



The Saints Sahag and Mesrob Church Newsletter

June/July 2009

On Sunday, April 26, Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church of Providence, RI was the 26th parish to receive the chalice commissioned on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the consecration of St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral.



(Pictured here with Rev. Fr. Sahak Kaishian)

The 40th anniversary chalice was blessed at the altar of the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin and used by Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), at the altar of St. Vartan Cathedral in New York City on October 12, 2008 during the celebration of the cathedral's 40th anniversary. It will be used by all parishes of the Eastern Diocese in the coming year.

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Dear Friends,

**THE EASTER MESSAGE OF
ARCHBISHOP KHAJAG BARSAMIAN**

Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian
Church of America

You Are Witnesses of These Things

He said to them, "These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things." (ST. LUKE 24:44-48)

AFTER THE BITTERNESS OF WINTER, after the self-restraint of Lent, after the intense emotions of Holy Week, one encounters Easter with a sense of relief. Resurrection Sunday is, after all, the soaring finale to a harrowing story—the happy ending we’ve been waiting for. Ahead of us, we might feel, lies a bright horizon, free of troubles, where everything will be set right.

This is not just a matter of our own perception: the gospels affirm that something profound and final occurred in the drama of Christ’s death and return to life. “The earth did quake, the rocks rent, the graves were opened,” we read; “the saints which slept arose, and coming out of their graves after his resurrection, went into the holy city, and appeared to many” (Mt 27:51-53). Even the righteous dead arise, to testify to the magnitude of what has occurred. One can hardly imagine a more “final” statement. Where could the story possibly go from there?

Yet, as we know, the story did go on—and not just as a continuation of Scripture. The story continued in history. We inhabit its latest page, and from our vantage we can see that the resurrection of Jesus Christ—assuredly the most important and wondrous turningpoint in history—was not history’s end. In a scene of piercing sadness, Jesus warned his followers not to make the mistake of thinking that his sufferings would spell an end to troubles for mankind. Staggering to the cross, trailed by a company of wailing women, Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children.... For if they do these things to a green tree, what shall be done to the dry?” (Lk 23:29-31).

In such words, one sees that Christ’s life and passion, while serving redemptive purposes all their own, were at the same
Saints Sahag and Mesrob Church Newsletter

time encapsulations, concentrations, of the human condition overall. What was once the lonely burden of mortal man—the misery of every person who has suffered injustice, who has seen his friends desert him, his loved ones endangered on his account, his world reduced to ashes—all of these troubles, were shared, embraced even, by our Lord in his journey to the cross. In Jesus, the blessings of life surely take on greater meaning for us, as glimpses of a kingdom yet to come; but his words leave no doubt that the sorrows of human living will never cease to be ours, as well.

As Armenians, we instinctively know this—and we have certainly lived it. We saw the blessed evangelization of Armenia; but also a costly defense of the first Christian nation at Avarayr. We saw the flowering of a distinctive Armenian culture and identity; but also knew exile and subjection to alien powers. We welcomed a new political reality which would allow us to advance in society; but we also endured the Genocide.

Yet if our experience and theology comprehend this aspect of Christ’s sacrifice, they comprehend a larger meaning, as well. To be sure, the resurrection does not promise us an easy life, free of troubles. But it does promise that the monotonous cycles of security and suffering, of prosperity and poverty, are not in the end meaningless. The world will remain a mix of blessings and afflictions, as it always has; but in Christ, there really will be a final state of peace, where “God will wipe away every tear,” and all things will be made new again (Rev 21:4-5).

Even for the disciples who lived alongside Jesus, these things were difficult to understand. We are told that Christ had to “open their minds” to help them grasp what they had seen. But having done so he also charged them with the duty of remembering, and of acting on that memory. “You are witnesses of these things,” he told them.

He tells it to us, too. Every year, in our Easter celebration, we see the miracle of Christ’s resurrection re-enacted, re-lived, before our eyes. We see life emerge from the grave, hope emerge from despair. We are reminded of that final, peaceable kingdom, where our hearts will find rest; and of the painful sacrifice that purchased it for us.

We are reminded, too, that a foretaste of God’s kingdom exists here on earth, in the Church our Lord established. Especially in an anxious, uncertain time, the church needs to be The Church: it needs to nourish its mission as a witness—it needs to act as a witness to Christ’s resurrection. We will have a chance to do so again, when we sing our Easter greeting:

**Krisdos hanyav ee merelotz! Orhnyal eh harootiunun
Krisdosee!**

Christ is risen from the dead! Blessed is the resurrection of Christ!

This year, let us sing these words with the conviction of those who first saw our risen Lord, who touched his wounds, and responded to the miracle of his resurrection. For in the deepest sense, we, too, are witnesses of these things.

With blessings,
ARCHBISHOP KHAJAG BARSAMIAN
April 12, 2009

Parish Council Corner



...but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13b-14)

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The Diocese of the Armenian Church of America has designated the theme for 2009: Vocations – A Call to Service. This theme refers particularly to the Priestly Vocation. To be truly healthy and vibrant the Armenian Church needs a good supply of qualified and dedicated men who are willing to follow the call to service and lead our church communities as faithful priests. May the Lord send many laborers into the field and may the harvest be plentiful. May our priests remain faithful to their vocations.

The theme of vocations has given me occasion to reflect upon my own priestly calling and especially my call to serve as the Interim Pastor of St. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church in Providence while Fr. Simeon is in Armenia. Less than a year ago, I never dreamed that Our Lord would bless me with the opportunity to serve such a historic, large, active and welcoming community. In the relatively short, three month period that I have been serving this parish, I have noticed significant growth in my own ministry as I am faced with new challenges and opportunities on a daily basis.

As I give further consideration to “Vocations– A Call to Service” I realize that it is not just the priests who are called, rather, each one of us has a calling as faithful members of the church community. We are all called to serve, each in his or her own capacity for the building up of the Body of Christ. And I have seen many examples of parishioners here carrying out their call to service. It is a great privilege to see such faith in action.

