

ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH OF WESTCHESTER
Report of Parish Council For 1997

The 1997 Parish Council was composed of the following members:

Officers

Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian, President
Ara Ishkanian, Chairperson
Michael Guroian, Vice Chairperson
Lionel Galstaun, Recording Secretary
Mack Basil, Treasurer
Kevork Adourian, Corresponding Secretary

Councilors:

Louise Garofalo, Paul Keyishian, Lisa Kouzoujian, Ara Momjian*, Van Krikorian, Michael Pisani, and Laura Shimshidian.

*Ara Momjian resigned from the Parish Council in August, 1997, and Van Krikorian, first alternate at the election held during the 1997 Parish Assembly, assumed the vacated position.

Regular meetings were held on the third Tuesday of every month. Additional meetings were held as needed. Meetings of the Executive Committee also have been held when needed. In addition, the Parish Council has met with representatives of various church committees and organizations including the Building Committee, Interiors Committee, Armenian Language School, and Sunday School committees.

The past year has been a very challenging and eventful year for our church. Our last Badarak at our Lincoln Lane site in Purchase was celebrated April 13, 1997. A Farewell Banquet had been held a week before to note the passing of an important phase in the life of our church.

Since April 20 our Badaraks have been held at the St. Nersess Seminary in New Rochelle. Our attendance has held up well with the number of worshipers ranging from 60-70 persons per Sunday. On April 20, as part of our commemoration of Martyrs' Day, we were honored to have as our guest speaker Nita Lowey, who is a member of Congress. On Jaanuary 11 we held our Water Blessing Ceremony and Badarak at Temple Israel as guests of a very gracious and hospitable religious community. Close to 200 worshipers attended that Sunday.

During the past year, the Parish Council has had several major goals. Among these were the following:

1. Plan and implement an efficient and successful move from our Lincoln Lane site to 1131 North Street and St. Nersess Seminary. Our thanks go to Michael Guroian and Mike Pisani and their team of helpers for their Herculean efforts.

2. Balance our operational budget by increasing income and holding expenses down. Thanks go to office volunteers Gale Perzigian and Elma Davidian for their selfless dedication, every individual who either chaired or volunteered help for a fund-raising activity, and all the dedicated stewards of the church. Special commendations are due to Paul Keyishian and Irene Shadoian for their stewardship leadership, Lisa Kouzoujian for hostessing two major social events, Paul Keyishian for chairing the rug sale, Mike Guroian for chairing the picnic, Louise Garofalo and Mike Pisani for their work on the raffle, and Anahid Chookhachian and Laura Shimshidian for the leadership roles they perform with our young people, and everyone else who was not cited here but should have been.

3. Successfully "juggle" our church's activities which were held in several different places including Lincoln Lane, 1131 North Street, St. Nersess Seminary, Temple Israel, the Greek Orthodox Church of Our Savior in Rye, and two catering halls. Thanks to everyone who made this task possible, particularly our indefatigable Der Karekin.

4. Keep our church community together during this difficult transition period; prevent the drifting away of parishoners and avoid, or address and resolve, fragmentation and conflict as it emerges. Thanks go to Der Hayr and every individual in our parish who values peace, harmony, and the common good of the St. James community.

5. Manage the construction of our new church complex. Our thanks go to Richard Papalian and Zaven Tachdjian who are chairing our construction project, and the Building and Interiors Committees.

6. Raise the funds needed to construct and complete our new church complex. Thanks are due to Ara Momjian for his work as our recent Fund Raising Committee Chair and to Mack Basil for his heroic efforts as the current chair. Thanks also to everyone in our parish who has responded, and continues to respond, to our appeals for funds to complete construction of the entire church complex.

In closing, I am especially grateful to each and every member of this Parish Council and to our Der Hyer for their tireless dedication, knowledge and enthusiasm in working to achieve the above goals. It has been both an honor and privilege to serve as chairman.

Ara H. Ishkanian

Ara H. Ishkanian, Chairman

Lionel Galstaun

Lionel Galstaun, Recording Secretary

Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian, President

Jr K-K