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The Assyrian-Australian Youth Publication

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P P 332398/0002



Rising Sun

Simon Younan

The Australian Under 15 Kyokushin Karate Champion. P3

St. George's Assyrian Language School

School Olympics

Come along and
join in for a fun day
at Edwardes Lake,
on Sunday 12th
November 2000.
From 12pm to 4pm

Invitation is open to all.

Games (for students), music,
BBQ, and plenty of fun!!

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ASSYRIAN-CHALDEAN DETAINEES JOIN THEIR U.S. FAMILIES

(ZNDA: San Diego) Last Sunday some 1700 Assyrian-Chaldeans crammed into St. Peter's Chaldean Catholic Church in El Cajon, California to give their support to the 22 detainees who were freed to enter the U.S. and join their families. At press time, 41 more detainees have been released from Mexico and have stepped on American soil. Over 200 immigrants are asking for asylum from the U.S.

The trouble began last week when Federal Mexican authorities detained 38 Assyrian-Chaldeans in the Suites Royal Hotel in Tijuana. Others fled to the border and were taken in by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

After negotiations made between the U.S. and Mexican governments and the pressure from the Assyrian organizations and the local Chaldean church, an agreement was reached between the U.S. and Mexico which allowed the immigrants to seek political asylum in the U.S.

The Assyrian-Chaldean immigrants are smuggled through Jordan, Albania, Greece, and finally arrive in Mexico where they await the documents granting them permission to enter the United States.

IRAQ INTENSIFIES PERSECUTION OF ASSYRIANS

A report of the Assyrian International News Agency; posted October 4, 2000

(ZNAI: Chicago) Attacks by the central government in Iraq against the Assyrian language and culture have continued unabated despite calls by the international community for the Baghdad regime to respect the rights of all of its citizens.

According to an Assyrian National Congress (ANC) press release dated September 10, 2000, the Iraqi Directorate General of Intelligence in early August summoned several Assyrians, including intellectuals, clerics, and activists, for interrogation in Mosul (ancient Nineveh) and Baghdad.

Security agents reportedly interrogated the Assyrians regarding Bet Nahrain Magazine, a California based Assyrian cultural journal. According to the ANC, "Bet Nahrain magazine is the literary organ of Bet Nahrain Organization, an educational and cultural association affiliated with the Assyrian National Congress."

POLICE IN TURKEY ARREST ASSYRIAN PRIEST

(ZNRU: Diyarbakir) Last Thursday, Turkish police arrested a "Syriac" priest after he allegedly told newspapers his Christian minority community had been the victims of genocide carried out by Turks.

Police in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir told Reuters they had detained and questioned Father Yusuf Akbulut about stories in Turkish newspapers quoting him as saying Turks had systematically killed Syriac Christians in the southeast.

Turkish officials have been outraged by a U.S. Congressional panel's approval last week of a non-binding resolution urging U.S. President Bill Clinton to characterize the killings of Armenians in the latter days of the Ottoman Empire as genocide. Turkey rejects the charges, emphasizing

ASSYRIAN SOCCER PLAYERS KILLED IN CAR ACCIDENT

Courtesy of Beth-Suryoyo Assyrian

(ZNDA: Syria) On October 10, a bus carrying 12 to 15 soccer players of the Assyrian Athletic Club of Khabour in Syria was involved in an accident which resulted in the death of six of the team mates. Many others were critically injured. The team was traveling from Tel-Tamir to Ras al-Din where a soccer match was to be held. The injuries remain serious. The oldest member of the team was in his early 20's.

The driver of the van, a Kurdish man from the same area, attempted to cut in front of a large trailer truck, but was unable to avoid a head-on collision with another incoming vehicle. His van was caught in between two large vehicles. The severity of the impact

was so large that the roof of the van carrying the Assyrian players is said to have been torn off. The Assyrian coach, in his 20's, was also killed in the accident.

All victims were from Tal-Tamir except one who was identified as a resident of Tel-Tawil. The brother of one victim lost both legs.