For that I am thankful because as we work together in a spirit of harmony, straining forward to what lies ahead, as we press on toward the goal, Our Lord will give us success as we listen to the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

With blessings,
Rev. Fr. Sahak M. Kaishian

We are very pleased to welcome Rev. Fr. Sahak Kaishian to our Church and have found him to be an absolutely wonderful clergyman who has enabled us to continue serving the parish without interruption. We, of course, had to deal with a big change when the Vehapar assigned our beloved pastor, Very Rev. Simeon Odabashian, to spend one year in Armenia in service to Holy Etchmiadzin. While we were all surprised and somewhat apprehensive about losing our pastor for such a period of time, we are nevertheless grateful to Fr. Sahak for making the transition a very smooth one. We are still in touch with Hayr Simeon and we keep him informed as to all the work and activities of our parish. We continue to seek his counsel when needed. He, also, is very pleased with our current situation and sends his spiritual love to all of our parishioners. He misses everyone very much and continues to remember us in his prayers.

On another note, we have gained and lost some members of the Parish Council. We would like to thank Melanie Krikorian and Linda Minassian for all of their dedicated service to our church. We are sure that they will continue to serve our parish in numerous ways as they always have through the years. We also would like to welcome Margie Martiesian and Len Arzoomanian to the Parish Council. These long time parishioners have also been serving our church in one capacity or another for many years and now will, once again, serve on the Parish Council.

Finally, we would like to thank Len Arzoomanian for volunteering to coordinate the publishing of our newsletter. It is obviously a very difficult job that can be somewhat time consuming and often is a position that is hard to find volunteers for. So our sincere thanks to Len and we hope that you are pleased with this publication. Your input would be greatly appreciated and we would be grateful for any help that you can offer us in putting out this newsletter.

John R. Kazarian
Parish Council Chairman



Sunday School A Year In Review

By
Deborah A Onanian

The 2008/2009 school year has been a busy one for the Sunday School – we have much news to share with all of our readers!

The opening of the year commenced on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. On that day we happily welcomed some new families to our Sunday School; namely, Mr. and Mrs. James Surmeian and their son Nathan, Mr. and Mrs. Neil Ali and their daughter Courtney, and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Shaghalian and their son Mark. We also welcomed a new faculty member, Mrs. Dorothy Martiesian, who is teaching the 6th grade class. On opening day the students met their new teachers, enjoyed some time in the classroom reacquainting with friends and making new ones, and lastly the entire school was present in the sanctuary to celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

During the fall semester, some of our students and faculty traveled to New York City to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the consecration of our Cathedral. We are very proud to report that Ms. Lindsay Grant, one of our Kindergarten teachers, was asked to read from the Bible for that special occasion. During the Advent season, students in grades 4 through 7 presented the 6 Sundays of Advent during our weekly assembly time – a terrific job was done by all! It bears noting that due to an unusually high number of Saturday night/Sunday morning snowstorms, we did miss a few Sundays of school this year, however our teachers did an excellent job playing “catch-up” so that the students would not fall behind in the study of our faith. Amidst an early January snowstorm, we celebrated the Blessing of the Water and are proud to report that Matthew D’Antuono, an 8th grade student, was asked to be the Godfather of the Cross. Well done Matthew!

children in Armenia to have cleft-palate surgery), as well as for much needed Anti-Malaria nets for Africa. Between a bowl-a-thon that was held on April 25th at Town Hall Lanes, and donations received at our annual communion breakfast – our parish collected approximately \$700!



In March, a very special and new event took place – our Sunday School participated in an outreach project whereby Der Hayr, students, parents, faculty members, and parish council members helped to serve a meal for the Mary House. We all gathered at St. Patrick’s church gymnasium on Monday, March 23rd at 4pm and were very warmly welcomed by Mary House director, Janice Longo. Everyone was given a specific task in serving a much-needed meal to over 100 individuals. Not only did we serve food and warm beverages, but we all did our best to bring some happiness to their lives – whether it was with a warm smile, or simply taking a few minutes to engage them in conversation. This was an amazing experience for all involved, and we look forward to continuing this project once each month. Also during this month we participated in the Annual Sunday School Exchange Day – traveling to Sts. Vartanantz church where we were treated to a delicious breakfast followed by Sunday School class activities and a visit to church. Many thanks to Ms. Mary Fermanian, Sunday School superintendent, Der Gomidas, and the parish council of Sts. Vartanantz for their warm hospitality. We look forward to hosting this event next year!



In February, we wished Hayr Simeon a “paree janabar” and the following week, welcomed Der Sahak Kaishian as our pastor. This coincided with the beginning of the Diocesan 2009 Lenten Drive which benefited two very worthy causes – Project Smile (which provides the funds needed to allow



On Palm Sunday, the students and faculty participated in the procession following “Turnpatsek” (The Opening of the Doors) – everyone carried palms and processed around the sanctuary, reminding us of Jesus’ triumphant entry into

Jerusalem. Then during Holy Week, we had some of our students involved in the foot washing service on Holy Thursday. This year, we tried something a bit different and had some of our students participating along with their Dads. Our Sunday School student “disciples” included Peter DerHagopian, PJ Hazian, Allan and Bedros Kevorkian, Gareg Megrđichian, Mark Shaghalian and Nathan Surmeian. They all did a wonderful job!



Our annual Communion breakfast was a great success! Der Sahak opened the day by performing a communion service where he involved everyone in singing the sharagans. A delicious breakfast followed, along with an assortment of arts and crafts activities for students of all ages. One highlight of the morning was the traditional Armenian “Egg fights”! Many of our children were very excited to have a chance at trying to break Der Hayr’s egg! A big thank you to Mrs. Karen Miller – our communion breakfast organizer, and all of her helpers – Linda and Lindsay Grant, Martin Mahdesyan, Greg Kazarian, Eric Stickler, and the many parent volunteers for their contributions and helping hands.



