



executive update

Armenia



Centuries have passed over my land, but they have left their trace in cuneiform inscriptions, in old ruins and impregnable fortresses. The whole of Armenia is like an open-air museum where, without the help of a book, you can learn the history of the country and its people. Not only has every age left its ruins and wounds, but each one became a rung on the long and steep ladder of history that our people ascended, rising from suffering to happiness.

Gevorg Emin

INSIDE:

- * When Parents Separate—Trauma for Young Adults
- * AIDS: Facts & Fears
- * ARMENIA pull-out section
- * Marital Bliss Myths
- * Chapter Problems? Questions to ask.....
- * Armenian Sayings
- * Here's & There's....
- * Components of Effective Youth Ministry - Revisited

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NUMBER 27

JULY 1986

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)

BRIEFS

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TOO BUSY TO GET INVOLVED??

So your life-style is such that it doesn't allow you to get involved with anything? No time for commitments? Even when you're finished with all the things that others are forcing you to do - without allowing you to choose? Come on.

Aren't there things that you have an opinion about? Haven't you felt the need to be heard on something - in our case - within the Armenian Church and community? Isn't there something that you would like to respond to, or praise? Don't keep it to yourself, share it - deal with it - let "them" know about it - now - not later.

Consider this little item from Dear Abby:

I Didn't Speak Up - by the Rev. Martin Niemoeller.

In Germany, the Nazis first came for the communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time there was no one left to speak for me.

(Martin Niemoeller was a German Lutheran Pastor who was arrested by the Gestapo in 1938 and sent to Dachau concentration camp until he was freed by the Allied Forces in 1945. Abby has kept this item for nearly 30 years.)

1986 ACYOA GENERAL ASSEMBLY PHILADELPHIA

The Adam's Mark Hotel will be the site for the 1986 ACYOA General Assembly, hosted by those wonderful people of the Wynnewood ACYOA Chapter, Ss. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church.

His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, will preside over the proceedings of the Assembly, as well as host a delegates' luncheon.

The ACYOA Central Council will prepare the necessary materials and provide the necessary guidance to allow for a smooth running Assembly. Delegates should prepare themselves as well, including chapter requirements and credentials.

Chapter requirements include dues payment, listing of dues paid members (with addresses), general youth listing (updated), annual report, special event report (if applicable), and any other particular requirement as stated by the Council. All delegates will need a "delegate credential card" to participate fully in the proceedings. These, along with other materials will be sent to all chapters, parishes, and those chapter delegates who have declared themselves and have provided their names and addresses. The card should be completed and signed by the pastor and chapter executive committee.

Social activities to balance off the day-long Assembly sessions will be scheduled for the evenings. All chapters should make an effort to be represented from the start of the Assembly, Wednesday, August 27th, 7:30 p.m.

FUTURE SPORTS WEEKENDS?

Will future Sports Weekend of the future continue to take place in places like Palos Heights, Worcester, or even New Britain? Even places like Detroit, Chicago and Boston are shying away from this event.

Unofficial rumors contradict the possibilities of holding "the" event in some exotic location.....Bahamas, Bermuda, Disney/Epcot, New Orleans, Marco Island, Hilton Head, and other such resorts. We're told that prices are similar, accommodations superior, attraction unequalled in the Western Hemisphere and the chances of increased clergy participation 10-1 for.

YOUTH DIRECTORS

Cambridge: Besty Undermann continues her work with much enthusiasm and zeal. She attended the Diocesan Assembly, as well as the related seminars of the ACYOA and the Dept. of Religious Education. If you haven't had the chance to meet Betsy, take the time, she's a wonderful person.

Washington: The Executive Secretary met with the Pastor, young adults and important others of the parish to discuss the possibility of hiring a Parish Youth Director. St. Mary's is a growing community with many, many young people of all ages, as well as a growing population of young professionals and young couples/families. While the exhaustive discussion covered the many considerations of such a move, it was agreed that at the very least a part-time person could initiate the work in the area of Parish Youth Ministry. Given time, this could easily move on to a full time position.

Watertown: Long-time ACYOA member and Parish Youth Director for the past three years, Arthur Sabounjian, resigned his position recently. Artie was a full time person who initiated many good programs for the youth and young adults of the parish. He will be getting married soon and we wish him the best of God's blessings.

CENTRAL COUNCIL

Preparations for the 1986 ACYOA General Assembly moved to the final stages with the final regular meeting of the year held in late June. Materials for the delegates as well as for the Assembly proceedings were reviewed and will be mailed out to all chapters. Undeclared delegates should take note that their materials will be sent to the Chapter and Parish (as with all ACYOA) and can be picked up there.

The Council has prepared (finally) a great **National Events Calendar** for all Chapters and Parishes. The idea for this was born a few years ago, but has now become a reality. Each Chapter/Parish will receive the specially designed poster-size calendar to be put up in an appropriate, but proper place, for the public to see. On a regular basis, the Council will send to each Chapter/Parish updates to the Calendar that will be self-sticking to the designated months. Increased communications on national and regional events, as well as local functions is the key here, along with greater publicity.

The Council is also researching the possibility of having the 1987 Archbishop's Basketball Tournament in an unusual location next year. Stay tuned.

WHEN PARENTS SEPARATE -

Trauma for Young Adults

The trauma of divorce on adult children is only recently becoming a subject for social scientists. Focused first on young children, and then on teen-agers, those who study the effects of divorce on families are now looking at adult children.

Young adults experience the same feeling of loss, anger, shame and disillusionment as their younger brothers and sisters, they say, at a time when they are trying to assert their independence.

Some of the effects of divorce on the young adult are not always obvious. Money saved for college suddenly dries-up to pay divorce lawyers; studies suffer because of family stress, and coming "home" for the holidays can be too painful to bear.

Students in these trying situations have spoke of being overly protective of their mothers, and intensely angry with their fathers, at least initially. "The last time my father left, I had to pick my mother off the bathroom floor," on young person said, "She was crying so hysterically she fainted."

Another remarked that, "Being away at school when the divorce happened was somewhat advantageous, I didn't get all caught up in my parents' craziness." But this so-called advantage can be offset by guilt and regret. Some mentioned that they were not there to provide emotional support to a depressed parent, usually the mother, and they worried that younger siblings were getting the worst of it.

Staying on Campus

Nonetheless, some found excuses for not regularly writing or calling home, and some preferred to stay on campus during holidays, rather than return to a changed home. "You leave home in September, and everything is normal, just fine," explained a student, "But at Thanksgiving everything is different. It doesn't feel like home anymore." Another stated that each of her parents assumed she would be spending the holiday with the other. "Neither of them makes plans and there's nothing, or you have to go through everything twice - like two Thanksgiving Dinners," she said. "It's easier to stay at school."

Payment of college tuition has become a major issue now that the age of majority has been reduced in most states from 21 to 18 years of age. As a result, students over the age of 18 are no longer considered minors in need of support, and divorce settlements do not necessarily provide for college education.

