



Youth **Paros**

Saints Sahag and **Mesrob Church**

Special Edition September 2010

Youth Paros

Message from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present to you this special edition of the PAROS. The purpose of this publication is to offer information on the numerous youth programs and activities that are currently offered at Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church.

Our hope is that this publication will provide parents, grandparents and parishioners in general helpful information so that they will take advantage of the various exciting high-quality programs, which aim to instill Christian values, impart appreciation for Armenian language and culture, and provide opportunities to nourish God-given knowledge and skills among our young people.

The programs offer our children the opportunity to fellowship with other young Armenians while deepening their connection to their Armenian Apostolic roots. In addition I have been pleased to observe young parents meet other parents with similar values and as a result becoming life-long friends.

If you have any questions, suggestions or comments regarding any of the contents, please feel free to contact me or any of the program contact people listed.

With prayers,

Hayr Simeon



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“Of course if you like your kids, if you love them from the moment they begin, you yourself begin all over again, in them, with them, and so there is something more to the world again.”

William Saroyan

Acolyte and Altar Server Training

For Armenian Apostolic Christians, the celebration of the weekly Holy Badarak or Divine Liturgy is central to all of our activities as members of Christ's body, the Church. The sublime mystery of the body and blood of Christ our God is the great thanksgiving celebration, which unites Apostolic Christians throughout the world and throughout the ages with the Savior the Lord Jesus Christ and with one another.

Because of the sacred nature of the Divine Liturgy celebration, it is essential that those serving at the holy altar be well trained in properly conducting their roles as candle holders (acolytes) and altar servers.

An invitation is extended to boys from ages 12 and up to learn how to serve at the altar. Participants will learn the traditional way of holding candles, properly reading and chanting the basic parts of the Divine Liturgy and according to age, the method of censing during the Divine Liturgy and other services.

Instruction is given by Hayr Simeon with the assistance of our deacons and sub-deacons. Please contact Father Simeon if you wish to have your son in this program.

CONTACT: Father Simeon Odabashian at 401-272-7712 or hayrsimeon@yahoo.com

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) Junior and Senior Chapters

The ACYOA is a Christ-centered organization whose goal is to create among young adults a greater sense of spiritual culture and tradition, and to instill within its members a true spirit of civic mindedness. The purpose and role of the ACYOA in the context of the Diocese of the Armenian Church is of vital importance, as it is charged with preparing and equipping young adults to participate in leadership capacities.



In order to do this, the organization is called to educate its members about the teachings of the Armenian Church and the history of her people. It motivates and stimulates creative thinking and imparts illustrations of faith among its members by providing vehicles through which they may express themselves and demonstrate their faith, abilities, skills,

interests, concerns, and willingness to try. These vehicles enable them to build friendships and lasting relationships. ACYOA provides programs through which members participate, receive information, feel a sense of belonging, experience meaningful relationships, and be exposed to the Armenian Church and her rich, spiritual cultural heritage. These programs are diverse as they lead young Armenian adults in the direction of future participation and leadership within parishes and the Church at large.



The ACYOA Providence Chapter bases all of its programming on the 5 Circles of the Cross: Education, Worship, Witness, Service and Fellowship. Some of the events that the group holds each year are: nursing home visitations, college nights, serving at important Church functions, participating at the annual Armenian Martyr's Day Commemoration, raising funds for the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem, fund raising for an orphanage in Armenia, attending Lenten retreats and leadership conferences, competing in a Christian Basketball league and various social functions.

There are two ACYOA aged organizations in our Parish; the ACYOA Junior group (ages 13-17) and the ACYOA Senior group (18-30+). Our group has held many national conventions for ACYOA Juniors and Seniors wherein upwards of 350 athletes have come to Providence to compete in sports competitions. Altogether, our group has hosted conventions in 1946, 1961, 1978, 1988, 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2007. We have also been recognized as Chapter of the Year 4 times (1986, 2002, 2004, 2006).

CONTACT: Mr. Stephen Megrđichian at 401-464-9004 or Spmeg@77@cox.net



Armenian School

The mission of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian School is to teach Armenian language and to instill a sense of pride in our children toward their Armenian heritage. Classes are held every Tuesday 6:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. from mid September to early June, totaling approximately 32 classes.

