

# executive update

## HUMAN TRAGEDY: A Media Event

Have you ever thought about who controls the media in America?

Consider the recent tragedy of the Space Shuttle "Challenger". There is no question that the seven crew members of the spacecraft died in service to their country, and to the field of science and space exploration. Their families suffered immensely as they, and most of the country, actually watched the event take place. At first, most people thought it was a typical launch and the explosions were part of the rocket boosters sending the spacecraft into the outer atmosphere. Very soon, however, it was apparent that something was terribly wrong. Feelings of shock, of denial, of sadness, despair, and loss went through the crowds watching the launch, as well as those watching on television.

Special reports on television and radio were aired throughout the day. Time and again we watched the launch and the explosion. Special reporters sent to Cape Canaveral who originally thought they were to cover a routine shuttle launch with a teacher on board, suddenly found themselves in a "media event".

Another tragedy took place involving Americans just a month before. Only this time it didn't happen on television. We couldn't see the eyes of family as the disaster took place. This involved an entire jumbo jet filled with young men of the Army's Airborne Division. They were returning from overseas assignments in time for Christmas. Their airplane crashed in Newfoundland - all perished.

While the media ran the airplane crash as its lead story, and newspapers carried it over for a few days, and they even mentioned some of the memorial services for the over 200 soldiers, little if anything else was mentioned or pursued.

Three weeks later, the shuttle tragedy is still in the news. Accusation upon accusation is made. What was the reason for the shuttle explosion? Liquid fuel? Was it one of the SBRs (Solid Booster Rocket)? The Director of NASA, who was under the gun to get the Challenger off after repeated delays? The maintenance man who forgot to check the rocket seals? The President became involved as well, appointing a special investigative commission. The shuttle program was popular. It was beginning to be routine this going up into space; fix a satellite, do some experiments, a TV show, and land back like any other flight. Even the networks were considering dropping live coverage of the launches.

But what of the soldiers? What of the over 200 who died because.... well what was the reason? The media really didn't pursue this did they? Why? Was there something more special about the seven of the shuttle - beyond the fact that they made up what is perhaps the best example of affirmative action? Was it that a shuttle craft cost a lot more than a used chartered jet airplane?

(Continued on back page.)

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]



ACYOA 1946-1986

"40 Years of  
Church Service  
and Armenian  
Fellowship in  
America."

### Inside This Issue:

Great Lent-Medz Bakh

4th Century  
Lenten Fast

Think About.....

- +Breakdown of Family Structure
- +Living Together Before Marriage

Here's & There's

Membership Incentive Program

Free Booklet Offer

Number 25  
March 1986

## BRIEFS.....

### GET INTO THE NEWS

When looking at the various newsletters of the parishes, the absence of ACYOA NEWS is quite evident. It is vital that every chapter promote themselves through their various activities, sponsored events, and programs. There is no excuse for the absence of ACYOA news and announcements. Past events should be mentioned as well as upcoming meetings and activities. All regional and national programs should be mentioned as an ongoing, regular, part of ACYOA news. When receiving announcements and information on ACYOA programs from the Executive Secretary and Central Council, be sure that it gets into your parish's next newsletter.

\*\*\*\*\*

### MORE BOOK DONATIONS NEEDED

Last year, a number of ACYOA Chapters donated books on Armenian subjects to their local libraries as part of the 70th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of 1915. Since last year, it has been noted that authorities in Turkey are mounting a campaign backed with millions of dollars to "research and write books" on what "really" happened at the turn of the century in Turkey.

It is vital that legitimate books, written by Armenian and non-Armenians alike, are available to the public allowing for our story to be read about and referenced. We know that Turkish authorities intend to present their story with books, films, "documentaries", etc. in an attempt to rewrite historical facts based on eyewitness accounts. The ACYOA can participate in providing all the facts via the donation of books and reference materials to libraries in their town, and city, as well as to the colleges and universities. Last year's commemorative program outline has been sent to all parishes and chapters and can be adapted for use again this year.

\*\*\*\*\*

**EXECUTIVE UPDATE** - prepared six times a year by the ACYOA Exec.Sec. primarily for chapter executives. It is distributed free of charge to all Armenian young adults on the ACYOA National Youth Listing. Please send address corrections and new names to the Exec.Sec. Your comments and suggestions are most welcomed. The ACYOA Central Council is pleased to send this newsletter bi-monthly.

Executive Update is produced in part by the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, and, by a grant from the 1st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

# FREE SEMINAR

## ANNUAL ACYOA LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Sat. May 3rd, 1986

St. Mesrob Church - Racine, Wisconsin

In conjunction with the  
Annual Diocesan Assembly

Presentations - Discussions - Workshops

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Anyone interested in learning about  
Organizational Skills - Group Dynamics - Program  
Planning - Effectiveness Training

### CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETS AT "Little Ani"

The January meeting of the Central Council took place at "Little Ani" - Ss. Vartanantz Church in Chelmsford, Mass. Presiding over the meeting was the Vicar General, V.Rev.Fr. Khajag Barsamian. Highlights of the meeting:

- + 40th Anniversary of ACYOA Plans. (Next UPDATE issue will feature Anniversary.)
- + Membership Incentive Program. (See p.10)
- + Chapter Promotional Calendar. Will be prepared and distributed to all parishes/chapters this year.
- + Resource Booklet. Will continue to prepare.
- + Advisory Committee. Will request that they address certain issues confronting the ACYOA.
- + Sports Weekend Troublespots. Will formulate policy to deal with people who cause trouble.
- + Clergy Help. Will try to set up conference with clergy, regionally, to discuss ideas/concerns.
- + Summer Task Force. Will coordinate with Vicar General on summer jobs at Diocese.

## LOOK HERE!

CELEBRATE ACYOA DAY.....

March 23rd, 1986.....

Palm Sunday - ACYOA Day in our Diocese will be marked with many events in many parishes.....

BANQUETS...DINNERS...  
PROGRAMS...BRUNCHES...  
GUEST SPEAKERS...  
SLIDE PRESENTATIONS...  
SPECIAL EFFECTS...

