

# Saluting Our Selfless Heroes





DR. NEBAR BOGHOSSIAN

FIGHTING CANCER  
IS ABOUT *life*. YOUR FIGHT  
TO *live* AND HAVE A LIFE  
AFTER DIAGNOSIS AND  
CANCER THERAPY.

THE DOCTORS AND STAFF OF THE  
LOS ANGELES CANCER NETWORK  
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YOUR TEAM FOR LIFE!



DR. BORIS BAGDASARIAN



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## Thanks to the dedication of its supporters and volunteers across the globe, ABMDR continues to make strides



### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

People and organizations across the globe are breathing a little easier as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic ease, and ABMDR likewise is experiencing a relief from some of the intense challenges we have faced, and overcome. Yet challenges present themselves in other ways, and ABMDR continues to meet them.

We are as resolute as ever to continue building our registry to serve patients in need, and can report a steady stream of success, with over 33,000 donors, more than 36,000 patient requests, and 39 bone marrow transplants. But I must also report that there are cases that are formidable, and potentially tragic. The Artsakh war has tried us all, and that includes a cancer patient in Germany desperately awaiting a stem cell transplant from an Artsakh resident behind the Azerbaijani blockade. ABMDR aggressively pursued all options and eventually resolved the issue, with the assistance of the International Red Cross.

As importantly, our HLA-typing services continue to diversify in areas positively impacting patients who suffer from not only cancer, but autoimmune diseases and kidney failure. Likewise, our cord-blood bank is growing, and we are hopeful that, in coordination with the Armenian government, we can establish a DNA bank for military personnel.

As ever, we are grateful every day for the exceptional professionalism and work ethic of our lab staff, and the dedication of our worldwide network of volunteers and supporters, whose heartwarming generosity sustains our operations. The challenges are many, but our team perseveres!

Frieda Jordan, PhD, President

### MESSAGE FROM THE HONORARY CHAIR

Each year of the many I have been associated with the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry, I learn of greater successes and new innovations. This organization has managed to keep a laser focus on its core mission of providing life-saving services for cancer patients, while diversifying into other areas of critical need. HLA tissue-typing is a powerful tool, and ABMDR is extraordinary in utilizing this technology. Armenia and communities throughout the Armenian Diaspora are fortunate to be the beneficiaries of this organization and its visionary leadership.



Bella Kocharyan, MD  
Honorary Chair, former First Lady of Armenia

## Ask the Doctor: an interview with ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan



**Q: Over many years now, ABMDR has harnessed the power of HLA typing to help doctors and their patients address a growing number of critical healthcare needs. What are you working on right now?**

A: Well, we have several initiatives underway that promise to make a significant impact. HLA testing, in addition to its usefulness in donor selection for transplantation, is also used for diagnosis and differentiation of autoimmune illnesses such as Behcet's disease, ankylosing spondylitis and other inflammatory arthritis, Celiac disease, narcolepsy, and some other autoimmune conditions.

**Q: HLA typing seems to really take the guesswork out of a lot of medical treatments by providing key information in advance.**

A: Yes, it is definitely empowering, avoiding trial-and-error approaches that can take precious time, or potentially cause adverse effects. Another example of utilizing HLA typing strategically pertains to kidney transplants. As we are seeing an increase in these in Armenia, we have expanded our involvement in solid-organ transplantation. More accurate than serology, a new method of flow cytometry cross-matching is allowing us to make the most optimal matches between kidney donors and recipients.

**Q: Are there other areas you're pursuing?**

A: There is a project we have been working on that is particularly poignant for Armenians during the resurgence of wartime: helping to identify the remains of our soldiers. With its extensive DNA research experience, ABMDR is in a unique position to establish a DNA bank for military personnel. Over the past two years, we have been in negotiations with the RA Ministry of Health and the RA Ministry of Defense to get the project off the ground.

**Q: This sounds like a truly noble endeavor. How would it work?**

A: Well, we have already initiated a proof of concept, with dozens of volunteers giving us blood samples – when soldiers register with ABMDR, their genetic data are stored, becoming accessible for the future. At this time, we are awaiting approval from the government to establish the DNA bank.

**Q: We wish you well with that, and with all these projects, Dr. Avagyan. Is there anything you'd like to add?**

A: I would just say that it is a great privilege to do this work, to know that through the HLA typing that we do, we provide our community with information that helps them optimize their healthcare solutions. If we had a motto, it would surely be, "knowledge is power."



## ABMDR performs 39th harvesting procedure

On September 19, 2022, a Yerevan resident, Arsen, donated bone marrow stem cells to help save the life of his brother, who lives in Germany. The harvesting of the donor's stem cells took place at ABMDR's Stem Cell Harvesting Center.

"Once Arsen was identified as a matched donor, he immediately checked in at the ABMDR center, to undergo the stem cell harvesting procedure that could help save his brother's life," said ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan.

Thanks to the procedure, the donated stem cells were used for an urgent transplant to help the patient in Germany survive his life-threatening blood-related illness. The painless, non-invasive harvesting was the 39th of its type facilitated by ABMDR.

**Arsen, the donor, during the harvesting procedure at the ABMDR Stem Cell Harvesting Center, in the Armenian capital.**



## Lab supervisor Armine Hyussyan appointed as an EFI inspector



**In the photo at the top: Armine holding the Certificate of Attendance following the special training that led her to her appointment as an EFI inspector. In the photo above: at the ABMDR Lab in Yerevan, Armine facilitating immunology training for students from Yerevan State Medical University.**

## No blockade can block our will

We often present our accomplishments with numbers: 36,000 search requests, 417 patients, 39 transplants, etc. We do, because they give a good summary of our work in general. But it is good to pause for a moment and reflect on the fact that it takes real people to make these numbers, and each comes with their own background story, their unique journey.

