

executive update



THE WISE MEN GUIDED BY THE STAR

And, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. . . (Matthew 2: 9)

And they came from afar, to visit a poor child just born in a strange land. Three Kings of wealth, power and importance, bringing with them their finest gifts usually reserved for royalty. And they paid homage, along with others who were not wealthy, or powerful, but longed to see the Christ Child. It was love that brought together the kings and the shepherds; and it is love that brings us joy each year as we celebrate the Holy Birth.

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

630 Second Ave., N.Y.C., N.Y. 10016 [212-686-0710]

NUMBER 19
January 1985

ACYOA

Central Council

NEWS

* The Council met with the Executive Secretary to the ACYOA at the Diocese Oct. 26 & 27 in NYC. All Council members were present. Highlights of the meeting included:

- Deciding to appoint interested and qualified "assistants" on the regional level.
- Updating the National Youth Listing by sending respective sections to specific parishes and requesting they add/delete/correct and return for inclusion in the National Listing.
- Reviewing format for ACYOA Regional Conferences in the Midwest, New England and Mid-Atlantic.
- Approval of the final session of the ACYOA Assembly.
- Discussion and research to be done for new **Educational Program**. The first topic under consideration for this program is **Armenian Literature and Language**. The Program is tentatively planned as a weekend seminar.
- Researching and producing a thematic resource booklet of topics and people. This resource would be designed for use by Chapters to select interesting topics and qualified people to make presentations for the Chapter or entire Parish.
- Pursuing the decisions of the Assembly pertaining to the religious programs (i.e. parish retreats and lenten dialogues).
- Special National Program format for ACYOA observance of the 70th Anniversary of the victims of the Armenian Martyrs of 1915. (See detail elsewhere in this issue.)

* The Executive Secretary and Council prepared and distributed the Record of the Minutes of the 1984 ACYOA General Assembly held in Palos Heights before the prescribed deadline of the Constitution. This is an unprecedented accomplishment!

* A special Prayer Service for the **Installation of Officers** was distributed to all ACYOA Chapters and Parishes. The Service may be used by both the Junior or Senior group, and was provided by the Diocese.

SOURCE: Boston University Progress Report

ALL PARISHES INVITED:

Archbishop's

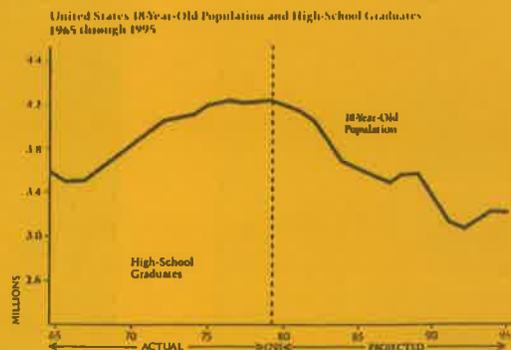
Basketball Tournament

Plan now to be in Watertown, Mass. June 7,8,9, 1985 for the best basketball tournament sponsored by the ACYOA.

The Watertown Chapter is out-doing themselves in preparing a full weekend itinerary for both the players and the spectators. The rates are outstanding!

