



CAMP HAI-LITES

Camp Haiastan

Winter 2004

53rd CAMPING SEASON A SUCCESS in 2003

For eight weeks of each year a small piece of Franklin, Massachusetts is turned into a "little Armenia." Starting with the summer of 1951, the red, blue, and orange tricolor is unfurled, flies over the cabin circle and acts as a beacon for young Armenians to make their journey to Camp Haiastan. The 2003 camping season was able to again provide that extra special "Armenian experience" for over three hundred youngsters from all over the world.

This past year again showed the international aspect of Camp Haiastan. Youngsters made the voyage from Armenia, parts of Europe, South America, and across the United States. Bonds were established that will form life-long ties of friendship for many and an awareness of a common heritage was enhanced. An able staff was led by "Baron" Peter Jelalian of New York, our veteran Camp Director. Peter has lived the entire Camp Haiastan experience from camper to counselor to Director. His guidance and direction again proved invaluable for our staff and our campers.



Happy New Year!

The new swimming pool, opened in 2002, was a cornerstone of the daily activities during the hot and sweltering summer. The pool utilizes state-of-the-art filtration equipment to maintain an excellent swimming environment. Several enhancements to the pool area, including new plantings, have made this area another focal point of the campus.

The Armenian program continued to provide campers with knowledge regarding their roots. In both formal and informal settings they had the opportunity to learn of their ancestral culture, history and language. A Lecture Series, utilizing guest speakers, helped augment the formal program. Music and dance received special attention from everyone. Many of the guest speakers are, themselves, graduates of the "University of Camp Haiastan."

Throughout life one goes through many growing experiences. Camp Haiastan has provided a crucial vehicle for the Armenian community. It has nurtured the growth of the Armenian soul in many a youngster. And, the "Camp Experience" has often served as the cement that has held lifelong friendships together.

GLADYS FERMANIAN REMEMBERS CAMP WITH BEQUEST - A LIFELONG SUPPORTER -

Many people go through life enjoying the works of others, drinking from wells that others have dug. It's the real heroes that dig the wells from which others drink. One such person was Gladys Fermanian of Providence, Rhode Island. Ms. Fermanian passed away last year but left behind a gift that will endure forever at Camp Haiastan—this from a person who never attended camp herself.

the momentous decision to establish a summer camp for the Armenian youth of America. This was indeed a bold and farsighted move; it was taken at a time of world unrest, at a time of lingering financial depression and at a time when the concept of camping was utterly foreign to the Armenian community. To make the decision even more incredulous was the decision to utilize community volunteers to build the Camp.

In 1939, the Armenian Youth Federation made

CAMPER REGISTRATION

- Camper applications due June 1
- Make sure all required forms are complete and mailed on time

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FOUNDER’S DAY CELEBRATION

Opening day of the 2003 camping season, June 29th, saw a very unique and heartwarming sight. This day was set aside to honor all of the individuals who had helped to build Camp Haiastan in the 1940s. Somehow the “word got out” and many of them made the trip to Franklin—some coming from as far away as California to the west and Florida to the south. They came, accepted recognition for accepting the “mission impossible” and somehow accomplishing that mission. And, they came with humility. These are the **Founders** of Camp Haiastan.

In 1939 the Armenian Youth Federation developed the concept of a summer camp. Land was purchased in Franklin, Mass., after a considerable search of various sites in several states. A unique plan was developed for the site and the construction phase begun. However, work on the project had to be shelved when the winds of war blew across the oceans, catapulting America into World War II. The young adults who had been cutting trees were now summoned to bear arms for their country. The dream of a summer youth camp for Armenian youth was postponed with the changing priorities.

The **fortunate** veterans returned in 1945 as both theaters of the war came to a close. At this point one would think that these young adults, who had seen so much, would want to “get on with their lives,” to begin building their future lives after sacrificing so much. However, that was not the case. Instead, they picked up where they had left off and went back to work in building a future for others. On weekends, vacations, holidays, and in the evenings they made the trek to Franklin with tools in hand to complete what they had started. They hitch-hiked, rode buses and trains, climbed into the backs of pickup trucks and somehow built the camp. And, all of this was done without the benefit of power

tools and other such niceties.

Over two hundred Founders have been identified. Each and every one played a role. Some developed the idea, some cleared the woods, some swung hammers, some cooked, some ran the errands. Some were there every weekend and some for only one or two weekends. The most important point to remember is that Camp Haiastan would NEVER have been built without the help of all of them!

The Camp Haiastan Board of Directors saw fit to permanently honor the many Founders by the placing of an engraved granite marker at the walkway to the cabin circle (see insert below).

Amongst the activities of the June 29th Founders Day picnic was a unique PowerPoint slide show depicting the history of the camp from those early days of construction up until today. It was a special joy to watch the Founders watch the slide show, stirring up wonderful memories and exuding a sense of pride for the outcome of their labors. Anyone can receive a copy (gratis) of the slideshow by writing to the camp with their request.

**THREE GENERATIONS OF
CAMPERS THANK THE FOUNDERS
FOR THEIR FORESIGHT AND
UNSELFISH EFFORT IN BUILDING
THIS CHERISHED TREASURE
KNOWN AS CAMP HAIASTAN**

9/11 AFFECTS CAMP HAIASTAN THE “NEW REALITY”

Life has not been the same for ANYBODY since the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001. This is the case whether you live in a metropolis or a small town, whether you are a frequent flyer or enjoy a rocking chair. Believe it or not, it has also affected Camp Haiastan in a significant way.

Insurance premiums have skyrocketed in every business area throughout the United States. Any activity dealing with youth has also seen major increases due to the well publicized problems within the Catholic Church community. These two factors have resulted in a **100% increase in our liability insurance costs at Camp Haiastan!** Criminal background checks, required by Massachusetts regulations, are increasing 300%. The tuition increases for the 2003 and 2004 seasons will not cover these increases!

To affect Camp Haiastan in a financial manner is one problem, but the “new reality” has also forced changes in our camp schedule. A large number of our campers arrive by plane and are met by us at the airport. These same youngsters are also driven to the airport at the end of their camping sessions. The enhanced airport security has made it quite difficult, problematical and much more time-consuming to physically get each of our youngsters onto a plane or collect them upon arrival. To make matters more challenging is the fact that these youngsters utilize two separate airports which serve the Boston and Providence areas.

The issue of dealing with airport security has forced us to end
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GLADYS FERMANIAN

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Now, fifty-three years after opening day, Camp Haiastan has seen over 6,000 youngsters come through the gates to enjoy a most special experience. These youngsters have come from 24 states, from 12 countries and from 5 continents. Youngsters have even come here from Armenia to attend Camp Haiastan. Who would have thought that possible?

This year the Camp Board honored the individuals who built the Camp. They built it on their weekends, on their vacations and in their every free moment. These individuals have now been named Founders of Camp Haiastan. At this past year's Founder's Day we had many a Founder return to attend the event. Unfortunately, not all could attend because of travel problems and illness. Also, sadly, a fair number of these Founders have passed away. They may have passed away but are not forgotten.

One particular young lady, a daughter of the Providence, Rhode Island community, passed away last year. We are talking about our own Gladys Fermanian. She was a Founder, having toiled to build the camp with her own hands. Like many others, Gladys made her many contributions without choosing to step in the limelight. She helped the Camp many a time and through many different venues while always staying in the background. Her interest was not public recognition but, simply, with what the camp could offer the youth of our community.

Commitment to the Armenian community was a center point of Gladys Fermanian's life whether it was Camp Haiastan or Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church or the Armenian Youth Federation or the Armenian Relief Society or many another organization. We always remember the quiet joy that came to her heart as she walked about the cabin circle whenever she attended a picnic at the camp. Seeing joyful Armenian youth in an Armenian setting under the Tricolor was the only reward she ever sought.

Gladys was not only a Founder, but also a Friend of Camp Haiastan. In her passing she was kind enough to remember the Camp in her will. She left the Camp a rather significant bequest with the wish that Camp Haiastan prosper for another 50 years.

We are confident that with the help of her bequest and those of others like her, we will be able to secure that vision.

