

50th Anniversary

1945 - 1995



**St. Gregory the Illuminator
Armenian Apostolic Church
Haverhill, MA**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Be it Known That whereas Martin DerBogosian, Simon H. Hamalian, Nerses DerGarabedian, Mihran H. Kasparian, Danabed Chilpyian, Vahak Bogosian, Krikor Derderian, Charles K. Tashjian, Kaspar Asadourian, Harry O. Boyajian, Zakar Kahigian, Rose Chilpyian and Edgar A. Movsesian

have associated themselves with the intention of forming a corporation under the name of

..... Church of Armenia in Haverhill, Inc.,

for the purpose of the following:— To foster, encourage and promote the worship of God among people of Armenian birth residing in Haverhill or the surrounding communities; to maintain a suitable church or meeting place for religious worship, and to establish and maintain a reading room or library and place for social meetings in connection with religious worship which is the primary purpose of this corporation;

and have complied with the provisions of the Statutes of this Commonwealth in such case made and provided, as appears from the Articles of Organization of said corporation, duly approved by the Commissioner of Corporations and Taxation and recorded in this office:

Now, therefore, I, FREDERIC W. COOK, Secretary of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Do Hereby Certify that said Martin DerBogosian, Simon H. Hamalian, Nerses DerGarabedian, Mihran H. Kasparian, Danabed Chilpyian, Vahak Bogosian, Krikor Derderian, Charles K. Tashjian, Kaspar Asadourian, Harry O. Boyajian, Zakar Kahigian, Rose Chilpyian and Edgar A. Movsesian,

their associates and successors, are legally organized and established as, and are hereby made, an existing corporation as of December 2, 1943 under the name of

..... Church of Armenia in Haverhill, Inc.,

with the powers, rights and privileges, and subject to the limitations, duties and restrictions, which by law appertain thereto.



Witness my official signature hereunto subscribed, and the Great Seal of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts hereunto affixed, this twenty-third day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and forty-three.

F. W. Cook

Secretary of the Commonwealth

PROGRAM

INVOCATION.....*His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian*

Dinner

WELCOMING REMARKS.....*Mrs. Zarty Chilingirian
Parish Council Chairlady*

MASTER OF CEREMONIES.....*Michael Der Boghosian
Co-Chairman, 50th Anniversary Committee*

GREETINGS.....*Mayor James Rurak*

PASTOR'S MESSAGE.....*Rev. Fr. Sahag Kaishian*

POETRY READING.....*Herman Gennetian*

GREETINGS.....*Paul S. Tavitian
Diocesan Delegate*

ADDRESS.....*His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian*

PRESENTATION.....*Mrs. Zarty Chilingirian*

BENEDICTION.....*His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian*



HIS HOLINESS, KAREKIN I
Supreme Patriarch - Catholicos of All Armenian



**ԱՐԵՎԷԼ ԾԱՌԱՅ ՅԻՔԷՆՆԻ ՈՂՈՐՄՈՒԹԵԱՄԲԷԼ ԱՅ ԵՒԿԱՄՕՔԼ ԱԶԳԻ
ԵՌԻՍԿԱՊՈՍԱՊԵՏ ԵՒ ԿԱԹՈՂԻԿՈՍ ԱՄԵՆԱՅՆ ՀԱՅՈՎ
ԾԱՅՐԱԳՈՅՆ ՊԱՏՐԻԱՐԲ ՀԱՄԱԶԳԱԿԱՆ ՆԱԽԱՄԵԾԱՐ ԱԹՈՒՈՅ
ԱՐԱՐԱՏԵԱՆ ԱՌԱՔԵԼԱԿԱՆ ՄԱՅՐ ԵԿԵՂԵՉՈՒՅ ՍՐԲՈՅ ԷՋՄԻԱԾԻՆ**

**ԳԻՐ ՀԱՅՐԱՊԵՏԱԿԱՆ ՕՐՀՆՈՒԹԵԱՆ
ԱՌ ՀԱՒԱՏԱՑԵԱԼ ՁԱՒԱԿՈՒՆՍ
Ս. ԳՐԻԳՈՐ ԼՈՒՍԱՒՈՐԻԶ ԵԿԵՂԵՑՈՒՅ
ՈՐ Ի ՀԷՅՎԵՐԴԻԼ, ՄԱՍԱԶՈՒՍԵԹՍ**

Սրտի խոր գոհունակությամբ տեղեկացանք Ամերիկահայոց Արևելեան բնփրարեյնամ Առաջնորդ Գերաշնորհ Տ. Խաժակ Արքեպիսկոպոս Պարսամբանեց, որ յառաջիկայ Հոկտեմբերին արժանավայել շուրջով եւ պատշաճ հանդիսաւորութեամբ պիտի նշուի Ձեր եկեղեցւոյ հիմնադրութեան 50-ամեակը:

Հայրական սիրոյ ջերմ զգացումներով կ'ուղղենք Ձեզի Հայրապետական այս Գիրը ամէն բանէ առաջ փառք տալու համար Աստուծոյ, որ Հէյվըրիլի մեր համայնքին շնորհեց ամբողջ 50 տարիներու ընթացքին այնպիսի ծառայութիւններ, որոնք սնուցիչ եւ զօրացուցիչ դեր ունեցան Ձեր հոգեւոր եւ ազգային կեանքի մէջ:

Կրնանք երեւակայե՞լ, թէ անցնող 50-ամեակի առիթով որքա՞ն մեծ թիւով հայորդիներ այնտեղ ունեցան իրենց քրիստոնէական ծնունդը սուրբ մկրտութեամբ, այնտեղ ստացան իրենց հոգեւոր կեանքի սնուցումը պատարագի սուրբ հաղորդութեամբ, այնտեղ վայելեցին Աստուծոյ խօսքին՝ Ս. Աւետարանին քարոզութեան բարիքները եւ մեր եկեղեցւոյ խորհուրդներուն եւ արարողութիւններուն հոգեշէն ու շնորհագործ զօրութիւնը:

Պատիւ կ'ընծայենք յիշատակին բոլոր անոնց, որոնք անցնող 50 տարիներու ընթացքին գործեցին Ս. Գրիգոր Լուսաւորիչ եկեղեցւոյ զօրացման համար եւ այժմ երկիւնէն կը դիտեն իրենց վաստակին պտղաբերումը Ձեր շարունակուող և աճող հաւատարմութեամբ եւ նուիրաբերական աշխատանքով:

50-ամեակի այս հանգրուանը բոլոր դասնայ Ձեզ համար վերաշխուժացման նոր առիթ մը, որպէսզի անցեալի վաստակէն ուժ փառելով՝ այսօրուայ եւ զալիք օրերուն Ձեր կեանքին եւ գործունէութեան մէջ առաջնորդուիք եւ գործէք յառաջդիմութեան ոգիով՝ արձանագրելով նորանոր նուանումներ Ձեր եկեղեցական-ազգային կեանքին մէջ:

Սիրելիք, եկեղեցիք Ձեր մայրն է եւ հոգեւոր կեանքի օճախը: Գիտցէ՛ք ըլլալ հաւատարիմ եւ հարազատ որդիք՝ Ձեր անվերապահ մասնակցութիւնը բերելով Ձեր եկեղեցւոյ կեանքին մէջ, որ Ձեր իսկ կեանքն է:

Կ'աղօթենք առ Ամենակալն Աստուած, որ եկեղեցւոյ շնորհէ բեղմնալից կեանքի նոր 50-ամեակ մը վասն փառացն Աստուծոյ եւ վասն շինութեան եկեղեցւոյս Հայաստանեայց եւ ազգին հայոց:

Ողջ լինուի ի Տէր, զօրացեալք շնորհօք Սուրբ Հոգւոյն, և յաւետ օրհնեալ ի Մէնջ:

Գարեգին Ա.

ԳԱՐԵԳԻՆ Ա.
ԿԱԹՈՂԻԿՈՍ ԱՄԵՆԱՅՆ ՀԱՅՈՅ

Տուա Օրհնութեան Գիրս
ի 28 Սեպտեմբեր, 1995
ի Մայրավանս Սրբաբարձր խորհուրդ





DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA
ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴՈՒԹԻՒՆ ՀԱՅՈՑ ԱՄԵՐԻԿԱՅԻ ԱՐԵՒԵԼԵԱՆ ԹԵՄԻ

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIMATE

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on the fiftieth anniversary of the St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church. Through its activities and achievements, and through the deeds of its sons and daughters, the Armenian community of Haverhill has made many fine contributions to the experience of Armenians in America.

From the vantage of this fiftieth anniversary, you can look back on your accomplishments with pride—and perhaps with a little sadness, as you remember those who are no longer here to share in these joyous occasions, but who worked so hard, served so diligently and sacrificed so selflessly to bring you to this point. Their spirits will reside in this sanctuary—and in your hearts—as long as there are people who remember them, and carry on the work to which they devoted so much energy and love.

But anniversaries also compel us to look forward, to plan for the challenges that lie ahead. Having come so far already, what should be the priorities and objectives of the St. Gregory Church in the years to come?

This is an important question for the entire Armenian Church to consider. Above all, our mission as a Church is to do the work of Christ on earth, and it is truly *our* mission—we *all* must take part in it, because *we* are the Church.

That mission is one that our Armenian forebears have cherished for centuries; it falls to us to preserve and embellish the heritage they forged. We are all guardians and teachers of the Armenian spirit and the Armenian traditions, we are all responsible for instilling in our children that sense of belonging to the family of the Armenian Church.

The parishioners of the St. Gregory the Illuminator Church have happily accepted and nobly executed that obligation for a full half-century. May God bless you as you continue that legacy in the generations to come.

With prayers,

Abp. Khajag Barsamian

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate

October 29, 1995



His Eminence
Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate



It is with great joy that we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Consecration of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church in Haverhill.

It is easy to envision the spirit that lived in the people of this community fifty years ago for it is still with us today. The objects that surround us in the church sanctuary; paintings, rugs, crosses, as well as the church building, are all tangible reminders of the strength, commitment, and faith that St. Gregory parishioners have had throughout these past fifty years. However, it is important for us all to understand that our faithful ancestors did not only want to purchase an empty church building, rather they wanted to create a spiritual center to gather and carry out the mission of Christ and the message of the Gospel. It is this legacy that our grandparents and parents have left under our care.

