

THE ARMENIAN LANGUAGE AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS

The Armenian Language and Sunday Schools began their tenth session this past September under the auspices of the Armenian Church of Westchester. Once again, the Sunday School Classes are held at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Hartsdale and The Armenian Language Classes are conducted on Thursday at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 130 N. Central Avenue, diagonally across from St. Andrews.

There are 27 students enrolled in The Armenian School this year. They range from nursery school age to early teens. Classes begin at 3:45 p.m. and continue til 5:30 p.m. Five teachers are in attendance: Aida Pisani, Araxie Tepikian, Margaret Chetingaya, Anahid Choukhachian and Seta Sevanesian. This year we are fortunate that two of our teachers are able to teach Eastern Armenian to those who prefer it. All of the teachers are highly qualified and backed with dedication and experience. Father Karekin Kasparian supervises the lesson plan and gives instruction on the Badarak. By singing folk songs and viewing slides along with their regular class studies the children have a wonderful exposure to our Armenian Heritage. Silva der Stepanian is always helpful in our selection of instructional materials from the Diocese and has been responsible for conducting Teaching Seminars, of which a couple of our teachers have participated. Refreshments are provided by the parents on a rotating basis.

Diane Davidian is the teacher and coordinator of our Sunday School. This year there are 26 students enrolled. The classes range from nursery - kindergarten to eighth grade. 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: Christina and Linda Derdarian, Dian Dorian, Leila Sarkissian, Laura Shimshidian, Donna Dorian and Yeritzkin Dawn Kasparian. Some of the teachers have gone 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. On the first Sunday of every month the children take communion and participate in the Church Service. 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 Lucy Tepikian and Mary Hakissian, who is also Treasurer. Ara Ishkanina is Secretary. Other members of this committee are Annette Bashian, Terez Khadjetourian, Alice Shimshidian and Rosemary Coralian. Father Karekin Kasparian is president.

The School Committee helps in the planning of parties to celebrate various holidays throughout the year. This year besides having just a Christmas Party, the children learned Carols and visited houses of members of our congregation. It was a most enjoyable and worthwhile experience. We have had a couple of very successful Fund Raisers, since January of 1979. One was a Combined Plant and Bake Sale and the other a Luncheon followed by the play, "Ser Teh Geragoor". Barbara Koulakjian, director of a small theatrical group, was gracious enough to donate the group's time and talents for this most enjoyable performance, for which we all are most grateful. We are hopeful that this year are closing Hantes will be as successful as the one we had last May.

In summary the schools have been making improvements and we anticipate even greater progress once we are established in our own church. We are grateful for everyone's cooperation and especially appreciate the guidance shown by our pastor. He has held scheduled meetings with all the teachers on a monthly basis in order to resolve problems, if any, and to work together towards an even better educational program.

The following is a brief financial statement of the schools:

Cash on hand as of January 1, 1979	\$ 996.51
Total Income:	
Plate collections, Tuition, Donations, Plant/Bake Sale, Year End Hantes and Play - "Ser Teh Geragoor".	<u>1,821.38</u>
	\$2,817.89
Expenses:	
Classroom Rental since January, 1979	
Teachers Salaries since January, 1979	
Teachers' Educational Programs	
Donations, Mailings,	
Cost of Books and Supplies,	
Gifts, Parties, Misc.	
Fund Raising Expenses	<u>\$2,126.33</u>
Balance as of January 1, 1980	\$ 691.56

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Wolohojian
Chairperson

January 1980