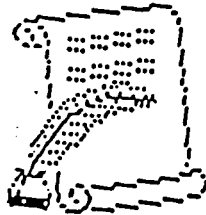


1995
Reports of all Church
organizations



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Rev. Fr. Untzag Nalbandian, Pastor
Armenian Church of the Holy Ascension
1460 Huntington Turnpike
Trumbull, CT 06611
Tel. (203) 372-5770



ՍՐ. ՀԱՄԱՐՁՈՒՄ ՀԱՅՑ. ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ
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REV. FR. UNTZAG NALBANDIAN
ARMENIAN CHURCH OF
THE HOLY ASCENSION

1460 Huntington Turnpike
Trumbull, Conn. 06611
Tel: 203/372/5770

January 23, 1996

Dear Church Members:

According to the wishes of our 1987 Parish Assembly, we are mailing the 1995 reports of all the organizations and committees. Please read them all and if you have any questions, feel free to ask them on Jan. 28, 1996 when the annual Parish Assembly is held.

I also wish to inform you that the Pastor's, Parish Council Chairman's, Treasurer's and Auditing Committee's reports will be given at the Parish Assembly.

I hope to see you all on Jan. 28th. We need your participation and input in our and your church matters.

Also, please encourage others to attend the Annual Assembly.

Prayerfully,

Fr. Untzag Nalbandian
Pastor

1996 YEAR OF THE YOUTH

1996 is declared the year of the youth by our Primate, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian. By this announcement we all are invited to pay more attention to our youth especially by encouraging them to involve themselves in the life of our church not only to serve and give, but also to receive and be educated by the teachings of our Mother Church.

Let us all make 1996 the year of the youth by each one of us trying to bring at least one young adult into the life of our parish for the re-vitalization of our Holy Ascension Parish and for the glory of God, whose servants we all are.

Prayerfully,

Fr. Untzag Nalbandian
Pastor

DIOCESAN DELEGATE'S REPORT by Connie Kasparian, Delegate The report of the 93rd Diocesan Assembly held at St. Vartanantz Armenian Church, Chelmsford, MA.

The Assembly opened on Thursday, May 4, 1995. Arthur Mardigian was elected Assembly Chairman and Dan Dorian was elected Vice-Chairman.

We heard reports from all the organizations. On Friday we held panel discussions for each department and reports were made on Saturday. I moderated the panel on Total Youth Ministry.

The outcome of that panel was that most of the delegates felt that parents as well as children need to be educated on Christianity and doctrine as it relates to the Armenian Church.

I found that most parishes have the same problems as we. Parents dropping their children off at church, going out for coffee is a Diocesan wide practice. The fact that Sunday School and Armenian School children are not brought up to the church every Sunday was also discussed. Most felt that children need to be a part of Badarak every Sunday in our church to set a practice and pattern. It was unanimous that more education on the bible and history was necessary for children to understand our church and religion. We also discussed the importance of young adults being sent to Armenia and felt 18 year olds who graduate from high school should be sent before they start college. The Diocese cut funds from Social Services this year and the assembly voted to add funds to Social Services because we all felt that the department was very necessary and should be expanded not be cut.

A proposal was made and passed that the assembly wanted to know how many restricted funds we had and what the restrictions are. The Diocese is working hard to balance our budget and our budget is still in excess of \$3,000,000.

The Diocese is in the process of being renovated and the Kavookjian Hall has been remodeled. It looks beautiful. I saw it two weeks ago and we are hopeful that the income will offset the renovation costs.

The Primate announced that the Diocese is actively looking for a campsite to purchase. He felt Connecticut would be the best place to purchase this property because of its easy access to Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey. He also announced that there was a possible donor for this project. Please let me know if any of you are aware of such a property.

It seems that we are having a problem renting suitable sites and we definitely have a need for a permanent home for a camp. We all felt it was important for our children to have a successful experience at an Armenian camp and the importance of that experience, so that our children are tied to the Armenian church at an early age.

It was also suggested that each church have a campership program on a yearly basis.

The report of the Unity Committee was not too hopeful. We are still waiting for the Prelacy to respond to a letter we sent in order to resume talks. We all thought that this would be the year for unity but as I said it doesn't look hopeful.

The letter/call campaign was discussed in full. That campaign showed a \$100,000 profit but it seems a few of the callers have offended some of our parishioners in the Diocese. The administration will look into the program and either correct some of the problems or may cancel the program. As it stands now, if the Diocese can raise an additional \$100,000 a year the Diocese should run well.

