

Women's Guild Newsletter

June 2022

St. John Armenian Church, 22001 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield, MI 48075

(248)569-3405

www.stjohnsarmenianchurch.org

<https://stjohnwomensguild.square.site>



A Message from our chairman...

The peonies are budding and there are ants all over my deck – it's spring!

We're fortunate to again have an article about a Women's Guild member in print, this time featuring Sue Reizian and our dear departed Pam Dayinian. Pam's daughter Olivia (WG 2021) shares lovely memories of her family in the latest issue of the Mirror-Spectator newspaper. It's worth taking a moment to spend some time with Pam. Thank you to M-S writer Chris Datian for her interest in our talented membership! The link to the article can be found in this newsletter.

On June 26 we're celebrating Hokehankist for those who have died within the last year, and in memory of all our departed members. Please join us as we pray for their souls in the tradition of the Armenian Church. Afterwards, in the tradition of Women's Guild, we're sponsoring a tea. All are welcome.

I just watched an episode of America's Test Kitchen called "Ode to Armenia," where they made, and thoroughly enjoyed, lamajoon & vospov kofta. It's a great episode; worth watching just to hear the announcer try to say vospov kofta! Thanks to Dolly Matoian for sharing the link:

<https://www.pbs.org/video/ode-to-armenia-ZglqHS/>

I'm going to the Detroit Contemporary gallery to see Sue Carman-Vian's exhibition of performance art. She's giving a talk at 6pm on Sat, June 18th, and will be at the gallery Thursday through Sunday from 1-4pm during the month of June. 478 Alexandrine Detroit

There's still time to RSVP to our June Membership Dinner, contact Belinda Kabodian at 248 767-3942. This is a catered affair where we are all guests because of the donations made by our past members and their families and their In Lieu of Flowers funds. Since covid hasn't gone away, and we want us all to enjoy the evening in a safe environment, we will be wearing masks and have extras available.

While on the subject - have you gotten your free at-home covid test kits? A third round has become available to order - <https://www.covid.gov/tests>

Here's to a great summer and perfect health!

Carol Cholmakjian



Our deepest condolences to Karen Kalajian on the passing of her dear father-in-law John Kalajian

On Sunday, June 26th, the Women's Guild will celebrate Hoki-hankist for the souls of our recently departed members:

Anna Karakashian – Kathy Mekjian – Mitzi Negohosian

Prayers are also being said for the souls of all our deceased Women's Guild Members. We will be hosting a tea outside following church services.



We send our get well wishes to Sandy Jack and Paula Schmidt. As you heal and rest, know you are missed and thought of often.



Congratulations to Knar and Michael Pifer on the birth of their son, Krikor Bedrosian Pifer, March 2, 2022. Proud grandparents are Yerchanig and Roy Callan, Jan Bedrosian, and Steve Pifer.

Born on October 1, 2021, twin boys, Alexander Phillip and Jackson Benjamin to proud parents Angela and David Keila. Excited grandmother is Lorrie Melkonian Keila and happy great-grandmother is Gloria Melkonian.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to all!



Jackie ElChemmas will be traveling to Armenia in June to build the Fuller House. We are hoping Women's Guild members can bring makeup, jewelry, scarves, hair clips, hair brushes/combs, socks, or pantyhose for Jackie to distribute when she gets there. You can bring them with you to the Membership Dinner on Wednesday, June 1st.



Women's Guild Directory 2022 updates

Lisa Derderian - LisasCreativeDesign@comcast.net

Membership Dues




Just a friendly reminder that membership dues are \$25 and can be mailed to Paulette Apkarian

