs

Assyrian kings liked to present themselves as the sole protectors of the empire. In reality, the empire was organized into a patchwork of provinces, each supervised by a governor appointed by the king. The governors made up a group of officials called the 'Great Ones', which formed the king's cabinet. The 'Great Ones' held considerable power, so much so that they could even threaten the king's rule.

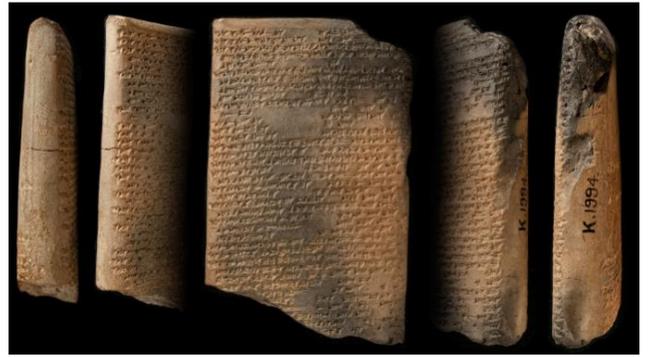
Initially, these state positions were inherited, but their considerable wealth and influence posed a threat to the king. To counter this, the Assyrians devised an innovative scheme to ensure that positions of power were awarded on merit and not through family ties. They appointed eunuchs to positions of power because they could not father children and therefore could not build dynasties of their own. Only the king could pass power down family lines.



Relief depicting a eunuch. 710 – 705 BC.

A library fit for a king

Much of what we know about Assyrian history and culture is from written records. Assyrians used the ancient writing technique of cuneiform, which was first developed by the Sumerians around 3000 BC. Texts were written by pressing a reed pen into soft clay. The characteristic wedge-shaped strokes give the writing its modern name (cuneiform means simply 'wedge-shaped'). Cuneiform tablets were used to record everything from day-to-day administration to science and literature.



Fragment of a clay tablet with inscription in cuneiform, written for the library of Ashurbanipal. 7th century BC.

King Ashurbanipal seems to have wanted a copy of every book worth having. His interest in books was not for entertainment.

They helped him communicate with the gods and learn what the future held. There were books about omens from sacrifices, the heavens, and the earthly world. Alongside them were rituals and calendars, hymns and prayers, and magic and medicine.



Clay letter and envelope. 8th century BC.

Royal mail

The empire's unity depended on a reliable and efficient communications network. To speed up the transfer of information, the empire was connected by an innovative system of royal roads, along which express mail could travel. It only took a few days for news to travel between the capital and the furthest reaches of the empire. If a message was particularly sensitive, state letters would travel with a trusted envoy across the entire distance to hand deliver the message.

Access to the royal mail service was only granted to the king's most trusted officials. Each wore a golden signet ring engraved with an image of the royal seal – the Assyrian king slaying a ferocious lion. Letters sealed by these rings carried royal authority and any instructions had to be obeyed. By delegating royal power, the king could be in many places at once.



Clay seal showing an Assyrian king in combat with a lion. 715 BC.

The end of an empire

Following the death of Ashurbanipal around 631 BC, it took just under 20 years for the empire to crumble. The Babylonians, under their leader Nabopolassar, rebelled against Assyrian rule, causing chaos throughout the land. Conditions under siege were dire, the populace stricken by disease and famine. Parents were forced to sell their children to buy food. Gradually, Nabopolassar won the upper hand and advanced into Assyria. A war of independence became a fight for Assyria's survival.

Assyria was doomed when the Medes from western Iran, led by Cyaxares, joined the assault by sacking the holy city of Ashur. Nabopolassar and Cyaxares swore an alliance that was to seal Assyria's fate. In 612 BC the two armies converged on Nineveh. The greatest city in existence fell, its palaces and temples burnt to the ground, and the last Assyrian king to reign from Nineveh, Sin-shar-ishkun, perished in the flames.



John Martin, *The Fall of Nineveh*. Print, 1829

Assyria into legend

The fall of Assyria was an iconic event that was recorded in passages of the Bible and by Greek and Roman writers. Accounts describe how Assyria was punished for the moral depravity of its rulers, who surrounded themselves with great riches and luxury. According to classical sources, Assyria's last king was so debauched that he caused the empire's complete destruction. Realizing that Nineveh was lost, he erected an enormous pyre in the palace and consigned himself to the flames along with his vast wealth, concubines and eunuchs.