The Chelmsford parish did a wonderful job of hosting this year's assembly and the 94th assembly will be held at Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church in Wynnwood, PA. I've reported some of the highlights of this assembly and have the minutes and financial reports of last year's assembly. If anyone is interested in reading them, please contact me. It has been a pleasure representing you this year and I would like to thank you for the opportunity.

1995 A. C. Y. O. A. Jrs. REPORT

This year the ACYOA Jrs. Have accomplished so much. The officers this year were: *Maral Nalbandian, Chairman; Hovig Nalbandian, Treasurer; Aram Gavoor, Vice-Chairman and Assistant Treasurer; Susan Cartiglia, Secretary; Ani Gulbenk, Historian and Librarian.*

Thanks for a great year.

We started out with 8 members and ended the year with 15 active members. WE have had a total of 8 meetings this year. The following are the activities we did in '95:

- 1)Mother's Day Brunch.
- 2)Helped usher the Erevan Chorale Society's concert.
- 3)ACYOA Bazaar booth.
- 4)Christmas caroling.
- 5)And some of our ACYOA members got involved in some educational programs here in our church.

Susan and I went to a sports weekend in October at Bayside, New York and had a fantastic time greeting new Armenian friends.

We have raised enough money to give \$650.00 which is the balance of our Khachkar pledge.

I thank everyone who supported the activities that were held this year and all the officers and members for a terrific year. Thanks again.

Sincerely,
Maral Nalbandian
Chairman

1995 A.C.Y.O.A. Jrs. Treasurer's Report

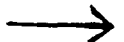
<u>BEGINNING BALANCE</u>		\$219.37
Expenses:	\$100.00=	Mother's Day Brunch
	51.60=	Christmas caroling
	40.00=	Pizza
	68.58=	Miscellaneous expense
	<u>295.00=</u>	Special Olympics
Total	\$486.06	
<u>CHECK DEPOSITS:</u>	\$305.00=	Special Olympic re-imbusement
	110.00	
	295.95	
	<u>537.55</u>	
Total	\$1,248.05	
<u>ENDING BALANCE</u>		\$912.32
<u>TRANSFER TO CHURCH:</u>	\$650.00=	balance of Khachkar monument
<u>ENDING BALANCE FOR 1995!</u>		<u>\$262.32</u>

*Respectfully submitted,
Hovig Nalbandian, Treasurer*

Kim Kasparian, Advisor

**1995 BAZAAR
FOOD SALES BY CATEGORY**

ITEM	PRICE	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	TOTAL
DINNERS				
SHISH KEBAB	\$10.00	86	78	165
LULU KEBAB	10.00	11	36	47
CHICKEN	10.00	36	47	83
SANDWICHES				
SHISH KEBAB	7.00	17	20	37
LULU KEBAB	7.00	16	12	28
CHICKEN	7.00	12	12	24
COFFEE	.50	86	171	257
SODA	1.00	155	214	369
LAMAJOUN	1.50	45	84	129
TABULEH	1.50	43	41	84
VEGETABLES	1.50	6	11	17
PILAF	1.50	23	21	44
TAHINI BREAD	2.00	41	32	73
BOREG	1.50	34	38	72
KUFTA	1.50	25	34	59
SALAD	1.50	12	16	28
MISC.	2.00	25	239	264



**1995
BAZAAR
FINANCIAL REPORT**

DEPARTMENTAL PROFITS

RAFFLE	\$ 1,920.00
FOOD SALES	3,251.27
AD BOOK	3,727.00
PASTRY (ELEANOR)	1,116.64
RUG AUCTION	75.00
VENDORS	300.00
WHITE ELEPHANT	110.10
RUGS	384.92
MID EAST	245.02
INTEREST INCOME	<u>32.59</u>

GROSS INCOME **\$11,162.54**

EXPENSES

ADVERTISING	\$ 69.00	(\$200 FROM BASHIAN)
MAGICIAN	150.00	
BAND	450.00	
DISHWASHER	<u>160.00</u>	

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$ 829.00**

TOTAL PROFIT **\$10,333.54**

CASH REGISTER RENTAL DONATED BY MR & MRS RICHARD NAJARIAN

CHECK BOOK BALANCE 8/1/95	\$ 2,195.73
BAZAAR PROFIT 1995	10,333.54
TRANSFER TO PARISH COUNCIL 12/10/95	10,000.00
CHECK BOOK BALANCE 1/12/96	\$ 2,529.27

