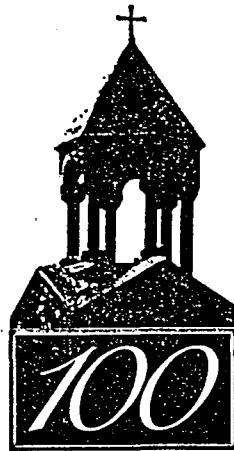


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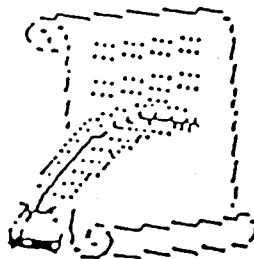
REPORTS OF ALL CHURCH
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1898-1998

REV. FR. UNTZAG NALBANDIAN, PASTOR
ARMENIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY ASCENSION
1460 HUNTINGTON TURNPIKE
TRUMBULL, CT 06611





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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 15, 1998

Dear Church Members,

According to the wishes of our 1987 Parish Assembly, we are mailing the 1997 reports of all our organizations.

Please read them all and if you have any questions, feel free to ask them on Feb. 1, 1998, when the Annual Parish Assembly will be 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 Feb. 1. We need your participation and input in our and your church matters. Also, please encourage others to attend the Annual Assembly.

1998 is the Centennial of our Diocese, which means that our Diocese was founded in 1898 by then Catholicos Mgrditch Khirmian Hayrig, with only a few parishes. The slogan that the Centennial Committee chose is from St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians 4:1-13 "One body ... One Spirit... One Lord... One Faith."

We will keep you informed about all Parish and Diocesan Centennial celebrations.

I thank you for your continuing support and I wish you all a healthy, happy and successful year.

Prayerfully,

Fr. Untzag Nalbandian
Pastor

FUN:mja

MINUTES OF THE 1997 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Armenian Church of the Holy Ascension held its Annual Parish Assembly on January 26, 1997. The meeting opened with a scripture reading from St. Matthew 13: 3-18, followed with an invocation by Fr. Untzag Nalbandian. Mark Gavoor, chairman of the 1996 Parish Assembly, opened the business meeting.

Elsie Chaghatzbanian reported that we have One Hundred twenty-one (121) dues paid members for the year 1996. Elsie read the roll and there were 53 dues paid members present - more than the required quorum.

Mark Gavoor and Margaret Azarian were nominated respectively as chairman and secretary for the 1997 Annual Parish Assembly and received the unanimous vote of the membership for these positions.

MINUTES

A week before the Assembly meeting, the minutes of the 1996 Parish Assembly were distributed to the voting membership. Archie Misakian moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Sonia Trapasso seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Gavoor moved that Der Hyre's report be given to the assembly prior to the election of Parish Council, Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee. Seconded by Connie Kasparian. The motion passed unanimously.

Before beginning his report, Fr. Untzag announced he wanted to show his gratitude publicly to eleven (11) acolytes and Tbirds by handing out Certificates of Appreciation. They are: Armand Dikranian, David Dikranian, Fred Dikranian, Jack Dikranian, Charles Garabedian, Aram Gavoor, Raffi Gulbenk, Hovig Nalbandian, Alex Tokatlian and Richard Varadian, Jr., & Raffi Vartanian.

REPORT OF THE PARISH PRIEST, REV. FR. UNTZAG NALBANDIAN

First he gave a brief report in Armenian.

Fr. Nalbandian welcomed everyone present in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and expressed his joy and gratitude to them for their continuous support and service, especially to those who made the effort to be with us, attend, benefit, participate, help and be involved in our church's life.

Der Hyre stressed the mission of the church is first to help you and me to find God and bring you and me closer to HIM.

Der Hyre reported that in 1996 he fulfilled his religious and pastoral duties to the best of his ability and time availability. He highlighted some church events and activities, noting the church's full calendar. Also, additional duties carry him beyond the parish, to the Diocese in New York, Interfaith meetings in Connecticut to name two.

Besides the regular church calendar, other events were organized by twelve (12) different committees. These committees were all successful in their endeavors.

With the implementation of the 1997 Pledge Committee and their goal of raising \$50,000.00 with a suggested minimum pledge of \$365.00 from each family, is close to a reality. To date the amount pledged is nearly \$43,000.00 from 106 families. This system will eliminate fund-raising projects excluding the normal picnic, bazaar and anniversary banquet.

