

*1991 ACYOA National
Anniversary Ball*



*45th Anniversary Celebration
January 26, 1991
Hosted by the
ACYOA of
St. David Armenian Church
Boca Raton, Florida*

IN MEMORIAM ...

A native of Aintab (1904) Abp. Tiran Nersoyan was born Nersess Tavoukjian, the son of a priest and a former schoolteacher. At the age of 11, he and his family became refugees, traveling by mule to Aleppo. The boy endured many hardships, especially hunger, even after his father returned from the exile which he and other priests and leaders had to undergo.



The Tavoukjian eventually went back to Aintab, and in 1921, Abp. Yeghishe Tourian, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, gladly accepted his former pupil's son, now 17, in the seminary. Nersess graduated, taught at the lay school for the children of refugees, and was ordained a deacon, studying at night with Abp. Tourian, who taught his young students church history, liturgy and philology.

On the day of the Feast of the Transfiguration in 1928, Nersess walked to the altar, escorted by his father, and was ordained by Patriarch Tourian. He was sent to London for academic training, chiefly at King's College, and went back to Jerusalem to teach in the seminary, of which he became principal in 1932, serving in that post for five years. Back in London, he had charge of the Armenian Church which, in 1938 and thereafter, meant enduring the blitz, counseling and entertaining hundreds of Armenian-American G.I.'s, celebrating Divine Liturgy with bombs dropping all around.

Abp. Tiran was elected Primate of the American Diocese, arrived in 1944 and was installed by the late Abp. Garegin Hovsepianz, then Primate. The new Primate served for ten years. During his tenure, ten new churches were built in the United States, the Diocesan constitution and administration were modernized, and the difficult groundwork prepared for the erection of a Cathedral. (Not to mention many other accomplishments, such as the establishment of the ACYOA, bringing young theological candidates to study in the United States as future parish priests, and translating the "badarak.")

In 1956, Abp. Tiran went to Jerusalem where the St. James brotherhood chose him as *locum tenens*. Elected Patriarch in 1957, he served until August 1958, but the King would not give him the necessary "ferman" and deported him. (Ties to Etchmiadzin were suspect in that familiar period of McCarthyism and anti-communism.)

New York was Abp. Tiran's home base during his last years. A long series of invitations to serve as celebrant of the Divine Liturgy in our churches around the country, to give lectures on a great variety of subjects, religious and otherwise, with which he is conversant, and to write articles, were a way of life for him. He was in constant touch with his brother, Dr. Hagop Nersoyan in Ohio, his sister, Mrs. Mariam Jebejian, and several nephews and their families. And with a great host of friends and admirers, many of whom are here tonight to celebrate the birth of the ACYOA, founded 45 years ago by Abp. Tiran Nersoyan, an illustrious Armenian-American clergyman.

ARCHBISHOP TIRAN NERSOYAN

1904 - 1989

Our Presidents, 1946 - 1991



**Vasken I,
Catholicos of All Armenians**



**Archbishop
Tiran Nersoyan**



**Archbishop
Mampre Calfayan**



**Archbishop
Sion Manoogian**



**Archbishop
Torkom Manoogian**



**Bishop
Khajag Barsamian**

**The Prayer
of A.C.Y.O.A.**

O Lord our Savior Jesus Christ, Who art the Way, the Truth, and the Life, give us, the youth of the Church of Armenia, we beseech Thee, the wisdom to know, to love, and to serve Thee in our personal lives severally, and in the corporate life of our Organization.

Thou that leadest men in the way, lead us, thy children, that we may be able to serve the Church through our people, with courage and vision, and in the faith of our illustrious forefathers. Inspire us, O Lord, and open our eyes to thy light, that we may cherish and profit by the heritage which our forefathers have left to us, and that we may be aware of our responsibilities as citizens of our beloved country, the United States of America.

Fill us, O Christ our God, with thy Holy Spirit, that we may be the obedient and unselfish servants of the Will of our Heavenly Father, to whom, together with Thee and the Holy Spirit, is befitting Glory, Dominion and Honor, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.



Pledge

I solemnly promise and declare upon my honor, that as a member of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America, I shall, to the best of my ability, be a faithful son of the Armenian Church, shall be a devoted upholder of the Armenian cultural heritage; shall be a loyal citizen of the United States; and I shall diligently abide by the objects, policies, and decisions of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America. I shall not strive for personal recognition and pleasure, but will serve our Church, our Community, and our Country, for the greater glory of God.

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

WHAT IS THE ACYOA AND HOW DID IT COME ABOUT?

The Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) is the national youth program of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America and was created on January 12, 1946 in Providence, Rhode Island.

The Diocesan-wide National Organization, created for the youth of the Armenian Church, emerged from the foundation of the then many local Junior Leagues and clubs that were formed for the young people of the parishes of the Armenian Church.

World War II interrupted the activities of these local groups, many of which were simply inactive during those difficult years. With the termination of the war, a renewed necessity took place of re-organizing the local parish youth groups. Bishop Tiran Nersoyan, the newly-elected Diocesan Primate, wholeheartedly took on the challenge of a problem which was causing the elders of the communities to question the future of the Armenian Church in America. This challenge was carried by Bishop Tiran to the American-Armenian youth. To all communities he passed on the informing spark, so important to the creation and continuation of activities for this new organization. The culmination of all his activity and work took place at the "Constitutive Assembly" of Armenian Church youth, held in Providence, Rhode Island, on January 12, 1946.

The Assembly gathered young Armenian adults from as far West as Wisconsin, and as far South as Virginia. The delegates at this Assembly elected the first ACYOA Central Council from among their members to carry out the administrative functions of the ACYOA on the national level. These first Council members included: Zaven Hovsepian, John Soursourian, Arthur Yagjian, Matthew Matteosian, Grayce Yeramian, Jack Kazanjian, and Mary Shalakian.

In what seemed a short time, the ACYOA had a strong parish base through the chapters, as well as a strong administration embodied in the Central Council. Throughout the Diocese, ACYOA events and activities took place with growing success. In parishes across the Diocese, an excitement filled the air as young people were coming to Church, participating in programs and sponsoring events season after season.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES?

1. To encourage its members to learn, practice, uphold and propagate the principles and teachings of Christian faith according to the doctrine, sacraments and canons of the Armenian Apostolic Church.
2. To support and work for the strengthening of the Armenian Church and to promote the study and appreciation of the Armenian culture and heritage.
3. To strengthen spiritual and social bonds and to contribute towards the development of a healthy community life among Armenians.
4. To enhance and strengthen among its members the spirit of human freedom, universal justice and brotherhood of men, and devotion to duty as good citizens, dedicated to the service of God and Country.

