

## 1985 NAIRI CHOIR REPORT

Nineteen-eighty-five was a very busy year for the Nairi Choir with many highs, and thankfully, not too many lows. We opened our year with a bank balance of \$206.61. Our choir membership began and ended with 24 active members, including one Jr. Choir Member. Although the membership did not grow, it remained solid with individuals dedicated to the goals and objectives of an Armenian Church Choir.

Although rehearsals with Dr. Yazijian, Choirmaster, are usually conducted only on the second Tuesday of each month, the choir still meets regularly every Tuesday working on new songs and problem areas. Because most of the choir members are also the core individuals who seem to be here (church) all the time, rehearsals were all but suspended during the time of our annual picnic (approx. a month and a half).

The Executive Committee met five (5) times during the year. Meetings were also held at choir rehearsals when the need arose. The Executive Committee for 1985 was as follows:

Georgette L. Mrofcza, Chairperson  
Garo Dadian, Vice-Chairperson  
Cynthia Paklaian, Secretary  
Michelle Babikian, Treasurer  
Silva Karachorlu, Advisor  
Gary Rejebian, Publicity Director

In addition to serving at all Badaraks and all feast-day celebrations, the Nairi Choir sang requiem services for 2 funerals, Mrs. Esther Altounian and Mr. John Dadian, and partook and/or sponsored the following activities.

In January, the choir served the luncheon at the Annual Parish Assembly, As always, members of the choir donated the luncheon.

On March 2, 1985, the choir conducted the Organ Dedication. Following Saturday night Badarak and a blessing of the organ by Rev. Fr. Vahram Hazarian, an organ recital was given by Ms. Rebecca Kay Ruehrdanz. Ms. Ruehrdanz holds a master's degree in Performance from the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY and has studied in Vienna and performed in Europe and the United States. A social followed the recital in the church cultural hall.

On April 24, 1985 the Nairi Choir joined with our sister churches to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide at the Daley Center in downtown Chicago. This commemoration was attended by approximately 1,000 people. The choirs sang Der Getso and Hayr Mer.

The Nairi Choir performed the chorale entertainment at the June 9th celebration of St. Gregory the Illuminator name-day attended and officiated by His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian.

The choir embarked on a new project this year and combined fellowship-work with pleasure and visited our sister church in Belleville, IL, Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church at each individual members' own expense. On Saturday, June 22, thirty (30) people, including choir members, their spouses and friends boarded a Greyhound Bus and headed their sights south. We attended a night baseball game of the Chicago

Cubs vs. the St. Louis Mets with parishoners from the Holy Shoghagat Church and although we lost the game, we won the hearts of the Belleville community Sunday morning when the Nairi Choir sang the Badarak which was officiated by Rev. Fr. Vahram Hazarian. Following a luncheon given by the parish in our honor, the voices of Nairi Choir resounded in a moving chorale program conducted by Dr. Yazijian. A very tired group returned to Chicago late Sunday evening, but all who attended agreed it was an experience never to be forgotten.

On November 3, 1985, the Nairi Choir held it's 4th Anniversary Celebration Dinner and Musical Program under the direction of our Choirmaster, Dr. Hampar Yazijian. This affair was attended by approximately 100 people in the church's cultural hall.

Ms. Cynthia Paklaian and myself attended the 39th Assembly of the Association of Armenian Church Choirs of America held in Houston, TX on November 8, 9, and 10. Besides making a brief presentation on the 40th Assembly to be held and sponsored by the Nairi Choir October 31-November 2, 1986 at the Chicago O'Hare Mariott Hotel, the Nairi Choir was over-whelmingly honored at the Saturday night banquet by being named the recipient of the Gomidas Vartabed Award. This award is presented to the most outstanding choir in the Diocese who best fulfills the requirements and standards set forth by the Association. The choir is selected by the Primate and the Central Council. I only wish every member of our parish could have experienced our great honor and exhilaration as his Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian presented me with the award. The Nairi Choir hopes to live up to the honor and not rest on its laurels and continue to strive to bring beauty to this community through Armenian Church and folk music.

In December, the choir joined the Parish at it's annual Tree-Trimming Party and led the children, ages young and old, in the singing of Christmas songs and carols.

The choir ended the year with a bank balance of \$527.76. According to our By-Laws, we are retaining \$200 to open the year 1986 and are turning over to the Parish Council \$327.76. The organ fund as of January 1, 1985 contained \$4,988.40. The fund earned \$879.83 in receipts and interest. The fund paid out \$269 for Organ Recital expenses. The ending balance as of December 31, 1985 was \$5,599.23.

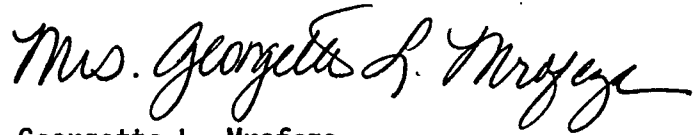
The choir retained the organ fund throughout the year with the intent of expending remaining funds on a choir closet/wardrobe and organ speakers. At the request of the Parish Council, the choir postponed plans to construct and pay for a wardrobe, so that it's construction could be coordinated with those efforts of the Building/Renovation Committee. Initial inquiries into speakers for the organ did not result in a final decision as there will no doubt be a need for reconstruction within the church.

At the year-end annual membership meeting held Tuesday, January 14, 1986, the Nairi Choir directed the Choir Chairperson to appeal to the Parish Council that we be allowed to retain the organ fund in a high yield account until the matters of the wardrobe and speakers are resolved, at which time the remaining funds will be turned over to the Parish Council to be placed in the Reserve Fund of the parish.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rev. Fr. Vahram Hazarian and the Parish Council for their continued support in all the efforts of the choir--both spiritually and monetarily. We look forward to their continued support during

1986 as we face such a challenging year with many important goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mrs. Georgette L. Mrofcza". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Georgette L. Mrofcza  
Chairperson  
Nairi Choir

Attachments: