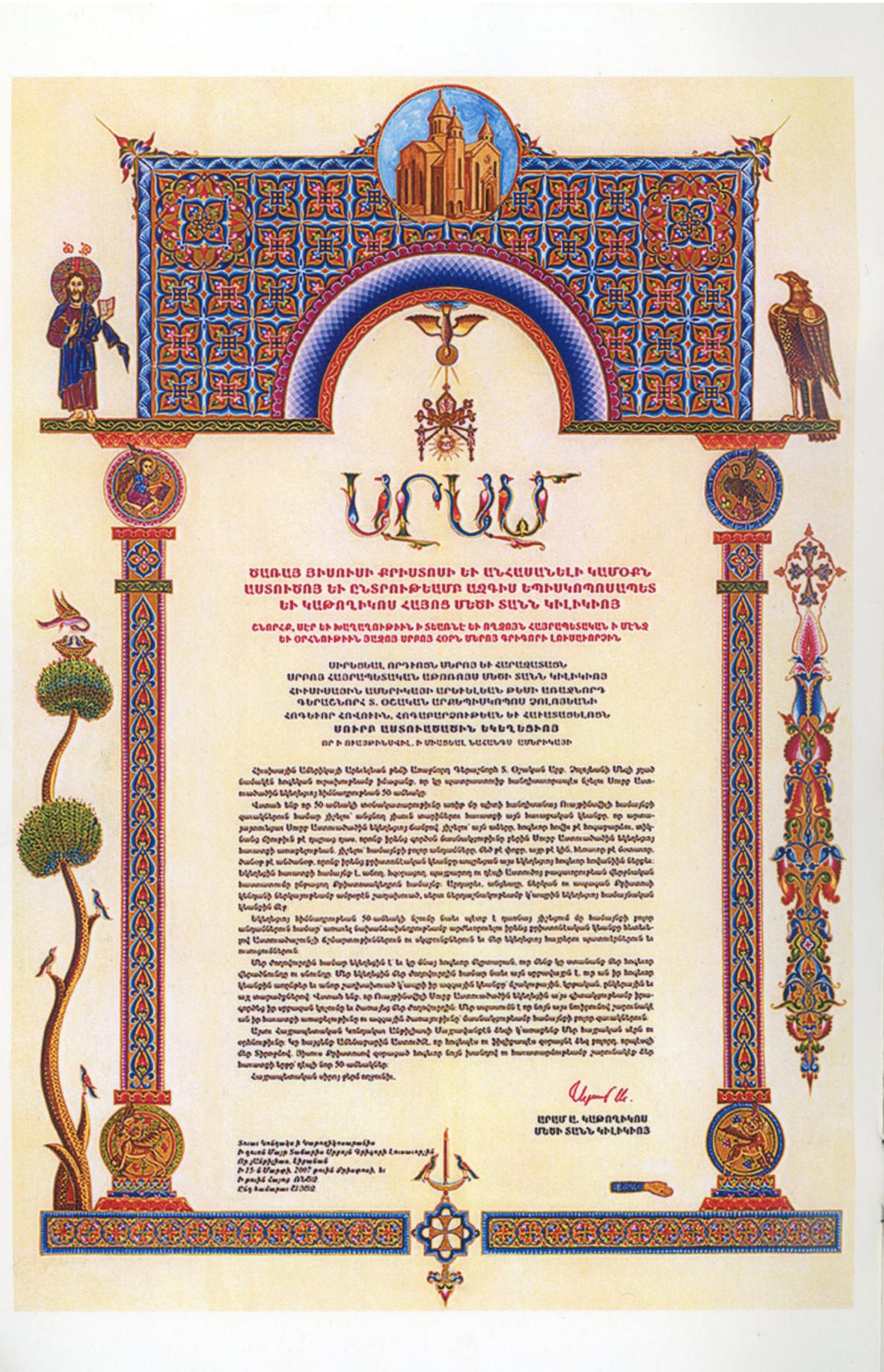
SOORP ASDVADZADZIN ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH



50TH ANNIVERSARY



1957 - 2007



Dedication

At the beginning of the 20th century when large numbers of Armenians began to arrive in America, some by choice and others because of the tragic events that were happening in their homeland, many chose the small town of Whitinsville to begin their new lives and to raise their families. Life wasn't easy for these newcomers. Most lacked work skills, money and few spoke the English language, but they managed because of the strength of their character and faith in God.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of our Church and as we reflect back on our history and look forward to the future, it is only appropriate that we dedicate this booklet to the founders of Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church of Whitinsville. May we be strengthened and inspired by their memory to continue to preserve our beloved Church and rich cultural heritage.



Anniversary Committee Members

Dave Papazian, Chairman
Alice Sagherian and Joanne Khoury, Vice-Chairs
Alan Goshgarian, Treasurer

Peter Bedigian, Carol Bedrosian, Debbie Bedrosian, Peter Bedrosian, Barbara Berberian, John Berberian, Charles Gigarjian, Rick Kazarian, Jeanne Papazian, Rev. Fr. Aram and Margaret Stepanian, Joyce Torosian

> 50th Anniversary Booklet Committee Carol Bedrosian, Ani Gigarjian, Sebouh Kalousdian,

Rick Kazarian, Alice Sagherian

Cover Art
Sue Shenian





ARAM



Servant of Jesus Christ and with the unfathomable will of God and the election of our Nation, Head of Bishops and Catholicos of the Armenians of the Great House of Cilicia

Grace, love and peace from the Lord and pontifical greetings from us and blessings from the right hand of our Father, St. Gregory the Illuminator

To our beloved and true children
from the Holy See of the Great House of Cilicia
to the Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy of the United States
His Eminence Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan,
Pastor, Board of Trustees, and the faithful of
St. Asdvadzadzin Church
Whitinsville, Massachusetts
United States of America

We have joyfully learned from His Eminence Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy of the United States of America, that you are preparing to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of St. Asdvadzadzin Church.

We are certain this 50th anniversary celebration will become an occasion for the faithful of the Whitinsville parish to: remember the spiritual life that was guided by St. Asdvadzadzin Church during the past 50 years, and those individuals — pastors, members of the boards of trustees, ladies guilds, and choir — who participated in the faithful mission of St. Asdvadzadzin; and remember all of the members of the community, old and young, men and women, far and near, known and unknown, who lived their Christian life under the spiritual canopy of this church. The Church is a community of faith, growing, strengthening, and struggling toward the Kingdom of God and the establishment of the final Christian community. Truly, the past, present and future of Christ's living presence is in the Church's community life.

The 50th anniversary of a church must also become a time of remembrance for all members of the community to become more zealous in making their Christian life worthy by following the truth and the principles of the Gospel, and the commandments and teachings of our Church fathers.

For our people the Church is and will remain the place of our baptismal font, where we receive our spiritual rebirth and nourishment. For our people, our church is the sacred site where they live and are attached to their community life — cultural, educational, social, and other domains. We are confident that it was with this understanding that St. Asdvadzadzin Church of Whitinsville fulfilled its primary calling and served our people. It is our expectation that you will continue your faithful mission and community service with this same dedication with the participation of the entire congregation.

With this Pontifical Encyclical from the Mother Monastery in Antelias, we send our pontifical love and blessing. We ask All Loving God to strengthen you spiritually and physically, so that you will continue with the same enthusiasm and faithfulness, strengthened by our Lord Jesus Christ, toward new 50th anniversaries.

With pontifical love and blessings,

ARAM I Catholicos Great House of Cilicia

Encyclical delivered at the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia At the door of the Holy Mother Cathedral of St. Gregory the Illuminator in Antelias, Lebanon March 15, 2007, in the year of our Lord and Armenian Year of 1456







TUTUTORSUMU JIEUPQU

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF AMERICA E A S T E R N P R E L A C Y - 138 East 39th Street, New York, NY 10016 Tel: (212) 689-7810, FAX (212) 689-7168, e-mail: email@armenianprelacy.org

> Очтишти 21, 2007 Р. fr. 356/07

Արժանապատիւ Տ. Արամ ՔՀՆյ. Ստեփանեան Հոգեւոր Հովիւ Ս. Աստուածածին Եկեղեցւոյ եւ Պատուարժան Հոգարարձութիւն Ուայթերնսվիլ.

Սիրելի Տէր Հայր եւ մեծայարգ հոգարարձուներ,

2007 թուականը յատկանչական տարի մըն է Ուայթընսվիլի հայ գաղութին համար, որովհետեւ այս տարուան ընթացքին, յետադարձ ակնարկով մը, Սուրբ Աստուածածին մեր եկեղեցւոյ կեանքին 50 տարիները կը բացուին մեր մտքերուն մէջ, միեւնոյն ատեն անիկա առիթ կը դառնայ առաւել նուիրուելու համայնքային մեր կեան-

քին գօրացման, Հոգեւոր եւ ազգային իմաստով։

Ցեղասպանութեննեն ազատած եւ անոր յաջորդող սերունդին համար կենսական նշանակութեւն ուներ կերտել իր հոգեւոր տունը։ Անոնք լաւապես կը գիտակցեին որ հայ ժողովուրդին նոր կեանքին համար, Ամերիկայի Միացեալ Նահանգներու այս ափերուն անհրաժեչու էր վերակազմակերպել հոգեւոր եւ ազգային կեանքը, համախմբուած եկեղեցւոյ եւ անոր յարակից կազմակերպութեւններուն չուրջ։ Անոնց տեսիլքը իրականութեւն դարձաւ։ Անոնց տեսիլքը կեանք եղաւ յաջորդող սերունդներուն, որոնք այսօր կը վայելեն բոլոր այն բարիքները, որոնք աւիչ եւ սնունդ տուին Հայ Եկեղեցւոյ եւ անոր ճամբով մեր ժողովուրդին զաւակներուն։

առատարայ ինթըն վնայ՝ սնաէոժի արվշատ ու իսնովի չանուրակթը ինթըն շաժթւոն թւ հուն, շաժթւոն շավիւիր, շաժանանգունթար, յանակին դանդիրըթերը բւ օնշրունիւրն հուն արսը հն միաթը դթժ։ ձն դավնթըն սի բւ իանսմունիւր րբնիայի սատուսնթնանն արսը ին միաթը դթժ։ ձն դավնթըն ուն բունան գանդիրըթես ու ձէն մենակատանանն արսը ին միաթը դթժ։ ձն դավնթըն ուն բունանին դանդիրը թւ օնշրունիւրն հանաարան ինթըն վետյ՝ սատության արանանին արևիրը արսիչությունը չանությունը հանաարան ինթըն չանությունը արսիչունը արևուրակթը ինթըն չանուսնիւրն

ազգային ծառայութիւնը եւ առաքելութիւնը։

Ձերմ սիրով եւ օրհնունեամը,

Malamimi

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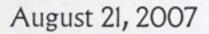
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Առաջնորդ Ամերիկայի Արեւելեան Թեմին



ROPESTE UPRREUPRE

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF AMERICA E A S T E R N P R E L A C Y - 138 East 39th Street, New York, NY 10016 Tel: (212) 689-7810, FAX (212) 689-7168, e-mail: email@armenianprelacy.org



Rev. Fr. Aram Stepanian, Pastor Board of Trustees St. Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church Whitinsville, Massachusetts

Dear Der Hayr and Members of the Board,

The year 2007 is a significant year for the Armenian community of Whitinsville because as we look back, the fifty years of the life of our church opens before us. It is also an occasion for the strengthening of our community in both a spiritual and national sense.

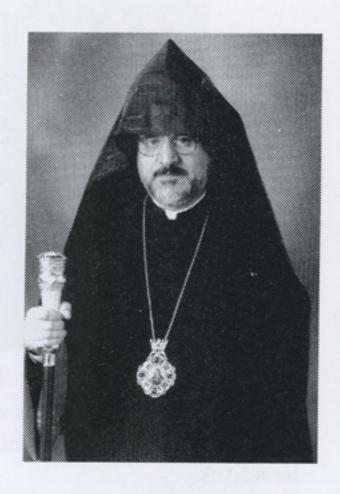
For the survivors of the genocide and the generation that followed, building their house of worship was of vital concern. They knew that for the sake of new life for the Armenian people, it was necessary to rebuild their spiritual and national life, centered around the Church and her affiliated organizations, on the shores of the United States of America. Their vision became reality. Their vision gave life to the succeeding generations, who today enjoy all of those blessings that gave sustenance and nourishment to the Armenian Church, and through the Church to the children of our nation.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of St. Asdvadzadzin Church, we bless the memory of all those who founded this church and who now watch us with heavenly happiness. I wish strength and ability to the current servants — the pastor, Board of Trustees, leaders of the affiliated organizations — and I pray that the breath of God and His blessing will spread upon them, so that they can continue their spiritual and national mission with courage and vigor.