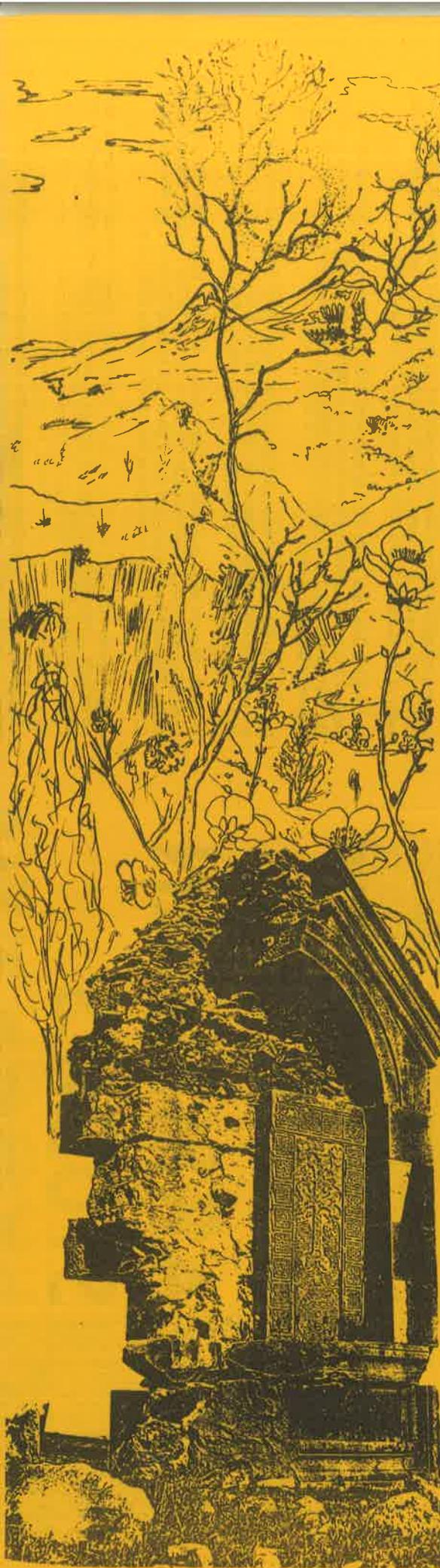
\$60.00 includes 2 nights lodging at **Dunfey's Howard Johnson's Hotel**, and the entire Package Plan of **week-end food, dances and great hospitality**.

Men's and women's competitions. Plan now and begin organizing your teams for a serious run for the championship, or just have a good time playing.



The nature and dimensions of the problems are clear from the demographic facts displayed in Charts 16 and 17. A substantial decline is now commencing in the eighteen-year-old population and in the number of high-school graduates. The college-age population, the people aged between eighteen and twenty-two, has already begun to shrink and will continue to diminish in numbers till 1995, when a slight increase will begin.

What implications might the above facts and figures have on the ACYOA in the 10 years? We invite comments and reasonable projections.



Armenian...always

By
Anahid L. Derbabian

Throughout the course of my relatively short existence, my ways have been like one of a miner.

A constant digging takes place within mind and by way of actions. And with every shovel-full of information, new truths are revealed, fresh ideas get uncovered, and feelings previously hidden by the dirt of everyday existence are discovered.

I traveled to Yerevan; I was searching. "Why? Why Yerevan?", many inquisitively asked beforehand. "There's so much more to see in Europe," they said. I knew my experience in Armenia would involve more than seeing; I knew that feeling would strongly enter the picture. Flavia Weedn, card writer/illustrator said it all when she wrote, "'And what is as important as knowledge' asked th mind. 'Caring and seeing with the heart', answered the soul". Still, this magnetic attraction to a distant land which few others whom I knew of ever tread upon began to bewilder me, but the miner in me stood strong, for I yearned for the answer.

I touched the soil of Armenia: tomatoes, cucumbers, apricots and cherries refreshingly satisfied my appetite. with the addition of fresh feta cheese straight from the goat and lavash hatz (flat bread) formed by knowing hands, and the tastiest, purest water my lips ever touched, not to forget the cool treat called bagh-baghag (ice cream), so smooth and quenching.

I enthusiastically delved deeper.

I touched the soil of Armenia: dotting the landscape stood the sacred churches, ancient and solid in their stance, strong in their withstanding beliefs, sad yet understanding in the changing times. Were they representatives of the Armenian people, I wondered; each one appeared so beautifully unique yet remarkably similar.

More, I want to learn more, begged the miner of me. How could I refuse this powerful, delirious force?

I touched the soil of Armenia: its proud people, raised on precious Armenian land, possessed an unmistakable familiarity, as if somehow we had met before. Absurd, I thought, but the strong rays of understanding and warm companionship which emanated from them felt real, and caus-

ed me to shine inside. The beauty of the Armenian language, as innocent as a daisy with the richness of a rose, flowed effortlessly from the lips of all, like a breeze softly blowing through the trees, lightly touching every leaf.

Onward, the digging continued.

