

ANNUAL REPORT - 1975

ST. NERSESS ARMENIAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF WESTCHESTER

The St. Nersess Armenian Community School which has been functioning for the past five years, since before the formation of the parish and is now under the auspices of the Armenian Church of Westchester, began its sixth school term in September with an increased enrollment of 52 students (29 in Sunday School and 23 in Language).

Both classes are now being held at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Hartsdale, New York. We are fortunate again this year to have Armenian seminarians teaching in addition to other qualified lay teachers from the community under the supervision of Father Karekin Kasparian.

Language school held on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. also includes instructions in Armenian folk songs and dances. Tuition per family is \$30.00 for 1 child; \$55.00 for 2; \$70.00 for 3 and there is no fee for the newly formed pre-kindergarden class. The staff includes Deacon Bedros Sarkissian; coordinator, Mrs. Zarouhi Gugasian; dance instructor and kindergarden teacher, Mrs. Araxi Tepikian, seminarian Onnig Terzian and Mrs. Alice Shimshidian; substitute.

The Sunday School children are taught prayers, sharagans and given religious instructions according to their age levels. The staff of teachers and substitutes are Miss Betty Adourian, Miss Lucine Daderian, Mr. Donald Darien, Miss Laurie Darien, Mrs. Rose Darien, Mr. Ara Ishkanian, Deacon Arthur Sabonjian, Mr. Ara Shimshidian, Miss Janice Tepikian and seminarian Miss Sirarpi Feredjian; coordinator.

The school committee members who meet monthly are, Mrs. Louise Tezel; chairman, Mrs. Alice Shimshidian; co-chairman, Mrs. Mary Azarian; treasurer, Mrs. Barbara Dorian; recording secretary, Mrs. Violet Sirabian; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Aida Pisani; publicity. Mrs. Rose Derdarian, Mrs. Queenie Palladino, Mrs. Sylvia Sarkisian, Mrs. Diana Stepanian, Mrs. Lucy Tepikian; special projects. Mr. Edward Essayan; parish council liaison officer, Father Karekin Kasparian; president.

On May 29, 1975 the chairmen of the various church branches were invited to meet with the parish council and with Archbishop Torkom Manogian to discuss future plans and goals of our church. The school committee presented a report. Among other items the report talked about the teacher training course attended by seminarian Michael Chevian at the Teacher's Skills Institute for one week to learn the latest methods in teaching.

Several of our students participated in video-taped classes conducted by Michael Chevian and Miss Valerie Goekjian. Sunday School teacher, Miss Janice Tepikian and seminarians Hagop Rustemian and Michael Chevian also attended weekly evening seminars at St. Vladimir's Seminary.

The Armenian language teachers participated in a training course given by Miss Sylva Der Stepanian, Executive Director of the Armenian schools of the Diocese.

Activities of the Committee:

The school Hantess on May 9th was well attended and received. The program consisted of sharagans, songs, music, dance, a play, recitations, presentations, addresses and awards for best attendance.

On Thursday evening, March 27th twelve of our student boys took part in the Washing of the Feet ceremony in church.

The committee helped to prepare for the annual Orthodox Education Day at St. Vladimir's in October.

On the observance of the 60th Anniversary of the Martyrs we hired a bus to transport Westchester residents to St. Vartan's Cathedral for the processional to St. Patrick's Cathedral.

We plan small parties for the children on holidays and at Christmas we had a pizza luncheon with all the trimmings, and gifts of crosses were presented to all the children.

In summary the school has been making improvements and steadily progressing under the expert guidance of our pastor and with the cooperation of everyone concerned.

The following is a brief financial statement of the schools:

Opening Balance	\$ 706.66
Income from Tuition, Various Functions, Donations	1,362.59
Expenses - Teachers, Rent, Books, Conference	
Attendance, Postage, Supplies	1,484.37
Balance	<u>\$ 584.88</u>

Respectfully submitted,

January, 1976

Louise Tezel (chairman)