

THE TORCHBEARER • Ջահակիր

St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit

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The Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian ~ *Pastor*
The Reverend Father Diran Papazian ~ *Pastor Emeritus*
Deacon Rubik Mailian ~ *Director of Sacred Music and Pastoral Assistant*



NEWS FROM THE TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB.....

St. John's Tuesday Lunch Club presented the program "How to Sleep like a Baby...Again!," its first in an on-going series of talks and demonstrations on topics that matter to people as they age. It was held on Tuesday, July 10, 2012 at St. John's Rec Center. Julie Jenkins from Manoogian Manor Assisted Living was the speaker and easily held the attention of the 36 attendees.

Getting a good night's sleep is sometimes difficult as we age. But once we understand the keys for sleeping well, we can start to sleep like a baby again. Julie explained that although we sleep 1/3 of our lives we do not necessarily get a good night's rest.

She explained a number of reasons why sleep is challenging to the elderly and provided ways to help reduce or eliminate the challenges so that we can "sleep like a baby." If you did not attend this interesting and informative presentation and you do not sleep like a baby, come to the Tuesday Lunch Club and speak to one or more of those who did attend. You just might learn something to help you, and you will definitely enjoy the camaraderie and good food.

On Aug 14th, Julie will be back speaking about "Watching Your Step"... how to reduce your risk of falls. As we age, oftentimes we become less steady on our feet. Julie will address how to avoid slips and falls as well as how to safeguard your home from trip hazards.

Join us for this FREE presentation beginning promptly at 11:10 am before the lunch. Please make a reservation with May in the church office (248.569.3405) for the presentation to ensure that our caterer will have ample food available for those who stay with us for lunch. Lunch cost is \$7/person.

On August 28th, "Paws With A Cause," a national not-for-profit organization that was founded in Michigan in 1979 will make a presentation to the TLC. The agency is dedicated to serving people with disabilities by training and placing Assistance Dogs. Assistance Dogs include Service Dogs for people with physical disabilities, Hearing Dogs for people who are hard of hearing/deaf, Seizure Response Dogs for people with seizure disorders and Service Dogs for Children with Autism, for families living with autism. Through December, 2010, PAWS® has trained and certified more than 2,300 Assistance Dog teams.

And for those of you who are "Early Birds," consider joining the men and women who come to bake on Tuesday mornings from 9:00-11:00 am in the Main Kitchen. Then join the Tuesday Lunch Club for an informative presentation and lunch. This presentation is open to all.

Pictured above: Julie Jenkins, first picture, gives a very interesting presentation to the audience, pictured below.

-Dan Cristiano-



WANTED: USED ARMENIAN BOOKS

The Parish Bookstore is accepting donations of gently used books on Armenian subjects written in English for its Used Book Sale at this year's Festival. Kindly drop off books at the church office during business hours or on Sundays.

Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9 AM - 5 PM

After hours in an emergency, please contact: Pastor's Cell: 248.225.9888 • Administrator's Cell: 248.880.8391

AUGUST 2012

FROM THE LADIES OF THE WOMEN'S GUILD.....



"Spring into Fashion" dinner and fashion show was held on the evening of May 18th. This fabulous event was co-hosted by the dynamic sister team of Carol Ohanesian and Linda Lutz. The Clothing Cove of Milford provided the fashions and our members and their families took the runway as fashion models.

August events include Tiger's baseball game on Sunday August 5th, "Golden Pond" at the Purple Rose Theater on August 8th, a Manoogian Manor visit and the Blessing of the Grapes August 11th, and the Church Picnic Bake Sale August 12th.

Pictured above, left to right: Chairman Dawn Karagosian and new members Marge Nardell, Terrie Karebian, Denise Chiroyan, Sally Kabodian, Carol Palaian, Melissa Miller Farr and membership chair Terry Palaian. Pictured right, from left to right: Susan Ameriguian, Karen Dardarian, Nora Noraian, Nyree Giragosian, Ariana Kabodian, Cynthia Amboian, Samantha Simonian, Christine Santourian, Taline Darian, and Kim Simonian model fashions at the "Spring into Fashion" event on May 18th.

Festival Baking continues through the summer and fall. Everyone is welcome and we need as much help as you can give. Please join us every Monday and Tuesday in the church kitchen between 9 am and noon for fun and fellowship as we prepare delicious Armenian food. There will be an evening *Cheoreg* bake on August 20th from 6 pm to 9 pm.