I touched the soil of Armenia: deep, lonely crevices contrasting bright, colorful wildflowers, grassy plateaus guarded by proud, stately mountains, and lush grape vineyards bearing the main ingredient in Armenia's fine wine, painted a breathtaking picture of Armenia's natural beauty. Mount Ararat, Armenia's most powerful piece of natural art, throned high above its sweet Armenian motherland, painfully observed the history of its people with the strength, wisdom and patience of a king, and the sensitivity of a child.

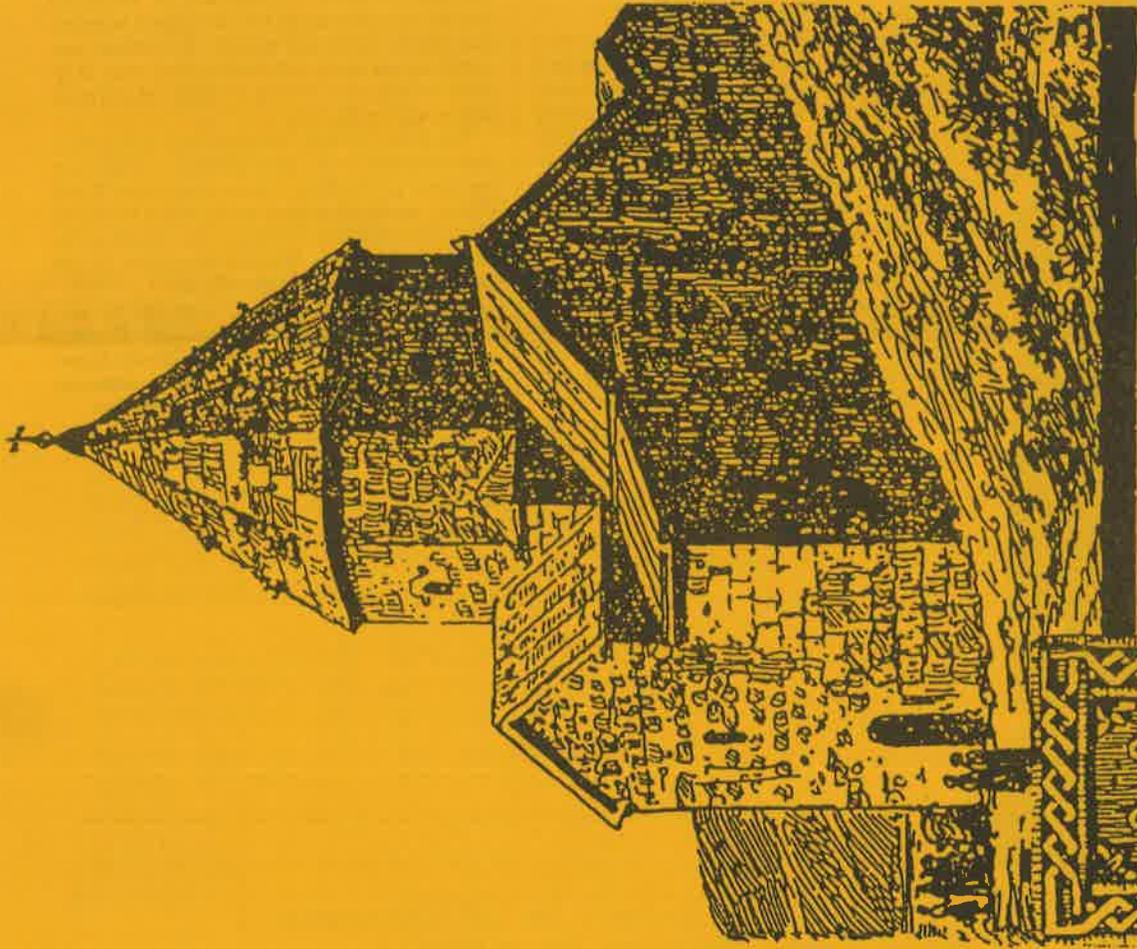
How much it has witnessed and survived, my heart sadly murmured.

Mount Ararat must be the Armenian people revealed. As this mighty mountain extends far up into the white clouds, Armenians everywhere reach out to attain their goals of remaining strong Armenians against the numerous threats of assimilation, of bettering themselves, of genuinely loving, of committing themselves wholly, and of giving to the world something which was not there before.

