

1996
REPORTS OF ALL CHURCH
ORGANIZATIONS



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REV. FR. UNTZAG NALBANDIAN, PASTOR
ARMENIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY ASCENSION
1460 HUNTINGTON TURNPIKE
TRUMBULL, CT 06611



**REV. FR. UNTZAG NALBANDIAN
ARMENIAN CHURCH OF
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January 15, 1997

Dear Church Members,

According to the wishes of our 1987 Parish Assembly, we are mailing the 1996 reports of all our organizations.

Please read them all and if you have any questions, feel free to ask them on Jan. 26, 1997, when the Annual Parish Assembly will be held.

I also wish to inform you that the Pastor's, Parish Council Chairman's, Treasurer's and Auditing Committee's reports will be given verbally at the Parish Assembly.

I hope to see you all on Jan. 26th. We need your participation and input in our and your church matters. Also, please encourage others to attend the Annual Assembly.

1997 is declared to be the year of "Mission Outreach" by our Diocese. I pray and hope that for our community this new year will truly be a year of "Spiritual Growth", while we are continuing to spread the word of God and the work of the Apostles.

I thank you for your continuing support and I wish you all a healthy, happy and successful year.

Prayerfully,

Fr. Untzag Nalbandian
Pastor

MINUTES OF THE 1996 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The 1996 Parish Assembly was held in the Agahigian-Sherinian Church Hall on January 28, 1996. The meeting commenced at 12:45 p.m. with an invocation led by Fr. Untzag Nalbandian. Mark Gavoor, chairman of the 1995 Parish Assembly, opened the business meeting.

Elsie Chaghazbanian reported that there were One Hundred Three (103) members who had paid their dues and, therefore, were eligible to vote during the assembly. The number was, thereafter, amended to One Hundred Nine (109) paid members.

By roll call, Mrs. Chaghazbanian verified that there were forty-eight dues-paid members present. A quorum of one third of the membership or Thirty-seven (37) eligible voters were present.

Mark Gavoor and Sharyn D'Urso were nominated respectively as chairman and secretary for the 1996 Annual Assembly and received the unanimous vote of the membership for these positions.

The Minutes of the 1995 Parish Assembly which had been earlier distributed for review to the voting membership, were accepted by the assembly without corrections or additions. Maureen Najarian moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Harry Tarpinian seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

Fr. Nalbandian gave special thanks to members of the nominating committee, Garo Garabedian, Marie Yapoujian and Mark Gavoor for their commitment and generous time devoted to their task as the nomination committee members. Harry Tashian was appointed by the assembly to assist the nominating committee with elections in place of Mark Gavoor who was chairing the assembly.

A second roll call was made before the assembly; Garo Garabedian and Marie Yapoujian passed out the ballots to those responding. A sample ballot is appended hereto as Exhibit I.

The first slate of nominations on the ballot was for the office of parish council. There were seven names of parish members presented on the printed ballot for this position. Solicitations were requested from the floor for additional nominations. The names of Archie Misakian, Randy Sapah-Gulian, and Marie Yapoujian were added to the ballot to complete the slate of ten nominees.

The voting members were directed to vote for only five on the candidates of the slate for parish council, and were cautioned that voting for more than five members would invalidate their ballot as to the election of parish council members.

The remainder of the voting ballot was reviewed. Voting members were directed to vote for three of the five candidates for the nominating committee and three members for the auditing committee.

The completed ballots were collected by roll call; members of the nominating committee retired to tally the votes. The meeting continued with Fr. Untzag Nalbandian addressing the parish assembly.

(The Reports of all Groups summarized in the minutes are appended hereto as exhibits)

REPORT OF THE PARISH PRIEST

Fr. Nalbandian welcomed everyone present and extended his thanks to all parishioners who support the work of the church. Der Hyre discussed the scope of his work throughout the year as pastor. Included among his pastoral duties were four weddings, four funerals and five baptisms. Fr. Nalbandian reported that his duties carry beyond the parish to the Diocese in New York and interfaith meetings in Connecticut, by example.

Fr. Nalbandian highlighted some of the church events and activities, noting that the parish is very busy throughout the year--a complete list of church activities is included in the Pastor's Report appended hereto.

Regarding the Motherland and the Armenian Fund, it is projected that Armenia will need additional support from the Diaspora for the next twenty-five years. Fr. Nalbandian cited the commitment of time and generosity of parishioners as "points of light" for the church.

