Women's Guild Newsletter

May 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...



Happy Mother's Day to all mothers and daughters! In this issue I'm sharing a photo of my mother and me at a Women's Guild Mother/Daughter luncheon from years ago. I hope you don't mind this indulgence; check out her cat's-eye glasses!

Our May 4th meeting will feature a guest, Dr. Christine Matoian OB/GYN (aka Dolly's daughter!), who will speak on Women's Health. Afterwards there will be a Q&A session; look for the index cards to participate. Addressing women's health was mentioned by many in our survey last year so we know this is an important issue to our members. Because of the ongoing renovation of the main campus, we will meet in the Vet's Building/Rec Center.

Please feel free to <u>bring a quest</u> to this informative evening. Note: this is a <u>Ladies-Only Event.</u>

Let's enjoy each other's company, and all be guests, at the June Membership Dinner on Wednesday, June 1st. We're hoping for a good turnout at this 'event of the season,' where we welcome new members and honor the anniversaries of our 10-, 25-, and 40-year members. 40!

On Saturday, July 23rd from 5-10pm, the Guild will be part of ArmeniaFest in Royal Oak. We'll sell our cookbooks, aprons, and choreg, and hope to see you there!

I'm looking forward to our summer outing on Wednesday, July 27th, because Marilyn Sarkesian has put together a tour of some of the beautiful historical churches in Detroit. We're renting a bus and will travel together.

Our summer is shaping up to be a busy one, so shake off the pandemic malaise and join in! Is everyone vaccinated & boosted? Let's make sure we take care of our health so we can continue to be good mothers, daughters, aunties, sisters, and Women's Guild members.

Carol Cholmakjian



Elise Papazian was fine last month, but this month she broke her foot! Elise says she's hoping that the well wishes from last month will carry over to the next!

Sending well wishes to Diana Costa who is recovering from back surgery – hope you are back on your feet soon!



Congratulations to Arlene Howrani on the birth of her granddaughter Amal Violet Howrani on March 9, 2022. Proud parents are Ara and Naomi Howrani.

Congratulations to Greg and Sandra Jamian on the arrival of grandson Nico John Dahlman on March 29, 2022. Proud parents are Isaiah and Natalie Jamian.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!!

We would like to wish Mary Keoleian a very Happy 90th Birthday!!!!!



Our member Belinda Kabodian, BS, RN, is the Community Coordinator for Ascension SE Michigan Community Health as well as our Parish nurse. She has generously shared the link below for the April - June 2022 Ascension Carelink Newsletter (which lists FREE virtual exercise classes, educational lectures and classes, as well as Covid / Vaccine information). Please contact Belinda with any questions (248)767-3942. Thank you so much, Belinda!

Community health publications in southeast Michigan | Ascension



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. Please take your plarn to the lobby of the Veterans Building where you will find a container marked PLARN.



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.



Women's Guild Directory 2022 updates

Betty Amboian 5867 Arimoore Drive, West Bloomfield 48322

Alice Mekjian - 947-944-5155

Wed., May 4 th	General Body Meeting – Speaker – Dr. Christine Matoian "Women's Health". <i>Please feel free to bring a guest to Dr. Matoian's talk!</i>		
Wed., May 11 th	Guild Gatherings "Making Tourshi" by Pat Hachigian		
Wed., May 18 th	Executive Board Meeting – 7:00 pm		
Wed., June 1st	Membership Dinner – Belinda Kabodian and Shoushan Ameriguian.		
Sat., June 4 th	World Medical Relief – 9:00 am – 11:30 am. Contact Edith Baise for information (313)673-3325 or ebaise@umich.edu		
Wed., June 15 th	Guild Gatherings "Making Manti" by Diane and Dawn Aginian		
Wed., June 15 th	Executive Board Meeting – 7:00 pm		
Sun., June 26 th	Hokehankist 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		
Wed., July 27 th	Summer Outing – Marilyn Sarkesian		
Sat., July 30 th	Manoogian Manor Visit – Elise Papazian		



Thank you, Yerchanig "Joy" Callan, for leading the charge for the Palm Sunday Bake Sale and the choreg baking for the Easter Tea. We couldn't have done it without your leadership and the helpful hands of our volunteers listed below along with the St. John's staff and Maintenance staff. Thank you all!