During the month of May our students had many special events – the first Sunday of the month we were treated to the third children’s sermon given by Der Hayr which was on the topic of unity and teamwork. Using a rope analogy, Der Hayr taught all of us (young and not-so-young!) that we are all like the many strands which make up a rope and Jesus is what holds all of us together and keeps us from unraveling. With Jesus in our hearts, together we are STRONG! On the second Sunday (Mother’s Day), a visit from a guest clergy provided

Der Hayr with an opportunity to visit each of the classes – he personally introduced himself to all of the students, spoke with them about what they are learning in their respective classes and took a group picture with each grade. On the third Sunday, the students planted basil seeds – an idea given to us by Der Sahak, whereby students will nurture their plants over the summer and when the new school year begins they will bring in their basil to be used during the procession on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross!

We continue to have the first Sunday of the month reserved for taking communion as a whole school, listening to a sermon geared to the students, and involving some of the students as “junior parish council members”. Furthermore on those Sundays as well as others, our young men serve as acolytes, and many of our young ladies sing in the junior choir. Der Sahak has given three children’s sermons thus far which the students have loved! The first topic revolved around Lent and how we must “clear the clutter” out of our minds and open them up to feel God’s presence in our lives. The second topic was related to love, and how we must strive to establish good relationships with one another.

Our graduation and closing exercises will take place on June 7th and with that, we’ll bid adieu to the 2008/2009 school year – it has been a wonderful year and we look forward to the next! On behalf of the Sunday School, may you all have a safe, happy and healthy summer.



Revival Of The Armenian School A New Beginning

By
Hagop Ghajanian

This year Armenian School classes are held on Tuesday nights 6:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. There are 15 Students enrolled in the school. The students are divided into 3 classes based on their age. We also have a class of adults, which consists of parents and guardians of the students. The students learn reading, and writing. Classes are divided into two sessions. In between the two sessions students have a break and assembly. During the assembly they learn Armenian history, literature, history of Armenian religion and music. We had three visitors this year. Sub-deacon David Gevorkian spoke to the students about the duduk and Armenian musical instrument and entertained them. Miss Tamara Martirosyan played the kanon, another Armenian musical instrument. We had a special class on Saturday April 4, 2009. Miss Ani Ghajanian spoke to the children about Armenian art and held a workshop with the children. During the workshop the children made khachkars, (stone crosses).



Vartan vs Persians

When Vartan with other Armenians went to Persia the king locked them up because the Armenians refused to pray to the fire and the sun god. Before that the Armenians wrote a letter stating that you can kill us but you cannot take our religion away.



Deacon Hagop is the superintendent of the Armenian School. The teachers are Mrs. Haigouhie Melkonian, Mrs. Kohar Manjelian, and Mrs. Aida Hambartzoumian. Mrs. Marie ghajanian is the teacher of the adult class. Our committee members are, Deacon Hagop, Mrs. Marie Ghajanian, Mrs. Rena Megrđichian, Mrs. Cheryl Der Hagopian, Mrs. Yvette Harpootian, and Mr. John Avjian.

Sunday May 31 is Armenian School Day. After the Divine Liturgy, Armenian School committee will host the fellowship hour and the students will entertain the parishioners.

Schedule of Sunday Worship

Morning Service – 9:00 am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 am

Summer Hours beginning June 14,

Morning Service - 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 am



Camp Scholarships -- Each year, Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church – Sunday School Program awards scholarships to eligible youth throughout the Parish who are attending a Diocesan summer program such as Saint Vartan Camp, St. Nersess Summer Conferences, and Hye Camp. In order to be considered for a scholarship, please complete and submit the application to Rev. Father Sahak Kaishian either by email at frsahak@gmail.com, or regular postal mail to the church by June 14. Applications are available through the church office, or may be obtained electronically from Deborah Onanian (donanian@cox.net).

Providence ACYOA News

Providence ACYOA Basketball

The ACYOA Senior chapter completed its second season in the Rhode Island Christian Basketball Association this past April. The team finished its second season in a row without dropping a single regular season game. The team finished at 13-0, led by team co-captains Ara Vartanian, Sam Hajinian and Kevork Vartanian. The team also welcomed Mikey Arslanian who had a 45 point game midway through the season by nailing nine 3-pointers – an ACYOA record. Unfortunately, for the second year in a row, the group dropped its semi-final tilt.

Palm Sunday and ACYOA DAY



On April 12th, the Providence ACYOA hosted and celebrated their Annual Palm Sunday Dinner. The ACYOA along with nearly two hundred parishioners enjoyed a delicious chicken and pilaf dinner. Representatives from both the ACYOA Juniors and Seniors spoke on the activities of the past year and reached out to the parish for new members. This year a portion of the funds raised during the cake lighting ceremony was to benefit the Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem.

Armenian Martyr's Day Commemoration

On April 26th, eight Providence ACYOA Juniors joined the rest of the Armenian Community of Rhode Island at North Burial Ground in Providence to commemorate the 94th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. ACYOA, along with the other youth organizations in Rhode Island paid their respects by laying wreaths along the monument.

After the commemoration Ceremony, the ACYOA Juniors from Providence along with the ACYOA Juniors from the Armenian Church of Our Savior from Worcester took part in fellowship at the Family Fun Center in Smithfield, Rhode Island.

Mother's Day

On May 10th, the Providence ACYOA Juniors kept its Annual tradition in offering carnations to all of the mothers in our Parish. This gesture is a small token of appreciation to our mothers.

ACYOA Dinner Meeting

On May 17th, the ACYOA Juniors had a dinner meeting with close to a dozen members. The group discussed the future events coming up this late Spring. The event also included a few new members who intend on joining the group this coming Fall. The hope is that some of these new members will be joining us this Columbus Day Weekend for a Sports Weekend being hosted by Saint Leon Armenian Church in Fair Lawn, NJ.