- * Kim Kasparian and Elisa Griego went to Armenia as part of an outreach program to the Motherland;
- * David Dikranian attended the Diocesan Internship program;
- * Mary Day McGregor became one of the youngest organists playing at Sunday Badarak;
- * Nancy Quinn and Heather Tarpinian became very active bringing their youth and energy to serve the church

Stating that there are many ways to serve the church, Fr. Nalbandian thanked Nicky Taraian for her leadership on the 1995 Pledge Committee which group generated over Twenty-four Thousand (\$24,000.00) Dollars in pledges. The suggested minimum pledge was Three Hundred (\$300.00) Dollars. Fr. Nalbandian was pleased to announce that fifty-seven parishioners had given at least the minimum pledge requested--encouraging everyone to pledge at least the suggested minimum.

The Pastor meets on a regular basis with all church organizations. He held a joint meeting with the Women's Guild and Parish Council to propose that every effort be made to "burn the mortgage". His proposal received the unanimous support of these two groups. From September 1995 until January 1996, over Twenty-seven Thousand (\$27,000) Dollars had been pledged to pay off the mortgage balance and many parishioners had already fulfilled their commitment.

Der Hyre cited Margaret Manugian as the first person to pledge toward the mortgage burning. He acknowledge her as someone who consistently provides an inspiration to everyone by her

example of generosity-- giving of her time as well as financial support to the church.

Fr. Nalbandian reported that Judy Gavoor and Heather Tarpinian co-chaired the Armenian Monument Project. A monument will be erected with the inscription of the Armenian Alphabet. This project, dedicated to the youth of our church, was received with enthusiasm and support. Although committee members originally sought Ten One Thousand Dollar (\$1,000.00) donors, Twelve parishioners had subscribed to fund the monument for this amount as of the date of the parish assembly.

Der Hyre emphasized that the majority of money from fund raising goes to support the building and grounds of the church. The best way to fund the church budget is through increasing individual pledging.

Fr. Nalbandian took a survey of church records which demonstrate that over a nine month period in 1995, an average of sixty-seven people attended church every Sunday.

Der Hyre stated his motto for 1996: See the good, and reach out for the youth of our church. Among the many things on his "to do" list as parish priest, he has established a top priority: to inspire and include the young people in this ethnic community to participate in all parish activities. He noted that there are between 800-900 Armenian souls which need to be reached in the area. Fr. Untzag complimented parishioners for consistently demonstrating that whatever they want to do, can be accomplished.

He cited the many instances where the activities and commitment of our young parishioners and their parents or children, demonstrated that there is hope for our ethnic community to continue to serve and promote the church and our culture. On a broader horizon, he reminded us that two major events are on our calendar: In the year 2001, Armenians will celebrate becoming a Christian nation, and our church will also celebrate the Coming of Christ.

In conclusion, Der Hyre gave thanks to the membership for continuing and increasing financial support, to all committee members for their service and especially to Parish Council officers. Garo Garabedian was presented with the Holy Bible to honor him for six years of service on parish council.

ELECTION RESULTS

The Nominating Committee returned with the election results as follows:

Parish Council:	Elected	Votes
	Richard Najarian	42
	Elsie Chaghatzbanian	40
	Maureen Najarian	34
	Darwin Jamgochian	31
	Heather Tarpinian	29
	Elisa Griego, alternate	23
	Harry Magazian, alternate	23

Nominating Committee:	Elected	Votes
	Nicky Taraian	33
	Herbert Avakian	32
	Connie Kasparian	24
	Sara DerMegerdichian, alt.	22

Auditing Committee

Mark Gavoor	29
Mardy Azarian	28
Matthew Tokatlian	28
Ralph Trapasso, alt.	22

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Gary Donoian, chairman of Parish Council, characterized 1995 as a year of transition. He thanked Margaret Azarian, Garo Garabedian and Nicky Taraian for their dedication and commitment to the work of the church as their term of service was expiring. Chairman Donoian took critical note of the many successes during the church year including the Annual Banquet, 1995 Picnic and 1995 Mt. Ararat Bazaar. The social and financial success of these activities was accomplished by the dedication of parishioners who generously gave both their time and monetary support. Chairman Donoian also applauded the many activities which attract parishioners to the programs. In addition to the long, detailed activity list in the Pastor's Report, Chairman Donoian reported that the land sale (rear lot of church property) was progressing. He commented that there is broad support among parishioners for preserving this asset for future generations by converting the proceeds from a sale into a restricted endowment fund. Chairman Donoian also cited the increases in pledging as a measure of success, support and commitment from the parish community for the church and its programs.