CHECK LOCAL LISTING  
FOR AN ACYOA DAY  
CELEBRATION NEAR  
YOU.....



# Great Lent

Time  
for  
Spiritual  
Renewal

Great Lent - or "Medz Bahk" - is a time for spiritual preparation in anticipation of the Great Day of the Holy Resurrection, Easter Sunday. Each Sunday of Lent has a special name and theme which is determined by the scriptural reading of the day. Special hymns are assigned to the Services which reinforce the theme as well as give theological clarification.

The first Sunday of Great Lent is called the **Sunday of Expulsion** (Ardaxman Giragi): read Matthew 5:17-48 - theme: fall-repent-rise.

The second Sunday is **Sunday of the Prodigal Son** (Anaragi Giragi): Luke 15:1-32 - theme: rejoice in the saved.

The third Sunday is **Sunday of the Unjust Steward** (D'ndesin Giragi): Luke 16:1-31 - theme: account for our lives.

The fourth Sunday brings the **Sunday of the Judge** (Tadavori Giragi): Luke 17:1-31 - theme: pray continually.

The fifth Sunday is called the **Sunday of Advent** (Kalusdyan Giragi): Matthew 22:34-23:39 - theme: prepare for His Coming.

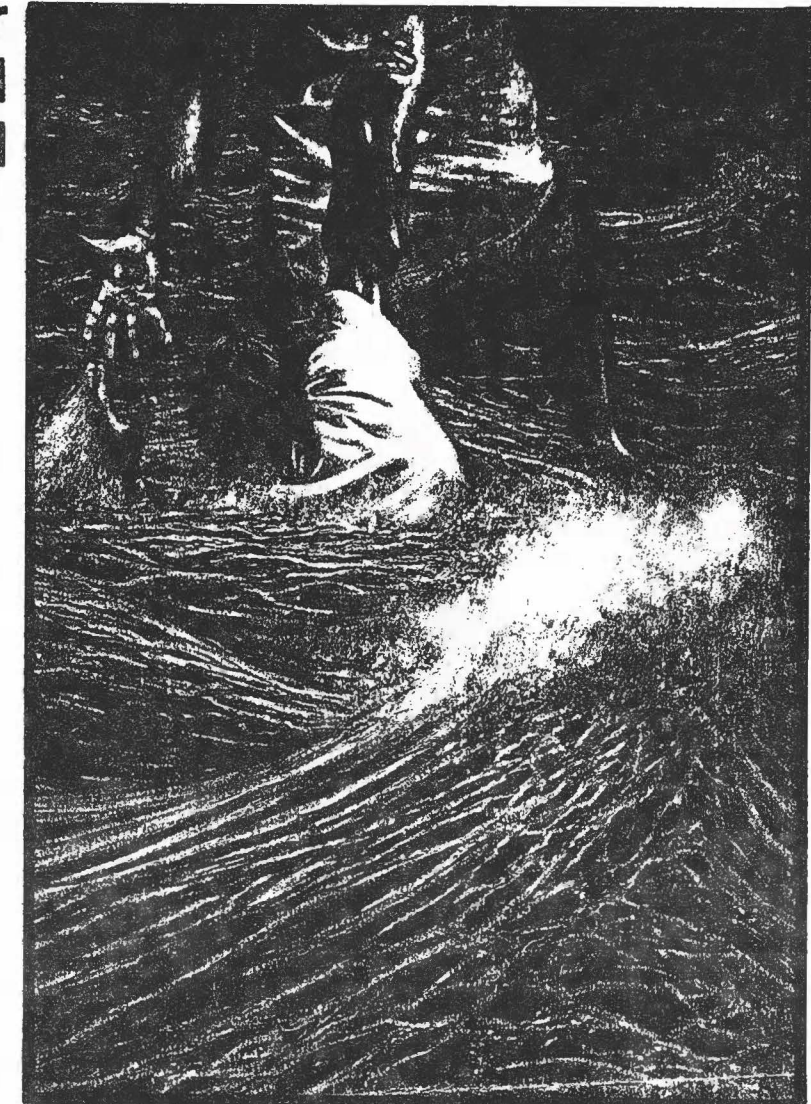
### Altar Drape Closed

During the period of Great Lent, the Altar Drape of the sanctuary is closed, symbolic of the expulsion of Adam and Eve from paradise - the Kingdom of Heaven. The sanctuary is symbolic of the Kingdom of Heaven; the Main Altar being the Throne of God. The faithful (like Adam and Eve) are "expelled" from paradise and experience a 40-day period of penitence which is emphasized by the closing of the Altar Drape.

At the end of Great Lent, the Church celebrates the Service of the Opening of the Great Doors (Toor'n Patzek), whereby the faithful beseech God to admit them back into paradise. It is here that through Christ, the doors are opened to salvation and eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

This Service takes place on Palm Sunday, commemorating Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

(continued next page)



And immediately He made the disciples get into the boat, and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.....But the boat was already far from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was against them.....and at night He came to them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were frightened saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." And He said "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But seeing the wind, he became afraid, and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, "Lord save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, saying, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14: 22-31)

## GREAT LENT (con't)

### Some Obligations of Lent

- 1. Fasting:** Weekdays - do not eat anything derived from any living creature. Saturdays - Fish and eggs are permitted. Sundays - do not Fast.
- 2. Church Attendance:** Make an extra effort to attend Sunday Services which include a "closed" liturgy during Lent, as well as the Sunrise Service. Most Parishes also have special Wednesday or Friday evening Services special for Lent.
- 3. Social Activities:** These should be curbed and limited to private, subdued, calm and fellowship-type pastimes. Organizations should refrain from sponsoring and offering dances or activities which draw the faithful into temptation and insobriety.
- 4. Home Life:** In the evenings, the family should gather together and participate in reading and discussing the Bible, social and moral issues as well as ways to solve any family problems. Perhaps this could be reinforced by family prayer before retiring for the evening.
- 5. Tithing:** If you sincerely intend to give yourself "half a chance" to observe Lent, you might consider spending less on night-clubs, drinking, dance, shopping sprees, fancy clothing, records/tapes, cosmetics, etc. As a result, you could put aside an **honest portion** (tithe) for the Church. By the end of Lent, you might have a considerable **honest** amount to give as your Easter Offering (Youghakin). Lent is a good time to let Christ take priority over the so-called "profiteers" of society.

