WOMEN’S GUILD HAS LOTS TO SHARE.....

Fall Festival: The Women’s Guild, under the dedicated direction of Dolly Matoian, has worked all summer preparing delicious Armenian delicacies for Festival visitors to enjoy. Bourma, Cheoreg, Katah, Khadaif, Khalkha, Kufteh, Meat Beoreg, Nazoog, Sou Beoreg, Spinach Beoreg and Yahlanchi Sarma will be available.

Farewell to Tom Stamboulian Jr.: The Women’s Guild wishes Tom Stamboulian great success and thanks him for his dedication to the church and our organization as he departs from his position as Administrator of St. John’s Parish. Tom has been extremely helpful and patient, always willing to serve us in any way possible. He has come to our aid (even if it means staying until midnight), helping us to get our newsletter out on time, updating our membership list, generating labels for mailings, accommodating last minute requests for printing and making sure our needs were met for all Guild events. Our best wishes to him and his bride to be, Lucinda Selverian, as they make their new life in Philadelphia.

Picnic Bake Sale: The Women’s Guild Picnic Bake Sale was a great success thanks to our members’ generosity. Members donated homemade baked goods and made financial gifts to support the Church. Bake Sale Chairman Linda Franquist and Co-chair Nora Noraian did an excellent job organizing the event. Our thanks go to our members for their hard work and for all of you who supported the event by purchasing the delicious treats.

Manoogian Manor Visit: The Women’s Guild along with Komitas Choir members, Deacon Rubik Mailian, Deacon Onnig Boyagian, Diratsou Levon Asdourian, and organist Margaret Lafian accompanied Father Garabed at the Manoogian Manor for the Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God and the Blessing of the Grapes Service on Saturday, August 16th. This year Sandra Jack organized the event, assembling bags of grapes for the Manor residents. Guild members also in attendance included Sara Andonian, Charlene Apigian, Judy Hovnan, Yvonne Korkoian, Linda Stamboulian and Linda Tiffany.

Pictured above, left: Dolly Matoian and Cathy Zwink roll dough for Katah preparations. Pictured above, right: Zabel Belian is all smiles with dough ready to be stuffed and baked. Pictured below, left: Emma Betrosian and Rose Najarian are just two of the many women that help to make this year’s Festival a success.
“When you walk through a storm, hold your head up high...”

In the last Sunday Gospel lection in August, we met Christ again, this time in a boat during a storm, and using His Godly / Divine power. There He subdued the rain, the waves and the wind. How wonderful life could be if it were that easy. This miracle of our Lord made me reflect on the stormy months of this past summer: water damage, flooding, and even death. So many accounts we can share. It seems that the storms never end, whether it is the winds, rains, waves, blizzards, tornadoes, hurricanes or situations in our own lives involving family and friends, personal and spiritual. The storms are always there.

If the storms are always there, so is the God of Power who can subdue them. Obviously, the Apostles were not in tune with WHO IS JESUS. There in a boat tossed to and fro amid the raging storm, Jesus sits calmly, as the story tells us, ‘asleep’ in the back. But was he? God never sleeps, He is always Awake. We just have to poke him and get his attention... like the Apostles did. Seeing they were near possible death, they turned to Christ. They went to him and poked him from his nap, saying: “Don’t you care, we are about to perish.”

Of course, Christ awoke, subdued the storm, and took away their fear. He did it to these men, and He can do it for us. People need to wake up; people need to poke the Lord, and it is done by prayer. God is not sleeping... it is we who are, when we turn to everything and anything to subdue our stormy lives, except Him. He is always there. We just have to pray to him.

So how do you handle the storms in your lives as Christians? This account makes me think of the song written by Rodgers and Hammerstein in 1945 for the Broadway musical Carousel. It is called “Walk On.” The words are like a prayer for us to use and take to heart. “When you walk through a storm, hold your head up high and don’t be afraid of the dark. At the end of the storm, there’s a golden sky and the sweet silver song of a lark. Walk on through the wind, walk on through the rain though your dreams be tossed and blown. Walk on, walk on with HOPE in your heart and you’ll never walk alone.”

Remember Jesus’ words. He said: “Have no fear, I am here in the boat of your life... and you will never walk alone. Just wake me up and I will be there.

~ Father Garabed

FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF VARTAN.....

