

# THE TORCHBEARER • Ջահակիր

## St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit

22001 Northwestern Highway • Southfield, MI 48075  
248.569.3405 (phone) • 248.569.0716 (fax) • [stjohnsarmenianchurch.com](http://stjohnsarmenianchurch.com)

The Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian ~ *Pastor*

The Reverend Father Diran Papazian ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

Deacon Rubik Mailian ~ *Director of Sacred Music and Pastoral Assistant*



## DETROIT ACYOA SENIORS RECEIVE THE "A" AWARD

*Text of an address delivered by Father Garabed Kochakian, Sunday, June 14 at St. John Armenian Church.*



*Pictured with the "A" Award are Ani Tovar, outgoing ACYOA Central Council Chair, Karen Dardarian and Harry A. Kezelian, III.*

As the pastor of a spirited and dedicated ACYOA Senior group, I want to share with you all today that the Detroit St. John Armenian Church ACYOA received the coveted "A" award. Every year there are significant events in the life of a parish's youth group, but in particular during the past year the ACYOA Senior Chapter of St. John has had a number of worthy events as a group and individual members that have heightened their ministry in a most effective and fruit bearing way within the parish and have earned the honor of being the best and most exemplary chapter within our Diocese.

Since last year's ACYOA General Assembly, our Senior Youth group has demonstrated all aspects of the circles of the cross. From Worship, Witness, Service, Education and Fellowship, our young members of the ACYOA have taken part in all these aspects of Church and parish life.

**Worship:** The Senior members sing in the Komitas Choir and serve at the Holy Altar.

**Service:** Two of our Senior ACYOA members are now elected to our Parish Council.

**Witness:** Our Senior members have mentored the Junior ACYOA members, participated in the commemoration of Martyrs Day, by establishing Project "White Cross" and organized programs on college campuses where many are members of the University of Michigan Armenian Club. They have visited the Manoogian Manor.

**Education:** ACYOA members write articles for the parish newsletter, the *Torchbearer*. They serve our parish as Sunday School teachers in both lower and high school grades, serve our Hye Camp program that is held in the summer month of August, and assist as counselors at the St. Nersess Seminary programs.

**Fellowship:** Though many of our Seniors are away at university and college during the year, they come together during their breaks when they are home and host their annual Thanksgiving Dance, the biggest annual 'fun' event for not only local Seniors but for many who come from other parishes; they take part in special parish services on Western Christmas Eve and sponsor a festive tea that follows worship, and sponsor their annual Palm Sunday ACYOA Day celebration.

We see how active our youth have been this past year, not only locally but on a national level. In the past, several ACYOA Seniors have served the Central Council, one of whom now serves at our Diocese in the Department of Youth and Education. To sum it up, Detroit and the St. John Armenian Church ACYOA have always remained to be a faithful group of young people aspiring to serve the Lord our God, Jesus the Saviour in every way His Gospel calls us all to serve. We celebrate with them today and present to them their special honors of recognition by our Diocese as Karen Dardarian, Chair of the Seniors, with her members present, step forward and receive the "A" Award.

Yet another surprise came to our parish with another award for service by a Junior ACYOA member. This award was given at the Juniors Sports weekend that took place in Watertown MA, at the same time as the Seniors Sports Weekend. The Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan Award was given to Razmig Kalanjian.

### New Summer Church Office Hours

**Tuesday - Friday: 8 AM - 6 PM**

*Closed Mondays: June 15 - September 17*

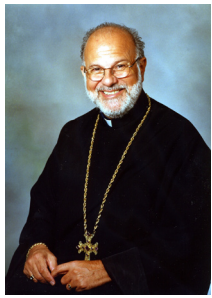
After hours in an emergency, please contact:

Pastor's Cell: 248.225.9888 ~ Administrator's Cell: 248.802.2861

**The St. John Armenian Church Festival 2009  
is on the web! Check it out:**

**[stjohnsarmenianchurch.com/2009festival.html](http://stjohnsarmenianchurch.com/2009festival.html)**

**SUMMER 2009**



## FROM FATHER GARABED'S DESK.....

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### *Does Change Threaten You?*

*Then he spoke a parable to them: "No one puts a piece from a new garment on an old one, otherwise the new makes a tear, and also the piece that was 'taken' out of the new does not match the old. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved." Luke 5:36-39*

In this passage from the Gospel according to Saint Luke, Jesus, Our Lord challenges us to look deeply at what He says. Consider this:

A stubborn allegiance to old habits and traditions can sometimes seriously hinder maturing faith. Everyone who believes in Christ's teachings should pay attention to these words because a new life in Christ inevitably leads to innovation, self-confidence, courage and trust, and timely and beneficial change. Fear of change understandably can be frightening. And sometimes that 'fear' is a sign of sinful, stubborn resistance or clinging to the past only because it feels familiar, safe and comfortable. Often it is our comfort that tests our courage toward newer ways of living that can even be better.

Jesus understood without a doubt our human tendencies toward predictability and the natural resistance to new things. He also knew that not all changes are good, and He never advocated change for the sake of change. But He did raise the red flag, that people should not be so glued to the past traditions, customs and models of living so as to stunt growth. His words are a test to that way of thinking and attitude of the heart. His parable of the wineskins pleads for at least the openness to consider something new. It affirms timely change in matters of growth and new life.

Are you resistant to the dynamics of change in your life, work, family and even church? If so, this might be a sign of resistance to God working in us. We need to heed Jesus' words about the old and the new, the image of the wineskins and patches and how they just might work for our good.

*~Father Garabed*

## ARTS OF ARMENIA SUMMER PROGRAM

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The *Arts of Armenia Summer Program*, sponsored by the Komitas Choir is underway. Two professional teachers from the Nork Youth Center, dance instructor, Arman Julhakian and artist, Ella Pepanyan, are here in our community where they have undertaken two two-week sessions during the month of July for children ages 8 – 16. The students are experiencing activities in authentic Armenian dance, ceramic arts, painting, rug weaving and more. For more information on this exciting program, please contact: Deacon Rubik Mailian at 248.569.3405 or [rubik@sjachurch.org](mailto:rubik@sjachurch.org). A registration form is available for downloading on the St. John's web site.





# NO SUMMER VACATION FOR THE WOMEN'S GUILD!!!



**Women's Guild  
Membership Dinner,  
Wednesday, June 3**

1 ~ President, Fr. Garabed Kochakian, Chair Linda Tiffany (right) and the Executive Board, Diana Khachaturian (left), Marilyn Sarkesian, Kim Kalajian, Linda Assarian, Carol Aprahamian, Kathy Mekjian, Jackie ElChemmas, Cathy Zwinck (standing).

2 ~ Fr. Garabed and Linda Tiffany with newly initiated members: Cheryl Joboulian, Shirley Sarkisian, Lisa Johnson, Charlene Apigian, Renee Baharian, Nancy Kevonian, Lisa Mangigian, Sandra Gleason, Patricia Fantazian Poeszat, Elizabeth Aprahamian, Elise Papazian, Heidi Aprahamian, (Not Pictured: Linda Lutz and Salpi Tachian.)

3 ~ Honoring 50 year members Alice Javizian and Mary Simonian (Ann Manoogian, not pictured). 40 year members honored: Nora Demerjian, Roxanne Keurajian, Rose Megerian and Anna Soultanian. 25 year members recognized: Anita Boyajian, Louise Brocher and Elise Landis. 10 year members honored: Sema (Sue) Tefralian and Cathy Zwinck.

## Tiger Game, Saturday, June 20

Thirty-eight Women's Guild members and friends watched the Tigers beat the Milwaukee Brewers 9- 5 at a perfect afternoon game.

Summer baking for the St. John's Festival most Mondays and every Tuesday morning 9 am - noon.  
Evening cheoreg bakes: Tuesdays, June 23, July 21, August 18, 6 - 8:30 pm.