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE ACYOA?

The mission of the ACYOA is to create among the young adult generation a greater sense of spiritual culture and tradition and to instill within its members a true spirit of civic mindedness.

The purpose and role of the ACYOA, in the context of the Diocese of the Armenian Church, is of vital importance, as it is charged with preparing and equipping young adults to participate in leadership capacities.

However, in order to do this, the Organization must educate its members about the teachings of the Armenian Church and the history of her people. It must motivate and stimulate creative thinkings and illustrations of faith among its members by providing vehicles through which they may express themselves and demonstrate their abilities, skills, interests, concerns, willingness to try and faith. These vehicles must enable them to build friendships and lasting relationships.

The Organization must develop programs through which members participate, receive information, experience meaningful relationships, feel a sense of belonging, and be exposed to the Armenian Church and her rich, cultural heritage. These programs must be diverse and they must lead young Armenian adults in the direction of future participation and leadership within the parishes and Church at large.

WHAT ROLE HAS THE ACYOA PLAYED IN THE PAST?

Throughout the years, the ACYOA has taken on various projects within the parishes as well as on the Diocesan level. Anniversary Balls, June Festivals and ACYOA Day observances were established and assisted in raising funds for worthy projects, including the raising of sizeable funds for the restoration of the Mother Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin. The Organization also made contributions to the former Youth Camp Fund and the Seminary Fund of the Diocese.

Better known of the ACYOA's accomplishments is the sponsorship of Diocesan publications, such as: *Sacraments and Prayers of the Armenian Church, a Pictorial Guide to Armenian Divine Liturgy, Catechism of Christian Instruction, Home Blessings at Christmas and Easter, The Armenian Church and Her Teachings, the Handbook to Armenia, the ACYOA Membership Handbook, and the ACYOA Chapter Resource Handbook*. Some of the earliest publications of the present Department of Religious Education found their roots in the ACYOA.

Preparation of audio-visual programs is yet another aspect of the ACYOA since the early years. The ACYOA has produced and/or assisted in the preparation and production of programs, such as: *The Divine Liturgy, Symbolism in the Armenian Church, and Vessels, Vestments and Practices of the Armenian Church*.

An American Theological School was one of the more cherished dreams of the ACYOA and is now a reality. Sunday School teachers' conferences were organized and held by the ACYOA and out of these conferences was born the **Department of Religious Education (DRE)** which now directs the Church Sunday Schools.

During the 1960's, the ACYOA sponsored Mission Programs, visiting various cities with teams of 3 - 4 members and a clergyman to conduct activities for the spiritual renewal of the community.

The ACYOA has also initiated and developed the **Armenian Studies Program** of overseas trips to Armenia. The ASP program, renamed the **Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Armenian Studies Program** in 1989, has been one of the most successful programs, developing into an annual pilgrimage to Armenia. Trips to the Holy Land were also a very successful part of the program, although they have not taken place in recent years.

Newsletters and periodicals have also been an important mainstay of the ACYOA. For many years, information was delivered to members via the monthly issues of **The Armenian Guardian, Keghard, and the Executive Update.** They have included articles on contemporary issues in American society, as well as concerns and perspectives of the Armenian Church and community in the Diocese.

The **National Sports Weekend**, consisting of athletic competitions and social activities took over in the 1970's and 1980's where the great General Assemblies of the 1950's and 1960's left off. Attracting an estimated 600-800 people annually, this is the one event that every member plans for each year. Taking place over the Labor Day weekend, the program has been hosted by various chapters from throughout the Diocese. The General Assembly and National Sports Weekend were designated inseparable and thus occur over Labor Day Weekend each year.

The junior-age (junior high and high school) youth were also active and gaining momentum and became increasingly strong by the early 1980s. The **ACYOA Jrs.** have several regional sports weekends in the Spring and Fall of each year, which have grown quite popular with youth from different regions crossing over and attending each others' weekends. By continually having these programs, the ACYOA Jrs. have created an abundance of fellowship that has carried over to their participation in the ACYOA.

The ACYOA also initiated plans in the late 1970's for a Diocesan Youth Camp and organized and started what is now "St. Vartan Camp."

And there are many other programs: the annual Martyrs' Day Commemoration, the Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Invitational Tournament, the Hye Christian Encounter, the Christian Leadership Seminar, and the Cultural Weekend are but a few.

Through the years, the ACYOA has grown into a strong and vigorous organization. Many dedicated young men and women have passed from its ranks into positions of responsibility and leadership within the various parish communities. Most of our present American-born clergy, many parish council members, diocesan delegates, deacons and Sunday School teachers have been members of the ACYOA. It is also interesting to note that many members of the ACYOA met their spouses through interaction at ACYOA meetings and related events and programs.

There are many individuals who deserve credit for this. The Primates of the Diocese have continually supported the young people in their efforts to serve the Church. The Pastors have dealt with the concerns, problems, and successes of the chapters on a day-to-day basis. The members of the Central Council have volunteered their time and energies in an effort to maintain the operations of the organization and its programs. And the Chapter Executive Committees, especially the chairpersons, have continually thought creatively to keep their chapters moving ahead with excitement and activities.

The future of the ACYOA can be a glorious one and with continued support, the organization can achieve unprecedented heights. This must be our constant aim. The community should realize that just as the seed of today is the harvest of tomorrow, so it will be that the future of our beloved Church will rest upon the shoulders of the current members of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America.

Past and present members may feel a bond and a great sense of pride in the words, "**THE ACYOA -- 45 years of Church Service and Armenian Fellowship in America.**"

THE EMBLEM OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA AND ITS SYMBOLIC MEANING



The emblem of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America adopted at its inception, is to be interpreted as follows:

The radiations from the center of the cross symbolize the truths of the Christian religion that shine forth through the centuries.

The symbols under the horizontal bar of the cross are:

- a. (right hand side) The double peaks of the Mount Ararat, representing the Armenian people and its destiny. Ararat has been the silent witness of the victories as well as defeats of the Armenians through their existence as a people and a nation. Its representation of the A.C.Y.O.A. emblem means that the members of the Organization make the pledge of standing for the ideals for which the Armenian nation has stood always.
- b. (left hand side) The United States eagle with its wings widespread and star above each wing. The eagle looks proudly into far distances and holds, as usual a batch of arrows. The eagle represents the United States. Its presence on the A.C.Y.O.A. emblem symbolizes the loyalty of the members of the A.C.Y.O.A. to the Constitution of the United States and to its principles of democracy and freedom.