One or both parents may be willing to pay the tuition, but their lawyers may advise against doing so until the agreement is signed, leaving the student in limbo. Students who apply for loans may be turned down because one parent has a high income even though that parent may not be contributing to their support. "My father has money," said on young woman, "but when you turn 18 you have to act for yourself, and sometimes it takes you into the legal area. To go to school I had to go to court and sue him for the tuition!" Other students mentioned that they were not getting all the child support paid by their fathers because their mothers needed the money. "I'm at a point where I don't want to deal with it anymore," one said. "I just do what I can to make my own money and pay my own way."

The ability to find work and other satisfactions outside the family after the divorce gave the young adults an advantage over younger siblings. On the other hand, because they were older, their memories of the family spanned many years, and the shock of seeing it split was especially disillusioning.

AIDS: Facts and Fears

A new survey has found that almost 40% of people in the United States are taking precautions to avoid catching AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) the Louis Harris poll said.

What is perhaps one of the most problematic diseases of the modern era, experts say that AIDS will affect in some way, everyone in our society in the years to come. It will run 20 years before the affect can be reasonably measured. How society deals with this serious situation will tell about the character of this society, and the individuals thereof.

Some experts believe that the fear of AIDS, even more than the herpes epidemic, is hastening an end to the "sexual revolution" that began in the 1960's and is imposing a new ethic of restraint or abstinence. "The America public is now faced with a public health problem unlike any other we have faced in the past 20 years, where we as scientists can't provide all the answers or a remedy," said Dr. William Blattner of the National Cancer Institute.

AIDS continues to be a disease almost entirely confined to three main groups: homosexual men, intravenous drug users and people who were infected through blood transfusions before the nation's blood supply became routinely screened for evidence of the virus. Also affected are infants of AIDS-infected mothers, to whom the disease spread in the womb.

Of the more than 17,000 reported cases of the fatal ailment in this country, fewer than 250 have been reported in people whose only known risk of infection was heterosexual contact with someone who may have been carrying the virus. But in parts of Africa where the disease has become common, AIDS is largely a heterosexual disease, and most experts agree, in varying degrees, that there is a danger of significant spread into the heterosexual mainstream here.

Some Facts & Trends

- 1.5 to 2 million Americans are thought to have been infected by the virus that can cause AIDS. Most scientists assume that all these people are capable of infecting others even though they show no signs of illness themselves.

- Of the 17,000 reported and confirmed AIDS cases, 70% are from the homosexual population
10% are from Hemophiliacs

5% are from blood transfusion circumstances
The remaining 15% are made up of all types, including people from the heterosexual population (which experts say is growing everyday).

- Sociologists and psychologists have observed that the "singles scene" has changed dramatically in the past 5 years. One doctor has said that "perhaps the herpes virus was a message, and the general public didn't listen too well. Now with AIDS, people are seeking out information, changing their life-styles, and for the most part, taking seriously certain behaviors they in the past simply took for granted." In most areas of the country, experts in the field have noted extensive changes in sexual behavior on the part of people of all ages. One said the change is "phenominal and more extreme than in the 1960's".

- AIDS virus is virtually indiscriminant. It can affect anyone. The growing numbers in all population types in the world is a sign that no one is really immune.

- Men and women are viewing each other in somewhat differing perspectives. The change in social behavior is most obvious in open social situations - singles bars. One bartender said, "There's more traditional socializing and drinking now, and less 'pick-ups' who meet someone (male or female) and leave the bar. They're staying and leaving with those they came in with, or with no one at all."

- President Reagan, after saying that AIDS is the number 1 health problem, cut \$51 million from related budgetary items. (i.e. research funding)

- People who know of others with the disease seem to be showing a very high degree of fear of contamination via discernable discrimination. The News Show "20/20" documented a man who had AIDS, and the many related trials and tribulations. Community health officials just didn't know what to do with him, or who would pay for his assistance. Witness the many parents who panic when a student in the public schools is found to have AIDS. The unknowns about the disease cause them to remove their own children from the school, and/or demand the infected student be dismissed. Since experts are not in agreement on the many ways of contracting the virus, the fears are enhanced.

As more information is known and confirmed, it is hoped that these discriminatory acts will subside. People with AIDS, young and old, need help and understanding - not exile.

[EXTRA, EXTRA - Since the writing of the above article, a new government report has been release with more startling information. See page 13]

THEY'RE WATCHING

Young child to mother, just prior to being dropped off at Church School on Sunday morning, "So what kind of doughnut are you going to have this week mom?"

Same child walking through the door after leaving the car, "I can't wait to grow up and be an adult; adults don't have to go to Church."

KIDS WATCH WHAT YOU DO,

SO WATCH WHAT YOU DO.

NOW WAIT A MINUTE

Overheard at an event was, "I don't believe in God, but I'd die for my Armenian Church."

Certainly a heavy statement, loaded with all sorts of things that makes one stop and think. It was made by an older man of unconfirmed political background. But what did he really mean?

How could someone, anyone, say he'd die for his Church, without believing in God? Isn't it a contradiction? But he was calm, so sure of what he was saying. He really meant it.

A long supporter of the Church and Armenian community; he attended most all community gatherings and functions. He knew our history, where we came from, what was done to us, and what we have accomplished since. He was a regular Armenian man, not too old, but old enough to remember when the parish assembly was conducted only in Armenian. He was a proud man, starting with virtually nothing, and making something for himself and family in America.

He knew our Church history. The role our Church has played in the past 2,000 years of Armenian existence. Of Thaddeus and Bartholomew, Gregory the Enlightener, Hripsime and Gayeneh, and the many other important figures. He knows the music of the Church, the modes with their wonderful variables. Those who know him say he hardly ever misses a Sunday morning. Certainly an example of dedication. He must be a "Church goer".

He loves his Armenian Church. Perhaps he's one of those who, because of the terrible years of Turkish domination culminating with the crimes of genocide in 1915, think God abandoned the Armenians. Perhaps he thinks God put the file on the Armenians in the circular receptacle.

But he's ready to die for his Church. Does he see the Church in another, different light?

He knows all the current leaders of the political parties and of the Church. He knows what they're doing and not doing, and of course has his well defined critique of each. He has his sound of disgust when certain ideas are raised, such as changing the language of the Church Services, part-time priests, women on the Altar. But these are certainly not unusual. What's unusual is an Armenian publicly stating a disbelief in God.

If there are such individuals, would you expect to see them in Church, week in and week out? Would they, state publicly, under any circumstance, that they would die for their Church, while denouncing their faith?

Maybe, just maybe this man could plead ignorance. Of not knowing about God, faith, piety and the like. But he's been around for so long; he's been a main part of the Church; a regular, long-time supporter; he knows Armenian customs and traditions. Pleading ignorance would seem more of an excuse than a reason. That's too easy.

It could be that he really means that he would die for his Armenian identity, or his Armenian nation. Maybe he confused "church" with "nation".

