

PAST EVENTS



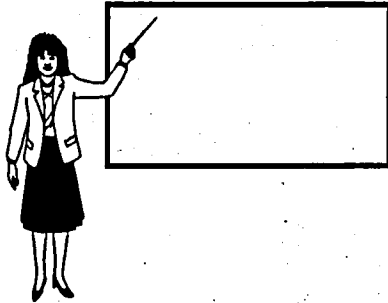
August 22, 1993 symbolized a very important day for Atlanta Armenians. Not only was this day significant as it was the day we celebrated "Blessing Of Grapes", but it was also important since Atlanta Armenians were able to come together as a congregation of the Atlanta Armenian Church Council. The Atlanta Armenian Church Council is a mission parish, which is guided by Rev. Fr. Nersess Jebejian of Houston, Texas, and a newly appointed board consisting of Simeon Diboyan: Chairman, Talin Major: Secretary/Publications, Levon Messerlian: Treasurer, Harry Khachadourian: Ways & Means, and Nancy Diboyan: Public Relations.

The Atlanta Armenian Church Council got started by an independent group who are interested in providing religious worship for themselves as well as for their community. This church council will be an active one. It will strive to provide the community with regular church and religious activities on a continuous basis. With the establishment of a mission parish council, Atlanta Armenians will be able to have traditional Armenian weddings, baptisms, funerals, home blessings, communion services, hokehankisds and other spiritual fulfillments. The church council is also actively working on an Armenian language school for children and adults, which is being directed by Talin Keyfer and taught by volunteers within our community.

Our first gathering for "Blessing Of Grapes" with the preceding picnic, exhibited a crowd of new and old faces that numbered over 65 people. Rev. Fr. Jebejian explained the meaning of the celebration of "Asdvadzazeen" in English and Armenian. Not only was this service interesting as well as educational, it was also very spiritually uplifting. After the service, Fr. Jebejian introduced the parish council and proceeded to the cake cutting ceremony. This successful turnout represents the apparent desire for spiritual growth and fulfillment in the Atlanta area. Thus; with the success of our first gathering, we can only conclude that the need for an Armenian religious organization does exist in Atlanta. Atlanta's new mission parish council wishes to be able to fulfill this need.

The Atlanta Armenian Church Council gratefully acknowledges the following donors for their generous donations to the Armenian Church of Atlanta and for Blessing Of Grapes: Mr. Murat Cholyan, Mr. & Mrs. Simeon Diboyan, Mr. & Mrs. Paravon Dido, Zaruhi Dido, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Dunning, Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Hovsepian, Mr. & Mrs. Albert Korikian, Mr. & Mrs. Norayr Koseyan, Mr. & Mrs. Russell Major, and Mr. Levon Messerlian. We give special thanks to Marlyne Kassabian, Joyce Keyfer, Talin Keyfer, Talin Major, Dzovag Palanjian & Aram Partizian for helping Nancy Diboyan in the kitchen. Our very special thanks are also extended to Vahan Kassabian, Mark Kazanjian, Emma Korikian, Pierre Korikian, Russell Major, Levon Messerlian, Aram Partizian and other people we have inadvertently forgotten to mention by name, for helping Harry Kcachadourian with the picnic. We were pleasantly surprised by the talents of Filyan Dido, who fixed delicious Armenian Coffee and then graciously provided us with a personal reading of our coffee cups. Thank you ever so much Mr. & Mrs. Jim Dunning for bringing in the "hamov" grape leave dolmas - they were truly wonderful - next time bring more!!! Last but not least, our thanks to all the parents who supervised the playground. Much thanks to all of you who made this picnic and Blessing Of Grapes a huge success. We look forward to seeing all of you again in church on Sunday, Sept. 26, 1993.

LANGUAGE CLASSES



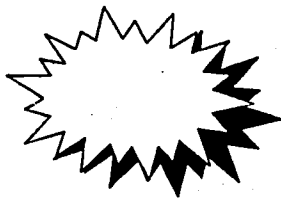
CHILDREN CLASSES: Presently we are accepting reservations for Armenian lessons. We have 15 children signed up between the ages of 3 to 12. If your children are interested in learning Armenian, please call TALIN KEYFER at (404)-262-3160.

We will begin classes sometime in October, giving our children and their parents a chance to adjust to their new school year schedules. Classes will be held on Sunday afternoons at 3:30 P.M., at the Epiphany Byzantine Catholic Church's classrooms. Please see map for the Armenian church services. Children will be grouped according to age and ability.

ADULT CLASSES: We will offer an Introductory Armenian class that is open to teenagers and adults. The location will be the same as that of the children class. If you are interested, please contact TALIN KEYFER at (404)-262-3160.

COUPLES CLASS: Over the years, there has been a growing number of couples in our community with spouses who speak Armenian. For those couples, we are offering a fun class in Armenian conversation. Class size will be limited to 6 couples. Please contact TALIN KEYFER at (404)-262-3160 for more information.

CHOIR



At the picnic on Aug. 22, 1993, we were blessed to have members of our community to come forward and join the choir. The enthusiasm and dedication of this group inspired our choir director, Lorig Zinzalian Smith, to develop 3 separate programs, namely:

- 1) A refresher course for choir members. (Audition is required.)
- 2) An apprenticeship for learning music theory, voice training, Armenian pronunciation and the melodies of the Divine Liturgy.
- 3) A Deacon's Program for learning the musical responses to the Divine Liturgy and its chants.

So once a week, we meet to rehearse the Ekmalian version of the Divine Liturgy (The Badarak). For some members, this is all new and for others, it is a cherished memory revisited. Would you like to make some wonderful new memories? If so, please call LORIG ZINZALIAN SMITH - CHOIR DIRECTOR - at (404)-924-2149.