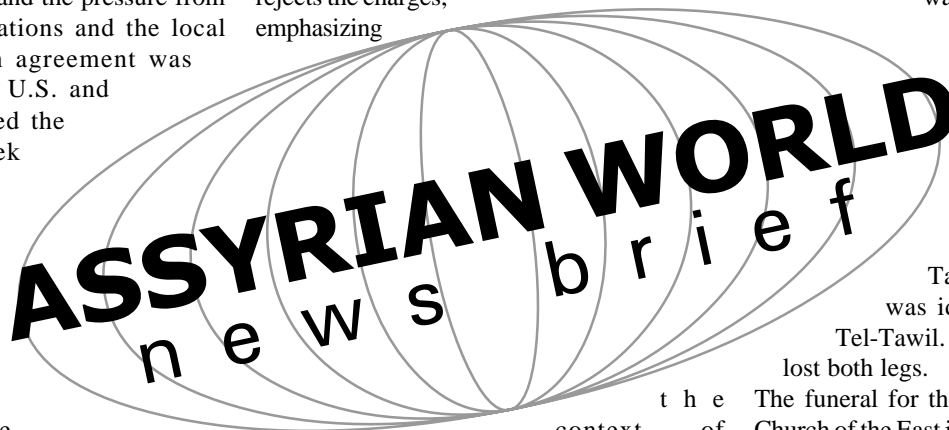
The funeral for the victims was held in the Church of the East in Qamishly and Tel Tamir.

ASSYRIAN TABLETS FOUND IN EXCAVATIONS IN DIYARBAKIR

Courtesy of the Anatolia News Agency; September 29, 2000

(ZNAN: Diyarbakir) Fifteen tablets written in Assyrian language and various other historical artifacts were unearthed in the excavations carried out in Hasankeyf township of southeastern Batman province and Bismil township of southeastern Diyarbakir province. Many historical artifacts were unearthed in the excavations which were held in ten different spots in Hasankeyf and Bismil. Andreas Schachner, the head of the excavation team, said on Friday that they found architectural constructions built around 5000-4500 B.C. in Grecano Tumulus in Bismil township. Schachner noted that they found 15 tablets written in Assyrian language in the tumulus and that a German expert read one of these tablets.

The tablet was about an Assyrian merchant lived in eight century B.C. and his commercial deals, Schachner stated. They think that all the tablets found in the tumulus were private archive of a person who lived those days, Schachner said, adding that but he thinks all the tablets were about different issues.



the context of widespread partisan fighting in Anatolia in 1915, and characterizes an Armenian minority as rebels carrying out Russian plans to carve up the country.

Police said a prosecutor had freed Akbulut, who denied having claimed his community had suffered genocide at the hands of Turks. According to an Assyrian Democratic Organization spokesperson, less than 2000 Assyrian-Syriac families currently live in Turkey's mainly Kurdish southeast region of Tur-Abdin.

U.S. FEDERAL JUDGE REJECTS ANC'S CENSUS PROTEST

Article from the Modesto Bee; written by Jerry Bier on October 7

(ZNMB: Fresno) District Judge Robert E. Coyle has rejected claims by Assyrian protesters who challenged a Census Bureau decision on how the agency categorizes members of the ancient ethnic group.

In a ruling filed last Friday, Judge Coyle granted a government motion to throw out the challenge by the Assyrian National Congress and affiliated organizations. Modesto Assyrian leaders were solemn when they learned of the judge's decision and promised to appeal it.

Living Legends

The Young at Heart



Senator John J. Nimrod



Mr. Homer Ashurian

The Assyrian Universal Alliance, AUA, is an umbrella group that has been representing the Assyrian community to the world for the past thirty two years. It was established in Pou, France, on April 13, 1968. An information flyer states that the AUA committed "itself to spreading, upholding, and enhancing the Assyrian name around the world, and working to secure the sacred human and national rights of the Assyrian people...". Such goals, which are a part of many more, have allowed the AUA to make some great achievements during its thirty two years of existence.

Members of the AUA made their way to Melbourne for a presentation on the current Assyrian situation, and the role that the AUA is playing on the world scale. The AUA members were Mr. David David, Mr. Hormiz Shahen, Mr. Homer Ashurian, and Senator John J. Nimrod. The presentation was held on Sunday the 22nd October 2000, at Melbourne University.