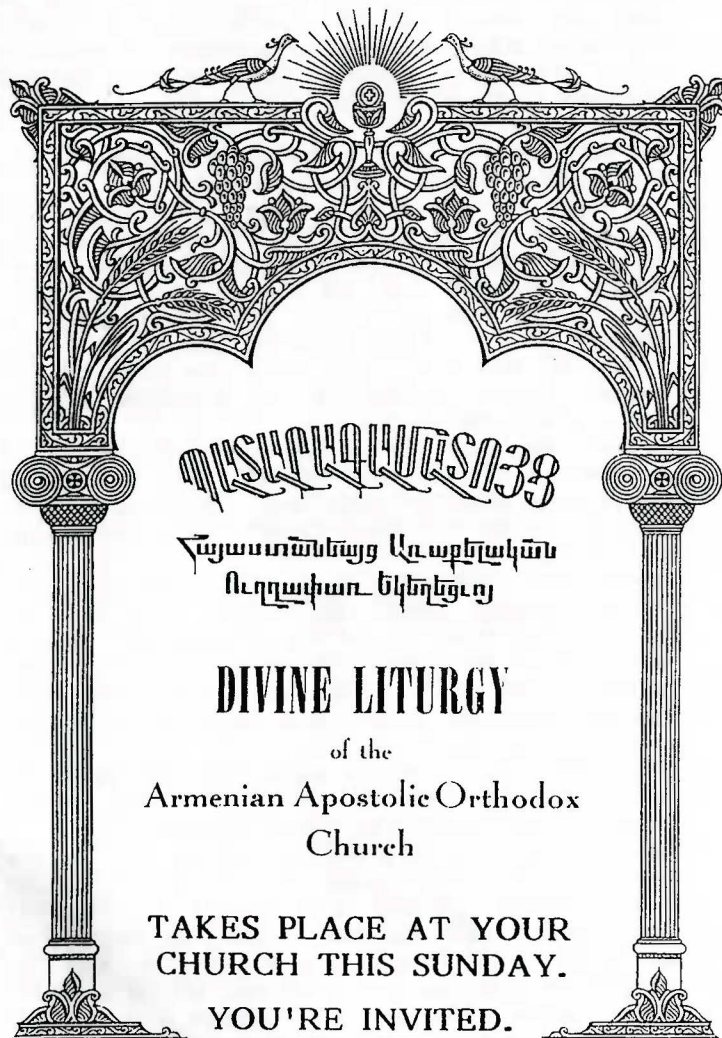
For this man, certainly not an unusual man on the surface, if he really means that he doesn't believe in God (which only God really knows) then "church" really doesn't exist for him, in the real sense. Yes, he clings to a "church community", in that he attends the functions and gatherings, but he obviously doesn't agree with their basic precept - a faith in God. It is this faith that creates Church.

It appears that he is indeed clinging to that last fragment of the Armenian Nation - the Church - and he has, perhaps unknowingly, confused "church" with "nation". Maybe he's just being honest with himself in stating what he truly believes, and what he does not believe.

We take for granted sometimes that if we meet an Armenian, they must be a Christian - what other kind of Armenian is there? Aren't all Armenians Christians? We were the first Christian Nation - doesn't that make it automatic?

Bumper Sticker of the Month, as sent in by David Davidian, or Colorado Springs, Colorado:

"Jesus Saves Souls,
Common Sense Saves Lives."



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DIVINE LITURGY

of the
Armenian Apostolic Orthodox
Church

**TAKES PLACE AT YOUR
CHURCH THIS SUNDAY.**

YOU'RE INVITED.

"Some actions of people speak so loudly,
that I can't hear what they're saying."

IT'S ALL A MATTER OF PRIORITIES

It's all a matter of priorities - what is important is what is given the attention, the time, the maney and the needed effort to provide progress and reach goals.

There are no impossibilities, only improbabilities. Perhaps we should file for 're-organization' and/or bankruptcy. In this way we could sit down and calmly address the issues confronting us. Void of emotion, timetables, by-laws, and other incumbrances. We could seriously consider what items need immediate attention, and focus all resources there for resolution.

What's happening now is simply meager attempts at "doing something" in too many (albeit worthwhile) areas. We see some type of need, so we create a "committee" to do something about it. Moreover, rarely is the case when this "committee" is given legitimate direction and guidance, specific (realistic) goals, or needed funding. But "something" was done. Looking back on it, self-criticism is difficult to take, and a scapegoat found if failure is the result.

Setting priorities is needed. Decisions must be made, and accepted, that will focus attention and resources to achieve the desired goals.

For example, if the shortage of quality priests is accepted as a priority - then all our energy and resources must be aimed at that priority. If there remains more resources after the 'priest' issue is seriously addressed and a course of action properly initiated - then we might consider another pressing issue.

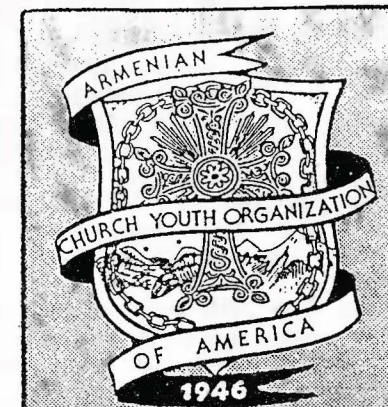
Putting simple band-aids on broken bones that are in need of x-rays, re-settings and casts is not going to assist in the healing process.

After setting priorities and establishing goals (like having an idea of where we would like to be in ten or twenty years, besides the promised land), we need to bring together the best minds from within and without our community to address the issues. Not our friends, those that agree, those who want to maintain rather than progress - but those who know how to deal with such problems, issues, concerns, professionally. Credentialed, experienced people with something to offer. We may only afford one such group of consultants/problem solvers to address one such area of need - so be it. If, by chance, we are strong enough, resourceful enough, wealthy enough to afford 4 or 5 such groups to address 4 or 5 priority situations - even better.

In this way, serious issues are given serious treatment. Problems have a good chance of being solved, not just pushed aside. Situations in need of immediate attention will be give due time.

(Adapted from a conversation with a Diocesan Delegate following the Diocesan Assembly held in Racine, Wisconsin. It can be easily seen how some of the above mentioned ideas could be applied to the ACYOA, or perhaps any organization.

Your comments and ideas are most welcome.)