Here's the story of a 15-year-old boy in Germany, a leukemia patient in dire need of a bone marrow transplant to save his life; and, miles away, a young donor in Artsakh, a potential match to this young man, ready and eager to donate her stem cells and hopefully save his life. But Artsakh is cut off from the rest of the world, under blockade by the Azeris. She can't get out, and our ABMDR personnel can't get in. The patient is waiting, hoping, while we search for solutions, appealing for the world's attention to the hu-



manitarian nature of the situation. Our efforts to have the German government intervene on behalf of their patient hits a brick wall. It takes long negotiations with the International Red Cross. Finally, we get the Red Cross to cross Lachin, and with the help of the Health Ministry of Artsakh, we manage to secure the required blood samples from our donor and send them to Germany for further testing. We have our fingers crossed that additional tests of these samples will indicate a perfect match and result in saving a young man's life, our 40th transplant: not just a number, but one with its own unique story.

## Lab technician Ani Azaryan receives advanced training

In 2022, Ani Azaryan, a technician at the ABMDR Lab in Yerevan, participated in the 16th International Summer School on Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics, which took place in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

Featuring a roster of renowned speakers, the four-day training and continuing-education event was attended by members of EFI (European Federation for Immunogenetics), ASHI (American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics), and ARSHI (Arabian Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics), representing various medical centers, institutes, and universities. "It was a highly informative and productive meeting," Ani says. "I met participants from different countries, and we shared our experiences. I thank Dr. Frieda Jordan for giving me the opportunity to inter-



act with young EFI and ASHI members, and to hear such great scientists. The presented topics were very relevant to my routine work at the ABMDR Lab in Yerevan, and extremely beneficial in terms of helping me expand my professional knowledge and skills."



Norik Markarian (second from right) and his son, Eric.



## Volunteer Gary Shirikchian gains first-hand experience at the ABMDR Lab

I am currently a senior at Rose and Alex Pilibos in Los Angeles. This past summer (2022) I had the fantastic opportunity to not only travel to Armenia but to have the honor to shadow staff members and volunteer at the ABMDR Lab in Yerevan. My experience at the lab began with observing processes that I had learned about in my 11th grade AP Biology class.

Processes such as polymerase chain reaction (PCR), DNA extraction, and gel electrophoresis were once definitions and concepts for me before I was able to experience them firsthand. After observing such procedures at the ABMDR Lab, I was provided an opportunity unlike any other: independently conducting these processes myself.

As I held a pipet in my hand for the first time and released the mixtures into sample tubes, I was filled with joy. These complex processes, which once seemed so distant to me, were now in the palms of my hands. However, it was through the teachings and assistance of the enthusiastic staff at the lab that I was able to conduct such processes in an independent manner.

Aside from these extraordinary opportunities, what draws me to ABMDR, and what has propelled me to remain an adamant supporter, is its life-saving mission. This organization and its lab in Armenia serve as epicenters of aid for the world around it. They are not confined to a single geographic location, but have a global impact. I will continue to serve as a supporter of ABMDR, as it continues to save lives throughout the world. My experience at the ABMDR Lab, unlike any other, has taught me that all it takes is one life and a group of passionate supporters to make an impactful difference in the world.

Gary Shirikchian



Avid ABMDR supporter Mary Kavukchyan.



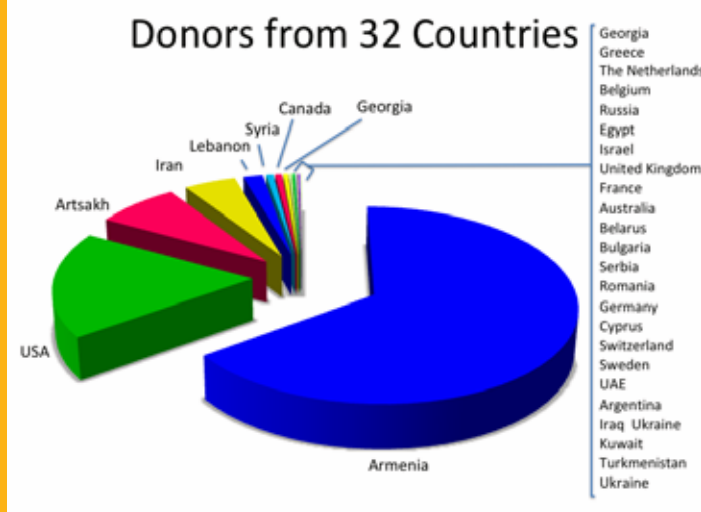
In the photo above: Adrineh Mehdikhani; her husband, Nejdeh; and son, Monte, who will start his internship at the ABMDR Lab in summer 2023. In the photo above right: ABMDR volunteer Khachik Boghossian.