7430 Brookberry Ct., West Bloomfield, MI 48322

OR

can be paid on our website <https://stjohnwomensguild.square.site>

Wed., June 1 st	Membership dinner – Shoushan Ameriguian and Belinda Kabodian John Rec Center, 6:00 pm (248)767-3942	
Sat., June 4 th	World Medical relief, 9:00 am -11:30 am Contact Edith Baise (313)673-3325	
Wed., June 8 th	Guild Gatherings “Mother and Daughter, Making Manti Together” by Dawn and Diane Aginian	
Wed., June 15 th	Executive Board Meeting	
Sun., June 26 th	Hokihankist for the souls of our dearly departed members since last June. Prayers are also being said for the souls of all deceased Women’s Guild Members. We will be hosting a tea outside following church services.	
Sat., July 23 rd	Armenia Fest – Royal Oak Market 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm We will be selling our cookbooks, aprons and choreg.	
Wed., July 27 th	Summer Outing – “Tour of Historic Churches in Detroit” (flyer in newsletter). Contact Marilyn Sarkesian with any questions (248)933-3361.	
Sat., July 30 th	Manoogian Manor Visit – Transfiguration of our Lord. Elise Papazian	

WORLD MEDICAL RELIEF



SJAC volunteer day at World Medical Relief – Join us and help sort badly needed medical supplies and equipment to be used locally and around the world on Saturday, June 4th, 9:00 am – 11:30 am. No experience necessary. Contact Edith Baise for information (313)673-3325 or ebaise@umich.edu



We are still looking for members to chair the Bazaar Bake Sale on Saturday, October 1st and Sunday October 2nd. Sue Vian and Rose Najarian are chairing Friday night

BAZAAR BAKE DATES

Bazaar Baking is upon us, led by Yerchanig Joy Callan along with choreg pro Marianne Dardarian on Monday evenings. Sou Boureg starts on May 31st! No experience needed!



- Tues., May 31 9am-noon
- Sat., June 4 9am-noon
- Tues., June 7 9am-noon
- Sat., June 11 9am-noon
- Mon., June 13 6pm-9pm
- Tues., June 14 9am-noon
- Mon., June 20 6pm-9pm
- Tues., June 21 9am-noon
- Sat., June 25 9am-noon
- Mon., June 27 6pm-9pm

- Tues., June 28 9am-noon
- Mon., Aug. 22 6pm-9pm
- Tues., Aug. 23 9am-noon
- Sat., Aug. 27 9am-noon
- Mon., Aug. 29 6pm-9pm
- Tues., Aug. 30 9am-noon
- Mon., Sept. 12 6pm-9pm
- Tues., Sept. 13 9am-noon
- Tues., Sept. 20 9am-noon



Women's Health...

Questions Answered

Dr. Christine Matoian, Gynecologist and daughter of Guild member Dolly Matoian – and avid Michigan football fan, shared a wealth of women's health information as the guest speaker at our May general body meeting. We had a full house! Guild members and guests were encouraged to ask questions (and they did!) from the floor and were also given note cards to write out questions they may have been hesitant to ask out loud. Dr. Matoian spoke in such a welcoming and easy to understand way that the note cards weren't necessary – she made us all feel so comfortable that no one felt the need to write out their inquiries.

Dr. Matoian began by qualifying that we are all so different that a lot of answers started out with "It depends". She then touched on different situations and how the solution for one woman might be different from the one next them. She even injected quite a bit of humor into her talk – like the example of a patient who wouldn't take her hormones during the winter because the hot flashes kept her warm when it was cold outside!

We would like to thank Dr. Matoian for taking the time out of her busy schedule to meet with the Women's Guild and hope that she will be back again (maybe even become a new member!).



Look further into our newsletter to see Weight Watcher points for Armenian foods that Dr. Matoian calculated and shared with us.

Mirror-Spectator Newspaper Features Pam Dayinian's Red Lentil Vegetable Soup

Once again, Women's Guild members and their recipes are featured in the Mirror-Spectator newspaper. This time it's the late Pam Dayinian who is in the spotlight. Her recipe for Red Lentil Vegetable Soup was adapted by Susie Reizian for the Instant Pot and Susie used this recipe for her popular Guild Gathering video on our YouTube channel.

The first few paragraphs are below along with the link to the full article and recipe on the Mirror-Spectator website featuring our dear departed Pam Dayinian



Pamela Neffian Dayinian

SOUTHFIELD — During the COVID-19 lockdown, the Women's Guild of St. John Armenian Church in Southfield looked for ways to stay connected while staying apart. Normally, the Women's Guild's calendar is filled with activities and events through the year. Maintaining connections to each other while remaining homebound meant thinking in creative new ways.