From the depths of this land I dredged up the answers I so impatiently searched for, and found that an exquisite union had developed between this mighty land and myself. It fortified me, caressing my heart and touching my soul. It ignited within me a feeling of place, of purpose, and of self-realization.

Yes, in my quest for the truth I embarked upon rare treasures, and I have become a richer person upon my findings. I now know what Khalil Gibran, poet/philosopher meant when he wrote, "Your hearts know in silence the secrets of the days and the nights. But your ears thirst for the sound of your hearts' knowledge."

My "mining expedition" revealed to me, among many things, that my total self will never be less than completely, and beautifully Armenian, and although I now long to be in Armenia, I carry within me a melancholy happiness.



A.C.Y.O.A. ARMENIAN STUDIES

Place Armenia On Your Summer Schedule Now !

Modern Armenia

Following the holocausts of 1914-1916 in which almost two million Armenians perished, the bulk of traditional Armenia remained in the hands of the Turks.

In 1920, The Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic was founded, with an expanse of 11,500 square miles.

The present population of Armenia is approximately 3 million, and the country is comprised of 33 administrative districts. 90 percent of Armenia is over 1,000 meters above sea level.

Yerevan is the capital city with a population of approximately one million. It is one of the most ancient cities of the world and is preceded by the ancient Erebouni site, dating back some 6,000 years B.C.E. A sunny city with continental climate, Yerevan spreads near the banks of the Hrazdan River, and is the center of culture and learning.

In Armenia, there are 1,270 schools with over 400,000 students, 37 professional secondary schools and 11 university level institutes form the core of higher education. In 1921, The State University of Yerevan was founded, and in 1943 the Academy of Sciences of the Armenian Republic opened.

The Institute of Research of Armenian Manuscripts was built in 1958. The repository contains some 16,000 ancient manuscripts, the oldest of which is the Lazarian Gospel, dated 987. There are fragments of manuscripts from the 5th and 6th centuries as well.

Armenia displays pride in its State Conservatory, the State Philharmonic Society, the State Academic Opera, and the Ballet Theatre - as well as the Dramatic Theatre, the Young Spectator's Theatre and the Theatre of Musical Comedy - all of which have distinguished themselves admirably in their various areas of the arts.

2,800 libraries can be found in Armenia containing nearly 20,000,000 books and periodicals. Armenia has 12 theatres and 20 museums. There are approximately 1,500 clinics, including 270 hospitals.

100 newspapers and periodicals are published in Armenia with a distribution of 400,000. 55 national presses produce them, as well as over 100 texts usually for home, school and

PROGRAMS

An ACYOA program of
the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

library use.

Modern apartment buildings, resorts, as well as cultural institutions and scientific developments inter-mingle with villages, ancient monuments and age-old monasteries and churches, weaving a magnificent picture of the thousands of years this ancient and durable nation has seen.

Program (1)

Educational Tour to Armenia

(For A.C.Y.O.A. members)

Four Weeks in duration.

Visit Armenia as guests of His Holiness, Vazken I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholics of All Armenians.

See the many points of interest such as: Ancient churches and monasteries, monuments, historic sites, archaeological diggings, museums, galleries, the beautiful countryside and the magnificent metropolis of Yerevan, the capital city.

Experience many cultural, athletic and social activities, such as: The opera, symphony, ballet, and soccer games, as well as the Olympic training center and night-life in Yerevan.

See Armenia's industry: The motion picture studios, the cognac factory, the automobile factory, the winery, art and crafts workshops and the restoration of ancient cathedrals and sites.

Visit Armenia's schools and universities, including the University of Yerevan, the Conservatory of Music, the Children's Summer Camps and student outing centers.

Participate in dance, language and music instruction.

Meet with professionals in your field of interest on an informal basis and exchange ideas and new concepts

Experience Divine Liturgy at the Mother Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin, and an audience with His Holiness, the Catholics.

Program (2)

"Journey" to Armenia

Three weeks in duration.

A series of excursions to sites of ancient Cathedrals and Monasteries, historic points and places of interest.

Tours to the Art Galleries, Museums, Opera House, Manuscripts Library and more.