On the evening of June 11, 2014, the 13th Annual Merit Scholarship Awards, sponsored by the Daughters of Vartan Zabelle Chapter 12, was held at St. John Armenian Church Cultural Hall, under the capable direction of Chairperson LuCille Noraian. Jane Hovsepian has chaired the Daughters of Vartan Scholarship Program since its inception, thirteen years ago. Over forty collegians have been awarded scholarships during these past years.

The evening was inspiring and hopeful with each recipient’s accomplishments and credentials being noted by the scholarship committee. These young individuals have proven to be very worthy of their awards.

The recipients for this year’s awards were:

Undergraduates:

Ani Elizabeth Stamboulian, (Journalism) Michigan State University, granddaughter of the late Charles and Anabell Stamboulian and daughter of Jimmy and Patricia Stamboulian

Graduate Students:

Valerie Joy Godoshian, (Public Health) Emory University, granddaughter of Rose and the late George Godoshian and daughter of John & Melanie Godoshian

Kristen Lyn Stamboulian, (Public Policy) Columbia University, granddaughter of the late Charles and Anabell Stamboulian and daughter of Thomas and Linda Stamboulian

Mariam Veronique Tolman, (Human Nutrition) University of Maine, granddaughter of John and LuCille Noraian and daughter of Gary and Cyndi Tolman
St. John’s Armenian Church Fuller Center for Housing 2014 Team and Jacqueline ElChemmas - Team Leader

Would personally like to thank

St. John’s Armenian Church School
Principal, Mrs. Alberta Godoshian and Staff
For raising the funds to underwrite the cost of this year’s home for the Sahakyan Family in Armenia

We also thank the following for their monetary gifts to our team and our families and “Mer Doon NGO”

The Women’s Guild of St. John’s Armenian Church
Edward and Janet Mardigian
AmeriCare
Greg Jamian
Greg Boyajian
Susan Ameriguian
Tom & Debbie Krikorian
Dr. & Mrs. Vigen Darian
Roy & Joy Callan
Carol Hazerjian
Linda Assarian
Rose Babayan
Dolly Matoian
Mitzi Negohosian
Brook Paulian Fullagar

ANNUAL PICNIC A GREAT, BIG SUCCESS!

St. John’s held its annual picnic on Sunday, August 17th. The day began with a beautiful Badarak celebrated by Father Garabed honoring “The Holy Virgin Mary on Her Assumption Day.” The service culminated with the blessing of the grapes service. Then all proceeded outdoors to enjoy family, friends, and a great time!

Picnic Chairman David Dardarian led the Men’s Society and coordinated with the Women’s Guild to present a memorable afternoon of delicious foods, great music, beautiful classic cars, and water fun for the kids.

We wish to thank all of the volunteers from the food preparers to the servers to the cashiers to the clean-up crew! Thanks go to the following: Evie Ezmerlian as head cashier; the Men’s Society for preparing and grilling the perfectly seasoned lamb, chicken, and lule kabobs with Paul Yousoufian making the delicious rice and bulghur pilafs; Women’s Guild Chairman Linda Stamboulian for organizing the servers; Nora Noraian and Linda Franquist for chairing the Bake Sale which profited over $2,000!! We also thank Cookie Contest Chairs Terry Palaian and Zabelle Belian and judges Dikran Callan, Brent Palaian, Michael Pifer and Yeretzgin Roberta Kochakian. We congratulate the winners: Dawn Aginian - 1st place for Creme de Menthe squares; Diana Vosganian - 2nd place for walnut crescents, and Carol Aprahamian - 3rd place for strawberry-rhubarb bars.

We thank Bob Karakashian for once again organizing the wonderful display of classic cars for all to admire. Much appreciation goes to George Saboonjian for chairing the picnic raffle. Congratulations to the winners: Marie Vanejian, Vanohe Nicholas and Emma Betrosian. The Key Notes Armenian Band featuring fourth generation picnic go-ers Harry Kezelian III, Dikran Callan and Armen Boyagian delighted and entertained us all afternoon. With gratitude we thank David Mardigian for his generous donation in memory of his parents. We wish to thank Mr. & Mrs. Hratch Kardachian and Mrs. Seta Garabet for sponsoring the grapes. We also thank John Yavruian for sponsoring the band and Cookie Contest prizes. We also thank Dolly and Mike Matoian for their gift on this occasion. Their thoughtfulness, support and love are greatly appreciated.