**6. Community Fellowship:** How can you become more involved in your parish community? Consider children who might like/need a "big brother or sister" to talk and be with; the elderly who might need a ride to a church service at night; any particular skills you might have that could help your parish and its Organizations; with many etc.

### Lenten Worship Services

During the period of Great Lent, the Armenian Church conducts the Services which reflect this penitential season. The **Peace Service**, **Rest Service**, and the **Sunrise Service**, are performed more often during Lent than at other times of the year. They are part of the Church's cycle of seven daily hours of worship, but are used especially during Great Lent because of their penitential nature; and, remind us of the effort we are making to restore our pure and joyous relationship to God.

**The Peace Service** (Khaghaghagan Jamerkootuin): Takes place in the late evening of the daily cycle, this Service contains prayers for peace, praises to God and gives thanks for passing the day without tribulation; reminds us that God is with us even in the face of trial and temptation.

**The Rest Service** (Hanksdyan Jamerkootuin): Practiced before retiring for the night, this Service requests God to continue watching over us throughout the night. It contains the beautiful and eloquent prayer of St. Nerses the Graceful (Shnorhali) with its many penitential verses - each ending with: "Have mercy on all Your creatures and upon me, a manifold sinner."

**The Sunrise Service** (Arevakal Jamerkootuin): Performed at daybreak, this worship hour reminds us that God is the giver of the light of the morning and the Light of Salvation. Its beautiful hymns have a bright and refreshing quality.

During this special time of the Church Year, we should take the time to participate and witness these Services which allow us to communicate with God in various ways. Through Great Lent, and the Services described above, during **Holy Week** with the unique and beautiful Services therein, as well as through Easter itself, we should make an effort to be part of the Church's observance and celebration of the events that lead us into the wonderful and joyous time when we proclaim that Christ is Risen from the dead - thereby opening to us the door of salvation.



The Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin

## 4th century Lenten fast was an ordeal not unlike some current cult rites

By Bonnie Thompson  
Special to Religious News Service

The Lenten fast of the 4th century Christian church was an ordeal that members of some contemporary cults might find familiar.

Used to test baptismal candidates, and by then extended from its original 40 hours to more than two months, it made candidates on the first day stand barefoot on old rags or goat-skins - symbols of the godless world - and be exorcised.

During the following weeks, they were instructed for three to four hours daily, and required to stand through every church service, segregated from the regular congregation. Subject to constant lectures and warnings from the priest, they fasted daily until sunset, kept continent, and neither bathed nor cut their hair.

The catechumens, as they were known, were exorcised again Holy Saturday afternoon, before the Easter Vigil began. Just after midnight, they were led at last to the baptismal font, immersed in the sacred waters, baptized, anointed, and dressed in flowing white robes to greet the dawn and take their first Communion as Christians.

The church's name for Easter is "Pascha" - Latin for the Hebrew word "Pesach," meaning Passover. "Easter" comes from the Old English "Eastre" or "Eostre," whose exact meaning is disputed, but refers to the vernal equinox.

The formal Roman Catholic Church term for Lent is "Quadragesima." The name first signified the 40 hours of the original fast, but now stands for the 40 days that the fast grew to include.

"Lent" comes from "lencten" or "lengten," Old English for spring, the season of lengthening days. The fast occurred during "lengten-tid," and gradually took the name of the season.

Early Christians observed Easter on the day of the Jewish Passover feast. Determined by the moon, it could fall on any day of the week. But as the church became increasingly gentile, its members distanced themselves from Jewish practices and began celebrating the greatest day of the Christian year on the Christian day of worship, Sunday.

The issue was hotly debated during the 2nd century and finally settled at the Council of Nicea in 325. Pascha was always to be observed on the Sunday after the first full moon of spring, which is the date of Passover still.

Although the fast before Pascha was originally 40 hours, various churches acting independently quite early extended it to a week, or two weeks, or more.

Some of these differences survive in Eastern Christianity, which exempts

Saturdays as well as Sundays from the fasting requirement. In the 6th century, when those church leaders fixed the date of Quadragesima, they made it eight weeks long, to allow a full 40-day fast.

This put the Orthodox church two weeks "ahead" of the Western church, whose leaders responded by instituting a "pre-Lent" season. They created special Masses for the three Sundays before Lent, which they called, slightly inaccurately, Septuagesima, Sexagesima and Quinquagesima.

A wrinkle remained in the West's Lenten calendar, however, since excluding Sundays left the official six-week Lenten period with only 36 fast days. Many churches wanted the fast to correspond exactly with Christ's 40-day fast in the wilderness and so, in the late 7th century, the start of Lent was pushed back four days, to the Wednesday before Quadragesima Sunday.

The first Wednesday in Lent was not called Ash Wednesday officially until 1099 A.D., but at least as early as the 6th century, ashes were sprinkled on the heads of those sinners who began doing public penance on the first day of Lent.

Medieval records report public penances that are sometimes hair-raising, and many describe the Ash Wednesday practice of priests leading public sinners to the bishop's church where, barefoot, and in sackcloth, the bishop would assign each appropriate acts of penance. Inside the church, they would then recite the seven penitential psalms while the bishop sprinkled them with holy water and ashes, and invested them with hair shirts.

Penances usually involved prayer, manual labor and works of charity. The sinner lived apart from the community - in "quarantine" because of its 40-day duration - keeping silent, fasting, walking barefoot, sleeping on the ground and not bathing.

By the 9th century, public penance had become rare. The ashes, however, did not disappear and over the years the custom spread among devout Christians of receiving the mark of a penitential sinner at the start of Lent. Even the pope and his cardinals adopted the custom, and by the end of the 11th century, most of the people of Europe wore ashes on their brows on Ash Wednesday.