We thank and remember the memory of Gladys Fermanian, a stalwart daughter of the Providence community, a Founder, a lifelong supporter and a lifelong Friend of Camp Haiastan.

2004 SEASON APPROACHING

The 2004 camping season will be here in short order. Applications must be completed and submitted along with a deposit before an individual can be registered for the camping program. Sessions fill up rapidly so it is wise to register early! Any applications received after June 1, 2004, will be placed on a waiting list and assessed a \$50 late fee. All applicants are accepted on a "first-come, first-serve" basis and applications must be fully completed for consideration.

Last year several youngsters were not able to enroll in the session

of their choice because of the lateness of their applications. It's wise to get those applications in early.

Session Dates and Fees for 2004

Sess I	Sunday Jul 4 to	Saturday Jul 17	\$ 975
Sess II	Sunday Jul 18 to	Saturday Jul 31	\$ 1050
Sess III	Sunday Aug 1 to	Saturday Aug 14	\$ 1150
Sess IV	Sunday Aug 15 to	Saturday Aug 28	\$ 975

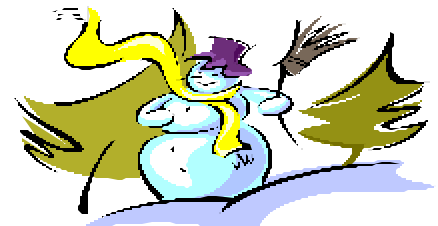
THE "NEW REALITY"

(continued from page 2)

Camp sessions on a Saturday (rather than a Sunday) in order to assure ourselves that each camper is safely placed onto or received from the proper flight. Departing campers are placed on their various flights on a Saturday and arriving campers are met at their incoming flights on Sunday.

Safety is our highest priority at Camp Haiastan. It is indeed unfortunate that the schedule of each camping session has had to be changed to a Sunday arrival, Saturday departure. However, this

is the "new reality" within which we all live in the new century.



I won't be at camp next summer. Will you?

Camp Haiastan

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“Camp Haiastan — A Magical Place”

Camp Haiastan's goal is to provide a safe and healthy camp atmosphere wherein young Armenians learn about their ancient heritage in a relaxed and enjoyable environment. As we enter the 21st century we vow to continue this effort with renewed energy and maintain our on-going efforts to improve our facilities and programs. Currently, we regularly host over 300 campers from all over the United States, Canada, Europe, South America and the Middle East.

Camp Haiastan is a 501(c) 3 charitable organization. As such, all contributions are deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Contributions are entirely dedicated to the intended purpose or to general improvements that directly benefit our campers. We do not deduct any administrative costs from your contribution. All gifts, large and small, are welcome.

SUPPORT CAMP HAIASTAN

You can help secure Camp Haiastan's future in a number of ways:

-- Sponsor a needy camper in whole or in part. Each year Camp Haiastan forgives approximately \$9,000 in camper fees from dividends received through the Tahmasian Fund. However, the need is even greater. We could help even more youngsters if you would help.

-- Contribute to the Gregian Fund or the Jelalian Fund. Established by family and friends of the late Arthur Gregian and Peter and Theresa Jelalian, dividends are used to sponsor deserving youngsters to a session at camp.

-- Contribute to the Camp Haiastan Endowment Fund. Established by the IAN Associates to ensure the future of Camp Haiastan. The Camp may use dividends for capital improvements.

-- In Lieu of Flowers: Contributions received in lieu of flowers are acknowledged to the deceased's family.

-- In Honor of: Contributions received in lieu of gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, special occasions, etc., are acknowledged to the person or persons being honored.

-- Contribute securities: You may take a tax deduction for the appreciated value of securities you own and avoid capital gains taxes. However, you should first consult your tax attorney or accountant.

-- Annual Christmas Card Appeal: Each year Camp Haiastan mails over 1900 Christmas cards to our camp families. We will include your name for a modest contribution of \$25.

-- For a \$100 contribution we will engrave your name or sentiment on a brick in the cabin circle walkway.

-- Underwrite a specific project in full or in part.

We need your help!

MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS BEING PLANNED

Renovated and expanded toilet facility

Renovated and expanded shower facility

New storage facility for athletic field

Major donors will be identified with an appropriate plaque.