

ANNUAL REPORT - 1977 - 1978

ST. NERSESS ARMENIAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF WESTCHESTER

The St. Nersess Armenian Language and Sunday School began their eighth session this past September under the auspices of the Armenian Church of Westchester. We are fortunate, once again, to hold both classes at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Hartsdale, New York.

Language School has an enrollment of 19 students and they meet every Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuition is \$30.00 for 1 child and \$55.00 for 2 children in the family. Under the very capable supervision of Father Karekin Kasparian, who teaches the advanced class, we are now privileged in having two lay teachers from the community, who have generously volunteered their services to our children. One is Mrs. Aida Pisani, who teaches the beginner class. She was born in Athens, Greece and migrated to New York via Canada early in her life. Recently, she received her B.A. from The College of New Rochelle. Mrs. Berjouhi Pidedjian teaches the intermediate class. She is a native born New Yorker who is at the present time actively teaching in the New York City School system. Both women speak Armenian fluently. Mrs. Pidedjian, who happens to have a lovely voice, also teaches Armenian songs to the children. Our sincerest thanks go to both women and also to their husbands for their invaluable support.

As a special feature this year, we have Armenian dance instruction given by Miss. Rhona Markarian, who is a member of the Antranig Dance Group. We've noticed that some of the mothers partake in this segment of the class because it is so enjoyable.

Our biggest concern is Sunday School. There is an enrollment of 13 children; however, more often than not a mere handful appear. This is a shame, for the children are taught prayers, sharagans and given religious instructions according to their age level by a very qualified staff of teachers and substitutes. They are as follows: Lucy Tepikian, Lucine Daderian, Lisa Kuzujian, Laura Tepikian, Sylvia Adourian, Janice Tepikian, and Christine Derdiarian. Deacon Onnig Terzian is a teacher and the coordinator of the school.

The school committee members, who meet monthly, are Anita Wolohojian; chairperson and treasurer, Mary Hakissian; co-chairperson of the Language School, Lucy Tepikian; co-chairperson of the Sunday School, Berjouhi Pidedjian; recording secretary, Alice Sakalian; corresponding secretary, Rose Derdiarian, Lucy Haroutunian, Louise Tezel, Elizabeth terPoorten; special activities, Father Karekin Kasparian; president.

Periodically, Miss Sylvia Der Stepanian, Executive Director of the Armenian Schools of the Diocese, visits our school and makes valuable observations and suggestions.

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

On January 31, 1977, we had a Chinese Auction, which was our only fund raising event of the year. On this occasion dinner was served, followed by items either auctioned or raffled off. It was a huge success.

The school Hantess on June 15th was well attended and received. The program consisted of songs, dances, a play, recitations, presentations and addresses.

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

The Archbishop Torkom Manogian's Christmas Party was well attended and enjoyed by our children.

Throughout the year, we plan small parties for the children on holidays such as Easter, Halloween, etc. At Christmas we had a traditional pizza luncheon with all the trimmings. A very special treat this year was a visit from Santa, bearing gifts of little plants for all the children.

Plans are now being formulated for our March 5th fund raising event. This year a slightly different format will be followed.

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

The following is a brief financial statement of the schools:

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| Cash on hand as of January 1, 1977 | \$ 689.68 |
| Total Income: | |
| * Chinese Auction, plate collection, tuition & Contributions. | <u>1,559.00</u> |
| | \$ 2,248.68 |
| Expenses: | |
| * Teachers' salaries, projector & cassette player for school, gifts & party supplies, books & misc. | <u>1,162.77</u> |
| Balance as of January 1, 1978 | \$ 1,085.91 |

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Wolohojian
Chairperson

January 1978