The pastor is very optimistic about the future saying we are heading toward a pink dawn
“Վարդապետն արշալոյս.”

Der Hyre expressed his appreciation to the Armenian and Sunday School teachers and parents; Women's Guild and their help with coffee hours and dinners, choir, deacons, conductors, organists, acolytes and Tbirds for their weekly service without which "Liturgia" would not be possible; the Junior ACYOA teens, especially for visiting shut-ins and nursing home residents during the Christmas season again, with their advisor, parents and parish council members.

Der Hyre announced eleven (11) events coming up in 1997 involving a menu of spiritual, social and cultural programs thus providing a balance of activities. Also, they plan to start a singles and doubles club.

A continuation of the Needy Fund for here or Armenia was stressed. He cited that as a church and a Church of Christ, who taught us to help our neighbors and especially those who are in need of our help, we must keep our "Needy Fund" active. At this point, Der Hyre expressed his appreciation to Nazareth and

Margaret Azarian for their work with "Mission Armenia." Their efforts produced more than \$11,000.00 in 1996 that they personally delivered.

Our church sent donations to the burned black churches, to the fund for the young Armenian pianist attached in Central Park, NYC, and our "Looma" to Etchmiadzin. Nevertheless, more should be done to the needy around us be it here or overseas. He plans to give some suggestions to the 1997 parish council.

Regarding the new pledge system, Der Hyre suggested that those who don't believe in pledging or do not want to pledge, ideas about keeping the doors of our church open for our future generations are welcome.

The parishioners have supported most of the steps taken by him and the council members during his 13 years at Holy Ascensions and he is hopeful this will continue. Der Hyre stressed that we propose or unveil no event or activity prior to much thought and ground work.

All expenditures in the past 13 years have been carefully calculated. This policy has enabled this church to function, renovate when necessary, and pay off a \$205,000 mortgage. When it is intimated to him that we should be careful with the Church's money or we should start to save, etc. This is exactly what has been done. Der Hyre stressed, "I want to make it perfectly clear to all of you that I never say one thing and do something else. I do what I say and say what I do!"

Der Hyre is formulating some future events about three important dates namely, celebration of the Diocese's 100th birthday in 1998; 2,000th anniversary of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ in the year 2000; and in the year 2001, the Armenian Church will celebrate the 1700th anniversary of Armenian Christianity. The plans will be forthcoming.

After reviewing his comments in Armenian, Der Hyre thanked the parish council for providing leadership in 1996, namely Maureen Najarian, Chairperson. Maureen is organized, works hard, is Christ-centered and ready to learn. "You cannot teach if you do not learn. Teaching is learning"; Darwin Jamgochian, Treasurer; Heather Tarpinian, Secretary; Richard Najarian, Co-Chairperson; Gary Donoian, Asst. Treasurer; Richard Kalfaian; Elsie Chaghatzbanian; Sharyn D'Urso and Kim Kasparian, outgoing members.

Der Hyre concluded with the words of John the Evangelist 13:34.

ELECTIONS

Nominating Committee members were Herbert Avakian, Connie Kasparian and Nicky Taraian. Parish Council member, Elsie Chaghatzbanian, read the roll for ballot distribution.

Connie informed the assembly that the slate for Parish Council needed two more names. Also, a rotating system for the Auditing Committee starts this year, i.e.,

most number of votes	-	elected for three years.
2nd	-	elected for two years.
3rd	-	elected for one year.

Solicitations for parish council names were requested from the floor. Archie Misakian and Herbert Avakian were added to the ballot to complete the slate of eight nominees.

Connie introduced the nominees present and each spoke a few words about themselves.

The completed ballots were collected by roll call; members of the nominating committee retired to tally the votes. The voting was done by secret ballots. The meeting continued with the Parish Council Chairman's report.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Maureen Najarian, Parish Council Chairman, thanked the Parish Council for their help, dedication, advice and counsel.