The chain that encircles the cross on the emblem represents solidarity among the members of the A.C.Y.O.A. in their service to God and to people.

These symbols are designed on a shield which stands for the determination with which the objects of the A.C.Y.O.A. are to be carried out. The shield also stands for defense against dangerous encroachments.

It will be noted that the dominating feature of the emblem is the cross. This indicates the fact Christ is our Lord and that to Him we owe obedience above all.



Edward Mardigian was about four years old when he came to America with his parents, grandmother, and two older brothers, settling in Toledo, OH. In 1929, the family moved to Detroit, where his father had already established a successful hotel operation.

When he was nineteen years old, Edward enrolled in the tool and die apprentice course at Ford Motor company and simultaneously in the two-year automotive engineering course, and also attended evening classes at Wayne State University. In 1935, at the age of 26, Edward was employed as assistant to the Chief Tool Engineer at Briggs Manufacturing Company, at which time he was selected to go to England, as Chief Engineer, to tool up for production a complete line of Ford cars for Europe. He was, by far, the youngest man to be given such a major responsibility.

Upon completion of his tooling program, for which he was highly regarded and well rewarded, Edward returned to the United States in 1937 and was appointed to the office of Chief Project Engineer for all Briggs Manufacturing plants. At that time, he assumed the presidency of the Junior League of the Armenian General Benevolent Union and met his wife, Helen. They were married on June 5, 1938.

Being an ambitious and industrious young man, he started his own engineering company in 1945. He soon expanded the company into building large body dies, special machinery, and automation for the automotive industry. In 1948, recognizing a severe shortage of houseware items because of the war, he developed and manufactured a complete line of cookware and small electric appliances. In 1952, he bought the Buckeye Aluminum Company in Wooster, Ohio, to further expand the housewares operation.

In 1956, he entered into the manufacture of electric and gasoline golf carts and received an award for the best designed golf cart at the National Sports Show. He became a highly regarded and respected industrialist and during this time period, his life story was broadcast on the radio, and his biography was presented in the Detroit Sunday Free Press in pictures and notes.

He soon turned his attention to various religious, cultural and educational philanthropies. The Armenian Apostolic Society, of which Alex Manoogian was President, had built the first church in Detroit, and a cultural hall on Oakman Boulevard. Upon the completion of the cultural hall, Mr. Manoogian withdrew from the presidency, and Edward Mardigian was elected to that post.

His first project as President of the Armenian Apostolic Society was to build a parish house for the parish priest. However, after doing some research and analysis, he found that a parish house worthy of their priest would cost about \$75,000, or twice as much as the church had cost, and half as much as the cultural hall. He recommended to the committee that they first build a church and cultural hall that would justify a \$75,000 parish house.

The result of that decision is the present St. John's Armenian Church, with the gold dome and adjacent cultural hall in Southfield, Michigan. It was a dream that many believed would never be realized, but it did become a reality under Mr. Mardigian's direction and was paid for without a mortgage. St. John's Armenian Church has been recognized by church architects as one of the most beautiful traditional churches in midwest America.

In 1969, he assumed the chairmanship for a national campaign to raise \$2,000,000 for the Armenian General Benevolent Union of America, to invest in the United States for the first time, and to prepare programs and projects to ensure the perpetuation of the Armenian culture and heritage in this country. The campaign was highly successful, and the following year, in 1970, he was elected to the Central Committee of the AGBU of America and its presidency, and also to the Central Board of Directors of the International AGBU.

For fifteen years, he worked hard, along with the AGBU Central Committee of America, to preserve the Armenian identity and image by initiating programs and projects that would interest Armenian youth, such as camps, schools, scholarships, drama groups, song and dance ensembles, sports programs, social services, television programs, publications, etc. Most of the programs were designed with the youth in mind, as Mr. Mardigian has always felt very strongly that our future depends on our youth.

Under his administration, the prestige and popularity of the AGBU of America grew substantially. At present, it is enjoying its just recognition. He has devoted more of his time for the betterment of the AGBU and has given generously to the AGBU, his church and to many other organizations which both complement and supplement the work that the AGBU is doing.

Mr. and Mrs. Mardigian have contributed over \$6,000,000 to various charitable enterprises. Some of the major contributions have been to Holy Etchmiadzin for the restoration of St. Keghart and other ancient churches and monasteries in Armenia, the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem for the establishment of an Armenian museum in the Holy City, St. Vartan's Cathedral in New York, the Armenian Sisters Academy, the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America, the Armenian Assembly of America, the American-Armenian International College, the Mekhitarian Center in Venice, and the Patriarchate of Istanbul to assist in bringing Armenian families from the interior of Turkey to the Patriarchate for care and education.

Most recently, Mr. and Mrs. Mardigian have funded the St. John's Armenian Church Library, pledged major support to the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, and made a gift to Bentley College in honor of the retirement of its President, Dr. Gregory Adamian. A significant contribution to St. David Armenian Church in Boca Raton, Florida, provided for the Helen and Edward Mardigian Hall. Their never-ending generosity also benefitted the University of Michigan-Dearborn, resulting in the establishment of the Helen and Edward Mardigian Library and Armenian Research Center.

Edward Mardigian has also played an important role in the Armenian involvement in the democratic process in his adopted county, because he feels we owe it to this great country for all it has done for its minorities. He was a sponsor and honoree of the "Thank You, America" banquet, given on the occasion of the bicentennial anniversary of the United States on behalf of all Armenians in America. One million dollars in American tapestries, depicting various historical events of the city of New York, was given to the Metropolitan Museum of Art as a bicentennial gift to the United States from Armenian-Americans.

Edward Mardigian's contributions and involvement is not only limited to Armenian causes. He was appointed as a U.S. Representative to the Helsinki Accord Conference by President Carter and attended the meeting in Madrid, Spain, in 1980. President Reagan thanked him for his work and asked him to continue his important participation on the Helsinki Accords Committee.

In addition to being Chairman of the Central Committee of the AGBU of America for fifteen years and Executive Vice President of the AGBU Central Board for three years, Mr. Mardigian is the Honorary Life Chairman of the AGBU Central Committee and an honorary member of the Central Board of Directors; President of the Armenian Apostolic Society; a member of the Board of Trustees of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America; Vice President of the Board of Trustees of the Armenian Assembly; a former member of the Board of Directors of the St. Nersess Armenian Seminary; a founding member of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research; a member of the Advisory Council of the Center for Armenian Studies at Columbia University; a member of the Board of Trustees of the American-Armenian International College; a member of the Board of Trustees of La Verne College; and a member of the board of directors of several corporations.

