

Armenian heritage in review Feb. 25

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Originally from Boston, she is a former concert singer who married Detroit's Howard Atesian.

"We're showing precious examples from our Armenian heritage collection rather than a standard fashion show," she explained.

"The costumes span the 13th through the 19th century and are from various regions of Armenia. This is the culmination of two years of painstaking research and detailed execution."

The hand-crafted items are made with the finest fabrics with jeweled ornamentation and are not only very beautiful but are historically authentic.

The destruction of the land and massacre of the Armenian people in the early part of the 20th century make it impossible for Armenians to "go home."

But if they can't go home, they have chosen to stay Armenian through staying close to their church, their language and customs, and preserving the crafts and foods indigenous to their people.

"Armenians originated in the area where the Garden of Eden was," Mrs. Atesian said. "We are descended from people who lived there."

"Now our purpose is to perpetuate our culture and pass it down to our children."

Most of the 20 costumes to be modeled by the children and grandchildren of Daughters of Vartan are reproductions carefully made from pictures.

"WE HAVE one dress which is about 100 years old, an original, not a reproduction with real gold thread embroidery. I found it in the market at Istanbul," Mrs. Papelian said.

There are an estimated 20,000 Armenians in the metropolitan area and most take deep pride in their heritage.

"In the past 10 years we have begun to realize how vital it is to teach the Armenian language to young people. In our Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) school, the children begin to learn right in kindergarten," Mrs. Atesian said.

Presentation of the Armenian Heritage Collection will follow a specially planned dinner which will include some Armenian treats. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. at St. John's Armenian Church Cultural Building, 22001 Northwestern Highway in Southfield.

Donation for the dinner and program is \$15 per person. The public may attend.

Proceeds will help the AGBU Alex Manoogian School, the Armenian Seminary in Jerusalem and other charities.

Some committee members who have spent several weeks planning the event are: Varsenich Apkarian of West Bloomfield, and Sona Yavruian, A.D.L.D. of Detroit.

Estelle Barsamian, ticket chairman, can be reached at 476-3161 for tickets or other information.

Chamber music takes climb in popularity

Fontaine Laing, a prominent metropolitan area pianist who is the driving force behind Farmington Community Center's Chamber Music Concert Series, believes that chamber music is the creme de la creme of music.

"I am thrilled that it is becoming popular on a nation-wide level and especially here in the metropolitan area," she says.

"People are listening more, and all of us involved in chamber music are very happy that we're being requested for more and more concerts."

"Until the last few years our kind of music has been neglected by but only serious music lovers."

Heading up the series under the overall heading of "Intermezzo," Ms. Laing promises "something for everyone"

during the next concert.

THE CONCERT that begins at 3 p.m. March 1 will feature violinist Glenn Basham, flutist Leo Basham and Ms. Laing at the piano.

Basham, who is one of the youngest members of Detroit Symphony Orchestra, held the prestigious Vittorio Gnamini Memorial Scholarship and the Nancy Reynolds Merit Scholarship while attending North Carolina School of the Arts.

Basham was first-prize winner of the 1980 Concerto Competition, staged by the same school.

Ms. Laing will be the featured soloist with Oakway Symphony for its Cabaret Concert on March 21 when she performs "Liszt Hungarian Fantasy." She is now taking graduate courses in chamber music with University of Michigan professor Eugene Bossart.

The trio will perform compositions by Bach, Telemann, Dohnanyi, Vivaldi, Prokofiev and the First Movement of the Mendelssohn Concerto in E minor.

Donations at the door are \$4, or \$3 for students and seniors. The center is at 24705 Farmington Road, north of 10 Mile Road.

MS. LAING has traveled throughout Europe and Canada as an accompanist. She has recorded with Ervin Monroe and is on the staff of Detroit Community Music School.

She has made several attempts to start chamber music series and says of her effort, "I attempted to get a series



FONTAINE LAING

started in the Marquee Theatre in Northville. But the theatre proved to be too large for the delicate quality of chamber music.

"We're fortunate to be able to perform in the lovely living room in Farmington Community Center. It suits our music perfectly."

Davis-Feiten

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Davis of North Canton, Ohio, announce the engagement of their daughter Susan Elaine to Kerry Thomas Feiten, son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Feiten of Farmington.

An August wedding is planned in North Canton.

Rev. St. Pierre leaves for California mission

The Rev. Rupert A. St. Pierre, pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, has announced his acceptance to serve as missionary-at-large in the Irvine, Cal. area.

In this capacity, he will be specifically charged with the development of Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church. He will also handle the duties of campus pastor at University of California, Irvine. He will be working with Christ College, the newest of the colleges of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod.

St. Pierre has served for the Prince of Peace congregation since 1977. During his ministry the congregation has grown in membership and has just completed the installation of a new Moller pipe organ.

He will complete his duties as pastor on March 1.

The Rev. Dr. Merlin S. Pohl, president of Concordia College, Ann Arbor, will assume the duties of interim pastor beginning with a special Ash

Wednesday service, March 4.

The regular schedule of services will continue.



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