Maureen commented on the year being successful. Mainly, \$22,000.00 was collected from pledges and the church membership increased. The land sale was resolved and is almost settled. The Parish Council

participated in the anniversary banquet; the Armenian Alphabet monument project was completed; the April 13th appreciation dance was held; maintenance problems were resolved, i.e., the kitchen, pantry, windows and floors were cleaned, etc. The church picnic raised apx. \$3,000.00. The bazaar raised \$11,000.00. The Parish Council worked on items such as: scholarship decisions, Interfaith meetings, car bids, church hall rental, parish house septic system and our young people were polled for suggestions to improve their interest in church. Discussions on how to increase our income, caretaker responsibilities, how to resolve the church water problem, fixed lavatory pipes, worked on parish house lease, and is now working with financial advisors for ways to increase our resources.

Now mortgage free, Maureen stressed that the church can focus on resources to additionally put the church on better financial ground. Some financial decisions for attaining stability are: (a) raise the requested pledge to a dollar a day minimum from each family; (b) invest securely the land sale proceeds of \$200,000.00, (c) hold at least three money making projects a year; i.e., church anniversary, picnic, and bazaar; and continue renting the church hall and parish house.

Maureen concluded confidently that with God's blessings we will accomplish the goals set for 1997, but emphasized the importance of the parishioners doing their part as servants of Christ to carry on the church mission.

AUDITING REPORT

The 1996 Auditing Committee consisted of Mardy Azarian, Mark Gavoor and Matthew Tokatlian. Mark Gavoor spoke for the committee expressing that the committee audited the church books with the treasurer, Darwin Jamgochian. The members of the committee all agreed that the Treasurer properly recorded all transactions, and that these reports accurately reflected all the 1996 financial transactions of the church. He expressed a job well done. Archie Misakian moved to accept the report as given. Seconded by Leo Malkasian. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Darwin Jamgochian submitted a proposed budget for 1997 showing income and disbursements for 1996.

He recommended an increase in the pastor's stipend, noting Der Hyre's reluctance for it, but the Parish Council is requesting an increase of apx. 7% for this year that amounts to approx. 11% in the past three years.

Nazareth Azarian raised a point of information about the \$12,500.00 spent on the church waterproofing, namely, do large expenditures have to be approved by the parish assembly and is there a limit on the dollar amount. Der Hyre responded (a) yes, if not an emergency, (b) no, if an emergency. One example of a non-emergency, was the renovation of the church hall which was brought to the Assembly and was approved. On the other hand, two years ago approx. \$10,000.00 was spent on the parish house without holding a special assembly. Der Hyre further explained the emergency condition (a very recent flood in the church hall, one of many throughout the years) necessitating this expense. Under new business they could suggest a discussion on an expenditure caps.

Other general budget discussions followed. Archie Misakian moved to accept the treasurer's report as given. Seconded by Sara DerMegerdichian. Vote: One abstention, Motion passed.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Maureen Najarian announced the members of the newly formed Investment Committee, namely Mardy Azarian, Paul Boghosian, John McGann, Maureen Najarian and Gary Donoian. John McGann reported on the Investment Committee's policy presented and accepted by the Parish Council, i.e., they will invest the church funds in the following manner: (1) 70% will be invested in bank CD's and or Money Market

Funds, Treasury Bills, which represent no risk to the principle. (2) Up to 30 % will be invested in low capital risk Mutual Funds. An example of the portfolio for the \$200,000.00 investment is \$140,000.00 in number one and \$60,000.00 in number two.

Richard Najarian motioned to accept the Investment Policy as presented. Seconded by Heather Tarpinian. Motion passed unanimously.

LAND SALE

Gary Donoian reported that the Parish Council signed a contract in April 1996 and we received \$25,000.00 option payment to hold land until 11/29/96. Contract allows for additional six month extensions at \$5,000.00 per extension. In October of 1996, DIL Development (the buyer) received approval for the requested zoning change and the wetland approval. In accordance with the extension clause, we received \$5,000.00 in December totaling \$30,000.00. The closing date is expected to be within the next two months. A discussion followed. Lisa Misakian asked that the interest from the \$200,000.00 be defined; i.e., reinvested or used for church operating expenses. Gary Donoian explained that we don't have the \$200,000.00 in hand yet, but in the 1997 operating budget under interest and dividends, a conservative figure is in place. Der Hyre added that \$12,500.00 of the \$25,000.00 was borrowed to pay for the waterproofing and that two other future projects (prob. in 2-3 years) are in sight:

- 1- sewer connection
- 2- paving the driveway and parking lot.

