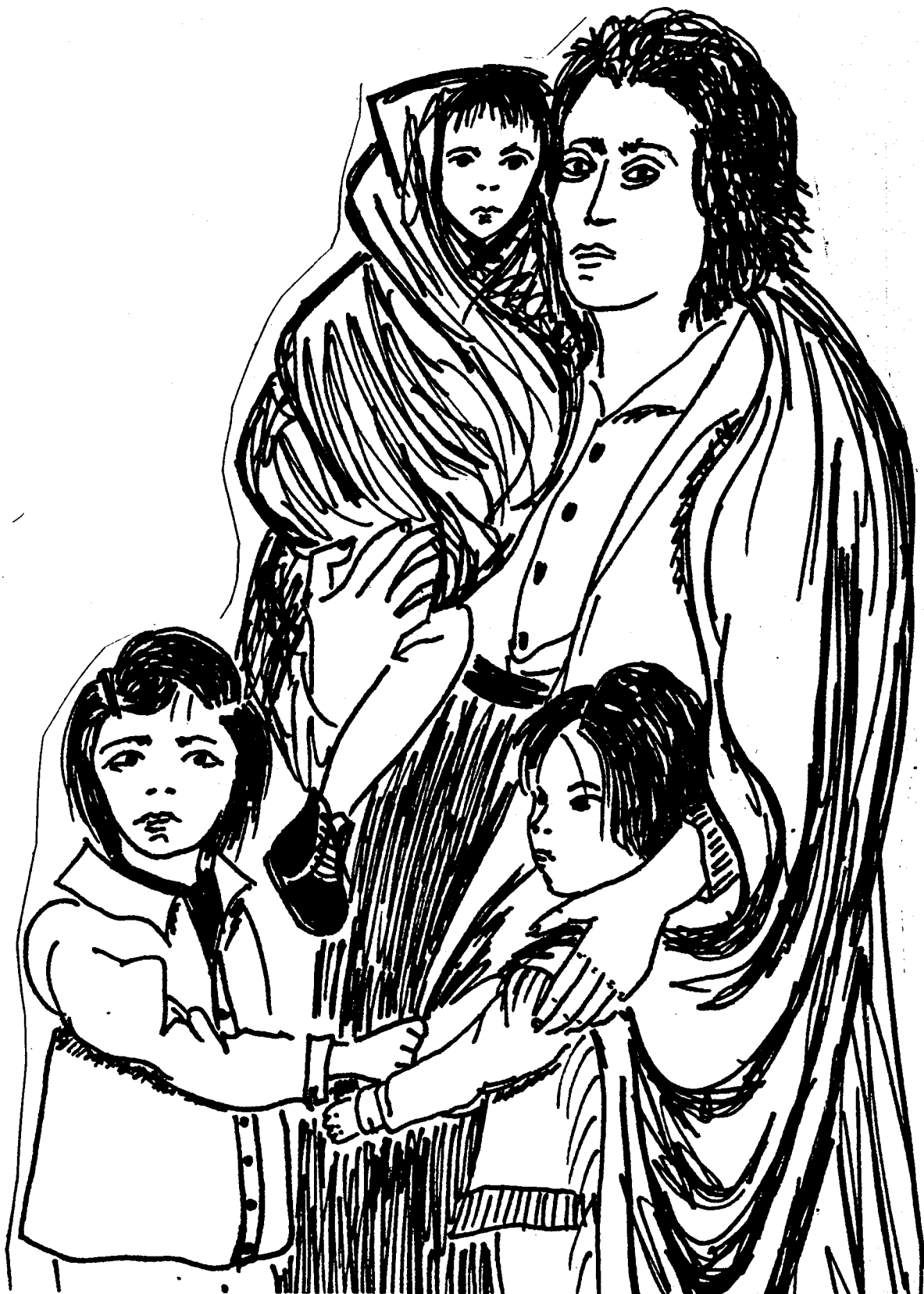


HYE HOKIN

QUARTERLY

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1

SPRING 1989



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ACYOA Publication
Volume 1 Number 1
Spring 1989

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About the Design

Readers will be interested to note that the decorative elements that appear throughout **Hye Hokin** were selected and illustrated by artist Lucine Baronian, who also designed the issue. Many of these elements are details from Armenian illuminated manuscripts; others have been used over the years in traditional Armenian textiles.

This issue's cover is the artist's rendition of the widely published photograph of an Armenian mother standing with her children amidst the devastation of the December earthquake.

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Hye Hokin welcomes letters, photos and essays from our readers. Please send all materials to the attention of the ACYOA Executive Secretary, Diocese of the Armenian Church, 630 Second Ave., New York, NY 10016. Photos and illustrations should be in black and white format. All material submitted is subject to the discretion of the editorial staff. Letters and essays do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial staff.

Published by the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, 630 Second Ave., New York, NY 10016. Second-class postage paid at New York, NY.

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EDITORIAL

ANSWERING THE CALL

On December 7th, the Diocese organized a vigil and requiem service for the victimized Armenians in Karabagh. On the occasion of Mr. Gorbachev's visit to the U.S., we wanted to display solidarity for the Armenian cause in Karabagh. That evening, as we stood vigil, we received the news about the tragic earthquake, and the world turned its attention to Armenia. Tiny Armenia, in the midst of a massive and multi-ethnic country; our homeland, a country that the world had always ignored. Suddenly, the world cared.

The next day, as Mr. Gorbachev cancelled the balance of his visit to America and returned to the Soviet Union to attend to Armenia, the newspaper, radio, and television reporters came to the Diocese. We were on Nightline, CBS Sunday Morning, the front page of The New York Times, and Monday Night Football—the atmosphere was electric. I didn't realize during those first few days that I would never be the same, nor would the Armenian-American community.

Armenians were emotional and committed and non-Armenians were responding to our need with unconditional support. Everyone focused on the people who were killed, the families that were shattered, the victims who were freezing, starving, and in need of emergency medical attention. The Armenian community, and relief organizations throughout the country, mobilized, working long hours, with thousands of volunteers. As a Diocesan staff member, I helped wherever and whenever I could—we all did. We had a 24-hour toll-free number which people could call to make donations. There were meetings, mailings and telephone solicitations. Volunteer groups were organized and worked closely with us. I was proud to be a part of it.

As the ACYOA Executive Secretary, I had the opportunity to experience the enthusiasm and hard work of many ACYOA members, some of whom had been known as the silent ones. The Diocese obtained storage space at JFK airport and coordinated three airlifts to Armenia. The ACYOA managed the warehouse. Over a four-week period, ACYOA members from New York and New Jersey chapters unloaded 200,000 pounds of relief supplies, by hand, without fork lifts, conveyors, or professional assistance. There were days we worked into the evening.

Gregory Doudoukjian, who was working part-time at a Dominos pizza parlor in Dumont, NJ, convinced the owner to donate \$1.00 per pizza for one day. Greg implemented a publicity campaign and coordinated the effort. On a typical Wednesday, the pizza parlor would sell 70 pizzas; this day 350 were sold. Ara Bagdasarian got himself an appointment with the president of BP America, where he is employed, and presented the case for immediate and substantial aid. Shortly afterward, BP made a contribution

of \$45,000 to the International Red Cross. Laurie Onanian, who works for the City of Boston, was appointed by Mayor Flynn to coordinate the Armenian Earthquake relief effort with Armenian organizations and the City. She later accompanied the Mayor to the Diocese, where he met with the Primate. Steve Sarkisian coordinated and computerized inventory control at the earthquake relief warehouse at a TWA hangar in Boston.