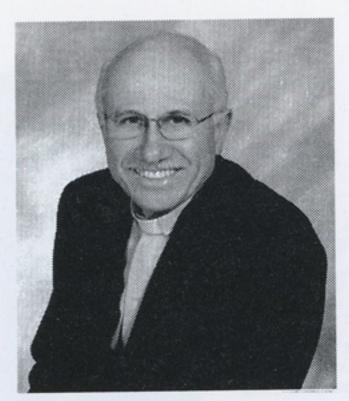
With warm love and blessings,

Prayerfully,

ARCHBISHOP OSHAGAN
Prelate, Eastern United States of America







Reverend Father

Aram Stepanian

In the Old Testament we read a very interesting story. There was a prophet named Samuel who was a very powerful, effective man of God. This prophet was not only the answer to his mother, Hannah's prayers but he was a gift to the Israelites.

During Samuel's time, the Ark of the Lord was in captivity by the enemy. The Ark contained the two tablets of the Ten Commandments, the Manna, and Aaron's rod. These were kept there as witness to what God had done for the Israelites during their deliverance from slavery. It also was the meeting place where the Lord revealed Himself to His servants, priests and the prophets.

Many times our nation has gone through "captivity." The last one was the Genocide where our "Arks" — that is, the churches — were burned and destroyed and clergy were tortured and killed. But God, by His mercy saved a remnant of faithful people who came to the small village of Whitinsville to find refuge and haven. They worked hard to make a life, forming families and friends. Eventually they became a community and, as Saroyan says, "...see if they will not laugh, sing and pray again. For when two of them meet anywhere in the world, see if they will not create a new Armenia."

And that is what the founders of this church did!

As the Apostle says, "Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity." (II Cor. 8:2) In other words, the founders of St. Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church of Whitinsville did not hold any thing back. They gave themselves and their possessions sacrificially in order to erect this sanctuary, the Church, so that we, today, and future generations to come can worship the God of our forefathers.

For 50 years, as God was "Ebenezer" for the Israelits, (which means "thus far

has the Lord helped us") God has been the same for our Church.

God helped the founders build this Church.

God helped keep the doors of this Church open in order for us to worship Him. And God has promised to pour out His blessings upon this Church as long as we stay faithful to the mission of the Church, which is:

To know Christ and to make Him known... through worship, fellowship and service.

Heavenly King, keep your Church unshaken and the worshippers of your name in peace.

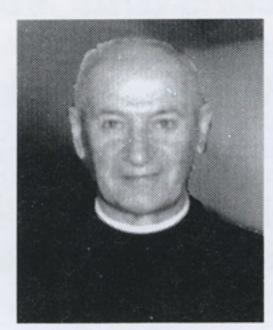
REV. Fr. ARAM STEPANIAN Pastor

Past and Present Clergy

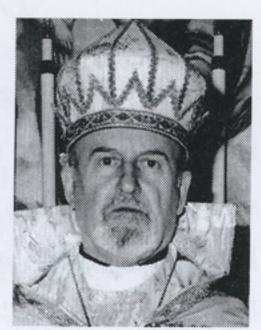




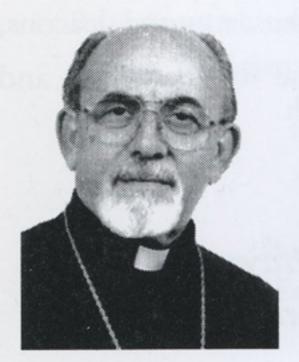
Very Rev. Fr. Oshagan Minassian 1958=1960



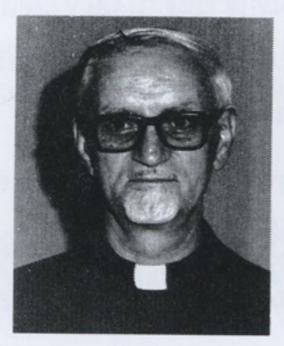
Rev. Fr. Leon Kosrovian 1960=1963



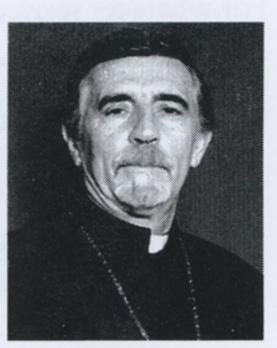
Rev. Fr. Sahag Vertanessian 1963=1965



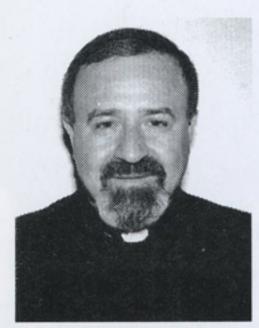
Rev. Fr. Vatche Naccachian 1965=1976



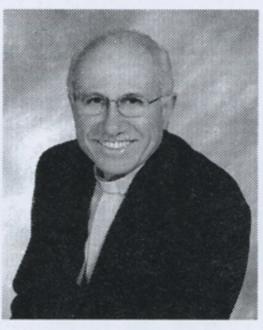
Rev. Fr. Gomidas Der Torossian 1977=1988



Rev. Fr. Zareh Sahakian 1989=1995



Rev. Fr. Khatchadoor Boghossian 1996=1998



Rev. Fr. Aram Stepanian 1999=present



Deacons and Acolytes

Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church of Whitinsville has been fortunate throughout its 50-year history to have several altar servers available to assist our priests — our Der Hayrs— on the altar. It would be a heavy burden for any Der Hayr to perform the Divine Liturgy alone.

Whitinsville has a dedicated and cooperative group of altar servers who desire to serve their church, the Der Hayr, and their community. For whatever service they perform, they credit the clergy and deacons, past and present, who have taught them the words, music and traditions of the Armenian Liturgy.

Altar Servers and the Der Hayrs Under Whom They Served

ORDAINED FULL DEACONS

Vazken Kopoyan (visiting deacon from Worcester who helped our church immensely)

Markar Kassabian (Der Gomidas, Der Zareh)

Jeffrey Kalousdian (Der Sahag, Der Vatche, Der Gomidas, Der Zareh, Der Khatchadour, and Der Aram)

Diran Der Kosrofian (Der Gomidas, Der Zareh,

Der Khatchadour, and Der Aram)

Mr. Balian



ORDAINED SUB DEACONS

Mgrditch Hekimian (Der Leon)

Vartan Artinian (Hayr Oshagan)

Michael Der Kosrofian (Der Leon,

Der Sahag, Der Vatche)

Garabed Charles Balian (Hayr Oshagan,

Der Sahag and Der Vatche)

Samuel Sagherian (Der Sahag, Der Vatche and Der Gomidas)

Simon Payaslian (Der Vatche)

Samuel Panossian (Der Vatche)

Ronald Malkasian (Der Gomidas)

Paul Nadjarian (Der Gomidas)

Raffi Samkiranian (Der Zareh, Der Khatchadour, Der Aram)

Peter Bedigian (Der Zareh, Der Khatchadour, Der Aram)

Andre Markarian (Der Aram)

ORDAINED ACOLYTES

Krikor Naccachian (Der Vatche)

Zareh Naccachian (Der Vatche)

Kevork Naccachian (Der Vatche)

Levon DerKosrofian (Der Gomidas)

John Berberian (Der Aram)

Harry "Butch" Simonian (Der Aram)



(Itor) Harry "Butch" Simonian, Peter Bedigian, Diran DerKosrofian, Der Hayr Stepanian, Jeffrey Kalousdian (not pictured: Raffi Samkiranian and John Berberian)



T

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

This page is dedicated to those who served this church as members of the Board of Trustees. This group of individuals gave of their time and dedication so our church could prosper throughout the first fifty years. Many personal sacrifices have been made by these members by attending meetings, planning activities, tending to the financial welfare of the church and its general management. Our success has been attributed to the quality of those who have been selected to perform these duties. With the guidance of our beloved pastor we will continue to serve our parishioners and church in the future.

Trustee Honor Roll 1957 to 2007

1. Peter Bedrosian - 29 yrs**

2. Sebouh Kalousdian - 29 yrs**

3. Harry Garabedian - 23 yrs**

4. Ted Torosian - 19 yrs**

5. Horan Hougasian - 18 yrs**

6. Kirkor Ovian - 18 yrs**

7. Anush Bedrosian - 15 yrs**

8. Jerry Bagdasarian - 13 yrs**

9. Joseph Montecalvo - 12 yrs

10. Carol Tosoonian - 12 yrs

11. Leo Tosoonian - 12 yrs**

12. Peter A. Bedrosian - 11 yrs

13. David Papazian - 10 yrs

14. Samuel Sagherian -10 yrs**

15. Martha Garabedian - 9 yrs**

16. Charles Gigarjian - 9 yrs

17. Richard Kazarian - 9 yrs

18. Varkis Arakelian - 8 yrs**

19. George Papazian - 8 yrs**

20. Alice Sagherian - 8 yrs

21. Janette Sisoian - 8 yrs**

22. Peter Bedigian - 7 yrs

23. Mgrditch Germagian - 7 yrs**

24. Paul Nadjarian - 7 yrs

25. John Berberian - 6 yrs

26. David Bedrosian - 6 yrs

27. Alan Goshgarian - 6 yrs

28. Nazalie Avakian - 5 yrs

29. Diran Der Kosrofian - 5 yrs

30. Lucy Almasian - 4 yrs

31. Arthur Barsamian - 4 yrs

32. Vartkes Barsamian - 4 yrs

33. Sylvia Bedrosian - 4 yrs

34. Leo Der Kosrofian - 4 yrs**

35. Magdy Faltaous - 4 yrs

36. Aram Hazerjian - 4 yrs

37. Joanne (Hoard) Khoury - 4 yrs

38. Katchadour Boghosian - 3 yrs

39. Koorken Kazarian - 3 yrs

40. Raffi Samkiranian - 3 yrs

41. Will Whittlesey - 3 yrs

42. Thomas Altoonian - 2 yrs

43. Charles Ampagoomian - 2 yrs

44. Hagop Antranigian - 2 yrs

45. Varkis Asadourian - 2 yrs

46. Carol Bedrosian - 2 yrs 47. Mark Der Mugrditchian - 2 yrs

48. Linda Faltaous - 2 yrs

49. Charles Garabedian - 2 yrs**

50. Mgrditch Hekimian - 2 yrs

51. Paul Mouradian - 2 yrs

52. Varkis Ovian - 2 yrs

53. Harry Palanjian - 2 yrs

54. Harry Simonian - 2 yrs

55. Marcel Tomassian - 2 yrs

56. Robert Torosian - 2 yrs

57. Paul Arakelian - 1 yr

58. Charles Barsamian - 1 yr

59. Roy Callan - 1 yr

60. George Garabedian - 1 yr**

61. Aram Sisoian - 1 yr

62. Charles Yergatian - 1 yr



Current Board of Trustees. (l to r): Raffi Samkiranian, treasurer;
Peter Bedigian; Lucy Almasian; Rick Kazarian, recording secretary;
Father Stepanian; Peter Bedrosian, Jr., chairman; Joseph Montecalvo,
assistant treasurer; Roy Callan, corresponding secretary;
Chuck Gigarjian, vice-chairman. (not pictured: Will Whittlesey)



First Board of Trustees, 1958.

