

BUILDING FUND COMMITTEE

1974 ANNUAL REPORT

The Westchester Armenian Church Building Committee was appointed early in 1974 following the election of the council members. Initially, the building fund committee consisted of the council members themselves as follows:

Edward S. Dorian, Chairman
George Sanossian
George Davidian
Menas Daderian
Pauline Babakian
George Guendjoian
Edward Essayan
Gary Bashian
Harry Abajian
David Davidian
Apkar Omartian

Later in the year, two of the above-mentioned council members were replaced by the following:

Berge Derdarian
Zaven Adourian

In addition, the fund raising committee was enlarged so as to include the following:

Jack Avedisian
John Babakian
Rose Darien
Barbara Dorian
Leo Hagopian
Richard Sarkisian
Jeanette Smith
John Vakasian

In the early days of the campaign, the contributions were made by the council members listed above. No other attempts were made to raise funds until we had received approval from the parish assembly to put a bid on a piece of property in Harrison, New York. This was done in Oct. of 1974.

Since we now have a specific proposal and a piece of property approved by the assembly, the committee felt that it could, at long last, make an effective fund raising campaign. During the ensuing 90 days, the committee raised in total approximately \$25,000.

Westchester Armenian Church has been blessed with a benefactor, Mr. Souren Fesjian, who has offered to provide the building fund \$5,000 for each \$10,000 that has been raised by the building fund committee. Accordingly, in keeping with his promise, Mr. Fesjian has thus far contributed \$10,000 to the building fund committee, thereby, bringing the total amount raised to exactly \$34,380.86.

The property that was bid upon was a parcel of $6\frac{1}{2}$ acres in Harrison, New York which included a house. The price of the property and the building was \$225,000 which we were required to raise by the 15th of December 1974. Needless to say, we were unable to raise that large sum

of money during that short period of time. However it should also be noted that the AGAU in Westchester has informed the council of the Armenian Church in Westchester that they have a piece of property in Yonkers New York which is now for sale and they have promised to give 75% of the proceeds from the sale of this property to the Armenian Church of Westchester. At their request, we have had the property appraised and have been told that it has a value of approximately \$37,000. In addition, the AGAU has received from the insurance company approximately \$20,000 as a result of a fire causing total loss of the building that was on the property just recently. Accordingly, the total amount that would be given to the Armenian Church of Westchester is 75% of \$57,000 which totals about \$43,000. In addition as noted above, Mr. Fesjian had promised to donate to the Armenian Church of Westchester \$50,000. Both the Mr. Fesjian offer as well as the donation by the AGAU were conditioned on the fact that the Armenian Church group of Westchester raise \$100,000 wholly apart from their respective contributions. In other words, if the community were to ~~donate~~ ^{raise} \$100,000, we would receive in addition to this amount \$50,000 from Mr. Fesjian and another \$43,000 from the AGAU making a total of \$193,000. Accordingly, our purpose in seeking a piece of property at a cost of approximately \$225,000 was based upon this background. For our goal in Oct. was, in fact, to raise \$100,000 and we were able to raise \$25,000.

Inasmuch as we were not able to raise the entire \$100,000, we have since ^{had to} ~~advised~~ the property owners that we do not wish to purchase that property at this time and have, therefore, requested them to refund our down payment of \$22,500.

The assembly has approved our purchase of this property and we have not been able to raise the funds to do so. Accordingly, it is our intention to continue in our campaign to raise the funds to purchase this piece of property if it is still available for sale at the time that we raise the entire amount that is necessary. In the meantime, we plan to continue in our campaign to seek out a church which hopefully may turn up for sale which would be within our financial means. The point here is that we have not as yet made a firm commitment and although we have ^{demanded} ~~mandated~~ of the assembly to purchase this particular piece of property, we are doing so with the understanding that we are still seeking a church and if such a church should become available or we should find a piece of property in a more central location or more desirable parcel we would then go back to the assembly and request their reconsideration. Although we were frustrated in our attempts to raise the entire \$100,000, it seems now in retrospect that this was an overly ambitious endeavor to try to achieve in such a short period of time. We feel confident, however, that given some additional time during 1975, we will reach our goal.

Edward S. Dorian

January 6, 1975