ACYOA REPORT

ACYOA members gave a brief statement of their activities which are detailed in Chairman Maral Nalbandian's report. They reported a successful year. The ACYOA Juniors ended their year with a positive bank balance. They made their final payment toward the group's pledge for the Khachker monument and begin the new year with a generous balance in their bank account. Officers Maral Nalbandian, Hovig Nalbandian and Aram Gavoor made a special presentation to their advisor Kim Kasparian for her many hours of service and dedication to them and their activities.

1995 BAZAAR TREASURER'S REPORT

Nazareth Azarian reported on the income and expenses of the annual bazaar. His figures were reviewed by Matthew Tokatlian of the Auditing Committee and were accepted as presented.

It was noted at this time that all of the food for the Parish Assembly had been prepared and donated. Nancy Quinn, Pearl Katchadorian, Melanie Donoian, Sara DerMegerdichian and Margaret Manugian were thanked for their donation of time in preparing and funding the food for this assembly.

LADIES GUILD REPORT

The Ladies Guild reported that once again it closed its books with a positive balance. From this account, One Thousand Dollars (1,000.00) was transferred to the Mortgage Burning Fund and One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) was designated to the general church fund.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Darwin Jamgochian gave the report as treasurer of the parish. He submitted a proposed budget for 1996, showing income and disbursements for 1995. The hand-out for this report also included a graph showing the sources of income by percentage in a "pie" shaped diagram. A suggestion was made for over/under columns. The proposed budget was distributed to assembly members. A motion which would have required line item reporting for clergy expenses was defeated 8-16-7.

The recommendation by Parish Council for an increase in the pastor's annual stipend was presented to the Assembly and approved unanimously. The increase is from \$28,160.00 to \$29,000.00.

A net profit of Thirty-one Hundred Dollars (\$3,100.00) was reported for the annual picnic. Income was generated from food, the pastry sale and raffle. The picnic was both a social and financial success.

There was general discussion of the budget. The 1996 budget includes increases in proposed pledges to \$30,000.00.

Connie Kasparian suggested a more detailed bookkeeping system that could more effectively reflect accounting for a budget in excess of \$100,000.00. A second proposal was made for having someone assist the treasurer with data entries. During discussion of the latter, Treasurer Jamgochian among others, stated his objection to bifurcating the treasurer's duties. A motion was made to institute a bookkeeping system on the computer while maintaining a hard copy. The motion also provided that a group of volunteers would assist the treasurer with data entries. The motion was defeated 12-14-5. Regarding the first part of the motion, Treasurer Jamgochian stated the accounting was already computerized. He offered to copy his files onto

the church computer so that any authorized parishioner could have immediate access.

1996 PLEDGE DRIVE

Nicky Taraian reported that she had received almost 8,000.00 in pledges for 1996, and that people were enthusiastic about making a pledge commitment.

REPORT ON LAND SALE

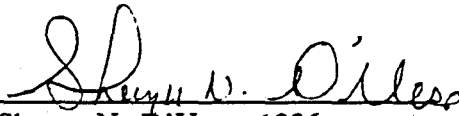
Gary Donoian reported that there was progress with the land sale. He proposed that the proceeds from the sale should go to establish a restricted endowment account. His suggestion was warmly received by the assembly.

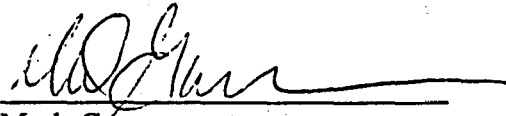
Archie Misakian call for a special assembly to discuss the disposition of the land sale proceeds. This suggestion was approved without vote. Kim Kasparian commented that the land is a valuable asset to the church. She noted that liquidating the land to establish an endowment fund for the church would be a long term benefit to the church since it would preserve the principal of the asset while generating interest income.