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WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A

1986 ACYOA General Assembly and National Sports Weekend Itinerary August 27 - September 1

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 1986		SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1986	
12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Hotel and Sports Weekend Registration	8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Athletic Competitions (Baldwin & Haverford High)
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Delegate Registration	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Hotel and Sports Weekend Registration
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	General Assembly (First Session)	5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Insights Program (Second Session)
10:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.	Delegate Mixer	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	40th Anniversary Banquet
THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1986		9:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.	Anniversary Dance
9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	General Assembly (Second & Third Sessions)	SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 1986	
9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Hotel and Sports Weekend Registration	9:00 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.	Divine Liturgy (St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Church)
7:00 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.	Cruise* (includes travel time)	12:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Athletic Competitions (Baldwin & Haverford High)
FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 1986		1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Insights Program (Third Session)
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	General Assembly (Fourth & Fifth Sessions)	5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Reception for Primate, Central Council, Delegates, Chapter Chairman, Clergy, and Invited Guests
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Hotel and Sports Weekend Registration**	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Awards Banquet
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Insights Program (First Session)	9:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.	Awards Ball
7:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.	Beef 'N' Beer Kef Night (St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Church)	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1986	
*Times are subject to change.		11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Farewell Picnic (St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Church)
**After 8:00 p.m., Sports Weekend Registration will continue at St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Church.			

WEEKEND PLANS

Sports competitors are required to purchase either the Package Plan or MEP plan.

Pre-Weekend Plan \$18⁰⁰
 (Accepting first 100 people)
 Wednesday Mixer
 Thursday Cruise

Package Plan \$95⁰⁰
 (\$35 Deposit required)
 Friday Dinner/Dance
 Saturday Dinner/Dance
 Sunday Dinner/Dance
 Monday Picnic
 "Hye Energy" T-shirt

Minimum Eligibility Plan \$80⁰⁰
 (\$35.00 Deposit required)
 Friday Dance only
 Saturday Dance only
 Sunday Dinner/Dance

A la Carte
 Friday Dinner/Dance - \$15
 Saturday Dinner/Dance - \$40
 Sunday Dinner/Dance - \$50
 Monday Picnic - \$10
 T-shirt - \$8
 All Dances - \$15

GENERAL INFORMATION

- * \$10.00 rebate for any package plan pre-paid in full and sent in an envelope postmarked by August 1, 1986. ACYOA members will receive another \$10.00 rebate for standard plan only.
- * \$35.00 deposit is required for either plan.
- * The Pre-Weekend Plan must be pre-paid in full along with the registration form.
- * Make checks payable to: 1986 ACYOA National Sports Weekend.
- * Send check and registration form to:
 Lisa Manookian
 2007 County Line Road
 Ardmore, PA 19003
 Phone: 215-649-2570 or 215-649-8426 (after 7:00 p.m.)

OFFICIAL "HYE ENERGY" REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ Pre-Weekend Plan
 ADDRESS _____ Package Plan
 CITY/STATE/ZIP _____ MEP
 TELEPHONE # _____ Saturday Dinner/Dance
 CHAPTER _____ Sunday Dinner/Dance
 ARR. DATE/TIME _____ Monday Picnic
 MEANS OF TRAVEL _____ DEP. DATE/TIME _____
 TOTAL AMT. ENCLOSED _____

Canadian Participants: Please be sure to enclose U.S. Drafts when sending in your checks.

Package Plan Deadline: August 15, 1986

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MARITAL BLISS MYTHS

Only in fairy tales can couples live happily ever after without working on it. Yet many couples cling to storybook beliefs that can poison even the most magical marriages. Thinking of marriage in the near or distant future? Most young adults have, are or will be as they ponder the next ten years. Here are six menacing myths as reported in the April Reader's Digest:

- **Romantic love makes a good marriage.** The monotony of married life has extinguished many a flame. Necessities to any longtime union are kindness, consideration, communication, adjustment to each other's habits, joint participation in several activities, consensus on values, and respect.

- **Husbands and wives should do everything together.** Many people feel guilty about going anywhere without their partners, but there should be some separateness to allow individual growth and privacy. Couples should spend 20-25% of their time apart.

- **Good spouses should make their partners happy.** No one can assume responsibility for another's person's feelings. Trying to do so can only lead to misery and despair. Each partner must take charge of his or her own gratification and fulfillment to make a marriage work.

- **Husbands and wives should 'let it all hang out'.** Too many people assume that they can release all their pent-up anger and frustration at home. Instead of attacking the source, they resort to kicking the dog, beating their children or abusing their spouses. A relaxed and loving home is created with respect, politeness, tact and good humor.

- **True lovers know each other's thoughts.** This fallacy is applied especially to physical intimacy. Some people think that if a spouse is really in love with their partner, they can sense how to please and satisfy them. Communication, not mind-reading is the secret to better physical and non-physical relations.

- **A happy marriage requires total trust.** Taking a partner for granted can have disastrous results. In a lasting marriage, a little insecurity goes a long way. Regarding your spouse as attractive to members of the opposite sex encourages your own displays of affection and caring. After all, caring is why people marry in the first place.

A Little Closer to Home

- **Marrying a non-Armenian spells doom.** Marrying someone from your own ethnic background certainly has its advantages. Marrying a non-Armenian does not mean your marriage won't last, but if you are active in the Armenian Church and community, and you want to continue and bring your family up in that environment, you will probably have to work a little harder. Some of the hardest workers and faithful members of the Armenian Church are not Armenians.

- **Marrying a non-Armenian in the Armenian Church spells bliss.** Just because your non-Armenian spouse agrees to marry in the Armenian Church does not mean what it used to. In the excitement of the wedding plans and preparation, some people forget the significance of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. For some non-Armenians, being married in their spouse's church doesn't really matter to them, in fact it might be novel.

- **Don't discuss long-range plans, children, etc. it's bad luck before marriage.** Marriage is serious business. Your marriage, whether it lasts 5 years or 50 years, affects your entire life and will be a part of you forever. Discussion of future plans, children, beliefs, concerns are very important. The Church in which you will participate and worship is a major consideration. To find out after you've had children that your spouse wants them to attend Church Sunday School in their Church can be sensitive and difficult situation to handle.

- **Each spouse can have their own church.** Having two different churches in one family is a "house divided". Whether your spouse is Armenian or not, one church/parish should be established as the one where you will worship, bring up your family, support and contribute over the years.

In the case of two Armenians, there usually isn't a problem - there aren't that many parishes to choose from. But in some areas there are choices, and this choice should be made early.

In the case of non-Armenian spouses, separate churches is even a greater problem, because you have the influence of the spouse's family involved as well. Some have actually tried to maintain separate churches during marriage, with one spouse attending an Armenian Church, and the other attending some other. Where is the union? What happens with the children? Are they to be enrolled in one or both Church Sunday Schools? Will they know where they belong? Will there be a tug-of-war at Christmas and Easter? Will the faith and value systems be the same - will this conflict with other, non-religious, family matters? There's much to consider before marriage. Don't wait for "things to work themselves out" or the only thing you'll be out of is a happy marriage.

AND IN ARMENIA....

