

Ս. ՂԵՒՈՆԴԵԱՆՆՅ ՎԱՅՑ. ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ
ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH

12-61 Saddle River Road
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410
Tel. (201) 791-2862, Fax (201) 791-1329
E-mail: ghevont@sain.org

Հ. Վահան Վրդ. Թովհաննէսեան, Հոգեւոր Հովիւ
V. Rev. Vahan Hovhannessian, Pastor

November 6, 1995

The Most Reverend Archbishop
Khajag Barsamian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
New York


Your Eminence,

We wish to inform you that St. Leon's Armenian Church in Fair Lawn, New Jersey, has reactivated its expansion program approved by the Parish Assembly in 1988. At that time, the plans for this expansion were submitted to the Diocesan Council and approved. The expansion program, however, was stopped because of the tragic earthquake and other problems in Armenia.

In 1993, St. Leon Parish Assembly agreed to reinstate the expansion program, with the same conditions as outlined in the Assembly of 1988. The expansion will consist of adding a new Narthex, widening the sanctuary with the addition of a dome and expanding the office area at the rear of the Church. Attached please find a copy of the expansion plans.

Asking for your prayers and blessings, we remain,

your humble servants,


Fr. Vahan Hovhannessian
Pastor


S. Rex Kachigian
Parish Council Chairman

Kessak
Leakman
will down

73.0

... .. rex
... .. moved that the 1988 budget be modified by lowering certain proposed expenditures, which he felt were high, to cover the cost of the van. After much discussion about this proposal, it, also, was withdrawn. Peter Bedevian made a motion that he, Jan Royland, and Vazken Ohanyan form a committee to decide and run a special fund raiser to purchase a van. The motion was seconded and carried.

There being no further discussion, the 1988 Budget was accepted as proposed.

NEW BUSINESS

Lucille Varjian requested that the 1989 Parish Assembly not be held on Super Bowl Sunday.

Sarkis Gabrellian, chairman of the Feasibility Committee, explained the aims of the committee, the members of which were Tom Ashbahian, Sarkis Bedevian, Zaven Dadekian, and Sarki Soultanian: Enlargement of the church proper.

Enlargement of the office area.

Handicap ramp

The committee will get approval of plans from the Parish Council and then from the church membership at a special assembly in May. Anyone who has special needs should present them in writing to

11

U. 7610276028

203005026038 6467637

U. ՆԵՐՈՍԵԱՆՆ
ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

ՏՐԵՎԱԼ ՏԵՂԵԱԳԻՐ

ՏՐԵՎԱԼ ԾՆԱԳԱԼ ԺՈՂՈՎ
ՓԵՏՐՈՒՄ 19, 1989

ST. LEON'S ARMENIAN CHURCH
FAIR LAWN, NJ

ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
FEBRUARY 19, 1989

I

allocated in the 1988 budget for the purchase of a new van. Motion was withdrawn. Leon Hojagian proposed that \$4,000 be put into the budget for the next five years to cover the expense of the van which would be bought with money from the savings or checking accounts. Motion was withdrawn



ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH

12-61 SADDLE RIVER ROAD

FAIR LAWN, NJ 07410

Telephone: (201) 791-2862

FAX: (201) 791-1329

V. Rev. Fr. Vahan Hovhannessian, Pastor

FAX TRANSMITTAL

To: Mary Berberian

ATTENTION OF _____

FAX NO. 1-212-417-6674

MESSAGE FROM Mary Ann Mozian

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS PAGE) 5

DATE December 13, 1985 TIME 5:00 PM

MESSAGE

Attached please find the cover of the Parish Assembly Report
and the page from that year report. for February 19, 1989
and February 17, 1991.