1/12/96

**Respectfully submitted,
Nazareth Azarian,
Bazaar Treasurer**

1995 SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

The Sunday School underwent a change in structure in 1995, as a result of requests from parents and parishioners. In an effort to have the children attend Badarak on Sunday, the class time of the school in September was moved to 10:00 a.m. with the classroom instruction for one hour. The students attend church services together, learning the Badarak with the aid of the Divine Liturgy books given to each one of them from the church. The new schedule has proven to be effective in two areas - classroom time has been lengthened to provide more in-depth lessons with an emphasis on Divine Liturgy and the students are attending services on a weekly basis, gaining a greater understanding of the beauty of the Badarak and the various facets, including the musical hymns. We are happy with the change and will monitor its progression as the year goes on.

The School's activities were accomplished in conjunction with the Armenian Language School's staff and students. We were pleased to provide the luncheon and program for Armenian Christmas on January 6th, with the children enjoying their annual visit from Santa.

February brought a wonderful program for St. Vartanantz Day, with the parishioners enjoying a lunch and lecture from teacher Mari Yapoujian on the life of Father Gomidas, with musical selections by Vrej and Houri Yapoujian. We also held a bake sale on Palm Sunday, the proceeds going to the Department of Religious Education for the Annual Lenten Drive.

The Schools were happy to sponsor seven of our students to attend Armenian camps in the area, such as St. Vartan Camp, St. Nersess, and Camp Hayastan. We also provided sponsorship for an Armenian child - a young girl we have received letters from over the last year.

Our students continue to participate in many aspects of the church life - scripture readers, acolytes, choir members, even helping out in the kitchen! They are very much a part of this community and are learning about the roles that they can play in the church as they grow older.

The Students attended graduation exercises in May, with a pizza celebration following. Although September brought fewer students to our classrooms, we have enjoyed much success in teaching religious education to them. We continue to seek children who would like to join us to have fun in learning about our Lord.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda McGann, Principal

1995 Armenian Language/Sunday School Financial Report

	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Beginning Balance 1/1/95			\$470.69
Jan. Christmas Food & Gifts	\$258.25		
Khachkar Donation	30.00		
Christmas Proceeds		\$332.75	
Supplies	8.57		
Feb Vartanantz Dinner Proceeds		358.50	
Reimbursement Camp Sponsorship		300.00	
Apr Palm Sunday Bake Sale		160.00	
May Dept. of Religious Education			
(Lenten Drive)	200.00		
Wreath - Apr 24th	10.00		
Aug Camp Sponsorship			
(Seven Children)	350.00		
Sept Donation to Church	500.00		
Hantes Proceeds		211.00	
Hantes Expenses	120.88		
School Expenses	25.42		
Gift for Bibles		70.00	
Interest earned Jan - Dec		10.77	
Ending Balance 12/31/95			\$410.59

Respectfully submitted,

Linda McGann
Principal/Acting Treasurer

Armenian School : 1995 Report

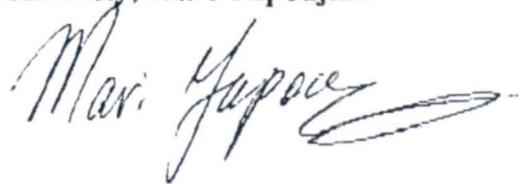
No significant changes have taken place in the Armenian School since its commencement in September under its new format. With the Direction of Mari Yapoujian and teachers, Lisa Misakian, Rita Chaghatsbanian, and Vrej Yapoujian the school is going forward as planned. Thus far we still have ten registered students who have been diligently following the designed program, (weather permitting).

Although we were aware of the significance of the saying that "Music is food for the Soul", we had no idea that the addition of the music class in our curriculum would have such an impact on our children . They all seem to look forward to that portion of the evening, and the feedback that we are receiving from the parents is exceptionally encouraging.

Thus far all the planed activities for the coming year are still in motion, and we are looking forward to a busy second half. At this time I would like to extend an invitation to all the parents and grandparents of school aged children to visit us on one of the Friday evening sessions to get a closer look at what our school is aiming to achieve. I would like to also extend an invitation to every person who has a good knowledge of the Armenian Language and is willing to be a part of this most rewarding experience.