Mr. Ashurian, and Senator Nimrod were visiting from the United States to present a number of speeches at different gatherings to Assyrians in Melbourne, and Sydney. The duo gave a very youthful presentation; their friendship of many years working together, and their love for the work they do was very evident.

Senator John J. Nimrod was born in Chicago, in 1922. He graduated from the Northwestern University as a Mechanical and Industrial Engineer; this allowed him to gain employment with General Motors.

Senator Nimrod served six years of army

service during the Second World War, he was stationed in Europe. Later he served a further two years in Korea.

In 1960 he was elected to his first public office. After twenty five years, Senator Nimrod reached retirement, finishing during his third term as a State Senator in Illinois. Two years after leaving American Politics, he joined the Assyrian scene.

Senator Nimrod's presence has been a great advantage not only for the AUA, but it has presented great pluses for the Assyrian community at large. His experience in politics has opened many doors, including that of the UNPO (Under-represented Nations and People Organisation). Currently he is the Assyrian Representative, and he is also on the UNPO Executive Body.

During his good humored presentation, Senator Nimrod highlighted a number of key points about the Assyrian situation. He mentioned how members of this generation "are giving their lives up, so their children may prosper." Turning his attention to the youth Senator Nimrod declared, "Young people, this is your world." His presentation was a personal history of achievements and tribulations.

The second key speaker was Homer Ashurian, a former Deputy Secretary General of the AUA, who now holds a position on the AUA Executive Board.

Mr. Ashurian was born in 1936, in Charbash, a village near Urmia in Iran. After completing his high school studies he moved to Tehran. There he gained a Masters degree in

Archaeology at the University of Tehran. His major was Assyriology.

While studying, Mr. Ashurian was recruited to work in the Ministry of Culture, where a year later he was promoted to the position of Head Curator of the Iranian Cultural Museum in Tehran. Between 1963, and 1975 Mr. Ashurian served as a principal, and a teacher at a number of high schools. After that he was elected as a congressman to represent the Iranian Assyrians in the Iranian Parliament. Mr. Ashurian moved to the United States with his family after the Islamic Revolution.

Mr. Ashurian was one of the five persons who initiated the AUA. Currently he works with the AUA Foundation in Chicago, where he extends his experience in Archaeology, and history to assist in the running of the Ashurbanipal Library, the Assyrian Heritage Museum, The Oral History Project, and many other cultural affairs.

Mr. Ashurian's presentation concentrated more on our attitude on the world scene. He commented, "We don't accept assistance?" His view was that the whole community should drive a forceful, but peaceful campaign to present the Assyrian name to the world, and have the world assist us in bettering the situation of disadvantaged Assyrian individuals, and families.

The speeches by Mr. Ashurian, and Senator Nimrod were presented in a very light, humorous manner. Their knowledge, and experience were presented in the most humblest of ways. ■

Sennacherib Warda

The 67th Annual Assyrian Convention

The American City of Chicago, the windy city, is home to the largest concentration of Assyrians outside the Middle East. One of the largest U.S. cities is home to an estimated 90,000 Assyrians. The Assyrian American National Federation (AANF) had booked the convention rooms of the Hilton hotel, in downtown Chicago, for the crowds of Assyrians that were expected to attend the much-advertised, 67th Annual Assyrian Convention. The expectations of Chicago's Assyrian community were very high, when they were first told of the venue for this year's convention; it was expected to be one of the biggest and best Assyrian conventions ever held.

The convention began on Wednesday, 30th August and ran for five days ending on Sunday, 4th September. It officially began with a night time Opening Ceremony. It was followed by a timetable that was crammed with various Assyrian related activities, displaying Assyrian culture, history and language, which would cater for Assyrians of all tastes, over the course of the five days.

The convention activities took the form of a Bazaar, an Art Exhibition and a Sports Tournament that were conducted from Thursday until Sunday. Meanwhile Language, Art and Dance workshops were planned throughout Saturday and Sunday. Thursday night saw an Assyrian Youth Excellence Pageant & Dance Party dubbed 'Elona Night' which was put the spotlight on the Assyrian youth.

