

THE ARMENIAN LANGUAGE AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS

The Armenian Language and Sunday Schools began their ninth session this past September under the auspices of the Armenian Church of Westchester. The Sunday School Classes are still held at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Hartsdale, New York as in the past. This year, however, the Armenian Language Classes are being held on Thursdays at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 130 N. Central Ave. diagonally across from St. Andrews.

The Language School has 31 students which is an increase by almost one third over last year's enrollment. We feel that one of the reasons for the increase is the break with the traditional Saturday morning sessions. Another change is the acceptance of children three years of age for participation in a nursery class. Four teachers are in attendance: Aida Pisani, Beatrice Pidedjian, Araxi Tepikian, and Annette Bashian. Dancing is taught by Harry Tavitian and Steve Sirabian; members of the Antranig Dance Group volunteering their time and talents. Folk Songs are taught by Beatrice Pidedjian and the Badarak by Father Karekin Kasparian, who also provides cultural enrichment through the showing of slides pertaining to our Armenian Heritage. Instruction in language is given from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and the cultural part of the program from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Instructional materials used are acquired from the Diocese. A recent visit by Silva der Stepanian provided the teachers with demonstrations on how to use the Readers, Workbooks, Tapes, and other educational devices. One of our teachers attended the one week teaching seminar this summer and another is a professionally licensed teacher with experience in bi-lingual teaching in New York City. Refreshments are provided by the parents on a rotating basis.

Janice Tepikian is the teacher and coordinator of our Sunday School. This year there are 24 students enrolled, which is a marked increase over last year. The children are taught prayers, sharagans and are given religious instructions according to their age level by a very qualified and enthusiastic staff of teachers and substitutes. They are as follows: Diane Davidian, Christine Derdarian, Betty Adourian, Ara Ishkanian, Ara Shimshidian and Dawn Kasparian. The teachers avail themselves to the CRE training sessions provided at the Diocese on a regular basis. The children who attend regularly seem to be greatly enriched by the experience of going to Sunday School. They are learning in a very congenial atmosphere.

Coordinating the activities of the Armenian Language School and Sunday School is the School Committee, headed by Anita Wolohojian and co-chaired by Mary Hakissian and Lucy Tepikian. Other members of this committee are Araxi Tepikian, Beatrice Pidedjian, Aida Pisani, Dawn Kasparian, Lucy Haroutunian, and Rose Derdarian. Father Karekin Kasparian is president.

The School Committee plans parties to celebrate various holidays throughout the year. They also helped to prepare for the annual Orthodox Education Day at St. Vladimir's Seminary in October. A successful Bake Sale was held on December 10th. Plans are now being formalized for our Annual Fund-Raising Event. It is hopeful that this year's affair will be as successful as last year's Mid-Lenten Hantes/Dinner, which was attended by about 125 people and was socially and financially gratifying.

This year the schools plan to terminate all activities sometime in May.

In summary the schools have been making improvements and are steadily progressing under the well appreciated guidance of our pastor and with the cooperation of everyone concerned.

The following is a brief financial statement of the schools:

Cash on hand as of January 1, 1978	\$ 1,085.91
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Total Income:

Mid-Lenten Hantes/Dinner, plate collection, tuition and contributions.	<u>2,081.33</u>
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	\$ 3,167.24
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Expenses:

Classroom Rental since Sept. 21, 1978	
Teachers' Salaries since Jan. 1978	
Record player, Sponsored Applicants for Summer Program, Teachers' Training Session for two, gifts and party supplies, books and misc.	<u>2,170.33</u>

Balance as of January 1, 1979	\$ 996.91
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Respectfully submitted,

Anita Wolohojian
Chairperson

January 1979