

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH - TENAFLY, N. J.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE REPORT - 1970

The Memorial Committee has forwarded to the Church treasurer the sum of \$4,250.00 for the year 1970.

This sum represents part payments on old pledges and new donations. 1971 promises to be an even better year!

Permanent plaques have been ordered to replace the temporary plaques on the stain glasses.

We are making every effort to have plaques installed for all donors and where not feasible, plans already are under way to install them in the entrance lobby (narthex).

Slowly but surely our memorials are being depleted. There are still a few worthwhile memorials available and they will be listed in an early edition of our Beacon.

Steve Ananian
Vay Najarian
Co- Chairman

SPORTS ASSOCIATION

The St. Thomas Basketball Team is on its way to another winning season in the Armenian Sports Association League. The work of scheduling team practices, smoothing out our financial difficulties and related problems is handled by our League Representative, Jack Tatarian. Bob Avakian is presently coaching the team and is assisted by Leon Saddler.

Our ten member squad has posted wins over teams from Union City, St. Sarkis, St. Mary, and St. Illuminator; and sustained one loss to St. Gregory in an action packed fourth quarter when the lead changed hands more than once. The success of St. Thomas to date has been due to balanced offensive scoring and an emphasis on strong defensive. We're all looking forward to seeing our team go undefeated in the final four games of the season.

CHOIR REPORT - 1970

This past year our choir has participated in all the Sunday morning services with increased attendance. Our group has averaged 7 persons per week with many weeks during the year seeing as many as 12 to 15 people. This is a marked improvement over previous years. Our only conclusion to this can be that the love of music of the Holy Badarak is an expression of Armenian faith in their Christianity.

Most of the members are the parents of children attending Sunday School at the same time. Young people are still conspicuous by their absence in our choir. But we are grateful for the steady faithful members who attend.

This past year we exchanged choirs and clergy with the Irvington and the Fair Lawn churches. On both visitations attendance was good. We intend to keep up this practice of exchanges in the coming year.

Last January, several members joined the All-Tenafly Ecumenical Chorus in services at Mt. Carmel Roman Catholic Church.

We also participated, though in small numbers, in services at the Armenian Home for the Aged on the day of Theophany in January and Maundy Thursday. There was a mutual satisfaction in these intimate services at the Chapel in Emerson, N. J.

Our altar servers have been growing in numbers: Charles Basmajian, Yervant Kupelian, and Hovsep Nokhudian. They have been attending rather regularly. Robert Varjan still comes occasionally.

Krikor Anoushian has served us faithfully and steadily in his role as Avak Sargavak. Armen Basmajian has been a durable aid and substitute for Krikor. We cannot thank these gentlemen too much for their absolute devotion as servants of God.

Of course, Susan Shamamian, our organist, has been unstinting in her efforts to enhance the ritual with her playing before, during and after the services. Her perfect attendance this last year is a source of satisfaction to all of us in this Church and we are all richer in her unselfish devotion.

In summary, we are pleased as we hope the congregation is, that we continue to improve in performance and enrich the services of our Armenian Christian faith.

Edward Daghlian
Choirmaster

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SEVAN FOLK DANCE GROUP REPORT - 1970

After two years of hectic and tiring activities, we now find ourselves at a stand still. During the whole year of 1970 we were only able to put one performance, jointly with the Armenian Choral group of New Jersey at North Bergen High School, and that with the help of half of the Boston dance group.

Our problems are many and varied. With the beginning of 1970 school season we lost practically all our regular dancers to colleges. Another problem has been the lack of encouragement and support of the community in getting involved with our group and providing us with new dancers.

Financially this group has been self-supporting since beginning its existence and currently continues to be so. We have in our treasury a sum of \$391.54 of which \$200.00 was originally borrowed * from the Parish Council.

We have not lost our hope in our youth and in our community yet. We are looking forward for a better 1971. In order to accomplish this, we need the help of everyone in this parish to urge your young friends to attend our rehearsals. We have something good going for the community, let us help each other to revive and bring this wonderful group back to its prominence.