We have learned from past experience that, Quality is what really matters and not Quantity. We are very proud of our teachers efforts, and we hope that they continue their services no matter how minimum is the number of the students. We are hopeful that as time goes by our student and staff numbers will increase as parents will come to realize the schools potentials. Throughout the years, our Language schools have survived against all odds; we intend to survive and to succeed.

Sincerely, Mari Yapoujian

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mari Yapoujian", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

1995 Women's Guild Treasurer's Report

INCOME:

Beginning balance	\$ 206.74
Bank interest	22.26
Coffee hours	1,091.50
Membership dues	600.00
Gifts to guild	265.00
Khachkar cards	243.00
Parish directory	205.00
Coffee sold	36.00
Bazaar Expenses re-imbursed from Parish Council	653.58
Luncheon-Dinners	<u>1,183.25</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$4,506.33

EXPENSES:

Bank service charge	22.20
Gifts to Der Hyre & Yeretgin	190.00
Central Council Dues	100.00
Special Olympics	279.32
Kim Kasparian for Central Council in RI	184.00
Misc. Expenses (food cost, postage, cards)	1,107.24
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>1,882.76</u>

BALANCE **\$2,623.57**

In 1995 the Women's Guild had 4 luncheons and 1 dinner, in addition to the Mini-Bazaar, Church picnic and the Mt. Ararat Bazaar for 2 days.

Beginning with a balance of \$206.74 in January, the Guild is proud to report an ending balance of \$2,623.57.

We shall donate \$1,000.00 to the Mortgage Burning fund and \$1,000.00 to the Parish Council. This will leave a balance of \$623.57 for January 1996.

Respectfully submitted,
Florence Chakmakjian, Treasurer

WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT

The Women's Guild experienced a very full and successful year. It was filled with many fundraisers and social activities. They included: weekly coffee hours, update and publication of the parish directory, the sale of Khachkar postcards, several luncheons and the sale of Middle Eastern foods at the annual bazaar festival. We also sponsored an art exhibit by Raphael Petrosian, and slide presentations by Raffi Sevajian, on his trip to Iran, and my presentation on the ASP trip to Armenia. In November we organized a trip to ALMA, Watertown, MA to see the Armenian Genocide Exhibit

We held two general meetings this year and several executive meetings. In addition we assisted the Parish Council throughout the year, (including the preparation of the mass for Sunday Liturgy) and the Bazaar Committee during the bazaar.

I represented the Guild at the annual Women's Guild Assembly in Nashua, New Hampshire this year. Primary projects carried out by the Central Council are the continued support of the CASP program, the school book bag project for the children of Armenia and the publication of our Armenian Holy Bible.

I am thankful to have had the opportunity to serve the Guild this year. When I accepted the position of Chairperson, it was both my hope and the intention to bring change to the Guild that would enable more participation from the membership body. The Guild by-laws state that the purpose of the executive board is to execute the will of the body. Traditionally, our executive board has functioned as the working body. In the changing needs of our church and the changing lifestyles of our members the traditional way has become overwhelming and tiresome for most of our members who otherwise might be willing to serve the Guild if there was more support from the general membership.

In some instances I was successful but in most cases I'm sorry to say I wasn't. I encourage this membership to continue to work with the new executive board on how you would like to serve the Guild. In order to ensure the future of this organization we will need to be flexible and find new ways that we can work as a group as opposed to a handful of working few.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the executive board for all their hard work this year. I truly admire their hard work and dedication to this Guild.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Kasparian
Chairperson

1995 CHOIR REPORT

This year, like the past years, our choir participated in the Divine Liturgies of every Sunday, Armenian Christmas, as well as Christmas and Easter Eve Divine Liturgies. Our choir members also participated in the interfaith Thanksgiving Eve service.

During 1995, the choir participated in many rehearsals that were conducted by Virginia Kalfaian. On the occasion of our church's 64th anniversary and Archbishop Khajag Barsamian's visit, Maestro Khoren Meikhanedjian conducted workshops with our deacons on Friday and with the choir and the deacons on Saturday prior to the Primate's visit. He also conducted the choir during the Primate's Badarak. It was very gratifying and also a humbling experience to participate in a choir that was conducted by such a gifted conductor and composer.

I am pleased to report that Garine, originally from Armenia, has joined our choir. I am also pleased to report that Mary Day McGregor and Maral Nalbandian have joined Hovig Nalbandian in playing the church organ during the services.