(l to r) 1st row: George Papazian, secretary; Father Oshagan; Leo Der Kosrofian, chairman. 2nd row: Mgrditch Germagian; Leo Tosoonian, treasurer; Aram Sisoian; Anoushavan Bedrosian; Paul Arakelian



The Fab Four:
Peter Bedrosian,
Harry Garabedian,
Samuel Sagherian and
Sebouh Kalousdian
(circa 1985)

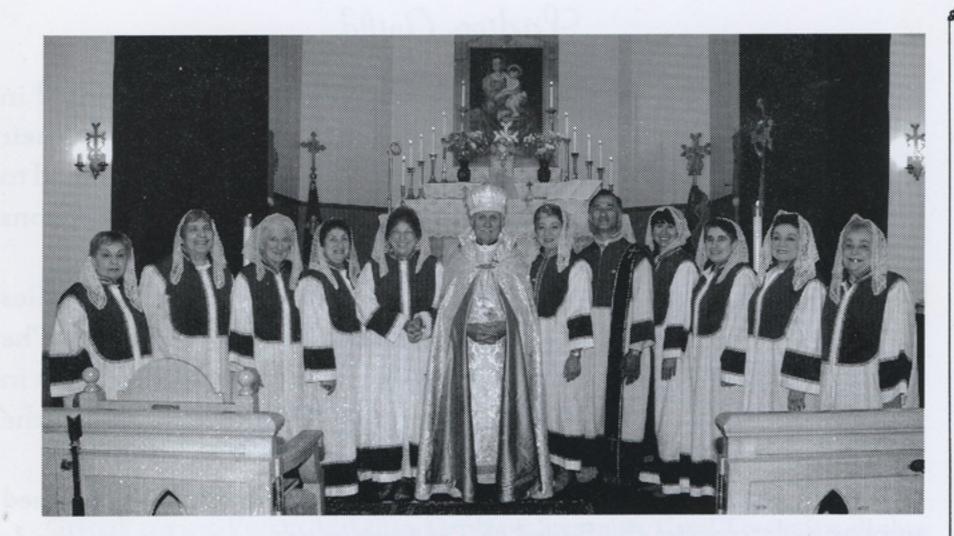
Choir

The first organizational meeting of the choir at Soorp Asdvadzadzin was held on January 8, 1958 under the direction of Very Rev. Fr. Oshagan Minassian. With great patience and understanding, Father Oshagan taught us the spiritual hymns of our Holy Mass and the important role of spiritual development in our endeavors as choir members. At one time, our choir numbered over 40 members.

In February 1958, the Whitinsville Choral Society was formed consisting of choir members and others, who soon began performing a series of successful concerts over many years. The benefits derived from long hours of rehearsals and hard work were well worth the effort as the cultural knowledge gained and friendships forged will always be remembered.

While the size of our current choir is smaller, the dedication of its members is strong. Church organists Nancy Moscofian and Ann Samkiranian have served the church faithfully for decades; Mary Ampagoomian and Melanie Altoonian also served as organists. Choir members with 30 or more years of service include Dorothy Arakelian, Sylvia Bedrosian, Sara Barsamian and Carol Tosoonian. With God's guidance and grace, our choir will continue to nourish our community for generations to come.





Current Choir. (l to r) Sara Barsamian, Nancy Moscofian, Dorothy Arakelian, Nazalie Avakian, Sylvia Bedrosian, Der Aram Stepanian, Yeretsgin Margaret Stepanian, Haroutioun Ohannesian, Claudia Antranigian, Ann Samkiranian, Grace Kazarian, Carol Tosoonian (not pictured: John Berberian, Kristi Markarian, Cindy Der Murgrditchian)



The Whitinsville Choral Society, 1958. (l to r) 1st row: Carol Tosoonian, Barbara Chandler, Pauline Hagopian, Aram Sisoian, Father Oshagan, Paul Arakelian, Sonia Meregian, Cynthia Kasparian, Melanie Altoonian. 2nd row: Grace Kazarian, Susan DerSarkisian, Sylvia Roche, Agnes Egsegian, Cina Kojoian, Rosalie Schweinfurth, Sylvia Bedrosian, Ann Malkasian, Grace Kazarian, Sandra Ovian, Shirley Demagian, Sadie Manoogian, Thelma Kooyomjian. 3rd row: Sara Barsamian, Rose Demagian, Mary Ann Boucher, Mary Megerdichian, George Avakian, Mary Bagian, Irene Tiberian, Nancy Moscofian, Irene Markarian. 4th row: Vartan Artinian, Mike Goshgarian, Sebouh Kalousdian, Arshag Karagoian, Sam Sagherian, Bob Markarian, Harry Ainpagoomian, Arthur Barsamian, Garabed Balian



The Ladies Guild of Soorp Asdvadzadzin Church was formed in March 1954, three years before the church was built. True to their hard working and generous nature, the women recognized the need to assist the Building Committee of the church with food, social functions and other responsibilities, and began organizing immediately.

In 1957 when the church officially became a parish, the Ladies Auxiliary, as it was known at that time, began its work in earnest. The late Varter Bedigian was elected president and served for ten years in that capacity. In the mid-1980's, a national guild was formed and the official name changed to Ladies Guild.

For over fifty years, the purpose of the Ladies Guild has remained unchanged: to assist the Board of Trustees in providing for the needs of the community. The guild does this through various goodwill projects, providing a social network for the women of the church and, of course, through their skilled and delicious cooking, baking and meal preparation. Months of food prep by the ladies of the church makes our annual holiday bazaar so festive and successful each year. Not only are they the cookers and the bakers, they are also the moneymakers! An annual Lenten dinner and various other church gatherings feature the delicious food from our guild kitchen. A request from Der Hayr or the Board of Trustees to host luncheons, dinners or other social functions is never denied. A much-appreciated service to our community is the preparation of the "hoki-jash" meal served to friends and families of the bereaved after a funeral.

The Ladies Guild membership currently stands at 39 members, with meetings held monthly from September-June. An educational or entertaining program follows the business meeting each month with social gatherings planned on occasion. In addition, the guild participates in Whitinsville Community Center's Picnic in the Park each year, upkeeps a flower garden in front of the church, visits the sick, has hosted the National Ladies Guild Regional Conference, supported the church's "Mission With Vision" by donating the cost to build a house in Armenia, and sponsors children in Armenia. The current executive board includes Carol Bedrosian, president; Joanne Khoury, vice president; Yerchanig Callan, recording secretary; Claire Malkasian, treasurer; Armen Bagdasarian, corresponding secretary; Alice Sagherian and Nazalie Avakian, advisors.



Current Ladies Guild. (l to r) 1st row: Elsie Menzigian, Margaret Hougasian, Mrs. Grace Kazarian, Verkin Arakelian, Der Hayr Stepanian, Carol Tosoonian, Pauline Hagopian, Dorothy Arakelian, Martha Garabedian. 2nd row: Ann Samkiranian, Debbie Bedrosian, Alice Sagherian, Nazalie Avakian, Joanne Khoury, Claire Malkasian, Armen Bagdasarian, Carol Bedrosian, Yerchanig Callan, Joyce Torosian, Anahid Katchadourian, Susan Bedrosian, Nancy Gigarjian, Sylvia Bedrosian. 3nd row: Knar Callan, Rachel Gallant, Susana DerKosrofian, Mary Ampagoomian, Yeretsgin Margaret Stepanian, Kathy Gonynor, Dona Nashwaty, Vicy Ovian, Mary Amorello, Vivian Nigro.



Ladies Auxiliary, circa 1960. (l to r) 1st row: Mary Ampagoomian, Lucy Garabedian, Jeannette Sisoian, Takouhi Barsamian, Varter Bedigian, Rev. Fr. Levon Kosrovian, Verkin Arakelian, Mary Arakelian, Anna Ahmadjian, Varsenig Papazian. 2nd row: Victoria Machoian, Arkabi Altoonian, Yegsha Sohigian, Armenouhi Tiberian, Siranoosh Mooradian, Anna Karagosian, Zaghig Yezegelian, Marash Almasian, Anna Ovian, Lusaper Mantashigian, Almas Boghosian, Nectar Arakelian, Nevart Naroian, Yegsapet Minasian, Yousarpar Etoian.



Sunday School

Under the loving guidance of pastors, directors, teachers and adult members of our church, the children of Soorp Asdvadzadzin have always been encouraged to love and serve God and to develop a personal loving relationship with Jesus Christ. What began as a thirty-pupil school under the leadership of our first director, the late Thomas Altoonian, has grown into a flourishing program that at one time had over one hundred students. Classes were not only held in the hall, but also in the baptismal room, choir room, back stairs and even in the kitchen.

In 1959 George "Coke" Gigarjian was appointed director. Coke joyfully served in this capacity for 20 years! While he has many accomplishments to speak of, Coke is most proud of teaching the children the Armenian prayers and *sharagans*. In the early 1980s Claire Malkasian served for several years as Sunday school director, providing dedicated religious education for our children. The current Sunday school enrolls fifty students from nursery age through grade twelve under the direction of Alan Goshgarian. Alan has been director for the past eleven years.

Our Sunday school not only provides a Christian education under the tenets of the Armenian Apostolic Church, but also provides the setting for children to develop relationships that will last a lifetime. Many children (now grown) remember the cookouts at Purgatory State Park and the geraniums that were handed out at the end of the school year. More recently, the children have enjoyed apple picking, pool parties, bike and beach trips, dance lessons, whale watches, overnights at the church, Christmas pageants, and of course, Nelly! Through an "orphan" sponsorship program, our children developed a loving bond with Nelly Daloozyan who lives in Gyumrie, Armenia. In 2006, the year our official sponsorship ended, Alan surprised the entire congregation by arranging for Nelly to come to America to meet the children and adults that have been her friends for so many years. Her appearance at the back of the sanctuary as Alan announced her from a microphone at the front, moved everyone to gasps and tears. Nelly stayed the entire summer. It was a summer we will never forget.

From bake sales and car washes for orphans, to yard sales and local food drives, our children have many accomplishments to be proud of. We adults are proud as well, because these children are the future of Soorp Asdvadzadzin. On the occasion of our 50th anniversary, we honor the callings, dedication, love of children, special talents, and countless hours of effort of every director, teacher and adult member of our church who has served God through His children. May our church always be filled with the joyous sights and sounds of these little ones.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me...for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:13



Current Sunday School. (I to r) 1st row: Suzanna DerKosrofian, Baby Yeva DerKosrofian, Leah Garabedian, Caroline Gallant, Jack Whittlesey, Benjamin Hazerjian, Talia Markarian, Anna Shenian, Meline Markarian, Aznive Gigarjian, Baby Aza Whittlesey, Nikki Whittlesey. 2nd row: Kristi Markarian, Roy Callan, Zachary Papazian, Dillon Tomasso, Erin Kalousdian, Jacob Hazerjian, Anoush Gigarjian, Sophie Shenian, Charles Whittlesey, Molly DerKosrofian, Aram Antranigian, Susan Shenian. 3nd row: Sarah Kalousdian, Aleck Nashawaty, Nick Bedrosian, Matthew Bedigian, Jackie Shenian, Nick DePasquale, Christina Mouradian, Ashley Bedrosian, Jillian Shenian, Alison Amorello, 4th row center: Jeremy Torosian, Bryan DerKosrofian, Angela Bedigian. 5th row: Greg Mouradian, Tommy Bedrosian, Anthony Amorello, Mike DePasquale, Mary DerKosrofian. 6th row: Emily Torosian, Elizabeth Torosian, Pricilla Altoonian, Y. Margaret Stepanian, Barbara Berberian, Knar Callan.

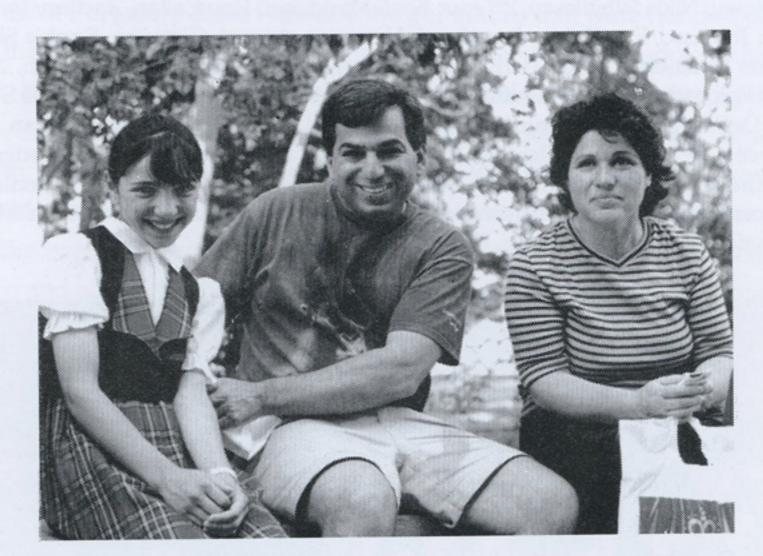


The early days of Sunday school, circa 1965





The late Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, Father Boghossian and the Sunday School children during a visit in 1996.