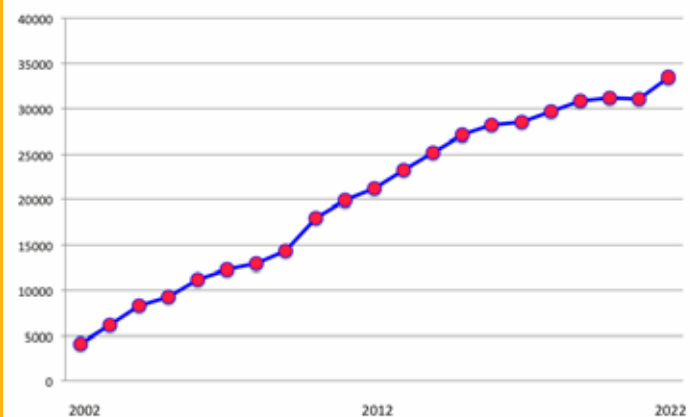


# The work of ABMDR in 2022: a snapshot

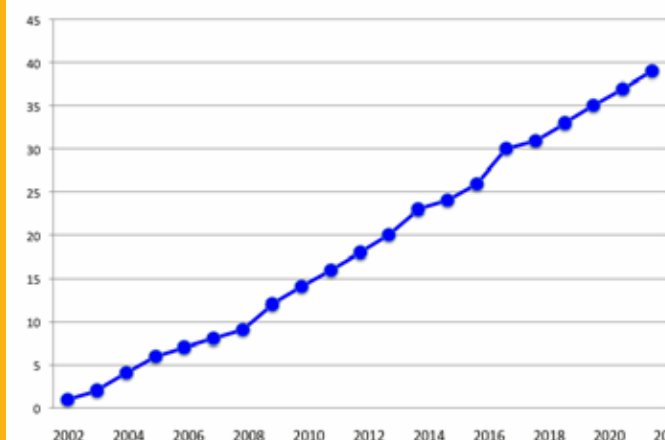
## Donors from 32 Countries



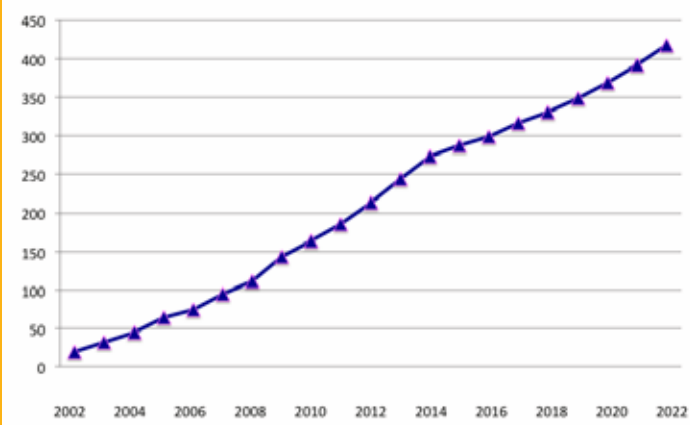
## Over 33,000 Registered Donors



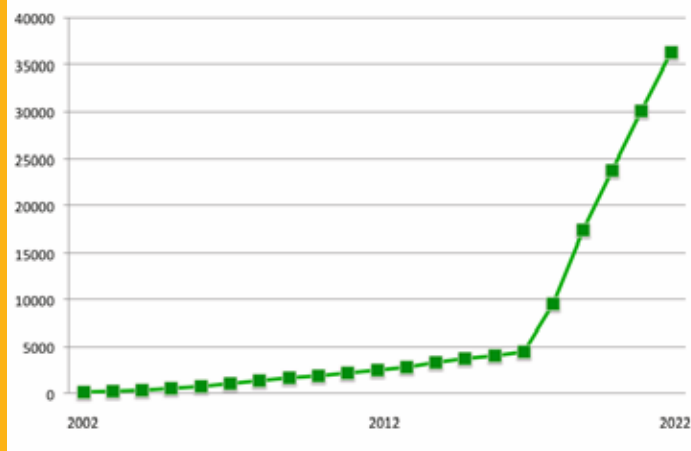
## 39 Transplants to date



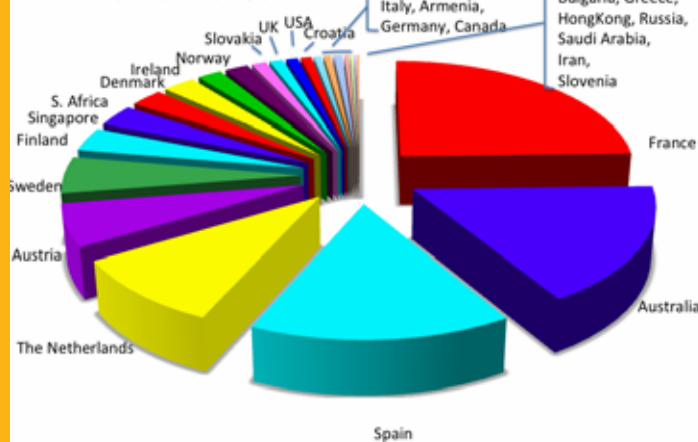
## 417 patients from Armenia to date



## Over 36,000 Patient Search Requests



## Search Requests From 40 Countries



## 2022 RECRUITMENTS

### ARMENIA

**April 23:** recruitment in Gyumri.

**July 14:** recruitment at CIVITTA Armenia offices, Yerevan.

**August 3:** recruitment in Hrazdan.

**August 12:** recruitment at a military center in Yerevan.

**October 17:** recruitment at Noy Med CRO offices.

**November 28:** recruitment at ZARK Veterans' Union center.

### UNITED STATES, EAST COAST

**April 19:** recruitment at St. James Armenian Apostolic Church, Watertown.

**September 24:** recruitment during the 11th annual ABMDR Walk of Life, in Watertown.

### UNITED STATES, WEST COAST

**April 13:** recruitment at St. Leon Cathedral, Burbank, California.

**April 26:** recruitment at St. Leon Cathedral, Burbank.

**April 30:** recruitment at St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church, Las Vegas.

**May 12:** recruitment at AGBU Western Region, Pasadena, California.

**June 7:** recruitment at St. Leon Cathedral, Burbank.

**June 27:** recruitment at St. Gregory Armenian Catholic Church, Glendale, California.

**October 7:** recruitment during the 17th annual ABMDR Walk of Life, Glendale, California.

**November 17:** recruitment at St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church, Costa Mesa, California, organized by ABMDR NextGen.

## LATEST ABMDR STATS

- Over 33,000 donors
- Over 36,000 patient requests
- 417 patients from Armenia
- 3,200 follow-up patient requests
- 39 transplants
- 2,900 HLA-disease association tests
- 300 immunophenotyping tests
- 200 kidney-transplant compatibility tests
- 240 cord-blood banking procedures
- Facilitation of student training





## Hrazdan, Kotayk

33 donors recruited



## CIVITTA, Yerevan

19 donors recruited



## NoyMed CRO, Yerevan

30 donors recruited





## ABMDR NextGen launched to promote youth activism

NextGen, a subsidiary of ABMDR, was launched in Los Angeles in 2022 to encourage youth participation in the activities and mission of our organization.