The Boca Raton ACYOA Chapter organized a phonathon at its church and raised over \$6,000. The Hartford Chapter held a dinner for Armenian Christmas. Members paid for the expenses, and the proceeds were donated to the Armenian Diocese Earthquake Fund.

I can't, in this space, note all of the chapter projects and individual contributions, but there were many instances of dedication, hard work, and generosity. Everyone who contributed, in any way, saved lives. We came together as a community. Many of us are second or third generation Armenian-Americans, but we couldn't ignore the cry from our homeland. The overwhelming response of ACYOA members to the plight of our brothers and sisters is unprecedented. It is an example of commitment and concern which bodes well for the growth of the ACYOA and the development of church and community leaders.

The crisis touched what is Armenian in all of us. The rebuilding of Armenia is a long-term project and we will be called upon again to aid Armenia and to perpetuate our heritage in America. If you looked to Armenia when she needed you, then you found within yourself the Armenian spirit, maybe at times dormant, but never dead. As the earth shook Armenia, maybe it cast off the shell of assimilation in America.

Doug Tashjian



“WHAT'S IN A NAME?”

In choosing to name this publication **Hye Hokin**, the ACYOA has embraced one of the richest and most symbolic phrases in the Armenian language. Spirit...Person...Soul; this is the meaning of 'hoki.' The spiritual, the cultural, the human aspect; these are all embodied in the phrase “Hye Hokin” or “The Armenian Spirit.”

These same qualities are the cornerstones of the mission of the ACYOA. And it is with this mission in mind that **Hye Hokin** has been founded. Throughout these pages many examples of “the Armenian spirit” can be found. Collectively, it is hoped that they represent a forum in which ACYOA members, alumni, and friends can express their views, gain new insights and perspectives on their faith and culture; a wellspring, as it were, for the Armenian spirit this organization is so rich in.

The Editor

INSIGHTS INTO OUR FAITH

ADDRESS BY HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN, PRIMATE

The following speech was delivered by His Eminence at the 1988 General Assembly, September 1, 1988. It is reproduced here for the benefit of the entire ACYOA membership.

This year has surely been an eventful one in the history of the ACYOA and our Diocese. This General Assembly gives full credence to what we all know: the ACYOA is a growing, vibrant organization, opening new vistas of understanding and opportunity to bring young Armenian-Americans into the mainstream of their ancient faith and cultural heritage.

You are a very special group of people. We have said this before but it cannot be overemphasized: you belong to that cadre of dedicated individuals who provide the leadership that is so vitally needed if our people are to survive and grow as Armenian Christians. Each of you, in his and her own way, is reaching out to bring others into the fold, to awaken them to the awareness of their uniqueness as individuals, and as Armenians.

As the nucleus of the ACYOA leadership, you face many challenges. The opportunities created through the growth of the ACYOA and its services will help you to overcome these challenges. And they are formidable, indeed.

We speak about the challenges of the greater society in which we live often and with some trepidation. In spite of all our efforts — in spite of our collective dedication and your hard work—the problems remain. The affluence of this great country, the so-called “melting pot” concept, the emergence of detrimental lifestyles and, very importantly, the breakdown in religious and moral values continue to take their toll. Many of our Armenian youth—indeed much of American youth—are being swallowed up in the faceless cultural and social morass.

Of course, there are constructive values in American society. The freedoms we enjoy are unique in the

world. But it would be a great disservice to their faith and heritage if our youth were to become so enmeshed in the counter-productive forces confronting American society that they lose their Armenian identity. Indeed, the opportunity to preserve that identity, and yet participate to the fullest as patriotic, socially-conscious citizens, is one of the great benefits of the democratic system this nation offers us.

Opportunity is the key word. And as the ACYOA opens up new avenues of opportunity for participation as Armenian Christians, so too will the organization grow. These opportunities enable each of you to reach out to your fellow Armenians with the message of faith: come join us. We welcome you as fellow Armenians. We need your participation to help strengthen our Church and our community.

The ACYOA is giving you the opportunities. You have the tools. As a body, you represent the most educated and sophisticated generation in the history of our people in America. We also see more and more young women joining the ACYOA's ranks. They are educated. They are active and persuasive. They bring a welcome new dimension to our community affairs and ACYOA leadership potentials.

During this past year we shared observations in meetings with various ACYOA groups. What is clearly evident is that these young people are very Armenian. Their language skills may falter at times, but their hearts do not. Sacred Mount Ararat shines in bright eyes. Our ethnic heritage is ingrained in their bone and sinew. Their blood flows with the glories of historical memories. The spirit of perseverance prevails despite the past tribulations of wars and the dreadful Geno-

cide which marks the soul of every Armenian. In our young people, the past lives. In our young people, the spirit of Armenia forever soars.

How Armenian are most of our youth? The recent demonstrations for the reunification of Karabagh with the motherland rekindled a new national awareness of the Armenian heritage. Hundreds of young people joined in the historic march from Diocesan Headquarters in New York City to the Soviet Mission to the United Nations. For the first time, the Karabagh issue made many of them truly aware and proud of their Armenian background.

The 22 young people who participated in the ACYOA Studies Program actively joined in the Karabagh demonstrations in Yerevan. They were warmly welcomed as fellow Armenians by the proud and dauntless people of Armenia. They were not Americans nor Soviet citizens. They were all Armenians, united in a just cause: the liberation of their brothers and sisters from Azerbaijani oppression.

The potentials to attract others to the ACYOA's banner are certainly viable. And you are the key to bringing them to fruition in our Church youth activities. You are the role models. You are those special people charged with bringing more of your fellow Armenians into the ACYOA and the Church community. In you rests the potentiality as well as the growth of the Armenian faith and cultural identity in America. It is an awesome responsibility. But it has its rewards, spiritually, socially and culturally. It is in greater unity and cohesiveness that we will find our full collective strength, as dedicated Armenian Christians and as patriotic Americans.

May the Lord continue to guide you in your service and fellowship.

WHEN TRAGEDY STRIKES

Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian

When tragedy strikes, people usually respond. In great sorrow, as in great joy, man's inner nature comes forth. And thus it was in the time of bitter sorrow and death, of devastation almost beyond belief for our people and homeland. A few moments of time—minutes, seconds — and the forces of nature interrupted the course of our history and produced yet another potentially debilitating obstacle for our people.

And as the the world became witness to the destruction and horror caused by the catastrophic earthquake in Armenia, the world also responded. The cries of anguish and despair were heard by all mankind. Governments, charitable agencies, the common man, all offered their assistance to the extent that it overwhelmed our tiny homeland. Armenia could not absorb all that was poured in. Medicine, clothing, foodstuffs, help of rescue—all testified to the inherent goodness of man. The cries of the Armenian nation made mankind care, motivating him to move out of his isolation to do, to offer, from the leaders of great nations offering aid in the millions of dollars, to the simple man who gave whatever he could to help.

