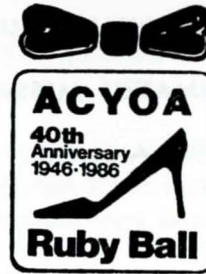


A. C. Y. O. A.
40th Anniversary
Celebration

New England Regional
Ruby Ball

Providence, Rhode Island
October 25, 1986



Welcome
to the
A.C.Y.O.A.
“40th Anniversary Celebration”
New England Regional Ball

Tonight, we invite you to help celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America. Our Celebration is one of three gala events commemorating the founding of the A.C.Y.O.A. We thank you for your continued faithful support and ask that we now all join together and celebrate this joyous occasion.



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

PRIMATE'S MESSAGE

As we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America, it behooves us to pause and contemplate your endeavors and contributions to our Church and our people.

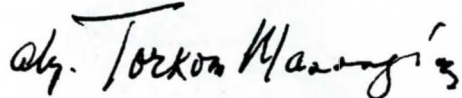
The first generation of the ACYOA was fortunate to have inspiring parents and church leaders who helped guide them in their spiritual search for the Truth that is Christ and in carrying on our sacred heritage. The question now is: Has that first generation been successful in fulfilling this task and passing it on to the second generation and those following?

The ACYOA theme this year has been **"40 YEARS OF CHURCH SERVICE AND ARMENIAN FELLOWSHIP IN AMERICA,"** and it is an appropriate one. To be an ACYOA member means making a commitment, a pledge to be loyal to the ideals for which the Armenian Church has always stood. As a group, you represent solidarity and determination in your service to God and to our people. You symbolize the opportunity to pursue and live our faith.

On this 40th Anniversary, we rejoice in our YOUTH. We need our youth to carry forth our identity as Armenian Christians. To be Armenian is a matter of spirit. Learn all you can about your culture, language, and heritage. The confidence you will gain will lead to action, and action changes the future. God has placed the future in your hands.

May the Lord bless you with His love and His wisdom.

Prayerfully,



Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

September 1986

ST. SAHAG AND ST. MESROB ARMENIAN CHURCH

It is indeed a pleasure for me to welcome all of you to the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the ACYOA.

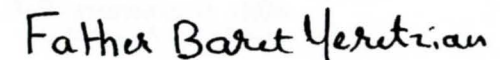
Since its inception, the ACYOA has continued to grow and has developed into a strong and viable organization. The ACYOA should be proud of the many dedicated young men and women who have passed from its ranks into positions of leadership and responsibility in their respective communities.

As the years go by, the ACYOA will continue to need more dedicated young people to come forward and contribute their talents and abilities to those who are currently active in the organization. The work of the ACYOA should not be left to a few but should be shared by many.

The future of our Armenian Church is in the hands of our young men and women. We must all offer them our encouragement and help for they will be our leaders of tomorrow. As we sow, so shall we reap.

Dear ACYOA members, past and present, as Pastor of the Providence Parish and Vicar of New England, I join with my fellow clergymen to congratulate and applaud you for all you have done in helping to perpetuate the beauty of our meaningful spiritual and cultural heritage.

With God's guidance and blessings may you always remain devoted to your Armenian Church and help to continue to uphold the ideals for which the ACYOA stands.



Very Reverend Baret Yeretian, Pastor
St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Church



On behalf of the Providence chapter of the A.C.Y.O.A. Seniors, and of our 40th Anniversary Celebration Ruby Ball committee, it is my pleasure to welcome all clergy, A.C.Y.O.A. members, parents, parishioners and friends. Since the A.C.Y.O.A. was founded in Providence in 1946, it is only fitting that the 40th Anniversary be celebrated here in 1986, and of this we are very proud.

My committee members have worked very hard to make this evening a wonderful success, and I'd like to say thank you to each and every one of them for their diligence and hard work. I would also like to thank the Providence chapter, our Parish Priest, The Very Reverend Baret Yeretzian, and the Parishioners of St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Church for their continued support.

The Providence A.C.Y.O.A. chapter is growing in strength and size, and with the help and support of parents and parish members, A.C.Y.O.A. will flourish and become the backbone of our youth.

Warmest regards,

Stephanie A. Masoian

Stephanie A. Masoian
Providence ACYOA Seniors Chairperson
40th Anniversary Ball Chairperson



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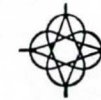


The Prayer Of A.C.Y.O.A.

