

WOMEN'S GUILD ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

THIS YEAR'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Hayr Soorp Oshagan Gulgulian,	President
Lilly Thomas,	Chairlady
Stella Bandazian,	Vice Chairlady
Riva Sahhar,	Secretary
Elizabeth Tootelian,	Secretary
Joyce Soghoian,	Corresponding Sec'y.
Dale Baronian,	Treasurer

YEAR'S ACTIVITIES FOR 1991

We started our year in an unorthodox way. Instead of January we started in November with a bake sale. and during our December executive meeting we decided to use the money from the previous years to buy a computer for the church.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Jan 6 The Womens' Guild started the year's functions with a Christmas dinner after church including a surprize visit from Gaghand Baba.
- Jan. 9 We had our first general meeting. The members, agreeing with the executive committee's recommendation, voted to buy a computer for the church with the approval of Hayr Soorp and the Parish Council.
- Jan 20 W.G. prepared Hoke-jash for John Ashjian
- Feb. 2 We had one of our International Breakfasts which featured Syrian "Mamoonia" and other delicacies.
- Feb. 14 We had a beautiful Valentine's Day covered dish luncheon and a short meeting.
- March 6th We had a Mid-Lenten Dinner celebrating Women's Saint's Day. We also participated in the special church service honoring the Saint Sahaganoush.
- March 31 Easter Dinner and Program was sponsored by W.G.
- April 4 Meeting only
- April 20 Mid- Atlantic Conference Washington, D.C. was attended by several members.

- May 2 Meeting and program. We learned about make-up and application techniques with guest Maria Bouroujian Raynor.
- May 9-11 Women's Guild General Assembly Meeting, Tenafly, N.J. was attended by delegates Roxie Krikorian and ChairLady Lilly Thomas.
- May 21,22,23 We held our Spring Food Festival. Thanks to our expert co-chairmen, John and Sam Baronian, we generated more than \$10,000 profit which was turned over to the Parish Council.
- June 1 We had communications workshop with Prof. Howard Garner. We learned about team work, common problems and how best to solve them. The workshop was attended by members of St. Mary's Armenian Church in Washington, D.C.
- June 2 We had an Appreciation Ceremony and reception honoring Margaret Boyajian for her many years of devotion to our church's young people and our Guild..
- June 6 Meeting, program was slides by Roxie Krikorian on her trip to Alaska.
- June 15 Iranian Breakfast
- June 25 Hayr Soorp Apraham Mgrtchian gave a talk about the situation in Armenia and the changes brought about by the new religious freedom. This talk was expertly translated by our Hayr Soorp Gulgulian. Reception was given in his honor.
- July 10 Women's Guild sponsored covered dish picnic at Deep Run Park which was well attended.
- Aug 21 Guest speaker, auto expert, Mr. John Mason presented his lecture "The Intelligent Car Buyer".
- Sept. 1 Women's Guild sponsored a farewell party for Nancy Avakian after the Badarak.
- Sept. 5 Meeting and guest speaker Ms. Monica White and her program was "How to Become an Assertive Woman".
- Oct. 3 Meeting and guest speaker Randall Thomas from VCU. The subject was "Stress Management".
- Oct. 27 Meeting and guest speaker Rev. Denette Slemph and the subject was "Depression".

Nov. 7,8,9

We had our Fall Food Festival. Do to the efforts of Mr. Charlie Evranian, we had great media coverage. We netted \$5,615 of which \$2000 we donated to the Armenia Emergency Fund.

Dec 4 Annual Election Meeting Night. Due to a lack of acceptingnominees Linda Sharigian was nominated from the floor and Virginia Greene's and Salpi Kevorkian's elbows were twisted until they agreed to accept appointments with Hayr Soorp's approval.

Dec. 9 We prepared a Hoke-Jash for Caspar Tarjanian.

Dec. 18 We had our American Christmas Party with a gourmet covered dish dinner and presents were exchanged.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Starting in January Women's Guild took care of the needs of two children from Armenia who were brought here for open heart surgery by the Medical Outreach Program for Armenians in N.J. The first was Melanie Sarkissian, who was accompanied by her grandmother Soosan Krikorian. In May Zarouhi Garadelian came. They were hosted by Women's Guild members. During their hospital stays they were constanly showered with love and attention from our members.

Women's Guild also donated the following amounts to the various organizations:

\$50 to the American Red Cross for Operation Desert Shield to help the local families.

\$50 to the WRVA Shoe Fund.

\$5,000 Parish Council for the purchase of a runner for the church sanctuary.

During the year our Visitation Committee visited the sick and at home or in the hospital.

During 1991 Lilly Thomas made four covers for the Alter, one cover for the Christening Tub and one for the Reading Stand and was responsible for the alter flowers.

I would like to thank you all for supporting your Women's Guild and it's activities this year especially our marathon cooking sessions which take a lot of stamina. I know that throughout the year we have been both praised and criticized for trying to do too much, but when things need to be done we just do them.

My first thanks to Hayr Soorp for his support and advice on critical matters.

Our thanks to Elizabeth Tootelian for collecting the Ukrops tapes from which we realized over \$500.

I would also like to thank our programming Chairlady, Roxie Krikorian for organizing some of the programs especially the Communications Workshop.

My special thanks goes to Joyce Soghoian and Virginia Greene for their unconditional support and devotion.

Also to my mother and sisters who watched my children on a moment's notice whenever I had to be here at church for working, meetings or cooking.

And last but not least my thanks to my children who missed me and to my husband for his unwavering support and encouragement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lilly A. Thomas

Lilly Thomas, Chairlady,