Sunday school director Alan Goshgarian meets our church's Armenian Relief Society sponsored "orphan" Nelly Daloozyan and her mother Ovsanna in Armenia in 2002. Alan traveled with Der Aram and 20 others including 10 teens from our church on a "Mission With Vision" to help build houses in Armenia and explore Armenian heritage and culture.



Voices from Our Sunday School

Sunday school is important to me because I get to learn more about Jesus and God. Mrs. Callan makes it fun to do by making projects.— *Christina Mouradian*, age 9

I enjoy coming to Sunday school because all of the members in my church are my family and I feel comfortable worshipping God and Jesus with them.

— Zachary Papazian, age 9

I love Sunday school because I can see all my friends and I can learn my culture. — Erin Kalousdian, age 9

I love Jesus because he always answers my prayers when I need them. — Jackie Shenian, age 11

I love coming to Sunday school because I see all my friends, especially my best friend Alan. Also, I get to learn lessons about God that I didn't know to help me become a better Christian. — Mary DerKosrofian, age 13

Sunday school teaches you about life and the most important lesson — how to go to heaven. Also you not only meet your family, but your friends for life. — *Anthony Amorello*, age 15

I enjoy coming to Sunday School because I get to see my Armenian friends and learn about God and Jesus. — Mike DePasquale, age 15



Written on a student's high school graduation card:

There is something wonderful about our church that I have not yet told you, but you already know. No matter where you go, or how long you are away, when you return there will be people in church who know you, love you and treat you like family. — Alan Goshgarian, Sunday school director



Christian Education Committee

The Christian Education Committee (CEC) was formed in September 2002 to help individuals grow in their knowledge and relationship with Jesus Christ and to understand the teachings and doctrine of the Armenian Apostolic faith. The objectives of this committee come under the general mission statement of our church which is "To know Christ and make Christ known....through worship, fellowship and service." Under Der Aram's guidance, the CEC has developed a variety of programs to help meet these goals that would serve the uniqueness of our particular community:

- The CEC established a lending library in March 2006. A large assortment of books and media on various Christian topics and the teachings of the Armenian Church have been cataloged and displayed in categories for ease of use for our parishioners.
- Mini lessons are given periodically at the end of Badarak by CEC members. These brief lessons have been designed to provide teachings that will facilitate a deeper understanding of the faith and traditions of the Armenian Apostolic church.
- The CEC is in the process of developing an expository Badarak video in English so that all our parishioners, including our youth, may increase their understanding of our worship service and participate more fully.





Parish Meeting March 2007





(seated 1 to r) Sylvia Bedrosian, Carol Tosoonian, Alice Sagherian, Der Hayr Aram Stepanian, Jill Shenian, Charles Whittlesey, Jackie Shenian, A Friend, Sophie Shenian. 2nd row: Sebouh Kalousdian, Margaret Kalousdian, Erin Kalousdian, Talia Markarian, Anna Shenian, Aznive Gigarjian, Jack Whittlesey, Meline Markarian, Anoush Gigarjian, Caroline Gallant. 3rd row: Yeretsgin Margaret Stepanian, Barbara Berberian, John Berberian, Joyce Torosian, Ted Torosian, Nikki Whittlesey holding Aza and Will Whittlesey, Jr. 4th row: Butch Simonian, Peter Bedrosian, Debi Bedrosian, Jeanne Papazian, David Papazian. 5th row: Gerry Gonyor, Rachael Gallant, Kathy Gonyor, Hagop Antranigian, Claudia Antranigian, Priscilla Altoonian, Jim Altoonian. 6th row: Jerry Bagdasarian, Armen Bagdasarian, Carol Bedrosian, Joanne Khoury, Magdy Faltaous, Peter Baghdasarian, Haroutioun Ohannessian. 7th row: Nishan Ovian, Vicky Ovian, Amy Garabedian, Kristi Markarian, Andre Markarian, Roy Callan, Knar Callan. 8th row: Nazalie Avakian, Peter Bedigian, George Gigarjian, Nancy Gigarjian, Harry Kazarian, Ted Nigro. 9th row: Mrs. Grace Kazarian, Margaret Shenian, Dona Nashawaty, Ann Samkiranian, Joe Montecalvo. 10th row: Lucy Almasian, Lusiya Thibault, Alice Ovian, Almas Boghosian, Martha Garabedian, Margo Montecalvo. (standing front to back): Aleck Nashawaty, Jeremy Torossian, Emily Torosian, Sarah Kalousdian, Alan Goshgarian, Sue Shenian, Ani Gigarjian, Will Whittlesey, Allison Amorello, Sonya Faltaous, Dorothy Arakelian, Anthony Amorello, Miss Grace Kazarian, Sue Bedrosian, Joy Callan, Rick Kazarian, Peter J. Bedigian, Alexandra Faltaous, Raffi Samkiranian, Bob Torosian, Charles Gigarjian. (not pictured: photographer Bruce Gigarjian)



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Be it Known That whereas John Moscofian, Thomas M. Muradian, Eli Mooradian, Thomas J. Altoonian, Alice DerTorosian, Hagop Arakelian,

Mirael Hekemian and Mikael DerKarrosian

have associated themselves with the intention of forming a corporation in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 180, of the General Laws, under the name of

Armenian Apostolic Church of Whitinsville,

for the purpose of the following: To facilitate the meetings of persons of Armenian extraction who desire to worship God in accordance with the principles as laid down by the General Convention of the Armenian Holy Apostolic Church of America and to provide a place of worship;

and have complied with the provisions of the Statutes of this Commonwealth in such case made and provided, as appears from the Articles of Organization of said corporation, duly approved by the Commissioner of Corporations and Taxation and recorded in this office:

Row, therefore, I, EDWARD J. CRONIN, Secretary of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Do Hereby Certify that said

John Moscofian, Thomas M. Muradian,

Eli Mooradian, Thomas J. Altoonian,

Alice DerTorosian, Hagop Arabelian,

Mikael Hekemian and Mikael DerKarrosian,

their associates and successors, are legally organized and established as, and are hereby made, an existing corporation as of November 6, 1952under the name of

Armenian Apostolic Church of Whitinsville,

with the powers, rights and privileges, and subject to the limitations, duties and restrictions, which by law appertain thereto.



Witness my official signature hereunto subscribed, and the Great Seal of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts hereunto affixed, this sixth in the year of our Lord one thousand nine bundred and fifty-three.

A Brief History of Our Church

It was the summer of 1927. Our forefathers had survived the horrific experience of the Armenian genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Turkish government and many had settled here in Whitinsville, MA. As they integrated into their new country and began raising families, their thoughts turned to building a place of worship — a church to ensure the survival of their religion, their culture and their heritage.

A committee was formed and the process of obtaining funds began. This enthusiastic and constructive period continued for several years. The funds collected were used to purchase a parcel of land located at the corner of Church Street and Johnston Avenue as a proposed site to build the church. Unfortunately the dark and insecure days of the Great Depression bore down on the community, forcing a halt in church fundraising. This land was leased to George Avakian, who built a gas station on the property.

In June 1952, interest in building a church was renewed. The local chapter of the Armenian Youth Federation approached the Armenian Revolutionary Federation to discuss the feasibility of building a church. A community meeting was held and a Board of Trustees was elected to start the construction of the church. The Trustees were also to serve as the building committee. Elected were the late John Moscofian, chairman; the late Eli Mooradian, Armenian secretary; the late Mikael Der Kosrofian, treasurer; the late Thomas Altoonian, assistant treasurer; and Alice (Der Torosian) Sagherian, secretary and public relations director.



Members of the Building Committee: Thomas Altoonian, Alice DerTorosian and Leo DerKosrofian with Archbishop Khoren Paroyan in 1957.







Presidents of affiliated church organizations contributing the largest sums towards the construction fund were honored with selection as godparents at the blessing and cornerstone laying in 1953. They were (from left) Michael DerKosrofian, Sally Mantashigian, Elizabeth Altoonian and Badgasar Barsamian.

The land on which the church was to be built was donated by the Whitin Machine Works, with the encouragement of Mr. E. Kent Swift, Sr. The land was donated with the stipulation that the church was to be built within ten years or the land would revert back to the Whitin Machine Works. The deed was granted by J. Hugh Bolton, presiding president of the Whitin Machine Works.

Fundraising started with a gala weekend affair held at Camp Hayastan in Franklin, MA in June 1953. Fundraising picnics and dances were held by the AYF and the Building Committee. Interest was high and many volunteered to help secure funds to begin the long-awaited task of building our church. The cornerstone of the church building was laid and blessed by Rev. Fr. Nishan Papazian of Providence in 1953.

After four years of hard work, Koopman Lumber completed the construction, all of which was paid for without a mortgage. Our beloved church was consecrated on November 24, 1957. The rites of consecration were performed by His Eminence, Archbishop Khoren Paroyan, Prelate of the Cilician See and official Nuncio of His Holiness, Catholicos Zareh I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia. Assisting at the commemoration service were the Rev. Fr. Nishan Papazian of Providence, Rev. Fr. Khachadoor Giragosian of New York and the Rev. Fr. Moses Shirikian of Worcester.

An estimated one thousand people crowded the church during the rites of consecration. To the members of the community, this day was the culmination of more than half a century of planning. The church was named Soorp Asdvadzadzin (Holy Mother of God) after a church of the same name from the Armenian village of Pazmashen.

Following the consecration, a meeting of the membership was called and elections were held to elect a Board of Trustees. The first group elected to serve on the Board were Leo DerKosrofian, chairman; the late George Papazian, secretary; the late Leo Tosoonian, treasurer; the late Mgrditch Germagian, Aram Sisoian, the late Anoush Bedrosian and Paul Arakelian.

Although our church was built and consecrated, we did not have a permanent pastor assigned to serve the Whitinsville community. Very Rev. Fr. Oshagan Minassian was asked to come to Whitinsville to form a choir and perform various duties until our church was assigned a parish priest. Under his tutelage, a choir was organized consisting of forty or more voices. The first church organist was the talented Nancy Moscofian. A choral group was also organized and performed its first concert in April 1958. Father Oshagan taught us the Divine Liturgy (the Badarak) and its meanings. We were all novices in the ways of the Church and were excited to have such a teacher with us during our formative years.



An estimated one thousand people crowded the church during the rites of consecration on November 24, 1957.

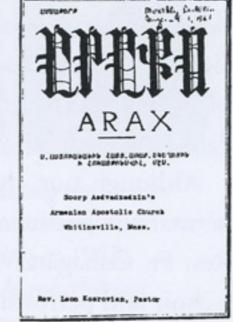




During this interim, the late Rev. Fr. Arsen Simoniantz and the late Rev. Fr. Gasparian performed the Divine Liturgy on Sunday. The Ladies Auxiliary and the Young Adults group were formed. The Sunday school was established under the direction of the late Tom Altoonian and registrations flourished with over 100 pupils. Thereafter, George Gigarjian became Sunday school director and served in that capacity for over 20 years.

In March 1960, Rev. Fr. Leon Kosrovian was assigned as our first permanent pastor. During this time, our church monthly bulletin, Arax, was published. This periodical was well received by the congregation and many of our out-of-town friends.

Our town was deeply sorrowed when Father Kosrovian died suddenly in January 1963. He was a very intelligent and distinguished clergyman. To fill the void left in our church, the Prelacy called upon



Archpriest Rev. Fr. Arsen Simoniantz and Rev. Fr. Torkom Hagopian to alternate on Sundays to perform the Divine Liturgy. On February 18, 1963, our dear Catholicos, His Holiness Zareh I Payaslian, passed away and our church portals were draped in black to observe forty days of mourning.

With the passing of Fr. Kosrovian, we were without a parish priest. Very Rev. Fr. Oshagan Minassian returned to our church to continue teaching the choir and performing prayer services. Soon after, Mr. Hapet Vertanessian was called to become our first resident parish priest. He was ordained Sahag Kahana in our church on November 3, 1963. Der Sahag and his wife established afternoon Armenian school classes twice a week where Armenian language, history, songs and dances were taught to enthusiastic students. Father Vertanessian, his Yeretsgin and three daughters served the community well until his departure in 1965.