The seeds of unity, oneness of mankind, had been planted and overnight sprang forth. Nations that considered others their enemy worked side by side in singleness of purpose—to help save the lives of our people buried under the rubble and debris of what were once homes, schools, factories and stores. The seeds of unity took root among the Armenian people as well. His Holiness, Karekin II, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia traveled to Armenia to be with his brother in Christ, His Holiness, Vazken I, Catholicos of all Armenians to begin the process of rebuilding our nation. Clergy of our divided house came together in prayer, in communion, in unity of purpose for the sake of our nation. Relief committees composed of the various churches, benevolent organizations, political parties, social groups came together to work and to coordinate their efforts in a unified force of compassion.

But still there remained the tragedy of lost lives that no amount of relief aid could replace. I saw the faces on the news reports. I cried for my people. My tears flowed with grief as if it were my own family members lying beneath the rubble; for the survivors who were left to witness the destruction; for the children left without family, suffering from the physical and emotional wounds brought on by the quake.

The earthquake happened while our church was in the season of advent, a season of hope, waiting to celebrate the Coming and the Second Coming of Our Lord. We speak of birth and resurrection, of the Cross of Holy Friday and the empty tomb of Easter Sunday, of the pains of birth and the joys of life. Our people believe in the Resurrection, we wait for it. But how can those thoughts bring comfort to a people who have continually suffered

under the yoke of destruction, both from man and nature?

I saw the pictures of our people trying to cope with the shock of losing loved ones. I remember the picture of the man cradling his little child in his arms crouched next to a small coffin, hesitating, not wanting to place the body inside. And for a moment, only a moment, I saw the image of Christ next to Him, sitting there also weeping for his child and the thousands of others who died. For if my God was to be anywhere, it had to be in Armenia with His people, understanding and feeling every bit of human pain and ache that was theirs.

Was it any different when King Herod killed the children of Bethlehem in order to destroy the "new-born king?" Were the first Christian converts, killed for sport, alone in their trials? Were our martyrs of 1915 forgotten or left alone to their fate?

As to "why?", the question still remains, and for that question I have no absolute answer. But it is at every funeral that we read the passage from John which states:

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies it remains alone; but if it dies it bears much fruit." (John 12:24)

It tells us that the single grain of wheat is of no value unless it gives up of itself in order to produce more. A grain of wheat is cast into the earth. Soon it changes in such a fashion that it becomes radically different. It throws out a white point as a germ. This bores upward through the ground. As soon as it breaks through the ground it puts aside its white color and takes on a new color. It grows up like grass, but it sends its roots branching out into the soil on every side, so that the plant may have a firm hold. And as carpenters know how to secure a house by strong binding beams, so God strengthens the growing stalk, that it may be able to support the ascending fruit.

Now if God can bring from a simple grain of wheat a hundredfold, how much easier will it be for Him to reawaken and resurrect the body of the Armenian people.

So my cries of despair have turned to cries of hope to my Lord and Saviour — to breathe upon us and our people the spirit of holiness; to breathe upon us the breath of life so that we may grow with freedom from the bondage of death; to breathe upon us with the breath of grace so that after this tribulation, we may receive a taste of His mercy.



AN AWAKENING OF THE SPIRIT

Hagop Dingilian

I never understood what Christmas meant. For years, if asked, I would give the pat answer, "it is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ." Sometime ago, however, something happened to me which made these words take on a new meaning in my life, and helped me to see for the first time the importance of the Lord and the community in my life.

A vision. A scene. Music. Words.

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come; Let the earth receive her King."

These are the words I heard as I watched the baby in the manger, surrounded by Mary and Joseph, the magi, the shepherds watching attentively, and the animals looking on serenely. This scene took me back over 20 years to when I was in Egypt. I remembered the simple times that I enjoyed growing up in the "Old Country." The people and their clothes, those animals, houses and barns. The simple joy of seeing and being in the open fields and with the whole of creation. I enjoyed it. And yet, there were the inner struggles as well. I sensed that there was more to life than what I had there. I longed for that deep involvement in life; helping others, and doing that which is worthwhile. That search for love, personal involvement, and my purpose in life.

I remember the day 20 years ago when I came to the United States, the "New Country," and the joy of being in the land of plenty; the first Christmas and the snow in which I played. There was a certain joy in receiving education, working as a professional, climbing ladders of business and society, and striving for the truth. Yet, I also remember, beyond the concrete buildings and the noisy traffic jams, a longing for simplicity. I remember that I never seemed to have enough time to be in touch with nature and the community around me. Again, I remembered the inner struggles which I faced, the search for love, personal involvement, and my purpose in life.

What a contrast of cultures, and yet whether in the Old Country or the New Country, I was still searching for love and meaning in my life. What was ironic to me was the fact that both the Old Country and the New one were similarly incomplete in giving joy and meaning to life.

As I stood there in front of the manger, suddenly the words of the song struck me: Joy to the world, for the Lord is come! "Yes" I thought, there is joy; and that joy is to be found not just in the setting of the Old Country, of yesterday, or the New one, of today, but right here and now, because "the Lord is come." The joy is in the Lord! My search was not for something or someplace, but for a person, for the Lord!

But then I became aware of the next few words as well: "Let earth receive her King." And I thought of my life in the Old Country and my life in the New Country, and I realized the struggles that I had faced were all so that I could, by recognizing the contrasts between the cultures, appreciate and receive the Lord in my life. And not only

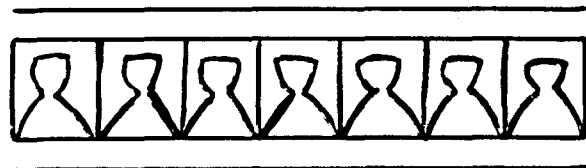
see the Lord in my life, but also to see the Lord as King in the lives of those around me, as the King on earth. I realized the search in both the Old and the New Countries was not for something or someone outside of me. Rather it was a search for the peace and joy which comes from liberation of the real person in me — the one that only the Lord can liberate because He has created me.

Another thought occurred to me as I watched the manger. Why the baby? We know that the Lord and the King is Jesus Christ, so why have the baby in the manger, instead of representing Jesus as a grown up person? I saw two reasons for this representation.

First, we are celebrating the birth of this child, because after growing up, He served us out of love, was crucified and died for us, and was resurrected. He did these things so that we could all become children of God and have eternal life. I too, had started as a child, and by the struggles I faced between being myself, and doing that which I believed, I came to a deeper appreciation and understanding of God and life. Isn't this also the story of our Armenian people? We started small. But by striving to be who we are, and living as we believed, we overcame many enemies who tried to destroy us. God kept us from destruction showing that no human power or principality could destroy the God given gift of life and community. In the same way, we all start small, just like a baby, and over a period of time, grow up to gain a deep understanding of the grace of God in our personal and community life, in a way that is unique to us.

Second, I saw that Jesus, being God, became man not as an independent adult, but as a child that needed attention, nurture, and love from family and community. Suddenly, the importance of community life struck me, and I saw all that God had been doing in my life through the community. I started thinking of those who had loved and nurtured me; all those living in this country of Armenian and non-Armenian heritage, who welcomed me wherever I went, and gave their time and love to see me grow and be myself. They also loved and respected me enough to tell me things which I may not have wanted to hear, but needed to if I were to grow to be the person that God had created me to be.