The custom of confessing before beginning the Lenten fast gave Shrove Tuesday its name. "Shrove" is the past tense of the Old English word "shrive," meaning "to confess oneself and receive absolution."

The climax of Lent comes in Holy Week. Most of the services and ceremonies of Holy Week were created by Cyril, a late 4th century bishop of Jerusalem. The Palm Sunday procession; the Mandatum, or foot-washing ceremony, of Maundy Thursday; the Veneration of the Cross on Good Friday - all these were borrowed from Jerusalem.

The final service of Lent, however, the Easter Eve Vigil, was held from the very first years of the Christian church.

The 40 days of sorrow and penance, of hunger and hardship, have always ended at nightfall with the lighting of candles, the singing of hymns of joy, and the jubilant ringing of bells.

Bonnie Thompson is a writer with an interest in the origins of contemporary religious holidays.

## Candlemas - Jurakalooytz



According to the Patriarch Malachia Ormanian, **Jurakalooytz** was a term originally applied to the "eves" of the major feasts, wherein, during the vespers, candles were lighted throughout the church as the hymn "O gladden Light" (Louys Zuvart) was being chanted. This practice is now reserved to the eves of Christmas and Easter. Distributing candles to the faithful in church is an extension of this illumination, who in earlier times, presumably carried them in procession around the church during the great processional of the Divine Liturgy.

The idea of this procession, now relegated to the celebrant and attendants, is sometimes thought to symbolize the Light of the Resurrection (at Easter) circumcising the hearts of the faithful - a reflect of the Jewish circumcision within the context of purification - in this case, the purification of the hearts of the faithful.

The concept of a Candlemas - Jurakalooytz is recorded from about the year 350 as a local custom in Jerusalem, but later in 542, when the Emperor Justinian instituted it in Constantinople. The Armenians, quite populous in the City of Jerusalem, probably contributed to its inception.

What is significant today, is that during the Evening Services of Easter (and Christmas) in the Armenian Church, and on into the Divine Liturgy of that night, the churches are brightly lit with candles and vigil lights, celebrating the great Light of the Resurrection. Candles are distributed to the faithful. It was, and still is, traditional for the faithful to carry these lighted candles home and to keep them lighted during which time the families would gather and celebrate the Great Resurrection of Christ.

(Courtesy of V.Rev.Fr. Ghevont Samoorian)

# HERE'S SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

In 1965, Daniel Patrick Moynihan shocked his academic colleagues, the Johnson Administration, the civil rights lobby and the public by his report on the disintegration of what then was still called the Negro family.

The single, most disturbing statistic in the "Moynihan Report" was taken from census figures: the number of nonwhite families with a female head-of-household had risen to 21 percent.

Today, for white families with children, the number of single-parent families, overwhelmingly headed by a female, is just under 20 percent.

In other words, "family disorganization (has) become a general feature of the American population and not just an aspect of a frequently stigmatized and appropriately sensitive minority community." (Moynihan - Family and Nation 1986) Interracial disparity remains, but the numbers have become literally frightening: Among all black family groups, 59 percent are now one-parent family situations. Almost three in five black children, in other words, are growing up socially and economically fatherless.

Critics of Moynihan saw to it that for the last 21 years public policy evaded the central question of family disintegration among blacks. It is clear that while the situation is acute in the black community, it is alarmingly growing in the white community as well.

Nothing is more clearer (ask your local police chief or shelter director) than the cruel, demoralizing collapse of family structure in our society.

"The feminization of poverty" is the catch phrase most frequently used to describe an aspect of this phenomenon, language that is descriptive, but also useless and profoundly misleading.

Of course, a child deprived of the social, economic and spiritual support of one parent is more likely to be poor than one in what has become known as "the traditional setting." Of course, a woman alone, burdened with housekeeping and child-rearing chores and the necessity of somehow getting a living is more

likely to be poor than one receiving the support of a man.

Moynihan argues for pro-family, pro-child tax policies intended to reward stability. He says fatherhood and legitimacy are indispensable. A credible family policy "will insist that responsibility begins with the individual, then the family, and only then, the community...."

This may seem obvious. But it collides head-on with the onrushing engine of social revolution. Feminist advocacy has the momentum and most of the publicity in this contest of cultures. Male irresponsibility is, literally, licensed, and its opposite discouraged. Will it take the United States another generation to figure this out? Will this new Moynihan insight suffer the fate of his 1965 report?

(The above was adapted from an article in the Boston Globe by David B. Wilson.)

Ten years ago, the number of divorced couples in our society was high and growing - 1 of three couples. At the same time, in the Armenian community, divorces were rare with small numbers even in the large communities. But soon, the divorce rate among the Armenians would soon rise and "catch up" with American society at an alarmingly rate.

Today, while the divorce rate in the United States has subsided somewhat - going from about 50% a few years ago to about 38% today - the situation in the Armenian community still lags behind again, and probably continue to do so as with most ethnic groups.

With regard to the article above, will the family situation of American society again give us a clue regarding Armenian family structures in the (near) future? Or perhaps, have we already felt this "disorganization" and "disintegration" in our own community?

Your comments and insights are welcome.

## NO LIVING TOGETHER

A Roman Catholic bishop who initiated a ban to deny church weddings to couples who live together before they marry says policy has been a success.

"I can honestly say I wouldn't have changed anything," said Bishop George Speltz, spiritual leader for 150,000 Catholics in 16 counties of Minnesota.

Bishop Speltz issued a pastoral letter 16 months ago directing priests in his diocese not to marry couples who live together unless they agreed to live apart before their wedding.

(Continued next page.)

## CATHOLIC WEDDINGS (con't)

Referring to cohabitation before marriage as "immoral and a scandal to the community," the letter was issued in the hope that couples would prepare more seriously for marriage, reducing the likelihood of their marriages ending in divorce.

Clarifying the church's teachings on courtship and marriage, Bishop Speltz said cohabitation "calls into question fundamental moral values that have long been central to the Christian tradition: the sacred character of sex and of the Christian family."