Davin Asinian	Museum Courresiina	Navaan Maayabian
Dawn Aginian	Myron Couyoumjian	Noreen Masrobian
AnneMarie Ameriguian	Marilyn Dadian	Vaughn Masrobian
Alice Arginian	Marianne Dardarian	Dolly Matoian
Nadia Ayrapetyan	Michelle Ducato	Galina Mazmanian
Grandmother Nadia	Jackie ElChemmas	Diane Nolff
Nancy Banks	Nyree Giragosian	Carol Ohanesian
Arlene Baylerian	Charlene Goshgarian	Terry Palaian
Richard Baylerian	Adreena Harley	Elise Papazian
Sara Sarkisian Bell	Garry Javizian	Judy Parks
Denise Boyagian	Fr Aren Jebejian	Anita Sabounjian
George Boyagian	Denise Karakashian	Anna Sarkisian
Joy Callan	Linda Karibian	Margie Simonian
Vicki Carlin	Yvonne Korkoian	Karen Tafralian
Anthony Carman	Christine Kujawa	Linda Tiffany
Carol Cholmakjian	Mona Kurjian	Nevart Torian
Barb Couyoumjian	Linda Lutz	Debbie Zazaian

Visitations and prayers from Fr Aren Jebejian and Fr Armash Bagdasarian

Women's Guild Junday Bake Sale



Following two years of Covidaltered lives, our Palm Sunday Bake Sale 2022 found us almost back to normal! Yippee! This year began with Baking Chair, Joy Callan, managing several bake days with volunteers. Once again, the kitchen was filled with fun, laughter, and those incredible smells. The baking ladies (and occasionally some men, including Hayr Soorp and Der Hayr!) produced dozens of Choreg, Khalkha, Katah, Simit and our treasured Sou Boereg trays. Thank

you to all for their time and talents! Bake Sale leader, Marilyn Dadian and her faithful circle (left to right in photo: Carol Hovsepian, Nancy Banks, Maral Thomas, Michelle Samarian Ducato, Paulette Apkarian, Marilyn Dadian, Diana Mardigian, Nicole O'Donovan and Mona Kurjian) gathered early on Palm Sunday to price, package and display the goods. This also included so many delightful and delicious homemade goodies as well as monetary donations from our loyal members. With the sanctuary's restoration and the hall being renovated, several large tents were constructed for Palm Sunday Church Service along with ACYOA day and the Women's Guild Bake Sale. Gloriously, we were under God's blue sky on a beautiful day full of sunshine and exultation.

The bake sale was a tremendous success, and with excitement, we look forward to baking together again soon and often.









Easter Tea

The Women's Guild Easter Tea Circle was in full swing on their assembly line Easter morning packaging individual packages filled with choreg, simit, cheese, Easter eggs and candy! Thank you to our circle committee Lisa Bahm, Denise Boyadjian, Lisa Boyajian, Nyree Giragosian - chairman, Laurie Keoleian, Denise Pochas and Joyce Yeghissian for putting together this year's

annual Easter Tea along with the 33 Guild members who donated colored Easter eggs for the gathering. We would also like to say a special Thank You to Lisa Mardigian - because of her help and experience with the assembly line packaging, the tea came off without a hitch! Hoping you all had a very Happy Easter!