I thought of my parents, who love me and labored for me; of my grandparents who were massacred in the Genocide; and of all those Armenian and non-Armenian missionaries who rescued the orphans, and nurtured them to become loving Christian persons, families, and communities. Although, I thought, I can't change history, I can appreciate it and make it part of me. Thus I realized there is no self-made person or people, and we as Armenians know better than any other nation that God keeps a person, a community, and a nation together, through the love and nurture of a larger community, even as God did with the Christ child in the manger.



NATIONAL EVENTS

KARABAGH DEMONSTRATIONS : A MOVING EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS IN ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

Participation in the unprecedented demonstrations in Yerevan for the reunification of Nagorno-Karabagh with Armenia proved to be one of the most "moving and emotional experiences" for the 22 students in the 1988 ACYOA Armenian Summer Studies program.

The annual program, now in its 18th year, is a major educational effort of the ACYOA. As guests of His Holiness Vasken I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, the young men and women from various parishes in the United States attended a wide variety of language, cultural and social programs in Armenia. They also spent a few days in Leningrad and Moscow before returning to the United States.

"All of the students took part in the Karabagh reunification demonstrations in Yerevan," said the Reverend Father Arnak Kasparian, pastor of St. Thomas Armenian Church, Tenafly, NJ, who led the group

It was an experience that left a lasting impression on the young Americans. "It was enlightening to take part in the demonstrations, seeing a virtual wall of people raising their arms in solidarity," said Stephen Sarkisian of Watertown, MA. "Everyone in Yerevan was together for a purpose. You could feel the strong sense of nationalism everywhere."

At one of the demonstrations, the group met Zori Balayan, the noted Armenian journalist who has been in the forefront of the campaign to reunite Karabagh with Armenia. The students were invited to his home where he discussed the Karabagh situation.

Balayan's remarks inspired many of the students. "He covered the situation in Azerbaijan, and how so many Armenians were killed," Stephen said. "It was the Genocide all over again. It brought back so many memories. It made me want to get involved in the movement to reunify Karabagh, which by every right belongs to Armenia."

In addition to Stephen, the other students participating in this year's event were: Margot Krikorian (Elberon, NJ); Alex Kouzouian (Cambridge, MA); Raffi Kebabjian, Vahe Kebabjian, James Maserejian, Nancy Tekeyan, Nora Youssoufian (Watertown, MA); Lisa Najarian (Worcester, MA); Greta Doumanian, Shunt Madanyan (Palos Heights, IL); Stephen Dadekian, Nora Tossoufian (Fair Lawn, NJ); Kirk Varjian (Tenafly, NJ); Renee Gomis, Karen Gurahian (Bayside, NY); Diane Guederian, Nina Hachigian, Valerie Pisani (Harrison, NY); Robert Ajemian (Washington, DC); Michael Agbabian and Maro Najarian (Western Diocese).

The group was welcomed at Vehapar's summer residence, the Haigashen, near Etchmiadzin. Chapel services were conducted daily, and the students were taught Armenian conversation, music and dance. "We met Vehapar twice in a formal audience," Father Arnak explained. "He gave me a cross, a 'Lantchakhatch,' and applauded the work of the ACYOA in sending the students to Armenia. We discussed a number of clerical issues, including the ordination of women. The Vehapar noted that these were serious, difficult issues that will be resolved in time." As well as spiritual enrichment, the group enjoyed various social and cultural activities throughout the stay.

Stephen captured something of the spiritual essence of the trip for all of the students when he said, "Waking up every morning under the shadow of Mount Ararat, the sacred mountain for all Armenians, was truly inspirational. Wherever you go in Yerevan, you are under its benevolent gaze. It gave real heart and meaning to this very special Armenian experience."

ACYOA 1989 PROGRAMS

Intern Program—July 10 to August 4

Now in its fourth year, this unique program gives Armenian young people an opportunity to serve the Armenian Church, to be an integral part of Diocesan activities, and to gain first-hand knowledge and experience about the Church's operations and objectives. Interns may serve in various Diocesan Departments, including the ACYOA, the Department of Religious Education, the Armenian Language Lab and Resource Center, the Information Center, the Primate's Office, the public relations department, or the St. Vartan Bookstore. Those accepted for internship receive travel expenses, stipend, lodging and meals. They also have the opportunity to take part in Diocesan religious, cultural, and social activities. To apply, contact Douglas Tashjian, ACYOA Executive Secretary by May 31, 1989.

Armenian Studies Program

As a result of the earthquake that struck Armenia in December, the status of this program has changed. In its place, a relief program involving participation of ACYOA members and alumni is under consideration. The ACYOA will update its members directly on any details that become available at a later date.

AN HISTORIC EVENT

Helen Baronian

Friday evening, February 3, was a momentous occasion in the Armenian Church. His Holiness Vasken I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, together with his Holiness Karekin II of the See of Cilicia, were welcomed in a Hrashapar service at St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral by His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.

The Procession (Tapor) was a sight to behold, with numerous Bishops, Vartabeds, Der Hayrs, Deacons, and seminarians, as well as acolytes and altar servers escorting the Catholicoses into the Cathedral.



His Holiness, Vasken I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians. Photo by Jacob Demirdjian.

His Holiness Vasken I addressed the multitude which had occupied every inch of seating and standing room, informing them of the events of the earthquake, and his determination to rebuild the devastated towns of Armenia. He spoke eloquently of the needs of the Armenian people, their perilous situation, and prayed that all Armenians, of whatever persuasion, would unite in their efforts to help the disaster victims. He also thanked all the nations of the world for their help.

His Holiness Karekin II also addressed the congregation and spoke of one Church, one language, one Armenia, and reiterated that all Armenians should help in its rebuilding. He further said that since both Catholicoses had come together as a result of this disastrous earthquake, he wished that all Armenians would come together as well.

The occasion was marked by solemnity, but also joy, and it was a truly felicitous occasion. St. Vartan Cathedral was crowded with people, many of whom have never been there before, and it was a welcome sight to see all Armenians united in Christian fellowship and prayer.

His Holiness Vasken I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians arriving from Etchmiadzin and being greeted by His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. Photo by Jacob Demirdjian.

His Holiness, Vasken I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos and His Holiness Karekin III Catholicos conducting the Hrashapar service at St. Vartan Cathedral, New York City, February 3, 1989. Photo by Jacob Demirdjian.

Rev. Jesse Jackson, who participated in the Ecumenical Service held February 7, 1989 at St. Vartan Cathedral, stands with His Holiness, Vasken I and His Holiness, Karekin II. Photo by T. Savino. Reproduced with permission.

My Kinsmen Program

This is a community outreach program for Armenian college students who are studying and living away from home. Parish coordinators have been appointed in each church to implement the outreach effort locally. ACYOA members can help make their compatriots welcome in their communities. Some suggestions: telephone and welcome the students to the community; pass along information about local activities; share a family dinner with them; consider inviting the students to your home; extend family warmth during the holidays; remember the students on birthdays and special occasions; introduce them to the church community; offer to accompany them to church on their initial visit and inform them of church activities and socials. For information, contact your Pastor, Parish Coordinator, or Parish Council Chairman.

