



SPRING 2002

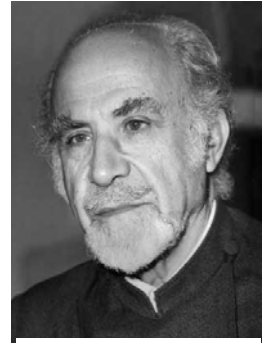
Hye Hokin Հայ Հոգի

The Newsletter of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

PAYING TRIBUTE TO OUR FOUNDER

On Saturday, April 6, 2002, a large crowd gathered at St. Vartan Cathedral in New York to take part in "An Evening of Remembrance" for Abp. Tiran Nersoyan on the Fortieth Anniversary of his Establishment of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary.

Abp. Nersoyan's many achievements also include founding the ACYOA over fifty years ago. Below is a poem written by our beloved founder, which captures the true spirit of his zeal and constant encouraging of the active involvement of the youth within the Armenian Church.



Abp. Tiran Nersoyan

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WHO... by Abp. Tiran Nersoyan

WHO is going to fill the ranks of our clergy, when our growing flock is being left unattended because of the lack of trained, devout and competent priests?

WHO is going to fill the ranks of our church school teachers, when our children are being starved of the knowledge and inspiration of our Faith?

WHO is going to fill the ranks of workers with and for our young people in the community, when they are drifting away from the fold into the confused, aimless and sinful world of self-defeating pleasure-hunters, bigoted hate-mongers and ignorant soul-wreckers?

WHO is going to come forward and speak and write words of wisdom, charity, integrity, honesty, decency, hope and courage inspired by the Word of God and imbued with His saving grace?

WHO is going to make our Armenian-Christian cultural heritage of past achievements live and flourish in this age, so that it can enrich the impoverished life of our Church and Community?

WHO is going to see visions of a bright future for our people and for our country and for mankind and devote his efforts and even his life with youthful vigor to the pursuit of goals that would be signposts on the path of our destiny?

WHO is going to enlist in the army of fighters for God and His kingdom in our Community, in America and in the world?

YOU, the youth of the Church.

So wake up from your slumber and get going forward and upward.

And the Lord Christ be with you.

NEWS FROM CENTRAL COUNCIL

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly is right around the corner! For those new to ACYOA, General Assembly is a gathering of chapter chairpersons, delegates and clergy to discuss the programs and policies of the organization, evaluate current issues, elect leaders and implement plans. If you would like more information on becoming a delegate, ask your Pastor or Chapter chairperson for details.

AWARD NOMINATIONS

This year, Central Council has created four ACYOA Junior awards in addition to the three ACYOA Senior awards awarded each year at General Assembly. The Junior awards, named after our Founder, are individual awards entitled the Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan Awards for Vision, Leadership and Service. The fourth award is the Chapter "A" award, given to a chapter. Nominations are being accepted for both Senior and Junior awards until May 9th. To nominate a person or

chapter, e-mail diranjebejian@yahoo.com or visit www.acyoa.org.

ASP(Armenia Service Program)

The deadline is quickly approaching for ASP application submissions! The dates for this year's trip are June 26-July 15. If you are interested in attending, contact Karen Khatchadourian at (212) 686-0710 ext. 43 or e-mail asp@acyoa.org.

ONLINE RESOURCES

We are happy to announce that several ACYOA Chapter resource materials are now available online! We urge you to visit www.acyoa.org and utilize the ACYOA Constitution and Chapter Handbook to help both new and existing chapters. These are valuable tools that help give structure and organization to ACYOA chapters of any size.

FORUM TO TAKE PLACE AT 2002 NATIONAL SPORTS WEEKEND "War in the Holy Land: Why Armenians Should Care"

For the participants of the DYM 2000 Pilgrimage to Jerusalem, including members of the ACYOA Juniors and Seniors, the current fighting taking place in Jerusalem has had a personal impact. The holy places they visited, many of which are owned in part or entirely by the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem, remain under siege as fighting rages. This violence has prompted discussion and prayer among all Armenians who have traveled to the Holy Land, especially the participants of the 2000 pilgrimage.



Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem

Together with the 2002 Sports Weekend Committee, participants of the 2000 Pilgrimage to Jerusalem have organized a forum, taking place during 2002 National Sports Weekend and General Assembly in Newton, MA. The forum, entitled "The Holy Land: Why Armenians Should Care," will include a slide show and speakers Rev. Fr. Arakel Aljalian, who has lived and studied in Jerusalem, and Rachel Goshgarian, a Harvard Ph.D. candidate in Armenian and Ottoman studies. A few ACYOA members who traveled on the pilgrimage will also participate in the discussion.

The forum will take place on Saturday, May 25, 2002 at 7:00 pm at the Newton Marriott Hotel in Newtown, MA. Visit www.acyoa.org for more information.

Back in Beantown 2002 ACYOA General Assembly and National Sports Weekend Registration Form

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Chapter/Parish _____

Back in Beantown Prices

	Before 5/10/02	After 5/10/02	Quantity	Sub-Total
Athletes Package Plan	\$100.00	\$115.00		
General Participant Package Plan	\$80.00	\$95.00		

A la Carte Prices

	No Cover	No Cover		
Riverbend Bar and Grille - Weekend Kick Off	No Cover	No Cover		
Dance Along the Charles - Saturday Dance	\$35.00	\$40.00		
GALA Under the Stars - Sunday Dance	\$40.00	\$45.00		
Farewell Picnic	\$15.00	\$15.00		
Total Enclosed:				

- Athletes Package includes all events and individual sports fee.
- General Participant Package Plan includes all events.

- Make checks payable to: "ACYOA Sports Weekend 2002"
- **Deadline for registration - postmarked by May 10, 2002**

Return completed forms to:
 St. James Armenian Church
 ACYOA Seniors
 465 Mount Auburn Street
 Watertown, MA 02472
 Attention: Alexis Butler

For additional information:
 email Backinbeantown2002@yahoo.com
 website www.acyoa.org

CHAPTER FOCUS-WASHINGTON, DC

The St. Mary ACYOA in Washington, DC has continued to stay active during the past few months. In February of 2002 we held our annual Winter Gala, which was attended by over 170 people. On March 10, we hosted a luncheon and town hall meeting with John Jamian, the new Executive Director of the Armenian Assembly of America. Mr. Jamian answered questions from the audience regarding the Armenian Assembly. On March 19, 2002 our members gathered for a Bible study. The topic of the Bible Study was the God's plan for the salvation of mankind, and the necessity of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection.

On March 24, 2002 we had our annual Palm Sunday Luncheon and Program. Our new officers were sworn in following Badarak. The officers for 2002 are Daron Bolat, Chairman; Ursula Kazarian, Vice-Chairperson; Sevan Topjian, Vice-Chairperson; Sevan Ohanian, Treasurer; and Saro Kalayjian, Corresponding Secretary. After Badarak we hosted a luncheon where we honored two of our outstanding alumni. Jack Kazanjian, not only helped establish the ACYOA in Washington, DC, but was also one of the founding members of the ACYOA nationally in 1946. Albert Der Tatevosian was instrumental in building an early foundation for the ACYOA in Washington, and has continued to be very involved in Armenian Church life. We were

also honored to have Nadine Yavru-Sakuk attend our Palm Sunday program as a representative of the ACYOA Central Council.

On April 21, the St. Mary ACYOA hosted our annual Genocide commemoration. Our members took part in a memorial service in church. Later that day, we hosted a concert, where our members performed musical numbers, to not only remember those who perished during the Genocide, but to acknowledge the fact that we have endured as a people.

We have several events planned through the spring and summer. We are planning a trip to the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore to view their collection of Armenian manuscripts. We will be hosting our 3rd Annual Variety Show in June, where we invite young Armenians interning in Washington over the summer for a night of dinner and entertainment. Additional activities include our annual beach trip, Bible studies and community volunteer projects. For more about the St. Mary ACYOA, please see www.stmaryacyoa.org, or email us at dca-acyoa@aol.com.

-Submitted by Daron Bolat

CALLING ALL CHAPTERS! Hye Hokin wants to hear from you!

Hye Hokin wants to know what your ACYOA chapter has been up to! Did you plan a special event for Armenian Martyrs' Day? Have you had an idea for a unique event that you would like to share with other chapters?

Send your chapter news anytime! Even if you have just a few lines, keep us posted. (You can send pictures, too!) What's important is that we hear about your events, meetings and gatherings, so we can share ideas and thoughts to implement within our own chapters.