The picnic was a huge success with young and old coming together as a community for fun and fellowship. God has truly blessed us.

Pictured above: We thank Nora Noraian and Linda Franquist for chairing the Bake Sale.
Marriages

Arrangements for weddings are to be made at least eight months in advance. Marriage preparation and counseling are required before the celebration of the sacrament. The Bestman (Khachyeghpayr) must be a member of the Armenian Orthodox Church. The parish office will make all necessary arrangements for the deacon, organist and soloist. Marriages are not celebrated during Great Lent.

Baptisms and Chrismations

All baptisms must be scheduled at least two months in advance. Pre-baptismal preparation for the parents and godparents is required. At least one of the godparents must be a member of the Armenian Orthodox Faith.

Regulation of Sacramental Services

In accordance with Diocesan discipline mandated by the Primate, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, all sacraments, e.g. funerals, weddings, baptisms and rites of Christian burial, can only be administered in the church sanctuary, which has been consecrated for the celebrations of these sacred rites.
FESTIVAL ITEM DONATIONS NEEDED!

Grandma’s Attic is now accepting gently used and clean items for the Festival weekend. Donate household items, small electronics, children’s toys, games, puzzles, accessories (belts, scarves, jewelry), books, CDs, DVDs, artwork, collectibles, picture frames, dishes, glassware, vases, etc. **NO CLOTHES OR SHOES.** Please drop off your donations at the Maintenance Office. Make sure they are properly wrapped, *especially fragile items.* Receipts are available in the Church Office.

WANTED: USED ARMENIAN BOOKS

The Parish Bookstore is accepting donations of gently used books on Armenian subjects written in English for its **Used Book Sale** at this year’s FESTIVAL. Kindly drop off books at the Church Office during business hours or on Sundays. Receipts available in the Church Office.

Requests for Requiem Prayers

Requests for Requiem Prayers may be submitted to the Church Office by mail, phone 248.569.0716, or email to mkafafian@sjachurch.org no later than 5:00 pm Wednesday preceding the date of service.

Request forms are available in the Church Lobby.

CHAIRMAN’S CORNER.....

We wanted to give you abundant notice that the 2014 annual Parish Assembly will occur on Sunday, February 1, 2015, in the main ballroom immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

This is the occasion when we review the accomplishments of the previous year, discuss finances, approve the annual budget, elect members to the Parish Council, Auditing Committee, Nominating Committee, Diocesan Delegates and so much more. We will also be discussing some important events such as the 100th Genocide commemoration.

We want to hear your ideas about how we can continue to strengthen our Parish. The annual meeting is one of the most important events of the year, so please mark your calendar for **February 1, 2015.**

On behalf of the Parish Council,

*Karmen A. Santourian*

*Parish Council Chairman*
JOIN US FOR THE 45TH ANNUAL LAND OF NOAH’S ARK FESTIVAL
COME AND ENJOY THE DELICIOUS FOOD, LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, AND OLD FASHIONED FUN!

Festival Opens: Friday 5:30 pm; Saturday/Sunday 12:00 noon Food Services Close: Friday/Saturday 10:30 pm, Sunday 4:30 pm
Bazaar Boutiques Close: Friday/Saturday 10:30 pm, Sunday 4:30 pm Bar Closes: Friday/Saturday 12:00 midnight, Sunday 4:30 pm Festival Closes: Friday/Saturday 12:00 midnight, Sunday 4:30 pm

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST
Time: 12:00 Noon
Event: Godparents/Godchildren Blessing after Divine Liturgy, Complimentary Tea and “The Earth Angels”
Location: Sanctuary, Main Hall

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH
Time: 10:00 AM
Event: Church and Museum Tour
Location: Sanctuary, Museum, Main Hall

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH
Time: 6:30 PM
Event: Festival Opening Night, Strolling Culinary Reception and Evening with the Arts
Location: Vartan Room, Main Hall