## FESTIVAL 2009 IS COMING!

The Festival 2009 page on the Church website is up and running and it is where you will find all you need to know about the exciting plans for the weekend of October 1-4. Led by Paul Yousoufian, Anita Arslanian, Rita Jury and their committee, plans are underway for all the great activities we have come to enjoy with the addition of cultural, children's and youth events, expanded Health-o-rama, raffles for everyone, Forgotten Harvest Food Drive, Red Cross Blood Drive, unprecedented shopping possibilities and the place to meet old and new friends.

**[stjohnsarmenianchurch.com/2009festival.html](http://stjohnsarmenianchurch.com/2009festival.html)**



**Breakfast for  
Habitat for  
Humanity  
Oakland  
County  
Building Blitz,  
June 15**

1~ Sally LePla,  
Executive Direc-  
tor of Oakland  
County Habitat  
for Humanity  
with St. John's  
volunteers:  
Sue Vian, Yn. Roberta Kochakian, Lauren and Marilyn  
Sarkesian and Anna Sarkisian



## Baking continues Mondays and Tuesdays throughout the summer for the Festival



Friendships made and sustained while working over 1000's of cheoreg, sou-beoreg, and kufteh.





# CONGRATULATIONS, 2009 GRADUATES!

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**Tanya Dmuchowski** graduated from Clarenceville High School with Academic Letter three years and Department Award in science. Extracurricular activities include tennis, track, National Honor Society, marching band, band section leader and peer mentor. She plans to attend the Berklee College of Music. Tanya is the daughter of Barbara and Raymond Dmuchowski of Livonia and the sister of Tia, 17.

**Lisa Haidostian** graduated from The University of Michigan with a B.A. in Economics. Lisa looks forward to returning to Ann Arbor in the fall where she will attend Michigan Law School. She is the daughter of Dicran and Aralynn Haidostian, and granddaughter of Harry Mardirosian and Alice Haidostian.

**Michael Randall Hawes** graduated from Lahser High School with honors. He is a member of the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra and won the Lahser High School Traub Award in music to study in Europe. His first music award in trumpet playing was from the Komitas Choir. He will spend the summer at the Interlochen Music Camp and plans to attend the School of Music at Northwestern University. He is the son of Randy and Kim Minasian Hawes and the grandson of Michael and Emma Minasian.

**Marin Hoplamazian** was awarded a Juris Doctorate degree from the William and Mary School of Law on May 17, 2009. In addition to receiving her diploma, Marin was also recognized for her service as a Teaching Assistant for the Legal Skills program during her second and third years of law school. After taking the Michigan Bar Examination in July, Marin will return to Virginia for two years to serve as a Law Clerk with the Office of the Chief Staff Attorney of the Supreme Court of Virginia. Marin, who received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan in December of 2005, is the granddaughter of Mihran and the late Rosemary Hoplamazian, and Michael and Emma Minasian, and the daughter of proud parents Gar and Brooke Hoplamazian.

**Lori Michelle Karakashian** completed a three-year graduate program at the University of Cincinnati and received the degree of Education Specialist in School Psychology. Lori has accepted a job in the Fairfield School District in Ohio as a full-time school psychologist. She earned her undergraduate Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Albion College. Lori is the daughter of Bob and Denise Karakashian and granddaughter of Agnes M. Dourjalian.

**Alicia Kramer** graduated from Lyman Briggs College at Michigan State University in May, 2009 with highest honors. She majored in Physiology with a specialty in Bio-Ethics and Humanities. She received the Michigan State

University Board of Trustees award for her 4.0 cumulative GPA and the Department of Physiology academic achievement award at graduation. She will be attending Wayne State University School of Medicine in the fall. She is the daughter of parishioners Jim and Denise Kramer and granddaughter of Sue Tafralian.