The Annual Membership Dinner, initiation and membership awards program occurred on June 6, 2012. Linda DePietro and her committee prepared a beautiful dinner. Six new members, Marge Nardell, Terrie Karebian, Denise Chiroyan, Sally Kabodian, Carol Palaian and Melissa Miller Farr were initiated and welcomed into the Women's Guild. Honors were given to members who reached the following milestones: Fifty Year members - Alice Chavdarian, Julie Couyoumjian and Margret Kemian; Forty Year members - Alice Mavian and Margaret Moushmouljian; Twenty-five Year members - Kathy Mekjian and Sandra Jamian; Ten Year members - Helen Olsen and Deborah Zazaian. Each of the honorees received a gift for their many years of dedication to the Women's Guild.



Remember

ST. JOHN ARMENIAN CHURCH
IN YOUR WILL



CHOOSE A MINISTRY TO SUPPORT,
ESTABLISH AN ENDOWMENT,
SUPPLEMENT THE GENERAL FUND.
CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE, YOUR PASTOR
OR A PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER FOR WAYS
TO LEAVE A LEGACY TO YOUR CHURCH.

MEN' SOCIETY NEWS.....

The Men's Society sponsored a tour of the Detroit Masonic Temple on Saturday, July 14th. Twenty-five parishioners and friends including Father Garabed attended the event. Our tour guide was very knowledgeable and spent three hours with the group. Although the tour was to be presented as an architectural tour, the majority concerned the Masonic history. Much of the information was interesting, especially when it came to famous people such as President Truman, Henry Ford and Bunkie Knudsen.

The group did get to see three of the Masonic active lodge rooms which are very ornate. The group also saw the Knights Templar Hall where currently weddings take place. Interesting facts about the building include: the temple design was based on Solomon's Temple; there are 17 floors above ground and four below; the present building is the 3rd temple built at its current location; it is the largest Masonic Temple in the world; and the exact center of the building is located in the Knights Templar Hall in the cross hanging from the ceiling. The building has more than a thousand rooms, an Olympic size swimming pool, two theaters and hundreds of locker rooms to house the various uniforms of the Masons.

The Men's Society would like to thank John Kalajian for setting up this tour and hope that we can do it again with more emphasis on the architectural aspects of the building, which were not under his control. John would like to line up another tour with a different tour guide. Some of the group followed the tour with a lunch at the Traffic Jam Restaurant in Detroit and were treated to a tour of the facilities including a rooftop garden.

- Dan Cristiano -



Looks like the Women's Guild is recruiting younger members these days! Longtime member Charlene Apigian was joined by her daughter Kim Brown and granddaughter Samantha Brown to make Kofta for the Church Festival in the Fall. Talk about a ball of fun!

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL.....

How quickly time passes. Our Fuller Build Team has safely returned home with stories to tell to ears that are eager to listen. We are indeed grateful to the volunteers from our community who chose to give their time and energy to Armenia's future and in so doing learned how much better it is to give than to receive.

The Arts of Armenia Program sponsored by the Komitas Choir combined with the Summer Day Camp Program led by Lisa Mardigian resulted in the largest turnout of children in four years of its existence. Twenty-seven children participated with six counselors assisting the two teachers from Armenia. The synergy created by combining these two programs taught us not to let fear rule our actions, but to Trust in our Faith.

The Tuesday Lunch Club held its first in a series of presentations scheduled for this summer. The Bud has Bloomed! There were thirty-six in attendance. The presentation on sleep was well organized and provided those present with vital information on simple steps to take in the process of regaining a restorative level of sleep. With TLC the Tuesday Lunch Club is creating a space where those who wish to expand their awareness can continue to build the skills necessary to remain vibrant. "Nothing Ventured Nothing Gained." In this case, there was a core group of individuals who persisted and would not give up on their vision.

There is a wealth of knowledge and experience within our community that can, when directed, enrich our lives and feed our souls. Another bud that has bloomed is our lay-led Evening Bible Study, which was held on Wednesday, July 25th from 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the Nursery Room. Dr. Badrik Jooharigian will be conducting an exploration into the "Letters of James" found in the New Testament. Those who choose to participate will be treated to a wisdom few of us achieve. All one has to do is listen to Badrik read the Lectures of the Day in Church to realize the depth of understanding he possesses. We, as Christians, need to invest in our Faith. We must nurture the seed with water, and provide it with light. For in the darkness of ignorance, the seed will surely die.

Let the Light that emanates from within shine. Be generous, share it unconditionally! May the Holy Spirit continue to guide our Community and its Council as we carry the Torch our Forerunners passed on to us.

- John Yavruian -

ITEMS NEEDED FOR GRANDMA'S ATTIC RUMMAGE SALE

We need new or gently used clothing, toys and household items to be sold at the Annual Festival. Drop off your donations at the Maintenance Office in a box or bag clearly labeled GRANDMA'S ATTIC by September 23rd. It is not possible to have anything picked up from your home. A letter for tax deduction purposes is available from the church office.