The negative image of Assyria was challenged by archaeological discoveries of the mid-nineteenth century, which established Assyria as one of the great civilizations of the ancient world.

Assyria rediscovered

Although a number of travelers and explorers had visited the Assyrian sites of Nimrud and Nineveh, they weren't excavated until the mid-19th century, when a young British diplomat, Austen Henry Layard, started work at Nimrud. Layard's remarkable discoveries at Nimrud included colossal winged bulls and carved stone reliefs from the Assyrian palaces, which attracted sponsorship from the British Museum. Layard moved his team to the main mound at Nineveh in 1847, where he discovered the 'Palace Without Rival', king Sennacherib's great royal residence.

Arrangements were made with the Ottoman government to have the Assyrian sculptures shipped to Britain. Due to the size of the sculptures, this proved to be some task. Firstly, the sculptures were transported to the river Tigris, where they were loaded on rafts that sailed to the city of Basra in southern Iraq. From here they were placed on a steamship and taken to Bombay in India, before sailing around Africa to England, where they were finally transported to the British Museum.

Layard's discoveries caused a media sensation and captured the public imagination. This had a major impact on painting and applied arts, in the UK and beyond, during the second half of the nineteenth century, which led to a brief phase of 'Assyrian revival'. The Assyrian sculptures at the British Museum largely remain today where they were first installed over 160 years ago.



Frederick Charles Cooper. Drawing showing the winged bulls found by Layard at Nimrud. Watercolour on paper, mid-19th century.



Artist's impression of a hall in an Assyrian palace from *The Monuments of Nineveh* by Sir Austen Henry Layard, 1853.

The Assyrian Alphabet

			
DALLAT	GAMMAL	BEET	ALLAP
			
KHEIT	ZEIN	WAW	HEE
			
LAMMAD	CAP	YOOD	TEIT
			
EI	SIMKAT	NOON	MEEM
			
REISH	QOPE	SADI	PEH
<p>Assyrian is written from right to left. It is a cursive script where some, but not all, letters connect within a word. The alphabet consists of 22 letters, all of which are consonants. The vowel sounds are supplied either by the reader's memory or by optional diacritic marks.</p>			
		TAV	SHEEN

The Lord's Prayer

In Aramaic – The Language of Jesus Christ



ܐܘܢ ܕܘܫܡܝܐ: ܢܝܗ ܩܕܕܫܗ ܫܡܗܝܘܢ: ܬܝܬܝܘܢ ܡܠܟܘܬܗܝܘܢ:
ܢܗܝܗܘܘܢ ܫܘܘܝܢܝܗܝܘܢ: ܐܝܟܢܐ ܕܘܫܡܝܝܘܢ ܐܦ ܒܥܝܪܐܗ: ܗܘܘ ܠܢ
ܠܚܡܐ ܕܥܝܢܐܢ ܝܘܡܝܢܐ: ܘܫܘܘܩܩܠܢ ܟܗܘܒܝܢ ܐܝܟܢܐ
ܕܦܩܗܢܢ ܫܘܩܝܢ ܠܟܗܝܘܝܘܢ: ܠܐ ܬܥܠܢ ܠܢܝܘܢܐ: ܝܠܐ ܦܥܥܢ
ܡܝܢ ܒܝܥܫܐ: ܡܝܠܬܘܠ ܕܕܝܠܗܝܘܢ- ܗܝܘ ܡܠܟܘܬܗܝܘܢ ܘܟܗܝܠܐ ܘܬܝܫܘܒܗܝܘܢ:
ܠܐܠܡܝܢ ܐܡܝܢ ❖

Awon dwash'maya: nith qad'dash sh'makh: tete mal'kuthakh:
neh'hwe sew'ya'nakh: ay'kana dwash'maya ap b'a'arah: haw'lan
lakh'ma d'soon'qanan yaw'mana: wash'wooq'qlan khawbain ay'kana
dap'pkhnan shwaq'in lkhay'yawain: la ta'alan l'nis'yona: ila pas'an
min beesa: mil'tol d'di'lakh- he mal'kootha okhai'la o'tish'bukhta:
l'alam a'almen: Amen.