Another year passed before we had our own priest again. In September 1965, Rev. Fr. Vatche Naccachian and his family arrived from San Paulo, Brazil. His Yeretsgin was the sister of the late Catholicos, His Holiness Zareh I. In addition to his ecclesiastical duties, Father Naccachian continued teaching Armenian language and was responsible for mentoring several youths who entered the Church's ranks as acolytes.

On November 19, 1967, we proudly celebrated our tenth anniversary with a successful banquet. His Eminence Archbishop Hrant



Rev. Vatche Naccachian, Archbishop Hrant Khatchadourian and Peter Bedrosian, Chairman, Board of Trustees in 1971.

Kachadoorian was the keynote speaker. His Eminence had participated at church on consecration day and he expressed his pleasure in noting how much the church had progressed in ten years. At the banquet, the Nayiri Dance group from New York performed.

In May 1969, our community had the honor of a visit by His Holiness Khoren I (of blessed memory), Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia. In preparing for this visit, the students of the Armenian school learned the song "Giligia," which is sung at all church events. The day of His Holiness' arrival, the children were excused from school, and with members of the congregation, formed a motorcade to the Purgatory

Rd. exit bridge off Rt. 146. The Armenian tri-color flag was draped over the railing of the bridge awaiting the arrival of His Holiness from Worcester, who was met by our own police escort. We all proceeded back to our church where the children sang "Giligia," highlighting a very emotional day in the early history of our parish.

Der Vatche served our community faithfully for eleven years, and in September 1976, left Whitinsville with his family to serve the parish in Hollywood, California. After his departure Very Rev. Oshagan Choloyan, (now



In an outdoor ceremony, His Holiness Khoren 1 blesses the bread and salt during his official pontifical visit to our church in 1969.





Board of Trustee
members (from left)
Kirkor Ovian,
Jeanette Sisoian,
Martha Garabedian
and Harry
Garabedian with
Very Rev. Oshagan
Choloyan during
a Sunday clergy
visit in 1976.

Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan), who was attending Princeton University at the time, visited us every other Sunday to perform the Divine Liturgy and preach in our church. Father Choloyan was well received by the community and fond memories were developed because of these visits.

In October 1977, Rev. Fr. Gomidas Der Torossian arrived from Buenos Aires, Argentina with his Yeretsgin and son. Der Gomidas' command of the English language was very helpful in reaching the youngsters of our town, and once again, Sunday school was started. Der Gomidas passed away in October 1988, after serving our church faithfully for twelve years. Deacon Markar Kassabian (now Rev. Fr. Vartan Kassabian) performed prayer services until a priest was assigned to us. It is noteworthy to quote Father Kassabian: "Der Gomidas was a true spiritual shepherd of the Armenian people and a faithful and humble servant of the Armenian Apostolic Church."



Rev. Gomidas Der Torossian baptizes a new Armenian Christian into Soorp Asdvadzadzin Church.

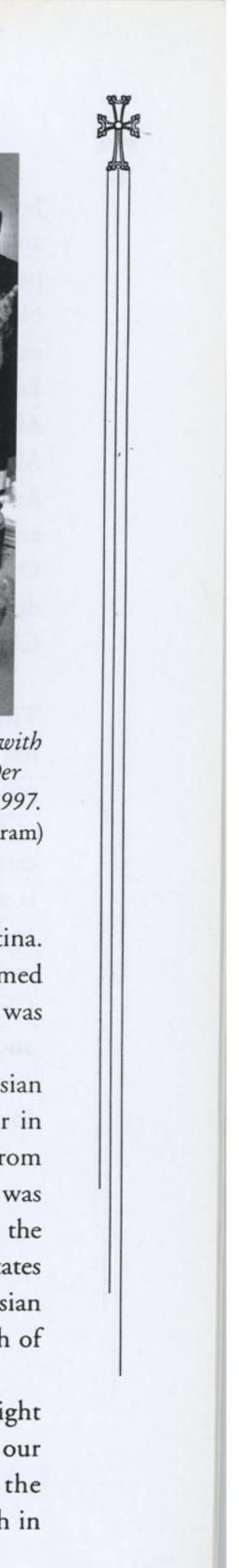


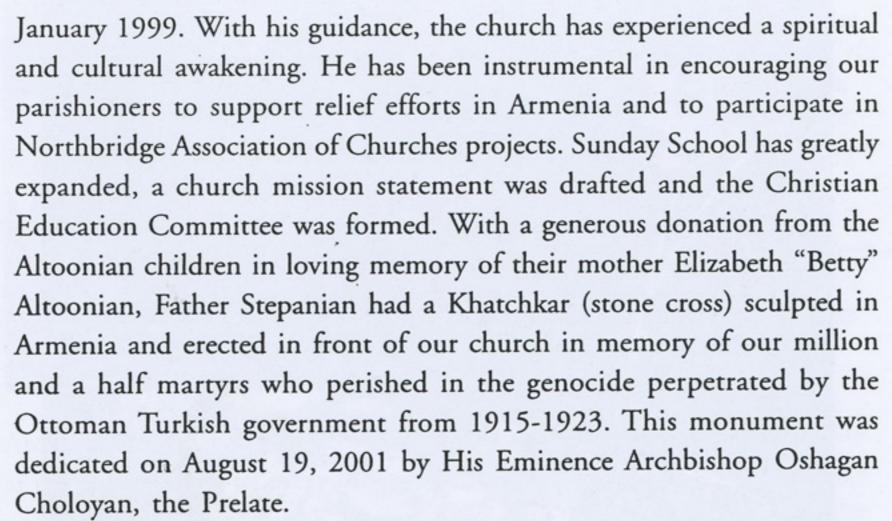
His Holiness, Aram 1, center, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, talks with Rev. Khatchadoor Boghossian, left, and other guests at a reception held at Der Khatachadoor's home during the Catholicos' visit to Soorp Asdvadzadzin in 1997. (Photo courtesy of Worcester Telegram)

In 1989 Rev. Fr. Zareh Sahakian and family arrived from Argentina. Der Zareh revived publishing the monthly *Arax* bulletin and renamed it *Chalice*. Father Sahakian served the church until 1995 when he was assigned to the church in Glendale, Ill.

Not long after Der Zareh's departure, Rev. Fr. Khatchadoor Boghossian and family arrived from France. It was during his stay as our pastor in October 1997, that our church was honored by a pontifical visit from His Holiness Aram 1, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, who was a former seminary student with Father Boghossian. Whitinsville was the smallest community visited by His Holiness on his Eastern United States tour, and a great honor for our parish to receive him. Father Boghossian was transferred after two years of service in Whitinsville to the parish of Ridgefield, New Jersey.

Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, Prelate at that time, noted our plight and introduced Preacher-at-Large Archdeacon Aram Stepanian to our parish, where he was accepted by the Board of Trustees and the community. Deacon Aram was ordained a parish priest in our church in





The spirit of the Soorp Asdvadzadzin community is blessedly resilient. Through good years and bad, the flame which inspired our founders has never faltered. Successful picnics, bazaars and other functions have provided for our financial needs while dedicated members of the Board of Trustees, deacons, choir, Sunday school and Ladies Guild have faithfully carried out their duties for fifty years. Our 50th anniversary celebration is a testament to the sovereignty of God, the vision of our forefathers and the will and dedication of our congregation today. It is up to us to carry on the mission of the church which is "To know Christ and make Christ known...through worship, fellowship and service," to honor our ancestors' memory, their sacrifices and their wisdom by maintaining our Church's sacred traditions and to keep our Armenian heritage vibrant for generations to come.





TAKAVOR YERGNAVOR, ZYEGEGHETZEE KO ANSHARJ BAHYA YEV ZERGURBAKOOS ANVANUT KOOM, BAHYA EE KHAGHAGHOOTYAN.

HEAVENLY KING, KEEP YOUR CHURCH UNSHAKEN
AND THE WORSHIPPERS OF YOUR NAME IN PEACE.





Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, Prelate of the Eastern United States and Canada, speaks about the Armenian genocide during the dedication ceremony for the stone khatch installed in August, 2001. (Photo courtesy of Worcester Telegram)





THE ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

The famous Armenian author, William Saroyan's quotation states that, "I shall like to see any power of the world destroy this race, this small tribe of unimportant people," and ends with, "Then see if they will not laugh, sing, and pray again, for when any two of them meet anywhere in the world, see if they will not create a new Armenia."

Such was the situation in Whitinsville, MA when Armenian immigrants from all over the world settled in the Blackstone Valley. Some immigrated before the Armenian Genocide but the majority settled as a result of the genocide of 1915.

Those who immigrated earlier settled here and farmed the land as they did in the old country. Some became businessmen and opened barbershops, shoe repair shops and retail stores. Among the earlier settlers in Whitinsville, was a gentleman who owned a farm known as Soghoman's Farm. Sandra Ovian is the granddaughter of Soghoman Ovian. Soghomans Farm was located between Main Street and Prentice Road behind Meadow Pond.

The Armenian population grew as a result of employment opportunities at the Whitin Machine Works, the largest textile equipment manufacturer in the world. As the Armenian community grew, social events began to take place, and among these events was the annual Armenian picnic held at Soghomons' Farm. Armenians would gather there and continue with their cultural heritage and socialize with one another. Later on, other locations within the community were also the sites of these picnics, mainly in open fields.

When our church was built in 1957, our spiritual tradition became the focus of our annual picnics. It grew from a social gathering of Armenians in the 1930's and 1940's to the religious feast of "The Blessing of the Grapes," which is celebrated in the month of August by all Armenian Apostolic churches.

Before the landscaping of the church grounds, the annual church picnics were held in various locations within the town of Whitinsville. The first location was The Polish Picnic Grounds, located off Providence Road. Church members would gather and celebrate "The Blessing" after Sunday church service. Traditional shish kebab was barbecued along with other Armenian cuisine and drink. Armenian musicians were hired to play music for enjoyment and dancing. When we outgrew this site,

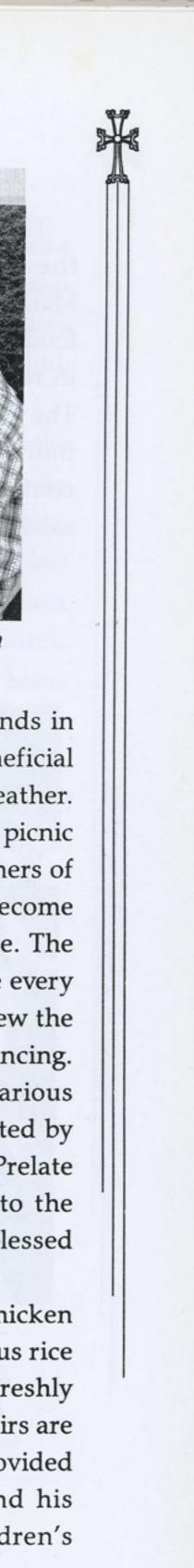


Bruce Gigarjian, John Berberian, Mal Barsamian, Roger Krikorian and Steve Surabian entertain the crowd at the annual picnic.

we moved our picnic location to the American Legion Hall grounds in the Rockdale section of Northbridge. This location was more beneficial because we had the use of the Legion Hall in case of inclement weather.

When the church lawn was established and matured, the Church picnic was held on the grounds. It was attended mainly by the parishioners of the church. As years went on, our annual Church picnic has become one of the largest yearly public events in the town of Whitinsville. The general public is invited to attend, attracting 1000 to 1300 people every year. People of all nationalities and denominations attend and view the ceremonial Blessing of the Grapes and enjoy food, drink and dancing. This major event is attended by the Armenian clergy of the various parishes within Massachusetts and Rhode Island and is highlighted by the presence of His Eminence Archbishop Oshagon Choloyan, Prelate of the Eastern United States. Archbishop Choloyan's speech to the attendees is an inspirational message to hear. In closing, bags of blessed grapes are distributed amongst the crowd.

Attendees feast on a varied menu of shish kebab, losh kebab, chicken kebab, kheyma, salad, and above all, Soorp Asdvadzadzin's famous rice pilaf *ala* Mrs. Almas Boghosian. Cold drinks and an array of freshly made desserts are a popular treat. Large tents with tables and chairs are provided for comfort and shade. The finest Armenian music is provided for your listening or dancing pleasure by John Berberian and his ensemble. An air inflated "playland" is provided for the children's enjoyment.