Edward Mardigian is also a member of the Chief Executives Organization, an international group of prominent business executives, for which he has been elected and served as director, treasurer, vice president and chairman. The membership is made up of a small select percentage of graduates of the Young Presidents Organization. To date, he is the only Armenian who has been elected to all the executive offices.

While Mr. Mardigian has sold his major operation to Dana Corporation, of which he is a major stockholder, at present he is Chairman of Hercules Machine Tool & Die Company and President of the Mardigian Foundation.

Mr. Mardigian has been recognized as a faithful son of the Armenian Church by His Holiness, Vasken I, the Catholicos of all Armenians, who awarded him the St. Gregory First Degree Medal. He has been recognized by the Patriarch of Jerusalem, who awarded him the highest medal, and has also been selected as Man of the Year by the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America and several other prominent organizations.

Edward and Helen Mardigian are the proud parents of a daughter, Marilyn (Mardigian) Varbedian and two sons, Edward, Jr., and Robert, and have five grandchildren. They have homes in Birmingham, Michigan, and Boca Raton, Florida, where they spend a great deal of time during the winter months. Mr. Mardigian's hobbies are golf, swimming and the preservation of wildlife.



DIocese OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA, 630 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016-4885

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIMATE

On the occasion of the 45th Anniversary of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America, I extend my warmest greetings and congratulations to all members and alumni of this noble and precious organization.

The world of forty-five years ago heralded uncertain times for our people living in this country. The Armenian community as it was then constituted was substantially an immigrant population; it was unclear to what extent the unique Armenian identity would survive among the new generation of native-born Americans.

Tiran Srpazan's vision of an Armenian Church Youth Organization was unprecedented, and thus experimental. But his hypothesis proved correct: the pride and love with which those original ACYOA members embraced their ancient heritage was in no way diminished by their dislocation from the motherland. This 45th Anniversary Celebration is evidence that the children of those pioneers intend to carry on the beautiful traditions of their ancestors.

This is all the more poignant in light of the fact that the year 1991 represents the centennial of the consecration of the first Armenian Church in America. Today, at the close of an incredible century of achievement, there are more than 100 Armenian Churches in this country.

How appropriate that the ACYOA has chosen to convene their own Anniversary Celebration at the site of one of the newest sanctuaries in our Diocese—the St. David Church of Boca Raton, Florida. The continued growth and expansion of the Armenian community is a vivid sign of life, and testament to that vitality and exuberance for which the ACYOA is our most enduring and optimistic symbol.

It is equally appropriate that you have chosen this occasion to honor two beloved supporters of the ACYOA. Edward and Helen Mardigian are dedicated servants of this Church and all of her people, but they have always enjoyed a special relationship with the Armenian youth. Their enthusiasm and generosity on behalf of projects to educate and unite young Armenians has benefited your entire generation.

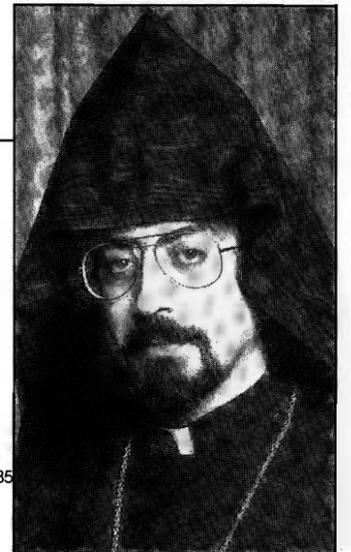
May God bless you all, and may you continue to honor His Name with the zeal and faithfulness of your forefathers.

With prayers,

Bp. K. Barsamian

Bishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate

27 January, 1991





ST. DAVID ARMENIAN CHURCH

2300 YAMATO ROAD
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA 33431

Rev. Dr. Zaven Arzoumanian, Pastor

ՍՈՒՐԲ ԴԱՆԻԹ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

(407) 994-2335
Church

December 10, 1990

Dear Friends:

I have the distinct pleasure to welcome you all to St. David Armenian Church in sunshine Florida, on the occasion of the 45th Anniversary of the Armenian Church Youth Organization.

There is no doubt in anybody's mind that the past four and one half decades have forged the Armenian Church in America substantially and given her a new image, the image of resistance and persistence in modern times, in the face of rapid changes and alarming challenges.

I salute the Armenian youth and wish them all inexhaustible energy, wisdom and responsibility, always inspired by the faith of our forefathers.

I am particularly honored to welcome our benefactors, Mr. and Mrs. Edward and Helen Mardigian in our midst, in their own home, as this historic gathering in Mardigian Hall is giving them the special honor as the unmatched benefactors of the A.C.Y.O.A.

Greetings to all on behalf of St. David Armenian Church.

With prayers,
Fr. Zaven Arzoumanian
Father Zaven Arzoumanian, Ph.D.
Pastor



Dear Fellow Members and Friends:

On behalf of the ACYOA Central Council and the Anniversary Ball host committee, we wish to thank everyone who contributed in making this Anniversary Ball Weekend a success.

It is with great pride that we honor individuals of Edward and Helen Mardigian's caliber. Their love, dedication, and generosity towards numerous causes in both Armenian and non-Armenian circles is an example to live by. Steadfast in their beliefs and persistent in their efforts, they have given so much to so many in many ways. Yet their greatest asset perhaps lies in their graciousness -- a quality that knows no equal. They are true servants of the church. We salute them for their unwavering support of our people, our faith, our culture and our heritage. May God bless them for many more years to come!

Rena Mari Jebejian

RENA MARI JEBEJIAN
Co-Chairman
1991 ACYOA National Anniversary
Ball Committee

Lisa N. Manookian

LISA MANOOKIAN
Chairman
ACYOA Central Council

PROGRAM

INVOCATIONThe Rt. Rev. Bishop Khajag Barsamian,
Primate

GREETINGSMelanie Mikaelian, Chairman
Boca Raton ACYOA

DINNER

OPENING REMARKSRena Jebejian, Co-Chairman
Anniversary Ball Committee

MASTER OF CEREMONIESMr. Kachadoor Kazarian

VOCAL INTERLUDEShami Arslanian

"Oh, Armenia"
Words and Music by Shami
Arslanian and Steve Weisbart

"Long Live Armenia"
Words and Music by Shami Arslanian

REMARKS & PRESENTATIONLisa Manookian, Chairman
OF GIFT ACYOA Central Council

REMARKSHelen and Edward Mardigian

CHORAL SELECTIONSThe Karatsayn Singers

Azk Parabandz
Music by Arno Babajanian
Words by Ashod Krashoo

All The Things You Are
Music by Jerome Kern
Words by Oscar Hammerstein
Soloist: Christine Shooshan

Sing We And Chant It (a madrigal)
Words and Music by Thomas Morley

Anoush Karoun (solo)
Words and music by T. Ghazarian
Soloist: Christine Shooshan
Pianist: Anoush Khachoyan

Yerevan Yerepooni
Music by E. Hovanessian
Words by B. Sevag

REMARKSRev. Dr. Zaven Arzoumanian, Pastor
St. David Armenian Church

PRIMATE'S MESSAGEThe Rt. Rev. Bishop Khajag Barsamian,
Primate

BENEDICTIONThe Rt. Rev. Bishop Khajag Barsamian,
Primate

SHAMI ARSLANIAN

Born and raised in Miami, Florida, Shami began singing, playing guitar and writing songs at the age of 15. She attended Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida, and the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts.