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One special recipe featured at the Guild Gatherings YouTube page is the late Pam Dayinian's Red Lentil Vegetable Soup. Though Pam passed away in 2015, she was instrumental in the creation of the *Armenian Cuisine: Preserving Our Heritage Cookbook* by the Women's Guild of St. John Armenian Church (she served as co-chair with Dolly Matoian). Pam was recognized for being an outstanding home cook, baker, planner, and church organizer who worked tirelessly in support of the Women's Guild for many years. (The cookbook's fourth printing was in 2019.)

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Pam's daughter Olivia shares some fond family memories about her mother's life: "Her love for her church and the Women's Guild became her lifelong passion. She was a Sunday School teacher for 25 years, and served as Women's Guild Chairperson in 1984, 1985 and 1994. She was Co-Chair of the Women's Guild Cookbook, Armenian Cuisine Preserving Our Heritage. She served on nominating committees and made khadayiff and



spinach boregs for church bazaars. She was always there for her lifelong friends. She took great care of her family, nurturing and visiting her elderly relatives. And made sure they got to their hair appointments, doctor appointments, and picking up their medication from the pharmacy. She embodied Christian values and believed in serving others. She also found time to organize family reunions, parties, and holiday celebrations. She raised her daughters to value a Christian education, academics at school, music, piano lessons, dance, and creative arts."

Read the full article, including Pam's recipe for Red Lentil Vegetable Soup, at

<https://mirrorspectator.com/2022/05/05/pam-dayinians-red-lentil-vegetable-soup/>

Pam Dayinian and her husband Jerry celebrating a birthday with their beloved grandchildren. (Photos: Courtesy Margaret-Ann Yessian)

~ Women's Guild of St. John Armenian Church ~



Announces a Return to our Annual Summer Outings with a

Tour of Historic Churches of Detroit

Lets go on this adventure together!

Wednesday, July 27, 2022

Tour Schedule:

9:00am **Bus leaves** from St. John's parking lot
(please arrive 10 minutes early, bus has A/C)
9:30 - 10:45am **Historic Trinity Lutheran Church**
(founded more than 150 yrs ago, Eastern Market area)
11:00-11:45am **Old St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church**
(3rd oldest Catholic Church in Detroit, Greektown)
12:00- 1:45pm **LUNCH** at Pegasus Taverna, Greektown (pre-paid*)
2:00 – 2:45 pm **Christ Church Detroit**
(Oldest Protestant Church in Michigan, River Front Area)
3:10 – 3:40pm **Unity Mission Church** (our **1st church** on Oakman Blvd!)
4:00pm **Bus returns** to "our church"

Guild Members – Please RSVP by submitting your name & \$25 by June 29*

Transportation is graciously provided by In Lieu of Flowers donations from WG family members

Checks (covering lunch) payable to St. John's Women's Guild

- (a) You can submit your name/payment at the JUNE MEMBERSHIP MEETING or
- (b) By mail to: Marilyn Sarkesian 2338 Heronwood Dr, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

****Guests space TBD after June 29, guest will be wait listed & confirmed by July 8**
Questions (248) 933-3361

Notes: *Your seat on the bus is only guaranteed once your check is received. Mailed RSVPs will CONFIRMED by email. ~~~~~ Also note: These churches have A/C but they are OLD, it may still be warm, dress appropriately. ~~~~~ Some stairs anticipated.



Congratulations

St. John Women's Guild Membership Dinner 2022

Honored Membership

New Members

Tala Alarmany
Jackie Boskovich
Mona Kurjian
Lindsay Sahakian

10 Year Members

Denise Chiroyan
Melina Fayroian
Terrie Karebian
Marge Nardell
Carol Palaian

25 Year Member

Nan Bogosian
Margaret Dayinian
Karen Mooradian
Karen Movsesian

40 Year Members

Elizabeth Amboian
Shoushan Ameriguian
Anita Arslanian
Delores Blakian
Sandra Bourgeois
Diana Vosganian

Honorary Member

Mary Keoleian

100th Birthday

Jean Sarkisian



THE WOMEN'S GUILD OF ST. JOHN ARMENIAN CHURCH

HAS REQUESTED REQUIEM PRAYERS

**FOR THE SOULS OF ALL
DECEASED WOMEN'S GUILD MEMBERS**

AND RECENTLY DEPARTED...