NEWS FROM CENTRAL COUNCIL

Scott Najarian ACYOA Central Council Chairman

The Central Council met in October to consider action on the many proposals passed at the General Assembly. These proposals included the creation of annual Regional Balls. The Hartford ACYOA has already won the bid to host the New England Ball; other regional hosts will be determined soon. An Archbishop's Essay Awards contest has also been created. The Assembly also voted to reduce the National Sports Weekend minimum eligibility package plan to a more affordable rate. This reduced plan will allow many more members to participate in sports and to attend many of the weekend functions.

New and renewed programming for this year includes two leadership seminars, two religious retreats, an Armenian cultural weekend and an Armenian cultural day. These programs will be hosted throughout the Diocese in order to allow our members from several regions to participate.

A new and exciting program will take place during the summer of 1989. In conjunction with the ACYOA of the Western Diocese, we will be organizing an ACYOA Camp. This week long camp will take place in Miramonte, CA. Young adults from throughout North America will be participating.

Several annual events will also take place throughout the year. These include the Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Invitational Basketball and Volleyball Tournament, the ACYOA Martyr's Day Program at the Diocese, and the Summer Internship Program, also at the Diocese.

As you can see the ACYOA has "something for everyone" available. We'll be presenting Armenian religion, history, dance, and language. A year full of athletic competition, leadership training, camping, and dozens of social activities. Don't miss your chance to participate!

REGIONAL NEWS

New England Regional Committee Jill Arslanian

On August 20, 1988, 15 dedicated ACYOA members gathered in Providence, RI, to hold their bimonthly Regional Meeting.

Under the organization of Rich Mardirosian, Chairman of the Regional Committee, the group has succeeded in bringing together the ten chapters and promoting unity among them. The chapters include Cambridge, Hartford, Lawrence, New Britain, Providence, Springfield, Trumbull, Watertown, Watervliet, and Worcester. The main goal of this committee is to encourage activities and generate ideas on a local level, in order to supplement national ACYOA events. Many of the chapters have experimented with the ideas generated through these meetings, including Collegiate Dinners, Sports Practices, Bible Studies, Picnics, and the newest and extremely popular "Youth Sundays."

The "Youth Sunday" program is being held with great success once a month at the Saint James Armenian Church in Watertown, MA. Youth participate in Church Services by reading scriptures, presenting lay meditations, collecting donations and assisting in the overall Church procedure.

Overall, this group has the enthusiasm and commitment needed to keep the ACYOA active among the local communities as well as nationally, and it is hoped that this will spread to other regions as well.

ARCHBISHOP'S ESSAY CONTEST

The ACYOA Central Council has reinstated the Archbishop's Essay Contest after a six-year hiatus. The contest includes both Armenian and English language categories and winners will be selected by a panel of judges with literary background. The emphasis will be on writing style and literary ability, as well as subject matter. Subjects must be Armenian-oriented. The winner in each category will receive a monetary award of \$150.00. The awards will be presented during the National Sports Weekend Awards Banquet in Houston, TX, on Sunday, September 3, 1989. All essays must be submitted by June 30th to:

Douglas Tashjian
ACYOA Executive Secretary
630 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10016

Sports Weekend Results

TRACK AND FIELD

Mens 50 Yard Dash

Aram Kazandjian (Montreal)
 Gilbert Demirjian (Wynnewood)
 Jeffrey Tchaderjian (Montreal)

Womens 50 Yard Dash

Lisa Aurslanian (Cleveland)
 Tamara Kabodian (Detroit)
 Lynne Koltookian (Cleveland)

Mens 50 Yard Dash

Craig Bilizerian (Providence)
 Gregory Norsigian (Hartford)
 Gilbert Demirjian (Wynnewood)

Womens 100 Yard Dash

Lisa Aurslanian (Cleveland)
 Lynne Koltookian (Cleveland)
 Kate Terzian (Watervliet)

Mens 200

Aram Kazandjian (Montreal)
 Clark Couyoumjian (Detroit)
 Phillip Karayan (Cleveland)

Womens 220

Kate Terzian (Watervliet)
 Tamara Kabodian (Detroit)
 (No third place)

Mens 440

Aram Kazandjian (Montreal)
 Randy Dagley (Watertown)
 Phillip Karayan (Cleveland)

Womens Table Tennis

Linda Haytayan (Lawrence)
 Cheryl Arslanian (Cleveland)
 Nora Ovassapian (Evanston)

Mixed Doubles Table Tennis

Annie Tossounian/
 George Armoyan (Toronto)
 David Kazanjian/
 Linda Haytayan (Lawrence)
 Jeffrey Masoian/
 Leslie Killerjian (Providence)

Mens Tennis

Jack Melhbaum (Wynnewood)
 Pat Kassabian (Toronto)
 Ara Sahakian (Washington)

Womens Tennis

Linda Haytayan (Lawrence)
 Diane Parnagian (Lawrence)
 Andrea Kavoojian (Worcester)

Babayan Cup (most points)
 Evanston

Massis Award (most points per participant)
 Cleveland

John Kuhljanjian Memorial Award
 (chapter sportsmanship)
 Cleveland

Charles Yaghoobian Individual Sportsmanship Award

(individual sportsmanship)
 Gregory Arpajian (Cleveland)

Mens Basketball

Watertown
 Wisconsin
 Providence II

AQUATICS

Mens Freestyle

Gregory Arpajian (Cleveland)
 Sarkis Toroyan (Detroit)
 Eric Torigian (Detroit)

Womens Freestyle

Yasmin Alpei (Toronto)
 Margarite Davidian (Cleveland)
 Arpi Musluayan (Toronto)

Mens Breaststroke

Gregory Arpajian (Cleveland)
 Sarkis Toroyan (Detroit)
 Eric Torigian (Detroit)

Womens Breaststroke

Yasmin Alpei (Toronto)
 Margarite Davidian (Cleveland)
 Brigitte Souin (Toronto)

Mens Backstroke

Gregory Arpajian (Cleveland)
 Sarkis Toroyan (Detroit)
 Eric Torigian (Detroit)

Womens Backstroke

Yasmin Alpei (Toronto)
 Margarite Davidian (Cleveland)
 Brigitte Souin (Toronto)

Mens Table Tennis

George Armoyan (Toronto)
 Steven Tourian (New York)
 Michael Sahakian (Washington)

Mens Long Jump

Aram Kazandjian (Montreal)
 Hegop Boghejian (Montreal)
 John Reizian (Detroit)

Womens Long Jump

Lynne Koltookian (Cleveland)
 Lisa Mardigian (Detroit)
 (no third place)

Tavloo

Steven Tourian (New York)
 Annie Choojian (Toronto)
 Jill Arslanian (Cleveland)

Chess

Steven Tourian (New York)
 Raffie Chouljian (Toronto)

Checkers

Gary Mousigian (Detroit)
 Garo Akceluk (California)
 Scott Najarian (Worcester)