Shami first premiered "Long Live Armenia" at the Diocese on April 22, 1989 during a Martyrs' Day Commemoration program sponsored by the ACYOA and was asked to perform the very next day during the Annual Times Square Commemoration of the Genocide. Since then, she has performed for several Armenian organizations, written another song with her husband, Steve Weisbart, entitled "Oh Armenia," in memory of the victims of 1915, and recorded a tape of both songs in Armenian and English, of which a portion of the proceeds is earmarked for earthquake relief efforts for Armenia.

Shami and Steve write music together and own S & S Productions and Recording, an eight-track recording studio in Brooklyn, New York.

THE KARATSAYN SINGERS

"Born" in April of 1988, the Karatsayn Singers are a group of young adults from St. George Armenian Church in Hartford, Connecticut, who perform choral works "a capella." They have performed at the St. Vartan Cathedral, the One World Festival, and various ACYOA chapter and parish functions throughout the New England region. The group consists of Anoush Kachoyan (Alto/Director), Christine Shooshan (Soprano) and Peter Bedrossian and Ara Kazarian (Tenor/Bass).

The Karatsayn Singers are among a rare and unique breed of performers who have "culturally inspired" those for whom they have performed. They are not only active in the ACYOA, but also active in their parish and community at-large, exhibiting a talent that you don't come across too often. They take pride in their heritage and it shows. We should not hesitate to support and promote them.

ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL MEMBERS 1946 - 1991

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Gerald Aharonian | Grace Heroian (Saxenian) |
| SHAKE AJAMIAN | LEON HOJEGIAN |
| Penie Allalemdjian (Papazian) | Gary Hovhanessian |
| Sara Andonian | Emma Hovsepian |
| MISAK APRAHAMIAN | Paul Hovsepian |
| Raffi Aprahamian | ZAVEN HOVSEPIAN |
| Greg Arpajian | George Jevarjian |
| Artin Artinian | EDWARD KAISERIAN |
| Suzie Ashjian | Joseph Kalemkerian |
| Mary Azarian (Zotian) | Nancy Kaprelian |
| Leo Bakalian | Ruth Kaprelian |
| Rose Bannaian (Mekenian) | Joyce Karageozian (Obenhoff) |
| Melanie Barsamian (Bilazarian) | Jack Kazanjian |
| Y. Gladys Barsamian | M. CASEY KAZANJIAN |
| Lee Bedigian | MARK KAZANJIAN |
| Joan Bilazarian (Handleman) | Avedis Kevorkian |
| Brian Bogosian | Kerry Keysserian |
| Acabe Boornazian | Mary Ann Khachadoorian (Dikranian) |
| Robert Borzakian | BARKEV KHOJAJIAN |
| MAX BOUDAKIAN | Nancy Malkasian (Banks) |
| Linda Boyajian | Harold Manoogian |
| Susan Boyajian | LISA MANOOKIAN |
| Roberta Carman (Kochakian) | Sara Martinian |
| Lynda Chagachbanian | MATTHEW MATTEOSIAN |
| Ann Dadaian | Steve Megrdochian |
| Alex Dadourian | Aurora Melikian (Jebejian) |
| Ralph Der Asadourian | Byron Melkonian (Very Rev. Fr. Haigazoun) |
| Carol Der Boghosian | Bette Meserlian |
| Robert Doramajian | Linda Minassian |
| NUBAR DORIAN | Susan Minassian |
| Ara Dostourian | Hayk Misakyan |
| Karnig Durgarian | Lisa Mooradian (Torani) |
| Elizabeth Ekmanian | SUSAN MOUSIGIAN |
| NISHAN ESKIGIAN | Gertrude Nahigian |
| Anna Garabedian | Paul Najarian |
| Varsen Garabedian (Seraydarian) | SCOTT NAJARIAN |
| Sonya Gasparian | ARDA NAZERIAN |
| Arshag Gechijian | Rose Norian (Hallajian) |
| Shockey Gengozian | Carol Norigian |
| Ronald Godoshian | RICHARD NORSIGIAN |
| Robert Goshgarian | David Onanian |
| Dianne Greene (Velegris) | EDWARD ONANIAN |
| Judy Hachikian (Petersen) | |
| Rose Hanesian (Murray) | |
| MANOOG HEDITSIAN | |

| |
|---------------------------------|
| Laurie Onanian |
| Sona Palvetzian |
| DENNIS PAPA ZIAN |
| PAUL POGHARIAN |
| Gregory Saraydarian |
| Harry Sarkissian |
| Joseph Sarkissian |
| Virginia Saxenian |
| Arax Selvinazian |
| Haig Serabian |
| Sylvia Shahinian (Dulgarian) |
| Mary V. Shalakian |
| Harry Shamlian |
| Armen Shekerjian |
| Charles Shooshan |
| MICHAEL SIMONIAN |
| John Soursourian |
| Melina Spinuzza |
| Charles Takesian |
| Janet Takvorian (Malool) |
| Richard Takvorian |
| Arpena Tavitian (Sbarbaro) |
| Harry Terzian |
| Vaughn Totovian |
| Gary Townsend |
| Arthur Yagjian |
| RALPH YAGJIAN |
| MICHAEL YAPCHAIAN |
| Sona Rejebian (Yazijian) |
| Louise Yeghissian (Kalemkerian) |
| Grayce Yeramian (Malatian) |
| GARY ZAMANIGIAN |
| Michael Zeytoonian |

NOTE: CAPITALS INDICATE
CENTRAL COUNCIL CHAIRMEN

[In the event of any inadvertent errors or omissions, please inform us so that we can correct our records for the future.]

