

1989

ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH

834 PEPPER AVENUE

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23226

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

CHOIR

Choirmaster, Robert Thomas reported there are ten members in the choir (3 male, 7 female.) The choir participated in celebrating the Holy Badarak during Sunday services as well as performing during special holy day events, major holy day celebrations. In addition to its rehearsals, the choir is working on developing a children's choir.

ARMENIAN SCHOOL

Once again, the Armenian School has opened up its doors full force under the guidance of The Very Reverend Oshagan Gulgolian. On Sunday, February 4, 1990 at 9:00 a.m. the school had an attendance of 12 students. The school hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. and from 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (cultural time). On Monday evening February 5th, adult Armenian Classes began.

Teachers for the Sunday School are: Riva Sahhar, Asdghig Sahhar, Liza Bouroujian, Marlene Garabedian and Azniy Amirkhanian.

Monday evening classes will be taught by: The Very Rev. Oshagan Gulgolian, Maral B. Haboush and Yeghia Bouroujian.

The Armenian School will be open until June 17, Father's Day, when school will host a dinner and year-end program. The Armenian School together with the Sunday School will also be sponsoring an Armenian Family Affair throughout the year. The first affair was scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on February 10, 1990 with a get-together for ideas and suggestions. A video relating to Armenian Culture will be viewed. Also on the agenda is the Thanksgiving Dinner/Dance.

ACYOA

The ACYOA had numerous meetings this year. In May of 1989, the organization assisted in preparing and serving the going away dinner for Der Arsen Barsamian. In September 1989, a trip to Kings Dominion was planned but cancelled as hurricane Hugo brought much rain. Some ACYOA members helped with the annual Halloween Party.

DANCE GROUP

The first performance given by the Dance Group in 1989 was at the International Food Festival sponsored by the Boys Club of Virginia in September. The second performance was given by the Dance Group at a dinner in our Church Hall in the fall of 1989.

WOMEN'S GUILD

In the fall of 1989, the Church Women's Guild was reorganized. On November 18, 1989 the ladies were invited to the church for a delicious shish kebab dinner. After dinner, guest speaker Cheryl Miller from WTVR-TV gave an inspiring and informative talk on volunteerism. Thereafter, the following officers were elected for one year terms: Elizabeth Tootelian, chairwoman; Margie Baronian, vice-chairwoman; Riva Sahhar, recording secretary; Azniy Amirkhanian, corresponding secretary; Dale Baronian, treasurer. The first regular committees required by the bylaws of the Women's Guild of America was formed. Donations of \$50.00 to the Richmond Christmas Mother and the Richmond Shoe Fund were authorized. Several events and programs have been planned for 1990.

REPORT OF CHURCH FUNDS

During this past year, Ronald Greene was appointed by the Parish Council to administer the various funds that the Church has maintained over the years. In addition to overseeing the accounting of each fund, the Parish Council also requested that specific rules for disbursement and receipt of each of the funds be established.

Peter Greene and Sam Baronian lent their help in explaining the specifics of each account, including an understanding of the intention of each fund, as well as the list of donors that have contributed over the years.

The report on the following page shows the activity of the five funds during 1989. At the beginning of the year, all of the funds were in savings and loan institutions. One of the initial objectives was to transfer a few of the accounts to commercial banks. Another objective was to consolidate funds with similar purposes.

By consolidating the accounts, we could better define the objectives and utilize the earnings of the accounts, as well as increase the potential earning of the funds. Additionally, the recognition of donors who have contributed over the years will be maintained even if funds are combined, since all known donations for each account will be documented.

During the past year, two of the major funds have been transferred to commercial banks, and the Name Day Fund was combined into the Endowment Fund with the approval of Annie Bickers. However, on an annual basis, a specified amount will be made available at the request of the Parish Council to offset Name Day Dinner expenses.

Currently, annual earnings from the Endowment Fund are used for purposes as defined by the Parish Council. Ron Greene has recommended to the Parish Council that the Stewardship Endowment, the Educational, and the Cultural Funds be combined to utilize the earnings for educational and cultural purposes.

No funds will be combined without the consent of the individuals who have contributed principal amounts to those accounts, and the written agreement from the Parish Council. Finally, once all issues are settled, bylaws will be drafted defining specific purposes for each account.