**Lisa Kurajian** received a Bachelor of Science in Brain Behavior and Cognitive Science with a minor in Gender Health from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. She has been accepted into Medical School and will begin study in the Fall. Lisa is the daughter of Matt and Peggy Kurajian, and the granddaughter of Prof. George and Victoria Kurajian.

**Mara Minasian** graduated from North Farmington High School. She is a National Merit Finalist, Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition Finalist, and has earned department awards in math, chemistry, physics, economics, social studies, English and Spanish. Mara is active in national Honor Society (vice president), student government, and Michigan Math League. She plans to study life sciences and has been accepted to the University Of Michigan and Northwestern University. She is the daughter of Linda and Ted Minasian, and sister of Alexander, 14; granddaughter of Vartouhy Topalian and Michael and Emma Minasian.

**Peter John Neghohosian** was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Finance from the Eli Broad College of Business, Michigan State University May 8, 2009. Peter is a member of Phi Sigma Theta National Society of Collegiate Scholars. He is the son of Charles and Nancy Neghohosian and the grandson of Mrs. Sarkeis (Maritza) Neghohosian, proud parents and grandmother!

**Allison Parks** graduated from Indiana University with a degree in journalism and English. She was one of 16 student directors governing the Indiana Memorial Union and managing a budget of over \$350,000 in student activity fees. She was the publisher of student creative arts magazine, *Canvas*. This summer, Allison will move to Paris, France to begin working for Publicis Consultants Worldwide, a subsidiary of global French media conglomerate Publicis Groupe. In January 2010, she will relocate to Basel, Switzerland to join the corporate communications team of Novartis International AG, a global pharmaceutical company. Allison is the daughter of Terry and Judy Parks.

**Kelsi Lynn Ring** graduated from Peninsula High School, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA. She plans to attend the University of California at Santa Barbara to pursue a



degree in Psychology. She is the daughter of Lynn and William Ring, and the granddaughter of Simon and Alice Javizian.

**Cimone Marie Safilian** graduated from Walled Lake Central High School. She is a scholar-athlete with varsity letters in cross country and track and field, and was the first female student in the school's history to receive dual varsity letters in the freshman year. Cimone received the Academic Achievement Award from Oakland University, and will attend Central Michigan University. She is the daughter of Charles and Cynthia Safilian, and the granddaughter of Armen and Alice Safilian.

**Christine Adrienne Santourian** graduated with Honors from the Cranbrook Kingswood School Class of 2009. She will be attending the University of Michigan, Honors College in Ann Arbor starting September 2009. She is the daughter of Rick and Karmen Santourian.

**Kristen Stambouljian** graduated with high honors from Fordham University in New York City on May 16, 2009. She received a Master's Degree in Secondary Education (English). Kristen received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan where she majored in Political Science and English. She enjoyed working as an intern for Senator Carl Levin. After U.of M., she worked

for BirthRight Armenia in Yerevan and Gumyri where she taught English to children in an orphanage for six months. She is the daughter of Thomas and Linda Stambouljian and the granddaughter of Anabell and Charles Stambouljian, and the late Siranoush and Edward Balian.

**Anoush Tamar Suni** graduated Pomona University Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Theta Apha Kappa (Religious Studies department). She created her own Special Major in Middle East Studies (with Anthropology, Religious Studies, Women's Studies). She is a tutor in French and Arabic, plays violin and oud. Anoush is a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship winner for 2009-2010 to study the *oud* and languages in Armenia, Turkey and Jordan. Her parents are Professor Ronald Suny and Armena Marderosian.

**Sevan Siranoush Suni** passed her Ph.D dissertation defense (population genetics, ecology and evolution, focus ants, bees) from Stanford University Biology Department. Sevan won a three-year postdoctoral fellowship for research and teaching at University of Arizona in Tucson. She played violin in the Stanford University Symphony Orchestra, and plays the music of her great grandfather Grikor Mirzaian Suni (1876-1939) with sister Anoush, their mother, singers and chamber players. Her parents are Professor Ronald Suny and Armena Marderosian.

