

Women's Guild Newsletter

March 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 Chair...

As I write this, the bitter cold of winter is still very much with us. But I'm looking forward. Soon we will enter the period of Lent, a time for renewal, compassion, and growth. Certainly of our spiritual life, but hopefully, too, with our relationship in the Guild.

This year the board is determined to thoughtfully distribute the funds we've received in lieu of flowers. At our last meeting we decided to allocate \$10,500 to build a Fuller Home in Armenia. We feel this is a respectful way to honor to our departed members. This leaves us with almost \$8,000 in the restricted account.

Do you know the #1 trending article on the Mirror-Spectator website? It's "Dolly Matoian's Choreg from Guild Gatherings"! And the 4th most read article? Marianne Dardarian's "Holiday Candy Cane Simit from Guild Gatherings," published back in December. Our girls look good in print!

Did you take our survey last year? Thanks to Denise Karakashian, Marianne & Karen Dardarian we have a valuable snapshot of our membership. Starting this month, we're sharing the answers in the newsletter. Look inside for "Survey Says" to read more about who we are and what we think.

At our January meeting, one of our members suggested we raise our annual donation to Mer Doon this year. After investigating, we found their organization was in much greater need than we knew. At the following meeting we voted to send \$2,000 to support this worthy cause; afterwards members suggested we send an eblast informing the rest of the Guild in case they also wanted to contribute. We had such a strong response that Mer Doon will now receive over \$4,000. A generous gift from the Women's Guild of St. John Armenian Church.

So, come to the meetings! Your suggestions can make a difference.

Carol Cholmakjian



We send our get well wishes to Renee Apkarian. As you heal and rest, know you are missed and thought of often.

Thank
You

Thank you Rose Najarian and Sue Vian for volunteering to co-chair the Bazaar Bake Sale!

Thank you Shoushan Ameriguian and Belinda Kabodian for volunteering to co-chair the June membership dinner!

CIRCLE UPDATES!!!



June Membership Dinner – Co-Chairs Shoushan Ameriguian and Belinda Kabodian.

Khunjook – Add Sarah Hagopian and Kathy Steck to Khunjook circle and remove Lucine Tarman.

Please contact your Circle Chairperson with any questions you may have. You can also reach out to Marianne Dardarian, Jackie ElChemmas, or Denise Karakashian

Our Plarning Outreach Program Needs Your Help!!



Plarning is a form of crocheting with plastic bags to make blankets and pillows for the homeless. The shelters hand them out faster than volunteers can make them. It's very easy to turn grocery bags into lengths of plarn (plastic yarn) which are then used to make the blankets. Find out how easy it is to make plarn on our YouTube Guild Gatherings page.



If you haven't been to the Women's Guild website yet – please take a look! You can order items, pay your dues, donate, and view all of the Guild Gatherings videos!
<https://stjohnwomensguild.square.site>

The Women's Guild Directory 2022 updates



Lindsay Sahakian – Cell (248)762-9899

2021 Guild directories are available for pick up from our church secretary Anna during weekday hours 9-5. Please add the above changes to your directory.



CHURCH/HALL RENOVATION AND REFURBISHMENT CONTINUES!

To view weekly pictures of the renovation and refurbishment projects at the church, go to

<https://stjohnsarmenianchurch.smugmug.com/Renovation-and-Refurbishment-W-4/>

Tues., March 1st	Choreg baking 9am-noon
Wed., March 2 nd	Saintly Women's Day Luncheon and general body meeting Noon – Jackie ElChemmas
Wed., March 16 th	Executive Board Meeting 8:00 pm following Lenten Services
Sat., April 2 nd	World Medical Relief, 9am-11:30am Contact Edith Baise (313)673-3325
Sat., April 6 th	General Body Meeting after Lenten services – 8pm
Wed., April 13 th	Guild Gatherings "Lentil Kufte by Christine Sarafian and family"
Sun., April 10 th	Palm Sunday Bake Sale – look for more information soon! Contact Marilyn Dadian with any questions (248)882-0935 or dadian@comast.net
Sun., April 17 th	Easter Tea – Don't forget to send in two dozen colored Easter eggs! Contact Nyree Giragosian with questions nyreevgir@gmail.com



Please support the ACYOA Lenten Fish Dinners every Wednesday during Lent.
For reservations, call church office (248)569-3405 or email office@sjachurch.org

Wed., March 2nd, Wed. March, 9th, Wed., March 16th, Wed., March 23rd
 Wed., March 30th, Wed., April 6th – Lobster Dinner

PALM SUNDAY BAKE DATES

We Need Your Help!!!