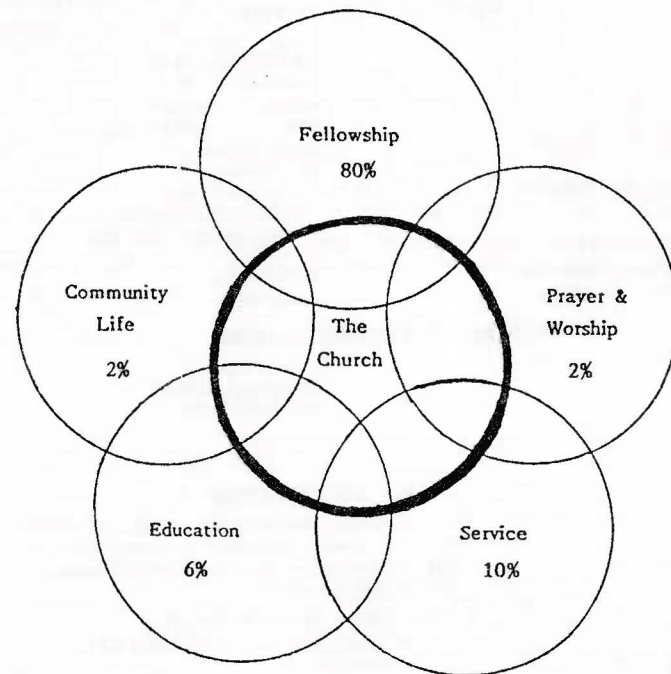
In 1984, Armenia had the largest number of births since being annexed by the Soviet Union - almost 80,000. The relatively high birth rate can be attributed to an effective social policy, said Fadei Sarkisian, Prime Minister of Armenia, in an interview. "Things like the partially paid 18-month leave for mothers to look after their children in addition to the fully paid 16-week maternity leave.

A high divorce rate is typical of many industrially advanced nations. "In this respect," said the Prime Minister, "Our Republic is a rare and, I would say, happy exception. In Armenia, the prestige of the family is high. An average urban family has two children, and a rural family three. The relatively high birth rate combined with one of the world's lowest infant mortality rates has brought about stable, if moderate, natural population growth, making for a favorable demographic situation."

The Prime Minister also stated that Armenia has set a course toward accelerating its social and economic development. This is to be achieved through introducing high technology, intensifying economic growth and perfecting the system of economic management. The over-riding objective is to improve the people's well-being. That does not mean improving their actual welfare only, but raising their standard of living and quality of life in every area: work environment, recreational facilities, pollution control, advanced education and enjoyment of cultural advantages.

The interview with Prime Minister Sarkisian appeared in the June 7th issue of the Armenian Mirror-Spectator.

Five Components for an Effective Youth Ministry



COMPONENTS OF YOUTH MINISTRY - Revisited

The ideal church youth group (ACYOA or otherwise) is sometimes as difficult to conceptualize as it is to find. In striving to keep things going and the young people involved and interested, the overall program is neglected and emphasis placed on reused successful activities.

The Chart above indicate the five components involved with effective Church Youth Ministry - with the Church the center or primary focus.

The suggested related activities listed to the right are only a few of the types for each component - there are many, many more.

Presently, according to reports, fact sheets, visits, and accepted general practice of late, the percentages shown on the chart indicate about how much of each component is incorporated into the youth ministry programming for the parish/youth group. Ideally, these percentages, as the circles show, should be about the same - each involved with the Church as well as over-lapping each other.

FELLOWSHIP -

parties, eating out, movies, camping, beach, recreation, cookouts, horseback riding, athletics, dances, cultural events, ball games, sailing, sleigh rides, museums, ski trips, theater, mountain climbing.

COMMUNITY LIFE -

organize workshops on religious and cultural topics, help in Church and Armenian Schools, assist with Parish Newsletter, video and audio tapes of Church Services for shut-ins and hospitalized, provide rides to church for elderly and children, tutors, landscape church grounds, help in preparing church for major Feast Days, organize food and blood drives.

EDUCATION -

sponsor lectures, classes, attend same, individual and group study topics, research projects, presentations of same to parish on Church history, language, dance, literature, the teachings of the Church, the Holy Fathers, Heros of the Church, spirituality, social issues.

SERVICE -

neighborhood cleanup, care of lawns for elderly, adopt a child - local and overseas, craft projects as gifts for shut-ins, parties and picnics for children's home or retarded children's center, singing at nursing homes, puppet shows for children and adults in hospitals, assist in projects of the parish, food and clothing collections and distributions, shovel snow.

PRAYER & WORSHIP -

participation on Sunday mornings and at other Services, design and lead worship for children, Lenten Services, prayer at parish functions, worship at retreats or lock-ins, visit other churches, write hymns and songs, Christmas program/play/concert/service, Easter program/play/concert/service, Palm Sunday Procession, design and conduct worship at parish church picnic, worship workshop, pray with those in homes, hospitals.

With such a programming schedule - balancing these components - the group takes on a more diverse and exciting character. It becomes something special to everyone. It is in this way the purpose of the group has real meaning. It is in this way the participants in the group feel a sense of purpose and involvement in their Church. It is in this way the group grows (in numbers and in character) and takes on a successful image, thereby attracting members and keeping the ones it has.

ACYOA 40th ANNIVERSARY

REGIONAL CELEBRATIONS

Midwest - Evanston Chapter Host - October 17th

New England - Providence Chapter Host - October 25th

Mid-Atlantic - Special Committee Host - November 29th

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

In preparing for the ACYOA 40th Anniversary Celebrations this year, Diocesan Youth Directors Nancy Basmajian and James Magarian spent considerable time in the ACYOA File Archives at the Diocese. This is the repository of most all ACYOA materials and memorabilia since 1946.

Reviewed and placed in order in 1980, the files are full of all kinds of things - some useful, some not so useful (like a receipt for pencils bought for the 1958 Assembly!).

In each Region of the Diocese, a special ACYOA 40th Anniversary Celebration shall take place (see list in this issue with dates). Each event will have its own commemorative booklet. However, a great deal of content will be provided via the archives. Lists of past Central Council Members, Assembly sites, Chapter "A" Award winners, List of Youth Directors/Executive Secretaries, photographs, etc. A list of accomplishments of ACYOA, as well as a history of the Organization will also be included.

Special thanks to Rose Mekenian for assistance in compiling this information. The commemorative booklet will be a souvenir you'll want to keep.

Also part of the Regional Celebrations will be a special edition of the "Storybook of ACYOA", originally prepared by Artin Artinian for the 1967 ACYOA Anniversary Ball. It has been revised and will be given to all attendees of the Celebrations throughout the Diocese.

HONORING

ARCHBISHOP TIRAN NERSOYAN

FOUNDER OF ACYOA

Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan will be the guest of honor at the November 29th Mid-Atlantic Regional ACYOA Celebration on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of ACYOA.

Archbishop Tiran founded the ACYOA in 1946 and was instrumental in providing the necessary guidance and leadership in the early days of the Organization. The Celebration for the Mid-Atlantic will take place at the Diocesan Center Kavookjian Auditorium, in New York City.

IS YOUR CHAPTER HAVING PROBLEMS??

Yes, we know this is a tough question for some, but if you are having problems, consider these survey questions:

1. How does your group/chapter relate to:

- Other, non-active, young adults?
- The Parish Council?
- Other, active, young adults?
- The Pastor?
- Other Parish Organizations?
- Other non-parish Organizations?