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done, as in Heaven, so on earth. Give us the bread of our
need this day, and forgive us our offences, as we have also forgiven
those who have offended us. And bring us not to trial, but deliver us
from the Evil One. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the
glory for ever: Amen.

Relief Organization

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Every day, thousands of Assyrians struggle to survive. The world's first Christian nation faces yet another genocide. They have been forced to flee from their homes for fear of mass executions, bombings, Crucifixions, rapes, beheadings, and theft. They were given the ultimatum to Convert to Islam, pay an exorbitant tax (Jizya), or die "by the sword". They have no "safe haven" to turn to.

The Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organization (ACERO) is a non-profit organization, EIN: 45-3121920, which donates **100% of all funds** raised directly towards helping needy Christians in their desperate time of need. The world has turned their backs on them. However, it is our duty to bring this tragedy into the light, and let the world know of their suffering. We must support these brothers and sisters in Christ, and assist them as much as possible. We must not let their sacrifices and suffering to be in vain.

How Can You Help?

Your generous support will help ACERO to continue providing direct aid and relief to displaced residents of Mosul and the surrounding Nineveh region. Every dollar will go directly towards helping needy refugee Assyrians and assisting them to simply survive.

Now more than ever, show your support and concern by making an urgent contribution securely in your preferred currency via our website.



www.theACERO.org

"Blessed be Assyria – the Work of My Hands."
Isaiah 19:25



*Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515*

*Anna G. Eshoo
Eighteenth District
California*

August 18, 2018

Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East
Diocese of Western California
Mar Yosip Parish
San José, California 95125

Dear Parishioners of Mar Yosip Parish,

Congratulations on the momentous occasion of the 25th Annual Assyrian Food Festival. I extend my best wishes to the entire parish for a most successful event. I only wish my schedule allowed me to join you to enjoy it.

Thank you for your continuing devotion and commitment to the Church and fostering community and cultural exchange throughout our region. I'm so proud of your work and your many accomplishments!

Know that you have me as your partner in Congress, and may God bless our people always.

'Be Chullah Khube'

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anna G. Eshoo", written over a horizontal line.

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East
680 Minnesota Ave
San José, CA 95125

August 11, 2018

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 26th Annual Assyrian Food Festival hosted by the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East. We are lucky to have this festival be a part of our City's tradition. Cultural events that engage our community and shares its culture with our residents is what makes San José unique and welcoming.

This two-day event is an opportunity to highlight Assyrian food, tradition, and culture of the Assyrian community. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the volunteers who took the time to make sure everyone has a wonderful experience at this festival.

I wish everyone an enjoyable and engaging event.

Sincerely,



Sam Liccardo
Mayor
City of San José

July 27, 2018

Greetings,

Congratulations to the Assyrian community for celebrating the 26th Assyrian Food Festival. I would like to recognize the Assyrian community for their contribution to the rich diversity of San José and sharing your long and rich history with the Silicon Valley community. We are all enriched by your people and culture.

Thank you for sharing your culture and contributing to our community. I wish you the continued success of your festival for many years to come.

Sincerely,



Chappie Jones
Council Member
San José City Council – District 1

Councilmember
Johnny Khamis
City of San José, District 10



Dear Friends,

Congratulations to the Assyrian Church of the East, Mar Yosip Khnanisho Parish of San Jose on their 26th Annual Assyrian Food Festival. On behalf of the City of San José, the Capital of Silicon Valley, I wish you a successful and enjoyable event. I hope that you will all have a chance to exhibit your culture!

As an immigrant who came to the U.S. as a child, I was raised in San José and grew a successful business here. I know first-hand what a great place San José is to live, work, play, and raise a family. As a Councilmember, I am committed to making San José the most diverse and welcoming city that we can be.

I proudly support numerous cultural events in San Jose and am so happy to be a part of this one. Events like these are one of the reasons San Jose is so unique.

Sincerely,

Johnny Khamis
Councilmember, City of San Jose

County of Santa Clara

Office of the Sheriff

55 West Younger Avenue
San Jose, California 95110-1721
(408) 808-4900



Laurie Smith
Sheriff

July 19, 2018

Dear Assyrian Festival Attendees,

Congratulations on 26th Annual Assyrian Food Festival. This is a wonderful event that celebrates a beautiful and vibrant culture, giving residents an opportunity to immerse themselves through food, music, crafts and more. I offer my very best wishes for a successful event.