The creation of NextGen was initiated by longtime ABMDR volunteer and Stanford University student Eric Markarian. Now also serving on the ABMDR Board of Advisors, Markarian said NextGen aims to support the life-saving mission and pan-Armenian vision of ABMDR by increasing youth engagement in its work and establishing ABMDR groups on college and high-school campuses. "We see NextGen building a wide network and holding significant influence, and utilizing them to increase youth participation in the mission of ABMDR at various academic institutions across the United States," Markarian said. He added that NextGen will also collaborate with the ABMDR Board, researchers, and physicians to initiate academic-research projects and publications in various medical fields.



**NextGen planning meetings.** Photo above: Eric Markarian, who initiated the establishment of ABMDR NextGen, with his mother, longtime ABMDR supporter Dr. Ramella Markarian. Photo below: NextGen members with ABMDR president Dr. Frieda Jordan.



## NextGen's first recruitment drive, in Costa Mesa, California, draws young supporters and raises awareness of ABMDR mission



**Held at St. Mary Church on November 17, 2022, the drive was organized by ABMDR NextGen volunteers, all students at University of California, Irvine. Twenty-two potential donors joined the ranks of the Registry.**





# Across the US and Armenia, thousands turn out to help save the lives of Alex Darbinyan and other patients

Throughout April and May 2022, thousands of supporters in the United States and Armenia answered the call to attend ABMDR recruitment drives and join its ranks as bone marrow stem cell donors, for a chance to save the lives of Alex Darbinyan, a 13-year-old leukemia patient, as well as other ABMDR patients. At every single recruitment drive, whether in California, Nevada, Massachusetts, Yerevan, or Gyumri, young supporters turned out in massive numbers.

The events were also attended by community and church leaders, including Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese; Father Khajag Shahbazyan; and Rev. Sasoon Zumrookhdian, pastor of Las Vegas' St. Geragos Armenian Apostolic Church.

To help Alex find a life-saving match, his family teamed up with ABMDR to organize a series of recruitment drives in the United States and Armenia, with additional support from the Western Diocese.

The recruitment drives for Alex were held at St. Leon Armenian Cathedral in Burbank; the ABMDR headquarters in Yerevan; St. James Armenian Church in Watertown, Massachusetts, during the Hye Café community event; at a site in Gyumri; and at St. Geragos Armenian Apostolic Church in Las Vegas. ABMDR also held a recruitment drive for leukemia patient Jack Chorlian, at St. Leon Cathedral.



On hand at all of these events were scores of ABMDR volunteers who explained to attendees the simple, safe, and painless process of becoming a donor and welcomed them to the ranks of ABMDR. In all, over 2,000 supporters between the ages of 18 and 50 registered as potential bone marrow stem cell donors. Our very special thanks go to our recruitment sponsors, including Suzy Sogoyan; IceLink; Love Armenia and its team, with Ani Mardirosian; and Fuliane Petikyan / FANS With a Cause. We are deeply grateful for their generosity.



In the photo above: patient Alex Darbinyan. In the photo at right: patient Jack Chorlian.









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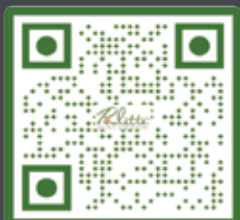
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# Walk of Life Los Angeles

On October 8, 2022, more than 350 supporters converged on the plaza of the Glendale City building, in Glendale, California, to take part in ABMDR's 17th annual walkathon.

With its humanitarian message and festive community atmosphere, the walk drew strong youth participation. Teams representing local schools included those of Clark Magnet High School and Providence High School. Also present were members of NextGen, ABMDR's recently-launched youth group.

Prior to the start of the walk, remarks were delivered by Walkathon Committee co-chairs Dr. Christina Ashjian and Hutch Postik, California State Senator Anthony Portantino, ABMDR president Dr. Frieda Jordan, and longtime supporter Arpine Zohrabayan. Following his remarks, Senator Portantino presented ABMDR with a Certificate of Recognition, commending the Registry for its global humanitarian mission.

Following the ribbon-cutting, the 5-K walk-run looped through central Glendale. The walkathon concluded at the plaza of the Glendale City building, where the festivities continued into the day. The event also gave participants the opportunity to join the ranks of ABMDR as potential bone marrow stem cell donors, as volunteers were on hand to answer questions and welcome new recruits.

Likewise during the event, Providence High School was recognized as the team that had the biggest number of walkathon participants; and the team led by Arpine Zohrabayan was recognized as the one that had raised the most funds.







FOUNDATION  
LABORATORY

**Thank you, Foundation Lab, for your major sponsorship!**



Thank you, Aleko Boghoskhanian,  
for many years of photographing our  
walkathons and providing coffee and  
fresh-baked cookies for the events!





**Thank you, our sponsors, for your generous support of Walk of Life: Foundation Lab; Avalon Surgery Center; Softline Solutions; Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger; Paulette Malekian of Dilbeck Real Estate, who, in addition to sponsoring the event, donated gift cards for the ABMDR lottery; Dr. Alen Mirzaian; Dr. Vergine Madelian, who donated her personally-designed and hand-made glass ornaments for selling and raising funds during the walkathon; Andre and Ivette Sinani; Beautify by Karin; and Porto's Bakery.**







# ARMENIAN BONE MARROW DONOR REGISTRY

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## 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GLENDALE WALK



START AND END: CITY OF GLENDALE  
633 E. BROADWAY, GLENDALE, CA

**WALK • RUN • FUNDRAISE**

Registration: 8:30am (\$25 Pre-registration, \$30 At The Event)

Walk Starts: 9:00am



#abmdrwalkoflife



abmdr

[www.abmdr.am/walk](http://www.abmdr.am/walk)

**FREE PARKING**

Entrance on Wilson Ave.