The task of arranging and promoting an affair of this size requires the participation of many parishioners and non-parishioners. Management skills are required to organize, purchase goods, prepare food, set up and assign jobs. These major tasks have been undertaken in recent years by Rick Kazarian, Peter Bedigian and Joanne Khoury. The success of this yearly event is attributed to the hard work of many individuals within our parish. It is worth noting that without their commitment and dedication to the church, this major social and fund raising event could not be realized.





2006 Picnic. Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan with members of the Siroun Dance Group. From left: Taline Mergerdichian, Aznive Gigarjian, Meline Markarian, Kristi Markarian, Anoush Gigarjian, Ashley Bedrosian, Alexandra Colangelo, Molly DerKosrofian, Michele Colangelo, Jackie Shenian, Mary DerKosrofian.

The Annual Bazaar

For almost as long as the church doors have been open, there has been a holiday bazaar. Even though half a century has gone by, Whitinsville's bazaar "recipe" remains basically unchanged using these same ingredients: festive spirit and decorations, a delicious and abundant baked goods table, shish kebob dinner and everyone's dedicated work to make the day a success.

The Young Adults group was very active in the first two decades of the church's history and enthusiastically organized the annual bazaars. Weeks were spent preparing crafts, decorations, publicity, and of course, food. Many women of the church will remember the first bazaar held, which was a two-day affair on Friday and Saturday. In those days, without access to freezers, everyone baked fresh in their homes and brought the goods to church. Everything sold out by Friday night, so the ladies of the church all went home that night and baked so there would be something to sell on Saturday! At that time, the community was so large with so many women to do the baking that individual home baking supplied the needs of the entire bazaar.



Bazaar, 1973.
Sue Bedrosian, Nancy Gigarjian and Varsenig Papazian pose for a publicity photo in the Telegram and Gazette.





What's a little snow when you're having shish kebob dinner? Manning the grill for the annual church bazaar are (1 to r) Jerry Badgasarian, Joe Montecalvo, Kirkor Ovian and Varkis Arakelian.

Years later, as the number of bakers dwindled, it was suggested that the ladies do their baking at church instead of at their homes. Over many years, these "bake sessions" have become the focus of planning and preparation for each year's bazaar and the key to its financial success. They also provide a welcome opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie of decades-long friendships and socializing. Although many of the bakers are in their 70s and 80s, younger women of the church are also provided the opportunity to learn these time-honored cooking traditions and recipes.

Because of its increasing success and popularity, in 2000 the annual bazaar was moved from our own church hall and into the rented facility of the



A bazaar bake session from 1987 with Altoun Elmasian, Takouyi Megerdichian, Sippy Andonian and Almas Boghosian.

Christian Reformed Church down the street. Although we lost the nostalgia of many of our decades-long bazaar traditions such as the penny raffle table, elbow to elbow crowds, and the close knit family feel of our own church hall, the new larger space provides the opportunity for a bigger social gathering, fellowship and fundraising. Despite the burden of serving larger crowds, the hardworking members of Soorp Asdvadzadzin, as always, have risen to the challenge, reflecting their dedication to supporting the welfare of the church first and foremost. Carol Tosoonian is credited as being as most experienced bazaar organizer, having chaired and co-chaired more bazaars than can be counted. Current bazaar co-chairs are Joanne Khoury and Mary Amorello.



Making toorshi for the bazaar. (I to r) Margaret Hougasian, Armen Bagdasarian, Sue Bedrosian, Sandra Ovian, Dorothy Arakelian and Sebouh Kalousdian.



Enjoying the holiday bazaar. (from left) Sylvia Roche, Mary and Clara Ampagoomian and Florence Markarian.





Did You Know . . . ?

Our church has recorded 192 baptisms, 75 weddings and 257 funerals.

Four priests have been consecrated in our church: Der Sahag Vartenessian, Der Arshag Daghlian, Der Aram Stepanian, Der Serop Azarian.

Current Chairman of the Board, Peter Bedrosian, holds the record for longest attendance of Sunday School as recorded by the pins and chain links given out by previous Sunday School Director Coke Gigarjian.

Along with the contributions of many other dedicated volunteer laborers, Baghdasar Barsamian is noted for having pumped water out of the building basement every morning during construction.

The current Madonna painting on the altar is not the original painting that was present on consecration day.

Celebrity restaurateur
George Mirdikian of San
Francisco, director of
efforts to bring
displaced Armenians to
this country after World
War II, was an honored
guest at one of our many
choral group concerts in
the early 1960's.

Our church once had a stage in front of our hall which was removed during the 1980s to make more closet and storage space.



Archbishop Khoren Paroyan, the Nuncio of His Holiness Zareh I (of blessed memory) performed consecration rites in 1957, assisted by Rev. Fr. Moses Shirikian

We are blessed to have been a part of
Soorp Asdvadzadzin
for the last 50 years.

It has been a pleasure to serve our Church and, God willing, we will continue our work for another 50 years.

Soorp Asdvadzadzin
Ladies Guild

임임임임임임임임임임임임임임임임임임임임임임임임임임임임임



In Loving Memory

Our Parents, Grandparents

& Great Grandparents

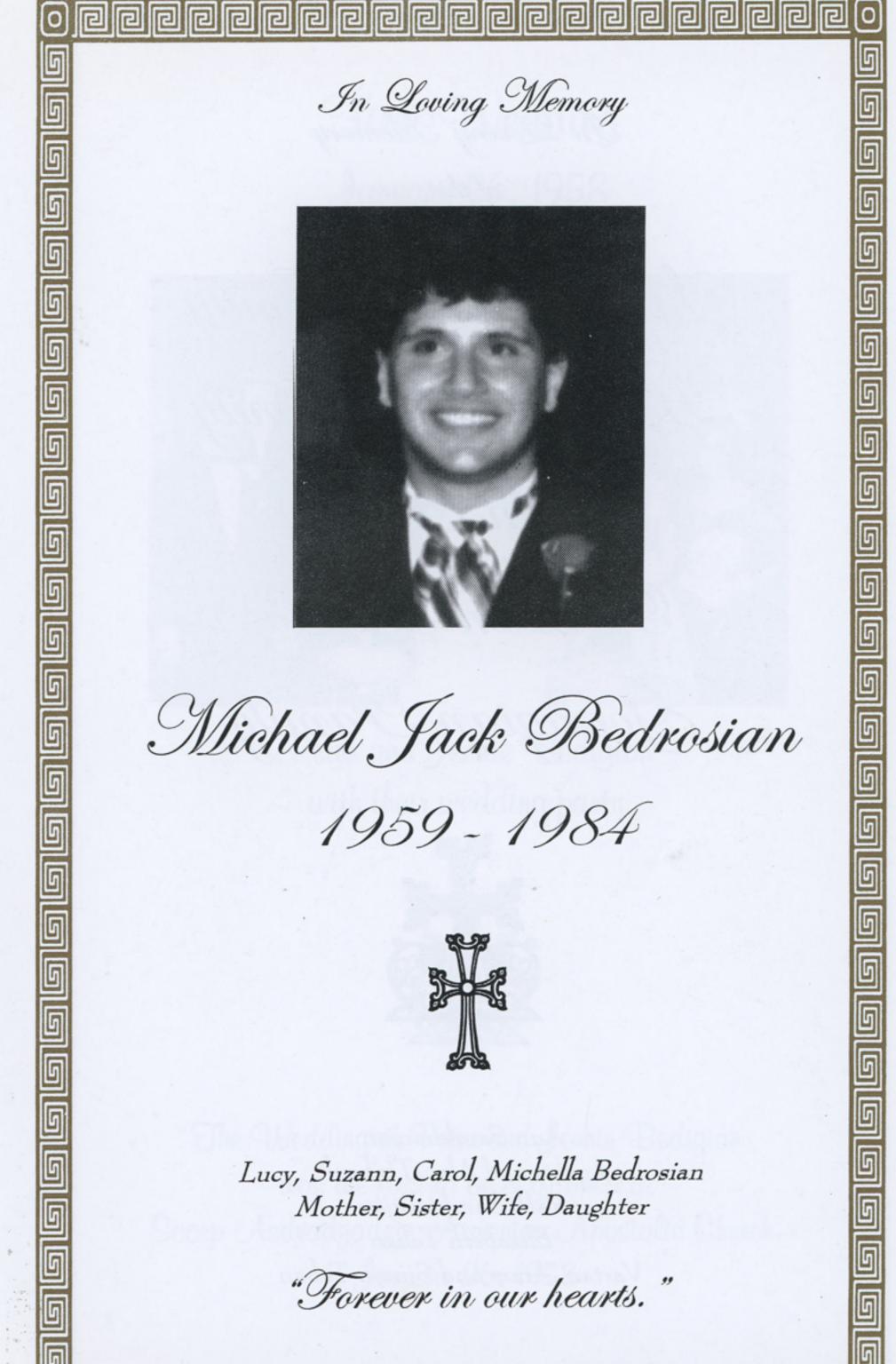
Ohannes & Takouyi
Megerdichian



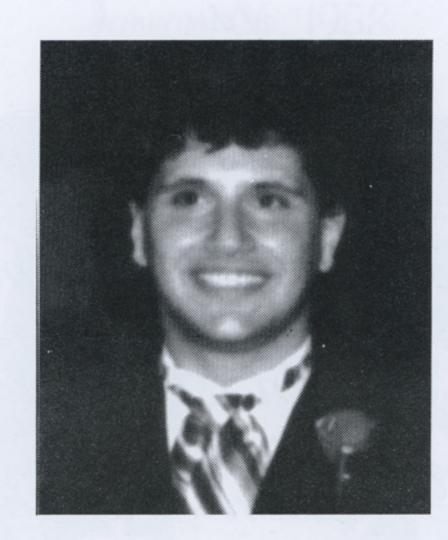
Virginia Leighton Joanne, Alan & Eric Knapik

Harry & Norma Megerdichian Stephen, Sosie, Taline and Haig Megerdichian Lori, Jaclyn, and Eddy Krikorian

Michael & Mary Bradford, Sr. Michael, Jr., Cathy and Colin Bradford



In Loving Memory



Michael Jack Bedrosian 1959 - 1984



Lucy, Suzann, Carol, Michella Bedrosian Mother, Sister, Wife, Daughter

"Forever in our hearts."

In Loving Memory of the

Samkiranian Family

Harootunian Family

Telian Family

Russian Family

Goorigian Family



Ann Samkiranian Lusiya and Alan Thibault Raffi Samkiranian Elizabeth Telian Vartan, Aram and Simon Telian First Wedding January 26, 1958



Peter and Jennie Bedigian with their wedding party



The Wedding of Peter and Jennie Bedigian was the first to be performed at Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church.

January 26, 1958

Lavakooyn maghtankner yev sharoonagagan orhnootyoonner Soorp Asdvadzadzin Yegeghetsvo mer lav ungerneroon yev tratsineroon.

Doug and Jo-Anne Carr

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Dedicated In Loving Memory

Our Parents

Sahag & Nevart Noroian

and

Our Brother
Oscar Noroian



Elizabeth Harootunian & Family Bill and Nancy DiLuca & Family In Loving Memory

Our Parents and Grandmother

Leo, Rose and Ovsanna

Kadehjian



Congratulations.

May God Continue to Bless
Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian
Apostolic Church.

Der Aram and Yeretzgin Margaret



In Loving Memory of

Our Parents

Antranig & Diramayr

Asdghig Stepanian



Congratulations on Your 50 th Anniversary



Der Aram & Yeretzgin Margaret Stepanian
Mrs. Mary Kouyoumjian
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Stepanian
Mr. & Mrs. Arsen Kozelian
Mr. & Mrs. Koko Stepanian



In Loving Memory
of

Sue Shenian



1962-2007



Cappy, Jackie, Jillian Sophie and Anna



"You, O Lord, shall endure forever, and the remembrance of Your name to all generations."

-Psalm 102:12



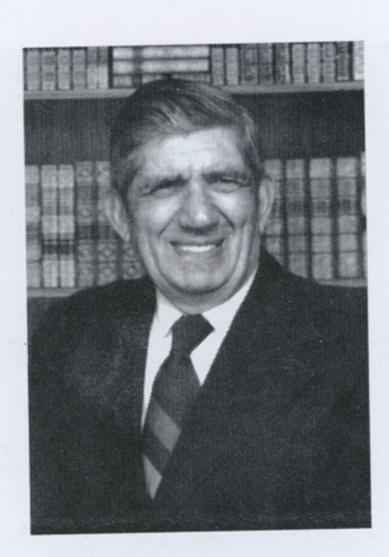
May God continue to bless Soorp Asdvadzadzin!