Our Armenian School has a staff of teachers who fluently read, write and converse in Armenian. They are a group of highly motivated individuals that come from various backgrounds and countries. Teachers share with our students diverse experiences and knowledge of the language. Our classrooms are designed to meet the needs of our students, which range from beginner level to a more advanced level.



Our curriculum is set by the Diocese's Armenian Language Lab. The children are introduced to Armenian alphabet, vocabulary, phrases, conversation, reading and writing. To achieve high performance of our students, weekly homework is provided in Armenian writing, reading and conversation. In addition, students research questions on some of our key historical figures as well as events. Each week our classroom teachers add new vocabulary, phrases and conversation building onto their student knowledge base of the language.

On Tuesday evenings we start school at 6:00 pm by reciting "Hayr Mer" (the Lord's Prayer), followed by singing the national anthem of Armenia. The children then go to their respective classes for 45 minutes of Armenian conversation.

At 6:45 p.m. we have a 15-minute break at which time the children enjoy snacks and drinks. During this time we take the opportunity to expose our students to Armenian history, music, literature, arts and crafts, current events and other important/interesting topics related to Armenians and Armenia. Occasionally we have guests who speak to the children about various topics such as Armenian musical instruments. We also give our children the opportunity to hear musical selections from various musicians and learn about Armenian composers to peak their interest in Armenian culture.

During the second half of Armenian School the children return to the classrooms to learn reading and writing. Here our instructors give our students a solid foundation on the Armenian alphabet, phonetically sounding out letters to read words and sentences and practicing the scripting of our alphabet.

We also offer special classes for parents of our students, who are interested in learning Armenian conversation, reading and writing free of charge. The purpose of teaching parents Armenian is so that they will be able to reinforce their children's learning.



Our goal is to have students be able to speak, read and write the Armenian language and to also give them a general knowledge of our rich ancestry. In addition, we want our students to walk away with a strong Armenian spirit that will carry them through their lives so our culture will continue to live through our children.

The tuition is \$100.00 per school year for the first child in a family and \$90.00 for additional children, this includes books and materials. (Tuition is waived for families who are unable to pay).

CONTACT: Deacon Hagop Ghajanian at 401-467-2582 or h.ghajanian@hotmail.com

Summer Programs and Scholarships

Over the years many of our youth have been enriched thanks to summer youth programs offered by the Diocese of the Armenian Church and St. Nersess Armenian Seminary. The Diocese operates two camps: St. Vartan Camp and the Midwest Hye Camp. St. Vartan Camp consists of three two-week sessions and is held at the Ararat Center in Greenville, New York. The Midwest Hye Camp offers a one-week session and is located in Ingelside, Illinois. Further information on the camps can be obtained by contacting Jennifer Morris at 212-868-0710, ext. 118 or e-mail: jenniferm@armeniandiocese.org

St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in New Rochelle, New York offers ten-day conferences for deacons / altar server training, junior high school, high school and post-high school age groups. Information on these highly popular programs can be obtained by calling the seminary at 914-636-2003 or e-mail at info@stnersess.edu.

To encourage youth from Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church to participate in any of the above programs, the parish offers generous scholarships each year. To qualify, at least one parent must be a dues-paying member of the church, the applicant must be involved in one or more parish programs and submit an essay reflecting on his/her experience at the summer program.

Sunday School

The Sunday School of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church strives to provide students with an education in Christianity and the teachings of the Armenian Apostolic Church, as well as to spark an interest so they continue serving the church beyond their school years. This is accomplished through weekly classes, assembly programs, and participation in church services. Classes are offered for children ages 3 1/2 to 16 (Nursery through Grade 10).



The school year generally begins on the second Sunday in September and runs until the beginning of June. Classes are held every week from 10am to Noon. During that time frame, students attend religious education classes, a whole group assembly (which encompasses a variety of religious themes, topics and activities), and spend time in church for worship.

The first Sunday of each month is designated as “Youth Sunday” and the entire Sunday School receives Holy Communion, while students take part in assisting the members of the parish council (greeting parishioners, giving the Kiss of Peace, passing the offering plate and distributing mas). The average weekly attendance is approximately 50-60 students.



The Sunday School utilizes the curriculum prepared by the Diocesan Department of Youth and Education (DYE). Additionally, teachers supplement the curriculum with various materials (i.e. children’s Bibles, videos, activity books). The DYE has also prepared exams which are administered in grades 4, 6, 8 and 10.