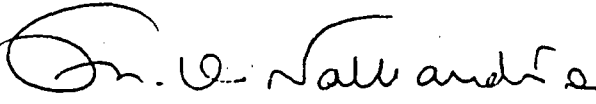
The land sale discussion brought the meeting to a close. A motion was made and unanimously accepted to adjourn the business meeting.

Fr. Untzag Nalbandian gave the Benediction.

Respectfully Submitted,


Sharyn N. D'Urso, 1996
Parish Assembly Secretary


Mark Gavoor
1996 Parish Assembly Chairman


Rev. Fr. Untzag Nalbandian

1996 ARMENIAN CHURCH BAZAAR REPORT

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>RECEIVED</u>	<u>SPENT</u>	<u>PROFIT</u>
Ad Book (collected)	6,060.00	1,055.00	5,005.00
Ad Book (outstanding)	400.00		400.00
Major Raffle	2,375.00	903.40	1,471.60
Kitchen & MiddleEastern	6,176.85	2,940.49	3,236.36
Pastry Booth	1,269.39	168.37	1,101.02
Rentals	160.00	-	160.00
Door Prize	421.00	-	421.00
Miscellaneous Income	300.00	-	300.00
(A) General Expenses	-	1,094.40	(-1,094.40)
	<u>17,162.24</u>	<u>6,161.66</u>	<u>11,000.58</u>

(A) General Expenses

Magician	150.00
Advertising	360.20
Band	500.00
Flyers	19.20
Signs	45.00
Miscellaneous	<u>20.00</u>
	1,094.40

<u>Starting Balance 1996</u>	1,500.00
Interest	20.95
Net Profit	<u>11,000.58</u>
Balance December 1997	12,521.53
Transferred to Church Treasurer	<u>-11,000.00</u>
Reserved for 1997 Bazaar	1,521.53

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Najarian
 Richard Najarian, Bazaar Treasurer

12/16/96

HOLY ASCENSION CHOIR FINANCIAL REPORT

Check book balance Jan 1, 1996

\$1,164.23

Income:

Proceeds from Palm Sunday dinner & plate collection	735.70
Donation	10.00
Bank interest	<u>14.76</u>
Total	\$1,924.69

Expenses:

Bank charges	\$ 24.00
Stamps	10.00
Choir Association	150.00
Church Donation	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total	\$1,184.00

Check book balance as of Dec. 31, 1996

\$ 740.69

Note: Due to excessive bank charges (no more free checking) we have decided to forward all Choir monies to Parish Council treasurer who will keep an account for the choir. The Choir treasurer will also keep an accounting of all income and expenses in a separate choir account.

Respectfully submitted
Nazareth Azarian, Choir Treasurer

CHOIR REPORT FOR 1996

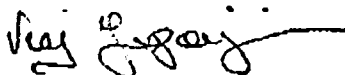
This year our congregation witnessed the culmination of our Der Hayr's efforts and hard work by enjoying the ordination of six new acolytes by the hand of our Archbishop Khajag Barsamian. These six young men: David Dikranian, Charles Garabedian, Aram Gavoor, Raffi Gulbenk, Hovig Nalbandian, and Raffi Vartanian participated in religious lessons given by our Der Hayr and serve consistently on our alter.

The choir has participated this year, as they have done every year, in Sunday's divine liturgy with the addition of some new members: Linda, Simone, and Richard Varadijian, Jack, Fred, and Armand Dikranian, and the the return of our subdeacon, Tom Dabakian.

In the addition to the weekly Sunday Divine liturgy, the choir participated in these special events; the interfaith Thanksgiving service, Armenian Christmas Eve, Armenian Christmas, and Easter Eve services.

At this time I would like to thank all the choir members for their hard work and dedication. Our young organists, Mary Day McGregor, Hovig Nalbandian, and Maral Nalbandian. Our conductors; Virginia Kalfalian, Nazareth Azarian, and Charles Balian. I would also like to thank Garo Kalfaian for his support during the absence of Tom Dabakian.

Respectfully Submitted,



Vrej Yapoujian,
Choir Chairman

ARMENIAN SCHOOL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1996

Since the conception of the joint school system, this year has been a much more relaxed and proficient for the staff of both Sunday and the Armenian schools. Having our social programs and funds combined, we have been able to concentrate on the education of our children and create a healthy learning center for all who have asked and participated. Throughout the year we have reported to our parishioners our activities. So not to be redundant I have concentrated on our academic activities.