ACYOA General Assembly



The ACYOA General Assembly was hosted by the ACYOA Central Council at the IBM Dolce Center in Palisades, New York. Over 70 delegates from across the Eastern Diocese attended the meetings. The group discussed the new Diocesan directive – The Year of Vocations. The Assembly broke out into groups to discuss ways to encourage our young adults to consider attending the St. Nersess Seminary. The delegation from Providence included Kevork Vartanian and Ara Janigian accompanied by the youth director Steve Megrđichian and our Priest Der Sahak Kelegian. Kevork was recently added to Central Council in April, and Ara was elected this year. Kevork will serve as the Programming Coordinator and Ara as Public Relations Coordinator. We wish ACYOA and both Kevork and Ara continued success.

ACYOA Seniors Sports Weekend

Fifteen ACYOA Seniors embarked on a journey to the IBM Dolce Palisades Center in Palisades NY. The Providence ACYOA was the defending Mens Basketball and Overall Champions, but this year was not as successful. Regardless a very enjoyable time was had by all who attended.

ACYOA Juniors Sports Weekend

Four ACYOA Juniors attended the Annual Hye Mrtsoom Sports Weekend hosted by the Saint James ACYOA Juniors of Watertown. The weekend had over 175 attendees from all over the Eastern Diocese.

Please subscribe to the Providence ACYOA Facebook page for more updates and upcoming events

Ladies Aid

By
Doris Avedisian

Ladies Aid had a successful year in 2008 donating \$3,000 to the church.

We have been busily cooking and baking for 2009. We held our election in February and the same board was re-elected to serve another term. After the meeting lunch was served which was open to the public.



At the end of March members, along with non-members, came together and made Lenten koftas. The following week we came together again to make choreg. Every one of the koftas and choregs were sold with not a crumb left behind!

In April we had our Lenten luncheon, and from all reports, everyone was happy with the delicious variety of Lenten dishes served for such a nominal donation.

It was an extremely busy three weeks for us, and we wish to take this opportunity to thank all those that came and helped. It takes many hands to make these things happen, and we are grateful and humbled by the response to our call for help from members and non-members alike. THANK YOU, AGAIN, LADIES !! You know who you are. We could not have done it without you.



Coincidentally, it seems appropriate that on Wednesday May 13, we are honoring the "Women

of the Church" for all those many women who have stepped forward to serve the church in so many different capacities for so many years. An excellent menu is being planned.

In June, we are planning a trip to Water's Edge in Connecticut. Those that went last year enjoyed it so much that a return trip was requested. The date set, at this time, is Thursday, June 4. We expect that a good time will be had by all.

Nazeli Dance Group Invite New Members

The girls, between 9 - 17 years old, dressed in beautiful Armenian costumes, dance many Armenian popular dances and gave many successful performances in RI, NY, Washington DC, MA, Florida, Montreal, Toronto and Hamilton, Canada.

Teacher and Choreographer is Ms. Nazeli Avagyan. She continues preparing new dances, and the first 30 minutes of each rehearsal she does choreography with the group. We invite all the young people to take part in this famous group. Also, we have young group for ages 4 - 8 (Teacher is Ms. Narine Amroyan).

For more information contact Janna Guegamian, Chair of Arts Education Program - 401 861 3573



Golf Tournament

Save the Date: Monday, September 14, 2009 for the 2nd Annual Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Golf Tournament, to be held at the Pawtucket Country Club; 11:30 a.m. Luncheon; 1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start; 6:30 p.m. Dinner & Awards. The Golf Committee is looking for volunteers. If anyone is interested please contact Gary Taraian (508-761-4600) or John Kazarian (401-861-2065). Pick up registration forms at the church office.

Sts Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Sports Scholarship Committee

40TH Annual Sports Banquet

Honoring RI Armenian Athletes of the Year

By
Nathalie Yaghoobian

Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church Sports Scholarship Committee held their 40th Annual Sports Banquet on Friday evening, May 9, 2009 at Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church, 70 Jefferson Street, Providence, RI. Social Hour: 6 p.m., Dinner: 7 p.m.

This year the recipients of the Charles Yaghoobian, Jr. Memorial Award to Rhode Island's Outstanding Armenian Athletes of the Year: Pucci Angell, LaSalle Academy, Basketball and Emily Papazian LaSalle Academy, Track/Cross Country; Special Recognition Award, Paul Kassabian and Stephen Megrđichian. Past Great Armenian Athlete, Edward Seropian. Guest Speaker, Tim O'Shea, Bryant University Men's Basketball Coach.

Outstanding performance in High School Sports: Nathan Avedissian, Mt. Hope High School, Lacrosse; Emily Batek, Smithfield High School, Tennis; Melanie Boyajian, Warwick Veterans High School, Tennis; Michelle Hersey and Alicia Hersey, Cranston West High School, Tennis; Charles Kazarian, Portsmouth Abbey, Lacrosse; Molly Kazarian, East Providence High School, Soccer; Naomi Mahdesyan, Cranston East High School, Tennis; Kyle Markarian, East Providence High School, Football; Michael Ohanian, North Kingstown High School, Volleyball; Christina Parnagian, Cranston West High School, Tennis; Joseph Portukalian, Cranston West High School, Baseball; Stephanie Surabian, East Greenwich High School, Field Hockey; and Nicholas Zartarian, South Kingstown High School, Baseball.

Recipients of the Charles Yaghoobian, Jr. Scholarship Grants are: Dalita Pauline Getzoyan, Lincoln High School, she will attend the University of New Hampshire; James Alexander Hamblin, Medway High School, he will attend the University of Massachusetts at Amherst; Emily Susan Hanoian, LaSalle Academy, she will attend Providence College; Tatevik Martirosyan, Cranston East High School, she will attend Providence College; Ani Zabelle Megerđichian, will enter her sophomore year at Quinnipiac College; Lusine Ovanesyan, North Providence High School, she will attend the Rhode Island School of Design; Stephanie Frances Surabian, East Greenwich High School, she will attend the University of Rhode Island; and Sarah Rose Varadian, she will enter her year senior at Stonehill College.

FOOD DRIVE

Drop off bins are located in the Church foyer and at the elevator entrance.