Friday's highlight involved a trip to the newly erected Martyr's monument in Chicago's Montrose Cemetery, commemorating over two-thirds of the Assyrian population who had been massacred in World War I. The afternoon's activities were followed by a series of speakers who gave talks on various topics, including, the Shaping of the Ancient Assyrian Ethnic and Cultural Heritage, Poetry, Literature and Art. These talks featured Thea Halo, author of 'Not Even My Name', who was on hand after the lecture to sign copies of her book. Later that night Sargon Gabriel, Janan Sawa and Shabel

Lawando kicked off a dance party titled 'Belona Night'.

Saturday afternoon was very busy, as a series of lecturers discussing; Assyrian Identity and Institutions and Assyrian Political Issues, as well as Language, Internet and Computing were held on Saturday afternoon. As well as the American speakers, speakers from as far away as Europe, and Australia also participated in the presentations. Saturday night's entertainment was given the title of Nishra Night and featured singers such as, Ogen Betsamo and Emmanuel Younan.

The convention slowly increased in tempo until it's final climactic Sunday night party, given the title of 'Edessa night'. There were two rooms booked for the occasion; one housed a black tie event catering for the older crowd, whilst the other was crammed with youth dancing the traditional Khigga. All the singers were on call to keep the throngs of Assyrians entertained as many of the youth, who had, on previous nights, lined the foyer, decided to enter the dance party and enjoy the final night of entertainment.

The day following the convention was, in a sense, a recovery day, and being a public holiday, allowed many to catch up on much-needed sleep before attending the traditional convention picnic which was held at the Milk Pail Picnic Ground. The Assyrian crowds that had attended the convention gathered for the finale, a picnic that brought together many Assyrian families in a day of fun, games and outdoor entertainment. The lines of Assyrian dancers stomped the dry ground and created a haze of dust that rose steadily in the air.

The realisation of how much the convention actually reflected the true Assyrian situation in the West was strangely evident during the final days of the convention. The convention, unknown to the attendees, had acted as a microcosm clearly revealing the Assyrians' strengths, as well as weaknesses. ■

David Chibo



Cartoon on Life

What has been your greatest challenge and how did you overcome it?

M/18/West Bloomfield, MI, USA

►►My greatest challenge was to "fit in" with other people that are my age. At one point I was only friends with "Assyrians and Chaldeans" and at another point I was friends with not a single "Assyrian or Chaldean" because they were acting like punks and I didn't want to associate with them. Eventually, I found a group of Assyrian-Chaldeans at my school who were like me.. they got good grades and had good morals, and I also have many friends that are outside of our "group". Just being myself and being confident was enough for me to have many friends...

M/54/Münster, Germany

►►It has been my youngest daughter's getting sick with cancer about 16 years ago and being healed from it. It took me some years to understand what this meant for my family and me and I came to this conclusion: Live your life as a present thing not as a passed neither as a future one.

M/31/Sydney

►►Going to university without passing my HSC. I did it through hard work and my determination to succeed. I believe anyone can do anything if they really want it. There it is if you try to focus on your goal. Patience and hard work will get you there, you'll be very happy person, believe me!

M/ 24/Toronto, Canada

The greatest challenge is the temptation to finish high school and not to continue studying in University. I hanged out with few Assyrians who mostly did not finish high school. I had great time with them and at times it was so good I started paying less and less attention to school. It was my parents who helped me and encouraged me to continue studying, which led me to finish University. Now I still hang out with the same people except this time I am finished with my studying. My brothers and my sister are always encouraged by my parents and me mostly to follow in my footsteps to get higher education. Thanks Mom , Dad. (Esp. Mom).

I wish more Assyrians were in schools instead of hanging out at Donut shops and Assyrian restaurants (Chaykhana) wasting their time.



F/34/North American Continent

►►Even though your question is a simple one but the answer to it isn't.

Life is a challenge by itself, and we as entities are a challenge to ourselves and amongst ourselves.

I believe that in every stage of our lives we have "a" or "many" challenges to over come. However, in order to give you an answer I wanted to sort out and the answer came to me, how did I adapt myself to live in a different environment than mine?