L

11

Ս. ՂԵՐՈՆԵՂԵԱՆՑ

ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

ՏԱՐԵԿԱՆ ՏԵՂԵԿԱԳԻՐ

ՏԱՐԵԿԱՆ ԾԽԱԿԱՆ ԺՈՂՈՎ

ՓԵՏՐՈՒԱՐ 17, 1991

ST. LEON'S ARMENIAN CHURCH

FAIR LAWN, NJ

ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

FEBRUARY 17, 1991

```

*****
*
*                                     P. 01
*
*          TRANSACTION REPORT
*
*                                     DEC-13-95 WED  6:03 PM
*
*          FOR: DIOCESE ARMENIAN CHURCH  212 447 6674
*
*-----*
*  DATE   START  SENDER          RX TIME PAGES TYPE      NOTE
*-----*
*  DEC-13 6:02 PM G3              1'16"   2  RECEIVE      OK
*
*****

```

- 11
2. Sarkis Bedevian questioned the Bazaar Account On the Financial Report it shows a profit of \$37,000.00. This amount should be put into an Escrow Account, so St. Leon will be assessed correctly by the Diocese. The checking account amounts on the Financial Report and Money on Hand also should be corrected. A difference of \$3,000.00 is shown. It was also mentioned that the 1989 Budget is just a guideline, with only being off 5%. A motion to adopt the 1990 Budget as presented was seconded and passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

In the absence of Chairman Sarkis Gabrellian, Sarkis Bedevian presented the proposal of the Building Committee. Plans were changed this year due to the circumstances created in the aftermath of the earthquake in Armenia. It is recommended by the committee to go on with Phase I, to improve the front of the church only. This included expansion of the front with a bathroom and elevator.

Phase II will be on hold, with Phase III drastically modified and combined with Phase I. This project is estimated to cost about \$350,000.00. Last year it was approved by parishioners to go into Phase I and II if we had a pledge of 75% of the cost. Sarkis reported that \$250,000.00 has been pledged at the present time. It was moved, supported and passed that Parish Council call a Special Parish Assembly meeting as soon as possible with a detailed written report on this matter, for more proper consideration by the Parish Assembly.

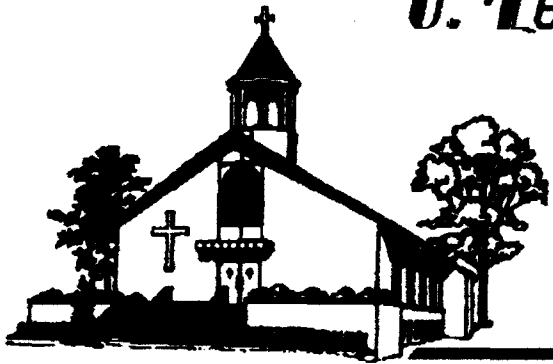
NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ted Takvorian proposed that Parish Council set up a Feasibility Study Committee of at least seven members, with a view to seek a solution in enabling Der Hayr to continue with his studies. The committee is to conclude its mandate in three months and present its proposal to the Assembly. This committee will consist of Parish Council Members and Parishioners-at-Large. A motion to this effect carried.
2. A motion was made by Jan Royland to propose a Diocesan By-Laws Amendment to allow absentee ballots at Parish Assembly's under special circumstances. Der Hayr read the article from the

* P. 01 *
* TRANSACTION REPORT *
* DEC-13-95 WED 6:01 PM *
* FOR: DIOCESE ARMENIAN CHURCH 212 447 6674 *

* DATE START SENDER RX TIME PAGES TYPE NOTE *

* DEC-13 5:59 PM G3 1' 39" 1 RECEIVE COM, E-1 *



Ս. ՂԵՈՆՆԵԱՆՆ ԿԱՅՑ. ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ
ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH

12-61 Saddle River Road

Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

Tel. (201) 791-2862, Fax (201) 791-1329

E-mail: ghevont@sain.org

Հ. Վահան Վրդ. Յովհաննէսեան, Հոգևոր Հովիւ
V. Rev. Vahan Hovhannessian, Pastor

December 13, 1995

His Eminence
Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church
New York

Your Eminence:

In response to your inquiry of December 13, 1995, wherein Your Eminence requested verification of the approval of the expansion program at St. Leon Armenian Church in 1988, please be advised that we have reviewed all our files that are available to us at this time and cannot find any correspondence with the Diocese related to this matter.