Manoogian Manor Easter Visit

The Women's Guild, along with members of the Men's Society, Fr. Aren, Fr. Armash, Deacon Rubin, and Deacon George, came together for our Manoogian Manor Easter visit on Saturday, April 23, 2022. Our clergy performed a brief service and administered Holy Communion to the residents. The women's guild brought choreg and simit (thank you Denise Boyagian and Joy Callan) and the Men's society brought Ice cream and soda for all to enjoy! The fun really began when Harry Kezelian, Dikran Callan, and Vaughn Masropian entertained the manor residents with Armenian music - there was even dancing! Thank you to all who were able to attend!















107th ANNIVESARY COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The Armenian Churches of Greater Detroit Genocide Committee (St. John Armenian Apostolic Church, St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church, St. Vartan Armenian Catholic Church, and Armenian Congregational Church) hosted the Divine Liturgy Service in honor of the Sanctified Martyrs of the Genocide on April 24th, 2022. The Divine Liturgy, conducted by Rev. Fr. Hrant Kevorkian, Pastor of St. Sarkis, was held at St. John Armenian Church followed by the service in honor of the Sanctified Martyrs.

The United Genocide Committee invited the Women's organizations from the four Detroit area Armenian churches to once again provide reception refreshments following the memorial Badarak. We would like to extend our appreciation to the women who led our efforts from each church. Thank you to Mary Bedigian - St. Sarkis Armenian Church, Carol Basmajian – Armenian Congregational Church, Aziniv Kazarian – St. Vartan Armenian Catholic Church, and, under the capable leadership of Alberta Godoshian, Yerchanig Callan and Danielle Sarafian – St. John's Armenian Church.

Choreg, cheese, pakhlava, grapes and bottled water were provided for every guest and the reception was held under the tent on the grounds in the most beautiful weather. As always, it was a great pleasure to work with the wonderful women from all of the Armenian churches in our community.













Survey Says!

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

Which Women's Guild and/or St John Armenian Church events have you attended?

34% - St. John's Annual Bazaar 19% - Sunday Fellowship 32% - St. John's Annual Picnic 18% - Women's Saints Day

29% - WG Luncheons/Fashion Shows 17% - Guest Speakers/Seminars

28% - Advent by Candlelight 15% - Women's Guild summer outing

28% - WG Meetings 15% - St. John Annual Lenten Retreat

27% - Christmas or Membership Dinner-Mtg
25% - Baking
21% - Music Guild concerts
21% - Easter Tea
21% - Christmas or Membership Dinner-Mtg
11% - Manoogian Manor visits
11% - Bible Study or Catechism
11% - Men's Society Wine Tasting
11% - St. John's Educational classes

20% - April 24th Commemoration Events 8% - Mahs Preparation

20% - Women's Guild Dinner-Dance 4% - Little Saints

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

"Concerns common to women in various age groups." "I think we do plenty."

"Although I am not as active as I would like, I do like the opportunity to serve the church. I may not stand up and ask to take on a lead role, but I am willing to help when and where I can."

"Christian fellowship, outreach, and learning. Activities that feed the soul and address varied interests."

"More discussion and support groups. Continuation of Zoom Meetings for the Executive Board and January, February, March meetings. Continuation of live streaming of church services. I would also like to see a meeting of past chairmen of the Guild to discuss possible solutions to the present day challenges of the Guild."

"Women having fun together and occasionally bringing family together. Also, most important supporting my church."

Support to Community, those in need." "Mentoring"

Anything else you'd like to share?

"It is important to evaluate what the Women's Guild is currently doing and make some decisions about what we should continue to do, what no longer serves us and how we can address the needs and wants of the organization and its membership."

"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."