In these troubled times in our society, it is necessary to remember and draw from those strengths and beliefs that were handed down to us. By participating in worship, teaching and outreach, in communion with one another as a church family, we together will ensure the next fifty years of the St. Gregory Armenian Church in Haverhill.

May God look upon our church community, giving us the strength, love, and grace to work for His Glory.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Sahag Kaishian

Rev. Fr. Sahag Kaishian

WOMEN'S GUILD HONOREES

1939



1995

Beatrice Aghoian
Rose Arakelian
Mariam Asadoorian
Rebecca Asadoorian
Santought Asadorian
Zaruhe Basmajian
Sarah Bedrosian
Helen Bejian
Araxie Bogosian
Nazely Bozajian
Zartouhie Chilingirian
Vartouhi Chilpyian
Almas Chooljian
Ojen Davidian
Dr. A. Frances Davis
Elbes Der Boghosian
Baizar Der Boghosian
Azniv Der Bogosian
Zimrout Der Bogosian
Araxie Derderian
Shooshanig Derderian
Virginia Der Garabedian
Arouseag Devejian
Takouhie Garabedian
Haiganoush Georgerian
Rose Georgerian
Yeranig Georgerian
Meline Gigmesian
Christine Goulian
Margaret Gostanian
Markrouhi Gulezian
Maritza Hamalian
Zarouhy Harian
Highganoosh Kahigian
Grace Kalalian
Verkin Kalalian
Leona Kasparian
Mary Kasparian
Nevart Kasparian
Vartouhie Kassabian
Askanoosh Kazarian

Yeranig Kezerian
Agavnie Krikorian
Anna Loosian
Agnes Maradian
Rose Mardekian
Nektar Mazmanian
Twanda McNeil
Arousiag Menzigian
Isgouhi Menzigian
Irene Merejanian
Sandouk Mesropian
Gloria Mosesian
Kohar Movsesian
Vartouhie Movsesian
Takouhi Ohanesian
Dorothy Ohanian
Maritza Ohanian
Mary Ohannesian
Nazley Ouzounian
Santook Parnagian
Takouhie Poshian
Mary Sarkisian
Roxie Sarofian
Beatrice Serabian
Betty Shahinian
Beatrice Sheristianian
Mary Takesian
Dikranouhie Takessian
Nevrig Takessian
Agavnie Talanian
Armenouhie Tashjian
Haiganoush Tashjian
Khatoun Tashjian
Lucia Tashjian
Anna Tatian
Perooz Tatian
Esther Tavitian
Zarouhy Tavitian
Sylvia Tavitian
Amber Zarejian
Vartouhie Zarejian



PARISH COUNCIL

Edward Basmajian, Edward Der Bogosian, Zarty Chilingirian, Virginia Chobanian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Kaishian
Barbara Arthur, Edgar Mosesian, Diocesan Delegate Paul S. Tavitian
Missing: James Derderian



CHURCH CHOIR

Front Row: Virginia Tavitian, Sylvia Tavitian, Zarty Chilingirian
Back Row: Alice Kasparian, Sue Kezerian, Edgar Mosesian, Charles Loosian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Kaishian
Herman Gennetian, Cynthia Kasparian, Richard Bazarian



MR. & MS. CLUB

Front Row: Charles Loosian, Gladys Mooradian, Michael Der Boghosian, Alice Basmajian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Kaishian

Margaret Kazarosian, Vasken Gostanian, Mary Gostanian, Azadouhi Loosian

Third Row:, George Parnagian, Marderos Takessian, Dikranouhie Takessian, Rosalie Sasso, Enrico Sasso, Edward Der Bogosian, Rose Der Bogosian, Roseanne Parnagian

Forth Row:, Steven Jokikian, Grace Devejian, Paul Kazarosian, Virginia Chobanian, Edward Basmajian, Berge Parnagian



LADIES AIDE

Front Row: Araxie Kasparian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Kaishian, Esther Bonin

Back Row: Virginia Tavitian, Mary Kalalian, Twanda McNeil, Shirley Aaronian, Mary Mooradian



YOUNG ADULTS

Steven Arthur, Barbara Arthur, Rev. Fr. Sahag Kaishian, Brenda Tavitian
 Back Row: Joseph Tavitian, David Howard , Carolyn Howard, Cynthia Kasparian,
 Yeretsgin Lana Kaishian, Cheryl Papalian, Rafik Papalian



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Natalie Loosian, Gregory Basmajian, Daniel Howard, Allison Howard, Roxanne Meuse,
 Jacob Kaishian, Kayla Papalian, Rya Papalian, Andre Papalian, Cheryl Papalian
 Back Row: Superintendent Elaine Meuse, Nicholas Chilingirian, Andrew Chilingirian,
 Alison Meuse, Teacher Bethany Derderian, Teacher Yeretsgin Lana Kaishian, Michael Kaishian

ARMENIAN CHURCH COMMUNITY-THE FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS

Haverhill's first Armenian immigrants began arriving in the early 1890's. They were mostly men who came to work in Haverhill's shoe factories with a goal to make enough money to provide passage for their families to join them in America. While many achieved their goal, others returned to their villages and cities only to be trapped in the 1915 Turkish Massacre of the Armenians.