ACYOA EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES/DIRECTORS

| | | | |
|-----------|---|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1949 - 50 | Mary Shalakian | 1971 | Louise Yeghissian (Kalemkerian) |
| 1951 - 53 | Hagop Nersoyan | 1972 - 76 | Rev. Fr. Nersess Jebejian |
| 1960 - 61 | Rev. Fr. Dajad Davidian | 1977 - 78 | George Tashjian |
| 1961 - 62 | Joseph Kalemkerian | 1979 - present | Nancy Basmajian - Juniors |
| 1962 - 66 | Deacon Megerditch Mouradian | 1980 - 1986 | James Magarian - Seniors |
| 1967 - 69 | Deacon Hovhanness (Fr. Karekin) Kasparian | 1986 | Anthony Barsamian - Seniors |
| 1970 | Howard T. W. Stowe (Rev.) | 1987 - 1990 | Douglas Tashjian - Seniors |
| | | 1990 | Anthony Barsamian - Seniors |

SITES OF THE ACYOA GENERAL ASSEMBLIES AND SPECIAL ASSEMBLIES

| | | | | | |
|------|---|------|--------------------------------------|-------|----------------------|
| 1946 | Providence, Rhode Island | 1961 | Richmond, VA | 1975* | Miami, FL |
| | Constitutive Assembly | 1962 | Detroit, MI | 1976* | Lowell, MA |
| 1947 | Philadelphia, PA | 1963 | Montreal, Canada | 1977* | Detroit, MI |
| 1948 | Detroit, MI | 1964 | Chicago, IL | 1978* | Providence, RI |
| 1949 | New Britain, CT | 1965 | New York, NY (Long Island Hosts) | 1979* | Milwaukee, WI |
| 1950 | Evanston, IL | 1966 | Providence, RI | 1980* | Watertown, MA |
| 1951 | Watertown, MA | 1967 | Pawling, NY | 1981* | Chicago/Evanston, IL |
| 1952 | Worcester, MA | 1968 | Williams Bay, WI | 1982* | New Britain, CT |
| 1953 | Cleveland, OH | 1969 | Detroit, MI Constitutive Assembly | 1983* | Toronto, Canada |
| 1954 | Troy, NY | 1969 | Fort Monroe, VA | 1984* | Palos Heights, IL |
| 1955 | Racine, WI | 1970 | New York, NY | 1985* | Worcester, MA |
| 1956 | Washington, D.C. | 1971 | North Philadelphia, PA | 1986* | Wynnewood, PA |
| 1957 | Boston, MA | 1972 | East St. Louis, IL | 1987* | Detroit, MI |
| 1958 | Niagara Falls, NY | | | 1988* | Providence, RI |
| 1959 | East St. Louis, IL | | | 1989* | Houston, TX |
| 1960 | New York, NY (Metropolitan New York and New Jersey) | | | 1990* | Cleveland, OH |
| | | | | 1991* | Hartford, CT |

(During the 1973 - 74 Reorganization Period
The General Assembly was not held)

(*: Since 1975, the Assemblies have been held at the same site as the National Sports Weekend.)

ACYOA CHAPTER "A" AWARD

Central Council Award to the Most Outstanding Chapter of the Year:
(Initiated in 1952)

| | | | | | |
|------|------------------------|------|------------------|------|-------------------|
| 1952 | Detroit, MI | 1965 | Long Island, NY | 1978 | Long Island, NY |
| 1953 | Cleveland, OH | 1966 | Racine, WI | 1979 | Cheltenham, PA |
| 1954 | Detroit, MI | 1967 | Montreal, QUE | 1980 | Lawrence, MA |
| 1955 | Union City, NJ | 1968 | Richmond, VA | 1981 | Palos Heights, IL |
| 1956 | Watertown, MA | 1969 | Watertown, MA | 1982 | Cleveland, OH |
| 1957 | Holy Cross-NYC, NY | 1970 | E. St. Louis, IL | 1983 | Wisconsin |
| 1958 | North Philadelphia, PA | 1971 | Detroit, MI | 1984 | Palos Heights, IL |
| 1959 | Worcester, MA | 1972 | (not awarded) | 1985 | Watertown, MA |
| 1960 | Detroit, MI | 1973 | (not awarded) | 1986 | Worcester, MA |
| 1961 | Detroit, MI | 1974 | (not awarded) | 1987 | Watertown, MA |
| 1962 | Worcester, MA | 1975 | (not awarded) | 1988 | Worcester, MA |
| 1963 | Toronto, ONT | 1976 | Watertown, MA | 1989 | Watertown, MA |
| 1964 | Toronto, ONT | 1977 | Detroit, MI | 1990 | Hartford, CT |

A.C.Y.O.A. SPECIAL AWARDS

Awarded during the National Sports Weekend

CHARLES YAGHOBIAN INDIVIDUAL SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD:
(Initiated in 1978. Given to an individual based on sportsmanship-like character)

1978 Jan Avakian - Wisconsin
1979 Shirley Toumayan - Watertown
1980 Ararat Hacetoglu - Toronto
1981 Richard Yerganian - Watertown
1982 Malcom Sagherian - Westchester
1983 Sevan Sirmakesyan - Montreal
1984 Steve Sarkisian - Watertown
1985 Ararat Hacetian - St. Catherines
1986 Melina Spinuzza - Evanston
1987 Matthew Keurajian - Detroit
1988 Gregory Arpajian - Cleveland
1989 Gregory Arpajian - Cleveland
1990 Randy Dagley - Watertown

JOHN KULHANJIAN MEMORIAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SPORTSMANSHIP:
(Initiated in 1975. Based on chapter participation in Sports Weekend Competition)

1975 Merrimack Valley
1976 Bayside
1977 New Britain
1978 Lawrence
1979 Toronto
1980 Cleveland
1981 Palos Heights
1982 Palos Heights
1983 Montreal
1984 St. Catherines
1985 Wisconsin/Palos Heights
1986 Washington, D.C.
1987 Evanston
1988 Cleveland
1989 Greenfield
1990 Washington, D.C.

MASIS AWARD:
(Initiated in 1987. Awarded to the chapter with the highest average number of points per participant.)

1987 Washington, D.C.
1988 Cleveland
1989 Greenfield
1990 Greenfield

SAM NERSESIAN AWARD:
(Initiated in 1979. Given to an individual of outstanding Christian character.)

