

Philadelphia maneto!¹ Philadelphia autem manebit quandoquidem incolas praeclaros, insignes rebus gestis in libertate, in pugilatu, in musica, praesertim hodie in doctrina innumerabilium discipulorum, honorabimus. Bis² enim feminam, nominatam gentilicio modo e sacerdote, honoratam doctissimam, iterum laudatam laboriosam, fortuna laudibus fert. Adepta gradum Artium Baccalaureae apud universitatem Ursi magni, quae super firmum fundamentum Dei manet,³ deinde attinuit gradum Magistrae ubi carpere occasionem oportet.⁴ Diligenter litteris classicis studuit. Eleganter docuit (nam non solum scire aliquid artis est, sed quaedam ars etiam docendi⁵) ut discipulae suae virtutem verumque laborem discerent.⁶ Similiter ac Proserpina, duas domus habet – alteram prope amoris fraterni urbem, alteram in Ecclesiarum Terra⁷, quo in loco et amicitiam et poma colit. Tanti enim patriam maiorem aestimat ut quattuor Armenios codices antiquos museo in capite, nomine Yerevan, donaverit, id quod emissionem televisificam longe lateque divulgatum est. Non solum ipsa largitrix est, sed etiam particeps consilii quod legatum illius Rudolphi Masciantonii liberalissimum merentibus fideliter tribuit ad disciplinam studiorum classicorum sustinendam. (Sit tibi terra levis.⁸) Plaudamus igitur identidem Jeannette Keshishian.

Let Philadelphia endure! But Philadelphia will endure only insofar as we will honor its famous representatives, including Ben Franklin, Rocky Balboa, Patti LaBelle, and most importantly today, the dedicated teacher of countless students. Fortune extols this woman, whose surname means “descendant of a priest,” *twice* honored as most learned, *once again* praised for her industriousness. She received her Bachelor’s degree from Ursinus College and her Master’s degree from Millersville University. She studied the Classics with care and taught literature with elegance (there is, after all, not only some art in knowing things, but also a certain art in teaching them) such that her students learned from her both excellence and diligence. Like Persephone, Jeannette has two homes – one near Philadelphia, the second in Armenia, where she cultivates both friendship and fruit trees. In fact, so greatly does she value her ancestral homeland that she has donated four ancient Armenian manuscripts to a museum in the capital, Yerevan, an event which was broadcast far and wide on television. Not only is she a generous donor herself, but also a member of

¹ “Let brotherly love endure!,” official motto of the city of Philadelphia.

² Honoree of a 2005 *ovatio* composed by J.P. Hallett.

³ Zacharius Baer (Ursinus), founder of Ursinus College (motto: *super firmum fundamentum Dei*).

⁴ “Seize the Opportunity,” motto of Millersville University.

⁵ Cicero, *de Legibus* 2.47.

⁶ Cf. Verg. *Aen.* 12.435; *disce verum laborem* is the motto of the Baldwin School, where Jeannette taught from 1981-2022.

⁷ Armenia is known as the Land of Churches, being the first Christian nation. (301 AD)

⁸ Mart. 9.29.

the CAAS committee which faithfully grants deserving recipients funds from the munificent bequest of Rudolph Masciantonio in order to support the teaching of classical studies. (May the earth rest lightly on him.) Let us therefore again and again celebrate Jeannette Keshishian.

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