In April and September of 1915, Talaat, Minister of the Interior and one of the triumvirate who ruled Turkey, issued an order to "... destroy completely all Armenians living in Turkey..." The Turks carried out these orders with determination, causing the death of a million and a half Armenians -- men, women, and children. Those who were fortunate enough to escape the torture and starvation of exile found their way to Europe, Asia, and America. The American Near East Relief by a special Act of the U. S Congress of 1919, protected countless Armenian children who had become orphans. Survivors from all over Europe came to Haverhill, MA, and resolved to provide a permanent, peaceful place for their families.

By the year 1920, these hard-working families became immersed in the new land which they respected and adored. They proudly entered night schools to learn English. They became United States citizens. The Haverhill business community soon became familiar with the shops and factories started by these Armenian immigrants. Income and jobs were created for their families, friends and neighbors.

These Haverhill Armenian immigrants who had experienced untold horrors, strove to fulfill their dreams and lift themselves out of their desperation. Moreover, they maintained the Armenian language, customs, traditions, and spiritual life. Armenian children were urged to complete their higher education and to pursue professional careers.

On December 16, 1923, the first recorded celebration of the Armenian Divine Liturgy in Haverhill took place at Trinity Episcopal Church on White Street with Rev. Khoren Lazarian officiating. This service was arranged through the kindness of the Rev. Charles O. Brown, pastor of the Trinity Church. Rev. Brown supported and encouraged the Armenians. He influenced and nurtured their religious resolve and urged them to persevere in their ambitions. A new Armenian parish was born.

Listed below are the names of the first Parish Council of May 6, 1923, and the current Parish Council of January 22, 1995:

Parish Council-1923

Minas Gostanian, Chairman
Hovsep Hanoian, Collector (Havakeech)
Bagdasar Antaramian, Secretary
Moses Movsesian, Advisor
Nishan Chooljian, Treasurer

Parish Council-1995

Fr. Sahag Kaishian, President
Zarty Chilingirian, Chairman
Virginia Chobanian, Vice-Chairman
Edgar Mosesian, Secretary
Barbara Arthur, Assist. Secretary
Edward DerBogossian, Treasurer
Edward Basmajian, Assist. Treasurer
James Derderian, Member

The early founders of the Church recognized the importance of the special position given to the Parish Council. Along with the day to day duties of this organization, the By-Laws designate the Parish Council as the final say of all matters at issue. The Council members are voted upon yearly by the Parish Assembly, and as such, the Council represents and safeguards the needs and wishes of the Church Community.

Delegates representing St. Gregory's at the annual assemblies of the North American Diocese are elected at Parish Assemblies each year. Reports of diocesan meetings are printed in the Annual Report of the church. The current Diocesan Delegate is Paul Tavitian.

Under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Khoren Mamigonian, the Deegnatz Meutiun, (Ladies Aide), was organized on October 4, 1939 at the home of Vartouhie Movsesian for its first meeting. There were nine ladies present on that day to lay the foundation of what was later to become "The Women's Guild". The charter members were:

Elbes DerBoghosian, Chairman
Yeranig Kezerian, Vice-Chairman
Vartouhie Movsesian, Secretary
Koharig Movsesian, Treasurer
Yeranig Geogorian
Lucia Tashjian
Zimrout DerBogosian
Araxie Derderian
Almas Chooljian

These women pledged themselves to strengthen and increase their membership in order to obtain a church of their own. Before St. Gregory's was purchased, many gatherings took place under the sponsorship of both the Parish Council and The Women's Guild. Church services continued at the Trinity Episcopal Church whenever a visiting Armenian priest was available. The devotion and tenacity of the Ladies Guild became the guidepost for each of the groups formed in the church throughout the years.

As early as 1939, a Choir was formed to train young Armenians how to sing the Armenian Liturgy. Rev. Khoren Mamigonian of Lawrence Holy Cross Church encouraged parents to take their children to weekly services at the Lawrence church. Holy Cross' Choir Director, Paul Hagopian, and Organist, Miss Angelina Hagopian, helped Haverhill's new choir learn the sequence of prayer and music that form the creation of the Holy Badarak.

On July 6, 1943, the Parish of Apostolic Armenians of Haverhill purchased St. John's Episcopal Church at Crescent Place and Main Street, which was the fifth meetinghouse of the original settlers of Haverhill, dating back to 1640.

The fifth meetinghouse, (now St. Gregory's), was the first building commissioned to Alpheus Cary Morse, a Haverhill native. When rebuilt after a disastrous fire on New Year's day, 1847, the church faced south toward GAR Park, but was raised and turned around to face

Summer Street in 1884. St. Gregory's is one of the earliest examples of the Round-arched or Romanesque Style in America.

The bell hanging in the tower, nearly 70 feet above the vestibule floor, is the original 43 1/2 inch bronze bell cast by George H. Holbrook of East Medway, Mass. in 1848. The organ is a small, dual manual, 10 rank tracker organ built in 1884 by George H. Ryder of Boston. This instrument, distinguished by its victorian walnut case, was installed in the Masonic Hall in Haverhill until 1917, when it was purchased by the First Parish.