O Lord our Saviour Jesus Christ, Who are the Way, the Truth, and the Life, give us, the youth of the Church of Armenia, we beseech Thee, the wisdom to know, to love, and to serve Thee in our personal lives severally, and in the corporate life of our Organization.

Thou that leadest men in the way, lead us, thy children, that we may be able to serve the Church through our people, with courage and vision, and in the faith of our illustrious forefathers. Inspire us, O Lord, and open our eyes to thy light, that we may cherish and profit by the heritage which our forefathers have left to us, and that we may be aware of our responsibilities as citizens of our beloved country, the United States of America.

Fill us, O Christ our God, with thy Holy Spirit, that we may be the obedient and unselfish servants of the Will of our Heavenly Father, to whom, together with Thee and the Holy Spirit, is befitting Glory, Dominion and Honor now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.



A Tribute

It was during the tenure of Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan as Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church (1943-1954) that the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America came into existence.

Tiran Srpazan carried a challenge to the locally organized youth groups and placed a spark in their midst, and as a result of his foresight, the ACYOA was formed in 1946.

The youth of the Armenian Church in America hereby extends its gratitude to the founder of ACYOA for his patience and understanding, for his truly wise counsel and scholarly teaching, and especially for his untiring efforts in nurturing our Organization along each step of its growth.





Dedicated To Our Armenian Youth

The role of the youth in the preservation of the Armenian Church in America cannot be minimized. The elders of our church have accepted the premise that the "future belongs to those who prepare for it", and thus have seen the wisdom of investing in their youth to the extent of encouraging their Church Youth in every way possible to keep alive the aims and purposes of A.C.Y.O.A.

For generations the A.C.Y.O.A. has endeavored to supply the links that will eventually make transition of responsibility smoother. The young men and women of today have an obvious challenge. As a younger generation, whose ancestors had been transplanted and had roots on alien soil, and who pledged their loyalty to their adopted land, we should continue, as they have to point with pride at our Churches and say "THIS IS OUR HERITAGE AND OUR IDENTITY".

May the Lord give our youth the grace and strength to fulfill this, their mission.



The New England Regional 40th Anniversary Ball is proud to honor the following Alumni Award recipients for their "selfless dedication, devotion service and sacrifice to the A.C.Y.O.A., the youth and parishes of the New England Region."

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* No response at time of printing.



THE EMBLEM OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA AND ITS SYMBOLIC MEANING

The emblem of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America adopted at its inception, is to be interpreted as follows:

The radiations from the center of the cross symbolize the truths of the Christian religion that shine forth through the centuries.

The symbols under the horizontal bar of the cross are:

- a. (right hand side) The double peaks of Mount Ararat, representing the Armenian people and its destiny. Ararat has been the silent witness of the victories as well as defeats of the Armenians through their existence as a people and a nation. Its representation of the A.C.Y.O.A. emblem means that the members of the Organization make the pledge of standing for the ideals for which the Armenian nation has stood always.
- b. (left hand side) The United States eagle with its wings wide-spread and star above each wing. The eagle looks proudly into far distances and holds, as usual a batch of arrows. The eagle represents the United States. Its presence on the A.C.Y.O.A. emblem symbolizes the loyalty of the members of the A.C.Y.O.A. to the Constitution of the United States and to its principles of democracy and freedom.

The chain that encircles the cross on the emblem represents solidarity among the members of the A.C.Y.O.A. in their service to God and to people.

These symbols are designed on a shield which stands for the determination with which the objects of the A.C.Y.O.A. are to be carried out. The shield also stands for defense against dangerous encroachments.

It will be noted that the dominating feature of the emblem is the cross. This indicates the fact Christ is our Lord and that to Him we owe obedience above all.

The Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

The Armenian Church Youth Organization of America of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America was created on January 12, 1946 in Providence, Rhode Island.

This new Diocesan-wide National Organization, created for the youth of the Armenian Church, emerged from the crumbling foundation of the then many local Junior Leagues and clubs that were formed for the young people of the Armenian Church Parishes.

World War II interrupted the activities of these local groups, many of which were simply inactive during those difficult years. With the termination of the war, a renewed necessity took place of re-organizing the local Parish youth groups. Bishop Tiran Nersoyan, the newly elected Diocesan Primate, wholeheartedly took on the challenge of a problem which was causing the elders of the communities to question the future of the Church in American. This challenge was carried by Bishop Tiran to the American - Armenian youth. To all communities he passed on the informing spark, so important to the creating and continuation of activities for this new Organization. The culmination of all his activity and work took place at the "Constitutional Assembly" of Church Youth, held in Providence Rhode Island, January 12, 1946.