Congratulations, class of 2012! Sending our warmest wishes to you - may God continue to bless you and your abilities!

Jonathan T. Banks

Jonathan graduated on May 12, 2012 from Lawrence Technological University with a dual major: Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Bachelor of Science in Architecture. Following Jonathan's graduation, he was hired as a Civil Engineer by Aristeo, Livonia, Michigan. Jonathan is the son of Thomas and Nancy Malkasian Banks and the brother of Amanda Banks.

Elizabeth H. Engoren

Elizabeth graduated from Lafayette College in Easton, PA, in May 2012 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering. She is currently pursuing a graduate degree from Columbia University. Elizabeth is the daughter of Drs. Milo Engoren and Cynthia Arslanian-Engoren and the granddaughter of Ms. Margaret Arslanian.

Joshua C. Godoshian

Josh graduated with honors of Magna Cum Laude from Grosse Pointe North High School. He was also a member of the National Honor Society and participated in multiple high school sports. Josh will be attending Pennsylvania State University in the fall. He is the son of Charles Godoshian and Patricia Camazzola and the grandson of Nevart and the late George Godoshian.

Lisa Haidostian

Lisa graduated with honors from the University of Michigan Law School in May. She looks forward to joining the law firm of McDermott Will & Emery in Chicago in the fall. Lisa is the daughter of Dicran and Aralynn Haidostian, and the granddaughter of Harry Mardirosian and Alice Haidostian.

Margaux Kabodian

Margaux graduated from Mercy High School in Farmington Hills in May. She has been on the Mercy Varsity Tennis Team for four years, including #1 Singles and #1 Doubles, and on the Mercy Varsity Ski Team for two years. Margaux played in the State Tennis finals in Kalamazoo and came in third place. She also recently participated along with 650 other students in a Stock Investment Competition and came in first place receiving a scholarship for college. She will be attending Albion College on an academic scholarship, and plans to play for the Albion Women's Tennis Team. Margaux is the granddaughter of Shoushan Ameriguan and Sally Kabodian; daughter of Belinda & Armen Kabodian; and sister of Ariana Kabodian.

Matthew I. Rupas

Matthew graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Eli Broad College of Business Department of Marketing. He is the son of Peter and Barbara Rupas, and the grandson of Nina Sarkisian.

Hunter Toomajian

Hunter graduated with honors of Summa Cum Laude from Lahser High School, Bloomfield Hills. He received the Presidential Academic Achievement Award, and recognition from Phi Beta Kappa and the National Honor Society. He is a graduate of St. John's Church School and the son of Michael & Jennifer Toomajian, and the grandson of Harry & Jane Toomajian.



Pictured above: Instructor Ella Pepanyan gently guides a student with his weaving project.



Pictured above: A beautiful finish product of pomegranates and grape leaves - staples of Armenian food culture.



Pictured above: Instructor Arman Julhakyan helps his group of students perfect their *kertzee* and *kochari* dance moves.

GODPARENTS SUNDAY



CELEBRATING GODPARENTS AND GODCHILDREN & THE LOVE THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

Godparents and godchildren of all ages are invited to join our parish in honor of their sacred bond. Be in church for a joyous renewal of baptismal vows and for parish fellowship afterwards.

PLEASE JOIN US ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2012 FOR GODPARENTS SUNDAY
After church service, continue the celebration at the Annual Festival!

Children are lovingly cared for by their parents. So what is the role of the godparent? **Godparents** are charged with the **spiritual** care of the child.

In Greek (the language of the New Testament) baptism meant "to dip," which originally referred to dipping cloth in a pool of dye over and over until the color was right and ready to set. How appropriate a word it is for starting a new life as a new person of a new faith!

John the Baptist told of the coming of Jesus, who would "baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Luke 3:16). He baptized Jesus Himself, an extraordinary event that became the model for Christian initiation. People learning the new faith sought a "sponsor," a knowledgeable Christian to instruct, guide and pray with them. This was the start of the idea of a "godparent." It evolved into a lifetime relationship. Baptism was just the beginning...

A resource of the Department of Youth and Education
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SACRAMENTS

Baptisms July 2012

- 1 Christopher Steven
Son of Steven and Lisa Simpson
Godfather: Matthew Michalski
- 22 Andrew Adees
Son of Adees and Jennifer Atamian
Godparents: Araz Atamian and Candace Babby

Weddings July 2012

- 7 Diana Grigoryan and Raffi Bush
Khachyeghpayr: Mikhail Grigoryan
Bestman: Ara Bush
Maid of Honor: Galine Torossian
- 21 Shoghik Pogossian and Yenovk Arzoumanian
Bestman: Michael Arzoumanian
Matron of Honor: Maral Arzoumanian

Funerals July 2012

- 20 Arthur Keurajian, 82, Acacia Park

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.