See the Monastery of Keghord, the churches of Sts. Hripsime', Gayane' and Shoghagat. Visit Kar Virap, Sardarabad, and Erebuni - the 2750 year old archaeological discovery of the first settlement of the city of Yerevan.

Meet the people, in the market-places, downtown, at work and play, in the parks, the towns, resorts and their homes.

Shopping sprees and night-life in the exciting metropolis of Yerevan, Armenia's growing capital city.

Special tour to Holy Etchmiadzin, the Holy See of the Armenian Church.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Tentative Dates: Program #1 -
June 18 - July 18, 1985
Program #2 -
July 2 - 22, 1985

Costs: (1984 cost - increase expected)

Program #1 - \$1,795.00
Program #2 - \$1,995.00

Application Forms: Available at all

Parish Church Offices,
or from the ACYOA:
ACYOA EXECUTIVE SEC.
99 Long Pond Road
Tyngsborough, MA 01879
(617-256-7234)
(617-649-6875)

DEADLINE:

Program #1 - April 1st
Program #2 - June 1st

NOTE:

If you do not have a current U.S. Passport, apply now at your local Post Office to assure proper processing by the prescribed deadlines for application to the programs. Those with foreign passports may experience problems with securing proper Soviet Visas.

SPACE IS LIMITED. APPLY EARLY.

LATE FEES MAY APPLY.

"Living in the Moment"

WHAT: A Retreat for Young Adults

WHEN: January 11-13, 1985

WHERE: Barlin Acres Retreat House
Boylston, Mass.
(near Worcester)

FOR WHO: **FOR YOU**
Young Adults - 18 & up

COST: \$30.00 all inclusive

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

- * Honesty in Relationships
- * Lonliness
- * Sexuality
- * Christian Relationships

TO REGISTER:

Call Father Yeprem
Kelegian - 203-247-1378

This excellent Retreat Program will begin at 7:30 pm on Friday and end mid-morning, Sunday.

DON'T MISS IT - CALL TODAY.

AVAILABLE AND FREE:

ACYOA PAMPHLETS & POSTERS.

Contact the Executive Secretary.

At Your Fingertips.....

The ACYOA Central Council has decided to research and produce a booklet containing topics and resources for Chapters to use in the programming. Experts and persons familiar with the topics will be included and proper procedures for inviting these people to participate in ACYOA and Parish based programs and events. The booklet will be available free of charge and should appear on newsstands in 1985.

ACYOA To Observe 70th Anniversary Of Martyrs of 1915 Nationally

An extensive discussion and ideas exchange took place at a recent ACYOA Central Council meeting concerning the **70th Anniversary of the victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915.**

As announced by the Primate, the Diocese will sponsor varying events throughout 1985 commemorating the Armenian Martyrs. As decided at the ACYOA Assembly, the Council is planning to cooperate and assist in the Diocesan commemorative events when and where possible. However, the Council felt that the ACYOA needed something unique to itself in observing this special Anniversary. Under consideration is a national program to be followed by all ACYOA Chapters. Utilizing **ACYOA DAY**, all Chapters would be asked to plan the following:

- * **Participate in Divine Liturgy - altar servers, choir, assist Parish Council.**
- * **Special "tree planting" immediately following Liturgy with a dedication Service.**
- * **An appropriate Commemorative Program incorporated in the customary dinner or banquet of the Day.**
- * **Proceeds of the dinner (minimum of \$100) to be used to purchase books and materials on the Armenians (i.e. history, architecture, arts...) to be donated to local public libraries.**

In this way, the ACYOA across the Diocese will participate in one unified Program that includes the planting of a living memorial, gathering to observe an important period of our history, and sharing our history and world contributions with the general public via the donation of books and materials for public use.

A guideline will be distributed to all Chapters.

