



ACSF Newsletter

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Current Board Members

- Richard C. Funt, Ph.D.
Executive Director (Founding Board Member, term expires 2027)
- Adam Bdoyan
Membership Director (Appointed 2020, term expires 2025)
- Shirley Funt, M.Ed.
Secretary/Treasurer Director (Founding Board Member, term expires 2026)
- Robert Moore, Esq.
Education Director (Appointed 2018, term expires 2023)
- Mike Ridge, P.E.
Vice Director (Appointed in 2019, term expires 2024)

2022—The Year 2022 in Review

Richard C. Funt, PhD, Executive Director

Joe and I travelled to Armenia in May. We visited with Mariam, Marianne and students and listened to presentations in English in the library. The library now has 1,100 books which are categorized by bar code. We also met with the Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) Executive Director, Ara Basam, and President, Irina Igitkhanyan, to discuss how we can complement our sustainable program objectives. During the summer, I received an invitation to speak at the COAF sponsored Annual Conference.

In early October I traveled to Armenia and spoke at the Conference on the Advancement of Rural Communities at their SMART school in Lori Marz. The theme of the Conference was -Business Endeavors as a Driving Force for Local Development. The Conference brought stakeholders together to share the best practices for sustainable community advancement. Dr. Vardan Torchyan, whom I have worked with on several USAID projects, introduced me.



On both trips I met many young Russians, either single or married, who have left their country due to the Russian invasion into Ukraine. They brought their money, deposited into Armenian banks, and looked for work or started new businesses. Many had no plans to return to their homeland.

The Armenian Children's Support Fund has been blessed by two fundraising events. One was sponsored by Adam Bdoyan, the other by Pat White. We appreciate those who attended. We have had a progressive year which will propel us into 2023.

Thank you Business Donors



2355 S River Rd | Zanesville 43701
740-452-6417



Activities in Lukashin

Mariam Jamalyan, Program Coordinator, Armenia

- ◆ On October 1st after the summer break, the English language and literature club resumed its work with 14 new students from Lukashin. The club trainer/leader is Ms Milena Hovsepyan. She is 19 years old and studies at Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences, with a major in English language and literature. The book which the students are now reading is Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's "Little Prince".
- ◆ The Uplift Armenia team continued the process of the Library's digitalisation. It was decided to recruit two Volunteers from Lukashin who will help in the process and in general take care of the registration and take out the books and in parallel they will learn the nuances of the librarian job. Both Ms Svetlana Davtyan and Ms Armik Hovsepyan are 15 years old graduates of the English club and are very enthusiastic two young ladies, who are eager to contribute to the works of Uplift Armenia and have their humble contribution to Lukashins Community life.
- ◆ The team continued to equip the library/ classroom firstly by buying new blinds for the windows, which will enable the usage of the projector even in daytime. Secondly, it was very exciting for the kids to receive new books and especially Armenian-English dictionaries, which will help them with their studies and research. It was requested many times by students and English teachers.
- ◆ Together with the council member of the Lukashin community Mr Gevorg Zeynalyan the agreement was reached to remove the bushes and plow the garden site in November and do the leveling works of the site in early spring. For the irrigation of the garden a well should be drilled. According to Mr. Gevorg Zeynalyan per meter it costs 50000 AMD and for reaching the level of artesian water there is need to drill at least 40 meter.
- ◆ Mr Gevorg Zeynalyan also assists in the renovation works of the Library's restroom. The current restroom needs basic cosmetic renovation and change of old and not functioning pipeline. The works are estimated to be finished at the end of December.
- ◆ Together with Richard Funt a visit was made to Lukashin Community school. During the meeting with Mrs Anna Khachatryan, the school principal, she highly appreciated the work of ACSF and its efforts towards engaging children in the development of better communities. Dr Funt stressed the importance of inclusiveness and our wish to work more with marginal children. She noted that this is also quite a big issue for the school itself since many children, especially the young boys, skip classes during harvesting period in order to help their parents in their gardens.
- ◆ Despite the fact that Halloween is not celebrated in Armenia, it was requested by some students to have a small-scale celebration of Halloween on October 30 in order to get a better sense of English culture. The children brought pumpkins and carved them and decorated the room with spooky decorations, which we got from the shipped container earlier. In general we had a good event with funny costumes, sweets, spookz stories and at the end we watched a movie in English language about the origin of Halloween.



October Trip Report

Richard C. Funt, PhD, Executive Director

I traveled to Armenia via Air France and landed at 8:10 PM in Yerevan and was offered a ride to the Holiday Inn Express by Victor Zarougian, his wife Judy Saryan and their daughter and son-in-law. Prior to landing we had a long conversation on the plane from Paris (Charles de Gaulle) about Victor's recent work with ICARE (International Center for Agribusiness, Research and Education, Yerevan) and the COAF's SMART school in Lori. Judy was going to dedicate a statue of Zabel Yessayan, a women's rights' activist and author of the book, *In the Ruins*, written in the late 1930's. (Note: In 2003, I was invited by ICARE's director, Dan Dunn, to give two lectures to their students. It was on a Friday at 3 PM and the students had come from an hour and half exam. I was impressed by how they were so eager to learn and ask questions during and after my presentation.)