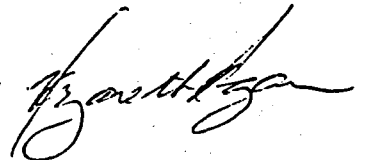
I would like to thank all our choir members, and conductors, Virginia Kalfaian, Nazareth Azarian and Charles Balian. I would also like to thank our officers Pearl Khachadoorian, secretary and Nazareth Azarian, Treasurer.

Vrej Yapoujian
Chairman

1995 CHOIR REPORT

CHECK BOOK BALANCE JANUARY 1, 1995		\$ 997.18
1995 PALM SUNDAY PROFITS		1,225.79
INTEREST INCOME 1995		17.24
DONATION TO CHURCH	\$1,000.00	
POSTAGE	50.98	
GIFTS	25.00	
CHECK BOOK BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 1995		\$ 1,164.23

SUBMITTED BY CHOIR TREASURER NAZARETH AZARIAN 12/31/95



MINUTES OF THE 1995 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The 1995 Parish Assembly was held in the Agahigian-Sherinian Church Hall on February 5, 1995. The meeting was opened at 12:45 p.m. with an invocation led by Rev. Fr. Untzag Nalbandian.

Richard Nagarian, chairman of the Parish Council, called the meeting to order. 1994 Parish Assembly secretary, Sharyn N. D'Urso, recorded the opening business. Richard Nagarian reported that there were One Hundred Fourteen parishioners who had paid their dues.

By roll call, Margaret Azarian verified that thirty dues-paid members were present. According to the by-laws, a quorum of one third of the membership was not present to proceed under the by-laws, Article Seventeen, First Paragraph. However business could continue under Article Seventeen, Second Paragraph. In order to proceed under this provision of the by-laws, each decision made during the assembly had to be reached by two thirds majority vote. Given the members present, the affirmative vote of twenty (20) parishioners was required in order to proceed with the meeting.

Discussion was heard regarding the lack of a quorum, following which Fr. Nalbandian reviewed the terms of Article Seventeen for greater illumination and clarification with the membership. Connie Kasparian made a motion to proceed without a quorum, according to Article Seventeen, Paragraph Two. Grace DeYoung and Nazareth Azarian seconded the motion. Twenty-two members, a majority greater than two thirds of the voting members present, elected to proceed with the Parish Assembly. By unanimous vote, Mark Gavoor was elected as chairman for the 1995 Parish Assembly and Sharyn N. D'Urso was elected as secretary.

The Minutes of the 1994 Parish Assembly which had been earlier distributed for review to the voting membership were accepted without corrections or additions. Connie Kasparian made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Matthew Tokatlian, seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

Fr. Nalbandian gave a special thanks to Melanie Donoian, Harry Tashjian and Elenor Zysk for their commitment and generous time devoted to fulfilling their roles as members of the Nominating Committee.

Proceeding with the meeting, the Nominating Committee presented a ballot for voting which was reviewed before the Assembly. A sample ballot is appended hereto as, Appendix I.

The first slate of nominations on the ballot was for the office of Parish Council. There were ten names of parish members represented on the ballot for this office. The name of Setrak Javian was deleted from the slate because of a technicality.

A Request for additional nominations from the floor did not result in additional candidates for office. Connie Kasparian made a motion to accept the ballot as it was presented and corrected. Stanley Zysk seconded the motion. The motion carried by two-thirds majority.

Before voting for Parish Council, Richard Najarian described the responsibilities of this office to the Assembly. The obligations were summarized as follows: attend monthly business meetings, assist at Sunday Services, assist Fr. Nalbandian with family visitations, support and attend other church functions.

All preliminary matters dispensed with, Margaret Azarian read the names of dues paid members. Melanie Donoian and Elenor Zysk distributed the ballots accordingly.

Assembly Chairman, Mark Gavoor, reminded parishioners that each decision had to be reached by a minimum of twenty votes in order to satisfy the more stringent requirement of the By-laws for two-thirds majority rule, in the absence of a quorum at this Assembly. They were cautioned that voting for more than four members would invalidate the ballot as to the election of Parish Council members. Likewise, members were instructed to vote for only three of the six candidates for offices of the Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee.