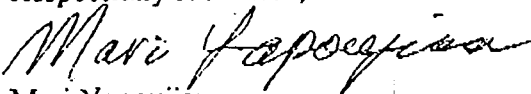
As is the case in most parishes of the Diaspora, our children are of all ages and of various levels of Armenian language expertise. It would not be an exaggeration if I were to say that I could easily designate an individual teacher (given the luxury of surplus of teachers) for each student to provide for their individual needs. Having said that I would like to assure all the parents that this calendar year we have tried to remedy this problem by grouping the children more according to their needs than their ages.

This has been feasible by the fortunate additions to our staff. This year we have: Mr. Mher Yepremian, who has taken over the senior class, where the language is only Armenian and the students are highly challenged. Margo Yepremian, who jointly with our own graduate student Arda Vartanian have taken the responsibility of the new nursery. Mrs. Jenny Vartanian who is sharing with myself the responsibility of the newly formed class of very willing group of students, who having mastered the alphabet now are learning the finer art of forming sentences conjugating verbs: in other words learning to put their knowledge to use. Last but definitely not the least, Miss Lisa Misakian, who has been the builder of the blocks, so to speak, of the foundation of the language school with her alphabet teaching techniques and her devotion completes our staff.

With our DerHayr's encouragement's, our parents devotion and our children's desire we are moving on. Our future plans include a once a month Friday evening social night (suggested by our senior class student Ani Gulbenk) where we will learn more about our culture, our ancient and modern history, and of course our dances. These evenings will be open to all our parishioners. We will have guest speakers and different dance instructors for each session, not to mention good food and good fellowship. More will be announced on this and other activities individually as the plans progress.

As always we are grateful to all our friends who support us. We also can not have enough able and willing teachers who can spare the time and have the desire to continue our much necessary quest. Please contact DerHayr or myself if you can help in any way we will be very happy to have you join our School staff.

Respectfully submitted,



Mari Yapoujian,
Armenian School superintendent

1996 SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

The Sunday School provided religious education for approximately 15-20 children in the parish. Although small in number, the school enjoyed success in instructing our youth about the Bible, Divine Liturgy and the teachings of our Lord. Teaching was given on four grade levels in pre-school, third grade, fifth grade and seventh grade. All of our teachers are experienced, dedicated individuals, happily giving their time to make our school an active, learning environment for the children.

In the first half of the year, the structure of the program allowed for ample time for an opening assembly, classroom instruction and church attendance for the entire Badarak. In September, our schedule changed to 45 minutes of total instruction time. Adjustments have been made to the curriculum, although most weeks the teachers could use additional time. We continue to monitor this schedule as the year proceeds.

The school's activities were accomplished in conjunction with the Armenian Language schools staff and students. We continue to provide the luncheon and program for Armenian Christmas on January 6th, with the children enjoying their annual visit from Santa.

Our bus trip to New York to attend services when His Holiness Karekin I visited was the high point of our school year. The children were thrilled to receive His Holiness's blessings and to hear his message to the youth.

Continuous applause was heard from the church hall when the schools sponsored the Khrimian Lyceum dance group from New York for a Vartanantz Day program. A wonderful luncheon for 100 people was provided, with a musical program of dance, song and recitation. It was a memorable fay for all parishioners who attended.

Our annual Palm Sunday bake sale was successful, with all proceeds going to the Diocese's Department of Religious Education's Annual Lenten Drive. We were fortunate to once again sponsor our Armenian child and provide needed help to her.

Closing exercises were highlighted with a play performed by the students of St. Gregory and his life. They enjoyed learning about our rich religion and culture as well as performing in front of parents and friends.

The school opened its doors in September with the children planting new bushes and flowers in front of the church's sign in the front yard. The students were happy to beautify their beloved church and eagerly look forward to Spring's new blossoms.

We continue to provide the basic teachings of our religion to our youth, and always welcome new faces to our family.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda S. McGann
Principal

1996 ACYOA Jrs' REPORT

The 1995-1996 year was a very exciting and successful year for both the ACYOA and all of its members. Our total amount of meeting was 6 and membership has hit a record high. New members include Arpie and Ani Chaghatzbanian, Richie and Simone Varadian and lastly but certainly not least, the World Famous Dikranian Brothers whose unmatched soccer skills are known all throughout Connecticut. Some of the major events of the year that we participated in was the Bazaar, and most significantly, our annual Christmas caroling trip. We would like to thank Hagop Merdinolu, John McGann, Mary Ann Dikranian, Heather Tarpinian and Richard Sr. and Linda Varadian for joining us. Also former member Christine Garabedian attended as well. The donations from the caroling amounted to \$85.00.

