

THE ARMENIAN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM OF AMERICA, INC.

65 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

For Exhibit Information

Contact: Christie Hardiman
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For Venue Information

Contact: Alfred Berkowitz Gallery
Phone #: 313-593-3592

ALMA's Armenian Legionnaire Traveling Exhibit at Univ. of Michigan-Dearborn



Legionnaires from the United States training in Cyprus with the tattered American flag they refused to give up.

“Légion Arménienne: The Armenian Legion and Its Heroism in the Middle East,” a traveling exhibit developed and prepared by the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA), will be **on display at the University of Michigan-Dearborn’s Alfred Berkowitz Gallery from February 26 through March 28, 2010.** The exhibit explores the formation, training, military action, and postwar activities of this all-volunteer force from World War I through photographs and narratives.

Visitors can see the exhibit, free of charge, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Alfred Berkowitz is located on the 3rd floor of the Mardigian Library at the University of Michigan-Dearborn (4901 Evergreen Rd, Dearborn, MI, 48128).

ALMA commissioned this traveling exhibit in response to tremendous interest from the Armenian and Veteran communities. The exhibit tells the story of the brave and selfless young men who fought with the Allies to victory, and later risked all in defense of Armenian human rights.

“Légion Arménienne” was curated by Ardemis Matteosian in close collaboration with ALMA Board Members Arakel Almasian and Dr. Barbara Merguerian. It premiered at Northbridge Town Hall in Whitinsville, MA in September and has also been exhibited at the California State University in Fresno and the Pasadena Central Library in California.

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The traveling exhibit was made possible by a grant from K. George and Carolann S. Najarian, M.D. Foundation with additional support provided by The Armenian-American Veterans of Milford, Mass., Inc.

The exhibit's display at the Alfred Berkowitz Gallery is a special project of the University of Michigan-Dearborn Center for Armenian Research and Publication. Supplemental materials have been provided by University of Michigan-Dearborn College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters College-Wide Programs in Arab American Studies

For scheduling information or to learn about the exhibit, contact ALMA at 65 Main St., Watertown, MA 02472; Tel: 617-926-2562, web: www.almainc.org; email: Gamavor@almainc.org.

IMAGES:

Image 1: Lt. Hagop Arevian

Image 2: Group of military police, including Lt. Arevian, in Adana.

Image 3: Legionnaires from the United States training in Cyprus, with the tattered American flag they refused to give up.

ABOUT ALMA:

Founded in 1971, ALMA's mission is to present and preserve the culture, history, art and contributions of the Armenian people to Americans and Armenians alike. Since its inception, ALMA's collection has grown to over 27,000 books and 20,000 artifacts, making it perhaps the largest and most diverse holding of Armenian cultural artifacts outside of Armenia. As a repository for heirlooms, the collection now represents a major resource not only for Armenian studies research, but as well as for preservation and illustration of the Armenian heritage. In 1988, ALMA acquired a 30,000 square foot facility in Watertown, MA – one of North America's oldest and most active Armenian communities. The facility includes exhibit galleries, Library, administrative offices, function hall, climate-controlled vaults and conservation lab.

Armenian Museum of America (subdivision of ALMA) is the only independent Armenian Museum in the Diaspora funded solely through contributions of individual supporters. An active Board of Trustees and volunteer base augments the museum's staff. The Museum and Gallery maintains an active schedule of changing exhibits. In addition, the Museum sponsors lecture and presentation program on Armenian-related topics. The Mesrop Boyajian Library (subdivision of ALMA) is used primarily by researchers and interested general public seeking research materials on Armenians.

Museum & Gallery Hours: Friday and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Thursday evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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Library Hours: Friday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission: Free admission for ALMA members; \$5 for non-members; \$2 for students; children 12 and under are free.

Driving Directions: Take route 95 to 128 to 90 (Mass Pike East) towards Watertown. Take exit 17-Watertown/Newton. Go North 1 mile towards Watertown Square. As you cross the small bridge, get into the 2 left lanes. Turn left onto Main Street. Turn right onto Church Street, and then turn right into the municipal parking lot.

MBTA Buses: 71, 70/70A, 57, 52, 59, 502, 504. Please visit www.mbta.com for schedules and maps.

ABOUT SPONSORING VENUE:

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