

## 1996 NAIRI CHOIR

### ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN CHURCH

The membership of the Nairi Choir is 11 dedicated and hard-working members. The 1996 Executive Body was as follows:

Michelle Babikian	Chairlady
George Nahabedian	Vice-Chairman
Pauline Nahabedian	Secretary
Margaret Sarkesian	Treasurer

### ACTIVITIES

The Nairi Choir held a few informal meetings and several Choir rehearsals during the year in order to prepare for the Feast Days and special occasions.

After several months of preparation for the visit of His Holiness Karekin I, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of all Armenians, the Nairi Choir along with the Choirs of the other area Churches participated in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 21, 1996, at Fourth Presbyterian Church in downtown Chicago.

On Sunday, February 4, 1996, the members of the Nairi Choir contributed the luncheon for the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting.

On the 5 Major Feast Days of the Armenian Church, a special Plate Collection is made for the benefit of the Choir.

A few members of the Nairi Choir participated in the joint commemoration of the Armenian Martyr's Day on Sunday, April 21, 1996, which was held at St. James Armenian Church of Evanston.

Under the supervision and direction of Father Paren, a permanent Armenian Bookstore has been established and is operated by the Nairi Choir. There are books of all types...Armenian religion, history, literature, cooking, etc. as well as cassette tapes, CDs, and records for sale each Sunday after Church services. This is a wonderful means of providing the parish of St. Gregory with Armenian reading materials and is proving to be very successful. The Bookstore is being funded by the Nairi Choir Scholarship Fund which was established several years ago to financially assist in the religious educational needs of our Parish.

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We were saddened with the resignation of our Parish Priest, Father Paren Avedikian, the resignation of our Conductor, Mr. Gary Rejebian, and the relocation of our Organist, Mr. Zaven Dadian. All of these circumstances occurring within a few months has truly given our Choir and Parish a difficult challenge for the months ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Nairi Choir for their dedication and support throughout the year. I pray that we will continue to be a strong arm of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church. Also, our thanks to all the parishioners for their support.

Our financial statement for the year 1996 is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michelle Babikian".

Michelle Babikian  
Chairlady  
Nairi Choir