Andre, Kristi, Meline & Talia Markarian



In Loving Memory
of

Kirkor S. Ovian





Mrs. Pauline Ovian

Mr. and Mrs. Charles K. Ovian and Family

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kajoian and Family

Ms. Sandra Ovian

In Loving Memory of

The Shamshoians

The Lord called Home Hovannes and Aghavni

Children Anna, Garabed, Megerdich, Koorken



Memories are the legacy of love.

Shooshan S. Christensen Barbara S. Shamshoian Chandler



In Loving Memory
of

Leo Tosoonian

Leo was a charter
member of our Church
and was elected to the
first Board of Trustees
where he served as
Treasurer for several
years. He then served
as Chairman of the
Board for many years
and took a very
active role in the
Church's affairs.



Carol Tosoonian

Laura & Bruce Boghosian

John Tosoonian

Taline & Aram Boghosian

In Loving Memory of Hagop and Mary Hrakelian



Married 5/30/1914



Proud parents of nine children

Best Wishes and Congratulations to the Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church

Verkin and Arakel Arakelian



In Memory of Sam and Altoon Almasian and Paul and Sarah Oulohojian





Passing down our heritage from one generation to the next



Joe and Lucy Almasian Sosie and Steve Megerdichian, Taline and Haig Joe and Kim Almasian, Armen, Meline and Tamar Ani and Bruce Gigarjian, Anoush and Aznive



Congratulations to the
Soorp Asdvadzadzin
Armenian Apostolic Church
on your
50th Anniversary



This monument was erected by the Armenian American Veterans of Milford, MA., in memory of one and one-half million Armenian Martyrs who fell victim to the first Genocide of the 20th Century.

From

THE ARMENIAN AMERICAN VETERANS OF MILFORD, MA



Congratulations to the Entire

Soorp Asdvadzadzin

Armenian Apostolic Church Family.

Happy 50th Anniversary!!



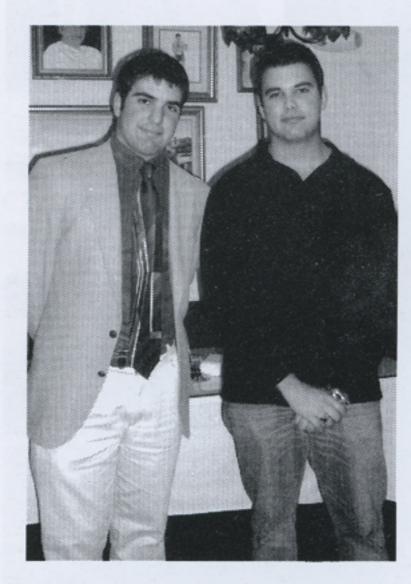
Bruce, Ani, Anoush and Aznive Gigarjian





Congratulations to the Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church on the occasion of your 50th Anniversary!!

Sunday School Graduations



Anthony ~ May 20, 2007 Nicholas ~ June 1, 2003



Kathryn ~ June 1, 2003 Alison ~ June 5, 2005

The Amorello Family
Dan and Mary

Nicholas, Kathryn, Alison and Anthony



In Loving Memory

Our Beloved Parents and Siblings

Krikor, Mariam, and Siragam Kourkounian

Sarkis, Anna, Varsenig, Vartkes, and Manoug Boyadjian



Congratulations and Best Wishes on your 50th Anniversary

John and Araksie Kourkounian



In Loving Memory
of

Samuel Sagherian



We thank the Lord, and with Joyful Hearts,
We Celebrate the 50th Anniversary
of Our Beloved Church

Alice Sagherian Sosie & Robert Valenti, Samuel and Armen Mark & Veron Sagherian, Talene and Samuel





In loving memory of our parents, Mariam and Garabed Kachigian

and

Wife and sister-in-law Elizabeth Kachagian



Kachadoor Kachagian Anne and Sarkis Kachigian Sonia and Harry Dodakian





In Memory of

Pazmashen and Our Great-Grandparents

Sarkis & Behar Malkasian

Grandparents

Yeghia and Zarouhi Mooradian

and Mother, Hnjel



Craig and Scott Wallen & Family



In Loving Memory

of

Our Family

Helen Altoonian Misakian
Vartanoush and Guregh Altoonian
Apesag and Yeghiazar Misakian

Whitinsville, MIT



Archie Misakian

Lisa Misakian

Karen Misakian Kaechele, Sarah & James

Eliot & Lisa Misakian, Ashley, Anthony & Eliot, Jr.



In Loving Memory
of

Our Parents



Hampartzoom Goghgarian
(1909-1995)

Azadouhi Arakelian Goshgarian
(1919-1992)



Gary and Mary Goshgarian

John and Barbara (Goshgarian) Berberian

Harry and Charline Goshgarian

Alan Goshgarian



Congratulations Soorp Asdvadzadzin

Thank you for 50 years of

Weddings and Christenings

Blessings and Prayers

and

Spiritual Guidance



Nazely and Jack Avakian

Rebecca & Warren Garabedian Christian, Monika Talya & Celeste

Lisa & Greg Garabedian Leah & Dillon

Cheryl & David Garabedian David, Jr. & Sarah



Congratulations
Almas Boghosian
100 years old



In Loving Memory

Katchador Boghosian

1895 - 1963

Joe & Margo Montecalvo



Best wishes and Congratulations to the Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church

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Best Wishes and Continued Prosperity to
Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church
Whitinsville, MA

Rev. Vatche Naccachian Soorp Asdvadzadzin Priest 1965 - 1976



Naccachian Family

With Very Fond Memories

Rev. Vatche and Yeretzgeen Naccachian, Glendale, CA
Mr. Kevork Naccachian, Victorville, CA
Mr. and Mrs. Vicken and Zovig Ghazarian, Bell Canyon, CA
Mr. and Mrs. Zareh and Ani Naccachian, West Hills, CA
Mr. and Mrs. Krikor and Stacy Naccachian, Portland, OR

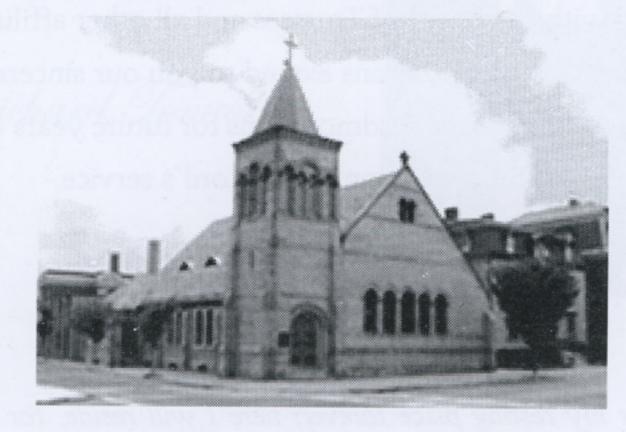


Best Wishes and Congratulations to the Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church



May you have 50 more great years!!!

STS. VARTANANTZ
ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
Providence, Rhode Island



From

Rev. Gomidas Baghsarian Board of Trustees and Our Parishioners



Congratulations to

Our Brothers and Sisters at

Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church!

From the Greater Boston

St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church

Also celebrating its Golden Anniversary this year!

REV. ARCHPRIEST ANTRANIG BALJIAN, PASTOR
REV. ARCHPRIEST TORKOM HAGOPIAN, PASTOR EMERITUS
REV. DN. NISHAN BALJIAN, PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Along with the Board of Trustees and all other affiliated bodies and organizations extend to you our sincerest congratulations and admonitions for future years of faithful dedication to our Lord's service.



"This is my resting place forever; here I will reside, for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless its provisions;

I will satisfy its poor with bread.

Its priests I will clothe with salvation, and its faithful will shout for joy..."

Psalm 132:14-16 (NRSV)



In Loving Memory



Mampre & Lucy Tomasian

Eddie Kalpagian

&

Richard Tomasian



Best Wishes and Congratulations to The Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church

The Kalpagian & Tomasian Families



In Loving Memory of Our Parents and Grandparents





Roupen and Gulenia Torosian (left)

ano

Misak and Satenig Kupjian (right)



George and Rose (Kupjian) Torosian, Sr.

Palm Coast, Florida

Mr. and Mrs. George Torosian, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Torosian

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Torosian

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Torosian

Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Stokes



Congratulations on your 50th Anniversary
and thank you for serving
three generations of the

Lapazian family.



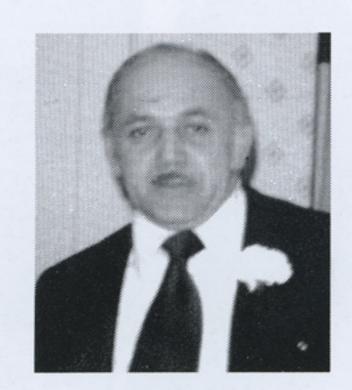
David, Jeanne & Zachary

In Memory of George & Varsenig Papazian



In Loving Memory
of

Koorgen "Cookie" Kazarian





Zackar Kinoian Steven Kinoian Youghaper and Ohan Kinoian

God Bless our church and the love of our church family.

Grace, Rick and Gary Kazarian



In Memory of Our Parents



Nectar and Serop Hrakelian

Founding Members

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church, we also honor those who had the vision and determination to build this beautiful edifice for the Whitinsville community.

We congratulate the church on its anniversary and wish for it to continue to flourish for years to come.

Dorothy and Paul Arakelian
Lucy Arakelian (widow of Archie Arakelian)
Mary and Kachadoor Berberian
Lucy Kanarian
Moses Arakelian



In Loving Memory of

Arsan and Anna Ovian Mary, Larry and Karney Ovian Dr. Setrag H. Zacarian Hram and Victoria Zacarian Dr. H. Diana Zacarian



The Setrag A. Zacarian Family Longmeadow, MA

In Loving Memory

Thomas M.
Muradian, Jr.



And the Entire Egsegian and Muradian Families

Tommy, David, Barry Muradian





In Loving Memory

of

Peter and Sarape

Johnson

The Piligian Family
Paul and Sarah – Saratoga, CA
Greg and Family – San Jose, CA
Susan and Paula – Saratoga, CA

In Loving Memory of Our Grandparents, Parents, Husband, Father





Mrs. Margaret Johnson - Lauren and Avedis Balekian Peter and Brenda Johnson - Richard and Lisa Johnson Grandchildren:

Vahan and Christine Balekian, Talene and Gary Churukian, Diran and Adrienne and Valerie, Tyler and Victoria



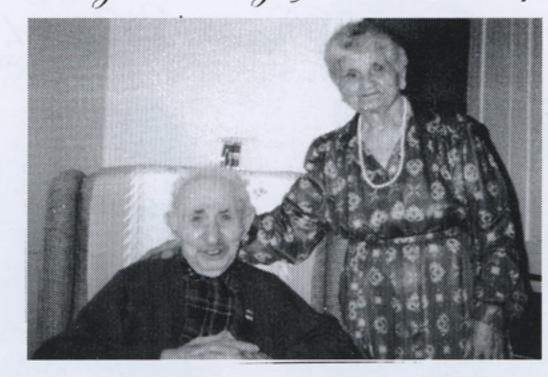
Thank You Soorp Asdvadzadzin & Congratulations!