The DYE publishes a monthly bulletin, which is now available online at www.armenianchurch.net to all teachers and families. This bulletin contains articles on activities taking place at various parishes, many instructional ideas and related craft projects for teachers, as well as suggestions for bringing what was learned in Sunday School into our homes.

CONTACT: Ms. Deborah Onanian at 401- 615-5583

Arts Education Program and Nazeli Dance Group

This unique program for children and adults has been sponsored by the Cultural Committee since 1999. We are proud of the fact that our parish is the only one in the Diocese to have such a program. From year to year the number of students is growing. We are happy to report that we now have more than 70 students.

We make every effort to keep the price of lessons very nominal, thereby giving our Armenian children the opportunity to easily participate in this program.

First Semester: September – December

Second Semester: February - June

Nazeli Dance Group (ages 7 - 17)

Lusine Ovanesyan, director - Friday 6:00 - 7:30 P.M

Nazeli Dance Group (ages 4 - 6)

Narine Amroian, director - Friday 6:00 - 7:30 P.M.

Ballroom Dance (ages 8 - 17)

Lusine Ovanesyan, teacher - Saturday 12:15 -1:30 P.M.

Drawing, Sculpture

Angin Ovanesyan, teacher - Saturday 10:00 A.M.-12noon

Piano

Oxana Izyumoff, teacher - Saturday 10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.

Guitar

Vahan Grigorian, teacher - Saturday 10:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.

Violin

Meghan O'Connor, teacher - Saturday 10:00 A.M.- 1:30P.M.

Flute

David Griego, teacher – Saturday

Vocal

Gohar Manjelian, teacher – Saturday

Kamancha

David Ayriyan, teacher – Saturday

Saxophone

Clarinet Apkpar Lefian, teacher – Saturday



Drawing, Sculpture, Piano, Guitar, Violin, Flute, and Saxophone lessons take place in the Sunday School area while the Nazeli Dance Group and Ballroom Dance meet in the Hanoian Hall



Students in this Program show their work in exhibition during our annual Talent Show; and they take part in different shows here or out of town.



We are pleased to announce that the prices of our lessons are less expensive than in other places, in order to encourage more of our Armenian youth to participate in this Program.

CONTACT: Ms. Janna Guegamian at 401 861-3573 or Petroskon@aol



Junior Choir

The Junior Choir, organized by Maestro Konstantin Petrossian in 1995, has presented concerts in New York's St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral, the Armenian Embassy in Washington, D.C., as well as for audiences in Boston, Worcester, Andover, White Plains, Boca Raton, Montreal, Hamilton and Toronto. In April 7, 2006 the Junior Choir presented a special concert at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.



The children learn the sacred hymns of the Divine Liturgy of the Armenian Apostolic Church, and songs by Armenian and American composers. Members also receive instruction on how to read music.

Since its inception the Junior Choir has performed at many significant events, including singing in New York City, Ellis Island and Providence for the visit of the late Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin I.

On the occasion of the 1700th Anniversary of the Christianization of Armenia in 2001, the Junior Choir participated in the Divine Liturgy celebrated in Central Park by His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians. In September 2004 the Junior Choir of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church in collaboration with the Narek Bell Choir of St. Mary Armenian Church of Washington, D.C., released its first CD of Armenian spiritual music titled, "PARK EE PARTSOONS" "GLORIA IN EXCELSIS." For this CD the choirs received the Gomidas Award - 2004 and "The Best Album of Spiritual Music Award of 2005" at the Annual Awards Competition in Los Angeles.

In December 2009 the Junior Choir received a special prize "BEST JUNIOR CHOIR" of the Armenian Music Awards - 2009 for the new album "HYE AGHCHIK"

Father Simeon Odabashian, pastor, and the parishioners of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church proudly give their whole-hearted support to the Junior Choir.

CONTACT: Maestro Konstantin Petrossian at 401 861-3573 or Petroskon@aol.com

"The young do not know enough to be prudent, and therefore they attempt the impossible -- and achieve it, generation after generation."

Pearl S. Buck

CONTACTS

Acolyte and Altar Server Training

Father Simeon Odabashian at 401-272-7712 or

hayrsimeon@yahoo.com

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St. Nersess Armenian Seminary 914-636-2003 or at

info@stnersess.edu.

Arts Education Program and Nazeli Dance Group

CONTACT: Maestro Konstantin Petrossian at 401 861-

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