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH
5:30 PM: Opening Festival Prayer - Main Hall
5:30 PM: Dining Opens - Main Hall
5:30 PM: Bazaar Boutiques Open - Lobby
6:00 PM: Guided Tour of Sanctuary - Sanctuary
6:00 PM: Levon Kafafian Loom Demo - Ongoing Near Main Hall
6:00-9:00 PM: Fine Arts Exhibition - Vartan Room
6:00-10:00 PM: Grandma’s Attic, Grandpa’s Corner, Grandma’s Annex - Ararat Room, Conference A
7:15 PM: AGBU Alex & Marie Manoogian School Dance Performance - Main Hall
7:30 PM: Guided Tour of Sanctuary - Sanctuary
7:30-11:30 PM: Johnites Band - Main Hall

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH
11:00 AM-2:00 PM: Health Fair - Veteran’s Building
11:00 AM-5:00 PM: Red Cross Blood Drive - Veteran’s Building Card Room
12:00 Noon: Bazaar Boutiques - Open Lobby
1:00-8:00 PM: Fine Arts Exhibition - Vartan Room
1:00-9:00 PM: Grandma’s Attic and Annex, Grandpa’s Corner - Ararat Room, Conference A
2:00-5:00 PM: Petting Zoo & Pony Rides - Church Parking Lot
2:00 PM: Learn Conversational Armenian - Library
2:00 PM: Levon Kafafian Loom Demo - Ongoing Near Main Hall
7:00 PM: Guided Tour of Sanctuary - Sanctuary
7:00-11:30 PM: Nigosian Band - Main Hall
8:45 PM: Texas Hold ‘em Tournament - Veteran’s Building

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH
12:30 PM Bazaar Boutiques Open Lobby
1:00-4:00 PM: Fine Arts Exhibition - Vartan Room
1:00-4:00 PM: Grandma’s Attic, Grandpa’s Corner, Grandma’s Annex - Ararat Room, Conference A
2:45 PM: Bulk Food Sale - Main Hall
3:30 PM: Raffle Announcements - Main Hall
Please Support Our Loyal Sponsors

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Contact May Kafafian at the Church Office
248.569.3405

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The Torchbearer Staff
Fr. Garabed Kochakian, Editor-in-chief
Julia Papiyants, Managing Editor, Copy & Layout;
Harry Avagian, Mary Davidson, Diane Ekizian, May Kafafian, Dolly Matoian

Remember St. John Armenian Church in your Will

Choose a ministry to support, establish an endowment, or supplement the General Fund.

Contact the Church Office, your Pastor or a Parish Council member for ways to leave a legacy to your Church.
**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.......**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>September</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Labor Day - Complex Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Church School Opens</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Men's Society Pancake Breakfast</td>
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<td>Nativity of the Holy Mother-of-God</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>St. Nersess Brunch</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Co-sponsored by the Men's Society and Women's Guild</td>
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<td>$10 adults; $5 children under 5</td>
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<td>26-28</td>
<td>Complimentary Reception and Live Entertainment by the EARTH ANGELS</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Church/Museum Tour &amp; Luncheon</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>6th Annual Festival Opening Night, Strolling</td>
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<td>29-31</td>
<td>Culinary Reception and Evening with the Arts</td>
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<td>Presented by the Fine Arts Committee, 6:30-9:30 pm</td>
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**IN THE COMMUNITY.....**

**Friday, September 12, 2014, 7:30 pm**
An Evening of Poetry / Wine Reception / Recitations
Book Presentations by Professor Kevork B. Bardakjian and Airea D. Matthews
Presented by Tekeyan Cultural Association, Detroit
Hagopian World of Rugs Birmingham Showroom

**Saturday, October 4, 2014, 6:30 pm**
A Vintage Affair presented by the Armenian Renaissance Association
Wine Tasting, Silent Auction, Dinner
Huron River Hunting Club

**Friday, October 12, 2014, 8:30 pm**
Raffi Besalyan, Pianist, in Concert
Presented by Promusica of Detroit
Max M. Fisher Music Center

**Saturday, October 11, 2014**
Alex and Marie Manoogian School 45th Anniversary Dinner-Dance
St. John’s Cultural Hall

**Saturday, October 25, 2014, 6:30 pm**
Kef Time Keghi II presented by the Nor Keghi Association
St. John’s Cultural Hall
www.keghi.org

**Sunday, November 2, 2014, 4:00 pm**
“In Search of Western Armenia” Lecture by Richard G. Hovannisian
Cosponsored by the Armenian Research Center, U-M-Dearborn and the AGBU Alex and Marie Manoogian School