Golf

Matthew Minnetian (Northern NJ)
 Steven Ajamian (Evanston)
 Darren Amerkanian (Northern NJ)

Co-Ed Volleyball

Evanston
 Watervliet
 Washington

Womens Basketball

Northern NJ
 Providence
 Detroit

Womens 440

Kate Terzian (Watervliet)
 Linda Haytayan (Lawrence)
 Tamara Kabodian (Detroit)

Mens 880

Gregory Arpajian (Cleveland)
 Phillip Karayian (Cleveland)
 Clark Couyoumjian (Detroit)

Mens Mile

Phillip Karayan (Cleveland)
 Robert Koseyan (Northern NJ)
 Paul Parnagian (Providence)

Womens Mile

Linda Hartavau (Lawrence)
 Diane Sahakian (Washington)
 Nori Kazanjian (Evanston)

Mens Shot Put

Jay Ohanian (Lawrence)
 Aram Kazandjian (Montreal)
 Robert Koseyan (Northern NJ)

Womens Shot Put

Nora Chouljian (Toronto)
 Anna Pakhtigian (Wynnewood)
 Lisa Aurslanian (Cleveland)

Mens Softball Throw

Aram Kazandjian (Montreal)
 Kevin Nazarian (Lawrence)
 Papken Maksoudian (Watertown)

Womens Softball Throw

Lynn Koltookian (Cleveland)
 Lisa Aurslanian (Cleveland)
 Kate Terzian (Watervliet)



General Assembly

The 1988 ACYOA General Assembly, held in Providence, RI, was one of the most fulfilling of all Assemblies.

More than 60 delegates were in attendance in addition to 16 members of the clergy. Elected were David Onanian (Houston) as Chairman; Richard Mardirosian (Hartford) as Vice Chairman; and Lori Batek (Providence) as Secretary. Harry Tutunjian (Watervliet) was Sergeant-at-Arms, and Aren Jebejian (Boca Raton) and Armand Paboojian (Watertown) served as Parliamentarians, assisted by Michael Yapchaian (Watertown).

An addition to this year's Assembly were the individual reports presented by each chapter. In giving their reports, chapters stressed both their strengths and weaknesses. The Washington, DC chapter reported on the success of the "Youth Sunday" program, which incorporates young adults into the Church service as well as directs the sermon towards a more youth-oriented theme.

Stephanie Masoian, Chairman of the Providence Chapter and Host Committee, reported on the "Junior-Juniors" program actively being utilized by St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Armenian Church in Providence. The "Junior-Juniors" are children aged 8-13.

Scott Najarian, ACYOA Central Council Chairman, pointed out that the organization's membership has increased substantially, largely due to intensified programs, endowments from benefactors, and increased visitations to local chapters by ACYOA Central Council members and Douglas Tashjian, the ACYOA Executive Secretary. These visitations resulted in the formation of six chapters: Dallas, TX; Houston, TX; Lawrence, MA; Springfield, MA; Trumbull, CT; and Western Queens, NY. Scott reported that Central Council is planning an intense Membership Drive and has targeted more parishes for chapter formation.

Doug Tashjian detailed the new programs scheduled for the 1988-89 year. He pointed out that "in the past too much emphasis was placed on social events and sports activities, and we deviated from the primary goals of the ACYOA. There is a need for balance. For this reason, the organization is presently stressing more religious, educational and cultural activities."

Addresses were also given by Paulette Kasparian, Chairman of the ACYO Central Council of the Western Diocese and the Very Reverend Father Hovnan Derderian, Pastor of Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Toronto, and the Youth Director of the Canadian Diocese.

Elections were held as follows: Auditing Committee — Sara Andonian (Detroit); Greg Arpajian (Cleveland) and Roseann Manoogian (Detroit); Nominating Committee — Lucine Baronian (Bayside), Richard Mardirosian (Hartford), and Harry Tutunjian (Watervliet); ACYOA Central Council (2-year terms) — Laurie Onanian (Watertown) and Suzie Ashjian (Westchester), replacing Sara Andonian (Detroit) and Greg Saraydarian (Bayside) who completed their terms in office. Lisa Manookian (Wynnewood), Scott Najarian (Worcester) and Melina Spinuzza (Evanston) have one more year remaining before the completion of their terms.

On Thursday evening, there was a dinner cruise in Newport Harbor on the "Spirit of Newport." The follow-

ing day, at the closing sessions of the Assembly, voting took place on budgets and various programming needs which will eventually be considered by the Diocesan Council. One of the more poignant moments of the Weekend came on Friday at the annual luncheon sponsored for the delegates by his Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian. As he does every year, the Primate opened the floor to questions and comments.

The delegates voted to hold the 1989 General Assembly and National Sports Weekend August 30 - September 4, 1989, in Houston, TX. It will be hosted by the Houston ACYOA chapter of St. Kevork Armenian Church.

1988 Sam Nersessian Award Presented to Susan Bergoudian

The ACYOA Sam Nersessian Award was awarded to Susan Bergoudian (Watertown) at the Annual Awards Banquet during the ACYOA National Sports Weekend on Sunday, September 4, 1988.

Susan has been an ACYOA officer for four years. She has served as a Sunday School teacher for the past eight years, and was the Assistant Superintendent last year. She has also taught Armenian School and served the Boston ASA as its Vice Chairman. In addition, Susan has been a Girl Scout Master, supervising group leaders of the Brownies, Junior and Cadets for the Watertown AGBU, and has also been the Director of Day Care Camp at the Cedar Hill Girl Scout Camp in Waltham, MA. The Editorial Staff congratulates Susan in winning this prestigious honor.

Primate's ACYOA Alumni Award

Julia H. Tashjian, Secretary of State of Connecticut, was the recipient of the Primate's Annual ACYOA Alumni Award at the National Sports Weekend in Providence, RI. The award was presented to Mrs. Tashjian by Archbishop Torkom Manoogian on Sunday, September 4, 1988.

In presenting the award, the Archbishop commented that "It is no over-estimate to say that Julia Tashjian is a remarkable Armenian-American. It is said that her interest in politics began as a hobby over 25 years ago. That hobby has grown into one of the most important jobs in the nation. As Secretary of State, Julia Tashjian heads a staff of more than 100 that is responsible for keeping all public documents. She is also in charge of all state elections, as well as the publication of the State Register and Manual. She is President-elect of the National Association of Secretaries of State. Julia, the daughter of immigrant Armenian parents, has an active personal life as well. She and her husband, James, have four children, two boys and two girls, and one grandchild. She is very active in the Armenian Church and community affairs."

Mrs. Tashjian expressed her gratitude for the award and noted that she was an active member of the ACYOA for many years, as was her husband, and that today her children are all members of the organization.

IN BRIEF

Chapter "A" Award

The Chapter "A" Award, given each year to the most outstanding ACYOA chapter in the Eastern Diocese, offered an added incentive in 1988. In addition to the award, the ACYOA Central Council announced that the five members of the chapter's Executive Committee would spend a weekend with a developing chapter. The visit would be designed to share expertise, ideas and fellowship to improve the designated chapter.