We are looking forward to your company (and your talents) in preparation for our annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale. We will be working in the main kitchen on Tuesdays and Saturdays from mid-February thru early April from 9:00am - noon. There are 7 remaining bake days of fun and fellowship.

We will be preparing large and small Choreg, quartered and full loaf Katah, Khalkha and world-famous Soo Boreg. We will be preparing on Tuesdays and Saturdays as the church calendar allows.

Please remember to use safe practices! Stay well and stay safe. See you soon!
 For information, please contact Joy Callan at (248)533-6320 or yerchanigc@gmail.com

- Tues., March 1, 9am-noon Choreg loaves and small
- Tues., March 8, 9am-noon Simit Sticks
- Sat., March 12, 9am-noon Khalkha
- Tues., March 15, 9am-noon Either Soo Boreg or Katah - depending on rollers
- Tues., March 22, 9am-noon Either Soo Boreg or Katah - depending on rollers
- Tues., April 5, 9am-noon Make up day depending on weather
- Sat., April 9, 9am-noon Make up day depending on weather

Khunjook Circle has first meeting!



Paulette Apkarian graciously hosted the first meeting for the Khunjook Circle on February 9th. Eight of the circle members were in attendance (plus Guild chairperson Carol) and spent the evening brainstorming ideas for the Khunjook scheduled for Sunday, September 11th. By the end of the meeting, attendees had taken on different responsibilities and set up mini-groups with those who were unable to attend. After the meeting, the ladies enjoyed delicious mezza prepared by Paulette and had a great time socializing and catching up! Thank you Paulette for being such a wonderful hostess!

St John Armenian Church Women's Guild

presents

Saintly Women's Day

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 Church Service 11:00am
in the auxiliary sanctuary

*Special guest speaker Gail Marlow,
Executive Director for Motor City Mittens*

Luncheon and brief Women's Guild general body meeting
following the services and speaker in the rec center

\$10.00 luncheon donation

*For reservations, please contact Ann Marie Ameriguian
(734)771-9148/azallakian@gmail.com*

MAY THE LORD REMEMBER ALL YOUR OFFERINGS

St. John Armenian Church is blessed to offer a Stewardship Program to our parishioners who make their annual offerings to God and the Church. There are no dues statements, our Stewardship Pledge card will allow you to choose an amount derived from one's heart and soul. Making an annual stewardship pledge helps instill the Christian practice in our lives, and that everything we have, both monetary and non-monetary, is truly a gift from God.



[CLICK HERE TO BECOME A STEWARD OF THE CHURCH](#)

"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

THE ARMENIAN **MIRROR SPECTATOR** SINCE 1932

Check out the Mirror Spectator February 10th issue for Dolly Matoian's Choreg from St. John Armenian Church Women's Guild Gatherings.. Go to the link below and it will take you directly to the write-up along with the recipe.

<https://mirrorspectator.com/2022/02/10/recipe-corner-dolly-matoians-choreg-from-guild-gatherings/>



If any Guild Gatherings participants would like to send their recipes and or story about their YouTube demonstrations, hobbies, and skills, contact Chris Datian at datian@cox.net



JOIN US AND HELP SORT BADLY NEEDED MEDICAL
SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
TO BE USED LOCALLY AND AROUND THE WORLD.

SJAC VOLUNTEER DAY AT WORLD MEDICAL RELIEF

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY



April 2nd /1:00-3:30 am

CONTACT GREG OR EDITH BAISE AT (313)673-3325
OR EBASE@UMICH.EDU

Survey Says

Thanks to those who responded to our survey last year. We learned a lot about our members and thought you'd be interested in the information collected and opinions shared. The percentages add to more than 100% because some questions allowed for multiple answers.

What are your areas of interest?

- 82% Social events
- 73% Fellowship with women
- 70% Outings: museums, concerts, day trips
- 58% Service and outreach to parishioners or greater community
- 57% Cooking lessons
- 30% Women's overnight spiritual retreat
- 25% Mentoring women in our parish
- 16% Support groups for like-situated women (new parents, caring for aging parents, bereavement etc.)
- 1.5% Discussion groups on current events & parish problems
- 1.5% each - Sewing club; Knitting club; Book club

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

"Armenian heritage, support, and friendship without judgment (where you are from). Inclusiveness (of) all women from different countries & speaking Armenian certain times."


