

Parish Council's Report - 1994

Nineteen-ninety-four saw many changes for me. In April I assumed the helm of St. Mesrob Armenian Church. I welcomed the challenge and privilege of being able to serve God and also the parishioners of St. Mesrob. As Parish Council Chairman I was guided by a wise and dedicated council plus a number of elders in the church. I was blessed by all of these experiences. I want to thank everyone for their help.

Father Yeprem, St. Mesrob's Spiritual Leader, has done an excellent job this past year. He has responded well to all of the challenges that he has faced. He has the unique ability to work well with all people in many different circumstances. We all should learn from this talent that Father Yeprem has and seek to use it to help us serve God. We are fortunate to have a fine and very capable Priest in our service.

The St. Mesrob community has continued to successfully carry out her spiritual mission. Our Sunday school remains a pillar of our church community. Other church organizations such as our Retirees Group and Women's Guild continue to grow in the Lord's works. Our Junior A.C.Y.O.A. persist in doing God's work. We also have very strong religious educational programs for our adults. These programs include our Bible Study and Fellowship Group. The Fellowship Group is a very solid program for our young adults. St. Mesrob has taken a major step in providing for our youth by hiring a youth director, Meline Grigorian. Our youth director has attacked the youth situation in our parish and is making a noticeable impact in that area. The parish council undertook a very successful Spring Dance to gather our community. This Spring Dance is now planned to be an annual event for St. Mesrob.

Within all the successful organizations there are areas where **EVERYONE** needs to focus and concentrate their efforts further. Here are some of the areas we should be concentrating on for the future.

- **Choir** - we should be encouraging our youth to join the choir **NOW** so that our strong choir will remain strong. Our youth can learn from the masters in our choir and gain a sense of pride and community in their participation.
- **Armenian School** - we should be looking to revive our Armenian schools to preserve our precious Armenian language and culture.
- **Relations with Sister Parishes** - we should look to cultivate the relations with sister parishes with activities for all ages.
- **Out Reach** - we should continue to reach out to all people associated with the Armenian Church.
- **Community Service** - we should work to develop more community service programs.

- **Hye Camp** - we should be insistent that our children attend camp every year. Many of you have developed lasting friendships through Hye Camp which is a tradition worth passing on to our children.
- **St. Nersess Programs** - these programs are critical in the formative years of the children at St. Mesrob Church.
- **Diocesan Programs** - we all should make use of the multitude of diocesan programs, young and old alike. These include Choir Conventions, Women's programs, DRE programs and Retreats.
- **Senior Programs** - with the largest population of St. Mesrob Armenian Church being seniors, we must look to provide for the special needs of this group such as: transportation, special access to the church and spiritual counseling.

We need to encourage our youth especially to take part in these Christian programs. We must work hard to strengthen our position in these programs **NOW**, not later. There are still many qualified elders in our community to help our youth. We need to create a strong partnership between these two groups. Seniors must be willing to give guidance to the youth. The youth must give these seniors the respect that they have earned and deserve.

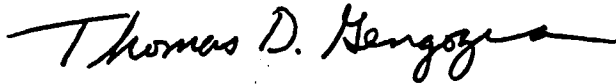
The St. Mesrob Parish Council greatly appreciates the efforts of all church organizations. We are namely grateful for the multitude of works undertaken by our Women's Guild. These ladies make an enormous contribution to our church both spiritually and financially. This year marked the seventh year of the Festival as we know it today. The Festival Committee as always ran another very successful event. This year was the end of an era, one which saw Perry Paragamian retire as chairman, and the beginning of a new era with Gary Vidian taking over as chairman. We, the Parish Council, wish to thank all the volunteers for their service at the Festival. So let's continue to work for the Festival's success as we have done for many many years and will continue for many more.

The St. Mesrob Parish executed a number of large projects in 1994. These projects include the repaving of the church parking lot and the aluminum siding on the parish house. We also completed some minor landscape projects and some necessary repairs and updates to the parish house. These projects and numerous others were completed successfully with the help of our Projects Committee.

Financially, this year was very successful. The financial reports attest to that success. This financial success wasn't so clear beginning in May and running through September when the parish experienced a cash flow crisis. However, we pulled through this financial crisis with your generous monetary support. We will continue to depend on you to support our church community. This year, the Parish Council is presenting to the parish the largest budget in the history of St. Mesrob. This budget will allow us to continue the Lord's work in the tradition each of you expect. We must continue to stick together remembering our spiritual mission.

On behalf of the Parish Council it has been with great pleasure, honor and dedication that we served you by serving the Lord.


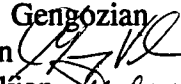
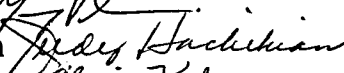
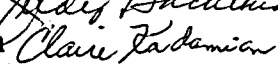
Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas D. Gengozian
St. Mesrob Parish Council Chairman

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 1994

President
Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer
Asst. Treasurer
Advisor
Advisor

Father Yeprem Kelegian 
Thomas D. Gengozian
Gary Vidian 
Judy Hachikian 
Claire Kadamian 
Rick Kadamian
Mary Kaprelian (replaced Tony Ferraro)
George Stevoff

Diocesan Delegates 1994

Delegate
Delegate
Delegate
Alternate

Lisa Akgulian
Sam Akgulian
Kai Kazarian
Murad Gengozian