

Nairi **Choir**

ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN CHURCH

Looking back over the activities of the Nairi Choir for 1987, I am reminded of the hard work and dedication these 25 members contribute to St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church. Our membership decreased by 3 members from 1986. Ms. Sharon Battle became a full-time Sunday School teacher. Mrs. Takhouhi Paloyan, a pillar of our choir, has been unable to participate because of family illness and she is missed by us all. Mr. Charles Babikian is taking some time off, but we hope he will be able to rejoin us for he too is sorely missed. We wish these individuals God's strength and guidance.

The 1987 Executive Body was as follows:

Mrs. Georgette L. Mrofcza, Chairman
Mr. George Nahabedian, Vice-Chairman
Ms. Cynthia Paklaian, Secretary
Ms. Michelle Babikian, Treasurer
Ms. Shnorik Hitik, Advisor

The choir conducted 5 full membership meetings and met for rehearsals approximately twice a month under the direction of Dr. Hampar Yazijian, with the exception of July and August.

We opened our year on January 1, 1987 with \$8,405.31. This figure included \$7,956.37 which was our carry over receipts from the 1986 40th Annual Assembly of the Association of Armenian Church Choirs of America. A complete financial statement is attached.

ACTIVITIES

On February 1, 1987 members of the choir contributed the luncheon for the annual parish assembly.

On April 4, 1987 the choir hosted a workshop conducted by St. Nersess Seminarian Michael Findikyan on Holy Week and Its Commemoration in the Armenian Church. The 15 participants enjoyed the Bible study on the account of Holy Week and the opportunity to meet Michael and to hear more about our Seminary. Saturday evening's scheduled Fish-Fry was cancelled, however, choir members dined Michael at Sayat Nova and then thrilled him to Chicago's view from the Sear's Tower.

On Saturday, May 30, 38 bowlers turned out for the Third Annual Candlelight Bowl while about 10 friends cheered on. This affair is always a lot of fun and everyone is encouraged to strike out for a good time next year.

Because the Halloween Party in '86 during the '86 AACCA Assembly was such a success, we had planned to make this an annual event. However, due to the wedding of 2 choir members, Ms. Sona Yazijian and Mr. Gary Rejebian, on Saturday, October 31, the party was cancelled. Instead, the Nairi Choir members joined members of the Kousan Choir

of St. James Armenian Church of Evanston in singing the Marriage Ceremony at the Northwestern University Chapel in Evanston. Members who attended were impressed how beautiful the music sounded in such well-acousticed structure.

Mr. Garo Dadian and Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza were delegates to the 41st Annual A.A.C.C.A. Assembly hosted by St. John's Komitas Choir of Southfield, MI on November 13-15, 1987. One of the high points of the week-end was the Armenian Heritage Collection, a presentation of Armenian history via music, slides and costume.

In celebration of the choir's 6th Anniversary, Rev. Fr. Carnig Hallajian of New Jersey was invited to conduct an Instructional Badarak assisted by Rev. Fr. Vahram Hazarian. This was a "patz" (open) Badarak where explanations were given by choir members at various points. This service was well received and we were encouraged by Der Carnig to do this several times throughout the year as there is so much to absorb in one service. Divine Liturgy was followed by an anniversary dinner. The day's program included a musical program by the Nairi Choir and debuted Master Gregory Mrofcza on the piano. The choir also initiated its Grand Piano Lottery, selling piano keys for a cash pay-out. A special thank-you goes to Mr. George Nahabedian who served as Master of Ceremony and raised over \$1,000 on the candlelighting ceremony. The guest speaker was Rev. Fr. Carnig Hallajian who spoke on the work of St. Nersess Seminary.

Well into the holiday spirit, the Nairi Choir threw a Christmas Party at Cafe Phoenicia. Sixty people attended had chicken & lamb kebab dinner and danced to Armenian music. A special thank you goes to the ladies who originated the idea and donated time and assumed some of the cost for this affair--Mrs. Pauline Nahabedian and Mrs. Dorothy Koresian.

The Nairi Choir, in cooperation and under the guidance of the Parish Priest and Parish Council is very happy to announce the establishment of a Nairi Choir Scholarship Fund. This fund will be available to qualifying individuals for financial assistance in attending church related training programs such as Choir Workshops, Choirmasters and Organists Training Programs, Deacon Training Programs and the St. Nersess Study Programs and the like. Pending the final approval of the Parish Council, we will be opening the fund with a beginning investment of \$2,500.

Although at times it may seem that progress is slow and even backwards, our choir should be proud of its progress. Growth can be measured in many ways. In 7 years we have gone from a hand-ful of singers to a strong, working organization as well as a well-toned choir. Nationally, we have also gained recognition winning the Gomidas Vartabed Award in 1985 and this year our choir was recognized by the election of myself to the Central Council of the AACCA.

It is my hope that the new Executive Body will continue to work we have started--bringing religious and cultural education to this parish. The Nairi Choir recognizes the great need for this and will once again begin to form a Jr. Choir with the Sunday School children with Ms. Cynthia Paklaian serving as instructor.

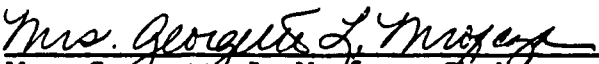
I would like to thank everyone for all the support they have given me as Chairman over the past six years. I pray we continue to be a strong arm of St. Gregory. I'd like to thank my Executive Body for their hard work and support. A special thank you goes to Ms. Michelle Babikian for her excellent job of Treasurer who always made my reporting work an ease. To my family--especially my husband John--who understands my commitment to the Nairi Choir of St. Gregory--thank you from deep in my heart for your support, love and encouragement.

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1987 Nairi Choir Annual Report

We close our books this year with \$200 as is allowed by AACCA By-Laws. We are presenting a check in the amount of \$986.85 to the Parish Council with our best wishes and continued support.

Respectfully submitted,


Mrs. Georgette L. Mrdca, Chairman
February 7, 1988

Attachments