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Assyrian Foundation of America

P. O. BOX 26178

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94126

Established 1964

Nineveh West....

**** COMING TO YOU FROM THE ASSYRIAN CULTURAL CENTER, BERKELEY ****

MAY 1977

MEETING SUNDAY, MAY 15 - 7:00 P.M. ...

To remind the members that the General Membership Meeting will be held on the above date in our Assyrian Cultural Center, 1920 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley (one block off University Avenue). Separate notices will not be sent, rather the attached address sheet will serve as an added reminder. Bring your spouse and/or a friend. Refreshments will be served.

NOTE: Change in date was due to Mother's Day on May 8.

SPEAKER AT THE MEETING...

Mr. Paulus Khofri - Musician and Composer
Subject: Elements that Beautify or Enhance Society

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HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 8, ...

On behalf of the Assyrian Foundation, we wish to extend to all the Mothers a "HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY." It is a day to honor, love and cherish our mothers.

Ed. Note: To Fathers & Husbands: It is too late now, but for 1978 Mother's Day, the Mothers deserve a sit-down dinner at our Center with Fathers and Husbands as chefs, waiters, dishwashers. Single men are not excluded, and we definitely wouldn't interfere to deprive them of the fun of cooking and doing other chores. For single women, the same honor will be extended as mothers.

To defray the cost of the dinner, we could pass a hat as we have done in the past.

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## WEDDING BELLS, ...

Wedding bells rang out for one of our dedicated members, Ms. Germaine Badal of Daly City, CA when she became the bride of Mr. Youbird Solomon of Chicago on the 16th of April. The elegant reception and dinner were held at the Royal Coach Motor Hotel, San Mateo. A great time was had by all. Congratulations and best wishes from the Foundation.

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## OUR TITLE, ...

NINEVEH WEST symbolizes Assyrian colony on the shores of the Pacific.

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ASSYRIAN RUNNING FOR OFFICE, ...

Sam Lazar of Oakland is running for the office of City Auditor. On April 19 primary, he made exceptionally good showing. Presently he is on the May 17 Oakland run-off election against another person.

ASSYRIAN COMMUNITY CENTER RADIO BROADCAST.

Tune in and listen to good sounds of the voice of Assyria coming to you from San Francisco every Monday at 8:30 p.m. on KBR 105 FM.

FEASTS & COMMEMORATIONS....

Holy Apostolic & Catholic Church of the East, Mar Narsai Parish, 3939 Lawton St., San Francisco, the Ven. Nenos S. Michael, Archdeacon officiating:

Sunday, May 15 - Feast of Ascension, 8:30AM offering Qurbana Kadeesha

Sunday, May 29 - Feast of Pentecost, 8:30AM offering Qurbana Kadeesha.

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MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS....

Total Membership	84
Married Couples	34
Singles (Ms.-Mr.)	16
Men	42
Women	42

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WE WISH TO THANK....

Ms. Betty Moore, professional interior decorator of San Francisco for her guidance and advice on the decoration of our Center.

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CONVENIENT MEETING TIME....

For a number of years, Membership Meetings have been held on the second Sunday of the month at 7-7:30 p.m. at different bank social halls. Now that we have our own Center, we would like to have your opinion as to the meeting time on Sunday which will be convenient or desirable for you. This subject will be discussed at the May 15 meeting.

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PROGRESS IN RENOVATION....

The main hall of our Cultural Center has been completely painted. A group of dedicated members and non-members did the job in two weekends. The hall looks beautiful. Come and see the first stage of the project on the 15th. We recognize.....

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Joel Elias | Daniel Shabbas |
| Sargon Shabbas | Edward Karoukian |
| Albert Yonan | Hamlet Yonan |

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Victor Alexander | Martin Jacob |
| Jacob Malek Zadeh | George Geevargi |
| Belles Yelda | |

P.S.: The painting job saved us \$1,000. Thank you for a job well done. Other jobs to be finished: kitchen painting and new floor covering; the bar; the sanding, waxing and polishing of the main floor. More volunteers are needed.

!!

SPRING HAS SPRUNG...

And it is a time for new beginnings. We urge everyone to:

"Take Time

- Take time to think, it is the source of power.
- Take time to play, it is the secret of perpetual youth.
- Take time to read, it is the fountain of wisdom
- Take time to pray, it is the greatest power on earth.
- Take time to love and be loved, it is a God-given privilege.
- Take time to be friendly, it is the road to happiness.
- Take time to laugh, it is the music of the soul.
- Take time to give, it is too short a day to be selfish.
- Take time to work, it is the price of success.

--Anonymous"

"As we get older, the importance of taking time becomes more apparent to us. Take time to feel, time to be, time to communicate, time to share, time to see, time to be open, and time to be a friend."

(courtesy, THE DIABLO SCANNER)

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RECENT ARRIVALS & VISITORS....

Welcome to San Francisco Bay Area:

- a) Rev. Dr. Mar Aprim (formerly George Mookken), the head of the Church of the East in India.
- b) Mr. & Mrs. Paulus Khofri of Tehran, Iran, are house guests of Sankhiro and Shamiran Khofri of San Rafael.

The Foundation wishes Paulus and his wife, Jane a pleasant visit. The Khofri's will be staying in the area till the end of June.

MEETING WITH MAR APRIM OF INDIA....

Julius N. Shabbas, Joel Elias and Youel Baaba met with Mar Aprim of India at Alice and Youel's residence in El Sobrante. Educated in India, England, and the U. S., he was consecrated as Bishop and Metropolitan in Baghdad in September 1968. He is the head of the Church of the East in India, and is active in ecumenical and evangelical activities. He has written several books on the history of the Church of the East. He said that their library contains many manuscripts, documents and books relating to the Church of the East, a few that date back to the 12th Century, A.D. Mar Aprim is very knowledgeable in the history of the church.

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THE FOUNDATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS....

President	Joel Elias
Vice-President	Belles Yelda
Secretary	Julius N. Shabbas
Treasurer	David Warda
Chairman-Education	Baba Adam
Chairman-Membership	George Geevargis
*Chairwoman-Social	Germaine Badal
Chairman-Building	Joseph Benjamin

*Samreda Baba is presently substituting in the absence of Germaine.

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DO YOU KNOW THAT....

There are two Jewish symbols which can be traced back to the religions art of ancient Mesopotamia. These are the menorah, or ritual lamp, and the Magen David, or Shield of David, which occur together on an Old Assyrian seal of the early second millennium B.C.

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AWAY FROM HOME IS....

Peggie Hernandez (daughter of Nina and Emmanuel Jacob) and her tiny son, Robert Emmanuel who are visiting her parents in Santa Ana. Peggie is a Foundation member

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NEW RESIDENTS IN THE EAST BAY....

Currently being welcomed as new residents to the East Bay are:

- a) Emmanuel Baaba (brother to Youel Baaba) of Baghdad, Iraq, an electron technician in Burlingame. Emmanuel resides in El Sobrante & is expecting arrival of his wife and child from Baghdad any time now.
- b) Diana George of Baghdad, Iraq, a graduate of Baghdad University, is preparing towards the study of computer science. She is presently residing with the Julius N. Shabbas family in Berkeley.

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MOVED TO NEW RESIDENCES....

- a) The Aprim Yonan family from Richmond to Hercules, CA.
- b) Sargon and Jermaine Shabbas (nee Yonan) from Pinole to Hercules, CA).
- c) The Youel A. Baaba family from Richmond to El Sobrante, CA.

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ON BEING AN ASSYRIAN...
AS RELATED BY DR. DAVID B. PERLEY IN HIS WRITINGS:

- 1) One's being an Assyrian is a synthesis of heritage, religion and culture, and emotional consciousness than transcends all diversities, theological demographic, and otherwise. To be an Assyrian is to feel: The past is my heritage I shall forget it not; the present, my responsibility; the future, my challenge.
- 2) When a person is of Assyrian blood, he retains his birthright, self-esteem, and the heritage of his fathers. The term Assyrian is one single unity. The approach of this oneness of all Assyrians regardless of their religious adherence, is through the avenue of blood, and through the majesty of common memories. Religion is a faith acquired and is changeable. Nationality is one's flesh and blood; it is his total nature. Even death cannot undo it.
- 3) Nationality or nationhood is an unconquerable universal spirit. Nationality means a rich inheritance of memories and a desire to preserve these memories. That is--common experiences of triumphs and defeats, of comforts and sorrow, of temporal, spiritual and moral achievements--and failures. If such elements make a nation, then no people is richer in these wholesome memories than the Children of Ashur; yes, heroic achievements, agonies heroically suffered. Haven't the Assyrians known exalant achievements and bitter failures and disappointments? These are the sublime food by which the spirit of manhood is nourished. In the words of the famed historian, Sir Ramsey Muir, from "these are born the sacred and imperishable traditions that make the soul of nations," and, "in contrast with them, mere wealth, numbers, or territory seem but vulgar things."
- 4) I am an Assyrian. Therefore, I am interested in the Assyrian national destiny as well as in their national dilemma. What binds me to the Assyrians is a sentiment of duty and reverence. I am tied to them in the same way as I am bound to my father and mother and my family and my Vatan in spirit.

- 5) The Assyrian nation has an aspiration that cries out for fulfillment--to find complete recognition for them as human beings and in human dignity.
- 6) What then is an Assyrian; what, his Quest?

I must admit that I belong to an unfortunate, martyred, deprived, and dispersed people. But proudly must I admit also that I belong to a people whom the world has not succeeded in destroying. The soul of Assyria will not be destroyed!