At its meeting in New York City in October 1988, the ACYOA Central Council decided that the 1988 Chapter "A" Award winners, Watertown, would visit the Boca Raton (FL) chapter. After a training session for the mission team on December 17, 1988 in Boston, the group, with the help of Watertown Youth Director, Randy Dagley, and Central Council New England Representative, Laurie Onanian, prepared an 8-hour workshop and made plans for their mission to Boca Raton on January 27th. The members of the mission team were: Susan Bergoudian, Susan Kapilian, Stephen Sarkisian, Daniel Shadbegian, and George Tekeyan, along with Doug Tashjian, ACYOA Executive Secretary and Lisa Manookian, ACYOA Vice Chairman and Southern Regional Representative.

ACYOA Commemorates 42nd Anniversary

The Armenian heritage burst into bloom in the Albany, NY, area with the celebration of the 42nd Anniversary of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) at St. Peter Armenian Church in Watervliet, in July 1988.

To mark the occasion the ACYOA Watervliet chapter hosted the 1988 National Anniversary ball. More than 300 people participated in the program, which included a gala banquet and dance at the Albany Hilton on Saturday, July 23. The Rev. Fr. Garen Gdanian, pastor of St. Peter's, officiated at the Badarak on Sunday. His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, gave the sermon.

Archbishop's Tournament

An unprecedented 27 teams participated in the ACYOA Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Invitational Tournament held May 13-15, 1988, in Cambridge, MA, making it one of the most successful in history. In hard-fought and well-played competitions, the following chapters came away as victors: Men's Basketball—Wisconsin ACYOA; Women's Basketball—NY/NJ ACYOA; Co-ed Volleyball—Evanston ACYOA.

ACYOA FUNDRAISING

After a two-year hiatus, the ACYOA National Fundraising Committee is back in action. The Committee is in the process of implementing a drive in the coming year. Its members are:

Greg Arpajian (Cleveland), Chairman
Nora Ovassapian (Evanston), Secretary
Roseann Manoogian (Detroit), Treasurer
Susan Brewster (Hartford), Advisor

IMPRESSIONS OF THE CULTURAL WEEKEND

Pamela Hajinian

An ACYOA Cultural Weekend in New York? Hmm... I thought, when the flyer first arrived. The perfect opportunity to brush up on my Armenian, learn more about the Church and see some out of town friends. Since this was to be the first weekend of its kind, I excitedly went, yet still did not know what to expect.

Unlike some of today's Armenian cultural endeavors which tend to concentrate effort on fueling the emotions rather than addressing present-day concerns and exploring the means through which they might be resolved, the approach of the weekend appealed to the intellect without neglecting the heart.

No, we did not forget our past. We traced the development of our Armenian history in all its aspects, and with each successive speaker a new dimension emerged. But it did not stop there. Inspired by the speakers, we went beyond the safe haven of merely recognizing the injustices we have been dealt, and waiting for some type of retribution, to shifting the responsibility onto ourselves. We were encouraged to think and to offer individual input into what must be a collective effort to begin to carve out for ourselves an Armenian identity free from self-pitying constraints and motivated by the knowledge of ourselves, our capabilities, and not our desired destination.

But do not let me delude you. We did not unearth as yet undiscovered answers. The weekend was not perfect, but then again there are no perfect solutions to any complex issue or task. Perhaps the hardest work is still ahead of us. While the weekend was educational, its greatest value may lie in what it represented—a coming together; a coming together of minds and of hearts.



PERSPECTIVES ON CULTURE

FORGIVENESS IS POSSIBLE FORGETTING IS NOT

Richard Mardirosian

As Armenians we've all heard stories about the Genocide. We all know a survivor who can tell of the suffering. We all know someone who can testify to the cold, heartless acts of the Turks. I'm no different. I'll start with the facts as I know them; then I'd like to share my feelings and opinions.

My grandmother was born Vartouhie Armaganian in Fenese, Armenia near Gesaria. At 14 she married Vahan Kalfayan. They had three children: Satenig, Gulbank, and Siran. During the Genocide Vartouhie suffered numerous heartbreaks. Her husband died, her daughter, Siran, died of starvation, and she was separated from her other children during an evacuation. Fortunately, through the grace of God, she did find Satenig four years later in an AGBU orphanage. Without question all of these occurrences took their toll on my grandmother. However, one event did more to shape her life than any other. The hardest thing for her to deal with was the disappearance of her son, Gulbank.

Hungry, Gulbank went begging one day as so many starving children were forced to do. He never returned. Satenig didn't see what happened; nobody saw what happened. When my grandmother found Satenig in Port Said and was told of Gulbank's vanishing, she was crushed. I don't mean to minimize the grief she felt at the loss of Vahan and Siran, but Vartouhie had a very strong faith in God and she knew they would be at peace in heaven. In Gulbank's case she was left to wonder what had become of him. Was he kidnapped and raised as a Turk? Was he taken away and simply shot, or was he tortured and made to suffer a slow, painful death? Try to imagine the helpless feeling of a gentle, loving mother.

These are the cold, hard facts of one young Armenian girl's experience. I lived with my "Medz Mayrig" from the day I was born until she passed away at home in her own bed. She never once mentioned Vahan, Siran, or Gulbank to me. My grandmother was a very sad, very serious, hard-working woman. She never talked much. She kept most of her pain and suffering inside. Looking back, I wish she had told me her story firsthand. I wish I had the chance to understand the enormous guilt my grandmother lived with all those years.

It is difficult for me to comprehend the facts of such a senseless massacre. I can't and won't pretend to be able to understand the personal pain my grandmother and the others who survived the Genocide feel. I can, however, sense the pain etched in my aunt Satenig's face as she reluctantly tells her story (not the pain of the Genocide,

only the pain of talking about it over 70 years later) 10 years after her mother's death.

Why? Why did it have to happen? Why did so many people have to suffer? Why did a God-loving person like Vartouhie Armaganian have to live a life of guilt and pain? All these questions come to mind each time I hear another account of this dark period in man's existence. Perhaps the common suffering of our people has served to strengthen our "Armenian Spirit," our sense of Christian faith and cultural awareness. Perhaps we suffered such a gross injustice so we could recognize and be a witness to the suffering and injustice of others. It seems to me there must be an explanation. Nothing should happen for no reason.

What's next? We know the facts, what do we do now? In my opinion, as Christians we *must* forgive. I feel very strongly that forgiveness is necessary. I feel equally strong, however, that we should *never* forget. It is my contention that perhaps we suffered injustice so we could be compassionate to others' despair. Are we? Too often it seems to take something like the Karabagh situation to raise the ire of Armenians. So many non-Armenians are suffering needlessly in our world today. We almost seem to look upon their pain as "different" or even as "self-inflicted." If we turn our backs on those who need our help today, we are turning our backs on our loved ones who died 70-plus years ago. Forgiveness, compassion, and faith are three things that make the life of a Christian meaningful. On the other hand, anger, bigotry, and hate are three things that prevent us from honoring our proud Christian heritage.

My "Medz Mayrig" never shared her pain and anguish with me, and I have mixed emotions about that. My Medz Mayrig was very quick to share her loving Christian faith; for that I will be eternally grateful. Even a hint of good fortune would fill her with praise for the focus of her life, God. (I wish I had a dime — make that a penny — for every time I heard Medz Mayrig say "Thanks, God.")

