

Women's Guild News November 2014

St. John Armenian Church 22001 Northwestern Hwy Sfld, MI 48075 www.stjohnsarmenianchurch.org

Christmas Dinner

(No General Body Meeting)

Wed. Dec. 3rd 6:00 p.m.

Chairs: Joy Callan & Jackie ElChemmas

To make reservations, call

Shirley Sarkisian

248-851-5711 or email

Jackie ElChemmas

jackieelch@gmail.com

Armenian Christmas

Monday, January 6th

Badarak, Luncheon &

Guild Meeting

Chairs: Sara Andonian &

Alberta Godoshian

A Note from Your Chairman...

Dear Fr. Garabed and Ladies of the Guild,

Our Thanksgiving celebration reminds us that there is much for which we need to be thankful. It is important for each of us to reflect on and be thankful for our blessings. Several of the most positive attributes that all of our Women's Guild members are proud to possess are a rich Christian spiritual and church tradition, a high quality enviable family life, an extraordinary ethnic heritage, and an enduring emphasis on the importance of education. Many other ethnic groups possess these positive attributes as well. Let's embrace our uniqueness and continually remind ourselves that we are fortunate to possess all of these values; and let's ensure that these values are passed on to the next generation.

We see in the world around us those who are less fortunate.

Sometimes we are so close to a situation that we become oblivious to

how fortunate we are. Let's not take any of these values and blessings for granted as we continue to help our church, our community, and our Women's Guild move into the future. In this way we are assured that our children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and young people in our community can receive the joys of these blessings. It is the responsibility of each and every one of us to help our community move forward no matter what the obstacles.

We need to remember all of the sacrifices of our parents, grandparents, and ancestors have made, and at the same time make certain that our young people recognize our positive values and attributes as a people as well.

Sincerely yours,

Linda Stamboulian

November 5th General Body Meeting and Election of Officers

At our November Meeting, an Election for the Executive Board and Nominating Committee for 2015 was conducted by Marilyn Sarkesian. Our thanks to Marilyn for chairing the Nominating Committee this year. We also wish to thank Sara Andonian for coordinating the beautiful and delicious fall-inspired dessert table. Congratulations to our three newly elected members to the Board, Joy Callan, Belinda Kabodian, and Diana Vosganian and our two incumbents who were also running, Dawn Aginian and Virginia Mekjian. They will be joined by Sara Andonian, Barbara Haroutunian, Judy Parks and Sue Vian who will be completing the second year of their two-year terms. We wish them all a most enjoyable and rewarding time on the Board. We also thanked our outgoing Board members: Nora Noraian (Vice Chair, 4 years), Joyce Obenhoff (Chairman 1 year, Advisor, 1 year, Assistant Treasurer, 1 year, and Treasurer, 1 year), and Linda Stamboulian (Chairman, 2 years). Father Garabed presented the outgoing Board members as well as the two incumbents with a beautifully carved Armenian cross.

(over)

The Nominating Committee for 2015 will be (in alphabetical order), Anita Boyajian, Linda DePietro, Jackie ElChemmas, Kim Kalajian, and Helen Olson. The Assembly delegates elected were Marianne Dardarian, Nora Noraian and Marilyn Sarkesian.

Alternatives for Girls Gift Bags

Sue Vian was the Chairman of the Alternatives for Girls gift bag project once again this year. Under her leadership, the women from the Guild created many lovely holiday gift bags for the young women at the Alternatives for Girls shelter as well as women on the streets. This fall, Barbara Haroutunian kindly delivered gift bags to Mer Doon (women's shelter in Armenia) as well. Our heartfelt thanks to Sue for her leadership in this rewarding outreach project and our thanks to all of our members who generously donated items and helped to assemble the bags.

Social Services Committee

Our thanks to Carol Ohanesian and her committee for assembling 54 College Care Packages. These packages are much appreciated by our young people who are mostly far away from home. The boxes contained cheoreg, khalkha, simit, cookies, snack bags, granola bars, candy, Kleenex, Raman noodles, popcorn, an Armenian magnet, a note from the Guild and Fr. Garabed, as well as a prayer. This year, Carol and Linda Lutz personally delivered boxes to St. Nersess Seminary in New York for the Seminarians who were very grateful. The boxes let everyone know that the St. John's community and the Women's Guild are thinking about them.

This year, at the Christmas dinner on December 3rd, Carol and her committee will be collecting new stuffed animals which will be given, by the Southfield Fire Department, to children who have experienced some type of trauma in their life. Members attending the dinner may donate a stuffed animal, or two or three... The stuffed animals must be new with the price tags attached (not necessarily price). Each animal donated must be able to fit in a shoebox. **Please do not bring the shoebox.** If possible, bring your animal in a gallon Ziploc bag.

Membership Christmas Dinner

Our Membership Christmas Dinner and Installation of Officers will take place on Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at 6 p.m. Our chairpersons for this event are Joy Callan and Jackie ElChemmas. Please call Shirley Sarkisian at 248 851-5711 or email Jackie ElChemmas at jackieelch@gmail.com for reservations. The cost of the dinner and short (surprise) program will be \$15.



Arick Kasper & Almas Derderian arrange Yahlanchi for cooking.



Summer Festival Baking: Meat Beoreg preparation



Dedicated member, Almas Derderian, collects money from weekly after church baked goods sales