The Office of the Sheriff strives to maintain strong relationships with all communities across Santa Clara County, protecting the rich diversity that makes this area so unique and great. Thank you to the Assyrian Church of the East and Mar Yosip Parish for continuing to host this important event.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurie Smith".

Laurie Smith, Sheriff

Assyrian Church of the East

Mar Yosip Parish

Priest and Deacons



Center:

Fr. Lawrance Namato

From Left to Right:

Deacon Lawrence Younan

Deacon Aprim Anoya

Deacon Ashur Kanoon

Deacon Obalit Tomeh

Deacon Yousif Joseph

Deacon Peter Kiryakos

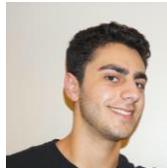
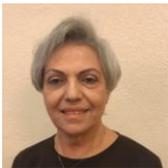
Deacon Yosip Abraham

Deacon Allen Youssefi

Deacon Danny Khano

Deacon Athnaiel AlBazi

Assyrian Church of the East Committee Members



ASSYRIAN CHURCH OF THE EAST YEARLY EVENTS

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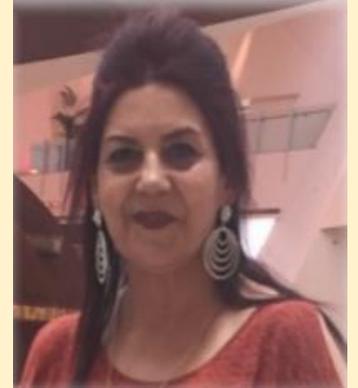
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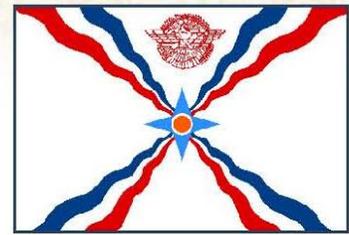
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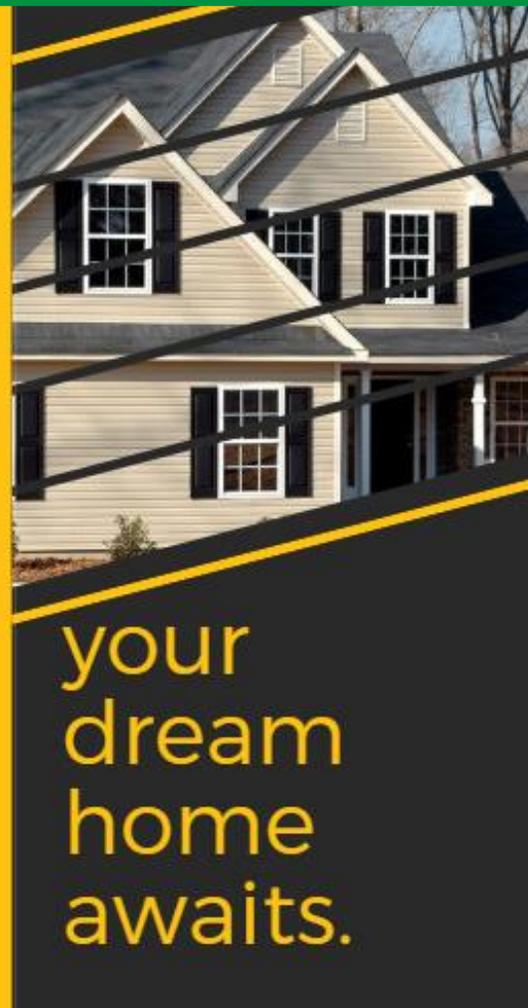
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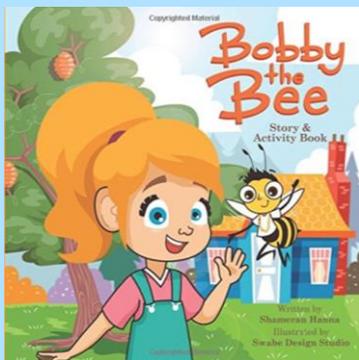
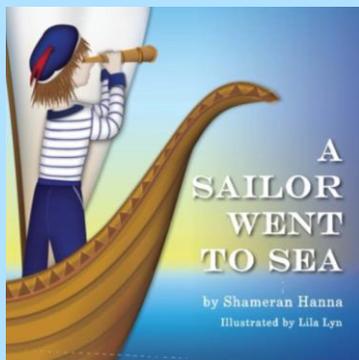
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Our Family



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Joined in Love and Kept by God.