More responses next month



«Մեր տունը»

ՄՈՅԻԱԼ ԱԿԱՆ Հ/Կ

ՀՀ, ԷՋՄԻԱԾԻՆ,

ՁՈՐԱՎԱՐ ԱՆԴՐԱՆԻԿԻ, 13

Հեռ. +374 231 52009

Ֆաքս +374 231 49041

Հ/h 163118112297

Հայէկոնոմբանկի

Էջմիածնի մասնաճյուղ

"Mer Doon"

SOCIAL NGO
RA, ECHMIADZIN,

ZORAVAR ANDRANIKI 13
Tel.: +374 231 52009
Fax: +374 231 49041

Acc. 163118112297 Armeconombank Echmiadzin branch



"Mer Doon" NGO staff and the residents wish to thank ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S GUILD and Armenian Renaissance Association Inc. and personally

- 1. Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian
- 2. Dawn & Diane Aginian
- 3. Sara Andonian
- 4. Annrae Anusbigian
- 5. Paulette Apkarian
- 6. Alice Argnian
- 7. Christine Atesian
- 8. Denise Boyagian
- 9. Susan Carman-Vian
- 10. Carol Cholmakjian
- 11. Marianne Dardarian
- 12. Diane Ekizian
- 13. Jacqueline ElChemmas
- 14.Linda Franquist
- 15. Aralyn Haidostian
- 16. Denise Karakashian

- 17. Lorrie Keila
- 18. Nancy Kevonian
- 19. Sally Kobodian
- 20. Mona Kurjian
- 21. Karen Mangune
- 22. Dolly Matoian
- 23. Gloria Melkonian
- 24. Karen Movsesian
- 25. Judy Nazarian Parks
- 26.Terri Palian
- 27. Marilyn Sarkesian
- 28. Isabelle Vahratian
- 29. Diana Vosganian
- 30. Anne Marie Zallakian, MD
- 31. Elizabeth Aprahamian
- 32.Lynn Kojamanian.

for their monetary donation \$5000.

Thank you! God Bless you and your families!

"Mer Doon" NGO President

Tigranuhi Karapetyan



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.

Answers to last month's Blast From the Past"

Rose Shaninian.



Alice Javizian, Betty Yeghissian, Sema Kuchukian



Mother's Day Luncheon, 1966 Carol Cholmakjian and her mother Lucia Cholmakijan

Women's Guild Mother's Day Dininer 1963

Front Row: Guess Who?!?, "Mother of the Year 1963" Aghavne Alzarian (Grandmother of members Yn. Roberta Kochakian and Sue Vian), Guess Who?!? Back row: Margaret Paulian Benian, Alice Mikaelian, Hermalene Kahayian

Can any of you guess who the two future Women's Guild members pictured here are???



Two more gems found in the Women's Guild archives by Carol Chomakjian!!!

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	Wed, July 30	Manoogian Manor visit,		
Date TBD	Manoogian Manor visit, Armenian Christmas, Elise	Com Avenda	Transfiguration of Our Lord, 11:00am		
Wed, Jan 19	Papazian, Cancelled due to COVID Executive Board meeting,	Sun, Aug 14	Church Picnic Bake Sale, Edith Baise & Alice Argnian		
	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		
Wed, Feb 16	Executive Board meeting,	Wed, Sept 7	God, 11:00am General Body meeting, 7:00pm		
Wod March 2	7:00pm, ZOOM				
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		
_		Sept 30 – Oct 2	Bazaar Bake Sale, Sue Vian & Rose Najarian Fri., NEED CHAIR		
Sun, April 10	Palm Sunday Bake Sale, Marilyn Dadian, <i>outdoors</i>		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,	Wed, Oct 19	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm		
Sat, April 23	7:00pm, ZOOM Manoogian Manor visit, Easter,	Wed, Nov 2	Alternatives for Girls drop-off 6:30pm, Sue Vian		
Wed, May 4	11:00am General Body meeting, 7:00pm. Speaker Dr. Christine Matoian, Women's Health	Wed, Nov 2	General Body meeting and Elections 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, Belinda	Wed, Dec 21	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm		
Wod June 15	Kabodian & Shoushan Ameriguian		COMING 2023		
Wed, June 15 Sun., June 26	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm Hokehankist – Departed Guild Members	Saturday, October 21, 2023 85th Anniversary of the Women's Guild and			
		50 th Anniversary of the Armenian Heritage Collection, evening event			