**E-mail all updates to:
newsletter@acyoa.org**

St. Nersess Conference Reunion

**Help celebrate the 40th Anniversary of
St. Nersess Armenian Seminary
and REKINDLE THE SPIRIT.**

August 30-September 2, 2002

**All who have ever attended a Summer or Winter
Conference, or have had any affiliation with the
Seminary are invited to attend and be a part of this
once-in-a-lifetime experience.**

For more info:

**(914)636-2003 info@stnersess.edu
www.stnersess.edu**

3rd ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 15-17, 2002

“To become Christ-like, and to challenge the Youth to do the same, we must make an unconditional sacrifice and commitment to God by using our gifts and talents to serve our parishes, communities, and the needs of all people.”

This mission statement, developed during the First Leadership Conference in 2000 and written for the Service element of the Cross of Circles, was the central theme surrounding the 3rd Annual Young Adult Leadership Conference. Over 55 ACYOA members and clergy representing almost 20 parishes within the Diocese gathered at the Don Bosco Retreat Center in February to come together and gain ideas and knowledge on how to effectively lead ACYOA chapters in their parishes.

The theme of this year’s conference was being a servant leader. Led by Fr. Tateos Abdalian, Special Projects Coordinator for the Department of Youth Ministry, the format of the Conference spanned from discussions to lectures to mini-workgroup sessions.



Fr. Tateos Abdalian talking with participants between sessions.



Our Primate, Abp. Khajag Barsamian, participating in a group discussion during Friday evening’s session.

Working in groups led by clergy and Central Council members, young adults gathered and discussed various ways to create programming that would cater to different aspects of service. A few different topics discussed were service to the sick, to peers, to the elderly, to Armenia, and to the youth.

Participants were able to meet other ACYOA members from throughout the Diocese, and share thoughts and voice concerns regarding their chapters. In spending time working with each other, the participants were able to establish contacts with other chapters close to their own, which would help increase communication and a sense of unity among all chapters.

Plans are underway for the next Leadership Conference, with hopes of soon creating Regional Mini-Conferences, so even more ACYOA members can benefit from such a program.

LOOKING BACK: Thoughts from ACYOA Alumni...

We asked former ACYOA Central Council members the following question:

"How did being a member of the ACYOA influence your current involvement in the Armenian Church?"

Below are a few responses that truly expressed the significance of the ACYOA in the lives of these active members of the Armenian Church.

"ACYOA influenced my entry into church life when I was appointed to the Holy Martyrs Youth Committee after my marriage. Thereafter I co-chaired two church bazaars one with a friend and one with a parishioner that I did not know. These efforts worked out well and were followed with a stint on the Holy Martyrs Parish Council. Since then I have been coaching Holy Martyrs basketball & have served the Armenian Churches Sports Association as its Commissioner. During this period my wife Arlene and son Doug have served on the Holy Martyrs Parish Council and my wife is presently a Holy Martyrs delegate to the Diocesan Assembly."

-Misak Aprahamian
Former Central Council Chairman

"Becoming an ACYOA member influenced me in a massive way. I met my husband while serving on Central Council. It changed my life forever and has reinforced the idea that we need to continue to be involved as alumni and parents to make sure the ACYOA is there for our children."

-Rena (Jebejian) Megrđichian
CC Member 1991-1993

"Being a member of the ACYOA gave me opportunities to discover and express my gifts in the areas of organization, leadership, and relating to people. It also gave me the chance to develop friendships and working relationships with other people in the Church—my peers, others in my own parish, and so many from parishes all around the country. In addition to giving me feelings of belonging and connectedness to the Church, being a member of the ACYOA gave me education and understanding of my faith and the Armenian Church, and all these things together have kept me involved in the Church today."

-Yn. Lynda (Chaghachbanian) Devejian
CC Member 1991-1992

"The ACYOA has taught me more than just fellowship, our religious beliefs and our heritage. The ACYOA taught me the meaning of leadership. The two parishes I belonged to and being a Central Council member for six years proved very beneficial. The many leadership roles I had in each of these parishes and the roles I took in the Central Council taught me the meaning of leading with a Christian attitude with humility and acting with a sense of selflessness. This helped me to be a Parish Council member for 2 years in Boca Raton; a Diocesan Delegate in Boca for 2 years and am currently the ACYOA Youth Advisor and Member of the Nominating Committee in Providence, Rhode Island."

