

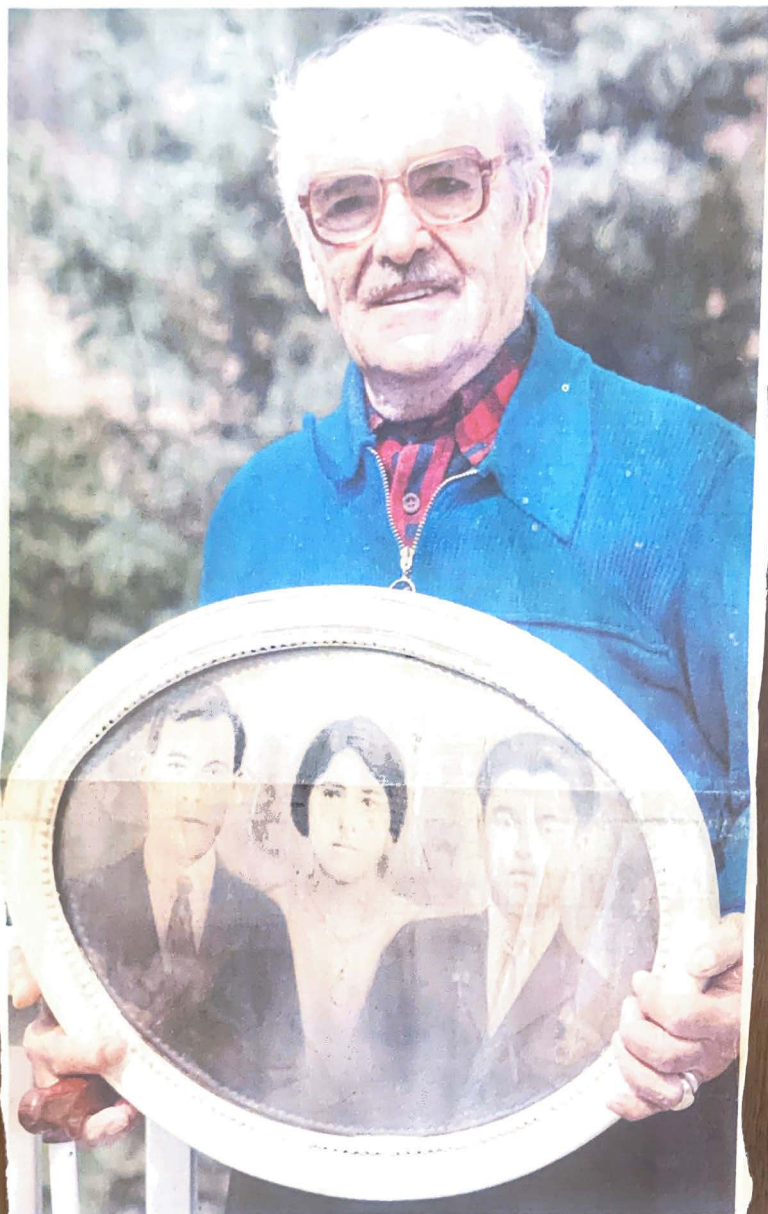


Lawrence Es

WINNER OF THE 1988 PULITZER PR

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Eagle-Tribune color photo by Cheryl Senter

Survivor: Anthony Donigian holds a picture of himself with his parents, taken when he was 16 and newly arrived in the United States. Mr. Donigian is on the right.

Armenians remember Genocide

They celebrate survivors, mourn dead

By Hilde Hartnett
Eagle-Tribune Writer

Anthony Donigian leans heavily on a wood-handled cane when he walks, and strains to see through the thick, milky lenses of his glasses.

But his 81 years have not weakened his pride in his Armenian heritage, or his memories of the Armenian Genocide in which an estimated 2 million people perished.

Mr. Donigian, of Pelham Road, Salem, N.H., is a survivor of the

“ We are still living.
We are still surviving.
We are still going
forward. ”

**Anthony Donigian
Genocide survivor**

genocide, which began in 1915 and lasted until 1923.

In those years, the Turkish government, which controlled Arme-

nia, sought to “purify” Turkey by purging Christian Armenians from the largely Islamic society. Although Armenians pleaded with western countries to intervene, their plight was largely ignored in the chaos of World War I, said the Rev. Zenob Naibandian, pastor of Holy Cross Armenian Church.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the slaughter, 1,000 Armenian Americans are expected to gather at St. Mary Church in

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Armenians remember vic

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Lawrence Sunday.

With song, speeches and prayer, they will honor the memories of those who died.

St. Gregory Armenian Church in Haverhill; St. Gregory Armenian Church in North Andover; Holy Cross Armenian Church in Lawrence; Ararat Congregational Church in Salem, N.H., and St. Vartanantz Church in Chelmsford are all participating in the ceremony.

The observance will start at 6:30 p.m. with a requiem service, at which a combined choir of singers from all the churches will sing.

After the service Massachusetts House Speaker George Kevejian, D-Everett, and U.S. Congressman Nicholas Mavroules, D-Peabody, will speak, as will representatives of Armenian youth groups.

After the program, the Yerevan Choral Society will perform. Tick-

ets are \$10 and available at the door.

Observances are also planned in Washington, D.C., and New York.

Mr. Donigian was 5 years old when the genocide began. He was separated from his mother, who was forced to march with hundreds of others towards the Syrian desert. He spent his childhood carrying wood and tending cattle for Turkish families.

Until his mother found him four years later, he did not know if she was alive or dead. His father had emigrated to America before the killing began. After the war, Mr. Donigian and his mother joined him in the United States.

Mr. Donigian estimated that 175 of his relatives were routed from their homes, their possessions sold and fields usurped. Most were either killed outright or died of hunger, thirst or exhaustion in forced marches.

He said he feels anger and sadness at their deaths, but at the same time he feels great pride, he