Demeil, Shamiram, Ashur, Ashurina & Ashuraya Betoushana

Walter Mansour

Congratulations on Your Achievement
"Father of the Year 2018"

تذبحك بحسنه في كل ذبحك



Hannibal, Arbella & Family
Ramil, Edessa & Family
Wilbert, Belona & Family

My Precious Grandchildren, Savannah, Mia & Austin



I love you very much and I wish you a very happy and healthy life. May God bless you and your parents.

Your Nana, Lili Ovrachim

Noah Broneil



You have brought so much joy and happiness into our lives.
We love you very much!

Love, Mama and Bapa

Lenard & Atourina

Celebrating 35 Years of Marriage



Congratulations on your 35th wedding anniversary,
Mom and Dad! We love you very much and wish you
a lifetime of love, happiness and health.

Sherbi Badal & Tania Daniel

Eilbret & Alex



Congratulations on your engagement.

Love,
Mom & Dad

Ashor & Adessa

11/11/17



Best wishes on this wonderful journey,
as you build your new lives together.

With Love,
Sh. Peter, Sharokina, David & Eden

Raman Nazari

UCSF School of Dentistry



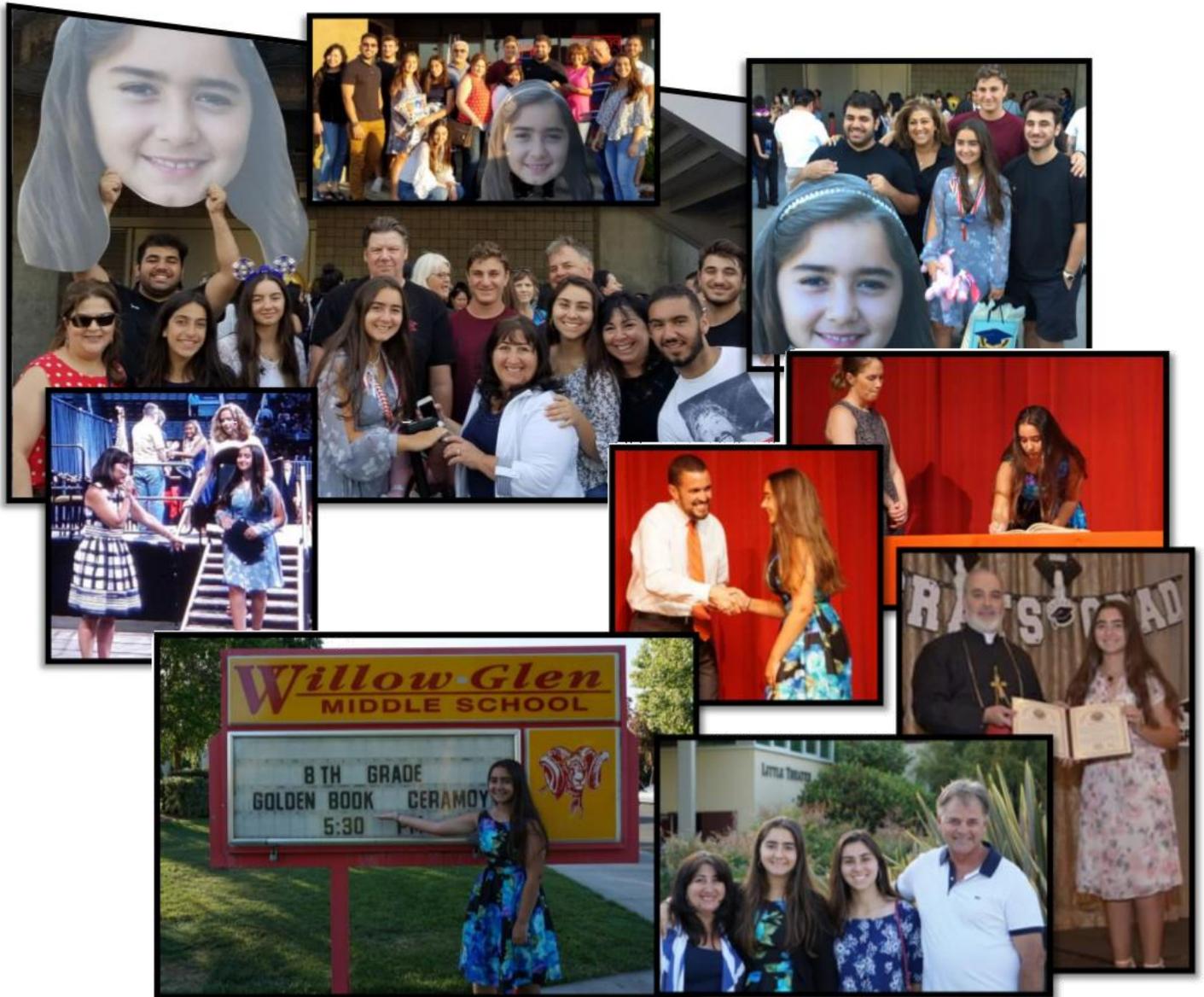
*“But as for you, be strong and do not give up,
for your work will be rewarded” Chronicles 4:10*

