



Alumni of the Month

June 2019

Linda Maslar

Former Central Council member Mallory Maslar interviews her mother, Linda Maslar of St. Hagop Church in Pinellas Park, FL about her life growing up in the Church and involvement in the ACYOA

Mallory Maslar: How did you first get involved in the ACYOA?

Linda Maslar: In the 1970s in Binghamton, NY, Marion Rejebian formed a youth group because we did not have enough members to be an ACYOA Chapter. As we grew older, Fr. George Arakelian

helped transform the group into an ACYOA chapter. Even though we still did not have enough members to be an official chapter, we still followed their guidelines.

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

LM: The biggest impact, for me, is having lifelong friends and a greater sense of being Armenian. It also helped strengthen my Christian values.

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

LM: I fondly remember attending Sports Weekends and St. Nersess Summer Studies with my friends. I loved attending the One World Festivals at the Diocese. My current favorite memories are being formed by sharing my stories with my children, watching them serve their chapter and serve on Central Council, and witnessing them become friends with my life long friend's children.

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

LM: It started by attending Sunday School, and then transitioned to teaching Sunday School. Also, my godparents Fr. George and Yn. Sandra Arakelian acted as wonderful mentors in my life.

MM: Are you still involved in your parish community?

LM: Yes, I am currently the Sunday School Superintendent at St. Hagop Armenian Church in Pinellas Park, FL. In the past, I have served as Women's Guild Chair and have been a member of the Parish Council.

MM: Any advice for current and future ACYOA members?

LM: Remember the legacy of our ancestors and everything they have endured to hold on to our Christian values and Armenian heritage. It doesn't matter if you are a part of a large or small community, or what the distance to the next parish is; remember, we are all part of one bigger body. Most importantly, don't forget to be nice to everyone... you never know if one of your peers will be the next Primate of our Diocese, like mine has!