THE SIROUN DANCERS

Preserving our culture one step at a time

In Loving Memory of Our Grandparents

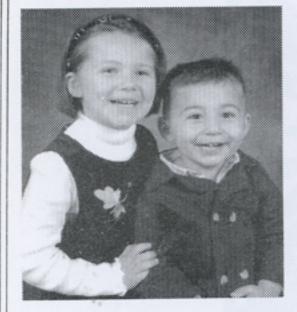


Sam and Altoon Almasian Whitinsville, MA

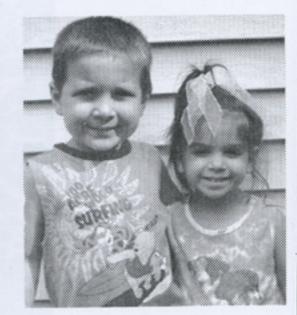
Paul and Sarah Oulohojian

Sosie and Steve Megerdichian - Joe and Kim Almasian Ani and Bruce Gigarjian



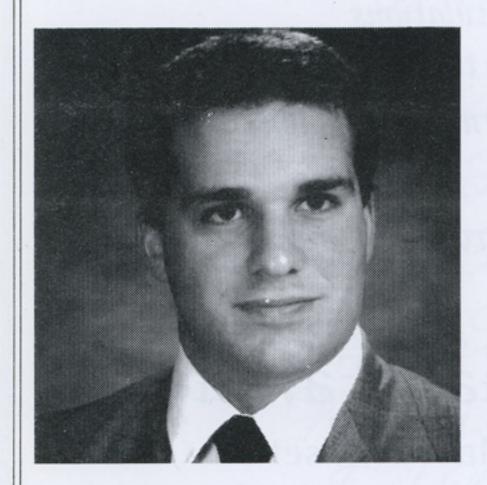






Our legacy goes on . . . Happy 50th Anniversary

Ted and Joyce Torosian



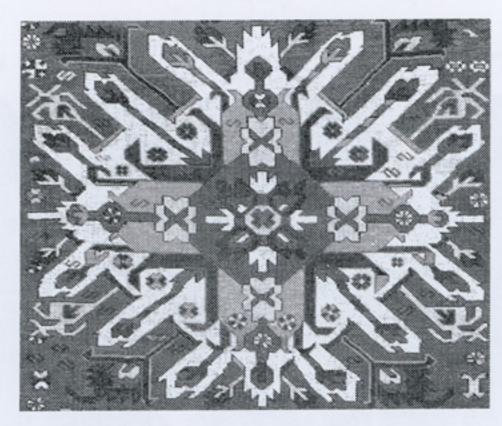
In Loving Memory



Alfred F. Nigro March 13, 1966 - April 21, 2007

Ted and Vivian Nigro and Family





The Deacons and Altar Servers of Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church of Whitinsville, with heartfelt joy, celebrate the 50th anniversary of our Church in memory of all the Deacons and Altar Servers who preceded us.

MISHD ANSHARZH BAHYAH ZATOR HAIGAZNIAYS

Congratulations to the Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church

May you have 50 more!!

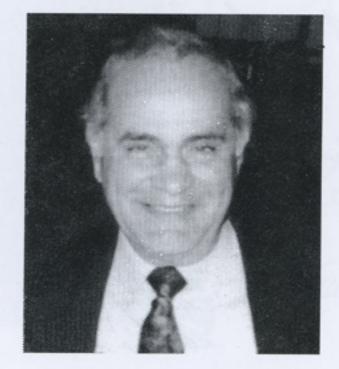
Nahabedian Family Wayland, Massachusetts





In Loving Memory of

Peter Bedrosian



For your many years of dedication to our Church

Suzanne Bedrosian & Family Sutton, Massachusetts

In Memory of

Hovsep Hagopian Varter Hagopian

Bizar Hagopian Isabelle Hagopian Valenteen Hagopian Jacob Q. Malcus



Liberty H. Malcus - Pauline E. Hagopian - Patricia A. Baldwin



In Loving Memory of Our Parents and Grandparents

Hagop and Mary Arakelian and Garabed and Anna Gigarjian



Congratulations on Your 50 th Anniversary!

George and Nancy Gigarjian & Family

Lost Battalion Properties thanks all of the Armenian American Veterans for the freedoms we enjoy today.

May we never forget your sacrifices.



LOST BATTALION PROPERTIES
Sherborn, MA





In Loving Memory

of

Our Parents

Isaac & Siranoush

Kalousdian

Whitinsville, MA

Mr. and Mrs. Sebouh Kalousdian & Family Agnes Krikorian & Family

Remembering Our Special Friend in Armenia



Nelly Taluzyan and Her Mother Ovsanna May God bless Nelly and her family always.

With Love from the Sunday School



Congratulations to the Soorp Asdradzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church!



Jimmy and Priscilla Altoonian Haig, Ani, and Adrena Altoonian Matt, Lori, and Maya Anoush Porter



Our family is blessed to be a part of
Soorp Asdvadzadzin Church.

May the community continue to grow
and prosper for years to come.

Paul, Susan, Gregory & Christina Mouradian



Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church on its 50th Anniversary

May God continue to bless Soorp Asdvadzadzin as He leads us to the path of righteousness by way of His teachings.

5

Peter, Celeste, Angela and Matthew Bedigian

Congratulations and Chank You for 50 Years!!

We are fortunate my grandparents, Acagop and Mary Arakelian, helped establish Boorp Asdvadzadzin which has guided our family for 50 years and God willing will continue to be here to guide our granddaughter, Anna, for the next 50 years.





George and Joanne (Arakelian/Palulian) Khoury



May we continue to preserve our precious legacy as a monument to past achievements and to set a firmer foundation in order to guarantee the continuation of our beloved Church.

Congratulations on this momentous occasion of our 50th Anniversary.



To my Dear Father, Mother and Brother: Aznavour, Varvar* (Mooradian) and Peter Bedrosian You are forever in my heart. (*Genocide Survivor)

Sylvia Bedrosian

In Loving Memory of My Parents

Hovhannes and Hermena Moscofian



Congratulations to Soorp Asdvadzadzin for 50 years. Wishing you many, many more.

Nancy Moscofian



Thanks for making us feel at home at Soorp Asdvadzadzin.



Roy and Yerchanig Callan Knar Callan

Congratulations to Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church

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From Portland, Maine (Hagop) and Chicago, Illinois (Claudia)
to
Whitinsville, Massachusetts
1986

Thank you Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church forefathers for giving us this wonderful church to raise our sons!



Best Wishes and Congratulations

THE ANTRANIGIAN FAMILY Hagop, Claudia, Armenag and Aram

In Loving Memory of

Bosghos, Armenouhi and Nishan Bogosian Vahe, Ashken and Jerome Varian

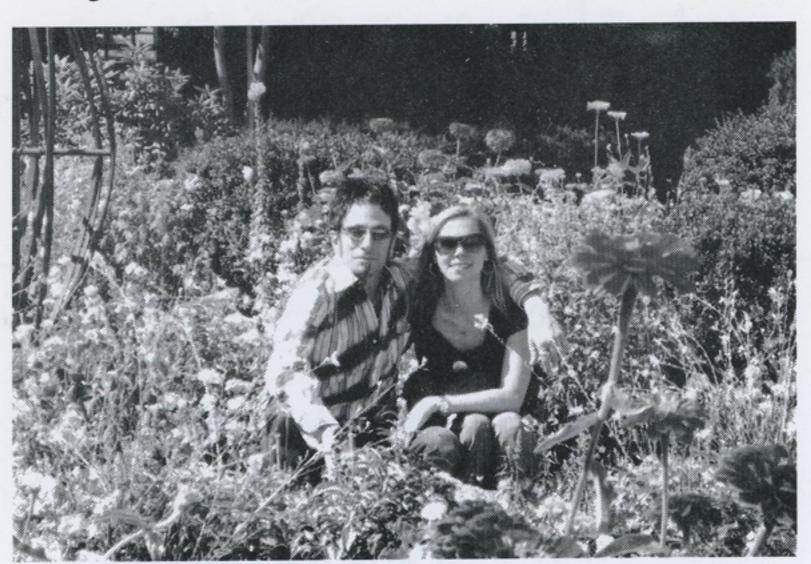
Congratulations to the Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church on fifty blessed years.



Ardis Varian Bogosian Mark, Carol and Gregory Bogosian Diane, Alex, Liza and Kalie Fanshel Matthew, Nina, Sona, Ani and Meline Quigley



Congratulations on 50 Years of Serving the Lord!



Ara and Renee Stepanian

THE FALTAOUS FAMILY

"And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid."

Ezra 3:11





The Whittlesey Family thanks the Armenian Church of Whitinsville for 50 years of Christian Worship.

We look forward to being a part of the next 50!



Will, Nikki, Charles, Jack, Will Jr. and Aza

Congratulations to the Members and Friends of Soorp Asdvadzadzin on Your 50th Anniversary



In Memory of

Our Parents

Haji Margos

and Eghsa

Der Torosian

Lucy Bedrosian Alice Sagherian



Congratulations to the Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church May you have 50 more!!

ARSEN AND MARGO KOZELIAN Winchester, Massachusetts

In Loving Memory

Maoshegh, Malkas, Lousaper Mantashigian



In Loving Memory of Our Parents and Grandparents

Armenak & Haiganoosh Mahdasian

Hagop & Sirarpi Hjemian

May you rest in peace.

Kaloust and Sossi Mahdasian, Watertown, MA Dr. Jack and Laurie Mahdasian & Family, Grand Rapids, MI Dan and Maria Teager & Family, Arlington, MA Vahan Mahdasian, Boston, MA

Congratulations to the Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church Best Wishes for 50 more years



ANAHID & ARA AYKANIAN Framingham, MA



Congratulations and Best Wishes

THE ENOCH MALKASIAN FAMILY SADIE SAMUELIAN

In Memory of the

Baghdasarian and Dertlian Families



In Loving Memory of Our Father

Hbraham Samkiranian



Lusiya Thibault Raffi Samkiranian

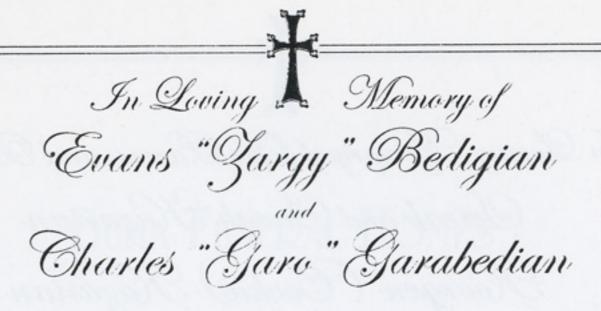
In Memory of Our Parents



Congratulations Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church on your 50th Anniversary

May you celebrate another 50!!!!!

Joe and Margaret Derderian and Family

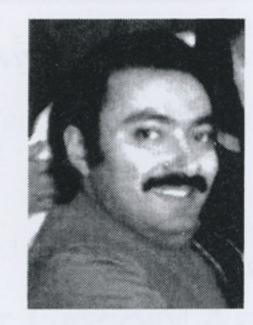


Martha, Kip and Jim Congratulations on the 50th!

Congratulations to the Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church on your 50^{th} Anniversary. May you have 50 more!



Harry, Carol and Butch Simonian



In Loving Memory

of

Paul Nadjarian

Congratulations from Sarah Nadjarian

In Loving Memory of

Inn (Mooshagian) Karakehian

and Mariam Karakehian



Hagop (John) Karakehian - Diane Karakehian Milford, Massachusetts



In Loving Memory of Our Parents and Brother

Setrak and Sarah Kazarian

Koorgen (Cookie) Kazarian

Whitinsville, MA

Harry and Grace Kazarian

In Memory of Our Parents

Armenoohi & Yervant Tiberian



Roxi and Irene Tiberian - Margaret Shenian

In Memory of Horan Hougasian



Congratulations on 50 years!

Margaret Hougasian and Family

Congratulations on 50 years!

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James R. Buma

Best Wishes and Congratulations to the Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church of Whitinsville

In Memory of Our Mother and Fathers

Elizabeth Mangasarian Minasian

Krikor Mangasarian

Kriker Minasian

John & Sonia (Mangasarian) Merigian - East Longmeadow, MA

Congratulations and Best Wishes

to

Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church



from

SAINT GREGORY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH Indian Orchard, Massachusetts

In Loving Memory of

Nishan Merigian

Florence, Rose and Hovsep Zeroogian

Roy Talanian

Congratulations Soorp Asdvadzadzin on Your 50th Anniversary

The Merigian and Talanian Families

Sosland Ja

.

Friends



George and Mary Frankian

Lucille's Floral Design

Kevin Curtis

Tom and Margo Yaylaian

William S. Drowne Insurance Agency

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Markarian

John P. Arakelian

Dona Nashawaty

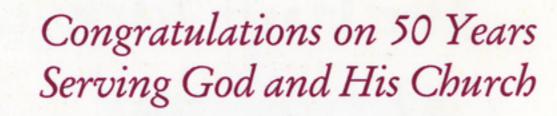
Old Colony Stationery, Inc.

Margarette Ovian & Family,

In Remembrance of Solomon and Nectar Ovian









In Memory of Joseph and Natalie Mammola





Robert, Seta and Michela Mammola