The Armenian Parish recognized the beauty of the church and kept many of its features. However, a major renovation of the interior was necessary in order to conform to the regulations of the Armenian Church. Gathering all their resources, the Parish began a program of construction which lasted two years.

Renovations began in 1944 with the Khoran, the most important liturgical place within the church. The curved altar rail and the bema, (the enclosure around the altar), were built and gifted by the Krikor Derderian family. The altar was carved in American red gumwood by the noted Armenian cabinetmaker, Garabed Najarian of Somerville.

Upon completion of the altars, the Parish Council arranged for one of the most holy of all services -- the consecration of a new church. His Eminence, Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, Primate of the North American Diocese at that time, consecrated St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church on December 23, 1945. The Godfather of the Church was Edgar Andon Movsesian, who named the Church St. Gregory. The Godfather of the Altar was Kaspar Asadorian and the Godfather of the Baptistry was Aram Aramian.

On March 20, 1948, the Very Rev. Fr. Hmayak Intoyan was assigned by the Diocese and accepted as the first Pastor of St. Gregory's. The first celebration of Divine Liturgy by a resident pastor took place on Sunday, April 4, 1948.

As the congregation grew, Mrs. Virginia (Derderian) Deranian became the first Choir Director and Mrs. Margaret (Movsesian) Kazarosian became the first permanent organist. Rehearsals were held at private homes wherever a piano was available. The choir gained in the interpretation of the Badarak until it expanded to include three and four-part harmony.

When Mrs. Deranian retired in 1952, Miss Sue Kezerian took over the duties of Director and remains in that position to the present day. The organist's duties have since been shared by Mrs. Paul Tavitian and Miss Virginia Tavitian.

The Church Choir has enjoyed a special place in the life of St. Gregory's and has performed the celebration of Divine Liturgy for the past fifty years. The Choir is an organization within the church and presents a Palm Sunday Banquet annually. The current chairman of the Choir is Mr. Richard Bazarian. The Choir treasury provides robes and other accessories and is reviewing the possibility of purchasing a new version of the Badarak to enhance the traditionally used Magar Yegmalian and Gomidas Vartabed Liturgies.

In 1952 Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Khatchadourian became the new Pastor of St. Gregory's. Renovations to the church hall were in progress when he arrived in April. This major project took several months at a cost of \$13,500. The principal donor for this undertaking was Harry Rayissian, for whom the hall was named.

Under Fr. Hmayak's guidance, Sunday School was organized in 1950. Approximately 25 children ranging from 4 to 12 years of age were in attendance. Mrs. Joan (Arakelian) Hagopian supervised the teaching staff. Misses Margaret Kasparian, Agnes Tashjian and Marjorie Ann Bogosian worked together to provide religious education to the youngsters.

Sunday School is now under the supervision of Elaine Tahmizian Meuse. There are approximately 15 children ranging from Pre-school to fifth grade who meet each Sunday from 10:30 to 11:30 A.M. The teachers are Brenda Tavitian, Carolyn Howard, Bethany Derderian and Yeretsgin Lana Kaishian. Some of the teaching duties are shared by members of the church community as well as parents of the attending children.

The proper celebration of the Divine Liturgy requires the services of a learned deacon. Haverhill's first deacon, Vahak Bogosian, (who also taught many Armenian classes in Haverhill), served the altar from 1924 until 1983. Garabed Papazian was ordained Deacon in 1959 and thereafter elevated to Arch Deacon. He performed the duties of the church until his death in 1981. Deacon Garabed Loosian has served from 1969 to the present.

Throughout the years, there have been many renovations to the church hall. One major renovation came in 1959 when the Haverhill High School Annex adjacent to our church, was destroyed by fire causing extensive damage to the church. Repairs included a new roof, aluminum siding, new pews, and the reconstruction of the organ. Rev. Fr. Mesrob Semerjian was Pastor between 1958 and 1961 when these changes took place.

In 1967, a renovation project included strengthening the floor beams. In 1978 the hall had another face lift when the Church office was expanded and paneled. The Very Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian, pastor from October 1978 until 1984, supervised this project which also included extensive decorative changes in the chancel and entire church interior.

The most recent changes to the hall began in 1985, when major additions to the kitchen were made and the stairway leading up to the vestibule was widened. The present appearance of the hall is the result of that latest renovation. This extensive project resulted in the change of name. With the permission of the Rayissian family, the hall was renamed Derderian Hall to honor the donations of the James Derderian family.

The Parish House at 9 Buttonwoods Avenue was purchased on June 26, 1970, for the Parish Priest. Rev. Fr. Sahag Kaishian, Yn. Lana and their two children currently live in the Parish House.

In 1965, St. Gregory's purchased the land abutting the Church where the former Haverhill High School Annex stood. The property was paved for use as a parking area, and by agreement, the City of Haverhill has access to the lot for employee parking.

In 1983, the Vahak and Araxie Bogosian Library was established as a repository for all Armenian books, through the efforts of Fr. Haigazoun. Fr. Haigazoun also arranged for the establishment of the Armenian Martyr's Monument, (Khatchkar), standing on the lawn of the church, and dedicated on April 24, 1983.

As the Church evolved, other organizations were formed as a result of the commitment and enthusiasm of its parishioners. When the Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Khachatoorian came to Haverhill in 1952, he recognized the need for a young couples organization. The Mr. and Mrs. Club was established and became a vital part of the church community on September 21, 1955. The first elected chairman of the Mr. and Mrs. Club was Harry Kasparian.

