

December 5, 1997

The Women's Guild of the St. Gregory Armenian Church of Binghamton had a very busy year. Much credit goes to the women of our church (members and non-members) and Deacon George Devejian who have always been available to assist Women's Guild and the church whenever asked.

Our first meeting in January, 1997 was a potluck luncheon with surprise gifts given to the members and Diratzoo. Our first function commenced with Armenian Christmas dinner, January 5, 1997 and continued on with plans for Women's Saints Day which was to have been celebrated in Watervliet, NY. We had ten women prepared to leave for Watervliet but due to a death of a founding member of the church, the host parish canceled out for this year. But in its stead Diratzoo arranged for our group to visit and conduct Women's Saints Day services at the Transfiguration Monastery in Windsor, NY, at which time approximately ten people attended.

On March 7, 1997 our church hosted the South Side Ecumenical Council and our ladies prepared a beautiful selection of delicacies for all of those present. Again in March, the women of our church put on the Mid-Lenten dinner.

Celebrating Easter, on March 30, 1997 we started a new trend by displaying Easter choreg in containers donated by the Giant and Price Chopper. We sold the choreg and offered cheese, coffee, and eggs that came from the traditional egg-cracking.

The Margaret Medzigian memorial dinner took place on April 20. The dinner was donated by Michael Medzigian and family and assisted by all the women of the Guild that were present.

Early May, Adrienne, Aristaks, Arslan Kachadourian, and I attended the Diocesan Assembly in Cleveland, OH.

As has been a custom for a few years, the women held their final assembly before summer break in June, at the Roaring Fork. At which time Parish Council President Dr. Garabed Fattel was present and spoke briefly to us.

Another trip in July was put together by Diratzoo and a small group of our women went to the St. Tikon's Monastery in Pennsylvania. The women who participated and related their beautiful experience along with a memorable trip.

We returned in the fall prepared to attend the ordination ceremony of Deacon Michael Findikyan at the Diocese in New York City. Although many traveled to NYC in their own cars, one of our own women, Virginia Terrell, did a commendable job by arranging a bus trip for us. She took reservation, planned the refreshments, and made sure we were always together. It was a great trip and Ginny was fantastic in her role of keeper.

Two short weeks later Araxie Shahinian, in an almost one man operation put on the October 5th Women's Guild dinner. We ate the best chicken ever! Many praises to Araxie who put her ailments aside to serve her church.

In November, 1997, Rev. Daniel Findikyan celebrated his first Badarak in Binghamton. At which time a member of Women's Guild, Corinne Farrell, took the responsibility of chairman for the beautiful banquet following Badarak.

At our last meeting in November, Manoosh Seraydarian brought to us 19 copies of Alice Frank Tashjians' books Silences that were donated to Women's Guild by Alice. The book is about stories told to her by her mother about the atrocities she suffered during the Turkish Massacre.

December 1, a congenial group of our women assembled again at the church to prepare the bourma for our bake sale on December 5. To date, this has become our biggest money maker for the Women's Guild. The participation of all, including the donors, was remarkable.

Rose Ketchoyian and Lucine Czentendry worked on the Christmas Forest at Roberson. Lucine made a donation to Women's Guild, an Armenian doll dressed in the native Armenian costume. This too was displayed at Roberson along with other Armenian Christmas artifacts.

In closing, I wish to thank all of the women of the Guild whose names have not been mentioned but who are the unsung heroes of this Guild. They have worked cooperatively to help their church and to strengthen the Guild.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Louise Kachadourian Kontos