"I thing its working - not universally, but in the majority of cases I know of," he said.

An informal survey taken at a clergy conference of Speltz's diocese late last year showed that about 150 couples who registered for pre-marriage counseling were living together. About 1,600 couple take the church's marriage preparation course in the diocese every year.

Of the 150 couples, the priests estimated that 77 agreed to live apart, and 51 refused to comply. The others constituted special circumstances and reconsideration of their intentions.

Your comments are most welcome.

## NEW CHAPTER ELECTIONS?

A new and revised listing of Chapter chairmen and Parish contacts will be prepared and printed soon. If there are any changes in your Chapter Executive Committee, please send the changes to the Executive Secretary as soon as possible so you will be included in the revision. Please check the original listing to see that telephone numbers and zip codes are also in order.

Your assistance is always appreciated.

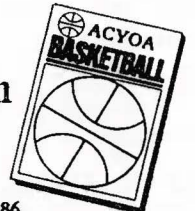


## COME HOLD THE TORCH HYE!!



IN NEW YORK.....

## Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament



Hosted by the Bayside ACYOA Chapter - April 11, 12, 13, 1986

### ITINERARY

Friday: Hotel & Tourney Registration  
Torch Lighting Night with  
unlimited beer, wine, etc.

Sat.: Tournament Games. First  
Round through Finals.

Saturday Evening: Awards Banquet  
Open Bar - Armenian and  
American Music by: Johnny  
Berberian & Onnik Dinkjian  
& a Great American D.J.

Sunday: Divine Liturgy at St. Vartan  
Armenian Cathedral - NYC.  
Morning Brunch at Hotel.

### INFORMATIVE DETAILS

- Hotel & Tournament Registration will take place in Hotel Lobby.
- Accommodations: \$59.00 for a double/triple/quadruple at the great Marriott-Hotel LaGuardia - across from LaGuardia Airport with complementary Hotel Shuttle Service. The special \$59. rate is good until March 21st - RESERVE TODAY!
- Package Plan - \$49.00 - Includes: Individual Athletic Fee - Torch lighting Night - Sat. AM Snack - Awards Banquet & Dance - Sunday Brunch - Bus Transportation.

### ATHLETIC DETAILS

- All Parishes Invited to send both men's & women's teams. Players must be members of Armenian Church. NO Other Restrictions.
- Individual Athletic Fee = \$23.00
- Team Fee (each) = \$150.00 (\$25. off if prepaid by Feb.7th)
- Fee Covers Gym Use - Referees Trophies - Awards - Bus Service.
- For more information, please call:  
Diane - 718-461-9780  
Shake - 516-543-1560  
Greg - 516-883-0778



ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## NATIONAL YOUTH LISTING REVISION

The Youth Listing of the ACYOA is presently going through a major revision. As with all mailing lists, especially those of young adults who change addresses frequently, constant revision and updating is necessary. The intention is for as many young Armenians as possible to receive ACYOA mailings and announcements.

All chapters/parishes have received copies of their individual listings. Review these lists and make necessary corrections. Add names of any young Armenian that may not be included - even if they are not members of your chapters.

We have 2500 names - our goal is 10,000.(That's only about 50% of the total number!)

## Here's & There's.....

This is the section everyone looks to first - we all know the more serious sections are looked at last, if not even later. Here, we have those hard working chapters sharing their various activities and demonstrating their willingness to communicate with the Executive Secretary and Central Council, as well as follow some form of standardization for chapter reporting. A "well done" to all those who continue to try and improve the operations of our ACYOA!

**CLEVELAND.....**Ed Kazanjian reports members participated in St. Vartan Day program...discussed topics for March retreat (what were the topics?)...Nancy Bagdasarian hosted a Christmas Party at her home...assisted Juniors at Spaghetti dinner...retreat scheduled for March 7-8...40th Annv.ACYOA dinner & program set for March 23...participated in Christmas Eve Services...held Fun-in-the-Snow activities - a chilling time.....  
**TENAFLY.....**held spectacular New Year's Eve part with over 200 attending...dinner and theater trip in NYC to Eric Bogossian play...bowling nite Feb.23...Lori Kalemkerian reports 32 members...2 members on the Regional 40th Annv. ACYOA Comm.....  
**WYNNEWOOD.....**members ushered at Christmas Eve Services...Youth Comm. of parish sponsored Christmas Luncheon and raised \$3K to be loaned to Spts.Wknd. Host Comm. as start up money..."Hye'Waiian Kef Night" Feb. 8...Palm Sunday-ACYOA Day Banquet Mar.23...Martyr's Commemoration Dinner April 25...and many planning meetings for the 1986 Assembly & Sports Weekend Aug.27 thru Sept.1st...Lisa Manookian reporting.....  
**PALOS HEIGHTS.....**Susan Sahagian and Gail Giragosian sending in the "Fact Sheets" tell us that Jan.10 was Progressive Dinner nite with 22 members attending the cocktails and hors d'oeuvres thru desert & coffee in 5 different homes...delicious...discussion entitled "The Big Deal About Jesus" led by Der Hayr's son Daniel with 29 attending...Jrs.&Srs. jointly prepared and served lenten meal March 7 followed by Lenten Services...Mar.23 ACYOA Day brunch & program planned...group meets 1st Tues. of every month.....  
**PROVIDENCE.....**The chapter to watch in '86...Debbie Kalian reporting 35 members...hosted N.E. Reg. Conf. Dec...major fundraiser Christmas Dance...members participated in Christmas Eve Services...held ski day...will host N.E. Reg. 40thAnnv.ACYOA Ball in Fall...Mar.23 Palm Sun.-ACYOA Day Dinner planned...Chairman Vicki Atamian engaged - congratulations!...went out for dinner with Pastor for Arm. Christmas...and held an Arm. Christmas party at Janigian's house...held chapter meeting following Lenten Services and

dinner...special poster put up at Church to recruit a basketball team for Archbp's Tourney.. planning a religious & educational event for Spring...**WISCONSIN.....**Nishan Akgulian tells of 30 members from this tri-parish group...held annual Pre-Dance Christmas Party at Maritza & Osep's house with 20 people...followed by on the next night with "Holiday Relief Dance" - very successful with 175 attending...music by Racine's "Mid-East Beat - a Band of Armenians" 4 of 5 members from ACYOA...planned for March is "Zorba the Greek" plan with Anthony Quinn...a Milwaukee Bucks B-Ball game with each person being a "big brother or sister" for the night...assisted with Archbishop's Christmas Party for Children held in S. Milwaukee Church..  
**BAYSIDE.....**12 members and growing reports Diane Kapikian (isn't it amazing what you can do with small numbers?)...plans finalized for Archbp's Tourney April 11-13...make your plans early...participated in Christmas Eve Services and served refreshments following...will have Mar.23 Palm Sunday-ACYOA Day dinner.... held a "mailing party" for Archbp's Tourney info...congratulations to the Demirjians on the birth of a beautiful baby girl - Lauren Marie.....  
**LAWRENCE.....**25 members attended parish's New Year's Eve party - great time...held get-together at the fabulous new Lowell Hilton Hotel - a night of fun, food, drinks, and danc-(rumors continue that a sports weekend will be headquartered there...) Chairman Kory Sirmaian reports 35 members strong with more and more visible on Sun. mornings...trip to Boston's Museum of Science...some members attending Armenian language classes...will plan b-ball practice for Archbp's Tourney...Palm Sun.-ACYOA Day dinner planned...served at welcoming dinner for new Pastor...had large showing at Providence and Watertown Christmas Dances.....  
**EVANSTON.....**Christmas Caroling...ski trip...bake sale...members teach in the Church School and serve at the altar...will host Reg. Ball in Fall...tentative schedule for '86 includes monthly meetings,Vartanatz Day Dinner,ACYOA Day Celebration...Martyr's Day Commemoration, Parents of the Year Celebration (good idea!)... Youth Bar-b-Que in June...Church Picnic...participation in ACYOA Assembly and Sports Wknd. in Philly.....  
**WORCESTER.....**re-organized with new executives....Rob Shamgochian at the helm...held Christmas Party Jan.3...caroling...went to Bay State Bombardiers B-Ball Game (minor league)...one-night religious program...Lenten Dinner Feb.12...planning ACYOA Day Dinner Mar.23...bible study in church...held "Poon Paregentan" at Rob Shamgochian's house...planning Regional VolleyBall Tourney June 6-7...will have Mass.Speaker of the House of Representa-

(continued next page...)


## HERE'S & THERE'S....(con't)

tives, Hon. George Keverian as featured speaker for ACYOA Day...program will also include a special video presentation...reserved special section of Parish Newsletter for ACYOA news and calendar of events (very, very good)...filed complete dossier on 1985 Assembly and Sports Weekend...prepared by Host Comm. Chairman Scott Najarian - well done.....  
**WATERTOWN.....**Daniel Shadbegian tells of 43 members and many activities...members attended Renoir exhibit...went to Boston Pops Christmas concert ...assisted with parish name-day banquet...sponsored annual Christmas night dance - an annual sell-out success...(rumor had it that someone offered 2 Celtic's tickets to get into the dance...is this true?)...planning ACYOA Day Dinner...Former Chapter Chairman Steve Sarkisian attended ACYO-Western Diocese Assembly while visiting in California...group decorated one of 20 Christmas Trees at Boston Museum of Science - each tree representing a different ethnic group - Mark Kashgegian and Tom Babigian organizers.....

What's that? You don't see your home chapter mentioned here and there....? Could be they aren't active, or, they don't care to share what they are doing with the other chapters. All chapters, big and small, with few or lots of events and activities are welcomed to send there information on the "monthly fact sheets" so that they will be included here and there. How else will other's know what you're doing, or possibly get some new ideas on activities and events.....sharing is caring.....caring is what will make our Organization grow and operate efficiently and provide opportunity for young Armenians to remain close to their Church and cultural heritage.

## Spiritual Renewal Day

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 8th - 9am-4:40pm  
**WHERE:** St. George Armenian Church Hartford, Ct.  
**TOPIC:** "Christ in My Daily Living"  
**SPEAKERS:** Fr. Dajad Davidian  
 Deacon Aram Stephanian  
 Fr. Garen Gdanian  
**COST:** \$15.00 (\$10. students) includes lunch.  
**CONTACT:** Fr. Yeprem Kelegian  
 203-524-5647 / 247-1378



**In 1786 the leaders of our country met in Philadelphia.**

**In 1986 they're coming back.**

**ACYOA**  
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**&**  
**NATIONAL SPORTS WEEKEND**

**August 27th - September 1st**

**ALL ARMENIAN YOUNG ADULTS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.**

**Assembly Proceedings, Receptions, Luncheons, Tours, Nightlife, Dances, Parties, Banquets, Athletic Events & Competitions, Awards Presentations, Worship Services, Seminars, Discussion Groups, Picnic, Armenian Fellowship, and much, much, much more.**

**JOIN YOUNG ARMENIANS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN "A LITTLE OF EVERYTHING".**

**:::: HYE ENERGY ::::**  
**PHILLY STYLE.**

"The Seven Wonderous Cities of the World" by K. Simon

During my Jerusalem spring of 1984, the Christian and Hebrew calendars locked together, making Easter Week and Passover joint celebrations that, though tangentially, included the Arab community. On Maundy Thursday, I attended Ethiopian ceremonies that commemorated the washing of the disciples' feet by Christ during the Last Supper. The rites took place in a chapel on the uneven roof of the much-destroyed, rebuilt, disputed and manipulated Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the shrine that witnessed the culmination of the Passion. The service then moved to a brilliant tent, still on the roof, where a splendidly dressed archbishop sat under a fringed yellow umbrella, responding in slow minor tones to the chanting of his almost equally splendid chorus. Outside the crowded tent, there was a milling group of Ethiopian pilgrims, among them elderly ladies in long white robes, as silent and distantly noble as Egyptian reliefs.