Voting was carried out in accord with the by-laws, and upon collecting the ballots, the Nominating Committee retired to tally the votes. The meeting continued with Fr. Untzag Nalbandian addressing the parish Assembly.

REPORT OF THE PARISH PRIEST

Fr. Nalbandian complimented those present and extended his thanks to all members of the parish who support the work of the church, including bringing God closer to our lives as we come to worship together as Armenians.

Der Hyre commented about his work throughout the year as pastor, highlighting his pastoral duties: In 1994, he celebrated forty-nine Badaraks, visited the sick, attended most meetings of church organizations, gave counselling and spiritual guidance, made family visitations, gave special support to the youth and attended to a multitude of administrative tasks.

Also in 1994, Fr. Untzag performed over four baptisms, two weddings and five funerals in our church. During the year, he attended many meetings outside of the parish including Diocesan Council meetings in New York City and the annual ACYOA's assembly at the Diocese in New York.

Fr. Nalbandian highlighted the work of parishioners in church, the community, the and the Diocese. A list of these activities is appended hereto as Appendix II

In 1994 Pledge Committee Members: Richard Najarian, Sara Der Megerdichian and Nicky Taraian, helped to raise over \$20,000.00 in pledges. This amount represented the highest amount of annual donations pledged since Fr. Untzag Nalbandian became parish priest.

Fr. Nalbandian announced the 1995 Pledge Committee members: Sara Der Megerdichian, Nicky Taraian, and Elsie Chaghatzbanian. The goal for this Committee is to encourage each family to pledge a minimum of \$300.00 annually, so that the church can become financially solvent.

Regarding the financial outlook for 1995, Fr. Nalbandian forecast no major fund raising for the year outside of pledging. He stated that there are no known major renovations anticipated to either buildings or grounds. His primary goal is to devote more time and attention to the spiritual growth of parishioners.

Regarding upcoming events, Der Hyre reminded the Assembly that The Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra, Fr. Oshagian Minassian conducting, will perform at our church on April 30, 1995; there will be a commemorative service marking the 80th Anniversary of the Genocide; and the Primate's visit and the annual banquet will be held at Leidle's Restaurant. Senator Joseph Lieberman has been invited as guest speaker, although he has not confirmed.

Der Hyre extended an invitation for everyone in the parish to participate in hosting and supporting the athletes who will arrive from Armenia to compete in the Special Winter Olympics. The Games will be held July 1st-9th in Connecticut.

In continuing concern and outreach for the Motherland, Der Hyre reaffirmed this parish's continuing commitment to support the five families we have adopted in Armenia.

Fr. Nalbandian concluded his address to the Parish Assembly summarizing his hopes as pastor for 1995: developing Bible Study groups and educating for special events; inaugurating Peace and Rest Services during Lent; training for altar servers; expanding the choir; stimulating the development of the church school; continuing encouragement and support of the youth of the church.

Der Hyre recognized two outgoing members of Parish Council. Carmen Fuchs was recognized for two years of service to the church as a council member. Chairman Richard Najarian was honored for six years of "unselfish and true Christian" service. He was presented with the newly published Armenian Church Edition of the English Bible.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Chairman Richard Najarian, gave the report for Parish Council. Many goals established by the Parish Council were reached during 1994. Five orphaned families were adopted by the parish,

the Khachkar Monument was erected and the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service was hosted by the church.

At a Special Assembly, parishioners voted to sell a portion of the rear lot. The Parish Council is overseeing matters preliminary to the sale. Also, regarding buildings and grounds, renovations were made to the Parish House and new tenants have leased the property.

Parish Council supported the goal for greater outreach out to the young people in the parish. Parishioners joined together to surprise Der Hyre with a party for his Fortieth Birthday.

Mr. Najarian noted that pledges increased almost twenty-five percent from the 1993 pledges. He thanked the pledge committee members for their fundraising efforts and the generosity of parishioners.

This was Chairman Richard Najarian's sixth and, therefore, his last year on Parish Council. He thanked Fr. Nalbandian, Parish Council members and all parishioners for making his six years on the Council stimulating and personally fulfilling.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Darwin Jamgochian gave the Treasurer's Report and submitted the proposed budget for 1995. A suggestion was made for over/under columns and subtotals. This accounting procedure had been mentioned at earlier assemblies, comments from the floor favored adopting this procedure for the Treasurer's Report. Nazareth Nazarian made a motion to accept the report upon approval by the Auditing Committee. Richard Najarian seconded the motion which carried by unanimous voice vote.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Harry Tashjian reported for the Nominating Committee regarding the voting results. On the first ballot, Gary Donoian and Sharyn D'Urso were elected to the Parish Council and Mark Gavoor was elected to the nominating committee. These candidates were elected by at least two thirds of the voting members.