Protecting Your Nest Egg

On March 24, Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church of Providence, RI was the setting for another informative seminar sponsored by the Church Cultural Committee. The evening was started with greetings to the attendees by Azarig Kooloian, Jr. who introduced the featured guest speaker, Louis A. DeMasi, whose main topic was "Protecting Your Nest Egg."

Mr. DeMasi is a Financial Services Professional whose presentation included information on Retirement Planning and Strategies. Retirement assets were addressed as well as long term care insurance to preserve assets.

Estate planning was also part of the discussion and Attorney Joseph Tudino was on hand to answer questions on Trusts, specifically Wills, and the proper way to set up a Trust.

A question and answer period was highly instructional and both Mr. DeMasi and Mr. Tudino continued one-on-one discussions well into coffee hour.

At the end of the session a gift of appreciation was given to Mr. DeMasi by Maestro Konstantin Petrossian, and the assembly came to a close with Interim Pastor, Father Sahak Kaishian thanking everyone for their participation and wishing them God Speed.

It was a most enlightening evening and a very timely subject enjoyed by all.



Azarig Kooloian Jr., Rev.Fr.Sahak Kaishian
Louis A. DeMasi, Maestro Konstantin Petrossian

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Save the date! June 14

**Great Food • Great Music Food
Great Fun**

Church Choir and Junior Choir

The Church Choir, as always, played a very important part in the last few months, especially during Lent, Arevakal, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter services. The choir members brought their love of Church and their talent to the many rehearsals and church services. The Junior Choir took part in their obligatory monthly badarak, as well as on Palm Sunday and at Easter Services. I would like to thank all members of both choirs, and to the parents of the Junior Choir for their beautiful work.

Sincerely,
Maestro Konstantin Petrossian
Music Director and Conductor



Cultural Committee's Arts Education Program

The Cultural Committee has sponsored this unique program for children and adults since 1999. We are proud that our Church is the only one to have such a program in the Diocese. From year to year the number of students has been growing. The second semester of the 2008-2009 school year started on January 31, and we are happy to report that we have more than 70 students. Mrs. Janna Guegamian has been the Chairperson of the Arts Education Program since its inception.



First Semester: September - December, 2008
Second Semester: January - June, 2009.

Following is a list of the teaching staff and the times that classes are offered:

**Nazeli Dance Group - Nazeli Avakian,
Director - Friday 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm**

**Drawing, Sculpture - Angin Ovanesyan,
Teacher - Saturday 10:00 am-12noon**

**Piano - Izyumoff Oxana, Teacher -
Saturday 10:00 am-2:00 pm**

**Guitar - Vahan Grigorian, Teacher -
Saturday 10:00 am-3:00 pm**

**Violin - Meghan O'Connor, Teacher -
Saturday 10:30 am-12:30 pm**

Flute - David Griego, Teacher - Saturday

**Vocal - Gohar Manjelian, Teacher -
Saturday**

**Saxophone, Clarinet - Apkar Lefian,
Teacher - Saturday**



Students in this program show their work in exhibitions, and also take part in various shows locally as well as out of town.

We are pleased that our dedicated teachers charge a very nominal fee for lessons. This makes it possible for many of our Armenian children to participate in this program.

For more information, please contact the Chairperson of the Arts Education Program, Janna Guegamian at 861-3573 or visit <http://www.stsahmes.org/Education/arts/artsIndex>.

Congratulations

We are pleased to congratulate Maestro Konstantin Petrossian on his recent appointment to serve on the Sacred Music Council of the Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern) for a three-year term. With his vast experience, talent, and professionalism, we are sure that Maestro Konstantin will be an asset to our Diocese as he is to Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church.

Easter Donations

Ananian, Jasper
Angell, Linda
Anonymous
Ararat Association
Arzoomanian, Sarah
Asdoorian, Anna
Avakian, Antraing
Avedisian, Ann
Avedisian, Araxy
Avedisian, Joyce
Avedisian, Kachadour
Avjian, John
Ayrassian, Ann & Sue
Ayvazyan, Herman
Azarian, Alice
Aznavourian, William
Barran, Sadie & Lucy
Boghigian, M/M Ara
Boghosian, Hagop & Mary
Boghossian, Leon M/M
Boyajian, Anahid
Brown, M/M Patrick
Casparian, Gloria
Chakoian, Daniel
Chakoian, David M/M
Chakoian, Jack
Chevian, Margaret
Chevian, Tateos M & M
Curran, Karen
Danielian, Kenneth M/M
Der Ananian, Ardashes
Derderian, Hosanna
DerMooshegian, M/M Sarkis
Duffy, Marion
Dulgarian, Sylvia
Emdjian, Aurora
Eranosian, Edward & Irene
Garabedian, Aram
Ghajanian Family
Ghazarian, Germond & Jenik

Gilbert, Emily
Gray, Grant & Barbara
Griego, David W.
Griego, William & Marguerite
Gulesserian, Boghos
Hagopian, John
Hanoian, Mary
Hanoian, Seta
Hanoian, Virginia
Haytaian, Lucille
Hazian, Deron & Ardemis
Hedison, Kenneth
Hovhanesian, Jeffrey G.
Hovnanian, Margaret
Jamgochian, Martha
Jamgochian, Peter & Victoria
Janigian, M/M Robert
Janigian, Robert & Maryanne
Jorjorian, Eleanor
Kasparian, Kaspar & Sosie
Kazarian, John R.
Kazarian, Sarah
Keshishian, Marlin
Ketli, Berc & Takuhi
Ketli, Berc & Takuhi
Kooloian, Azarig M/M
Krikorian, Melanie & daughters
Kuzirian, Roxie
Lemme, Narine & Pat
Long, Sylvia
Mahdesyan, Martin
Martiesian, Lazarus & Olympia
Martiesian, Margie
Martiesian, Terrance & Dorothy
Masoian, Rose
Masoian, Stephen & Dorothy
Masoyan, Pierre
Mazmanian, Ed
Moorachian, M/M George
Mooradian, Mary