2. Goals:

- Are they realistic for the month/summer/year?
- Are they attainable?
- Are they part of the parish?
- Do you have any?
- Does everyone or most everyone agree with them?

3. Types of activities and functions:

- What are the primary activities?
- What are the secondary activities?
- What are obligations to the parish?
- What are the unusual activities?
- What project are you working toward?

4. Next leader of the group/chapter:

- Have you thought of preparing someone?
- Have you considered who might be best?
- Have you nurtured, groomed, encouraged anyone?
- Do you elect people, or, beg them to take it?
- Do you involve the Pastor in leadership search?

5. What is the role of the group/chapter in the parish? Do you assist by:

- Being invisible?
- Being wherever you're needed?
- Being part of parish decisions?
- Being good waiters and waitresses?
- Being part of important programs?
- Being slaves?
- Being interested in the future?
- Being part of the present?
- Seen, but not heard?
- Being part of parish committees?
- Being part of the parish assembly?

These are only a few questions that need to be addressed by all chapters, large and small, successful and failures, to realize where you are and perhaps understand where you should be. One of the basic problems encountered is a lack of organization and respect for others (arriving late, not prepared, not following through, etc.) No one wants to be part of a failure, or part of something that is of little consequence in the parish (or anywhere).

After reviewing these questions, and discussing the answers, it might be wise to sit with the pastor and parish council and share the results and resulting concerns. Involvement of the parish community (pastor, parish council, important others) in needs and desires of the group/chapter is one of the best ways of beginning a successful campaign of enthusiastic activities and worthwhile projects. Another way is to win the Lottery - and you know which has better odds.

BIDDING FOR THE WEEKEND?

Those chapters interested in bidding to host the 1987 ACYOA National Sports Weekend should take note: ACYOA Constitution, Article 12, Section 4, states, "Any Chapter wishing to host a National Function (i.e. Spts.Wkdn.) shall present a detailed outline of location and activities, including prices, which should be submitted to the ACYOA Central Council sixty days prior to the General Assembly." Those with unusual circumstances should notify the Council as soon as possible.

AIDS EXTRA (con't)

A special government report predicts that the total number of AIDS cases and deaths from the disease will increase tenfold in the next five years. Federal health officials, reporting the results of a conference of experts on acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) estimated that by 1991 care of patients would cost \$8 billion to \$16 billion a year.

Dr. Donald Ian MacDonald, acting assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, described "the escalating AIDS epidemic" as staggering, devastating, and a huge problem.

To date, the government has recorded 21,517 AIDS cases (up from 17,000 (mid-April) as previously stated here) and 11,713 deaths from the disease, which destroys the body's immune/resistance. The Public Health Service estimated that by 1991 there would be a cumulated total of 270,000 cases and 179,000 related deaths.

Of the estimated 1.5 to 2 million Americans who already have the virus and are potential carriers, experts say that 20-30 % would probably develop the disease - from which no one has been known to recover - by 1991.

"We expect to see AIDS spreading geographically and occurring much more widely outside the New York City and San Francisco areas," MacDonald said. He went on to say that the "problem is bigger than the Public Health Service," which is spending \$234 million on AIDS this year.

Most of the people who will develop AIDS by 1991 already have been infected (given the incubation period), and a vaccine may not be available for use by 1993, officials said. The Public Health Service also reports that there would be 54,000 deaths from AIDS in 1991 alone, as against 9,000 this year. By comparison, 45,800 people died in motor vehicle accidents in 1982.

While primarily confined to the homosexual population, the report said that an increase can be expected in the heterosexual population as well. 1,100 heterosexual cases are confirmed thus far in 1986, it is expected to jump to 9,000 in 1991.

Dr. James Mason, director of Federal Centers for disease control, said the number of AIDS cases in New York City and San Francisco was expected to continue increasing over the next five years, "but at a slower pace than in the past." In part, officials said, this reflects changes in the behavior of homosexual men in these cities.

The Public Health Service Report did not discuss the international incidence of AIDS. Dr. Mason said, "I have difficulty making projections for either Europe or Africa. We just don't have enough data on trends."

Centers for AIDS Victims

Nobel Prize winner Mother Teresa, trying to establish centers in the USA for AIDS victims, has tried to enlist President Reagan to help her, and she says she hopes his help is on the way.

The Roman Catholic Nun met for 10 minutes with Reagan and emerged to say the discussion went well. Mother Teresa, of the Missionary Sisters of Charity, won the Nobel Peace Prize for her work with the poor of Calcutta, India.

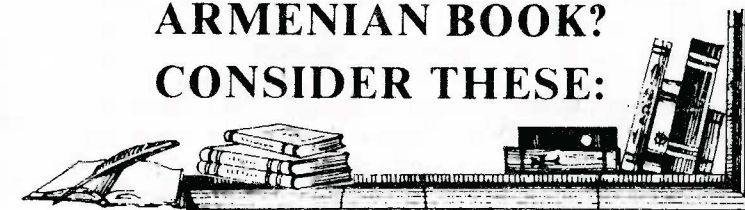
The 75 year old Yugoslav-born nun said she told Reagan, "We are looking for a nice place where people can come and receive love and also remove their loneliness." The President encouraged her, she said. "I told him I would do the praying, and he will have to do the work to launch the project."

AS ARMENIANS SAY

- * A wanderer's heart always longs for home.
- * One man's beard caught fire. "Let me warm my hands," said another.
- * The poor need bread, the rich - everything.
- * First choose your neighbor, then buy your house.
- * A thousand wise men cannot raise the stone a fool throws into the well.
- * Those who heed their elders will have no regrets.
- * A kind word will help build a house, a better one will destroy it.
- * You have two ears and one mouth. Listen twice, speak once.
- * When brothers work together, they can set one mountain on another.

Armenians have innumerable fables, parables sayings and riddles. These are a few of the 858 in the collection Armenian Proverbs and Sayings (1973).

CAN'T FIND AN ARMENIAN BOOK? CONSIDER THESE:



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TRANSLATED ARMENIAN BOOKS

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The Traveller and His Road Gostan Zarian translated by Ara Baliozian	5.95
The Honorable Beggars Hagop Baronian translated by J. Antreassian P.B.	4.95
Comrade Panchoonle t'ervant Odian translated by J. Antreassian	7.95

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HERE'S & THERE'S

CLEVELAND.....Nancy Bagdasarian, chpt.chrm. tells us that members participated in Church April 27th via serving in Services; passing Kiss of Peace; giving out candles; passing offering plates; at altar; in choir;....On Holy Thursday, several members participated in Washing of the Feet Service....had Easter Eve Party at Parish House...30 people with Arm. food and dancing....ACYOA Day Banquet/40th Annv. of ACYOA March 23rd...Nancy Bagdasarian guest speaker....slide presentation by members Leslie Bagdasarian and John Bashian on Cleveland ACYOA Chapter's past 40 years...110 people attending...dinner meeting in May...Cleveland Indians Baseball game in June assisted parish with clean-up of grounds....participated in "Hands Across America" May 25th...religious retreat in West Virginia late June, theme: "The Bible and I".....