## MARIAM MATOSSIAN WOWS US WITH "A NIGHT OF WORLD MUSIC"

On a cool summer evening, June 27<sup>th</sup>, in the St. John's Cultural Hall, a large, enthusiastic audience from Detroit's Armenian community was treated to a concert featuring Mariam Matossian accompanied by the three-member Free Planet Radio band.

The attentive audience found the theme of communication and hope integrated throughout the evening's performance. When talking about her decision to use music as a means to tell the Armenian story she said, "I love sharing my family's story and the history of my culture. I love to communicate that idea of hope. Both my grandmother and my grandfather survived the Armenian genocide, and somehow she still sang....I want to share that with as many people as possible."

Interspersed throughout the evening were selections by the Free Planet Band, which displayed a remarkable virtuosity on their instruments and blended their unique interpretations of folk and jazz into a coherent sound.

Mariam's warm and personal rapport with the audience and the way in which she integrated Armenian music, history, culture and family relationships made the evening very special. At the end of her program she expressed sincere thanks to St. John's and the concert organizers for inviting her to Detroit. Following the concert Steward Society Members attended an After-Glow, "Stewards' Café at the Cabaret".



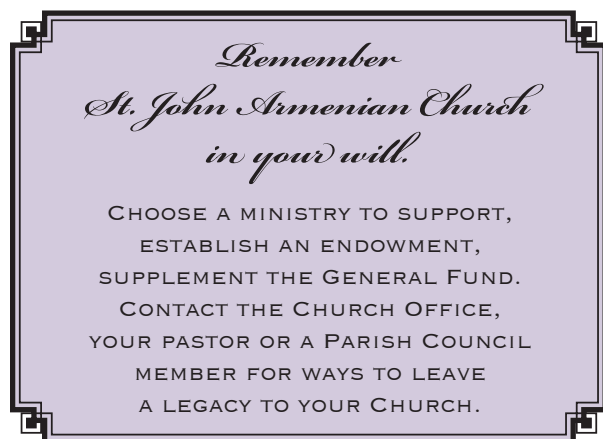
## FUNERALS

### June 2009

- 6 Levon Maranci, 80, Woodlawn  
9 Noretta Demirjian, 84, Woodlawn  
16 Frances Marie Pashalian, 71  
24 Estelle Barsamian, 79, Woodlawn

### July 2009

- 8 Beatrice Anna Paul, 90, Evergreen  
9 Louise S. Giveins, 85, St. Hedwig  
Valeriy Bagdasaryan, 66, Woodlawn



## AT THE PARISH BOOKSTORE.....

Did you know that St. John's Parish Bookstore is Michigan's largest retail source for Armenian books of all kinds? In addition to a large variety of Armenian CDs and DVDs, the bookstore also carries language learning software; original art; jewelry hand made in Armenia; Armenian style crosses in gold, silver and wood; Armenian greeting cards and gift items; flag pins and key chains. We also take mail orders by phone. Purchases may be charged to Mastercard, Visa, and Discover cards. For a list of current selections, phone 248.569.3405, or go to St. John's website:

[stjohnsarmenianchurch.com](http://stjohnsarmenianchurch.com)

Stop by and browse after Sunday services, Tuesday-Friday from 9:00 am–5:00 pm and Saturdays from 10:00 am–2:00 pm.

### WANTED: USED ARMENIAN BOOKS

**The Parish Bookstore will be sponsoring a Used Book Sale at the upcoming ARMENIAN FESTIVAL, OCTOBER 1, 2, 3 & 4 along with regular priced new books. We are accepting donations of gently used books on Armenian subjects – art, history, novels, cooking, etc. Please drop off books at the Church Office during business hours or on Sundays. Thank you for your support.**

## BAPTISMS

### June 2009

- 13 Nicole Anastasia  
Daughter of Andrei & Yelena Yastchenko  
Godparents: Vigen Allakherdov & Bella Verdiyan  
  