Many members of this organization have been chosen to serve on the Parish Council and take part in the activities of the church. The first woman ever to be elected chairman of the Parish Council was Mrs. Hagop (Anahid DerBoghosian) Kasparian, who was an active member of the Mr. and Mrs. Club.

Through the support of the Mr. and Mrs. Club, cultural events were presented to the public. These events included the presentation of an opera, a number of plays, annual dances celebrating the Fall season, and fund-raising dinners given twice a year. In 1990, the Mr. and Mrs. Club purchased a commercial sized grill for the church kitchen. To this day, on the first Sunday evening of every month, the group provides a supper meal to its membership before the business meeting.

The following are the present members of the Executive Committee of the Mr. & Mrs. Club:

Michael DerBoghosian, Chairman
Margaret Kazarosian, Vice-Chair
Alice Basmajian, Secretary
Vasken Gostanian, Treasurer

Some of the ladies of the Mr. and Mrs. Club began to prepare and serve lunches to senior members of the Armenian community on Tuesdays. Interest in this social gathering expanded to fifty people, and they became known as the Tuesday Lunch Connection, or TLC. Virginia Chobanian, founder of the Tuesday Luncheons in 1991, coordinated and directed the TLC in the preparation of the meals. From the funds collected at the luncheons, TLC paid for all their supplies and purchased new dinnerware and flatware for the kitchen. The funds raised also paid for new chairs for the hall, with the help of the Women's Guild.

The new Ladies Aide Society was founded by Fr. Haigazoun and held its first meeting in 1981 with 16 members. The Executive Committee elected at that meeting remains in office to this day, as follows:

Twanda McNeil, Chairlady
Mary Mooradian, Secretary
Araxie Kasparian, Treasurer

There are currently 11 members of the Ladies Aide Society. Each month they hold a Kheyra Dinner as a fund-raising event. Since 1992, the Society has sponsored an orphan in Armenia. Activities include their participation in the serving of all mourning dinners (Hokejashes) at St. Gregory's.

The newest organization within the church is the Young Adults Group. The first meeting was held on January 14, 1994, with thirty-one adults and children. They have prepared a Lenten Dinner and sponsored a craft fair. The coordinator for the Young Adults Group is Barbara Arthur.

Each year, various organizations donate a portion of their income to the Church according to their financial ability. It is important to note the broad participation by each group in all Church functions and their devotion to the principals of the Parish Council.

On November 1, 1992, Deacon-in-charge Michael Kaishian was appointed by the Primate to meet the pastoral and liturgical needs of St. Gregory's. His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian ordained Fr. Sahag Kaishian at St. Gregory's on February 21, 1993.

PRIESTS WHO HAVE SERVED ST. GREGORY'S

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Very Rev. Fr. Hmayak Intoyan | 1947 - 1952 |
| Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Khachatoorian | 1952 - 1957 |
| Very Rev. Fr. Mesrob Semerjian | 1958 - 1961 |
| Rev. Fr. Mamigon Oskanian | 1962 - 1962 |
| Rev. Fr. Vartan DerAssadoorian | 1963 - 1967 |
| Rev. Fr. Michael Buttero | 1968 - 1971 |
| Rev. Fr. Nerses Baboorian | 1971 - 1974 |
| Rev. Fr. Terenig Kondralian | 1975 - 1978 |
| Very Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian | 1978 - 1984 |
| Rev. Fr. Sahag Kaishian | 1993 - present |

Visiting priests who have served from 1984 to 1992 include Rev. Fr. Papken Maksoudian, The Very Rev. Fr. Krikor Maksoudian, Very Rev. Fr. Mesrob Semerjian, and Very Rev. Fr. Ghevont Samoorian.

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To Their Everlasting Dedication
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Who Through Their Love And Dedication
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A Charter Member Of The Women's Guild

Wife Of
Manoog H. Chooljian

Mother Of
Satenig Walden
Varsenig Adamian
Dr. H. Robert Chooljian
And
Martin A. Chooljian

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Gregory, Suzanne, And
Zachary Der Boghosian*

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Rose Mardekian
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Mr. & Mrs. Edward Der Bogosian

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*St. Gregory The Illuminator
Armenian Church Choir*



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for all of their Commitment to our
Armenian Community.

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And Brothers

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HARRY AND VARTOUHI BARONIAN

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DEVEJIAN

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ARAMIAN

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My Grandmother

SHOOSHANIG DERDERIAN

My Aunts

ZAROUHY HARIAN

KOHAR MOVSESIAN

VARTOUHIE MOVSESIAN

ROXIE SAROFIAN

Dr. & Mrs. H. Martin & Virginia Deranian

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KHOREN AND AMY TOPJIAN
GEORGE AND ALMAGUARD
PALANJIAN

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Serop & Carolyn Minasian
And Family
Vahan & Diana Barsamian
And Family
Gregory Palanjian
And Children