Our parish has proceeded with the expansion on the assumption that prior approval had been received from the Diocesan Council in 1988, when the project was first proposed. This was based on verbal communication of previous parish council members and members of the 1988 building committee. The present administration, unfortunately, could not verify whether this is true or not since our offices and files are in total disarray due to the explosion of the furnace in the basement of our Church, which caused also serious damages to our offices. We relied on the Parish Assembly minutes recorded in the Annual Reports of 1989 and of 1991. Both reports were submitted to the Diocese.

St. Leon's expansion program was first approved by our Parish Assembly in 1988, see attached Assembly minutes, with the condition that the project could only proceed after pledges for 75% of the cost of the project was received. This project was stopped shortly thereafter because of the earthquake and other problems in Armenia. The parish decided to postpone the project and direct our financial and human resources to help our sisters and brothers in Armenia. It is conceivable that because of this abrupt stop and of the impact of the disaster in Armenia, that the previous administration forgot to send the letter to the Diocesan Council. In 1993, the Parish Assembly confirmed the restarting of

the expansion program with the same financial guarantees as approved in 1988. The Parish Assembly selected Sarkis Gabrellian and Sarkis Soultanian as co-Chairmen of the expansion committee.

A contract has been signed and work is proceeding on the addition to our offices, the enlargement of the Narthex, the widening of the sanctuary with the addition of an Armenian Dome. Repair work related to the explosion will be tied in with the expansion. Construction is expected to be completed in April of 1996.

The contract value of the expansion is \$480,000.00 and we have received commitments in excess of the 75% as required by the Parish Assembly approval. We expect to have commitments in excess of the total cost when the project is completed. This project will place no undue financial burden on our Parish or treasury.

We assure Your Eminence, that our proceeding on this project without Diocesan Council approval, was not done with any disrespect to the authority of the Diocese or knowingly in violation of the By-laws of our Diocese.

May the Savior of the world, whose birth we will soon celebrate, grant us all His peace, and a New Year filled with health, happiness and success. Asking for your blessings, we remain,



S. Rex Kachigian
Parish Council Chairman

Yours in Christ,



Fr. Vahan Hovhannessian

FVH/mam

MINUTES OF THE 1988 PARISH ASSEMBLY

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH

FAIR LAWN, N.J.

The Parish Assembly of St. Leon Armenian Church, 12-61 Saddle River Road, Fair Lawn, N.J., was called to order at 12:30 PM on Sunday, January 31, 1988, by past Assembly Chairman, Sarkis Bedevian. Der Arshen opened the meeting with a prayer.

Elected from the floor were the following officers of the day:

Chairman	Sarkis Bedevian
Secretary	Margaret Tarakajian
Parliamentarian	Joseph Basralian

The Chairman changed the agenda, having elections held first to allow proper time for the counting of the ballots. There were 99 eligible voters present. There being no nominations from the floor for any positions, John Nakashian and Rex Kachigian passed out the ballots and votes were cast. Mr. Bedevian stated that there were 238 people on the church roll, of which 188 were fully paid to date. He said that those not paid will remain on the membership roll for two years, unless they request otherwise. Counting of the ballots was done by the auditing committee.

The 1987 minutes were read and accepted, after the correction of two names.

The Pastor's report was accepted as presented with one name change. He added that as of January, the Lradoo will be edited by Leon Varjian.

The Parish Council Report was accepted as given. Arthur Ohnikian thanked the council members, and it was recommended that future reports include the names of the members.

REPORTS OF ORGANIZATIONS:

SENIORS

Manuk Capan presented the chairman with a check from the seniors

and told of their activities. It was requested that future reports be in English rather than Armenian.

CHURCH SCHOOL

No discussion

ARMENIAN SCHOOL

No discussion

CHOIR

No discussion

ACYOA, JRS.

Rose Najarian, advisor, told of the various activities they participated in that were not listed in the report: Helped the Sunday and Armenian Schools with their dinners, worked on the Unity Program, supported a student in Lebanon, made sandwiches for the homeless, and had a Retreat at St. Nersess Seminary. Regina Ohanyan thanked the advisors, Rose Najarian and Barbara Boghosian.

WOMENS GUILD

A correction was made to list the 1988 officers instead of the 1987 ones.