Suddenly, there was an invasion of the tight space by an immense wooden cross carried on the shoulders of two large, sweat-stained Englishmen. They had somehow blundered up here instead of into the mobbed church below. They must have forced their entry, however, because I later saw them emerging to make their way down the front stairs of the church, only to be hampered this time by a young Orthodox Jewish family and their visitors picnicking on the stairs. The group squeezed together, but there is only so much one can do with a pram, two little boys and several bags of food. The harried cross-bearers managed to edge their way down to the slip of street, where they fended off eager Arab vendors and joined another pilgrims' procession.

It was an enlightening experience, for one accustomed to stories of inimical separations in Jerusalem, to see tactful navigation in what seemed to be everyone's space. A more sophisticated example of how Jerusalemites manage to exist together more peaceably than disparate groups in a number of American cities was to be found in the Cathedral of Saint James in the Armenian Quarter. The Holy Thursday rituals were conducted in the lovely glow of Byzantine luxury by the superb begemmed archpatriarch and his deacons, to the accompaniment of a carefully trained and justly famous choir. The church filled up very quickly and chairs were contested, but seats of honor were held for dignitaries from every local community—Arabs, Jews, Christians of several sects—a gesture in keeping with the talent of the Armenians for treading wisely and adroitly among their neighbors.

Membership Incentive Program

In an effort to promote dues paying membership in the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA), the following Incentive Program has been approved by the ACYOA Central Council to be initiated as of July 1st, 1986.

1. ACYOA dues paying members who are in good standing for the current fiscal year shall be entitled to membership incentives.
2. On the ACYOA National level, as of July 1st, 1986, these incentives shall take the form of reduced rates, costs and fees at official ACYOA sponsored programs and activities.
3. Specifically, these incentives, in addition to privileges noted in the ACYOA Constitution, shall be as follows:
  - a) Archbishop's Basketball Tournament: \$10.00 reduction to standard package plan.
  - b) National Sports Weekend: \$10.00 reduction to standard package plan.
  - c) Armenian Studies Programs: \$20.00 reduction to final cost on any Program.
  - d) Regional Events: (i.e. Tournaments, dances, balls, retreats...) \$3.00 reduction to cost of event.
4. Chapters are advised that they are highly encouraged to voluntarily participate in the Incentive Program by offering similar reductions to ACYOA Members at their locally sponsored programs, activities and events. Uniformity will enhance the meaning of this Program even more.
5. "Members in Good Standing" are recognized as those who have paid their dues and have received a valid "ACYOA Membership Card" direct from the ACYOA Central Council. It is the Chapter's responsibility to forward membership dues to the ACYOA Central Council for deposit in the ACYOA National Treasury. Membership Cards will be processed as they are received from the Chapters. The role of the Chapter Treasurer in sending dues money and membership lists is vital for this Program to be effective and increase ACYOA membership.
6. Persons eligible for ACYOA Senior Membership must be high school graduates or 18 years of age. Minimum dues paid to the chapter is \$7.00 - half of which is sent to the ACYOA National Treasury. New members pay an additional \$1.00 initiation fee. After initial membership, a person renews their membership within the first six months of the fiscal year - July 1 thru Dec. 31. If dues are not received by the ACYOA Central Council by Dec. 31, the chapter is penalized a \$25.00 fee. Dues are to be paid for the year coming or in progress, rather than for the year that is past.

NOTE: The above reduction figures are minimums. The Central Council and Host Committees for these programs can increase these figures if additional incentives are deemed necessary.

\*\*\*\*\*



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

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

Tentative Dates: Program #1 - June 20 - July 20, 1986  
Program #2 - July 2 - 22, 1986

Costs: (tentative)  
Program #1 - \$1,795.00  
Program #2 - \$1,995.00

To Apply: Obtain application form from any Armenian Church Office, or from the ACYOA: 99 Long Pond Rd., Tyngsborough, MA 01879 (617-256-7234 / 617-649-6875)

Deadlines: Prgm.#1 - April 1st / Prgm.#2 - June 1st

NOTE: If you do not have a current, valid, U.S. Passport, apply now at your local Post Office. Your Passport must accompany your application form. Those with foreign Passports may experience problems with securing proper Soviet Visas.

SPACE IS LIMITED. APPLY EARLY. LATE FEES MAY APPLY.

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 Catholicos 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.

SCRIPTOGRAPHIC BOOKLETS FOR

Personal and Group Effectiveness Training

BRIGHT, PRACTICAL GUIDES TO INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

Self-Improvement

**How to Develop Your Leadership Skills** (1846). Defines leadership qualities and advises readers on how to acquire them. Emphasizes good communication, group interaction, taking responsibility, problem solving, and more. Offers self-improvement strategies.

**Improving Your Interpersonal Skills** (1855). A simple guide to developing these abilities. Booklet stresses self-expression, listening well, being assertive, suggests ways to build skills through self-awareness and group interaction, tells how to handle conflicts, and more.

**Your Attitude and You** (1810). Urges positive thinking as the way to positive results. Includes a "positive attitude" checklist. An excellent motivational publication for everyone.

**About Self-Esteem** (1845). People with high self-esteem are more effective! This remarkable booklet helps readers understand the importance of self-esteem, assess their self-esteem level, and take positive action to improve it.

**Understand Yourself** (1803). Teaches that knowing and understanding oneself are the keys to effective human relations. This unique "psychology" book encourages positive self-analysis.

**Courtesy** (1806). Reminds readers that courtesy is the Golden Rule in practice — and that it can help achieve one's goals. Includes reminders for courtesy at home, on the road, at work.

**Your Imagination** (1819). A widely acclaimed guide to creative problem-solving, at home and on the job. Suggests an effective five-step plan useful for tackling any problem.

**About Stress** (1162). Acquaints readers with the causes of stress,

describes its effects, and defines anxiety and depression. Tells how to cope with everyday stress, encourages professional help when it gets out of hand.

**About Job Stress** (1434). Job stress affects nearly everyone. This booklet describes some common causes of job stress, symptoms to be aware of, and serious problems that can result. Suggests ways to control stress and avoid job burnout.

