



ALUMNI OF THE MONTH

MAY 2017

ZOVIG ASHJIAN

Central Council Chairperson Mallory Maslar interviews former Central Council member Zovig Ashjian about her life growing up in the Church, life as a daughter of a priest, and her involvement with the ACYOA.

MM: How did you first get involved in the ACYOA?

ZV: My involvement with ACYOA began during my high school years through Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian, who was my pastor at the time at St. Gregory the Enlightener Church in White Plains, NY. I held many positions during that time on a parish level and began going to General Assembly and Sports Weekends. Eventually I was elected to nominating committee and then to Central Council years later.

MM: What impact has the ACYOA had on your life?

ZV: During my two consecutive terms on Central Council, I learned about leadership and became involved in various organizations in my church. I joined the Women's Guild, taught Sunday school for several years and served as superintendent, and worked on picnic committees. I basically lent my service anywhere that the church needed help. I also took part in the Diocesan Assembly in 2004 when it was hosted by my parish. For several years, I served as a Junior girls counselor, Arts & Craft instructor, and staff member at St. Vartan Camp. I have also been involved with St. Nersess Seminary since high school. I have participated in many summer and winter conferences and later served as counselor and staff as well. I have made so many friends and met so many people through my involvement in the church that I know someone anywhere I go. I have made lifelong friends who I will never forget!

MM: What are some of your favorite memories being involved in the ACYOA?

ZV: What can I say! There are so many memories that I cannot pinpoint just one. All I know is they were unforgettable. I looked forward to going to General Assembly and Sports Weekend every year to catch up with everyone all in one place. I hated going back home. Those memories are priceless!

MM: What have been some of your influences in your Christian life?

ZV: My parents were big influences. Being the daughter of a Der Hayr has its advantages and sometimes its disadvantages, too. Sundays were usually a long day: going to church, always doing something after church,

and sometimes a visitation or home blessing after. Some days I was tired and all I wanted to do was go home. Regardless, I have many clergy to thank for encouraging me to get involved in different things.

MM: Are you still involved in your parish community?

ZV: I am still involved as time permits. I do my part whenever and wherever I can. I try to support the youth any way I can. It's important. They need encouragement.

MM: Any advice for current and future ACYOA members?

ZV: My advice is to get involved as soon as you are of age. No matter what you do in life you will always have your Armenian friends. It's a great feeling to know people 20-30 years later. Even though you may not keep in touch on a regular basis, you never know when you will see each other in life.

Like William Saroyan said, "If when two of them meet anywhere in the world, see if they will not create a new Armenia!"