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On Your 50th Anniversary

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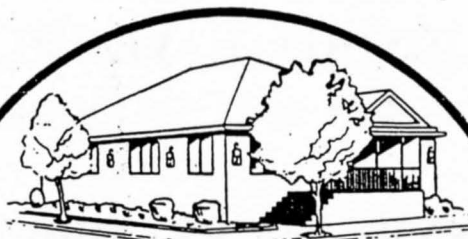
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ARMEN KASPARIAN

And Our Parents
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Karen

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Sue

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Honorees and we wish them continued
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Love to our Mother and Grandmother
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&
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Hovanes Ohanian

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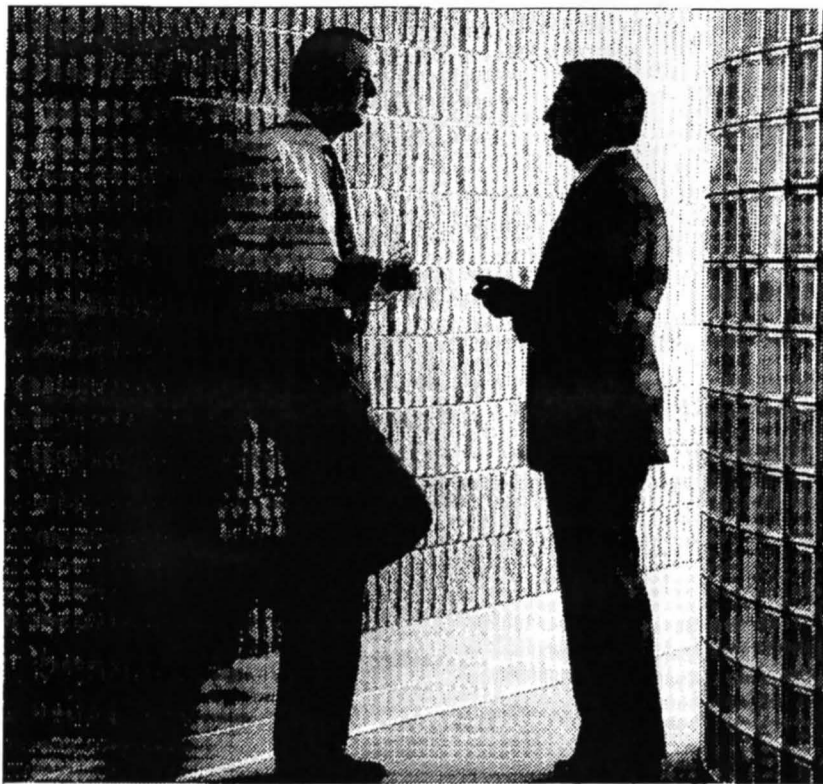