-Steve Megrđichian
CC Member 1994-1998

ACYOA JUNIORS BULLETIN BOARD

Hye M'rtsoom Sports Weekend

May 24-27
St. James Armenian Church
Watertown, MA

St. Vartan Camp

(ages 8 to 15)
June 30-July 13
July 14-July 27
Marvelwood School
Kent, CT



Hye Camp

(ages 9 to 15)
August 4-10
Camp Hickory Ingleside, IL

St. Nersess Summer Conferences

<i>New Rochelle, NY</i>	
Deacons' Training & Liturgical Music Program	June 21-30
High School Conference A	July 4-12
High School Conference B	July 15-23
High School Conference C	July 27-Aug 4
Junior High School Conf.	August 7-11
Post HS (College) Conf.	August 14-20

For more information, call (914)636-2003 or visit www.stnersess.edu to download an application..

For more info, call the DYM at (212)686-0710 ext. 43 or email dym@armeniandiocese.org

Send us your comments! We want your input!

Drop us a note and let us know what you would like to see featured in upcoming issues of *Hye Hokin*.

Send Hye Hokin to a friend!

If you know of someone who would like to receive a copy of *Hye Hokin*, let us know !

Email all requests/inquiries to: newsletter@acyoa.org



Have a question about youth programming?
Want to know how to plan a retreat?
Contact the DYM!!

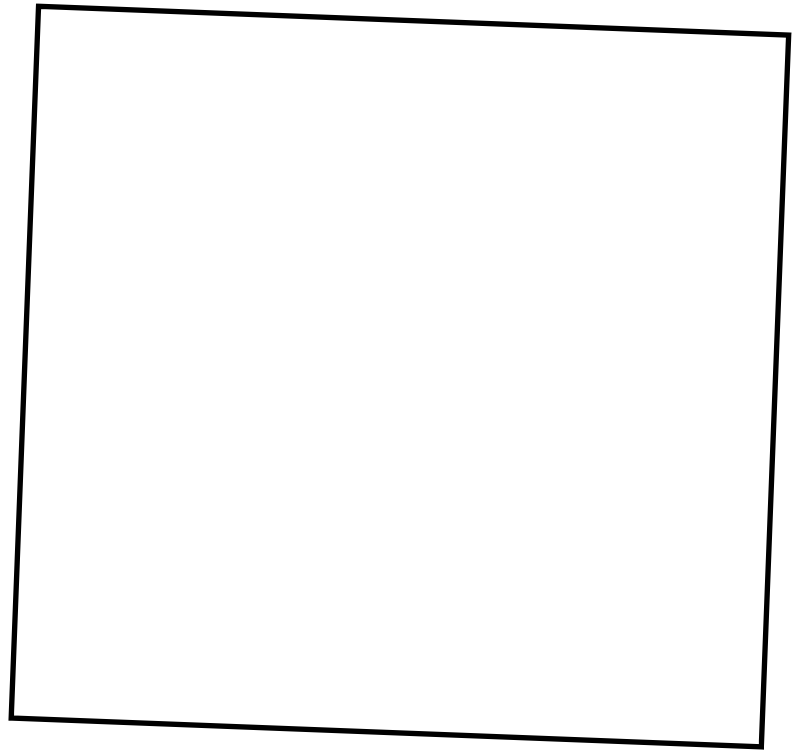
Yn. Arpi Kouzouian
Director of Programming
Department of Youth Ministry (DYM)
Diocese of the Armenian Church
145 Brattle Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone: 617-876-2700 Fax: 617-876-2266

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself."
(Matthew 22:37-39)*



Hye Hokin
Armenian Church Youth
Organization of America
Diocese of the Armenian Church of

Phone: 212.686.0710
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

- 11 Mother's Day Celebration
*Diocese of the Armenian Church
New York, NY*
- 12 Mother's Day Luncheon
*Holy Martyrs Armenian Church
Bayside, NY*
- 18 Fifth Annual Gala Concert
*St. Sabag & St. Mesrob Armenian Church
Providence, RI*
- 23 ACYOA General Assembly
Newton, MA
- 24-27 Back in Beantown 2002!
*ACYOA National Sports Weekend
Newton, MA*

JUNE

- 26 ASP Trip Begins

JULY

- 15 ASP Trip Ends



**For more information
regarding any of these events,
visit the "Calendar" section of
www.acyoa.org.**

To list your event, e-mail newsletter@acyoa.org.