

ACYOA Alumni Of The Month Interview
September 2021

Gregory 'Greg' Norsigian
St. George Armenian Church, Hartford, Connecticut

Andrew Yenicag: How did you first get involved in the ACYOA?

Greg Norsigian: I first became involved with the ACYOA Seniors in my early twenties after I graduated college and wanted to strengthen my connection with Armenians and the Armenian Church.

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

Greg: I ventured from Connecticut to my first ACYOA Sports Weekend with two Armenian women in a 1966 Dodge Dart on the Friday before Labor Day Weekend 1988 to a place called Providence. The next evening I asked a pretty Armenian girl from Massachusetts to show me how to Armenian dance. We are celebrating our thirtieth wedding anniversary this year.

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

Greg: My favorite memory from our local ACYOA chapter was playing volleyball on the church grounds with Father Yeprem Kelegian. He made us feel like we were all his children. My favorite memory on the regional level was going to sports weekends and other events and dancing all night and into the next day. Then we would go to someone's hotel suite and dance some more. The camaraderie with other young Armenians was priceless.

Andrew: How special is it that all of these years later, your son has now helped to reestablish an ACYOA Seniors chapter at St. George?

Greg: My great grandfather's brother Nazar Norsigian was on the building committee for the first Armenian church in the Americas in Worcester. My grandfather was on the building committee for Saint George Armenian church in Hartford. My father and many of his fellow ACYOA members also played lead roles in creating the church. I am extremely proud my son Krikor has taken a leading role in reestablishing an ACYOA chapter at Saint George Armenian Church.

Andrew: What, or who, have been some of your influences in your Christian faith?

Greg: The foremost influence on my Christian faith was my mother. She was the living rock on which my family thrived. She was not the kind of person who was overtly spiritual, but everything she did exemplified Christianity.

Andrew: Any advice for current and future ACYOA members?

Greg: My advice to today's ACYOA is to enjoy your youth to the fullest, but always remember your life is a gift from God. Also remember the sacrifices of your immediate and extended family. Never forsake what your ancestors often paid with their lives to give you. You have an abundance of time in front of you. Don't let selfishness and misplaced priorities dissuade you. Give yourself to your church and your people. You will find your yoke easy and your burden light.



Greg and son Krikor Norsigian – current St. George ACYOA Srs Chair. August 2021, St. George.