LAWRENCE.....Kory Sirmaian, chpt.chrm. informs on 35 members(!) and going strong....had a great time at Archbishop's Basketball Tourney...toured the City - St. Pat's, Rock's Center, Trump's Tower, Radio City....even had photo taken with Archbishop....participated in April 24th Armenian Martyrs Day Program...24 members lighting commemorative candles in Church....involved with Armenian Language School....sponsoring a softball team in local league....annual Car Wash fundraiser for Spts.Wknd. teams (Lawrence's Cars Washed?) who's Lawrence? Lawrence Welk?...nah, doesn't work)...planning annual fall dance - Nov.29th at Indian Ridge Country Club....had yet another dinner meeting....no wonder everyone says all they to is eat....many members graduating college: Steve Sirmaian, Rob Nazarian, Kevin Nazarian, Peter Aznoian, Candi Kentopian....Members elected to Parish Council (!): Gary Townsend, PC Secretary, and Kory Sirmaian (yes, Kory), PC Treasurer...congratulations....also planning membership drive/reinvolvement/get-together..... (Lawrence just sends in a simply marvelous Fact Sheet.)

Wisconsin.....New chpt.chrm. Thomas Genozian tells us of meetings held May 11 and June 8, and of 30 members so far....maybe more to say next month....**PALOS HEIGHTS**Gail Giragosian, chpt.chrm. speaks of 16 members and very active....members participated in Church Services Palm Sunday and Easter Eve...ushers, passing offering plates, and passing Kiss of Peace....held ACYOA Day Palm Sunday with Brunch and film program....a trophy case is being made for display of awards and trophies, and will be dedicated in memory of the Martyrs of 1915... participated in well planned Martyrs program in parish..... Chpt.Chrm. recited Armenian poem....second Sun. of each month members serve at Church Services....assisted Juniors with Regional Junior Spts. Wknd....Members and friends, along with members from Evanston, went to see "Pump Boys and Dinettes" play, followed by going to the famous diner - "Ed Debevic's" - just fabulous....planning another discussion night with Daniel Hairabedian (Der Hayr's son) in June or July....as well as other rejuvenation-type activities for the summer.....

WORCESTER.....Rob Shamgochian, chpt.chrm. reports of an excellent Martyrs Day Program....the committee of which was comprised mainly of ACYOA members....it involved an Ecumenical Service with various clergy and governmental dignitaries attending, with a program and a proclamation by the Mayor designating April 24th "Armenian Martyrs Day" in Worcester...included candle-light procession with 40 survivors to the Martyr's Tree on the parish grounds, donated and dedicated last year by the ACYOA...Madagh was served as well....served wine and cheese after performance of Antranig Dance Ensemble....trip to NYC May 24 for Chapter Exec. Comm. sponsored by local parishioner...several activities planned for summer in membership campaign....number of members down to 7...may need more than just activities to boost this number....but they'll do it, and with style.....

WYNNWOOD.....Lisa Manookian, chpt.chrm. informs of 20 members busier than ever....had a "Hye'Waiian Kef Night" in Feb. (Wynnewood is one "those" who saves up Fact Sheets for months, then sends them all in; better than not sending them at all, right? you bet!)...had Palm Sunday-ACYA Day Banquet....planning Sports Weekend Awareness Picnic in May....and working on the Sports Weekend probably takes up the rest of their time....major mailing of infor set for early June....get ready to pack your bags and be in Philly for Labor Day Weekend....it's going to be grrrrreeeeaaat!

Here's & There's is brought to you by those considerate chapter people, mostly the chairmen, who take the time to share their "goings, comings, and doings" with all the members and chapters of the ACYOA. As the 1985-86 ACYOA Year comes to a close, a loud and appreciative round of applause is due these people. THANKS.

WESTCHESTER CELEBRATES 40th ANNIVERSARY OF ACYOA

On March 23rd, the Westchester ACYOA of St. James Armenian Church paid tribute to the founder of the ACYOA - Archbishop Tiran Nerseyan, on the occasion of the Organization's 40th Anniversary.

Heading the event on Palm Sunday-ACYOA Day, was the Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian, pastor, former Executive Secretary of the ACYOA. A sumptuous banquet was well prepared by the ACYOA.

Welcoming the 60 attendees was the Honorable Judge Vicent Gurahian, Parish Diocesan Delegate and Chairman of the Diocesan Council, and his wife Martha, Chairman of the Parish Council. Susan Ashjian, Chairman of the Westchester ACYOA Chapter was introduced and reflected upon the importance of a vibrant ACYOA in the future of the Church. Mary Lazarian, a student of the flute at the Manhattan School of Music, played several flawless renditions for the audience.

The special day included several members of the ACYOA commenting on their experiences with the youth group and its founder. Garo Kapikian, a Parish Council member and ACYOA senior, fondly recalled his childhood memories of Tiran Surpazan, and expressed his profound admiration and utmost respect for this "esteemed, scholarly and most senior Bishop."

The audience was likewise honored to pay tribute to Archbishop Tiran, who not only founded the ACYOA in 1946, but was also responsible for establishing 21 new church parishes in the USA during his ten year tenure as Primate. He was also responsible for encouraging and inspiring many young men to join the ranks of the clergy. Tiran Surpazan expressed his gratitude and appreciation of the many kind remarks and candidly described his reasons for establishing the ACYOA. Stating that because there was a void in the Armenian Community, in terms of a vehicle necessary to bring our youth together in a spirit of Armenian Christian camaraderie, "I founded the ACYOA with assistance of several community members in Rhode Island in 1946." He further explained that the ACYOA attracted and welcomed many Armenian American World War II veterans who were proud of their dual identities and were anxious to serve their Church. Surpazan Hayr was likewise aware of this when establishing the ACYOA, and philosophically stated that it is "natural for Armenians, as well as all ethnic groups, to preserve their identities. In fact, mankind is not different from the rest of the animal species who are bestowed by God with procreative instincts and inclinations. The ACYOA is a manifestation of this desire in that it allows the Armenian Youth in America to examine and partake in their noble religious and cultural legacy.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A

1986 ACYOA General Assembly and National Sports Weekend Itinerary August 27 - September 1

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 1986

12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Hotel and Sports Weekend Registration
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Delegate Registration
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. General Assembly (First Session)
10:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. Delegate Mixer

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1986

9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. General Assembly (Second & Third Sessions)
9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Hotel and Sports Weekend Registration
7:00 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. Cruise* (includes travel time)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 1986

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. General Assembly (Fourth & Fifth Sessions)
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. Hotel and Sports Weekend Registration**
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Insights Program (First Session)
7:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. Beef 'n' Beer Kef Night (St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Church)

*Times are subject to change.
**After 8:00 p.m., Sports Weekend Registration will continue at St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Church.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1986

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Athletic Competitions (Baldwin & Haverford High)
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Hotel and Sports Weekend Registration
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Insights Program (Second Session)
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 40th Anniversary Banquet
9:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. Anniversary Dance

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 1986

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 p.m. Divine Liturgy (St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Church)
12:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Athletic Competitions (Baldwin & Haverford High)
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Insights Program (Third Session)
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Reception for Primate, Central Council, Delegates, Chapter Chairman, Clergy, and Invited Guests
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Awards Banquet
9:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. Awards Ball

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1986

11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Farewell Picnic (St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Church)

WEEKEND PLANS

Sports competitors are required to purchase either the Package Plan or MEP plan.

