

## A Message From Our Chairman...



Welcome to Very Reverend Father Aren Jebejian! Father Aren attended our November Women's Guild General Body meeting and immediately jumped in with both hands filling gift bags with our members that will fulfill our annual support of Alternatives for Girls. We are thankful for your support, Fr. Aren, and look forward to working in service with you, for our church and its' missions.

Just when you thought it was time to stress over the upcoming holiday season and its entire splendor, it's time for Advent by Candlelight, to put your hearts and minds in the right place! Our semi-annual prelude to the holiday season, under the leadership of Sara Andonian and Belinda Kabodian, will be a wonderful beginning, leading us to the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Fr. Aren asks that you keep your wonderful spirit intact and remember our seasoned citizens at Manoogian Manor and plan on making a heartfelt trip there to offer Armenian Christmas tidings to those that may not be able to freely come to church as they might wish. An hour out of your day will mean hours of gratification to someone unable to enjoy the physical freedoms we take for granted.

Please make your reservations for our annual Guild Christmas Dinner. Sue Reizian and her committee have some wonderful things planned for us and you won't want to miss a minute.

Thank you to our wonderful Nominating Committee for all of their service and commitment for the betterment of our Guild. Our dedicated women brought a strong slate to our November meeting and we are blessed to have new board members to take the places of those that so effectively served. Thanks to those that agreed to carry their names on the slate. We know where to find you and can't wait to have you and your talents connected to future projects! We look forward to enjoying our first Guild Christmas Dinner with Fr. Aren on Monday, December 7, only if you make a reservation!! See you there.

Y. Joy Callan

The Women's Guild welcomes Very Reverend Father Aren Jebejian, as our new spiritual advisor. We look forward to his leadership with our future programs and goals.



Our heartfelt sympathy to Linda Houhanisin on the passing of her beloved husband, Frank and to his mother-in-law Nina Sarkisian and sisters-in-law Lisa Derderian, Barbara Rupus and Anna Sarkisian. We send sincere condolences to Nan Bogosian on the loss of her dear brother Jevan "Memo" Bogosian and to Mitzi Negoshian on the passing of her brother-in-law, John Noraian, the uncle of Nora Noraian.

Get well wishes to Marge Nardell, who had hip surgery, and Liz Johnson, who had knee surgery. Both are recuperating at home and we look forward to seeing them with us soon.



Our very best wishes to Joseph and Valerie Landis on their marriage on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Happy parents are Elise and Kenneth Landis.



Congratulations to Ara and Christine Atesian, on the birth of their daughter Sofie Anna Atesian on October 12<sup>th</sup>. The proud grandparents are Howard and Cathy Atesian & great-grandmother Anna Soutanian.

The Social Services Committee mailed 48 boxes to college students last month. Goodies were also sent to St. Nersess Seminary in New York as a "house warming" gift in honor of their new home. Thank you to the hard working committee, members of the Women's Guild who submitted names and to all whose generous donations helped to defer the cost of mailing.



The following letter was written by one of the students who received a box:

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Dearest Father Garabed and Ladies of the Women's Guild,

As a second year medical student at Michigan State University, College of Osteopathic Medicine, my days are full of academic bookwork, interspersed with bouts of clinical assessments. The hours are long, very high stress, and all in preparation for the even more demanding and tumultuous years of Residency. And while some days are so difficult you ask yourself why you decided to embark on such a difficult journey, it's a simple act of kindness that reminds you you're doing it for the good of the people. You're doing it because people need help. Because people are feeling all kinds of lows all around the world; they are making sacrifices my pampered childhood wouldn't allow me to fathom. I'm in it for the people, and it's an inspiring and humbling thought.

And while I aim to persevere through the challenges, there are times when I doubt my capabilities; after all, I'm only human. Today was one of those days. I had reached the optimal combination of over-exertion, lack of sleep, and over-commitment that led me to the edge; my body and mind were tired, in desperate need of a break. I questioned my life decision, and just as I did the doorbell rang, as if God heard my question and was delivering a response. In reality it was the postman with a white package in hand. Not expecting any deliveries, I accepted the package with curiosity and excitement. It only took a moment before a flood of emotions took over the last bits of logical thinking left in my taxed brain. Here, sitting on my lap was a dear act of kindness; a care package from the lovely ladies of the Women's Guild of St. Johns Armenian Church. Words cannot describe the instant love that I felt upon cataloging the homemade items and goodies that were included in the box.

My grandmother, Nevart Torian is an active member of the Women's Guild, and if the rest of the members are anything like her (which I'm sure they are), they spent hours preparing these homemade, delicious treats, without expecting an ounce of recognition in return. They are wonderful people, doing a wonderful thing, and deserve a million thanks, again and again.