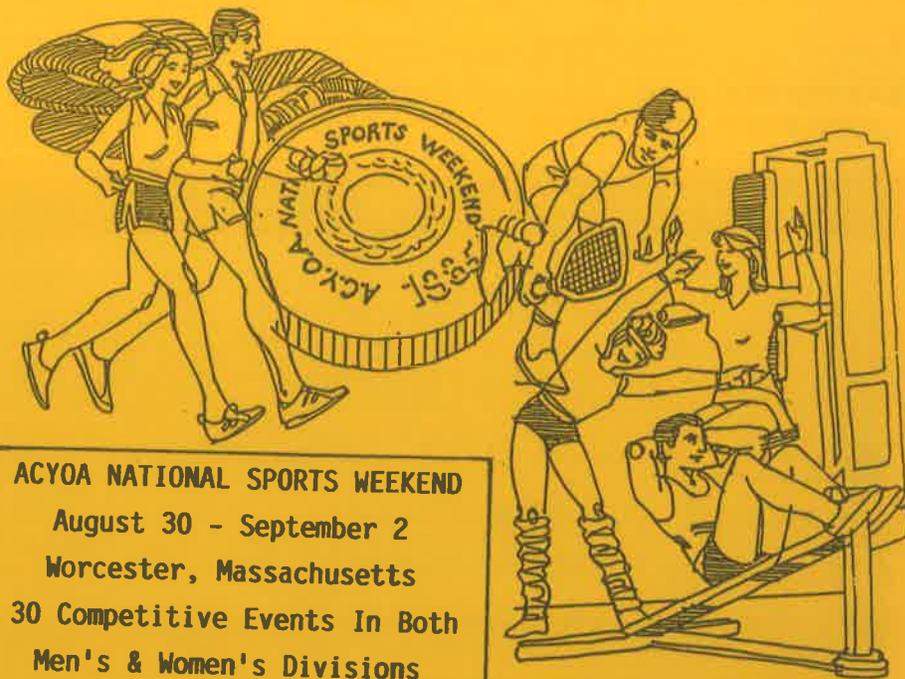
**"FOR I KNOW THAT ME REDEEMER LIVES,
AND HE WILL COME IN THE LAST DAYS
ON EARTH;
AND THOUGH WORMS DESTROY MY BODY,
YET IN MY FLESH SHALL I SEE GOD."
(Job 19:25-26)**

Start Getting Into Shape!!
SPORTS WEEKEND '85 Is Coming
To Worcester, Mass.

The largest gathering of Armenian Church young people takes place at the Annual ACYOA National Sports Weekend. Make plans to be "HYE IN THE HEART OF NEW ENGLAND" as the Worcester Chapter hosts this fun-filled Weekend.

Host Committee Chairman Scott Najarian promises the 1985 Sports Weekend to be a continuous movement of well planned and executed events and activities for everyone. Athletic Director Steven Migridichian is preparing for the best in sports organization and facilities. **DON'T MISS OUT!**

ACYOA NATIONAL SPORTS WEEKEND
August 30 - September 2
Worcester, Massachusetts
30 Competitive Events In Both
Men's & Women's Divisions
Spectacular Banquets & Dances



HERE'S & THERE'S.

ST. CATHERINES...invited Julia Sarkisian, a member, to present her slides of her trip to Armenia with the ACYOA "Educational Tour"...met and organized the ACYOA Juniors for the Parish...went bowling as well...held a Spaghetti Dinner in Nov. and have plans for a fantastic New Year's Eve Dinner-Dance...they are 16 members strong....WATERTOWN...hold open gym-basketball every Wed...."Interfaith Marriage" program presented following Oct. Meeting ...very good...hosted Halloween Party for children of Parish...have 5 members serving and singing in Church each week...had 33 members at meeting...followed by talk on "motivation"...very well received and meaningful for group...suggested for all chapters....have a few members enrolled in Adult Armenian Language classes...won 20 free tickets to the circus via local radio station...planning ever-popular Christmas night (Dec.25) dance...attracts close to 800 young people for holiday fun...also to go to Christmas Night at the Boston Pops Symphony Concert...Nov. meeting featured Der Dajad speaking on Exorcism - very interesting...major assistance with Parish Bazaar...have members also attending classes on the Divine Liturgy. ..and continue to print Chapter Newsletter - "The Chat" (this alone is worthy of honorable mention...but everyone knows they're going for it all this year!)...WESTCHESTER ...went to movies following regular meeting...went to Kef Night and a Thanksgiving Eve Dance in Nov....assisted in cleaning