The Holiday Inn Express in Armenia as in the U.S. had a wonderful complimentary breakfast. The Armenian menu offered eggs sausage, yogurt, make your own salad with fresh tomatoes, cucumber, beets, carrots, etc., cheese, fruit juice, Armenian honey, and pastries. Almost every day in the elevator and at breakfast, I spoke to young Russian men and women who arrived by air from Moscow or St. Petersburg.

Mariam and Marine came to the hotel to outline our schedule for the week. On Saturday October 8th, Marine picked me up and drove to Lori marz for the COAF's Conference at their SMART school. We were greeted by Irina, President of COAF and by Dr. Vardan Torchyan who was the moderator of our session. I have known Vardan, who is now working with the Austrian Develop Agency (EU Green Agriculture Initiative in Armenia) in Debet Village, Lori region for several years. My presentation centered on Agriculture, Water, and Agriculture Education. The theme of my presentation was healthy soils, healthy plants and healthy people. Over 200 guests were welcomed to the conference by COAF founder Garo Armen via video message. The day was topped off with a performance by the Tavush Diocese Children's Choir, led by Maria Galstyan, recipient of the Armenian's publics heart at the Starmus VI Festival in September. The choir presented a medley of uplifting songs, calling for unity, perseverance and faith for the nation. I heard them sing *We Are the Champions*.





Armenian Children's Support Fund

1877 Stockwell Dr
Columbus, OH 43235

Membership Update

Joe Clase, Administrator

Our Annual Membership Meeting was held on November 19, 2022 at Der Dutchman in Plain City, OH. We had an excellent family style hot county breakfast, including their large cream-filled Long Johns. Richard Funt was re-elected to a 5-year term as Director. The silent auction had an array of homemade cookies, Armenian wine, and Armenian dried fruit. I presented an update on our progress using photos of our students and staff. Richard Funt distributed our Christmas Wishlist for children's literature, educational greenhouse, and garden projects. The Wishlist is include in this newsletter.



Merry Christmas!

Support Uplift Armenia/Armenian Children's Support Fund with your purchases from Amazon by going to smile.amazon.com; sign in with the same account you use for Amazon.com; select your charity (**Armenian Children's Support Fund**); start shopping! Check out at smile.amazon.com. Bookmark smile.amazon.com to make it easier next time; always log into your Amazon account through smile. Amazon.com. We will receive 0.5% of your purchase amount. Every penny counts!



**2022
Christmas Wishlist
for
Ararat Valley
Agriculture Center**

Children's Literature (Animal Farm Book Club)

See booklist on reverse side.

Educational Greenhouse Project

- ___ 75-ft 3/4-inch Water Hose—\$85
- ___ 1 roll Weed Mat (5 oz, 6' x 250') - \$115
- ___ Flat Screen DVD Player—\$850
- ___ 1 Diagnostic Microscope—\$750
- ___ 50 10-inch Hanging Baskets—\$111
- ___ Water Hydrant—\$175
- ___ Large Composting Facility—\$750
- ___ 2 bags Fertilizer—\$105
- ___ 330 ft plastic fence, 4-ft high—\$210
- ___ 10-ft x 20-ft High Tunnel—\$1200
- ___ Container—8-ft x 8-ft x so-ft—\$3000

Questions/Additional Information: Contact Richard Funt,
Director, Armenian Children's Support Fund, 1877 Stockwell Dr,
Columbus, OH 43235; richardfunt@sbcglobal.net

Christmas Wish Booklist

1. The Mystery of the Third Planet by Kir Bulichev
2. Monster High by Lizzie Harrison.
3. The Fault in our Stars by John Green
4. Anne-Marie's Diary by Michel Quast.
5. Paper Towns by John Green
6. The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
7. The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman
8. Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll
9. How to Train Your Dragon by Cressida Cowell
10. Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
11. A Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula K Le Guin
12. Harry Potter by J.K.Rowling
13. The Lord of the Rings" by Ron R. Tolkien
14. The Hobbit, or There and Back Again by R.R.R. Tolkien
15. The Chronicles of Narnia by Clive S. Lewis.
16. The Catcher in the Rye by Jerome D. Salinger
17. Dandelion Wine by Ray Bradbury
18. The Hunger Games by Susan Collins
19. Twilight by Stephen Myers
20. Percy Jackson by Rick Riordan
21. If I Stay by Gail Forman
22. NeverEnding Story by Michael Ende
23. Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney
24. Winter Battle by Jean-Claude Murlev
25. Kostya + Nika by Tamara Kryukova
26. Witcher Saga by Andrzej Sapkowski
27. Vampire Academy by Richelle Meade
28. Dinosaurs Atlas
29. A Dog Named Mani by Bodo Schaefer
30. A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini
31. Robinson Crusoe by Robert Lewis Stevenson
32. Tom Sawyer's Adventures by Mark Twain
33. Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl
34. The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway
35. Don't believe everything you think by Joseph Nguyen
36. Who moved my cheese by Spencer Johnson
37. Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul by Jack Canfield
38. What I Leave Behind by Alison McGhee
39. Firefly Hollow by Alison McGhee

Note: If purchasing from Amazon, please use the URL: smile.amazon.com and then log into your Amazon account. By doing so, Uplift Armenia will receive a percentage of your purchase. Books should be shipped to Richard Funt, 1877 Stockwell Dr, Columbus, OH 43235. To have your gift documented, notify Richard of your order at richardfunt@sbcglobal.net.