This year, a majority of the members also participated in training on the altar with Der Hyre: Alex Tokatlian, Ricky Varadian, Raffie Vartanian, Aram Gavoor, Raffi Gulbenk, Hovig Nalbandian, Charles Garabedian and the newly included Dikranian brothers made the commitment to learn the Badarak and become familiar with special services as well as the deacon responses. However, how would we be able to sing without strong organists like Maral Nalbandian, Hovig Nalbandian and Mary Day McGregor. And, of course, our advisor Kim Kasparian is to be thanked for making this all possible through her dedication and time spent.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Cartiglia and Aram Gavoor
Co-Chairpersons

1996 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE SUNDAY/ARMENIAN LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

Starting balance (1/1/96)	\$ 307.93
Income	
1/11/96 Christmas Luncheon	304.00
2/15/96 Vartanantz Luncheon	797.00
4/15/96 Palm Sunday Bake Sale	210.95
6/11/96 Closing exercises luncheon	138.00
Donation	<u>100.00</u>
Total Income	\$1,549.95
Disbursements	
1/ 4/96 Christmas gifts for students	111.97
1/16/96 Armenian child sponsorship	200.00
2/11/96 Vartanantz Luncheon expense	356.32
2/11/96 Donation to Khrimian Lyceum	
Dance group	150.00
5/17/96 Dept. of Religious Education	
Lenten Drive	215.00
6/ 1/96 Supplies	23.00
6/11/96 Closing exercises expense	180.43
9/ 1/96 Flowers	19.05
10/31/96 Student books	222.00
11/16/96 Supplies	<u>16.45</u>
Total Disbursements	\$1,494.22
Ending Balance	\$ 363.66

Acting Treasurer, Linda McGann

1996 WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT

1996 has been a very successful year, both socially and financially. Thanks to our coffee hour sponsors and the main event (fashion show) we have donated \$3,000.00 to the church, one of the highest donations for the Guild.

When informed by the pastor during the year, our secretary, Nancy Quinn mailed get well cards to all church parishioners.

The Guild also took part in the following functions: Annual Church Picnic; Annual Church Bazaar; Parish Assembly Luncheon, Madagh sandwiches and the Michink Lenten dinner.

Please see the Women's Guild Treasurer's report for the full financial statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara DerMegerdichian
Chairman

1996 ACYOA TREASURER'S REPORT

<u>1996 Starting Balance</u>		\$262.32
*Check Charges	Approx.	72.00
1996 Christmas Caroling deposit		150.00
<u>1996 Ending balance</u>		\$368.10

*Due to address change, statements have been delayed. Approximation is based on previous statements. Also, steps are being taken to correct check charges.

Raffi Gulbenk
Treasurer

Respectfully Submitted

Kim Kasparian
Advisor

1996 Women's Guild Treasurer's Report

Income

Beginning Balance	\$ 111.30
Bank Interest	\$ 17.21
Coffee Hours	\$1154.89
Membership Dues	\$ 440.00
Gifts to Guild	\$ 595.00
Luncheons	\$1237.00
Coffee Sold	\$ 16.00
Fashion Show	\$1697.00
	<hr/>
Total Income	\$5268.40

Expenses

Bank Service Charge	\$ 23.40
Gifts to Der Hayr and Yeretgin	\$ 80.00
Dues to Central Executive	\$ 120.00
Food	\$ 909.74
Postage and Cards	\$ 73.85
Supplies (Paper goods, etc.)	\$ 44.71
Fashion Show	\$ 454.73
	<hr/>
Total Expenses	\$1706.43

Closing Balance	\$3561.97
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The 1996 Women's Guild had a very successful year. Beginning on February 1, 1996 with a balance of \$111.30 and proud to report an ending balance of \$3561.97 as of December 1, 1996

We will donate \$365.00 to the pledge drive, and, \$3000.00 to the Parish Council. This will leave a balance of \$196.97 for the 1997 Fiscal year.

Respectfully Submitted,



Melanie A. Donoian
Treasurer

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