ANNA KARAKASHIAN

KATHY MEKJIAN

MARITZA NEGOHOSIAN

**HOKIHANKIST WILL BE HELD ON
SUNDAY, JUNE 26
WITH A TEA TO FOLLOW**

THE WOMEN'S GUILD
OF ST. JOHN ARMENIAN CHURCH
PRESENTS

Guild Gatherings
a series of creative videos on YouTube

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

Mother~ Daughter
making manti together
by Diane and Dawn

Click [HERE](#) to view our YouTube page





25 March, 2022

The Women's Guild of St. John's Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, MI 48075-4081

Dear members at The Women's Guild of St. John's Armenian Church,

We are humbled by your recent expression of generous support for our work. Thank you for the generous donation of \$10,500 made on 28 February, 2022. It is truly said that whatever we possess becomes of double value when we share it with others. We know that there are lots of other ways you could have spent this money, but you believe in our cause, so you chose to invest it in our program. We're in this together and our success is your success.

We are very proud to have supporters like you who believe in the value of philanthropy. Words of gratitude and appreciation will never be enough to say what a real difference you make!

You are not building just a house; you are building hope for a better future, you are improving a family's standard of living by helping them build a home with proper facilities, thus also ensuring a family's physical and mental health. You are securing a better and safer environment for children to live and grow up in. And of course, you are strengthening the country by preventing emigration. We can proudly report that to date none of the families supported by FCHA has ever emigrated.

In its 14 years since its founding in Armenia in 2008, FCHA has distinguished itself as the most active covenant partner outside the United States. Since 2008, FCHA has built and renovated over 1300 homes in dozens of impoverished villages throughout Armenia.

If you have any questions on the program, please don't hesitate to contact us at fcarmenia@fcharmenia.org.

Again, thank you for your support.

Most sincerely,

Ashot Yeghiazaryan
President

Survey Says!

Thanks to all who responded to our 2021 survey. We'll share the answers here and in upcoming newsletters. Some questions allowed multiple answers making the percentages over 100.

We Are:

37%	Married with adult children	18%	Grandparents
2%	Married with young children	15%	Single
1%	Married with teen children	12%	Widowed
1%	Married with no children		

Describe what you would like to see in a women's group & ministry

"More understanding of the faith of the Armenian Church, charitable outreach"

"Exactly what WG has been—friendly, closeness with women."

"Time spent learning & sharing information about our culture, cooking, interesting activities in our area (post COVID), etc."

"Time to socialize and expand on fellowship"

"Social events: Tea or lunch at Cranbrook, Paint Party"

"Group effort to support those of need."

"Fellowship and social events"

"A simple social gathering with the women of our church, to discuss what types of ministries are needed and the ways we could make them happen."

Final Thoughts?

"I am proud to be a part of Women's Guild and serve my church the best I can. Thank you for the dedication and the changes made through covid. Thank you for reaching out to the elderly, for the zoom meetings and for the guild gatherings."

"The WG at St. John rocks! All the videos are wonderful. The dedication is awesome."

"Reach out. I wish I lived in metro Detroit so that I can volunteer and attend events. Hope you will have some zoom meeting after COVID so that I can be a part. You all work so hard and do excellent work!"

"This is a great way to let others know what I've been thinking of but have not had a chance to say!"

"I appreciate all the creative videos and time everyone has put in during the pandemic to reach all the members! Thank you!"

"I miss seeing and talking to everyone in person."

"I am in awe of the current board and all they have done during the pandemic. You go ladies!"

More Responses Next Month



Do any of you follow Weight Watcher's to track your diet???

Ever wonder "How many points there are in my favorite Armenian foods?".

Dr. Christine Matoian has and with the help of the Women's Guild cookbook she was able to calculate the point value for several of our recipes and was kind enough to share them with us!

