

A Message From Our Chairman...



In the few short weeks that we have been blessed to have Very Reverend Father Aren Jebejian as our new pastor, he has generated a buzz of excitement as we all clamor to get to know him. Some of us have been privileged to have known him for many years and some of us will look forward to the days and years ahead for opportunities to know him better.

Father Aren was generous enough to share some of his thoughts and ideas with our St John Women's Guild.

Q; Tell us about your growing up years?

A; I was born in Detroit and when my father, Der Nerses Jebejian, became ordained as a Der Hayr, our family moved to Springfield, MA to St John the Divine, now, St Mark Armenian Church, to his first parish. We lived there until 1982 when our next assignment took us to Florida.

Q; Where did you go to school?

A; I graduated from high school in Florida and then went on to St Thomas University, an Augustinian school in Miami.

Q; When did you know that a life in service to God and the church had become your calling?

A; When I was nine years old, my father asked me to assist him on the altar at the wedding of family friends. He gave me a card with the lines, 'yev yevus khaghaghoutiamp uzder aghachetsook ugnal getso yev vorghormea.' When I ascended the altar with my father, something came over me and I knew what I was meant to do.

Q; What are your hopes for our parish?

A; My hopes are to bring people closer to God, not just in numbers but in understanding through education to see God through the unique lens of the Armenian Church.

Q; How have you found your new parish so far?

A; I am excited by the new challenges. I look forward to the many opportunities that will be teaching moments and for the opportunity to share in those moments. And, I look forward to listening and learning about the past and moving into the future.

Thank you, Father Aren, for sharing your thoughts with our Guild. We are anxious to work with you in serving the missions of our Guild and our church.

Y. Joy Callan

Congratulations to our new 2016 Executive Board

President -	Fr. Aren Jebejian	Assistant Treasurer -	Dawn Aginian
Chairman -	Yerchanig Joy Callan	Recording Secretary -	Cathy Zwinck
Vice Chairman -	Belinda Kabodian	Corresponding Sec. -	Virginia Mekjian
Treasurer -	Sara Andonian	Newsletter -	Diana Vosganian
Advisors: Sue Vian & Cathy Mekjian			



Our sincere sympathy to Terrie Karebian and her extended family on the passing of her dear mother Alma Kachigian. We also send our heartfelt condolences to Dr. Vigen Darian and daughters Talin and Mara, on the passing of their beloved wife and mother, Rosemary Darian and to her sister, Carol Bagdasarian and sister-in-law, Dr. Linda Karibian. We also extend our sympathy to Y. Patsy Rogers, on the loss of her dear sister, the Honorable Y. Gladys Barsamian.

Congratulations to David and Rochel Berryman on the birth of their son, James Robert Berryman IV (J.R.) who arrived on November 29th. He was welcomed by his big sister Grace, and thrilled grandparents Nancy and Jim Berryman.



We send our prayers and get-well wishes to our dear Guild member, Almas Derderian, who is recovering after injuring her arm in a fall at home.

Members of our Guild Knitting Group delivered 32 fleece and knitted blankets to "Project Linus." They will be distributed in Oakland County to children in hospitals, hospice, or those in traumatic circumstances. Hopefully, these blankets will bring comfort to those receiving them. This Guild project brought together our regular knitters and other Guild members for an enjoyable morning.



Festival Bake Thank-You Luncheon

A beautiful luncheon was coordinated by Dolly Matoian and Anita Arslanian to thank the dedicated women and men who came all summer to bake in preparation for our church Fall Festival.

The Women's Guild extends an extra note of appreciation to Dolly for her outstanding leadership as our festival bake chairman for the past 15 years! She has been the driving force behind the success of all we have accomplished in the kitchen. Her devotion and unwavering guidance has been extraordinary and very much appreciated!



*Thank
You*

A big thank-you to Arick Kasper, who faithfully led our bake sales each Sunday after church along with her weekly helpers, Helen Olson, Alice Argonian, Lillian Durham, Kim Kalajian, Esther Kulhanjian, Nancy Panaretos, Dolly Matoian, Marilyn Sarkesian, Rozann Vartoogian and Linda Tiffany.

Advent by Candlelight



Sara Andonian and Belinda Kabodian co-chaired this most loved and anticipated semi-annual event with their wonderful committee. Nearly 400 women gathered for a lovely inspirational evening. After guests strolled around to view nearly 40 individually decorated hostess tables, guests returned to their tables to enjoy fellowship and dessert. Then, all gathered in our Church Sanctuary

to hear speakers covering the traditional themes of Love, Hope, Peace, and Joy. Hon. Lisa Asadoorian, Yerchanig Callan, Julia Papiyants, and Cathy Zwinck each shared their own heartfelt experiences as they covered their individual theme. The musical presentations were coordinated by Linda Jevahirian. Performers were renowned jazz guitarist Sean Blackman, internationally acclaimed organist Lance Luce, and our own Linda Jevahirian at piano. Local vocalists from our Armenian community were Ann Bayleran, Lilit Kazazian and Elina Bagdasaryan. The evening concluded with everyone lighting a candle and singing Silent Night. All left for home with the true beauty of the evening and the true meaning of the season.

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of our donors: Sara Andonian, Denise Boyagian, Karen Movesian, Nora Noraian, Carol Ohanesian, Linda Tiffany, Diana Vosganian and Westborn Market.



