

Jan. 28, 1973.

Madagh Committe Report-1973.

- Members. 1. John Esayian- Chairman
2. Susan Esayian
3. Ira Eland
4. Shockey Gengozian

It is the feeling of the committee that the whole purpose and intended atmosphere of the madagh has slowly changed- almost without notice over the many years.

The Armenian community has expanded so much over the last 4 decades that many people who have absolutely no direct connection or contact with the church come to the madagh and give it an aura of a picnic- not a religious event. The original intent has long since been forgotten by church members and it has turned into strictly a money making affair- the biggest of the whole year. The committee feels that the original intent of this event should once again be as it once was. This can be accomplished in only one way. Seperation of the Madagh and Picnic portion of the affair should be seperated into different dates. It is the feeling of the Madagh committee that there should be a Madagh given on one date and the picnic on another. Suggestions as to how this could be accomplished will be forthcoming in a later portion of this report. The Madagh should remain the religious portion, while the Armenian Picnic (open to the public) could be the money making division of the summer event.

The Madagh Committee also feels that a much better job could be done on both if each were a separate event.

Now, just why does the committee feel the way it does ?

1. The religious aspect of the original intent has been completely forgotten. We speak of not serving liquor in the hall or other church events, yet we salve our consciences by "closing the bar" so to speak during the blessing of the madagh and immediately following. reopen it and go on our merry way. How can we justify this?
2. The affair has gained communitywide recognition, which we feel is fine, but it has also grown too large to adequately feed people it is being done.
3. As every year passes, we find more and more people attending the actual Madagh portion of the affair and "freeloading" on this private event. They are more than welcome at the picnic portion but they have no rhyme or reason to attend the madagh portion other than to feed themselves to a free meal.
4. As stated in the precluding portion, the Madagh evidently has become the main money making affair of the church calendar, and possibly rightly so, but if so, why feed so many people for nothing, fill them up and cut into sales ?

How the affairs should be separated and in what manner each event would be organized and operated would be up to the trustees. Suggestions follow. Which of the events would be held first, the Madagh or the Armenian picnic could be discussed to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages. It is the general consensus of the committee that the madagh should be held first with the picnic following later on in the summer. For the Madagh the following suggestions are made.

1. Invitations be sent to all church members (dues paying through the previous year). This would also include all family members- wives, children. There would be no charge.
2. Notices could be sent to all armenians in the city who are not church members notifying them of the event and extending them an invitation for a nominal fee.
3. All other Armenian parishes in the nearby vicinities would also be sent notices extending them an invitation to attend at a corresponding fee.
4. The Madagh would be cooked and blessed outside the church on the grounds as is normally done.
5. The meal could be served either inside or outdoors depending on weather conditions or the desires of the parish council.
6. The meal could be served family style so as to permit people in attendance to eat as much as they wish.

7. Names of sick and disabled unable to attend the event could be given to the trustees so madagh can be put in small containers and distributed to those in attendance to be given to loved ones too ill to be present.

At an appropriate date following this affair the Armenian Picnic could be held with an open invitation to the public at which the committee feels a much better job could be done in making a profit. The affair would also be more fitting to the occasion

Respectfully submitted,

John Esayian

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