

THE TORCHBEARER • Ջահակիր

St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit

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The Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian ~ *Pastor*
The Reverend Father Diran Papazian ~ *Pastor Emeritus*
Deacon Rubik Mailian ~ *Director of Sacred Music and Pastoral Assistant*



CHURCH AND MUSEUM TOUR SPARKS ONGOING INTEREST.....

The St. John Armenian Apostolic Church Sanctuary and Museum Tour on Wednesday, September 25th, had an impressive attendance of 230 people. Planned to be an outreach to our community, there were many local Armenians present. We were very gratified that a majority of guests were from the diverse population of Greater Detroit.

When people arrived for the scheduled 10 am start, they were directed to the Museum. A gracious group of volunteers was available to guide visitors throughout the church facility. At 10:30, the entire group of attendees was seated in the sanctuary for Father Garabed Kochakian's lecture on the architecture of St. John, the "Church with the Golden Dome." His vast knowledge of Armenian art and architecture afforded us a detailed visit to the creation and meaning of components of our St. John Church, consecrated on Sunday, November 20, 1966 by then, Bishop Torkom Manoogian.

The architectural and historical background was explained, including Architect Suren Pilafian's quest to design a plan with the characteristics of the ancient Armenian churches. Pilafian was told by Alex Manoogian that it was important to go to Armenia to see the churches, firsthand, to truly understand what needed to be done. In that context, our modern church of St. John in Southfield does, indeed, bear the components and essence of its ancient predecessors.

During the sanctuary program, Deacon Rubik Mailian, Music Director of St. John's, sang two inspiring selections from the Divine Liturgy, with Margaret Lafian playing the organ. *Ov Bardeezban* (O, Gardener) and *Havoon-Havoon* (The Fowl-The Fowl) were explained and are now available on the newly released Komitas Choir CD, "Songs of Glory, Armenian Sacred Music." Deacon Rubik's vocal performance and choral conducting experience enhance our Divine Liturgy every Sunday.

After the sanctuary lecture, the group was directed to the Cultural Hall for the luncheon buffet. Paul Yousoufian prepared a delicious lunch of sliced grilled chicken, pilaf, bread, salad and included beverages. *Khadaif*, a dessert of *phyllo* dough layered with a walnut and cinnamon filling, was topped with a simple sugar syrup to make it irresistible. Pam Dayinian and her many dedicated volunteers prepared this favorite delicacy.

Following lunch, the group that had been to the museum was directed to the hall to watch 20 minutes of the film, "From Ararat to Zion." The remainder of the group then proceeded to the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum where its director, Lucy Ardash addressed the smaller group with docents available in the galleries. The vast selection of bookstore items were available for perusal or purchase.

In our brief time together, we shared a small part of our culture with our "neighbors" in Greater Detroit. Some who attended had seen the church from outside for 30 or more years and always wondered what it was like inside. We received quite an animated, inquisitive and appreciative response to our program. Many of those who attended have been to the 'Church with the Golden Dome' before and speak eagerly of the next time they have the opportunity to visit.

"I've been here twice before but there's so much to know about, I need to come back again."

- Diane Ekizian -



Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9 AM - 5 PM

OCTOBER 2013

Friday Evening September 13, Dr. Christina Maranci, Professor of Armenian Art at Tufts University in Boston presented a most stimulating and interesting lecture on the history, design and construction of one of the most famous Armenian Churches ever built, the Cathedral of Zvartnots which in Armenian is rendered “watcher” or “celestial angels.” The church is a unique model for St. John’s as well, because the architect of our church, Suren Pilafian, used it as the fundamental paradigm for our holy sanctuary.

It is a 7th-century centrally planned, aisled cathedral built by the order of Catholicos of All Armenians, Nerses III (nicknamed *Shinogh* or *the Builder*) who reigned from 643 to 652. Now in ruins, it is located at the edge of the city of Etchmiadzin, in the Armavir Province of Armenia.