Discussion followed the announcement of these results. Richard Kalfaian moved that the next two candidates with the highest votes on this first ballot be elected to Parish Council. This suggestion was outside of the special requirement for voting in the absence of a quorum. Additional discussion was heard as to whether or not to proceed; members decided to continue with the meeting.

Parishioners voted for a second time to fill the open positions. While the Nominating Committee tallied the votes for this second ballot, other reports were heard.

AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT

Matthew Tokatlian was the only person present at the assembly from the Auditing Committee. Richard Kalfaian reviewed the Auditing report with Mr. Tokatlian. A recommendation was made for a comparative column to be added to the Treasurer's Report. This was supported by auditor, Mr. Tokatlian.

NEW BUSINESS

Connie Kasparian suggested a more detailed bookkeeping system.

Nazareth Azarian suggested promoting the Eightieth Anniversary of the Genocide. Fr. Nalbandian commented that at the Diocesan level, a committee has been organized to place a Khachkar on the pillars in front of St. Vartan's Cathedral in New York with an inscription of the names of Martyrs.

Additional discussion of new business was suspended when the Nominating Committee Members returned with the results of the second ballot.

SECOND REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Harry Tashjian, reporting for the Nominating Committee, stated Kim Kasparian had been elected by two thirds majority to Parish Council. The second ballot did not produce results to fill any other positions. A third ballot was necessary. There were twenty-eight voting parishioners in attendance for the third ballot. It was announced that the successful candidate would have to obtain at least nineteen votes, representing a two thirds majority.

CONTINUATION OF NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of the 80th Anniversary of the Genocide continued without a vote for a particular commemorative celebration other than what is already being planned.

ACYOA JUNIORS PRESENTATION

Maral Nalbandian, chair for the ACYOA, JRS. was joined by group members, Aram Gavor and Hovig Nalbandian for a special presentation. The Juniors have pledged One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the Khachkar Project. They gave a donation of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) toward the group pledge.

The ACYOA JRS gave a special thanks to John McCann who was their driver for Christmas Carolling, their annual fundraiser.

CONTINUING REPORT OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Harry Tashjian, reported that Garo Garabedian was elected for the Nominating Committee on the third Ballot. Other positions were not filled. Discussion followed about the difficulty for any candidate to reach a two thirds majority given the number of candidates on the ballot.

At this point, several members withdrew their names from the ballot: Virginia Kalfaian and Harry Tashjian withdrew their candidacy for Parish Council, Vartan Tarpinian withdrew as a candidate for Nominating Committee and Stanley Zysk withdrew as a candidate for the Auditing Committee.

The ballot was amended to reflect these changes: The twenty-five remaining parishioners voted for a fourth time. Seventeen votes were needed for a two-thirds majority.

The Nominating Committee shortly returned with the news that the Fourth Ballot did not result in a two thirds vote of any candidate for office. Committee members recommended a change in the voting procedure. Discussion followed.

Connie Kasparian suggested and Margaret Azarian supported the idea of revising the ballot to expedite the voting. The suggestion was that only the two candidates with the highest number of votes from the last ballot for each office remain on the ballot for a final vote.

Harry Tashjian made a motion to revise the ballot in accord with the suggestion. Garo Garabedian seconded the motion. The motion carried by two-thirds majority.

The ballot was revised accordingly. Candidates remaining on the ballot for Parish Council, were Harry Magazian and Richard Kalfaian. For Nominating Committee, the candidates were Mardy Azarian and Marie Yapoujian. The candidates for Auditing Committee were Ralph Trapasso and Archie Misakian.

A Fifth Ballot by the Assembly did not result in the election of any candidate for office. Harry Tashjian reported that not one candidate achieved the necessary two thirds vote. There was general comment regarding the difficulty for any candidate to obtain the necessary votes--seventeen votes for this ballot with twenty-five parishioners remaining in attendance at the Assembly.

Mr. Tashjian made a motion that the remaining vacancies be filled by the candidates having a plurality. The person achieving the greatest number of votes would be elected to the office and

the second person on the ballot for that particular office would be the alternate. Garo Garabedian seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.