If I were a Cicero or a Demosthenis, I would lay an oratorical emphasis upon one point, that is, we are not a religious group, but a separate nation. The Assyrian question is neither social nor a religious one, it is a national question. Any Assyrian in exile (a general condition of the Assyrians), who denies his nationality, can never have the respect of the nations among whom he dwells.

What should the Assyrians do?

How can the Assyrians regain their self-respect in the eyes of the non-Assyrians?

The Knight-errant of Cervantis had but one dream--to follow his Quest no matter how impossible his Dream--to follow the star, no matter how hopeless--no matter how unreachable. To fight for the Right, he was willing to march into hell for a heavenly cause.

What is more "heavenly" than the cause of the Assyrians?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

7) How did the Assyrians achieve, over many dark centuries, the miracle of survival in other lands in the face of total destruction of the decimated self-same Assyrians in their peoplehood? It was due to their unbeatable optimism, respect for their ancestral past, and faith. Because of such heroism, I wish to remain an Assyrian.

It was that heroism that has been pivotal in the survival of the Assyrian people through the ages. It is that which has united each Assyrian with his ancestors from time immemorial. And it is that which, wherever he may have been originally, relates him with all whom we regard as Assyrians.

In making this assertion, I think back 2573 years and muse on why and how my ancestors have maintained their Assyrian selfhood throughout all these innumerable generations, despite the long, long night and the present black pages. History gives the answer. It is ancestral tradition from the past, a distinctive historic consciousness today, a consecrated purpose for the future which gives an Assyrian strength to persist, and which unite and preserve the children of Ashur. It is essentially that past which compellingly gives us the dedicated purpose to remain a distinctive people for the present and the future.

Why am I an Assyrian? Because my parents were. Additionally, I am an Assyrian because I feel it a sacred destiny to be one. One is an Assyrian not only because of the accident of birth. The will to be an Assyrian involves more than being the child of Assyrian parents.

Monsignor Claudio Ver-
menian prelate, who gave
me the address of the
Parish of the Church of
the East. This church,
which originated from the
East and spread Christi-
anity to the Western civil-
ization, has preserved her
faith and liturgy for the
past 2000 years unchan-
ged," he said.

Monsignor Vettorezo ad-
ded that this is his first
visit to Iraq. "I and the peo-
ple here very helpful and
extremely hospitable," he
added.

The late Patriarch of
the Church of the East Mar
Eshai Shimun XXIII, con-
secrated Monsignor Vetto-
rezo as Bishop of Italy
and Monsignor Giovanni
Bacchi as Bishop of Sar-
dinia. The registered ad-
herents of the two Italian

Bishop Claudio Vettorezo

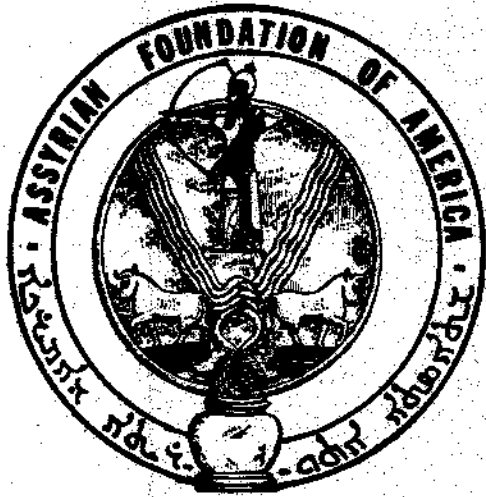
A CHAT WITH A BISHOP

dioceses number some
12,000 persons and are lo-
cated in various parts of
Italy. The dioceses possess
their own picturesque churches,
naves, apses, belltowers, mon-
astic buildings, fountains and
other properties.

The Church of the East,
Christianity's oldest insti-
tution, was established in
Mesopotamia in the First
Century. After the advent
of Islam, the church was
recognized as a Christian
institution for the whole
of East. This is confirmed
in the CHARTER OF PRO-
TECTION granted to the
Church of the East (Nes-
tourians) Patriarch Mar
Abdisho III (1198-1247) by
Abbasid Caliph Muhtad II
(1184-1189). Although the
Charter was written in the
12th Century, but the call-
iph who granted it states in
the preamble that he is fo-
llowing in the steps of his
predecessors — the first
four caliphs of Islam. The
Charter, written in class-
ical Arabic, is in itself a
literary masterpiece. It sets
the rules and laws by which
the patriarchs of the Church
of the East are given ec-
clesiastical authority to rule
over Christian communities
throughout the East. Por-
tions of the Charter are
found in a number of Eu-
ropean museums — the
major part at the British
Museum in London.

The present Patriarch
of the Church of the East
is Mar Dinkha VI, formerly
Metropolitan of Te-
hnan, Iraq.

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THRU THE MEDIA OF...

NINEVEH WEST, we'd like to remind those who have not as yet attended to their membership dues and initiation fees to please do so. Thank you.