Congratulations on all of your hard work
and success, we are so proud of you!

Love Always,
Shanitte, Mom, Dad, Haleen, Meeshka & Family

Natasha Marie Estensen

8th Grade Graduation – Promoting on to High School



Celebrating the 26th Annual Assyrian Food Festival with our daughters accomplishments... Keeping her grades up all her years at middle school and being honored by the Golden Book Signing. Great job Natasha! May the Lord continue to bless you in all your endeavors!

All our love,
Dad (Marc), Mom (Elizabeth) and Rachel

Nicholas Zia Hammond

Congratulations Class of 2018!



We are proud of your achievements!
May God continue to bless you in all that you do.

Love,
Dad, Mom and Natalia

Tyler Gewargis Naumann

Granada Highschool 2018



*"For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to
give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11*

Congratulations on your outstanding achievements throughout your High School career. We love you sweetheart and know that with our Lord's help, you will do amazing things to bring Him honor and glory.

Dad & Mom

Mariam Nissan



To my dearest daughter, congratulations on your great achievement. I am so proud of your accomplishments but more importantly, the person you have become. I wish you all the success and happiness the world has to offer.

Love, Mom

Alexander Simonpour

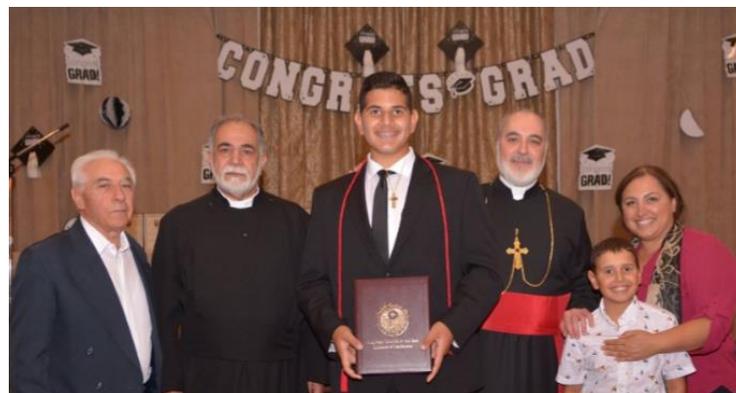


Congratulations on graduating from San Jose State
University with Bachelors of Science in
Business Management.

We love you very much!

Jack, Jackie & Analeese Simonpour

Banipal Jacob Yaro



We are very proud of the young man you have become.
Can't wait to explore this journey with you.
We love you very much, our gentle giant.

Ashour, Barsin & David Yaro

Christian & George Zaia

Congratulations on your 2018 Graduation



*Always remember you are braver than you believe,
stronger than you seem, smarter than you think and
loved more than you know!*

Christian Zaia, good luck at USF. We are beyond proud of you. May all your dreams come true!

