



# ACSF Newsletter

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## Our Earth, Our Life

In May of this year, Joe Clase and I visited our Armenian library. Members of the Book Club gave several relevant presentations. All the presenters spoke in English and were able to discuss topics dealing with current issues. We were proud of them and the excellent instruction from their teachers.



In one presentation about ecology and the environment, we received the “Our Earth, Our Life” bookmark shown on the left. Plastic, its effect on the environment, and that it should be recycled was presented. The presenter also discussed how carbon from emissions gets into the air and increases temperature and causes global warming. The children of the 21<sup>st</sup> century are taking action toward their environment and life. Thank you, Seda, for a wonderful message and the bookmark. —*Richard C. Funt Ph.D. Executive Director, Uplift Armenia*



Book Club member presenting

Suggestion: Copy this page and share the bookmark with your friends and neighbors; use it in your favorite books as a reminder of ‘Our Earth, Our Life.’

## Armenian Immigration from Ukraine

Undoubtedly, foreign relations have been at the top of the U.S. newsreel these past couple months. I keep getting asked how the Russian invasion is impacting our friends in Armenia. Most news reports are focused on refugees entering Armenia. It appears there have been thousands of individuals relocate to Armenia as a result of the invasion and news reports indicate many of them are of Armenian ethnicity who are coming to stay with family or friends..

The Ukrainian Embassy in Yerevan has some possibilities to solve the accommodation issues for the arriving nationals who don't have family or friends to stay with, however the employment issue is far more difficult to solve. —*Joe Clase, Administrator*

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## Creating “White Papers” for Armenian Students

In our original Strategic Plan, Joe Clase included a section on ‘White Papers. In any business, concepts derived from the past are blended into new future concepts to achieve new goals and outcomes. As an example, soil testing has been a valuable tool in farm management decision making, and I have used this data from many research papers. and long term research in other states. In the future we will take soil test results from specific fields and put them into Artificial Intelligence software and with four more years of data, our students will make a decision as to add or not to add fertilizer for any crop. Just as in any process, one must have the experience in the topic in hand and rely on past knowledge derived from in-depth research or scientific journals (like those we placed in our library in Armenia).

So how do White Papers written by Americans help Armenian students increase their knowledge and improve agricultural production, food safety, food processing, post-harvest handling and increase a healthier life? It ‘wets the appetite’ for learning and being creative. Secondly, it provides a vision in ‘what is possible’ and to learn by doing or experiential learning. The value of White Papers is the creation of human capital, a strong economy and to the general welfare of future generations. Explaining the Land Grant University ‘concept’, which is a departure from the European approach of the Academy and Institute, will advance the science of agriculture and food to reduce hunger and poverty.in the 21st century.

Our project ‘Uplift Armenia’ seeks to identify topics and people who can provide White Papers in the many fields of science and agriculture. The objective here is to engage and accelerate an information transfer from America to Armenia. First, let me suggest some topics to initiate such a process. Such topics of immediate need are teaching children’s literature, soils and soil testing, soil/ water relationship in field and greenhouses (protective shelters), utilization of compost, producing healthy Queen bees, foods for a healthy diet for children, using power tools on the farm, sewing your own clothes, drones, artificial intelligence, etc. If you wish to volunteer to write a concept paper, contact Joe at joe@plan4land.net. —Richard C. Funt, PhD, Executive Director

## Preventative Dental Care Dental Hygiene in Armenia in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

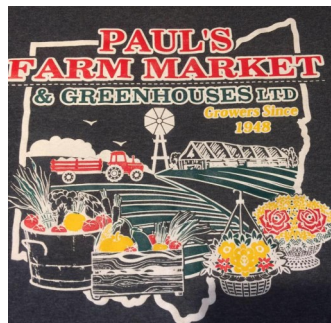
*The following has been excerpted from an article I recently found. It explains one of the needed changes in Armenia in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. —Richard C. Funt, Ph D, Executive Director*

Karina Matevosyan, RDH is head dental hygienist for a large dental practice in Cambridge, Mass. When she isn’t working in her profession she works as a volunteer at her own expense to establish the creation of the dental hygiene profession in her native Armenia. She found that the concept of prevention was not as prevalent in Armenia as it is in the United States.