# Walk of Life New England

On September 24, supporters from throughout New England participated in the ABMDR New England's 11th annual Walk of Life, in Watertown. Every year, the celebrated pan-Armenian event draws enthusiastic youth participation, with numerous students from area schools and colleges. The walkathon is also supported by local organizations, businesses, and community leaders.

Since its inception 11 years ago, Walk of Life New England has received support and sponsorship from several large and small businesses, including PROMETRIKA, LLC, of Cambridge; the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; the Armenian-American Pharmacists' Association; Watertown Savings Bank; ThermOil, Inc.; Quebrada Baking Company; and Anoush'ella (Saj Kitchen); as well as the Armenia Tree Project, Amaras Art Alliance, St. James Charles Moseesian Cultural and Youth Center, and Armenian Museum of America.

At the opening ceremony of the walkathon, which took place on the grounds of the Charles Moseesian Center, Shant Der Torossian of the ABMDR New England Walkathon Organizing Committee welcomed the participants. "We're touched to again see many community organizations and individuals that have come together today to participate and collaborate for this walkathon," Der Torossian said. "Some of you have been with us since day 1. A big thank-you to those who assisted with promoting this event among their co-workers, friends, and family. We couldn't do this without you!"

Der Torossian conveyed the committee's gratitude to St. James Armenian Apostolic Church, Pastor Arakel Aljalian, and Yn. Natasha for generously hosting the commencement of this year's walkathon. Der Torossian went on to acknowledge Arax Badalian and members of the Amaras Art Alliance, as the recipients of the ABMDR New England Volunteer of the Year Award. "Arax Badalian and members of the Amaras Art Alliance have been among the very first volunteers of ABMDR New England," Der Torossian said. "We appreciate their support and dedication to ABMDR."

Prior to the start of the walkathon, participants held a moment of silence in honor of fallen soldiers in Armenia and Artsakh.

The walk concluded at Saltonstall Park, where participants celebrated the day's achievements and enjoyed great music, dancing, and food, along with those attending the annual Faire on the Square festival.

In her remarks during the closing ceremony, Tamar Minassian Melkonian of the Walkathon Organizing Committee extended its appreciation to the event's sponsors for their continued support year after year, and brought the participants' attention to all the logos and names of the sponsors on their T-shirts.

"This year, we have a special treat for you," Minassian Melkonian said. "The Armenian Museum of America has graciously offered open admission to anyone wearing an ABMDR walkathon T-shirt! So, after our closing ceremony, please take advantage of this offer and visit their one-of-a-kind exhibits and artifacts." Subsequently Alec Der Sirakian, Telo Ghazarians, and Miganush Stepanians of



Following the opening ceremony and prayers, the ribbon was cut by (from left) Fr. Antranig Baljian, Bishop Mikael Mouradian, and Fr. Arakel Aljalian.

**"Funds raised through the walkathon and all other donations to ABMDR go a long way in ensuring that our organization is able to continue to fulfill its mission, by educating the public, recruiting potential donors, and facilitating bone marrow stem cell transplants for patients throughout the world."**

*Shant Der Torossian  
ABMDR New England Walkathon Organizing Committee*



**ABMDR New England's Walkathon Organizing Committee.**

PROMETRIKA, LLC were awarded the Gold, Silver, and Bronze top-fundraiser awards, respectively. For the tenth consecutive year, the Armenia Tree Project will plant commemorative trees in Armenia in honor of the walkathon winners, as part of the #LivingCentury Initiative. Commenting on the significance of the event, Der Torossian

later said, "Funds raised through the walkathon and all other donations to ABMDR go a long way in ensuring that our organization is able to continue to fulfill its mission, by educating the public, recruiting potential donors, and facilitating bone marrow stem cell transplants for patients throughout the world."





Walkers and supporters.



Alec Der Sirakian accepting the Gold Fundraising Award.

