



## ARMENIAN RELIEF SOCIETY “ROUBINA” CHAPTER IN TORONTO

### CELEBRATES “HAMPARTZOUM” -ASCENSION DAY

On Thursday May 17, 2012, the A.R.S. Toronto “Roubina” Chapter celebrated the Ascension Day of Jesus Christ in a traditional way. After the church ceremony at the Saint Mary's Armenian Apostolic church of Toronto, about 120 A.R.S. members and friends gathered at the Hovnanian Church Hall. The table names were selected from spring flowers such as Rose, Carnation, Lily, Violet etc.

"Anoush" Opera music is well known with its songs of "Hampartzoum". The background music was selected from the "Anoush" Opera and children were dressed in Armenian costumes which set the atmosphere of the evening.

The master of ceremonies was Ani Hasserjian who was also wearing an Armenian costume. Addressing the audience she said in her opening remarks that the A.R.S. has always reflected its true character through its mission statement of being a benevolent organization. However, being an Armenian organization, A.R.S. has also educated generations to adhere to their roots, the Armenian language, history, cultural values, traditions, hence, the Armenian identity.

After the readings from the scriptures, Very Reverend Father Meghrig Parikian blessed the food which was prepared and served by the organizing committee members.

The program continued with a duet, singing of the traditional “Hampartzoum Yayla” songs and "Fortune-Vidjag" readings. Traditional celebrations continued with explanations given about Ascension Day- “Hampartzoum”, and poetry was recited.

Mr. Zareh Kendirjian led the evening with Armenian Karaoke songs for everyone to participate, thus the Ascension Day was truly a memorable event.