**Stress Management** (1437). Stress can affect a person's physical and emotional health. This booklet motivates readers to start a stress management program that can help them enjoy life to its fullest.

**Managing Your Time** (1861). A practical guide to effective time management techniques. Motivates readers to incorporate time management principles that will help them increase success and self-satisfaction. Covers setting goals/priorities, planning, controlling "time thieves."

Voluntary Action

**Be A Volunteer!** (1838). This booklet has the volunteer spirit: lively and positive! Persuasively tells readers how volunteering benefits their organization, community, and themselves. Great recruitment tool.

**About Fund Raising** (1844). Practical advice and encouragement for the volunteer fund raiser. Describes the four basic methods of fund raising, types of donations, do's and don'ts when seeking funds, and more.

**Organize for Action!** (1685). A motivational booklet that clearly shows citizens the value of organizing to achieve common goals. Outlines the basics of forming a group, having successful meetings, fund raising, lobbying, gaining publicity, and taking effective action.

LOOK CLOSELY

THIS PAGE CONTAINS A LISTING OF VARIOUS BOOKLETS AVAILABLE FROM Channing L. Bete Co., Inc. IN DEALING WITH THIS COMPANY IN THE PAST, WE HAVE FOUND THAT THEY PRODUCE A QUALITY BOOKLET WITH HELPFUL INFORMATION ACCORDING TO THE VARIOUS TITLES.

IN SPEAKING WITH THE COMPANY, THEY INFORMED THAT ORDERS ARE ACCEPTED FOR 25 COPIES OR MORE.

HOWEVER, THEY WILL SEND INDIVIDUAL SAMPLES TO ANYONE WHO REQUESTS, PRESUMABLY FREE OF CHARGE.

IF ANY OF THESE TITLES ARE OF INTEREST, WE HIGHLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OFFERING. FULL DETAILS AND COMPLETE CATALOGUES ARE AVAILABLE. NOTE ADDRESS AND TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER.

Meetings

**Parliamentary Procedure** (1825). A pocket guide to these time-tested rules of order. Outlines the typical order of business; four general types of motions; procedures for proposing, discussing, and voting on motions.

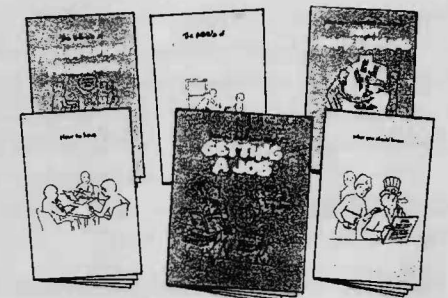
**How to Have Successful Meetings** (1850). Meetings are more productive when all members participate actively. This booklet is full of tips on preparation, good meeting manners, supporting group goals, communication skills.

**Be A Better Public Speaker** (1862). This booklet can help anyone improve their public speaking skills! It shows how public speaking can be useful in everyday communications. Gives tips on preparing a speech, delivery techniques, and more.

\* Remarkable word-and-graphic style communicates even complex subjects clearly.

\* Personalized covers allow you to add the impact of your name and special message.

\* Generous quantity discounts mean cost-effective education materials for you!



Order Today!

Call toll free 1-800-628-7733.

Channing L. Bete Co., Inc. 200 State Road • South Deerfield, MA 01373

This Copy especially prepared for:

---

## HUMAN TRAGEDY (con't)

A total of 248 U.S. soldiers died in a crash in Newfoundland while returning home for Christmas after duty in the Middle East. Arrow Air was the chartered airline. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced it had found unapproved, foreign-supplied parts in half the fleet of the airline - parts that did not meet FAA standards.

Following this find, the Air Force temporarily suspended its contract (worth more than \$20 million) with Arrow Air. The FAA grounded the aircraft with the substandard parts.

In light of the Newfoundland disaster, the FAA thought it was important enough to check-out the Arrow fleet - thus their findings. Only after the findings did the Air Force **suspend temporarily** the contract.

The disaster sparked subcommittee hearings in the House of Representative, with congressmen questioning the continued use of the airline.

While these events took place, with intense scrutiny, Arrow Air laid off 400 employees and filed for re-organization under federal bankruptcy law. The airline said unfavorable publicity and "unwarranted" government actions forced it into bankruptcy action. The law does allow the carrier to continue operating.

The abovementioned information was found in a couple of small single column articles buried in the middle of a newspaper. On a radio talk show, the guest was an officer from the Military Airlift Command (MAC) who, when questioned about the Arrow Air situation said the airline would continue to be used - in a quite nonchallant-business-as-usual way.

None of the above made major television news. Seems the media "goes after" what they determine is "popular", entertaining, or controversial. It appears that little consideration is given to the human element - unless of course it fits into the "story", the "headline", the prime-time hourly "update".

Needless to say that the media blitz on the shuttle situation will result in answers regarding the disaster. The families can somewhat be comforted knowing all is being done to find the answers and avoid another tragedy. Indeed, those responsible - be it through carelessness, or honest mistake, will double check all vital signs before another launch.

But what of the families of the 248 soldiers? Without media focusing our eyes and ears and thoughts and feelings about that incident day after day, and thereby applying pressure to those investigating and those who deal with the airline in question; will the answers be found? Will the airline continue to be used for chartered military use - or any use? Will the families be comforted?

And what of us? There is little doubt that the media has a tremendous influence on our values, our sense of responsibility, our feelings for others. The sensationalizing of news stories in not new, but nevertheless must be viewed with a critical eye. Certain stories and events have and continue to find their ways to the headlines, the top news of the day, the story with the video footage. There is an enormous number of theories for this - ranging from a "media power play" (where the media really controls the country) to a "control group" (where a few people in the world control events that effect global situations).

What we must keep in mind is that in this case, where the subject is human life, there can be no differences. There can be no choosing between tragedies. There can be no one saying that this event is greater than the other - even taking into consideration number of lives involve, costs, effect, etc. Human life remains as that common denominator for us all. We shall all feel the loss of life at some time in our lives. How one can be greater than the other can only lie in our own personal minds.