In what seemed a short time, the A.C.Y.O.A. had a strong parish-base through the chapters, as well as a strong administration embodied in the Central Council. Throughout the Diocese, A.C.Y.O.A. events and activities took place with growing success. In parishes across the Diocese, an excitement filled the air as young people of all ages were coming to the Churches, participating in programs and sponsoring events season after season.

Throughout the years, the A.C.Y.O.A. has taken on various projects within the parishes as well as on the Diocesan level. Some of these local activities have included consistent help with annual events in the parish, sponsoring Fund-raisers, planning programs and participating in building projects.

On the national level, some projects have included raising sizable funds for the restoration of the the Mother Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin, as well as contributions to the former Youth Camp Fund and the Seminary Fund of the Diocese.

Better known of A.C.Y.O.A. accomplishments is the sponsorship of publications in the Diocese, such as: **Sacraments and Prayers of the Armenian Church, a Pictorial Guide to Armenian Divine Liturgy, Catechism of Christian Instruction, Home Blessings at Christmas and Easter, The Armenian Church and Her Teachings, Handbook to Armenia**, as well as **The A.C.Y.O.A. Chapter Handbook**. Some of the earliest publications of the present Department of Religious Education was one of the more cherished dreams of the A.C.Y.O.A. and today ion found their roots in A.C.Y.O.A.

An **Armenian Theological School** was one of the more cherished dreams of the A.C.Y.O.A. and today it has become a reality. Sunday School Teachers conferences were organized and held by A.C.Y.O.A., and out of these conferences was born the **Council for Religious Education (CRE)** which now directs the Church Sunday Schools.

The A.C.Y.O.A. has also initiated and developed the **Armenian Studies Program** of overseas trips to Armenia and the Holy Land. The early 1970's found it to be the most worthy of A.C.Y.O.A. programs, developing into an annual pilgrimage to Armenia.

The **National Sports Weekend**, concerning athletic competition and social activities took over in the 1970's and 1980's where the great General Assemblies of the 1950's and 1960's left off. Attracting an estimated 600-800 members annually in its 17 year history, this is the one event that every member plans for each year. Taking place over the Labor Day holiday weekend, the program has been hosted by various chapters from throughout the Diocese. Offering both sporting events and social events, Sports Weekend is one the most successful of A.C.Y.O.A. programs.

The A.C.Y.O.A. initiated plans in the late 1970's for a Diocesan Youth Camp. A.C.Y.O.A. organized and started what is now a flourishing program under the direction and sponsorship of the Diocese, entitled "St. Vartan Camp".

For many years, the A.C.Y.O.A. has promoted the observance of commemorative Martyrs Day events for the victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

The Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament, initiated by His Eminence in 1970, has also become the responsibility of the A.C.Y.O.A.

Through the years, A.C.Y.O.A. has grown into a strong and vigorous organization. Many dedicated young men and women have passed from its ranks into positions of responsibility and leadership in their communities. Many parish council members, diocesan delegates, deacons and Sunday school teachers have been members of the A.C.Y.O.A.

The mission of A.C.Y.O.A. is to create among the younger generation a greater spiritual culture and tradition, and to instill into its members a true spirit of civic mindedness.

The future for the A.C.Y.O.A. can be a glorious one. With continued support, A.C.Y.O.A. can achieve unprecedented heights. This must be our constant aim. The community should realize just as the seed of today is the harvest of tomorrow, so it will be that the future of our beloved Church will rest upon the shoulders of the members of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America.

Past and present members may feel a bond and a great sense of pride in the words....

The A.C.Y.O.A. - 40 Years of Church Service and Armenian Fellowship in America.



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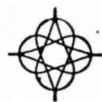
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*Michael's Catering
for Stephanie*



The Pledge Of The A.C.Y.O.A.

I solemnly promise and declare upon my honor that as a member of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America, I shall, to the best of my ability, be faithful to the Armenian Church; shall be a devoted upholder of the Armenian cultural heritage; shall be a loyal citizen of the United States; and I shall diligently abide by the objects, policies, and decisions of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America. I shall not strive for personal recognition and pleasure, but will serve our Church, our Community, and our Country, for the greater glory of God.



Notes