This revision to the voting procedure resulted in the election finals. For Parish Council: Richard Kalfaian with Harry Magazian as alternate; for Nominating Committee: Marie Yapoujian and alternate, Mardy Azarian; and for Auditing Committee: Archie Misakian and Ralph Trapasso as the alternate.

Connie Kasparian was elected as Diocesan Delegate and Harry Tashjian is the alternate.

CONCLUSION OF MEETING AND BENEDICTION

Connie Kasparian made a motion to close the meeting. Stanley Zysk seconded the motion. The motion was carried. Fr. Untzag Nalbandian gave the Benediction. The 1995 Parish Assembly was closed at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Sharyn N. D'Urso, 1995
Parish Assembly Secretary


Mark Gavoor
1995 Parish Assembly Chairman


Rev. Fr. Untzag Nalbandian

APPENDIX II

- JANUARY:** Armenian Christmas was celebrated on the traditional day with excellent attendance.
The 1994 Annual Parish Assembly was held.
- FEBRUARY:** Siding of the Church began as part of major renovations to the building and a new parish car was purchased. For these two projects, more than \$16,000.00 was contributed by Parishioners.
St. Vartanaz Feast was celebrated.
The Mardi Gras "mini" Bazaar was held.
- MARCH:** Michink Dinner was held at the church. Mrs. Dorothy Bengoian-Ouligian, was the guest speaker.
- APRIL:** Legal counsel was retained to advise the Parish Council regarding the prospective sale of the rear lot.
The church mortgage was refinanced.
Palm Sunday Service was followed by a dinner and program.
The foundation for the Khachkar was layed and Blessed.
- MAY:** Parishioner, Elisa Griego, requested instruction for Deaconite.
The siding of the church was completed.
Acyoa Jrs. hosted Mother's Day Brunch.
Church school concluded for the year.
Work on the rear parking lot was completed.
- JUNE:** The Primate visited our Parish. He celebrated Badarak and delivered the Sermon. After Service, He blessed the Khachkar and presided at festivities for the 63rd Anniversary of the Church held at Leidle's Restaurant in Bridgeport.
Over \$60,000 was pledged for the Khachkar Project. One Hundred Twenty-five parishioners participated in the fund raising. Of the amount pledged, almost \$47,000.00 had been collected to date.
- JULY:** A lease was signed with new tenants for the Parish House. As part of the lease agreement, the tenant is responsible for some caretaking of the church building and grounds.
Repairs were made to the parish house roof and the furnace boiler was replaced. The interior of the parish house was painted.
- AUGUST:** The beautiful and inspiring Khachkar was the centerpiece for the Annual Picnic. Over 200 people attended. A live band provided festive music.

- SEPTEMBER: The Land Committee was formed.
Armenian School opened.
Another teenager, Madyr Nalbandian, daughter of Fr. and Mrs. Untzag Nalbandian became a church organist.
Almost seventy people attended an evening of Jazz music.
English Badarak began for non-Armenian speaking Parishioners. This service is scheduled for the last Sunday of every month. To mark its inauguration, a special invitation was mailed to the youth of the church requesting their attendance at the Liturgy in English.
- OCTOBER: Charles Goorhigian, was the guest speaker at the Pre-Bazaar dinner.
Sunday messages by Lay members and invited speakers began on the topic: "1994, Year of the Family and the Mission of the Armenian Church, Here and Now".
Family and friends surprised Der Hyre for a 40th Birthday Party.
A Special Parish Assembly was called to discuss the potential disposition of the church rear lot.
- NOVEMBER: Mt. Ararat Annual Bazaar was held in November. Close to \$14,000.00 was raised from the Bazaar, of which \$7,700.00 came from the Ad book alone. This was a record for ad book proceeds.
A Special Meeting was held for the women of the Church
Painting of the church steeple and front columns were completed.
Sixteen new choir robes were made and all donated.
The Parish hosted Thanksgiving Eve Interfaith Service of Trumbull
- DECEMBER: Women's Guild Annual Assembly.
Christmas Caroling with ACYOA JRS.
The Narthex (Kaveet) was painted--mostly by efforts of parishioners.
A used, baby grand piano was donated to the church.
Five Thousand Khachkar postcards were printed.

ARMENIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY ASCENSION
1460 HUNTINGTON TURNPIKE
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