Emma Lee  
Daughter of Robert & Teresa Jacobs  
Godparents: Adam Jacobs & Laurie Seabolt

### July 2009

- 1 Pavel G.  
Son of Garry & Layrsa Mirzoyan  
Godfather: Arthur Arutyunov  
  
3 Gabriel Raffi  
Son of Raphy & Wasan Kasselian  
Godparents: Michael Kasselian & Diana Toma

## WEDDINGS

### June 2009

- 20 James Thomas Skubal & Laura Christie King  
*Khachyeghpayr*: Shahin Uzunjian  
Bestman: Edward Charles Gross  
Maid of Honor: Amy M. King

### July 2009

- 11 Karen Movsesyan & Tamara Martirosyan  
Bestman: Varazdat Manukyan  
Maid of Honor: Tatevik Martirosyan

### Marriages

*Arrangements for weddings are to be made at least eight months in advance. Marriage preparation and counseling are required before the celebration of the sacrament. The Bestman (Khachyeghpayr) must be a member of the Armenian Orthodox Church. The parish office will make all necessary arrangements for the deacon, organist and soloist. Marriages are not celebrated during Great Lent.*

### Baptisms and Chrismations

*All baptisms must be scheduled at least two months in advance. Pre-baptismal preparation for the parents and godparents is required. At least one of the godparents must be a member of the Armenian Orthodox Faith.*

### Regulation of Sacramental Services

*In accordance with Diocesan discipline mandated by the Primate, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, all sacraments, e.g. funerals, weddings, baptisms and rites of Christian burial, can only be administered in the church sanctuary, which has been consecrated for the celebrations of these sacred rites.*



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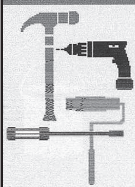
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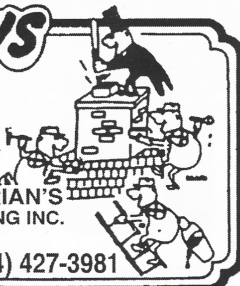
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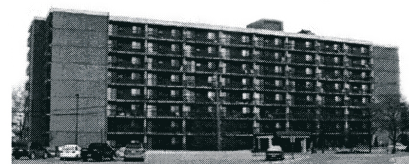
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# PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.....

**St. John's Festival Committee invites you to  
the "Raffle Spaghetti Dinners" - 5:30 pm  
Wednesdays, July 22, August 12 and September 16**

*St. John's Cultural Hall. \$6 per person  
Includes complete spaghetti dinner, beverage & dessert  
\$50 Big Raffle tickets will be available for purchase  
Only 320 tickets will be available for purchase  
Call for reservations: 248.569.3405*

## **2009 St. John Armenian Church Summer Day Camp**

*Continues with Sessions 5 - 8  
July 20 - August 21*

*Contact Lisa Mardigian at:  
248.569.3405 or [lmardigian@sjachurch.org](mailto:lmardigian@sjachurch.org)*

## **August**

**16 St. John's Annual Picnic, Noon - 5:00 pm**  
*Church grounds ~ Something for everyone!*

## **Armenia - Land of Noah's Ark**

### **St. John Armenian Church Festival**

**Thursday, October 1 - Sunday, October 4, 2009**

*Watch the Torchbearer, Sunday Bulletin  
and the Festival Page on the web site for more details*

## **November**

**28 ACYOA November Dance**

## **December**

**2 Women's Guild Advent by Candlelight**

**20 Church School Christmas Program**

**24 Western Christmas Eve**

## **EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY**

## **September**

**20 Dinner honoring Edgar Hagopian  
Royal Park Hotel, Rochester**

## **October**

**10 AGBU Manoogian School 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Dinner Dance**

Please visit the St. John web site for up-to-date calendar information, the Sunday Bulletin,  
*The Torchbearer* and links to internet sites of interest to our parishioners:  
[stjohnsarmenianchurch.com](http://stjohnsarmenianchurch.com)

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