ENDOWMENT FUND

No discussion. Chairman stated that the fund is kept at the Diocese for the benefit of St. Leon Church.

Richard Chongoushian, chairman of the Auditing Committee, reported that the Treasurer's books for 1987 were found to be in proper order.

The following election results were presented:

PARISH COUNCIL

Leon Hovsepian

David Soultanian

Vicken Jessourian

Vahram Varjabedian

Vazken Ohanyan

Alternate - Dorothy Karamian

raiser to purchase a van. The motion was seconded and carried.

There being no further discussion, the 1988 Budget was accepted as proposed.

NEW BUSINESS

Lucille Varjian requested that the 1989 Parish Assembly not be held on Super Bowl Sunday.

Sarkis Gabrellian, chairman of the Feasibility Committee, explained the aims of the committee, the members of which were Tom Ashbahian, Sarkis Bedevian, Zaven Dadekian, and Sarkis Soultanian: Enlargement of the church proper.

Enlargement of the office area.

Handicap ramps.

The committee will get approval of plans from the Parish Council and then from the church membership at a special assembly in May. Anyone who has special needs should present them in writing to the committee.

A motion was made that in the future there should be a line in the budget providing a fund for the purchase of a needed new vehicle for the church. Motion was carried.

Following the benediction by Der Arshen, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret D. Tarakajian
Margaret D. Tarakajian (NM)
Assembly Secretary

January 31, 1988

Arshen Aivazian
Rev. Arshen Aivazian
Assembly President

Sarkis Bedevian (NM)
Sarkis Bedevian
Assembly Chairman

MINUTES OF THE 1991 PARISH ASSEMBLY
ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
12-61 SADDLE RIVER ROAD
FAIR LAWN, NEW JERSEY 07410

The Parish Assembly of St. Leon Armenian Church, 12-61 Saddle River Road, Fair Lawn, New Jersey, was called to order at 1:00 P.M., on Sunday, February 17, 1991, by Chairman of Parish Council, Charles Pinajian.

Opening prayer was offered by Fr. Arshen Aivazian.

There were 75 eligible voters present

Elected from the floor were the following officers of the day:

Chairman	Sarkis Soultanian
Secretary	Patricia (Kafafian) Zengel
Parliamentarian	Joseph Basralian

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - It was mentioned that the By-laws require a minimum of twelve (12) nominations for Parish Council. Six vacancies are to be filled. We have seven (7) nominations at present. One member will be rejected, which was stated that this would be unfair. Nominations were made from the floor as follows:

Olga Chongoushian	Declined
Jacques Tossounian	Declined
Jan Royland	Declined
Dr. Barry Halejian	Declined
Vicken Jessourian	Declined
Berjuhi Varjabedian	Declined
Arto Beylerian	Accepted
Sebouh Jessourian	Accepted
Nersess Babaian	Not eligible as a new Member

Rex Kachigian suggested we continue with the election, submit to Diocese and take a chance with the amount of names nominated. We just cannot get five more names to add for nominations.

Nominating Committee:	No nominations were added
Auditing Committee:	No nominations were added

The Chairman presented the slate for Parish Council, Nominating and Auditing Committees. There are six vacancies to be filled on Parish Council, three each on the Nominating and Auditing Committees. The ballots were distributed and votes were cast.

It was suggested that we dispense with reading of the minutes, as they were already distributed for review.

Correction and amendments in the minutes were accepted by motion, seconded and approved as follows:

- Page 22 Dr. Berdj Feredjian is incorrect, should be John Demirdjian.
- Page 24 Totally incorrect. New pages RE: Corrected Financial Report of Senior Citizens was distributed.
- Page 29 Accounting of Funds Listed; add Takvorian Fund, \$4,000.06. The total should read \$217,748.48.

Attention was brought to the fact that on Page 22, regarding the number of out-going Parish Council members, only five were listed, inadvertently leaving out Charles Pinajian. Charles thanked himself and it was no noted.

The 1990 Assembly minutes were accepted as presented, with the above corrections.

It was suggested that we dispense with the reading of reports, since everyone had them in their possession for their individual review.