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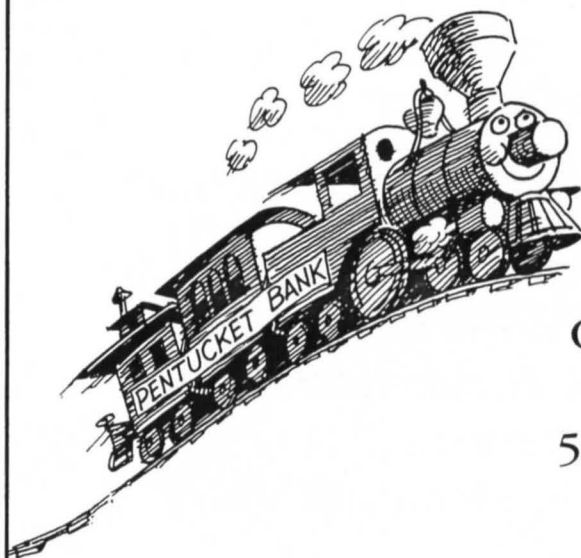
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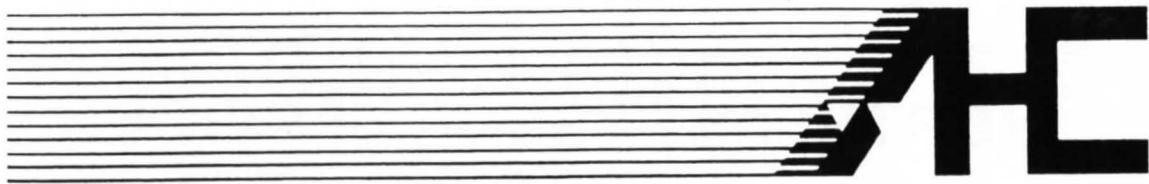
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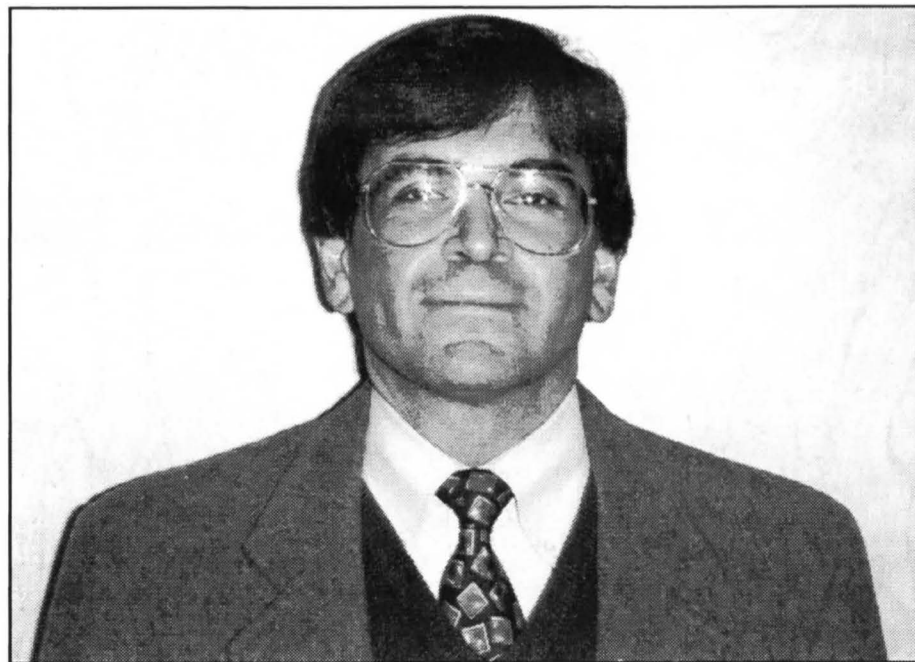
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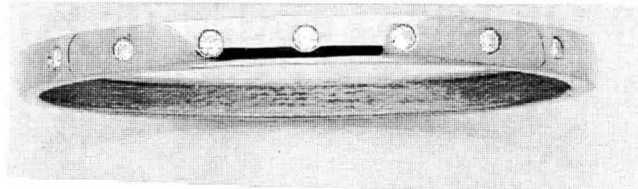
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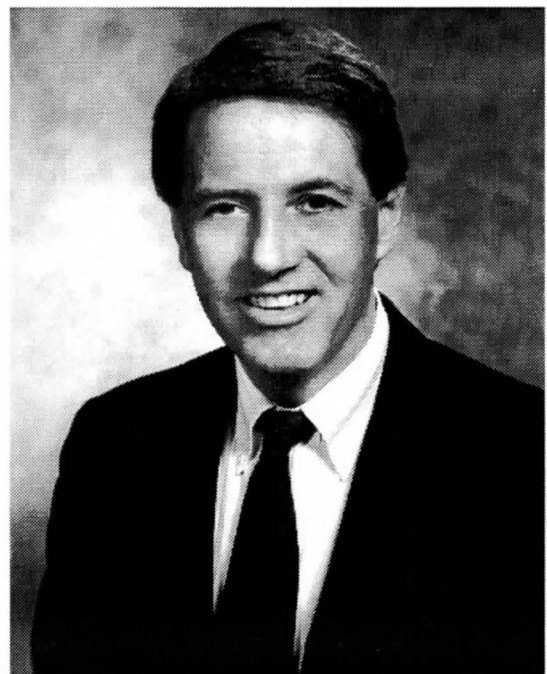
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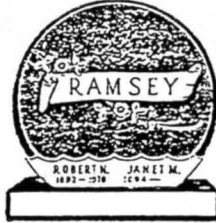
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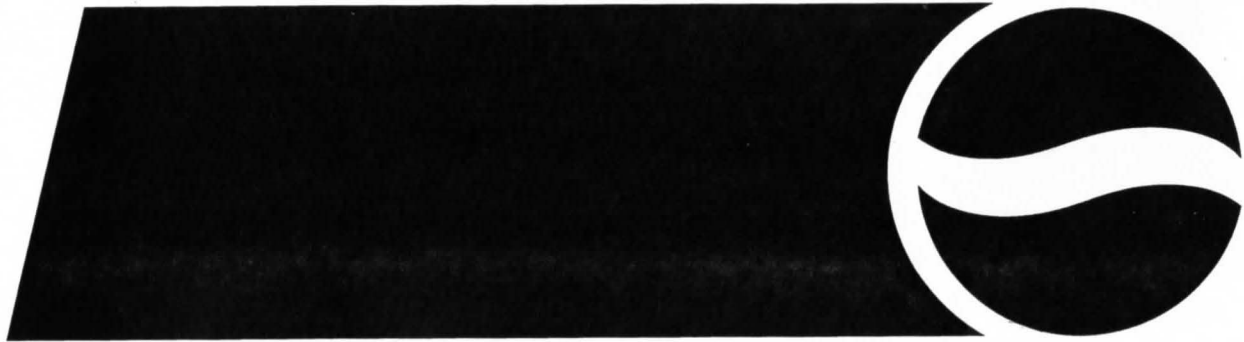


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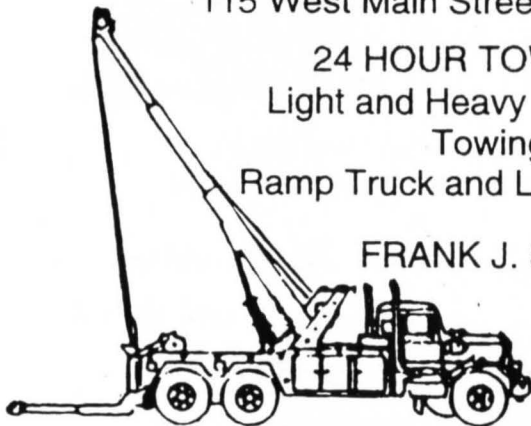
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