Morookian, Jessie
Mouradian, Susie
Mouradjian, Aram & Irene
Mugurdichian, Bertha
Muksian, Robert & Barbara
Nahigian, Leon & Veronica
Najarian, Askanaz
Najarian, Raffie
Odabashian, Norice M/M
Onanian, Edward & Zvart
Pakradounian, Queenie
Palumbo, Vincent M/M
Papazian, Martin R.
Pjojian, Eugenia
Ricci, Jean & Dino
Sarkisian, Melvin
Semerjian, Skon & Rose
Semonian, Suren & Carole
Sepe, M/M Ronald
Shaghalian, Ernest & Elizabeth
Shamirian, Elizabeth J.
Sherestanian, Rose
Stone, Barbara
Surabian, Diane & Paul
Suvajian, M/M Harry
Taraian, Teresa M.
Tashjian, Susan
Tateosian, Gary & Lisa
Toppi, Richard M&M
Torigian, Elizabeth
Toumasian, Harry
Trice, Paula
Woloohojian, Marilyn
Yaghoobian, Haig M/M
Yaghoobian, Nathalie G.
Yekhtikian, Gregory
Zaroogian, Steven & Joanne
Zartarian, Irene
Zartarian, M/M Alan
Zartarian, Robert

Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals

Baptisms

Alexis Mia Kozlik, daughter of Jeffrey and Anna (Tavakalova) Kozlik was Baptized on December 22, 2007. The Godparents were Aleksander Tavakalov and Eugenia Shushanyan.

Nicholas Christopher Boyle, son of Christopher and Albina (Bagasarova) Boyle, was Baptized on March 8, 2008. The Godparents were Arthur Galstayan, Irina Yeremyantz and Asya Beglaryan.

Ana Felicia Testa, daughter of Louis and Kerry (Hall) Testa, was Baptized on March 15, 2008. The Godparents were Donald Mitchell, Kristen Mitchell, and sponsor was Marilyn Woloohojian.

Sophia Marie Toppi, daughter of Richard and Renee (Sepe) Toppi, was Baptized on April 6, 2008. The Godparents were Raymond and Michele Iasimone.

Edgar Armen Badalyan, son of Armen and Rachel Badalyan, was Baptized on April 26, 2008. The Godparents were Manvel Mermerian and Gayane Badalyan.

Timothy David Aznavourian, son of David Aznavorian and Patricia Harrington was Baptized on September 28, 2008. The Godfather was Deacon Gevork Gevorkian.

Samuel Justin Shaghalian, son of Justin and Catherine (Syner) Shaghalian, was Baptized on October 4, 2008. The Godparents were John Tutalo, Sarah Botham and Janine Shaghalian.

Macie Bright Kennelly, daughter of Daniel and Rayne (Macomb) Kennelly, was Baptized on October 11, 2008. The Godparent was Michelle Mahoney.

Hasmik Sonya Lemme, daughter of Pat and Narine (Ovanesyan) Lemme, was Baptized on November 22, 2008. The Godparents were John Lemme and Lusine Ovanesyan.

Armenuhi Bagdasarian, daughter of Sos and Yester (Markarian) Bagdasarian, was Baptized on January 31, 2009. The Godparents were Sevak and Shushanik Stepanian.

Brayden Manuel Lima, son of Manuel and Anna (Mouradian) Lima, was Baptized on March 15, 2009. The Godparents were Jose DaLomba, Boghos Gulesserian, and Frances DaLomba.

May these children be raised in the love and care of the Lord.

Marriages

Richard Louis Moore and Karen Melanie Ventrone were crowned in Holy Matrimony on October 25, 2008.

Eric Bryans Stickler and Deborah Ann Onanian were crowned in Holy Matrimony on November 15, 2008.

Noel Robert Corriveau and Haigouhi Vartanian were crowned in Holy Matrimony on November 29, 2008.

Charles Jasper Ananian and Jeanne Pauline Neault were crowned in Holy Matrimony on April 18, 2009.

Daniel Ayriyan and Tatiana Khisamudinova were crowned in Holy Matrimony on April 25, 2009.

Best wishes and prayers are extended to these couples for a long and happy life together.

Funerals

Mary Samoorian Vican (Died 11/9/07)

George Bajakian (Died 11/30/07)

Anthony Marderosian (Died 12/1/07)

Pilo Daniels (Died 12/5/07)

John Bennie Bazor (Died 12/10/07)

Helen Seplocha (Died 12/26/07)

Irene Emerzian (Died 1/5/08)

Michael Kdonian (Died 1/19/08)

Malcolm Leon Daniels (Died 1/24/08)

Ruth Jorjorian (Died 2/3/08)

Lucy Goodman (Died 2/6/08)

Anne Manzoian Linehan (Died 2/15/08)

John Harootunian (Died 2/18/08)

Cheryl D. Lavallee (Died 3/3/08)

Rose Nahigian (Died 3/11/08)

Dorothy (Dolly) Harrison (Died 3/14/08)

Agavne Berberian (Died 3/25/08)

Harold M. Kazarian (Died 4/1/08)

Esther Hoogasian Manian (Died 4/15/08)

Grigor Gevorkian (Died 4/25/08)

Mary Kazarian (Died 5/3/08)

Kasper Torkomian (Died 5/4/08)

Frederick Sarkis Gratchian (Died 5/28/08)

Bright (Jamgochian) Muserlian (Died 5/31/08)

H. David Hedison (Died 6/3/08)

Paul Shamirian (Died 6/6/08)

Catherine Zaroogian (Died 6/11/08)

Vartan Baligian (Died 7/4/08)

Harry Ahlijanian (Died 7/21/08)

Charles Boghigian (Died 8/12/08)

Harry Mazgerdian (Died 8/8/08)

Elizabeth Curran (Died 8/15/08)

Sarkis M. Kalunian (Died 8/19/08)

Charles Zaroogian (Died 8/29/08)

Alice Hagopian (Died 9/24/08)

Omer R. Goulet (Died 10-2-08)

Nahabed A. Nahabedian (Died 11/29/08)

Robert E. Barkan (Died 1/5/09)

John C. Sarafian MD (Died 2/10/09)

John G. Mangasarian Jr. (Died 2/18/09)

Florence G. Hedison (Died 2/22/09)

Haikoush Badalyan (Died 2/26/09)

Lillian S. Bolodian (Died 3/10/09)

Mary Kirkorian (Died 3/19/09)

Shake Gurulyan (Died 3/25/09)

Shoshanik Kasabian (Died 4/10/09)

Nellie Eramian (Died 4/21/09)

Mary (Klanian) Melidossian (Died 4/24/09)

Cynthia A. Jizmagian (Died 4/30/09)

Expressions of sympathy and prayers are extended to the families, that their loved ones may be at peace in the care of the Lord.