Not an easy task, but I will make it simple, and say that I had to sort things out and decide if I wanted to live in these countries then I had to accept their ways. But I didn't have to adopt them and that I was able to pick good things just like in any other community and then follow that guideline. It's not easy and I think that some of our problems are coming from either not being able to adapt or that we try to adopt too much, too soon, too wrong.

F/16/Sydney

►►My biggest challenge that I have over come has been getting over a very bad experience at work that was sexual harassment and I overcame it with the help of my cousin who has helped me throughout the whole experience and which I am still

struggling to get over it.

I'm sure people who have suffered the same thing know what its like and how bad it can effect your life.

F/18/Sydney

►►The greatest challenge that I have had to face is an ongoing one, and will be until gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender Assyrian youths are accepted by the Assyrian community- because homophobia is killing our Assyrian brothers and sisters.

M/32/London, England

►►Transforming a start-up I.T company from an unknown entity in to a major player within the Data Storage Industry through extremely hard work, a good team, unique ideas and financial investment.

M/15/Toronto, Canada

►►I don't think I have ever had a great challenge. This may be because I have faced everything head on no matter what it was! I feel there are never any GREAT challenges in life. However, there are situations which may have been a challenge to most people. I guess one challenge was to prove to my relative's that I can beat my older sister's average of the semester! I accomplished that by studying twice as hard and paying twice as much attention in class as I ever had before.

GENOCIDE MONUMENT

In Memoriam of Assyrian Martyrs

Assyrian history is painful to recall, and much more so for the people history has come to know as the Assyrians. The modern Assyrian history is filled with harrowing tales telling of a dark time of genocide and great loss, known as the year of the Sword (Seypa).

Against this background it becomes very clear why most Assyrians, who have left their ancestral lands in the Middle East, have chosen to forget the dark past and focus on building a future in the Western world. Their murdered ancestors have only been remembered once a year, August 7, on Assyrian Remembrance day. Unlike the Jewish and Armenian survivors of genocide the Assyrians have been slow to remember the loss of over two-thirds of their population killed during World War I.

The year 1919, marked the end of the Great War, and in order to commemorate their horrendous losses an Assyrian Monument was erected in Baquba refugee Camp, Iraq. It was dedicated to the memory of all the Assyrian Martyrs who had been killed during World War I. This monument, the only testament to the 750,000 Assyrians who were murdered, was eventually destroyed by marauders in 1920, during a raid on the camp.

These haunting words were inscribed on the original monument and can be clearly seen in archival photographs.

"In Memoriam O God, Grant Them Rest And Peace In The Kingdom Of Heaven"

Last year, 80 years after the destruction of the original event, a new project, initiated by Norman Sulkha, called for the construction of a new monument to commemorate all the Assyrian victims of genocide.

Norman Sulkha set to work commissioning the monument, which stands over 16 feet high. The Black Granite Obelisk was specially selected and quarried from Belfast, Ireland, and the grey granite, used for the pedestal, was quarried in Vermont,

before both were sent to Canada to be cut and polished. Weighing over 12,000 pounds, the two piece monument finally arrived at its final resting place at Chicago's Montrose cemetery, where it was inscribed and detailed.

It was presented to the Assyrian American National Federation, by Norman Sulkha, in recognition of the AANF's work to protect the lives and cultural identity of Assyrians worldwide.

The monument was officially opened, on August 7, 2000, at an official unveiling ceremony. The cemetery was crammed with Chicago's Assyrian community who had turned up on the day to commemorate their nation's dead.