Annual Christmas Dinner and Installation of Officers



Our annual Christmas Dinner and Installation of Officers, took place on Monday, December 7th. Chairperson Sue Reizian and her hard-working committee members, Jackie ElChemmas (who made and donated the cheese boregs), Dawn Aginian, Elizabeth Amboian, Paula Derbabian, Linda DePietro, Carol Hazergian, Darlene Hazergian, Patricia Magee, Dolly Matoian, Janet Megregian, Cathy Mekjian, Carol Ohanesian, Helen Olson, Nancy Panaretos, Linda Tiffany, Rozann Vartoogian and Cathy Zwinck prepared a delicious dinner (recipe below). Carol Hazergian beautifully wrapped over 40 boxes as the festive centerpieces for the Dinner. They served a dual purpose afterwards as they were donated to the church to adorn the dining hall Christmas tree. Many thanks to the generous donors of the evening, Elizabeth Amboian, Lillian Durham, Jane Hovsepien, Terrie Karebian, Esther Kulhanjian, Dolly Matoian, Kathy Mekjian and Diramayr Virginia Melkonian. Fr. Aren Jebejian performed the installation service of the new board members. This was followed with dinner and the fun of opening and "sharing" our White Elephant gifts with our tablemates. Finally, the joyous singing of Christmas carols, led by Charlene Apigian, truly made it in evening of warmth and fellowship.



We have received many requests for Darlene Hazergian's delicious chicken recipe, which was served at the Christmas Dinner. The following is a copy for you to make and enjoy!

Artichoke and Chicken Bake -

Serves 4

- 1 (14 oz) can water-packed artichoke hearts, well drained and chopped
- 3/4 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 3/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1 dash garlic powder or 2 garlic cloves
- 4 boneless skinless chicken breast halves

Preheat oven to 375. Spray an 11 x 7 inch baking dish with Pam. Salt and pepper the chicken breast halves and place in the dish. In a bowl, combine the artichoke hearts, parmesan cheese, mayonnaise and garlic powder (or garlic cloves), mix well. Spread artichoke mixture over chicken breasts. Bake, uncovered, 30-35 minutes or until chicken juices run clear.

Thanks to the generosity of our Women's Guild members, over 135 toys, games, books, and crafts were collected at the Guild Christmas Dinner to benefit the Santa Shop at Hospitality House. The Social Service Committee thanks everyone for participating in this activity, which will certainly help bring many children a joyful Christmas!



Directory Changes

New member: Carol Cholmakjian
 36991 Driftwood, Farmington Hills, MI 48331
 (248) 592-0392 email: cholmak@hotmail.com

New addresses:

Charlene Apigian 1829 Pebble Creek Drive Canton, MI 48188 (734) 725-5276
 Sara Andonian 2008 Bordeaux, West Bloomfield, MI 48323

New email:

Joyce Obenhoff shortafoot1@gmail.com

Please make these changes in your directory

Wednesday, February 3rd	12:30 p.m. Guild meeting and lunch. Reservations, call Diana Vosgian (248) 661-1875 or email at pasadenapenguin@gmail.com
Sunday, February 7th	Guild sponsored Poon Paregentan Celebration after Church
Sunday, February 14th	Men's Society Lunch - Meet and Greet Parish Election Candidates
Sunday, February 21st	Church election after Bardarak and lunch
Wednesday, March 2nd	4:00 p.m. Guild Meeting - Lent Fish Dinner
Saturday, May 21st	Mother Daughter Luncheon



We need your help!



We need a volunteer to take on the chairmanship of Mas preparation and packaging. We also need a Women's Guild photographer to help take photos during our events. Interested?? Please contact our chairman, Yerchanig Callan, at (248) 254-3955.

Palm Sunday Bake Sale Schedule

Please look at the schedule below and join us for a morning or evening working with friends (as well as making new friends) as we prepare for the Palm Sunday Bake Sale.



Upcoming Bake Dates

Tuesday, January 26 th	Katah	9:00 a.m.	Terry Palaian
*Monday, February 22 nd	Choreg	6:00 p.m.	Marianne Dardarian
Tuesday, February 23 rd	Khalkha	9:00 a.m.	Cathy Atesian
Tuesday, March 1 st	Choreg	9:00 a.m.	Dolly Matoian
*Monday, March 14 th	Beoreg	6:00 p.m.	
Tuesday, March 15 th	Nazoog	9:00 a.m.	Y. Joy Callan

*Evening bake hours
Additional bake days may be added

Our Guild Serving the Community

"Project Linus"



L-R: Linda Assarian, Cathy Zwinck, Sandra Jack, Helen Olson, Linda Lutz, Louise Brocher, Carol Ohanesian, and Linda DePietro around the blankets they donated.

Christmas Toy Collection



Diane Aginian looking over the many toys that were donated by our Women's Guild for Hospitality House.



It's Time to Pay Your Women's Guild Dues for 2016



Please, send in your yearly dues of **\$25.**

Make your check payable to: **St. John Women's Guild**

We would appreciate receiving your dues by March 1, 2016.

Thank you to those of you who have already paid.

Mail checks to our Assistant Treasurer:



St. John Women's Guild
c/o Dawn Aginian
1783 Cole Street
Birmingham, MI 48009-7066

For questions contact Dawn Aginian at 248-225-7176 or daginian@yahoo.com
If more convenient, you may also leave a check at Church in the Women's Guild mailbox in the secretary's office

If you have any **corrections** or new personal information, please fill out the form below and send it in with your payment.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

If you have something you would like to include in our newsletter, please contact Diana Vosganian at (248) 661-1875 or email: pasadenapenguin@gmail.com

St. John Armenian Church Women's Guild
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