Discussion followed about the use of the \$25,000.00 plus and interest earned from the \$200,000.00 principle. Maureen Najarian moved that the assembly approve \$25,000.00 plus to be used as operating expenses and have the Parish Council payback this money as funds become available. Motion passed with one opposed.

ELECTION RESULTS

<u>Parish Council</u>	<u>Elected</u>	<u>Votes</u>
	Gary Donoian	47
	Sarkis Kalfayan	36
	Richard Kalfaian	34
	Mirijan Kochian	28
	Harry Magazian	23 - Alt.
	Vartan Tarpinian	23 - Alt.
<u>Nominating Com.</u>	<u>Elected</u>	<u>Votes</u>
	Nicky Taraian	36
	Pearl Khachadoorian	27
	Salpi Tokatlian	26
	Sharyn D'Urso	25 - Alt.
<u>Auditing Com.</u>	<u>Elected</u>	<u>Vote</u>
	Matthew Tokatlian	32
	Nazareth Azarian	32
	Mardiros Azarian	24
	Nicky Taraian	23 - Alt.
	Michele Spence	23 - Alt.

Instead of voting again for the auditing tie, they tossed a coin and the three-year term goes to Matthew Tokatlian and the two-year term goes to Nazareth Azarian.

NEW BUSINESS

Marie Yapoujian moved to have a line item in the budget specifically for orphans in Armenia. Sharyn D'Urso seconded. Matthew Tokatlian explained that the budget is specifically for the operating expenses of the church. They suggested that the motion be rescinded. Marie and Sharyn D'Urso agreed. They rescinded

the motion. Der Hyre advised the matter will be considered.

Connie Kasparian motioned that the Parish Assembly change the number of Parish Council members from 9 to 7. Her reasoning is that it gets more difficult every year to find willing people to run for the office. If passed, a written notice will go to the Diocese and next year it can be put in place. Margaret Azarian seconded. Discussion followed. Vote - majority opposed, four voted yes. Motion not carried.

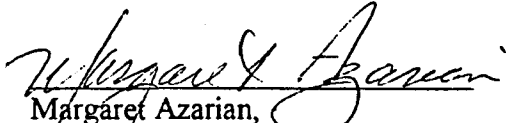
Darwin Jamgochian proposed we do something with the parish house because it is in disrepair. Should we sell the house, make improvements etc. Discussion followed.

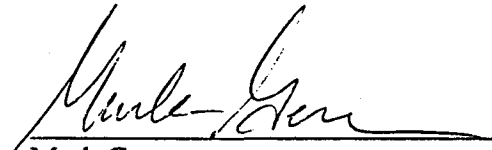
Darwin moved that the Parish Council appoint a committee to review this matter and report back to the 1998 parish assembly. Sharyn D'Urso seconded. Passed unanimously.

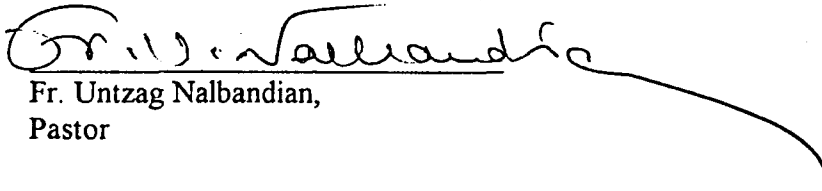
Archie Misakian moved to close the assembly. Seconded by Connie Kasparian. The motion passed unanimously.

The benediction was given by Fr. Untzag Nalbandian at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Margaret Azarian,
1997 Parish Assembly Secretary


Mark Gavoor
1997 Parish Assembly Chairman


Fr. Untzag Nalbandian,
Pastor

1997 SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

Our Sunday School program continues to thrive and serve as a place where our children come together to learn about our Lord. An average of eighteen (18) students meet on Sunday mornings from 10:00 to 10:45 beginning with a general assembly of prayer, biblical games, messages and fun. We divide into classrooms later to teach and learn our curriculum, ***WE BELIEVE***. We are so thankful to have Michelle Kalfayan teaching our little ones in pre-school, with Karl Quinn directing our first graders., Nancy Quinn teaching our active fifth grade, and Linda McGann guiding our students in grades 7-9 .