"More community outreach for the needy, Speakers discussing women's issues, starting a garden group to maintain and create a garden around the St. John sign facing the highway ramp and possibly a "Brides/Meditation Garden"."

"I like to participate in meaningful activities that provide assistance to those in need. I also want these activities to offer opportunities to meet new women while strengthening existing relationships. Projects need to nurture social connections with members while serving others. Fun and fellowship with friends is an important part of ongoing participation."

Anything else you'd like to share?

"Bring back circles to encourage interaction with those you don't know and to ensure volunteers for events."

"When engaging new and young members, we must not 'guide' them toward reproducing past events. We want new and young members to make the Guild 'their' Guild. Sign Up Genius was brought to us by a new young member. Imagine if we had said, 'that's not how we do that' or 'we've never done that before' or 'our women won't go for that.' End on new/young participation. Each new guild member should have a personal/non-related mentor that will share a positive Christian attitude for outreach and fellowship."



Thank you to the membership
who have paid what is due.

And a friendly reminder
To those who owe their dues, too!

Send me a check
or pay on our site.

So we can do the Guild's work
with all our dynamic might!

Please mail your **\$25** check to: Paulette Apkarian
7430 Brookberry Court West Bloomfield 48322
Or **\$26** on our website

<https://stjohnwomensguild.square.site>

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home _____ Cell _____
Email _____



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 22nd of the month.

ADVENT 2009



Seated left to right: Helen Mekjian, Joyce Obenhoff, Mae Kafafian, Linda Tiffany, Kristen Gustafson, Susan Janigian, Charlene Apigian

*Thank you,
Linda Tiffany for sharing this memory*

Women's Guild 2022 Calendar

Including Event Chairs

Thurs, Jan 6	Armenian Christmas Luncheon Take Away Noon	Wed, July 30	Manoogian Manor visit, Transfiguration of Our Lord, 11:00am
Thurs, Jan 6	General Body meeting 7:00pm Zoom	Sun, Aug 14	Church Picnic Bake Sale, Alice Argnian & Edith Baise
Date TBD	Manoogian Manor Visit, Armenian Christmas, Elise Papazian, <i>Postponed due to COVID</i>	Wed, Aug 17	Executive Board Meeting, 7:00pm
Wed, Jan 19	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm, ZOOM	Sat, Aug 20	Manoogian Manor visit, Assumption of the Holy Mother of God, 11:00am
Wed, Feb 2	General Body meeting, 7:00pm, ZOOM	Wed, Sept 7	General Body meeting, 7:00pm
Wed, Feb 16	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm, ZOOM	Sun, Sept 11	Khunjook/Family Fun Day, Paulette Apkarian & co-Chair
Wed, March 2	Saintly Women's Day observance 11:00am/Luncheon/ General Body Mtg, Jackie ElChemmas	Sat, Sept 17	Manoogian Manor visit, Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 11:00am
Wed, March 16	Executive Board meeting after Lenten services, 8:00pm	Wed, Sept 21	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
Wed, April 6	General Body meeting after Lenten services, 8:00pm	Sept 30 – Oct 2	Bazaar Bake Sale, Rose Najarian & Sue Vian; Hot Foods, Denise Boyagian
Sun, April 10	Palm Sunday Bake Sale, Marilyn Dadian, <i>Location TBD</i>	Wed, Oct 5	General Body meeting, 7:00pm, ZOOM
Sun, April 17	Easter Sunday Tea, Nyree Giragosian	Wed, Oct 19	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
Wed, April 20	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm	Wed, Nov 2	Alternatives for Girls drop-off 6:30p, Sue Vian
Sat, April 23	Manoogian Manor visit, Easter, 11:00am	Wed, Nov 2	General Body meeting and Elections 7:00pm
Wed, May 4	General Body meeting, 7:00pm	Wed, Nov 16	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
Wed, May 18	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm	Wed, Nov 30	Advent by Candlelight, Sara Andonian
Wed, June 1	Membership Dinner, Shoushan Ameriguan & Belinda Kabodian	Wed, Dec 21	Executive Board meeting
Wed, June 15	Membership Dinner <i>Kitchen renovation backup date</i>		
Date TBD	Summer Outing, Marilyn Sarkesian		
Wed, June 15	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm		

COMING 2023

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