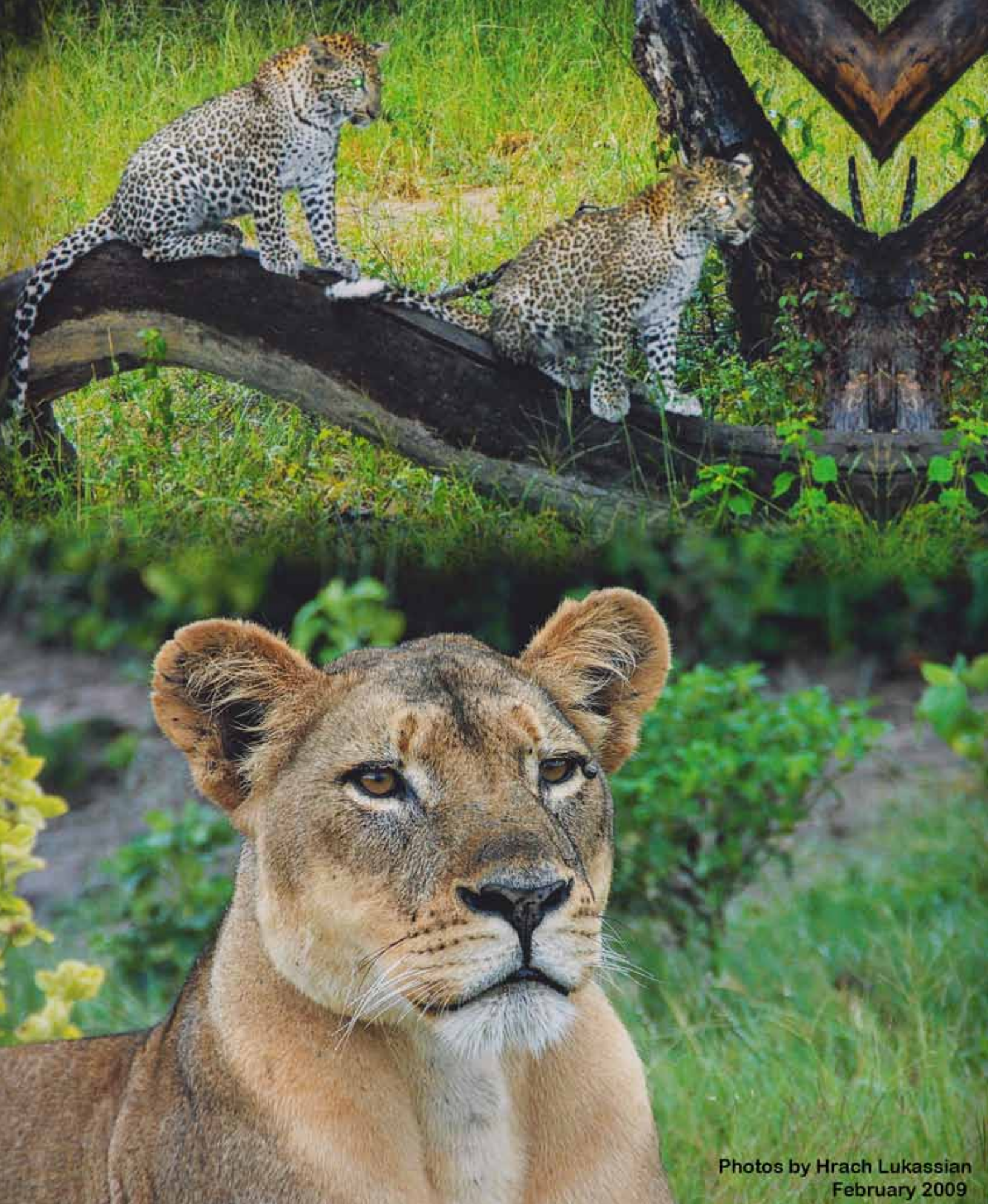


The walkathon's youngest fundraiser yet, two-year-old Telo Ghazarians, won the Silver Fundraising Award.



Miganush Stepanians accepting the Bronze Fundraising Award.





Photos by Hrach Lukassian  
February 2009



# CHOBE NATIONAL PARK, BOTSWANA, AFRICA



Photos by Hrach Lukassian  
February 2009





## WINE AND CHEESE EVENT

July 31, 2022. Generously sponsored by the Malekandrasians family in memory of their father, Constantin. The event was hosted by daughter Annette and her husband, Daniel Solis (in the photo below), at their home in Pasadena, California.



## BOWLING EVENT

July 7, 2022.  
Jewel City Bowl,  
Glendale, California.





# Laughter for Life: sold-out comedy night wows fans in Los Angeles

More than 300 supporters attended the 18th annual Laughter for Life, our beloved comedy night. One of our organization's most popular benefit events, Laughter for Life was held on December 11, 2022, at the iconic Comedy Store, in West Hollywood, after a two-year hiatus.

The sold-out show featured a lineup of acclaimed stand-up comedians, including Sam Tripoli, Maz Jobrani, Arman Oganessian, Antic (Arman Margarian), Amir K, Kira Soltanovich, and Jeff Dye. Sam Tripoli also hosted the show, as he has done ever since co-founding Laughter for Life with Lara Yeretsian, Esq., in 2002.

"We are thrilled that the 18th Laughter for Life was a phenomenal success," said Yeretsian, who chairs ABMDR's Comedy Night Committee, and continued, "It's a testament to the important humanitarian work carried out by ABMDR, and we are truly blessed and thankful for the unfaltering support of our community, volunteers, and sponsors."





ABMDR's 23rd annual Gala was held on August 28, 2022, at the Glendale Hilton, in Glendale, California. The jubilant event was attended by 300 supporters, including community leaders, elected officials, and representatives of organizations.

Functioning as a testament to the worldwide Armenian community's support of ABMDR's life-saving mission, the Gala served as an occasion to mark the Registry's latest accomplishments and honor several individuals for their extraordinary dedication. ABMDR's most recent achievements include the completion of a significant COVID-19 research project; the launch of ABMDR NextGen, the Registry's own youth group; and the appointment of ABMDR Lab supervisor Armine Hyusssyan as an inspector with the European Federation of Immunogenetics (EFI).

Match For Life was made possible by the sponsorship of several supporters, including Event Sponsor Mark Geragos, Esq., and Major Sponsors Adventist Health Glendale and the Malekandrasians family. Other donors who helped make the Gala a great success included Mission Wine and Spirits, Nazik Bashkijian, Café Santorini, and Dr. Vergine Madelian.

# 23<sup>RD</sup>



## MATCH FOR LIFE GALA



**Thank you, Event Sponsor Mark Geragos, Esq., and Major Sponsors Adventist Health Glendale and the Malekandrasians family, for your invaluable support!**

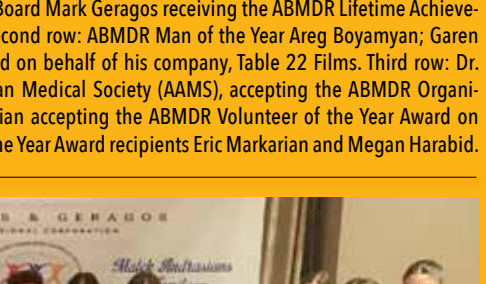
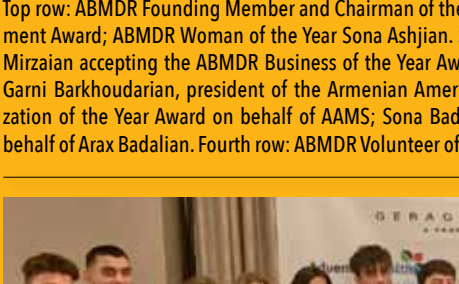








# Congratulations, our 2022 award recipients!



Top row: ABMDR Founding Member and Chairman of the Board Mark Geragos receiving the ABMDR Lifetime Achievement Award; ABMDR Woman of the Year Sona Ashjian. Second row: ABMDR Man of the Year Areg Boyamyan; Garek Mirzaian accepting the ABMDR Business of the Year Award on behalf of his company, Table 22 Films. Third row: Dr. Garni Barkhoudarian, president of the Armenian American Medical Society (AAMS), accepting the ABMDR Organization of the Year Award on behalf of AAMS; Sona Badalian accepting the ABMDR Volunteer of the Year Award on behalf of Arax Badalian. Fourth row: ABMDR Volunteer of the Year Award recipients Eric Markarian and Megan Harabid.