Choreg (1 small or 1/8 loaf)	6 points
Eetch (1/4 cup)	1 point
Flat Bread	6 points
Kufta	6 points
Pilaf (1 cup)	12 points
Sou Boereg	9 points
Yahlanche (two)	3 points

Have any of you calculated the point value for any of the other recipes in our cookbook?

If so, please let us know so we can share them with our fellow members!

BLAST from the PAST

Have you come across any old Women's Guild photos lately??? If so, please email them to Nyree Giragosian, nyreevgir@gmail.com, along with member names/event and any other news you would like to share and we will include them in an upcoming newsletter.

The deadline is the 20th of the month.

The answers to last month's Blast to the Past –
"Who are the two future Women's Guild members
photographed here" are
Marianne Dardarian and Patty Kezelian.



Diane Ekizian sent us this entertaining look at the past in the St. John Kitchen!
Please let us know of any other people that you recognize!

Foreground - Sue Trafalian, Fr. Hratch, Marguerite Dakhlian and Emma Betrosian
Background - Barb Couyoumjian and Charlene Apigian, Linda Stambouljian, Dawn Aginian.



Women's Guild 2022 Calendar

Including Event Chairs

Thurs, Jan 6	Armenian Christmas Luncheon Take Away Noon	Wed, July 27	Summer Outing - Detroit Tour of Historic Churches, Marilyn Sarkesian
Thurs, Jan 6	General Body meeting 7:00pm Zoom	Sat, July 30	Manoogian Manor visit, Transfiguration of Our Lord, 11:00am
Date TBD	Manoogian Manor visit, Armenian Christmas, Elise Papazian, <i>Cancelled due to COVID</i>	Sun, Aug 14	Church Picnic Bake Sale, Edith Baise & Alice Argnian
Wed, Jan 19	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm, ZOOM	Wed, Aug 17	Executive Board Meeting, 7:00pm
Wed, Feb 2	General Body meeting, 7:00pm, ZOOM	Sat, Aug 20	Manoogian Manor visit, Assumption of the Holy Mother of God, 11:00am
Wed, Feb 16	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm, ZOOM	Wed, Sept 7	General Body meeting, 7:00pm
Wed, March 2	Saintly Women's Day observance 11:00am/Luncheon/ General Body Mtg, Jackie ElChemmas	Sun, Sept 11	Khunjook/Family Fun Day, Paulette Apkarian & co-Chair
Wed, March 16	Executive Board meeting after Lenten services, 7:00pm, ZOOM	Sat, Sept 17	Manoogian Manor visit, Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 11:00am
Wed, April 6	7:00-7:30p Fellowship & Book Exchange, 7:30pm General Body meeting	Wed, Sept 21	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
Sun, April 10	Palm Sunday Bake Sale, Marilyn Dadian, <i>outdoors</i>	Sept 30 – Oct 2	Bazaar Bake Sale, Sue Vian & Rose Najarian Fri, NEED CHAIR Sat & Sun; Hot Foods, Denise Boyagian
Sun, April 17	Easter Sunday Tea, Nyree Giragosian, <i>outdoors</i>	Wed, Oct 5	General Body meeting, 7:00pm, ZOOM
Wed, April 20	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm, ZOOM	Wed, Oct 19	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
Sat, April 23	Manoogian Manor visit, Easter, 11:00am	Wed, Nov 2	Alternatives for Girls drop-off 6:30pm, Sue Vian
Wed, May 4	General Body meeting, 7:00pm. Speaker Dr. Christine Matoian, Women's Health	Wed, Nov 2	General Body meeting and Elections 7:00pm
Wed, May 18	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm	Wed, Nov 16	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
Wed, June 1	Membership Dinner, Belinda Kabodian & Shoushan Ameriguian	Wed, Nov 30	Advent by Candlelight, Sara Andonian
Wed, June 15	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm	Wed, Dec 21	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
Sat, July 23	Armenia Fest Royal Oak Farmer's Market 5-10pm, Denise Boyagian		

COMING 2023

Saturday, October 21, 2023
85th Anniversary of the Women's Guild
and
50th Anniversary of the
Armenian Heritage Collection
Evening event