Many activities took place during the course of the year, which involved staff, students and parents. The Sunday and Armenian schools provided the luncheon for Christmas on January 6th, along with a festive visit from Gahant Baba. A Poon Parengentan dance was sponsored before Lent, with Mark Gavoor and the Holy Ascension band donating their time and musical talents. On Palm Sunday, the children ran a bake sale, helping with all aspects of the project, including baking, set-up, selling and cleanup. The proceeds benefited the Dept. Of Religious Education's Lenten Drive for new Armenian churches and communities in our country. We sponsored another dance in May, with the help again of Mark Gavoor and his band, where we conducted graduation exercises.

In September, our opening day was marked by a ceremony around the Armenian Alphabet monument, a Re-Dedication Service for our teachers, and bibles given to all our students in grade one and up. The children gave back something to our beloved church by planting more flowers in front of the church by the sign. In conjunction with the Parish Council, the pre-school class decorated the box to collect canned goods for the Thanksgiving Fund Drive. The Christmas season began with a special assembly to explain Advent calendars that each student received and setting the Christmas tree up in the church hall. The children continue to attend Badarak, receive communion weekly, learn about the Divine Liturgy and grow in their understanding of how they might serve the church in future years.

The Sunday School staff attended a seminar at the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, New York conducted by the DRE in an effort to increase our knowledge of the curriculum. We continue this effort by reading the Bible, sharing our ideas and knowledge, guidance from Der Hyre and prayer. We look forward to a joyful 1998, with continued success in teaching and spreading the Word of God.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda McGann, Sunday School Superintendent

ACYOA Jrs. ANNUAL REPORT

Throughout the year the ACYOA Jrs. Have been actively serving on the altar and singing in the choir. In addition to this, the ACYOA Jrs. had many functions too. Some of these include; a trip to Milford to play Q-ZAR (laser tag), a Mother's and Father's Day Brunch, a trip to Riverhead, Long Island to Splish-Splash Water Park, serving the church by cleaning up the heavy rocks around the church, serving at the church picnic and bazaar, and we are around every Sunday to help in as many ways as we can. The ACYOA went Christmas Caroling to various nursing homes and about 15+ houses and on December 23, we plan on going again. This years ACYOA has accomplished such feats with the help of our hard working ACYOA officers: Treasurer, Raffi Gulbenk, Secretaries- Jack & Armand Dikranian, Co-Chairmen-Fred Dikranian and Aram Gavoor, and last but not least our Advisor - Kim Kasparian. This years ACYOA is also encouraging anyone 12+ years of age to come and join us, and is also looking forward to the New Year for various new upcoming meetings and events!

Fred Dikranian & Aram Gavoor, Co-Chairmen

SUNDAY & ARMENIAN LANGUAGE SCHOOLS 1997 FINANCIAL REPORT

Starting Balance (1/1/97) \$ 233.53

INCOME

1/29/97	Christmas Luncheon	399.00
3/03/97	Poon Paregentan Dance	409.00
5/12/97	Palm Sunday Bake Sale	157.85
6/09/97	Graduation Dance	270.00
10/16/97	Donation	2,500.00
12/02/97	Donation	<u>25.00</u>
	Total Income	3,760.85

DISBURSEMENTS

1/06/97	Christmas Luncheon- food, gifts, supplies	274.48
1/30/97	Armenian Child Sponsorship	200.00
3/03/97	Poon Paregentan Dance Expenses	128.43
3/18/97	Supplies	47.99
9/13/97	Gifts/Bibles	149.46
9/23/97	Dept. Of Religious Education	150.00
9/23/97	Graduation Dance Expenses	70.53
10/06/97	Lenten Calendars	50.00
11/03/97	Computer	1,544.69
12/27/97	Christmas gifts/supplies	30.74
	Misc. Expenses	<u>67.70</u>
	Total Expenses	\$3,055.90

ENDING BALANCE \$ 938.48

HOLY ASCENSION CHOIR ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

BEGINNING BALANCE \$ 740.69

INCOME:

-	Palm Sunday Dinner Profit	1,268.00
	Plate Collection	<u>192.20</u>
	Total Income	\$ 2,175.89

EXPENSE:

-	Synthesizer	\$ 1,433.00
	Less donation of	<u>- 300.00</u>
	Total synthesizer cost	\$ 1,133.00
	Donations of \$100.00 each toward cost of Synthesizer by Eleanor Zysk, Ginny Kalfaian, Gladys Jevarjian	
-	Choir Association Dues	25.00
-	Gift	<u>60.00</u>
	Total Expenses	\$ 1,218.50