The Church and Giving

By
Steven J Zaroogian

The apostle Paul wrote these words.

- The church is headed by Christ (Ephesians 1:22)
- The church is Christ's body (Ephesians 1:23)
- The church is subject to Christ (Ephesians 5:24)
- Christ loved and died for the church (Ephesians 5:25)
- Christ feeds and cares for His church (Ephesians 5:29)
- We, as believers, are members of Christ's body, the church (Ephesians 5:30)

There is much more Paul has written about the church. We can see how much emphasis Paul gives to the church. We know that Paul was inspired by God to write his letters. If God inspired Paul to write so much about the church, then the church is important to God. Now we can see why the church should be important to us. In fact the church should be a priority in our everyday lives.

We all love Christ, and thus, love our church. We belong to Christ, the church. If we belong to the church, then we should be members of the church. Almost everyone is a member of some organization. With membership in any organization come responsibilities. What are our responsibilities to our church?

- Come to church regularly to worship the Lord our God.
- Remember Christ by taking communion regularly.
- Help each other. Jesus said, "Whenever you help someone in need, you are helping Me".
- Help the church to prosper.

How can we help the church to prosper? Bring our family members and friends to church. Sunday worship should be the highlight of the week. We can help the church by being a steward of the church. We must pay our dues, so the church can continue its mission. We must help the church so that when we need help the church can help us. If our best friend needs help, don't we extend him a helping hand? Then why not extend a helping hand to our church. After all the church is our home.

Many of us think that our church is quite wealthy because of some recent bequests over the past few years. The fact is that almost all of these bequests have restrictions as to how we can use them. The fact is that our membership and stewardship donations need to increase dramatically to support our church. The fact is that if our church is to continue to survive, we all have to be very generous.

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC
Save the date! June 14
Great Food ♦ Great Music Food
Great Fun

"Christian Armenia" Premier Film Presentation In Rhode Island



On April 19, the Cultural Committee of Providence's Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church presented the film "Christian Armenia" at the Columbus Theater in Providence. Religion and faith are most important for the Armenian people. This film is dedicated to the affirmation of Christianity and the history and culture of Armenia.

The English version started at 3:00 pm and the Armenian version, with English subtitles, was presented at 5:00 PM. Before the first presentation, Maestro Konstantin Petrossian, the Cultural Director of Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church, greeted the audience and introduced the film producer, Mr. Arsen Aslanyan from Armenia. He also thanked Mr. Jon Berberian for offering his beautiful Columbus Theater for this event.

Rev. Fr. Sahak Kaishian addressed the RI Armenian community and mentioned that the Christianity in Armenia has existed for 1700 years. He also expressed his pleasure in having this film shown in RI. Mr. Aslanyan expressed his feelings about making this film, and thanked the Cultural Committee for showing it.

We have to mention also that there was no charge for the Sunday School and Armenian School students of all three Armenian Churches in Rhode Island. The Cultural Committee thanks Sts. Vartanantz Church, Euphrates Armenian Evangelical Church, Columbus Theater, Yepremian Jewelers, Delicacies, Sonia's, Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Church office, and Mr. Greg Kazarian for advertising the event and selling tickets.

Cultural Committee

Membership / Stewardship

Let's Start Building Our Future! Become a member and/or a steward of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church of Providence, RI.

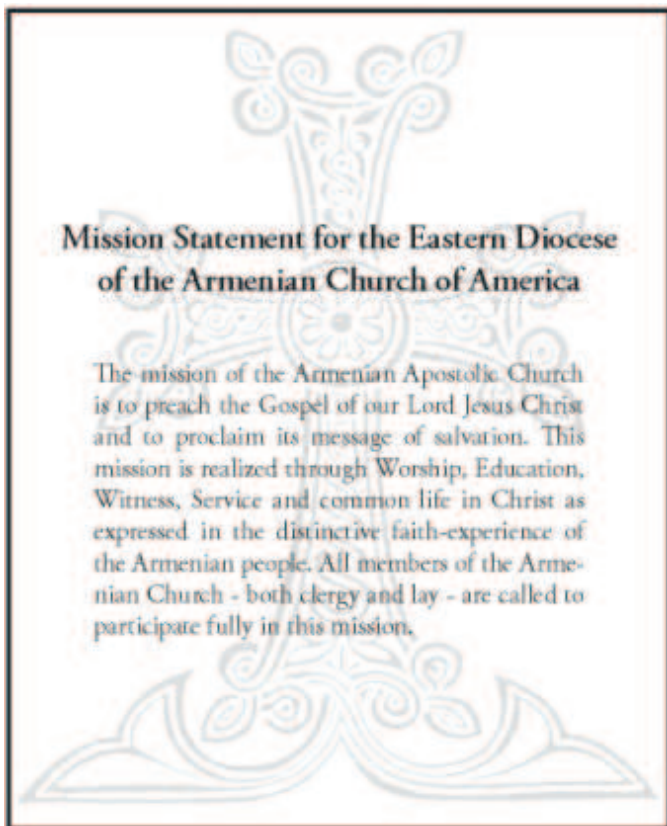
It only takes a few minutes to complete the Membership form and \$150.00 (\$100.00 for students and senior citizens) to become dues paying member of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church of Providence.