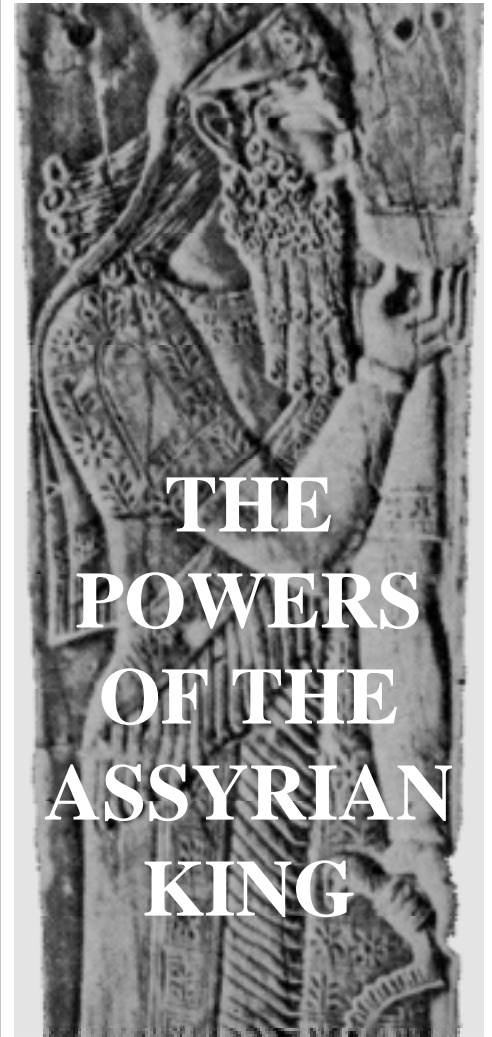
Norman Sulkha had managed to turn what would otherwise have been a personal commemoration, into a lasting monument dedicated to all Assyrian people. Mr. Sulkha's own personal losses, however, will forever be immortalised. Etched in cold granite on the monument's left panel is a piercing commemoration of Norman's own loss. His father and brother had also been victims of genocide.

On the morning of 12th December 1946, after they had sheltered 14 Assyrians and 6 Armenians, who were nonetheless systematically, and brutally, hunted down and killed, Norman's father and brother were also murdered.

"In memory of our father Avraham Ganja and brother Avnir Ganja." reads the inscription on the monument's left panel.

The Genocide monument stands as a silent sentinel telling the world of a proud people and the losses that they have endured. It also serves to remind the modern Assyrian generation of the losses inflicted on their ancestors. The Genocide monument's aim and inscription clearly etched, in English and Aramaic, on the black granite's face, and tell the world of its simple aim and the painful history of the Assyrian people, "In Memoriam of Assyrian Martyrs." ■

David Chibo



I am Ashurnasirpal, the devotee of the great gods, the destroyer of evil the king whose word destroys the mountains and seas, who by his power has forced his supremacy to be recognized by those powerful kings without mercy who rule from where the sun rises to where the sun sets.

A palace of cedar wood, a palace of cypress, a palace of juniper wood, a palace of boxwood, a palace of mulberry wood, of pistachio wood, of tamarisk wood - this have I raised for my royal residence and for my pleasure.

I made to be sculptured in the white limestone and in the alabaster images of animals and of mountains and of seas, and with these I ornamented the gates. I had them affixed with braces of brass. And I had placed there doors of cedar, of cypress, of juniper, of mulberry wood. Silver, gold, tin, bronze, and iron - the plunder that I took from the lands I conquered - I stored here.

Vieyra : *Les Assyriens* (pp.135, 171)

ملف لغوي

كلمة لغوية

سَوَّهَتْ	h-zo-qio	travelling	kh-zo-qia	سَوَّهَتْ
أَوْعَتْ	aaw-u-tho	agreement	aaw-u-tha	أَوْعَتْ
أَصْعَبَتْ	as-qo-tho	difficulty	as-qoo-tha	أَصْعَبَتْ
أَمَّنَتْ	am-no-tho	art	am-noo-tha	أَمَّنَتْ
نَقَّوَتْ	n-qo-ro	sculpting	n-qaa-ra	نَقَّوَتْ
أَوَسَّوَتْ	taw-hel-tho	despair	taw-khal-ta	أَوَسَّوَتْ
أَتَّرَتْ	tir-tho	conscience	ter-tha	أَتَّرَتْ
مَهَّلَتْ	me-tool	because	me-tol	مَهَّلَتْ
مَفَّقَتْ	maf-qo-noo-tho	directing	map-qa-noo-tha	مَفَّقَتْ
مَحَبَّرَتْ	mee-ro-noo-tho	observation/note	mee-ara-noo-tha	مَحَبَّرَتْ

learn your
language



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The Assyrian Youth Group of Victoria is a non-political, non-religious and non-profit organisation. It seeks to promote the Assyrian culture, history and language, as well as the Assyrian name and community, bringing it to the world stage.

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