Love, Mom & Dad

Christian & George Zaia

2018 Graduation



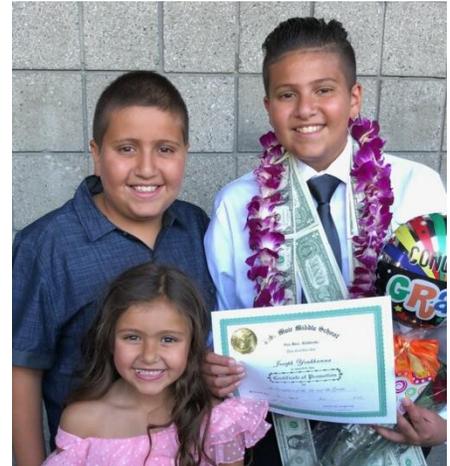
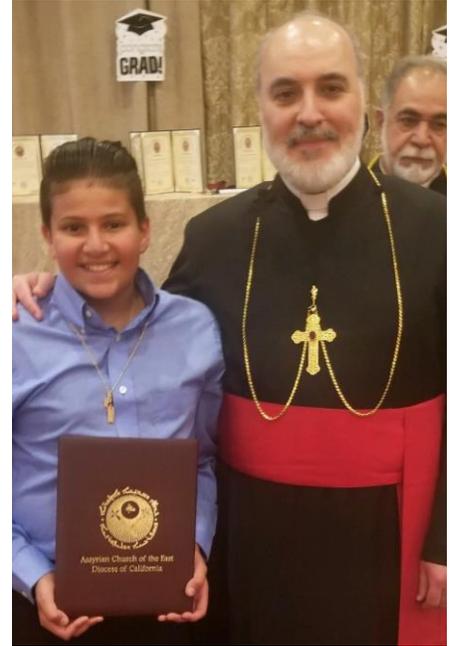
“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:7-9

With Love,
Nana Daisy & Grandpa George

Joseph Youkhanna

Congratulations on your 8th Grade Graduation



We are so proud of you as you graduated 8th grade. The next chapter of your life will have you build memories that will last a lifetime. We can't wait to see what the next four years bring you. Continue to be the best you can and follow your dreams. We love you to eternity!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Daniel & Mariam

بذهبنت و فنت



صوبیتا، بذهبنت، شونت و تذبجتا، ذذکتا، ذئهبونت

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**In Loving Memory of
Our Beloved Mother & Wife
Romina Benjamin**



Good Friday 2013 – San Jose, CA

Believing in her faith, she is resting in peace.

From her immediate family,
Andrew, Allen & Homer Benjamin

In Loving Memory of Jack & Mary Bookie



Marilynn, Evy, Kathy & Renee

In Loving Memory of My Father Nelson Chamaky



Death changes everything. Time changes nothing. Not a day passes by Baba, that you don't cross my mind. I miss the sound of your voice, the wisdom in your advice, your beautiful smile and just being in your presence. In my heart, there is a place that only you can hold, filled with priceless loving memories. I know you still hear me Baba, so please know this is true: when you earned your wings, you took a part of me with you. So no, time changes nothing and I miss you as much today as I did the day you left.

Nahrin Khoshabian

In Memory of Our Friend, the Assyrian Soccer Legend

Gola Youhana

Passed on June 28, 2018



May God bless his soul.

The Assyrian Stars Athletic Organization of Tehran-Iran and
The Assyrian Soccer Players of California

In Loving Memory of Shakar Youkhana



You left us peaceful memories. Your love is still our guide.
Although we cannot see you, you are always at our side.

George Zaia & Family
Anna Peera & Family

In Loving Memory of a Husband, Father & Grandpa

Danyal Reyhaneh Sangar

ܕܢܝܢܐ ܪܝܗܢܐܝܗ ܣܢܓܪ



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The Assyrian Church of the East – Assyrian Food Festival Committee would like to remember and thank Danyal for all of his hard work, dedication and commitment to the Assyrian Food Festival year after year. He is greatly missed.

In Loving Memory of Obrita Yokhaneh



“Dear Obrita, It seems that today is your birthday. Happy birthday to you and I know that you are celebrating it with angels. I have heard about your faith and your moral values, so this pushed me to say that now you are celebrating the very and true meaning of life in heaven with all of the chosen people gathered in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. Happy Birthday.” - Mar Poulous

Yokhaneh, Benyamin & Maiel Families

In Loving Memory of Obrita Yokhaneh



Mar Zaia, Urmia-Iran

The tree has been planted in memory of Obrita at Mar Zaia Church in Urmia, Iran. May her memory live on.