CLOSING BALANCE \$ 957.39

Respectively submitted by
Nazareth Azarian, Treasurer

WOMEN'S GUILD TREASURER'S REPORT

December 8, 1996 - December 14, 1997

OPENING BALANCE **\$ 196.97**

INCOME

BANK INTEREST	\$ 17.23
COFFEE HOURS	\$ 1507.16
MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$ 310.00
GIFTS TO WOMEN'S GUILD	\$ 376.60
SHOWCASE	\$ 141.00
LUNCHEONS	\$ 1005.50

TOTAL INCOME **\$ 3357.49**

EXPENSES

BANK CHARGE	\$ 47.80
GIFTS TO DER HAYR	\$ 25.00
FOOD	\$ 498.79
POSTAGE & CARDS	\$ 37.90
SUPPLIES	\$ 639.71
GIFTS TO CHURCH	\$ 500.00
GIFTS	\$ 46.64
CENTRAL COUNCIL DUES	\$ 64.00
SHOWCASE PURCHASE	\$ 228.20

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$2088.04**

CLOSING BALANCE **\$1466.42**

Respectfully submitted,

Pearl Khachadorian

Pearl Khachadorian
Treasurer

1997 ARMENIAN CHURCH BAZAAR REPORT

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>RECEIVED</u>	<u>SPENT</u>	<u>PROFIT</u>
Ad Book	11,780.00	244.00	11,536.00
Major Raffle	2,400.00	628.60	1,771.40
Kitchen & MiddleEastern	5,570.50	2,975.15	2,595.35
Pastry Booth	1,306.05	139.00	1,167.05
Rentals	475.00		475.00
(A) General Expenses		903.00	(-903.00)
	<u>21,531.55</u>	<u>4,889.75</u>	<u>16,641.80</u>

(A) General Expenses

Magician	150.00
Advertising	226.00
Band	500.00
Miscellaneous	27.00
	<u>903.00</u>

<u>Starting Balance 1997</u>	1,321.19
Interest	18.12
Net Profit	<u>16,641.80</u>
Balance December 1997	17,981.11
Transferred to Church Treasurer	<u>-16,500.00</u>
Reserved for 1998 Bazaar	<u>1,481.11</u>

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Najarian
Richard Najarian, Bazaar Treasurer

12/13/98

THE ARMENIAN SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

With the grace of God and the perseverance distinctive of our people, the Armenian school completed another successful academic year. Both the Sunday and the Language schools are continuing to flourish under the "Joint Effort" administration we have developed. Combining our social activities has not only secured us a much healthier budget but it has given us a greater pool of energy and resources to draw from. This has especially allowed both schools to continue our pledge to support Aram Ohanian our 12 year old adopted child in Armenia. We hope we will continue to extend our hands to him as long as he needs it.

This past summer I was invited to a cultural seminar at the Diocese. The theme of the seminar was "In the Footsteps of Our Giants". The participating teachers were challenged to analyze the term "Giant", and to reach a collective approach of how we could follow in the footsteps of our Giants. Allow me to share with you few of my reflections on the subject in respect to the Armenian school. To me every parent who feels he or she has an obligation to introduce their child to our culture and heritage, knowing very well that it is going to be an ongoing battle with the child and the surrounding foreign elements is a Giant. A Giant is also the person who seizes the opportunity and GIVES more than what is asked or expected of him or her for the preservation of what they see is valid and a necessary cause. I also feel that the person who designed the Armenian software is a Giant; what better way to help preserve our culture than to bring our schools curriculum to today's electronic age. We have a secret to share with you. We have such a Giant among us. Although this giant wishes to stay anonymous (and I respect his wish), that will not stop me from thanking him and his lovely family for giving us the opportunity to join the technological revolution of the twenty first century, namely the computer. We now have our own computer equipped with the finest Armenian programs available to aid our students and encourage them to play and study on their own.