REPORTS OF ORGANIZATIONS

PARISH COUNCIL - Charles Pinajian, outgoing Chairman, thanked outgoing members for their diligence and work in previous years. He stated that it takes a certain commitment of a member to serve his/her parish. It is difficult, but a pleasure. Charles stated that without Rex Kachigian as Vice-Chairman, much would not have been accomplished. Charles and Rex worked as a team. He thanked all outgoing members once again.

PASTOR'S REPORT - Der Hayr answered questions with regard to his "Handbook for Parishioners" It was mentioned that it was an excellent idea and Der Hayr should be complimented in preparing such a handbook. It is free of charge and available to all in the Narthex. It was brought to Der Hayr's attention that many parishioners did not know such a handbook was available. Der Hayr suggested that it be distributed during our meeting.

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY REPORT - It was suggested that the unity issue be expounded upon. Der Hayr provided updated information regarding a draft set of By-laws presented to the Unity Committee.

SENIOR CITIZENS - The corrected Financial Report was distributed. Manuk Capan presented a check of \$1,400.00 as their contribution to Parish Council. This amount is reflected in the current Financial Report. Manuk has been both Chairman and Treasurer. Anyone wishing to help him as Treasurer is most welcome. Seniors have a good time when they are together. There are approximately fifty (50) to seventy (70) Seniors in the group right now.

ACYOA JUNIORS - It was suggested that much of their activities are socially oriented. They should strive to have more religious activities in the future. Parish Council can be their Liaison.

ACYOA SENIORS - Accepted.

ARMENIAN SCHOOL - Accepted

CHOIR - A question was raised regarding how the choir was progressing raising funds for new books and robes. Books have not yet been printed. It will still be a few months. Der Hayr noted that we are in need of new Badarak (blue) books. At least one hundred (100) could be used. Der Hayr asked Choir to consider this.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Accepted

CARE AND SHARE - It was stated that there was no Financial Report for this organization regarding their bake sale which made approximately \$200.00. It was noted that there is no budget, no expenses, etc., for this group. It was mentioned that the profit of this bake sale was given to the "Children of Armenia" fund.

Der Hayr mentioned that Care and Share is drafting By-laws regarding its purpose and goals as an organization, and Parish Council will be receiving these shortly. The question was raised, "Is Care and Share recognized in the Diocese?" The answer was, "No, only in St. Leon's do we have a Care and Share organization."

COMMENT ON ALL REPORTS IN GENERAL

Barbara Hovsepien stated that most reports do not tell very much. Reports should be made more detailed in the

future. She suggested that Financial Reports have additional explanation of fund raisers, etc. Specific purposes should be noted in all reports.

AUDITING COMMITTEE - The Treasurer's books should be kept and a report for the end of the year should be made. Financial Statement and 1991 Budget - Income and Expenses. Parish Council books are not listed as being done.

COMMUNITY CENTER - A question was raised, "Do we advertise to rent out the Community Center?" Answer: "No, basically it is word of mouth." Caterers come regularly and they recommend us. Page 24 states, "Community Center rentals proposed to be \$90,000.00, but the actual in 1990 was \$68,593.00."

Charles Pinajian stated that soon repairs will be needed. The carpeting is wearing, the kitchen will need repairs. Both restrooms have needed certain repairs recently. The Center is showing signs of ten years of wear and tear.

CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND - It was stated that the purpose of each fund should be listed on the report in the future. Der Hayr stated that endowment funds are growing over the years, and encourages more, such as bequests. Parish Council encourages families to consider the church as beneficiary in their wills. St. Leon is the leader in the Diocese regarding endowment funds. The question was raised whether we have endowment funds elsewhere. There are no other endowment funds; however Parish Council has purchased Certificates of Deposit, CD's. Inquiry was made regarding the purpose of the Andrew John Halejian Fund? Barry Halejian explained the purpose of this fund. It is to benefit children who would not otherwise be afforded the opportunity to go to Camp Nubar.

REGARDING THE CHURCH BUDGET - It was suggested that plate collections and weekly envelopes be listed separately so that money from dues-paying members and general funds may be noted. A motion was made by Sebouh Jessourian to that effect. Charles Pinajian stated that every effort is being made for greater breakdown of expenses and receipts for the coming year, including more detailed financial statements.

