

Proxmire & Aspin (cont. from pg. 1)



Aspin



Proxmire

Since 1970, Les Aspin has served the First Congressional District of southeastern Wisconsin which includes Racine.

Since in Congress, Aspin has served on the Armed Services, Government Operations and Budget committees. In January of 1985 he was chosen over six more senior members to chair the Armed Services Committee.

Like Proxmire, Aspin has often spoken out on behalf of the Armenians. In a 1982 address to fellow Congressmen, Aspin said, "It is important that we never forget this bloodletting...The unspeakable horror unleashed upon the Armenian people must never be forgotten. The reports of this terrible massacre ought to be underscored in red in every history textbook in the country. We must never forget."

History of St. Mesrob Church of Racine

On October 12, 1924, the Armenians of Racine (numbering approximately 150), purchased a church on State Street. They repaired it, rennovated it, and changed the building to conform to the standards of the Diocese. They worked together to make it their own. One church member, Avak Akgulian fashioned and built the altar. Gulbank Akgulian painted the door paintings, and Sahag Jansouzian built the Holy Sepulcher. The church's Godfather, Krikor Keishian, asked that the church be named after the founder of the Armenian alphabet -- St. Mesrob. On December 25, 1925, St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church was consecrated by Archbishop Tirayre Hovanessian.

For over 40 years the St. Mesrob Armenian Church community worshipped and prayed in this building on State Street. But in 1964 members felt that the State Street facilities were not adequate enough. There weren't enough rooms for Sunday School classes, and the hall was too small. So they established a planning committee to study the feasibility of building a new church. The original committee included

May 2-4

Celebrate...
Racine!

This weekend you can join in the festivities and "Celebrate Racine." Anyone interested in venturing off on their own can take part in a city wide celebration.

Over 60 local organizations are coordinating the festivities which include tours, exhibits, entertainment, contests, and more.

Saturday, May 3, start off the day with a stack of pancakes at Kiwanis Pancake Day at Memorial Hall, located in downtown Racine. After breakfast, head a few blocks north to Fifth & Main, where you can stroll through the Lakefront Artists Fair. Over 84 artists from 5 states will exhibit their art, pottery, jewelery, and crafts. Each item will be under \$75.

And if art work isn't enough, there will be boat rides on Lake Michigan, a bus tour of historic homes, hot air balloon rides, tours of Racine's Lighthouse, a Mime show at the Theatre Guild and a 2 or 5 mile walk-run at 11th & Lake sponsored by St. Luke's Hospital.

the Reverend Dajad Davidian - President, Paul Minasian - Chairman, Mikael Garoukian - Vice-Chairman, Sue Esayian - Secretary, and members John Esayian, Sam Akgulian, Mike Janikian, George Gulbankian, Harry Cherkinian, Mark Akgulian and George Stevoff. This committee, later known as the Building Committee, increased and implemented the pledge system which eventually went for the payment of the Erie Street property. Building plans were made, bids were submitted, and on November 17, 1971 the firm of Johnson & Henrickson, Inc. was chosen as the general contractor. The efforts of the Racine Armenians were again rewarded when the new church and cultural center at 4605 Erie Street was consecrated on January 21, 1973.

Since that time the St. Mesrob Armenian Church community has worshipped in this church. Today the church has over 240 members and is led in prayer by its parish priest Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian. The St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church is, and has always been, held together by its faith.