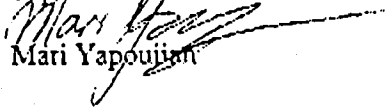
On September 5th, I also participated in the Armenian Language Lab's new school year kick-off symposium. We were introduced to all the new books and programs prepared by Allarc. School principles and teachers had an opportunity to share their achievements and challenges within their individual schools. One thing was apparent about the symposium; we were not alone with our difficulties and have a strong support group ready to help whenever we need them.

We look for your continued support of our schools in the way of your presence and encouragement. Please watch for our newsletters to be aware of all the exciting events we have lined up for this second period. Coming up first is the Vartanatz day celebration. Following is the "Poon Paregentan" (Mardigra) dance sponsored by the schools. The last, but certainly not the least, is our closing ceremonies. This, I am sure you should not miss.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our teachers, the parents who are always there to help when we need them, and most of all we all would like to thank our Der Hayr, without whom none of this is possible.

Respectfully submitted

Superintendent


Mari Yapoujian

Հայ դպրոցի լուրեր եւ տեղեկություններ

Աստուծոյ փառք ըլլայ ամէն ատեն ամէն բանի համար:

Յունուար ամիսը հայ դպրոցի համար տարեկէս ըլլալուն՝ կ'ուզեմ ձեզ տեղեակ պահել 1997 ի սրաջին եռամսեայի անցուդարձերէն: Սեպտեմբեր ամսուան մէջ մեծ աշխուժով սկսանք մեր նոր տարին: Ըսանէ աւելի երեխաներ արձանագրուեցան Հայկական դաստանդութեան:

Բանակէն աւելի՝ նոր արձանագրուող երեխաներուն տարիքն էր որ անսահման ուրախութիւն պատճառեց մեր բոլորին: Ամէն անգամ որ մտահոգուիմ մեր Հայ լեզուի ապագայի անորոշութիւններով, նոր յոյսի կայծ մը կը ծագի իմ դէմ: Արձանագրուող երեխաներուն իննրն՝ 4էն -6 տարեկան են: Այս պատճառով մենք հաճոյքով պարտաւորուեցանք Մանկամարտ մը արեւցնելու դասարաններու շարքին: Այս երեխաները որոնք իրենց ծնողներուն փոխարեութիւնով կու գան Հայ դպրոց եւ պարտաւոր են ընդունելու Հայ ուսում եւ Հայկական կրթութիւն այդ նոյն ինքն յոյսն եւ ոյժն են որ պիտի ջանայ պահպանել մեր ազգը աներեւութանալու վտանգէն:

Կ'ուզեմ շնորհաւորել բոլոր այս երեխաներուն ծնողները անխտիր, նախ՝ իրենց լցացած պարտաճանաչման համար՝ ապա մեր վոսց ունեցած իրենց վստահութեան համար: Եւ ճիշտ անոր համար է որ մենք՝ բոլոր ուսուցիչներս՝ պիտի փորձենք եւ պիտի շարունակենք ընել մեր կարելին փրկելք չի յուսախափելու համար:

Նաեւ մասնաւոր շնորհակալութեան խօսք ունիմ ուղղելու յստուկ ծնողքի մը որ իր նախամտայի առատաձեռնութեամբ « մեծագումար նուիրատուութեամբ» առիթ տուաւ որ մեր երեխաներն ալ միանան քսաներորդ դարու ուսման դիւրիւթիւններուն: Այս դրամանուէրով մենք կրցանք գնել լաւագոյն համակարգիչ մեքենան « քունիւթըր» օժտուած Հայերէն գիրերով, խաղերով եւ տեղեկութիւններով: Տէրը օրհնէ ձեզ եւ պահէ ձեզ միշտ մեր մէջ: Կրկին շնորհակալութիւն Տէր հօր, բոլոր ուսուցչական կապիկն եւ մանաւանդ իմ կողմէն:

Հոս կ'ուզեմ շնորհակալութիւն յայտնել նաեւ մեր բոլոր ուսուցիչներուն եւ մանաւանդ մեր Տէր հօր՝ Հայ դպրոցի համդէպ իր յարատեւ ցոյց տուած սիրոյն եւ օժանդակութեան համար:

Յոյսով ենք որ բոլորդ ալ անխտիր կը շարունակէք հետաքրքրուիլ մեր դպրոցով եւ ձեր օժանդակութիւնը կը բերէք ըլլայ նիւթական՝ եւ մանաւանդ մասնակցական:

Կը ինդրենք նաեւ որ հետեւիք եկեղեցւոյս զալիք դրուցիկներուն, անդրադառնալու համար մեր բոլոր ապագայի ձեռնարկներուն: Առաջին կարգին է «Վարդանանց»ի տօնը, Փետրուար 15ին, երկրորդը «Բարեկենդան» ի խրախմանքը՝ Փետրուար 21 ին, իսկ վերջինն ալ Հայ դպրոցի փակման հանդէսը որ նպատակ ունիմք ձեզի ցուցադրելու մեր կոկոն եւ ծաղկած բոլոր տաղանդները:

0 1- 18- 1998

Տնօրէնուհի,

Մարի Եսքունեան

Մարի Եսքունեան

1997 Choir Report

This past year, our church choir experienced many consequential events. I call them consequential because every change that took place had a great consequence on the weekly services and the total outlook of our church. The established presence of the Dikranians, Varadians, Nalbandians, Charles Garabedian, Raffi Vartanian, Aram Gavor, Alex Tokatlian, and Raffi Gulbenk on the alter is a sound proof of the changes on the Alter. The above mentioned youngsters have been participating religiously (no pun intended) in the Divine Liturgy week after week. Their performance and capability to sing has been improved tremendously with Derhayr's tutoring and the deacons guidance.

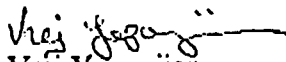
In 1997 we were fortunate that our Elisa took upon herself the permanent position of the choir conductor. Aware of her capability and sensing the need she boldly came forward and offered to take upon herself the difficult task of accountability. The much needed continuity of style and perseverance has already made a tremendous impact on the soloists in particular and on the choir as a whole. This endeavor has already earned Elisa a great admiration from our ever so particular congregation.

Also in 1997 another eager and talented young member of our congregation, John McGann, joined the existing group of young organists of our church, namely Hovig and Maral Nalbandian and Mary Day McGregor. I would not hesitate to say that this group of organists are the youngest ones in our Diaspora. John has been studying with Derhayr in preparation of this giant step.

I would also not hesitate to say that the purchase of the synthesizer is the clincher of all changes that had tremendous impact on the whole choir. The transposing capability of this musical instrument has given us, the Deacons and the choir, the ability to sing at a more comfortable pitch making our chants much more pleasant to sing and to listen to. I would like to thank Maestro Khoren Meikhanedjian for his suggestion and our Der Hayr for seeing it through.

At this time, I would like to thank all our previous conductors: Charles Balian, Virginia Kalfaian, and Nazareth Azarian, for their past service and dedication. I would also like to thank all of the parents of the young choir members for bringing them to church. Finally, I would like to thank all our choir members, subdeacon, organists and our conductor for a job well done, and Derhayr for his love and guidance. We are all looking forward for even a greater year in 1998.

Respectfully submitted,


Vrej Yapoujian
Choir chairman

1997 WOMEN'S GUILD ANNUAL REPORT

The Women's Guild had a very active year. The following events were organized or helped by the Guild.

- Lenten Michink dinner. Eleanor Zysk, Chairman - March
- Kemanche Concert - April
- Martyrs Day Obsevanche/Madagh - April
- Annual Church picnic - August
- Mt. Ararat Bazaar - October
- Rhode Island Armenian Choral's Concert - November
- Three memorial luncheons/coffee hours
- Sunday coffee hours
- Visitations were made and cards sent to the sick in the name of the Women's Guild and the Church.
- Purchased a new display case for Armenian souvenirs that will be sold through the Women's guild.
- Donated toward the purchase of a new copying machine for the church office.
- The major fund-raising event (Fashion Show) was cancelled due to lack of participation.
- 1997 Guild Officers: Sara DerMegerdichian & Maryann Dikranian, Co-Chairmen; Nancy Quinn, Secretary; Melanie Donoian/Pearl Khachadoorian, Treasurer; Margaret Manugian and Sharyn D'Urso, Membership dues and Michelle Kalfayan.

Maryann Dikranian, at the Women's Guild Annual Assembly in December 1997, expressed her overwhelming appreciation to all the women who helped in donating food and pastries for the Kemanche Concert and Rhode Island Choral Concert as well as all the help given throughout the year.

Sara Der Megerdichian
Maryann Dikranian
1997 Women's Guild Co-Chairmen

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