St. Nersess Seminary...attended Parish Council meeting...had sale of stuffed animals and a raffle...PALOS HEIGHTS...still working after Sports Weekend with a wrap-up and final report...37 members strong and wondering what's left to achieve...perhaps a strong showing at next year's Sports Weekend with participation in team sports is one thing they can try...there is more yet....WORCESTER...members went to Kef-Time Hartford and attended a dinner and program of the Armenian Club at Clark Univ....assisted with Parish Bazaar ...also went to Armenian Dance sponsored by Tufts Univ. and Boston College Armenian Clubs...working hard in preparing for Sports Weekend...**HYE IN THE HEART OF NEW ENGLAND**.....until next time...let's hear from you so we can share your news and activities and ideas with others...

New England Chapters Meet in Prov.

Good attendance marked the Dec.8th Regional Conference held in Providence. Sona Palvetzian, Central Council Regional Representative convened the Conference. The ACYOA Executive Secretary was present, and Arthur Sabounjian, Parish Youth Director from Watertown, presented a short talk on "Value of the Church for Today's Youth." Ideas and concerns were exchanged, and all agree the gathering was very worthwhile. Plans were made for another Conference as well as Regional activities for the Chapters.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY - ACYOA
99 Long Pond Road
Tyngsborough, MA 01879

This Copy Goes To:

USE OF FILMS BY ACYOA IS STILL
A NEW IDEA....Catch up with the
rest of the world - show a film!

ATLANTIS PRODUCTIONS, INCORPORATED Documentary and Educational Films
1252 La Granada Drive · Thousand Oaks, California 91362 · (805) 495-2790

FILMS ON ARMENIA AND RELATED SUBJECTS

ARMENIAN CASE, THE

History of the Armenian people, stressing the genocide of 1915, and the subsequent rebirth in Diaspora and the Soviet Union.
43 minutes, purchase price: \$750, rental price: \$80

FORGOTTEN GENOCIDE, THE

Story of the first genocide of the Twentieth Century - of the Armenians in 1915.
28 minutes, purchase price: \$500, rental price: \$55

HISTORICAL ARMENIA

A trip through Western Armenia covering the towns of Adana, Harpoot, Bitlis, Van, Kars, and Ani. Also covers present day Armenia in the U.S.S.R.
53 minutes, purchase price: \$900, rental price: \$125

NOT
AVAILABLE
AT THIS
TIME.

SOVIET BOY

The life and experiences of a Soviet boy in Armenia, U.S.S.R. today.
16 minutes, purchase price: \$300, rental price: \$30

WHERE ARE MY PEOPLE

Armenia, a small nation making a significant and enduring contribution to the total culture of man.
28 minutes, purchase price: \$460, rental price: \$50

NOTE: Rental prices do not include shipping charges or insurance.
Rentals are for one-time use and are to be returned within a three-day period after showing date.

(As other films and such are found, as well as other outlets, they will be shared in the UPDATE.)



They're Out There

Have you ever noticed during a meeting how the OPTIMIST and the Pessimist always seem to expose themselves? Sometimes the Optimist is hard to spot, because he is quiet, or simply positive in nature. The Pessimist is even harder to find at times because he hides his pessimism under the guise of "cautious optimism".

You know who they are. The ones who say things like - "We've tried it before." Or "How can YOU possibly suggest such an activity." How about, "You all know how its gonna work out, and nobody will come, and it will turn out like all the other failures....."

All of which leads to the classic social-psychologist anecdote:

Two children were brought to a special experimental center for the testing of behavioral patterns. One child was considered "pessimistic" while the other was considered "optimistic".

The pessimistic child was placed in a room filled with all kinds of toys and games. There were riding toys, stuffed animals and just about everything was brand new.

The optimistic child was placed in a room with a huge pile of manure in the middle. Each was observed through one-way windows for 30 minutes.

Finally the psychologist visited the pessimistic child and found him standing in the middle of the room filled with toys not moving a muscle. When asked why he was just standing there. He replied, "Everything was so new and shiny, I was affraid of breaking something."

When the Optimistic child was visited, he was found digging and digging in the pile of manure. The psychologist asked him what he was doing. Continuing to dig he replied, "There must be a pony under here somewhere!"