## Meeting with Bishop Torkom Donoyan, Western Prelacy, February 11, 2022



## Meeting with Arch. Hovnan Derderian, Western Diocese, February 24, 2022



## Prayer Day at Western Diocese for ABMDR patients and families, June 5, 2022



## Touch-A-Truck event to help raise cancer awareness, Glendale, September 25, 2022



Fimi Mekhitarian, Senator Anthony Portantino, Razmik Moghadesian, and Carmen Lukassian.



Fimi Mekhitarian, Glendale Police Chief Carl Povilaitis, and Carmen Lukassian.

## Congratulations, our Lottery winners!

**First-prize winner:**  
**C. ASLANIAN**  
**of Belmont, Massachusetts:**  
Two round-trip tickets  
donated by Sidon Travel



**Second-prize winner:**  
**ARMINEH ASLAN**  
**of Glendale, California:**  
iPad  
donated by  
Paulette  
Malekian,  
Dilbeck  
Real Estate



**Third-prize winner:**  
**JANE KAVAFIAN**  
**of New York City, New York:**  
Google Nest  
Hub donated  
by Hratch  
and Annette  
Postik





## EFI Conference, Amsterdam

May 21, 2022



Representing ABMDR at the EFI Conference were ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan and ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan (far right).



Dr. Jordan speaking at the EFI meeting in Skopje.

## EFI Region 8 Balkan EPT Meeting, Skopje, North Macedonia

November 25-26, 2022



Attending the European Federation for Immunogenetics Meeting were ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan (far left) and ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan (fifth from left), who was a featured speaker at the event.



## World Marrow Donor Association Meeting, the Netherlands

October 17-19, 2022



Representing the Registry at the WMDA meeting in Leiden, the Netherlands, was Dr. Mihran Nazaretyan.





## Armenian American Medical Society 18th Annual Conference, Las Vegas



The conference took place on September 10, 2022. In the photos above, from left: ABMDR president Dr. Frieda Jordan receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from Dr. Garni Barkhoudarian, president of the Armenian American Medical Society; Dr. Jordan addressing the audience; Dr. Jordan with ABMDR executive director Dr. Sevak Avagyan.

**THE ARMENIAN BONE MARROW DONOR REGISTRY**

**24<sup>th</sup> ABMDR ANNIVERSARY**

*Save the Date*

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 - GLENDALE HILTON**  
100 W Glenoaks Blvd., Glendale, CA 91202  
**5:00 pm Cocktails - 6:00 pm Dinner, Live Entertainment**  
ABMDR Office: (323) 663-3609 or e-mail: [info@abmdr.net](mailto:info@abmdr.net)



**Dr. Ramella Markarian**



Thank you, Ramella, for your key role in our partnership with Adventist Health Glendale, and for being a dedicated member of our Board of Directors.

**Dr. Carolann and George Najarian**



**Stepan and Linda Vartanian**



**Amy and Michael Boyadjian**



**Viken and Salpi Mankerian**



**Lara Yeretsian, Esq., and Hratch Manuelian**



**Alvart Badalian and Aramais Andonian**



Thank you, Alvart, for so capably leading the ABMDR New England Support Group. And thank you, Aramais, for your powerful design of this issue's cover page.

**Zaven and Vehanoosh Grigorian**



"As a female business owner, I have come to recognize the strength of our Armenian community and the value of human connection. With my success comes the responsibility to give to those less fortunate and in need. ABMDR provides a lifeline to individuals who find themselves at a crossroads with their health. I am honored to do my part and assist with their journey."

Vehanoosh Grigorian

Thank you, Lara, for your pivotal role in the continued success and popularity of the ABMDR Comedy Night.

**Tina Hartounian and Zarik Megerdichian**



The printing of our Newsletter was graciously donated by Tina Hartounian and Zarik Megerdichian. Thank you, Tina and Zarik, for your truly extraordinary and generous support!

**Drs. Avagyan and Sokurenko**



"ABMDR has seen yet another year of remarkable endeavors, implemented with great skill, allowing the organization to maintain the highest possible standards while also expanding the scope of its work. Despite the pandemic and its economic consequences, as well as the impact of war, ABMDR has remained laser-focused on its mission. Thanks to the extraordinary teamwork of its staff, volunteers, supporters, and donors, all of the Registry's programs have remained active, in terms of patient services, research, and lab operations alike. Furthermore, ABMDR's solid track record has further enhanced its global reputation and standing, helping widen communication and synergies with peer registries in finding matches. As ever proud of ABMDR, we say, 'Keep up the good work!'"

**Dr. Vergine Madelian**

Thank you, Vergine, for your outstanding dedication to the life-saving mission of ABMDR: for not only raising public awareness of our work through presentations, training our recruiters, and sponsoring all of our activities, but also designing artistic glass works and Christmas decorations and donating them to our events!



**Carmen Lukassian**



Thank you, Carmen, for your years of support of our activities and events, including the Walkathon and the Gala, and for being a devoted Board member.



Thank you, Softline Solutions, for continuing to provide ABMDR with top-notch IT support. Thanks to this wonderful company, ABMDR reaches supporters across the globe and keeps them informed of its work through a great website as well as email blasts and social media.