1979 Samuel Nersesian (posthumously) - St. Louis
1980 Mariann Hovsepian - Detroit
1981 Debbie Stephanian - Evanston
1982 Gary Townsend - Lawrence
1983 Steve Sarkisian - Watertown
1984 Susan Boyajian - Palos Heights
1985 Ronald Godoshian - Detroit
1986 Beth Bilbilian - Worcester
1987 Linda Ekizian - Washington, D.C.
1988 Susan Bergoudian - Watertown
1989 Robert Shamgochian - Worcester
1990 Richard Mardirosian - Hartford and Paula Bechakian - Watertown

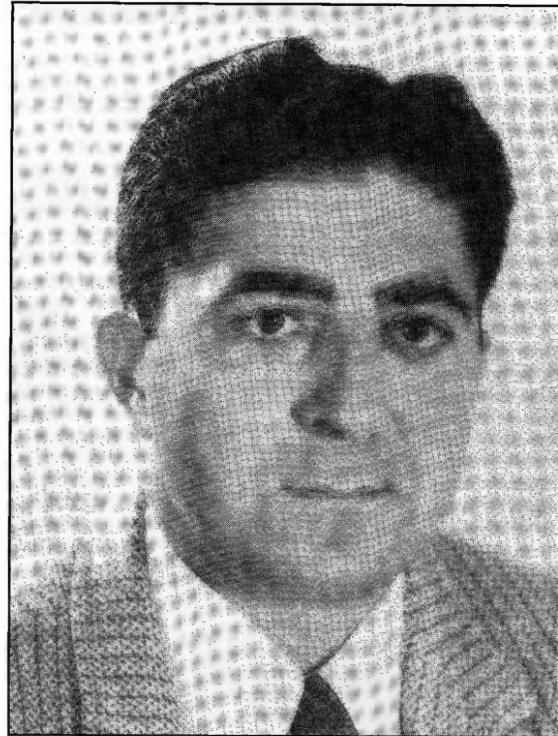
A.C.Y.O.A. SPECIAL AWARDS (cont.)

ARCHBISHOP'S ESSAY AWARDS:
(Initiated in 1982 - Armenian and English Categories)

1982 English - Kevin Magarian
1990 English - Greg Norsigian (Hartford)

BABAYAN CUP
(Initiated in 1974. Awarded to the Chapter which scores the highest number of points in the various athletic competitions.)

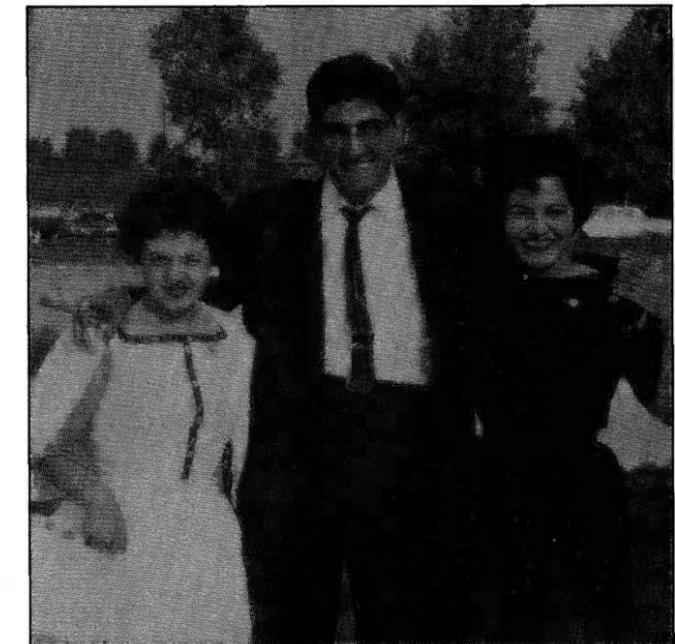
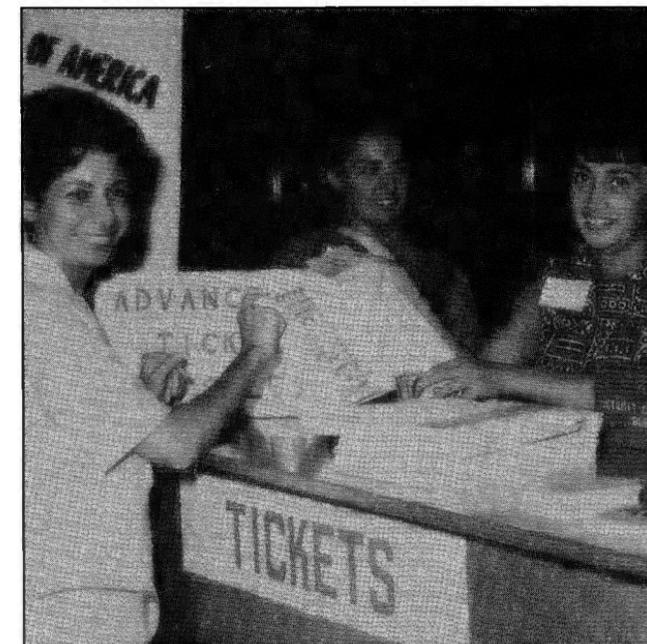
1974 Detroit
1975 Detroit & Watertown
1976 Detroit
1977 Detroit
1978 Watertown
1979 Wisconsin
1980 Detroit
1981 Detroit
1982 Detroit
1983 Detroit
1984 Detroit
1985 Montreal
1986 Wynnewood
1987 Detroit
1988 Evanston
1989 Greenfield
1990 Greenfield



Zaven Hovsepian
First Central Council Chairman



ACYOA Central Council
(1946 - 1947)





Diamond
Sponsor



In memory of Charles Talanian
Mrs. Charles Talanian



*Gold
Benefactors*

*In memory of Anne Kasparian
Paul & Ann Der Boghosian*

Mrs. Deran Hintlian

*Silver
Patrons*

*Law Offices
of Richard C. Bagdasarian, P.A.*

*In memory of my husband, John Danielson
Margaret Danielson*

*Bronze
Donors*

A.G.B.U. Fort Lauderdale Chapter

Mrs. Deran Altoonian

In memory of Deran Altoonian

Mrs. Ardemis Avakian

Miss Acabe Boornazian

Mrs. Lillian Boyajian

Mrs. Paul Der Hagopian

Mr. & Mrs. Aram Kazanjian

Greg & Ara Kazarian

Charlotte Z. Keshian

*In memory of Edward D. Keshian, Beloved Husband
Congratulations and Happy 45th Anniversary and a Bright Future*

Carl and Florence Kevorkian

In memory of Simon Hamalian

Mrs. Peggy Bejian Mamoorian

In memory of Albert Mamoorian

Lisa D. Manookian

Jean, Sara & Martha Martinian

Elizabeth and Mark Totovian

In memory of Martin Martinian

*Bronze Donors
cont.*

Alice, Melanie & Kevin Mikaelian

In memory of Nickey Mikaelian

*Welcome To The Sunshine State
St. David Armenian Church ACYOA*

*Congratulations ACYOA on your
45th Anniversary
Pastor & Parish Council
St. David Armenian Church
Boca Raton, Florida*