These care packages may not be able to cure disease, but I assure you they cured something for me today. It cured my doubt; it cured my fear; it cured my homesickness; it cured my heart. It gave me strength to tackle my obstacles with gusto, because it reminded me that I have my community behind me, supporting me in times of need. I only wish I may one day return the favor; if not to the lovely ladies who's hands put together this package, perhaps someone else in their time of need, who must be reminded of all the kind acts surrounding them in life.

With the deepest appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Narine Shirvanyan'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Narine Shirvanyan



### Advent by Candlelight 2015

If there are any members who wish to attend Advent by Candlelight and do not have an assigned hosted table, please contact Sara Andonian at 248-515-9264 before November 25<sup>th</sup>.

Because there is no charge for this popular event, the Guild would appreciate having sponsors to help offset expenses. If you wish to be a sponsor, please contact either Belinda Kabodian at 248-767-3942 or Sara Andonian at 248-515-9264.



<b>Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	12:00 noon - Thank You Luncheon for those who helped on Monday and Tuesday Festival Bake Days. Reservations necessary!! Contact Dolly Matoian
<b>Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Advent by Candlelight 7:00 p.m.
<b>Monday December 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Guild Christmas Dinner 6:30 p.m. Installation of Officers.
<b>Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Manoogian Manor visit 11:00 a.m.



Congratulations to those elected to our Women's Guild Board. The incumbents are Sara Andonian and Sue Vian and those newly elected are Kathy Mekjian and Cathy Zwinck. Congratulations also to Marilyn Sarkesian, Diane Aginian, Marianne Dardarian, Lisa Derderian and Nora Noraian on their election to our Guild Nominating Committee for 2016.

Thank you to retiring Board Members Judy Parks and Barbara Haroutunian. Their dedication to the Guild is very much appreciated. We also thank members of the 2015 Nominating Committee, who helped bring us an excellent slate for our election. They are Kim Kalajian, Anita Boyajian, Linda DePietro, Jackie El Chemmas and Helen Olson.

*Thank You*



*St. John Armenian Church  
Women's Guild  
Cordially invites you to the  
Annual Christmas Dinner  
Monday, December 7, 2015*

*Doors Open at 6:00 P.M.*

*\$15 per person payable at the door*

**RSVP to Elizabeth Amboian by Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>  
(248) 346-4602 or [ejamboian@gmail.com](mailto:ejamboian@gmail.com)**

Please participate in the evening's activities by bringing these two items:

1. A fun, wrapped gift for a White Elephant Exchange\*
2. An unwrapped gift for a child\*\*

**\*A White Elephant Christmas Exchange** is a lighthearted way to have fun! Each participant brings one wrapped gift; traditionally, a "present" you no longer want and would like to pass along. It gives everyone a chance to re-gift an unwanted, wacky, funny item or trinket – and gain a new one! The goal is more to entertain than to gain. Game rules will be explained at dinner.

**\*\*The Women's Guild Social Services Committee** is asking for donations of new and unwrapped books, games or crafts (ages 0-17) to benefit the Hospitality House Santa Shop as our Christmas outreach this year. The organization helps financially struggling parents provide Christmas gifts for their children.

## HERITAGE COLLECTION



Co-Chairmen L-R: Nancy Panaretos, Marilyn Sarkesian, and Jackie El Chemmas planned an outstanding dinner and a wonderful evening.



A happy individual at each table took home the centerpiece basket that was filled with Cheoreg, Katah, Bourma, Simit, Nazoog, and Khalkha.



Program coordinator, Paulette Apkarian, 3<sup>rd</sup> from right, masterfully guided her models to a stunning performance.



## Social Concern Committee Student Care Package Project



L-R: Linda Franquist, Marilyn Sarkesian, Linda Lutz, Nancy Panaretos, Lisa Johnson, Linda DePietro, Carol Ohanesian, and Helen Olson filled and readied 48 gift boxes to be sent to college students and St. Nersess Seminary.

## Very Reverend Father Aren Jebejian's Welcome Tea



Chairmen L-R: Anita Arslanian, Sara Andonian, and Jackie El Chemmas



## Alternative for Girls Project



Our thanks to coordinator, Sue Vian, for again guiding us with this inspirational project. We assembled many gift bags, brimming with personal care items for young women who are determined to make positive life changes. From L-R: Patricia Akkashian, Louise Brocher, Sue Vian, and Lydia Doyon represent some of the many women who took part in this project.



Father Aren, readily took part in his first project assisting the Women's Guild.





St. John Armenian Church Women's Guild  
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