BOYS CLUB INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

The Church's booth at the Boys Club Festival in 1989 was somewhat disappointing. In 1988, supplies were over stocked even though they were ordered based on past year's experience. However, this year, sales faltered. Also, lokma which had previously been the biggest seller, did not sell well. Previously, two deep fryers were needed and could not keep up with the demand. In 1989, one fryer was sufficient. When the festival was over, potential profit was tied up in \$2,000.00 worth of excess supplies, the largest portion being pastries along with sugar, flour and miscellaneous items. The supplies were used during the Food Festival and other activities.

In 1989, we did away with the pastry booth and bought supplies carefully in order not to have a surplus. However, we became a casualty of some rearrangement by the Boys Club Management. The booth was relocated because the beer and wine booths were consolidated at our previous location. The booth was relocated to one of the two spots offered to us. Neither of the locations looked very good. It appeared that the crowd was mostly at the other end of the building.

Gross sales were \$3,125.00 supplies expense came to \$1,845.67. \$288.00 was paid for 144 unsold tickets (we are obligated to sell 400 tickets), electrical and table rental \$353.00 and commission to the Boys Club which was \$312.50. Net profit was \$325.83. Gerry Sharigian spoke with Hutch. (Boys Club Representative) after the festival for a better location. Hutch stated that he believes that the crowd circulates throughout the building and that one booth location is as good as the next one. He would be glad to come to our church and talk with us about various suggestions. He will be available in February or March of 1990.

RUG SALE

The St. James Armenian Church Eighth Annual Oriental Rug Sale was held on Friday, October 6, 1989 through Sunday, October 8, 1989. This event has become both a social event for the general public and an excellent pre-Christmas shopping opportunity. It allows members of the Church to interact with the community through a traditionally Middle Eastern art form in a similar way to the Boys Club or Food Festival.

This year the Rug Sale was organized by Dr. Michael Vranian with the assistance of Barkev Baronian and Armen Melikian. Through the efforts to control expenses, this year's rug sale was more profitable than the previous year and provided a valuable source of income for the Church. Net proceeds for 1989 were \$17,670.41 from total sales of \$95,952.00. Thank you to all of the many workers at the rug sale who helped make it successful.

FOOD FESTIVAL REPORT

Under the leadership of Virginia Greene, the Women's Guild began preparation for the Food Festival with weekly cooking sessions attended by ten to twelve ladies. Two to three weeks before the festival, the crew was meeting nearly everyday preparing the mailing, taking inventory, buying supplies and preparing the food. John Baronian and Sam Baronian worked diligently in obtaining free publicity from TV, radio and local newspapers. This free advertising helped account for the large turnout. During the two and a half day Food Festival, the kitchen crew consisted to twelve people. By using ten to fifteen waiters and waitresses we were able to maintain a smooth operation and provide good service to the customers.

The festival was held on November 8 for dinner only and on the 9th and 10th for lunch and dinner. Sales total was \$18,804.04, expenses total was \$5,466.47. A \$1,000.00 donation was forwarded to the American Red Cross from the proceeds. A \$10,000.00 net profit was transferred to the treasury of the Church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

Sunday School classes are held between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 12 noon. There are five regularly scheduled classes. Tammy Glynn teaches the fourth grade and has three students who attend regularly. Superintendent Riva Sahhar is teaching the third grade class and has five students who attend regularly. Becky Greene is now teaching the next younger class. Her class attendance fluctuates depending on how many boys are serving on the altar. Anahid Deese and Dorian Diradour alternate teaching the next younger class and have three students who attend regularly. Lilly Thomas had been taking care of the nursery for the toddlers and two to four year olds. Several mothers have been recruited to rotate taking care of the nursery. Denise Melikian, Marion Baronian, Salpi Kevorkian, Anne Norris, Diane Karakashian, and Pam Mazmanian have agreed to assist Lilly Thomas. This new system will start on March 25, 1990.

Mrs. Virginia Bandazian has been asked to resume her classes once a month for all the students. She will teach them about various aspects of the church including church etiquette.

For Armenian Christmas, the children sang Christmas carols. Becky Greene undertook the preparation before the festivities for the children including the visit from Santa Claus.