



The Parish Council authorized the hiring of J.A. Kirby Co. to prepare a detailed topographical survey of the property which is required by the architect.

### Fundraising Report

In March of 1985, the Parish Council appointed Daniel Mushegian as Chairperson of the Fundraising Committee. Under his capable leadership, this committee, consisting of Ohan Bas, Harry Keleshian, George Leylegian, Richard Varadian and Alfred Yeznaian, met regularly throughout the year to determine how to raise the monies needed to build our new church.

A letter soliciting eighteen "Gunkahayrs" was sent out in August, but it was the personal contacts made by committee members and our pastor that produced most of the twenty-five "Gunkahayrs" for our new church.

The significant fundraising event of the year was a ball on November 16th held at the Greek church in Rye. The committee responsible for this memorable evening consisted of: Sara and Dan Mushegian, Linda and Richard Varadian, and Elizabeth and Mark Derderian. The many commendations these three couples received that evening were truly well deserved, for their efforts produced a beautifully decorated hall, an elegant menu, and music - both Armenian and American - that had everyone dancing.

When all the pledges were in, Daniel Mushegian announced that \$720,000 had been raised for the building fund, including: \$300,000 from the Tutak family, \$100,000 from Sara and Daniel Mushegian, \$240,000 from twenty-four other "Gunkahayrs," and \$80,000 from numerous other donors. Added to the amount we have accumulated over the past ten years, this brings the total committed to the building fund to \$1,000,000. Without a doubt, the "kick off" was a success.

The Fundraising Committee recommended, and the Parish Council agreed, that pledges may be paid in three installments: November 1985, November 1986 and November 1987.

## COMMITTEES

### Buildings and Property Maintenance

With the assistance of Mike Pisani, Berge Derdiarian and Jerry Ksayian, George Davidian, Chairperson of this committee, has made certain that whatever improvements and repairs need to be made, are made. Repairing lawn mowers, replacing broken windows, mending leaky pipes, and starting the water pump working again after a storm are only a few of the many maintenance chores George and his committee members performed during the past year.

At the request of the Parish Council, George Davidian arranged for the tile work which greatly improved the appearance of the lavatory on the first floor of the parish house. To oversee this tile work and repairs on the church roof, George relinquished precious vacation time and we are extremely grateful.

Despite extensive repairs to the church roof, the leaking continues. The Parish Council, upon the advice of two attorneys, decided last Fall to sue Jorno Roofing Contractors. We want to express our appreciation to Gary Bashian for agreeing to handle this matter without charge.

An energy audit of our buildings was conducted in November by the Cooperative Extension of Cornell in White Plains and a report was submitted to the Parish Council. The suggestions and recommendations are being studied to determine which ones, at the present time, can and should be implemented.

### Stewardship

Chairperson John Boyajian, with the assistance of committee members Ellen Ishkanian, Rose Jaboolian, Gale Perzigian and Arax Takvorian, worked diligently to increase participation in the stewardship program. The Parish Council wishes to thank all those who, through their pledges, showed an understanding of, and provided support for, the basic and ongoing financial needs of the church.

### Cultural Programs

This committee was formed last summer to plan and present programs on Armenian culture and has held meetings regularly. Under the chairmanship of Dr. Lionel Galstaun, the committee members — Alice Basmajian, Barbara Dorian, Nevart Kuntashian and George Omartian — organized the Festival of Armenian Culture which was held at the same time as the annual bazaar and Fall rug sale.

The members of this group have undertaken their assignment with enthusiasm and imagination, and we look forward to the programs they are planning for the new year.

## CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

### Hye Steppers

In September, this group became the latest in our family of church organizations. It evolved out of the dance classes which were held at the church in the Spring of 1985 and were organized by Mary Azarian, with the assistance of Sally and George Guendjoian, and Elmas and George Davidian. These bi-monthly sessions proved to be tremendously popular and participants expressed a desire to continue getting together when the classes ended. The Parish Council was asked for, and granted, permission to use the church facilities for an informal social gathering once a month.

It was decided to name the group "Hye Steppers" and George Guendjoian was chosen chairperson. We are pleased to announce that: 1) \$400 from the proceeds of the dance classes have been turned over to the Parish Council for the Operating Fund; and 2) the Hye Steppers have volunteered to assume the responsibility for planning the Spring dance.

## FUNCTIONS

### Martyrs' Day Observance

Nineteen eighty-five was the year of the 70th anniversary of the Genocide. Within our parish, the major observance was held on March 31st with a luncheon and an impressive program honoring our survivors. Many eyes filled with tears as approximately twenty survivors participated in a solemn candle-lighting ceremony.

The event was video-taped by Karen Sirabian and Mark Kapikian, and, in the opinion of all those who attended, it was one of the best organized luncheons we've had. For the latter, credit must be given to the co-ordinators: Linda and Richard Varadian, and Betty Salbashian, plus the members of the ACYOA.

### Spring Rug Sale

As usual, the rugs were provided, delivered, displayed and sold under the direction of Garo Bashian who, single-handedly, has raised more money for our Operating Fund than anyone or anything else. This annual event, held on May 18th, raised a record \$31,838 (in one day.)

### Testimonial Banquet for Suren D. Fesjian

On June 2nd, with the Primate presiding, a testimonial banquet was held at the Tarrytown Marriott for the "Gunkahayr" of our church, Suren D. Fesjian. Approximately two hundred and forty people were at hand to see the honoree presented with the St. Gregory the Illuminator medal and a "gontag" from the Catholicos. Mr. Fesjian was praised for his encouragement and generous support of many Armenian organizations and institutions, representatives of which were there in large numbers.

The parish will long remember this outstanding event for a distinguished member of our church. The committee members who planned and organized it were: Harry Keleshian, Chairperson, Edna Keleshian, Anahid Birnbaum, Ann Boghosian, Anita and John Wolohojian, and Parish Council members Al Darien and Martha Gurahian.

### Picnic

For the first time in ten years, it rained on our picnic, but rather than dampening the spirits of the workers, it seemed to increase their efforts to make the day a pleasant one for all the brave souls who turned out. The Women's Guild had cooked and baked for a week and their efforts were not in vain. All of the food was consumed. Our gratitude to Paul Bashian, Chairperson, and all of the workers.

### Bazaar, Fall Rug Sale and Cultural Festival

Held on the weekend of October 19th-20th, the annual bazaar, chaired jointly by Ed Essayan and Ara Shimshidian, featured delicious Armenian food, jewelry, handbags and other items for sale. The committee members and all those who worked with them are to be commended for doing so much in so little space.

Since Garo Bashian is a modest person, we will make only two brief comments about the Fall rug sale: 1) he and Ed Essayan are doing something right with the publicity; and 2) the reputation

Garo has established in the community is a contributing factor to the success of our rug sales.

The Cultural Programs Committee organized and presented the Festival of Armenian Culture which included an excellent musical program, art exhibit, display of books and records, and slides of Armenia. All of the artists performed gratis.

#### ST. JAMES CHURCH'S PARTICIPATION IN DIOCESAN AND OTHER CHURCH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

■ We are proud to have two representatives from St. James on the Diocesan Council: our pastor, and the Hon. Vincent Gurahian. The latter was elected chairperson of the Council in May.

■ We were honored by a weekend visit to our parish by His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian on June 1st-2nd. On Saturday, the Primate enjoyed a barbecue at the church with Parish Council members, after which he met with members of church organizations. On Sunday, he celebrated Badarak and later presided at the testimonial banquet for Suren D. Fesjian.

■ In addition to the Diocesan delegate, our pastor and the Parish Council chairperson attended the Diocesan Assembly last May. Several Language School and Sunday School teachers attended the educational workshops. Also, the pastor and Martha Gurahian attended the two Diocesan regional meetings held in March and December of 1985.

■ Our parish participated in the St. Nersess Open House held on August 18th.

■ The 70th anniversary of the Genocide was commemorated with various programs throughout the year at the Diocese and one of our own parishioners, Dr. Lionel Galstaun, ably chaired the 70th Anniversary Committee. John Vakassian was one of three survivors who participated in a symposium held at Kavookjian hall during the week of April 24th and, on April 28th, most of our parishioners attended the solemn and impressive ceremonies in observance of Martyrs' Day at the cathedral.

■ St. James took part in the Diocesan One World Festival on the weekend of September 7th-8th. Three Parish Council members and about ten ACYOA members volunteered their time and effort to this project.

#### PARISH COUNCIL POLICY DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

##### St. James Award

Elmas Davidian was designated as the recipient of the St. James Award for 1985 for her voluntary and devoted service to the church. Among other things, Elmas has served as the church bookkeeper from the time our parish was first formed to the present. The award will be made on February 9, 1986 at a church luncheon.

##### Political Action

In connection with the observance of the 70th anniversary of the Genocide, the pastor and the Parish Council members felt they

could do no less than to urge our legislators in Congress to support H.J. Res. 192. To this end, a letter-writing campaign, primarily to Rep. Joseph DioGuardi, was initiated and mailgrams were sent to every member of the House of Representatives.

Computer

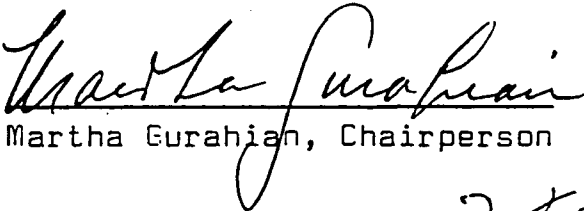
In order to conduct the business of the church more efficiently, it was deemed advisable to seriously consider the purchase of a computer for the church office. A committee will be appointed to research the matter and make a recommendation to the Parish Council.

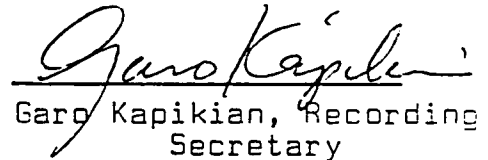
CONCLUSION

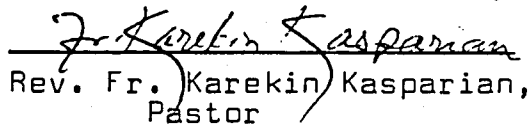
In addition to those mentioned above, there were many who worked behind the scenes and to them, too, we wish to express our gratitude and appreciation. Unfortunately, space does not permit listing all of their names, but every attempt was made by the pastor and the Parish Council to acknowledge their services and contributions during the course of the year.

Furthermore, we remain fortunate in having a church secretary, Helen Galbraith, and a caretaker, Greg Bochow, who continue to perform their tasks with dedication and devotion.

We look forward to another year of progress and growth.

  
Martha Gurahian, Chairperson

  
Garo Kapikian, Recording Secretary

  
Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian,  
Pastor