## LIFETIME SUPPORTERS AND LOYAL CONTRIBUTORS

### Arpine Zohrabyan

Thank you, Arpine, for your years of volunteer work with ABMDR, for helping raise funds for our life-saving mission through various community events, and for being a dedicated member of the ABMDR Board. As importantly, thank you for helping save someone's life as a bone marrow donor.



### Paulette Malekian

Thank you, Paulette, for your continued support of ABMDR's life-saving mission. We are very grateful to you for being a wonderful volunteer, and for generously helping sponsor our Newsletter year after year. All of us at ABMDR also appreciate the fact that you have been a bone marrow stem cell donor.



### Dr. Christina and Hovig Garabedian



Congratulations, newlyweds Dr. Christina Ashjian and Hovig Garabedian! And thank you for your thoughtful donation to ABMDR, which was made in lieu of party favors.

## IN MEMORIAM

The ABMDR family mourns the passing of two extraordinary women who have had important roles in the history of our organization: Alvard Petrosyan and Marilyn Bazarian. Alvard was one of the founding members and earliest supporters of ABMDR. She was a celebrated journalist and editor. She was also the head of the Armenian Regional Department of the Armenian Aid Union and a member of the Armenian Relief Society Central Board. Alvard passed away on March 10, 2022. Marilyn Morton Bazarian was one of the original volunteers who championed ABMDR's life-saving mission on the East Coast. She served as ABMDR's first East Coast Recruitment Officer and helped establish Walk of Life of New England, which has educated the public and raised funds for donor-recruitment and other activities ever since. Marilyn was a member of the St. James Armenian Church of Watertown and served on many committees. She died on April 26, 2022.

### Alvard Petrosyan



### Marilyn Bazarian



## *Thank you for in lieu of flowers*

### In loving memory of

- Marilyn Bazarian
- Mariana Kazarian
- Hrach Lukassian
- George Postik
- Dr. Aida Shirinian Kaloostian
- Dr. Razmik Sirakian
- Kevork Sultanian
- Arlene Titizian



Mariana Kazarian



Dr. Aida Shirinian Kaloostian



Arlene Titizian



Hrach Lukassian



George Postik



Marilyn Bazarian



Kevork Sultanian



Dr. Razmik Sirakian



## Board meeting, August 2022



## Gala Committee



## Hilda Gourdikian and Taleen Vartanian receive *Business Life* Magazine's Women Achievers Awards



ABMDR volunteer and Board member Hilda Gourdikian (in the photo above) and ABMDR volunteer Taleen Vartanian (right photo above) were among a group of extraordinary women who were honored with *Business Life* Magazine's 2022 Women Achievers Awards. Gourdikian and Vartanian were presented with their awards by *Business Life* publisher John Krikorian, during the magazine's 33rd Women Achievers Awards luncheon, which was held on November 7, 2022, at Noor, in Pasadena, California. *Business Life* began recognizing and honoring women 33 years ago for their outstanding accomplishments and contributions to various communities in the Greater Los Angeles area.



## Dr. Ramella Markarian honored by Rep. Schiff



Dr. Ramella Markarian, an ABMDR Board member and a top executive at Adventist Health Glendale, has been named the 28th Congressional district's "2022 Woman of the Year," in recognition of her outstanding achievements and contributions to the city of Glendale, California. The annual Woman of the Year Award was presented to Markarian by Congressman Adam Schiff, a longtime ABMDR supporter who represents California's 28th district in the US Congress.

"I am proud my district is home to so many incredible women: brilliant and hardworking individuals, many of them leaders in their fields, who go above and beyond to share their wisdom and passion with their neighbors, and to enrich our communities day in and day out," said Schiff. "Each of these women has made a profound impact on the people and places they love. We all benefit from their dedication and expertise, and we can only hope to emulate their spirit of service in our daily lives."

Dr. Ramella Markarian is a healthcare professional who has served as vice president of Business Development at Adventist Health Glendale since 2012.



## HOSTED BY MR. AND MRS. VIKEN AND SALPI MANKERIAN

On August 11, 2022, longtime ABMDR supporters Viken and Salpi Mankerian graciously hosted a dinner party at their residence in Pasadena, California, in honor of our Board members, including those from out of state and Armenia who were in Los Angeles to attend our summer Board meeting and annual Gala.



From left: Viken and Salpi Mankerian, Dr. Frieda Jordan, Arphine Zohrabyan, and Dr. Sevak Avagyan.





## Training of new recruiters, November 12, 2022, Los Angeles



On November 12, 2022, a new crop of enthusiastic young volunteers received training to become ABMDR

recruiters. During the event, which took place in Los Angeles, presentations were made by ABMDR Outreach

and Education Officer Dr. Vergine Madelian, and ABMDR West Coast Recruitment Officer Fimi Mekhitarian.

## Welcome, our newest recruiters

ARPA MEHDIKHANI



Soon to become a nurse practitioner, former ABMDR Angel, Homenetmen troop leader.

METAKSYA DIREMSIZIAN



Registered nurse and owner of Faith in Angels Hospice.

NINETTE MALEKANDRASIAN



Healthcare-administration specialist.

ARAX DIREMSIZIAN



Mental-health facility supervisor, drug and alcohol addiction counselor.

ANITA PETROSYAN



Physician Associate Student, USC Keck School of Medicine.

## Annual Planning Retreat, February 4, 2023, Los Angeles





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# Christmas Party

December 15, 2022, Fresco Restaurant, Glendale, California





# YOU'RE MADE FOR MORE

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We are deeply grateful to artist and longtime ABMDR supporter Aramais Andonian, of Boston, for designing this issue's cover page.

We also convey our heartfelt thanks to Tina Hartounian and Zarik Megerdichian for making the printing of this issue possible.

ABMDR Newsletter designed and edited by Ishkhan Jinbashian.

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