John Chagachbanian raised the question of St. Leon's being one of the few churches that does not have a ramp for easy access for the handicapped. Lengthy discussion resulted. Church expansion was mentioned, but that is not feasible in the next two years due to economic times. A

ramp is of immediate need. Yeretzgin Sirarpi Aivazian stated the spiritual aspect of the need for a ramp. She said that if even one person was kept out of the church, the church would not be happy. Church expansion is not in the immediate future; a ramp is of vital need now. Der Hayr mentioned economic times being hard. Grace Pinajian suggested that Berdj Feredjian head a feasibility committee to look into this. An amendment was proposed. Berdj did not accept the amendment. A new amendment to the motion was presented: Put a \$10,000.00 cap on installing a ramp for our immediate need. Completion of this to be within the 1991 calendar year. Parish Council is to be authorized to raise money to build the ramp.

It was noted that \$225,000.00 - \$250,000.00 was pledged for renovation. Money for the ramp should be used from those pledges. Der Hayr stated that that money was slated only for renovation. It was suggested that we ask those donors if a portion of that money could be used for the ramp. Barbara Hovsepien stood up and pledged \$1,000.00 towards the ramp and asked 9 more people to do the same. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted for resolution. Parish Council will proceed.

NEW BUSINESS

Barbara Hovsepien proposed that all groups come together and work on an activity other than the Bazaar. They should work together, clear dates and set agendas. We should do something together for fellowship.

Discussion resulted regarding the beginning time of this meeting. It was suggested that it start at 11:30, not at 1:00. Der Hayr mentioned that if all deacons and choir members were here on time he could start services earlier. If they are not, he cannot. Der Hayr considered that the meeting be done in two separate sessions. Nominations could be held in one session and the second session could be the voting and business meeting.

Der Hayr thanked all outgoing members for their hard work and asked that they continue to help and work for their church.

Elections results were announced by the Nominating Committee. If anyone did not approve of the Assembly, they have up to one week in which to contact Der Hayr. Until the elections are approved by the Primate and Diocesan Council, present Parish Council continues in full effect.

The following election results were presented:

PARISH COUNCIL

Dr. Knarig Khatchadourian-Meyer
Araxie Moundjian
George Sarkissians
William McMahon
Dorothy Karamian
John Demirdjian
Raffi Jessourian - Alternate

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

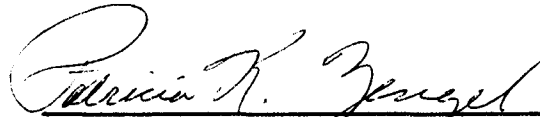
Sarkis Bedevian
Dawn Hourdajian
Vicken Jessourian
Berjouhi Parseghian - Alternate

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Robert Ishkanian
Ara Hourdajian
Peter Bedevian
Amy Vartoukian - Alternate

Following the benediction by Fr. Arshen, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 P. M.

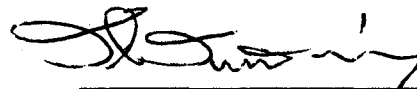
Respectfully submitted,



Patricia (Kafajian) Zengel
Assembly Secretary



Rev. Fr. Arshen Aivazian
Assembly President



Sarkis Soutanian
Assembly Chairman

ELECTION RESULTS

1991 PARISH ASSEMBLY

**ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
12-61 SADDLE RIVER ROAD
FAIR LAWN, NJ 07410**

PARISH ASSEMBLY

Dr. Knarig Khatchadourian-Meyer - 68
Araxie Moumdjian - 67
George Sarkissians - 58
Dorothy Karmanian - 57
William McMahon - 56
John Demirdjian - 52

Raffi Jessourian - 52 - Alternate

AUDITING

Robert Ishkanian - 58
Ara Hourdajian - 45
Peter Bedevian - 44

Amy Vartoukian - 43 - Alternate

NOMINATING

Sarkis Bedevian - 57
Dawn Hourdajian - 53
Vicken Jessourian - 42

Berjouhi Parseghian - 29 - Alternate