Peace is something we all seek. My grandmother finally found her long-awaited peace just two short years before her death. She had a dream one night in which Vahan came to her with their son, Gulbank, and said to her, "Don't worry, he's safe with me." Vartouhie Armaganian's guilt was at last replaced with calm.... Thanks, God. We all know someone who can testify to the pain. We have all heard the stories, and it hurts. Why did it have to happen? What can we do to honor our loved ones? If we as children and grandchildren of the Martyrs can help to bring justice to an unjust situation; if we can ease the pain of one hungry child; if we can try to understand the suffering in *our* world and work to comfort those in need, perhaps then we can truly say nothing happens for no reason and Armenian blood was not spilt in vain. I believe peace comes to the compassionate and to the faithful. I pray all the survivors find the peace my grandmother found.

CHAPTER NEWS

BAYSIDE, NY

Bayside reports that its membership is up by 11%. How many members do we have now? Keep up the good work, Bayside.

CLEVELAND, OH

Cleveland is an ever-competing bunch. The chapter received 21 individual awards last year at Sports Weekend. It also received the Masis Award (awarded to the chapter with the highest number of points per participant) and the John Kulhanjian Memorial Award (for outstanding team sportsmanship). And if that wasn't enough, Greg Arpajian received the Charles Yaghoobian individual Sportsmanship Award. Way to go, Cleveland. On October 30th, Cleveland hosted a Halloween party for the Sunday School. Who had more fun, the Seniors or the kids? . . . Special "Hi" to Nancy Bagdasarian and Jill Arslanian in Boston and Ed Kazanjian on the West Coast.

DETROIT, MI

Detroit always has a busy Fall, what with the Halloween Party for the Juniors, helping with the Church Bazaar and this year's 42nd Annual November Dance held on Saturday, November 26th. This affair brought many young Armenians from all around the Detroit and Mid-West communities.

GREENFIELD, WI

Greenfield hosted the Fall Christian Leadership Seminar from October 28-30th. Chairperson of the Seminar, Dawn Maksud, tells us that on Friday evening, the mixer brought in about 20 people. On Saturday, speakers Arthur Mardigian from Detroit and the Reverend Fr. Vartan Kasparian from the Western Diocese addressed the attendees from the Mid-West, Watertown, New Jersey, and Washington, DC. On Sunday a farewell brunch was held after Divine Liturgy.

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

Northern New Jersey held a "Spring Dance" on June 4th with the Richie Berberian Ensemble... Lori Kalemkarian married Haig Keledjian from Toronto on Sunday, October 9th! Congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple!

PROVIDENCE, RI

Besides having hosted a very successful Sports Weekend, Providence held its "17th Annual Christmas With Onnig" Dance on December 3rd. At that time, it also hosted a New England Regional Conference. Results of recent elections: John Megrđichian elected Chairman; Stephanie Masoian, Vice Chairman; Nanette Hanoian, Corresponding Secretary; Lori Batek, Recording Secretary; and Linda Minassian, Treasurer. Glad to see Linda back for another term.... Planning a "Thank You" party for all those community members who donated their time, baked goods and volunteered throughout the year.... Speaking of Sports Weekend, did you know the figures are in? 600 people attended the Bar-B-Q and dance Friday night; 200 attended the Alumni Dance (also on Friday night). Saturday night brought in 350 for dinner and over 800 for the dance. Sunday, following Divine Liturgy, 700 were present for the delicious brunch (or should we say feast?). Sunday's banquet had 570 for dinner and 1,100 for the dance. And now for the finale—close to 1,200 came for the picnic on Monday. Good job, Providence!

SPRINGFIELD, MA

Springfield hosted a New England Regional Committee meeting on Saturday, October 1st. Over 20 people attended representing Hartford, New Britain, Worcester, Watertown, Providence, and Watervliet.... On the same day held First Annual Fall Dance—approximately 200 danced to the sounds of "Hye Echoes." Chapter Chairman Christine Boyajian reports

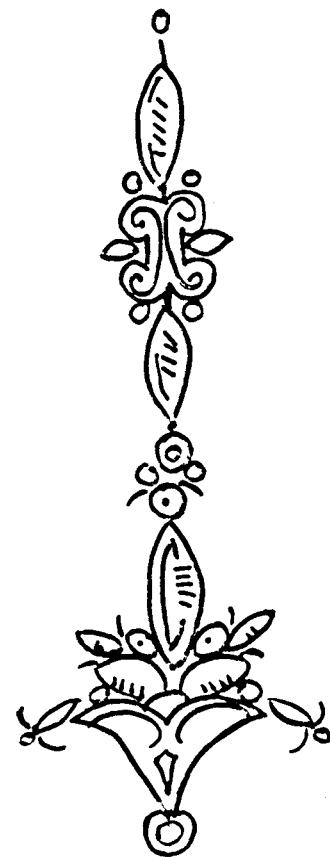
that this was the first ACYOA dance in the Springfield area in over 12 years. The chapter hopes to make it an annual event.

WYNNEWOOD, PA

Wynnewood went on a hayride on October 21st. Chairman Lisa Kazanjian reports that over 20 people attended... It is also cosponsored this year's "Crystal Ball" with the Young Couples Fellowship and Parish Council of St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Armenian Church. The Ball was just one of the many affairs held throughout the Fall in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Church in Wynnewood.

If you don't see your chapter here, please call or write:

Laura Negosian
Chapter News Coordinator
4515 Sedgemoor
Royal Oak, MI 48073
(313) 549-6511



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

14-16 **Cleveland, OH**
Hye Christian Encounter Experience spiritual growth, examine contemporary moral issues, and understand the strength of Armenian faith.

22 **New York City**
Martyr's Day Program
Performances by young Armenian artists, commemorating the 1915 Genocide

MAY

5-7 **Elberon, NJ**
Archbishop's Invitational Tournament
Competitions in men's and women's basketball, and co-ed volley ball during the annual Diocesan Assembly. Enjoy a weekend of social activities.

JUNE

10 **Washington, DC**
Armenian Cultural Day
Crash course in Armenian history, religion, and art.

JULY

Armenia
Armenian Studies Program
As a result of the earthquake that struck Armenia in December, the status of this program has changed. In its place a relief program involving participation of ACYOA members and alumni is under consideration. The

ACYOA will update its members directly on details as they become available.

10 - **New York City**
Aug. 4 **Summer Internship Program**
Four week work/study program which provides a unique opportunity to serve and understand the Armenian Church, particularly in Diocesan operations. Learn about your Armenian heritage and enjoy New York City.

16-22 **Miramonte, CA**
ACYOA Summer Camp
Hosted by the Western Diocese. Participate in lectures, discussions, recreation, and worship with Armenian young adults from all over the United States and Canada. Enjoy dancing, sports, and fellowship.

SEPTEMBER

Aug. 30 - **Houston, TX**
Sept. 1 **General Assembly**
Gathering of chapter chairpersons, delegates, and clergy to discuss the programs and policies of the organization, evaluate current issues, elect leaders, and implement plans.

2-4 **Houston, TX**
Sports Weekend
Competitions in a wide range of team and individual sports, the Insights Program of lectures on faith and heritage, and many social activities.