St. David Armenian Church Women's Guild

*Congratulations and Best Wishes For
Continued Success
Pastor & Parish Council
St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Armenian Church
Wynnewood, PA*

*Best Wishes
Wynnewood ACYOA*

*The Best Of Times D.C. in '56
ACYOA Alumnus
Naomi & Carl Zeytoonian*

Boosters

Dolly Adamian

In memory of Zarie Arzoomanian

Mr. & Mrs. Vian J. Avedisian

In memory of Judge John and Mary (Avedisian) Nazarian

Richard & Sarah Bagdasarian

In memory of Rose Nazarian

Rosann L. Bagdasarian

Alice N. Bashian

Lucy & Rus Bongarzone

Olivia Arslanian Brooks

St. Gregory of Narek ACYOA

*The Cleveland ACYOA wishes to thank everyone
who came and supported our
Sports Weekend -O-Flie-O '90'*

Mr. & Mrs. George Davitian

Aghavni "Aggie" Ellian

Zee M. Hollisian

Mr. & Mrs. Hachy Horasan

Yenovk & Lisa Jacmacjian

Boosters cont.

Deacon Aren & Rena Jebejian

In memory of Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan

Rena Mari Jebejian

In honor of Deacon Aren Jebejian's Ordination

Margaret Lave

Mr. & Mrs. Vahaken Melikian

Sarkis Pancuk

In honor of Manuk Pancuk's 65th Birthday

Ace & Marvene Proodian

Lucy Rosvally

Mr. & Mrs. John Sarian

Mr. Sam C. Simitian

In memory of Mr. Charles Simitian and Mrs. Vehanoush Simitian

Rose "Nevart" Zeytoonian

In memory of Joseph "Housep" Zeytoonian

ST. DAVID ARMENIAN CHURCH
Boca Raton, Florida

The youngest parish of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, Saint David Armenian Church was built in the city of Boca Raton, in March of 1988, and was consecrated on Palm Sunday, March 27, 1988 by His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate. The new name of the church replaced the conventional title of the Armenian Church of South Florida, which identified the South Florida parish since 1979 and served as the community center of some 200 families, both residents and vacationers.

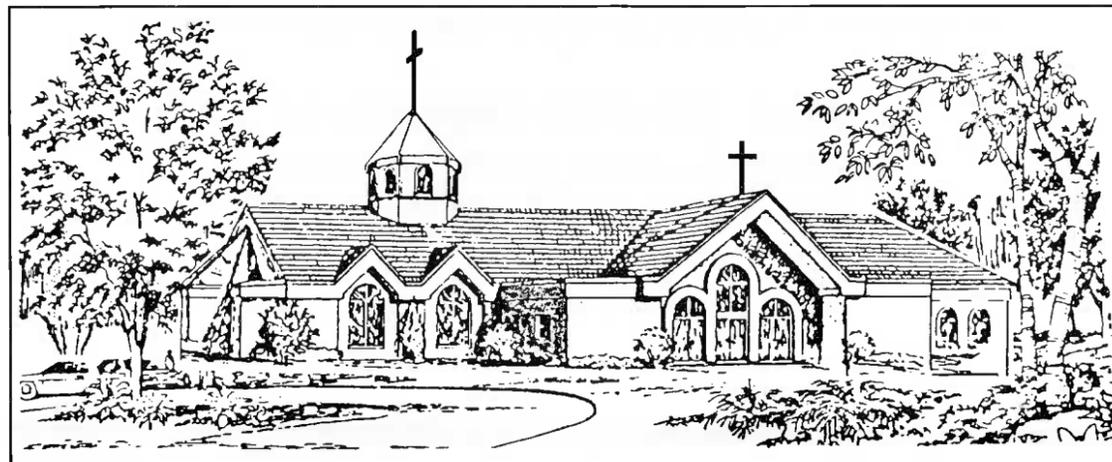
The construction of this beautiful church and the elegant Mardigian Hall marked the culmination of seven years' concerted efforts, of generous contributions and dedicated service, and dawned a bright and permanent future, full of enthusiasm and anticipation.

Our two benefactors who contributed generously to the realization of this great project, in addition to our parishioners' substantial donations, are Mr. and Mrs. Edward and Helen Mardigian, in whose honor the Hall was named and dedicated on March 27, 1988, and Mrs. Lois Shakarian James, the Godmother of the new church, who wished to name the church St. David, in memory of their late husband David Shakarian.

The St. David parish includes 200 families as permanent residents, scattered in Broward and Palm Beach counties. It was officially established by the Primate in 1979, and visiting clergy officiated since then until November 1, 1984, when the Rev. Dr. Zaven Arzoumanian arrived in Florida as the parish's first permanent priest. Father Arzoumanian has been serving the community since then.

In addition to the permanent residents, another 150 families are among the supporters of St. David, who visit Palm Beach County from the north and serve the parish wholeheartedly and generously.

On May 11, 1989, the Committee Appearance Board of the City of Boca Raton, presented the 1988 Special Recognition Architectural Award to St. David Armenian Church by the hands of Mayor Emil F. Danciu. On January 7, 1990, the Mayor presented to Father Arzoumanian a plaque with the "Key of the City," commemorating the building of the first Armenian Church in the State of Florida.



1991 ACYOA NATIONAL ANNIVERSARY BALL COMMITTEE

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Co-Chairmen | Rena Jebejian Lisa Manookian |
| Publicity | Laurie Onanian |
| Treasurer | Melanie Mikaelian |
| Entertainment | Steve Minoogian |
| Reception | Kevin Mikaelian |
| Beach Party/Cookout | Greg Khatchadourian Kevin Mikaelian |
| Booklet | Lisa Manookian |

The Committee wishes to thank the following for their assistance in weekend preparation and activities:

Mr. Vian Avedisian for his advice and guidance

Mrs. Roslyn Basherian for assisting with the centerpieces

Mr. Rudy Berberian and his cooking crew

Mrs. Meline Grigorian

Yeretzgin Aurora Jebejian

Mrs. Alice Mikaelian

Mrs. Virginia Norsesian for preparing the flower arrangements

Mr. Sarkis Pancuk

Mr. Chris Zakian

Mrs. Naomi Zeytoonian for the balloons

The ACYOA of St. David Armenian Church

The Men's Club of St. David Armenian Church

The Women's Guild of St. David Armenian Church

The ACYOA Central Council