KOMITAS CHOIR IN THE NEWS.....



Everyone should know that our Komitas Choir is not only present on Sunday mornings to participate in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, but also is engaged in educational and recreational and church-related programs and activities.

One such activity took place during mid-July. Known as the Arts of Armenia, this program consisted of summer workshops for children and adults during which two talented professional educators from Armenia, Ella Pepanyan and Arman Julhakyan, provided instruction in the arts and traditional dances of Armenia. Their efforts were well appreciated by the young participants and adults as well. The program's acceptance by the greater Detroit Armenian community resulted in the largest group of 27 children since its inception at St. John's four years ago. Adults also were given an opportunity to learn

the traditional Armenian dances and arts by attending evening classes.

St. John's Youth Coordinator and Director of St. John's Summer Day Camp worked with Arts of Armenia Chairperson Denise Karakashian to combine their respective programs, informing and encouraging our youth to take part in the week-long fine arts program.

In addition, choir members and their spouses attended a picnic at John Yavruian's home in Ann Arbor on Saturday, July 7th. The two instructors from Armenia were present and had an opportunity to renew friendships from previous visits to our community. Entertainment was provided by Harry Kezelian on the clarinet and Dr. Viken Matossian on the oud. It was an enjoyable evening. Many thanks go to John for his hospitality!

Pictured above: Harry Kezelian, left, and Choir member Dr. Viken Matossian, right. Pictured below: Parish Council chairman and picnic host John Yavruian takes a ride!

-Harry Avagian-



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We welcome your comments and suggestions, so please feel free to contact the Church Office so we may continue to improve the way we bring information to our parishioners, subscribers and the St. John community. If you would like to help defray printing and postage costs, and are computer savvy, please consider receiving your *Torchbearer* online as 10% of our readership already does. The added bonus is that it appears in color online! Please contact the Church Office.

If you would be interested in sponsoring an issue of *The Torchbearer*, that is, assuming the costs of producing one, please contact May Kafafian at the Church Office for further information. We also need volunteers who would be interested in helping prepare *The Torchbearer* for mailing. This occurs around the 25th of the month and for just a few hours. Again, please contact the Church Office.

We invite you to visit the St. John web site for the Sunday Bulletin, *The Torchbearer*, event information and links to internet sites of interest to our parishioners:

www.stjohnsarmenianchurch.org

*You too can be a
Torchbearer Sponsor!*

CONTACT MAY KAFAFIAN
AT THE CHURCH OFFICE
248.569.3405

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.....

August

- 5 Men's Society Pancake Breakfast
8 Evening Bible Study
12 **Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God**
Annual Church Picnic
22 Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study
Evening Bible Study

September

- 3 Labor Day - Complex Closed
5 Evening Bible Study
8 Nativity of the Holy Mother-of-God
9 Church School Opens
Men's Society Pancake Breakfast
16 **Exaltation of the Holy Cross**
Family Portraits Sunday
19 Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study
22 Free Health Fair
26 Museum & Church Tour & Lunch
27 Opening Night Auction Dinner
Opening of Fine Arts Exhibition & Sale
28-30 Armenia: Land of Noah's Ark Festival
30 Holy Cross of *Varak*
Godparents & Godchildren's Sunday

IN THE COMMUNITY.....

Saturday, October 13, 2012
Daughters of Vartan
Women's Symposium

Saturday, February 2, 2012
Kef Time Keghi is coming to Detroit!

In the Fall and Winter at St. John's

Friday, October 19, 2012
Men's Society Wine Tasting

Sunday, November 4, 2012
Detroit Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, November 11, 2012
Primate's Visit, Deacons' Ordination,
"A Celebration of Service" Awards and Ordination Dinner

Saturday, November 24, 2012
ACYOA November Dance

Saturday, December 8, 2012
St. John's Parish Council and Apostolic Society invite you to
"Celebrate the Season"
Special vocalist Onnik Dinkjian
featuring Gregory Vosbikian, Leon Janikian,
David Hoplamazian, Ara Dinkjian and Christopher Vosbikian

Tuesday, December 11, 2012
"Celebrating the Legacy of 500 Years of Armenian Book
Printing: 1512-2012"

Sunday, December 16, 2012
Oakland Choral Society Performs The Messiah

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