Pre-Weekend Plan \$18⁰⁰

(Accepting first 100 people)
Wednesday Mixer
Thursday Cruise

Package Plan \$95⁰⁰

(\$35 Deposit required)
Friday Dinner/Dance
Saturday Dinner/Dance
Sunday Dinner/Dance
Monday Picnic
"Hye Energy" T-shirt

Minimum Eligibility Plan \$80⁰⁰

(\$35.00 Deposit required)
Friday Dance only
Saturday Dance only
Sunday Dinner/Dance

A la Carte

Friday Dinner/Dance - \$15
Saturday Dinner/Dance - \$40
Sunday Dinner/Dance - \$50
Monday Picnic - \$10
T-shirt - \$8
All Dances - \$15

GENERAL INFORMATION

- * \$10.00 rebate for any package plan pre-paid in full and sent in an envelope postmarked by August 1, 1986. ACYOA members will receive another \$10.00 rebate for standard plan only.
- * \$35.00 deposit is required for either plan.
- * The Pre-Weekend Plan must be pre-paid in full along with the registration form.
- * Make checks payable to: 1986 ACYOA National Sports Weekend.
- * Send check and registration form to:
Lisa Manookian
2007 County Line Road
Ardmore, PA 19003
Phone:
215-649-2570 or 215-649-8426 (after 7:00 p.m.)

OFFICIAL "HYE ENERGY" REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ Pre-Weekend Plan
ADDRESS _____ Package Plan
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____ MEP
TELEPHONE # _____ Saturday Dinner/Dance
CHAPTER _____ Sunday Dinner/Dance
ARR. DATE/TIME _____ Monday Picnic
DEP. DATE/TIME _____
MEANS OF TRAVEL _____ TOTAL AMT. ENCLOSED _____

Canadian Participants: Please be sure to enclose U.S. Drafts when sending in your checks.

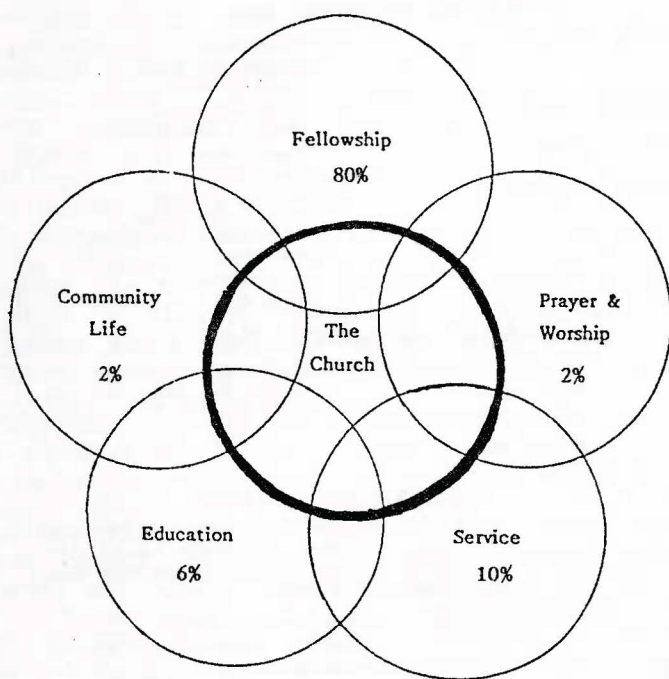
Package Plan Deadline: August 15, 1986

PHILADELPHIA!

This Copy for Filing by:

NY C
 V REV FR KHAJAG BARSAMIAN
 630 SECOND AVENUE
 NEW YORK CITY, NY
 10016-4885

Five Components for an Effective Youth Ministry



COMPONENTS OF YOUTH MINISTRY - Revisited

The ideal church youth group (ACYOA or otherwise) is sometimes as difficult to conceptualize as it is to find. In striving to keep things going and the young people involved and interested, the overall program is neglected and emphasis placed on reused successful activities.

The Chart above indicate the five components involved with effective Church Youth Ministry - with the Church the center or primary focus.

The suggested related activities listed to the right are only a few of the types for each component - there are many, many more.

Presently, according to reports, fact sheets, visits, and accepted general practice of late, the percentages shown on the chart indicate about how much of each component is incorporated into the youth ministry programming for the parish/youth group. Ideally, these percentages, as the circles show, should be about the same - each involved with the Church as well as over-lapping each other.

FELLOWSHIP -

parties, eating out, movies, camping, beach, recreation, cookouts, horseback riding, athletics, dances, cultural events, ball games, sailing, sleigh rides, museums, ski trips, theater, mountain climbing.

COMMUNITY LIFE -

organize workshops on religious and cultural topics, help in Church and Armenian Schools, assist with Parish Newsletter, video and audio tapes of Church Services for shut-ins and hospitalized, provide rides to church for elderly and children, tutors, landscape church grounds, help in preparing church for major Feast Days, organize food and blood drives.

EDUCATION -

sponsor lectures, classes, attend same, individual and group study topics, research projects, presentations of same to parish on Church history, language, dance, literature, the teachings of the Church, the Holy Fathers, Heros of the Church, spirituality, social issues.

SERVICE -

neighborhood cleanup, care of lawns for elderly, adopt a child - local and overseas, craft projects as gifts for shut-ins, parties and picnics for children's home or retarded children's center, singing at nursing homes, puppet shows for children and adults in hospitals, assist in projects of the parish, food and clothing collections and distributions, shovel snow.

PRAYER & WORSHIP -

participation on Sunday mornings and at other Services, design and lead worship for children, Lenten Services, prayer at parish functions, worship at retreats or lock-ins, visit other churches, write hymns and songs, Christmas program/play/concert/service, Easter program/play/concert/service, Palm Sunday Procession, design and conduct worship at parish church picnic, worship workshop, pray with those in homes, hospitals.

With such a programming schedule - balancing these components - the group takes on a more diverse and exciting character. It becomes something special to everyone. It is in this way the purpose of the group has real meaning. It is in this way the participants in the group feel a sense of purpose and involvement in their Church. It is in this way the group grows (in numbers and in character) and takes on a successful image, thereby attracting members and keeping the ones it has.