Dr. Maranci shared her expertise and knowledge about Zvartnots, stating that it was built at a time when much of Armenia was dealing with the invasions by the Muslim Arabs. The Church began construction in 643. It is dedicated to and also named as St. Gregory for a Cathedral. Dr. Maranci noted in particular the chosen terrain that the Catholicos designated, stating that a product of its natural landscape, the church is in direct correlation to the Holy Mount of Ararat. The towering dome of the church dramatically emulates the peak of the mountain. She pointed out that stone was quarried from Mount Ararat for building at this holy location near the city of Etchmiadzin, where according to the medieval Armenian historian Movses Kaghankatvatsi, King Trdat III met Gregory the Illuminator following his release from prison.

Dr. Maranci then spoke of the design of the building as a fusion of multiple components from other historical churches, namely the Church of the Holy Resurrection in Jerusalem, built by the Emperor Constantine in the early fourth century, indeed a church of wondrous beauty and the third rebuilding of the Church of Holy Wisdom, known as *Agia Sophia* constructed in Constantinople in 537 by Emperor Justinian. Of particular note, Dr. Maranci pointed out the extravagant use of columns used at Zvartnots that separated the nave from the space called an ambulatory, where people could actually walk around the church without entering the place of prayer.

This was truly a new innovation in Armenian Church building programs, that were later replicated in reconstructions of Zvartnots at Ani in the year 1000, and to other 7th century multi-apsed churches of Zoravar, Irind and Ishkhan erected by the same Catholicos Nerses. Stressing how the fusing of design became a popular feature in building, Dr. Maranci noted that even modern incarnations such as St. John’s in Detroit were a good example, alluding to the vaulted arches supporting the central drum of the dome and the open plan inspired by Zvartnots.

Following her most elucidating presentation, there were many questions from the over 65 people who attended. Father Garabed concluded by stating that Dr. Maranci was a treasure to our art historical scholarship and studies, thanking her for the time she devoted and information she shared. He also noted that one of our own young adults, Andrea Gumushian, is now studying Armenian Art under Dr. Maranci at Tufts. As a gesture of gratitude, Der Hayr presented Dr. Maranci with a copy of the recently published book, *A Legacy of Armenian Treasures: A Testimony to a People*, which contains samples of artifacts from the Alex and Marie Museum at St. John’s.



Meat the grill masters behind the delicious *kebabs* you enjoyed at Festival 2013. Pictured above: The Tekeyan Cultural Association; Pictured below: The Evereg Fenesse Educational Society. We thank you for all your hard work and grilling skills!



GRADUATES OF 2013.....



Lia Sona Jamian of Bloomfield Hills graduated from Ross University School of Medicine in June with a degree of Doctor of Medicine. Lia has been accepted into the Internal Medicine Residency program at Cleveland Clinic in Westin, Florida. She is a former St. John’s church school graduate, has been an active member of the Detroit ACYOA, and was a volunteer for the Armenian Service Project in Armenia. She is the daughter of Sandra and Gregory Jamian and the granddaughter of Kora Jamian (Edward) and John Naghosian (Sophie).

ANOTHER MEMORABLE SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S.....

Sunday, September 22nd was a most memorable day for 52 married couples of our parish who renewed their vows at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. On this day, Father Garabed focused his homily on the relationships we have with God, through the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, Ordination, and particularly through the Sacrament of Holy Crowning (Marriage). Father Garabed stated in his homily that it is during marriage that a new relationship with Christ and His Church begins "when Christ moves into your home transforming you into a newly created being, a husband, a wife, a father and a mother, and then a grandfather and grandmother." He stated that all of these are the fruits of a Christian marriage where Christ remains as the 'head of the house'... not the husband nor the wife, but Christ.