While many churches of other faiths use the method of tithing, Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church simply asks a minimum fixed amount to be a dues paying member of the church, and that amount is \$150.00. That's only \$2.89 a week! Membership for senior citizens and students is even less \$100.00 a year or \$1.92 per week.

We will be accepting online payments after January 1, 2007. Until then, please fill out the form below, print it out and mail it, along with a check (unless you choose to use your credit card), to the church office:

Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Church
Please mail this completed form and payment information to the church office:
70 Jefferson Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

New member dues must be received by June 30, 2009 to be eligible to vote during the 2010 parish assembly.



Have You Paid Your 2009 Membership?

If you have not paid you dues for 2009, please complete the form below and send your donation to the church office.

Now you can pay your membership and/or stewardship with your MasterCard or Visa

2009 Membership Application Sts Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church of Providence, RI

I/WE would like to be year 2009 dues-paying member(s) of Sts Sahag and Mesrob Amenian Church of Providence.
(\$150.00 per person and seniors \$100.00)

Members #1 Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms:

Members #2 Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms:

Address:

City: _____ State: _____

Zipcode: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____

- Check enclosed
 Charge my MasterCard / Visa

Credit Card Number:

Expiration Date: ____/____

(Membership and/or Stewardship donations are tax deductible. New member dues must be received by June 20, 2009 to be eligible to vote during the 2010 assembly)

For Office Use Only:

Account No(s): _____

Date Received: _____ Amount Received: _____

Check # _____ Amount: _____

The Newsletter Committee

Editor
Rev. Fr. Sahak Kaishian

Layout and Design
Len Arzoomanian

The Saints Sahag & Mesrob Church Newsletter is a publication of Saints Sahag & Mesrob Church of 70 Jefferson St., Providence, RI 02908. Submission of news articles, photos, essays, poetry, book reviews, and letters is welcomed and should be sent to the church office (office@stsahmes.org). All text must be submitted in electronic format, preferably in Microsoft Word, as a text file or as e-mail. Please note that the editorial board reserves the right to modify and/or reject articles, photos, etc. All materials must be received no later than the published submission deadlines per issue as published in the church bulletins.

Church Office Hours

The Church Office is open from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you would like to meet with the Pastor or submit items for the Sunday Bulletin, please contact the office at 401-272-7712 or office@stsahmes.org. If you call after hours, please leave your requests on the answering machine, and the administrative assistant will be happy to process them promptly. For emergencies, please contact Der Hayr at 612-532-0820.

Administrative Information

Pastor
Rev. Fr. Sahak Kaishian, Interim
Pastor
612-532-0820

Administrative Assistant
Fran Armstrong, 401-272-7712
office@stsahmes.org

Parish Council
Chairperson
John Kazarian, 401-861-2065

Vice Chairperson
Zita Butler, 401-728-8015

Secretary
Jason Martiesian, 401-455-3975

Assistant Secretary
Stephen Megrđichian, 401-464-9004

Treasurer
Steven Zaroogian, 401-885-2253

Assistant Treasurer
Gary Taraian, 508-761-4600

Advisors
Leonard J Arzoomanian, 401-232-0869
Joyce Avedisian, 401-724-3978
Hermond Ghazarian, 401-821-2549
Marjorie Martiesian, 401-861-5147
Armen Janigian, 401-353-0351

Diocesan Delegates
Edward Onanian, 401-398-1010
Ann Ayrassian, 401-272-4743
Stephen Megrđichian, 401-464-9004
Nathalie Yaghoobian, 401-353-2488

Organizations

ACYOA
Stephen Megrđichian, 401-464-9004

Arts Education Program
Janna Guegamian, 401-861-357
Petroskon@aol.com

Altar Guild
Ann Ayrassian, 401-272-4743
Ayrassian@kpmg.com

Bazaar Committee
Call Church Office, 401-272-7712

Building Rentals
Robert Janigian, 401-944-2218
bobjanig@cox.net

Choir & Junior Choir
Konstantin Petrossian, 401-861-3573
petroskon@aol.com

Church Library
Hosanna Derderian

Sunday School
Debbie Onanian, 401-615-5583

Armenian Language School
Hagop Ghajanian, 401-467-2582
h.ghajanian@osjl.com

Cultural Committee
Konstantin Petrossian, 401-861-3573

Investment Committee
Edward Onanian, 401-398-1010
edonianian@cox.net

Memorial Dinner Committee
Martin Mahdesyan, 401-726-3389

Ladies Aid
Doris Avedisian, 401-353-1039

Personnel Committee
Zita Butler, 401-728-8015

Senior Citizens
Peter Jamgochian, 401-739-3866

Sports Committee
Terrance Martiesian, 401-272-0269

Membership/Stewardship
Zita Butler, 402-728-8015

Women's Guild
Melanie Krikorian, 401-353-4519

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

- 29 Family Night, (Postponed to the Fall)
- 31 Armenian School Day

JUNE

- 4 Ladies Aid Dine Out
at the Water's Edge, CT (leave 10 a.m.)
- 6 Cultural Committee Annual Talent Show, 7 pm
- 7 Sunday School Closing Program
- 13 ACYOA Yard Sale
- 14 Annual Picnic after Church
- 23 Parish Council 7:30 p.m.



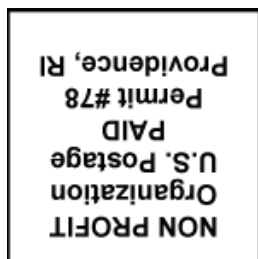
The Saints Sahag and Mesrob Church Newsletter June/July

SEPTEMBER

- 14 Golf Tournament

OCTOBER

- 9 – 12 ACYOA Juniors Sports Weekend – Fair
Lawn, NJ



U. Սահակ եւ Ս. Մեսրոպ Հայրեցի
Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church
70 Jefferson Street, Providence, RI 02908-4923
Tel. (401) 272-7712 • Fax (401) 272-2832
www.stsahmes.org • e-mail: office@stsahmes.org
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