In 2001, she made arrangements for a lecture that she would deliver at the State Medical University, named for Mkhitar Heratsi in Yerevan, the Armenian capital. The lecture “Preventative Dentistry in the USA” focused primarily on the education in the U.S and the profession in general, but it did not include clinical information. The students and faculty were very enthusiastic. Later the University attempted to include dental hygiene in the curriculum in its Stomatology Department, but its efforts failed because few educators were qualified to teach the subject. In 2013 she was invited to speak again at the First Armenian-Georgian Bi-National Dental Congress. Later she sat down with the Dean of the Stomatology Department at the Yerevan State Medical University and was hired to be its first teaching specialist. She set up a clinic with manikins, textbooks, instruments, and other equipment. Some help came from the Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Program Association (CYSCA)

Citation: American Dental Hygienists Association: Member News; Prepared by Jean Majeski February 2014. pp.30-31.

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**Uplift Armenia**

# 2022 Membership Pledge Form

**Armenian Children's Support Fund**

*Join us in helping Armenian children!*

Name: _____
Business Name (if applicable): _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
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## Annual Pledge

Dollar Amount	Item	Description	Individual Donation Amount
	Newsletter Subscriptions (if multiple write # to left and attach list of subscribers)	We send out quarterly publication of a newsletter highlighting our activities and news from Armenia.	Email = Free US Mail = \$10 per year
	Individual Membership (if multiple write # to left and attach list)	Members have voting rights at annual meeting, including candidacy for board positions and invite to all events. Includes newsletter subscription.	\$120 per year
	Corporate Sponsorship (if multiple write # to left and attach list)	Includes an annual membership and sponsor recognition in all regular publications. Includes newsletter subscription.	\$250 per year
	Additional Pledge	We thank you for any additional pledge you are able to make to assist our efforts.	

Total 2022 Pledge Amount = \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Method

All pledges may be paid with submission of this pledge form or may be paid as quarterly installments. If you wish to be invoiced quarterly, please include 25% contribution with this completed form and send to:

**Armenian Children's Support Fund**  
**1877 Stockwell Drive**  
**Columbus, OH 43235**

All checks should be made payable to "Armenian Children's Support Fund" an IRS 501(c)3 registered charity organization. Receipts for tax-deductible contributions will be sent back to the contact listed on this form.

## Learning Center Program Coordinator Update

In April, May, and June, the highlights of our main activities were the following:

- Researching options on materials and irrigation for a greenhouse and fence and arranging the garden site
- Watching short movies and English language courses
- Working with children on their interest in topic for developing their presentations as pre-defined (Environment, Agriculture, Geography, Nutrition, Science, Art)
- Making inventory/barcode registration of books and journals using Library software; nearly 1500 books (half of available books and materials) were registered in the system under respective code number with categorization of genre and with book title and author
- Managing and posting on Uplift Armenia Facebook page



Club members with Joe Clase (left rear), Richard Funt (front center), Mariam Jamalyan (second right of RFunt) and Marine Galstyan, coordinator, far right

Starting from mid-May students have started to present their research projects during English class on following topics:

- ◆ “What is blogging? Pros and Cons”
- ◆ “Chemistry use in our daily life”
- ◆ “Save the water for upcoming generations”
- ◆ “Is graffiti considered art?”
- ◆ “What is the ‘generation gap’?”
- ◆ “How can social media be dangerous?”
- ◆ “What is Artificial Intelligence (AI)? Present an example”
- ◆ “Agriculture as a cause of climate change”
- ◆ “The most famous females in History”
- ◆ “The origins of Rock and Roll”
- ◆ “The exceptional types of tea”
- ◆ “7 Wonders of the World”
- ◆ “The volunteer activity: benefits for people”
- ◆ “Classroom of the future”



Planting Swamp White Oak tree at Lukashin Elementary School

The topics have been presented as an essay or as a presentation. Some topics were prepared and presented as group work. After each presentation, the children asked each other questions about the topic presented. On 30. May the students received certificates for their successful participation in 6-month “English Language and Book Club”.. Certificates were signed by Richard Funt.

The 6-month English course enabled 16 students in the age group of 14—16 and 18 students in age group 10—13 to improve their English speaking and writing skills. Together with our English Teacher Ms. Janna Hovhanmisyanyan, they mastered their English skills in analyzing and researching different topics outside of their school curriculum.

Starting from Mid-June all school children have summer holidays. During the holidays, it is envisioned that children will have monthly meetings in Library for reading and discussing books.

July, August, and September, the children will have ongoing monthly meetings and discussion of books. Selected books for summer reading club are *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* by Richard Bach and *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. There will be continued digitalization of Library, beginning of a beekeeping club and an ecology club (currently searching for volunteers or possible tutors) and organizing plowing and fertilizing the soil for the greenhouse. —*Mariam Jamalyan, Program Coordinator*



Joe Clase & Marine Galstyan planting red raspberry plants



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Book Club Members with their certificates, M. Jamalyan, center back