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and My Father are one.” John 10: 27-30

Yokhaneh, Benjamin & Maiel Families

Church of Mar Gewargis

Tehran, Iran



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The pillar of our family.

Ashurbella Betoushana Lazar

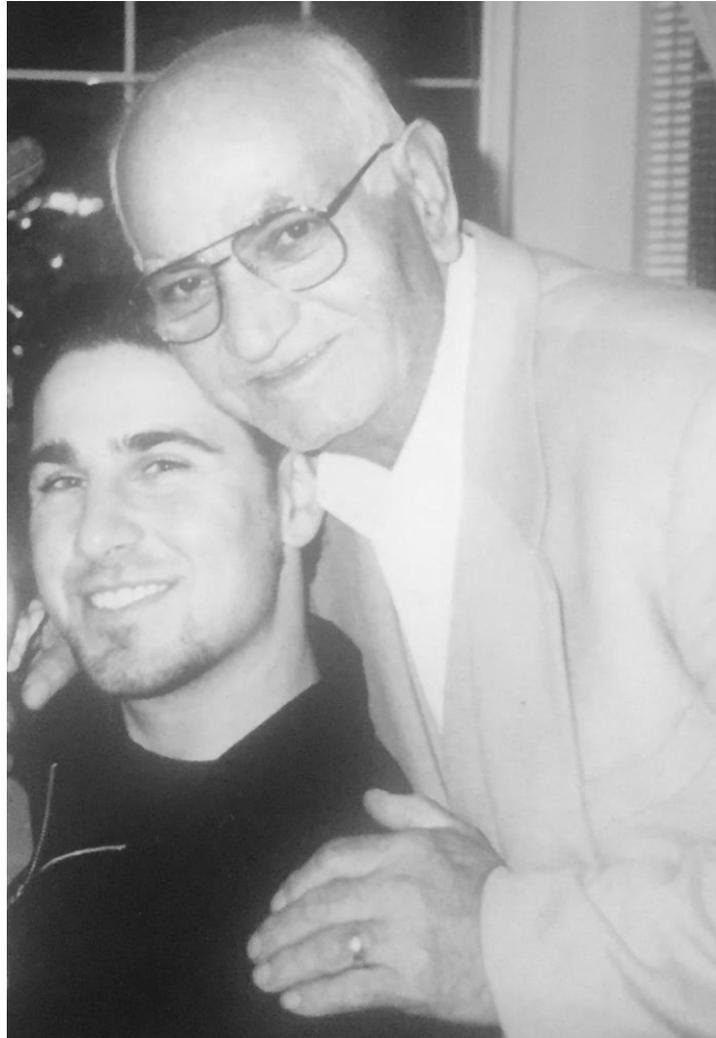
In Loving Memory of Our Parents, Brother & Sister

**Eshoo & Zaripha Badoo
Polis Badoo
Sophia Davido**



The Church of Mar Bisho
Village of Ghala, Urmia - Iran

In Loving Memory of My Father Victor Badal



An amazing father, grandfather, brother, friend and crusader for everything Assyrian. You are truly missed by those in your life and those that did not have the honor to meet you.

Sargon Badal

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Cover Art – “Nineveh”

Painted by Paul Batou

Paul Batou, a native Iraqi artist, received a degree in pharmacy in 1982 from the University of Baghdad. While in school, Batou worked and was inspired by many teachers and artists studying at the University.

In 1980, he had his first art show in Baghdad. During his years spent in Baghdad, Paul Batou placed his art in several galleries, learned to play the guitar, and was forced into service for the Iraq-Iran war as a medic. In 1989, he left Iraq with his family and moved to Los Angeles.

Batou continues to create art and write poems that inspire all those close to him, while residing in US.



Paul Batou has dedicated his time to painting beautiful Assyrian art. In the painting of Nineveh, the woman is wearing a dress with Assyrian writing and holding an Assyrian flag. She is standing in front of an Assyrian army of men which can be seen in reliefs found in museums around the world. To learn more about the Assyrians, turn to page 12 for an expert published by the British Museum.

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Sharokina Kiryakos: Gained business advertisements and personal dedication pages

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I have been legal counsel to the Church of the East – Diocese of California as well as for the late Patriarch His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV. In addition, I have been a Court Appointed Arbitrator by the Superior Court in Santa Clara County since 1989 and also appeared as a Small Claims Judge for the past seven years.

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