Father Garabed invited all the couples to stand and respond to his questions by saying, "We do" thereby renewing and reaffirming their relationship to each other and to Christ and His Holy Church. He then invited them to walk in procession, two by two, toward the main altar for the final prayer and blessing, as the choir sang the beautiful wedding hymn, *Oorakh Ler Soorp Yegeghetzi* (Rejoice O Holy Church).

As the couples gathered in the nave of the church, Father Garabed asked each couple to face one another, joining their foreheads as they did on the day of their wedding. He offered the final prayer, thanking Christ the Lord for deepening the love, regard, respect and reverence that blossomed during their life together. The prayer concluded with the following words...*help these your servants to continue in grace the blessings you gave them on the day they were married, always helping them to reflect upon the tenderness, endurance and power of the love planted in their hearts, minds and souls by Your Holy Spirit. Remain with them in the years ahead as they continue to honor their faithful vows, celebrating the enduring love that will prevail upon them forever. Amen*

Following the service, everyone was invited to a Armenian Wedding Brunch hosted by the Men's Society and organized by Carol Ohanesian and her committee. There was abundant food, Armenian music and dancing, and even a wedding cake. The first ceremonial slice was cut by Yeretzgin Roberta and Father Garabed. Displayed on tables were wedding photos and albums the couples brought to share. Each couple received a copy of an illuminated manuscript painted by Father Garabed depicting the Marriage at Cana of Galilee where Our Lord performed his first miracle changing water to wine. Couples also received a special certificate and had their photos taken.



MEN'S SOCIETY KEEPS BUSY.....

On Monday, September 16th, the Men's Society with help of members from the Women's Guild, ACOYA Seniors and friends got together to make *tourshee* (pickled cabbage) for the Festival's Country Store. There were 26 people working in an assembly line to make over 200 quart jars of *tourshee*. A big thank you goes out to all who participated and had fun learning and helping to make this another successful endeavor by the Men's Society. A special thank you for the three children of Gary and Pat Hachigian who orgainized and made everything run smoothly - Ara, Rachel and Alexandra.

On Sunday, September 22nd, the Men's Society provided the Brunch following the Renewal of Wedding Vows for more than 30 couples. Approximately 200 attended the brunch and enjoyed the menu consisting of ham, eggs, green beans, pilaf, pasta, salad, potatoes, Belgian waffles, salmon, fruit, salad, wedding cake, juices and coffee. Music was provided by Kelly Yousoufian playing the harp during the meal, followed by recorded Armenian music for dancing. The ham and wedding cake were donated by Mihran Hoplamazian and Graf's Pastry respectively.

Funds raised by the Free Will Offerings will go to support the Men's Society and Komitas Choir's audio/visual project for the Sanctuary. Please come and join us next time. The members of the Men's Society thank you for your continued support of these functions.

- Daniel Cristiano -

ARJHANI EH!

On the weekend of *Khachveratz* / Exaltation of the Holy Cross, we learned of the good news about our former pastor, Bishop Paren Avedikian and shared it with the faithful. In case you were not at the Divine Liturgy to hear it, we share it in print. His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, granted to Srpzan Hayr the elevation to Archbishop at the Holy Mother See in Etchmiadzin, Armenia on September 15th. Coincidentally some of our own St. John's faithful were visiting Armenia at the time. We pray for his continued ministry in the Armenian Church and offer our congratulations sharing this *Avedis*.

HEREAFTER HE WILL BE ADDRESSED AS
ARCHBISHOP PAREN.

Belinda Kabodian demonstrated the health benefits of Chair Yoga at our September meeting. She led the group through a series of poses that enhance relaxation, flexibility, and circulation.

The October 2nd meeting included a special presentation by pastry creator, Nora Sanjian Hutter. Her presentation focused on trends in cakes and dessert tables. Nora showed how monochromatic or single color themes have a beautiful look and greater visual impact, unifying the presentation. Nora uses her artistry to create delicious and beautiful pastries. Her bakery Dessert Diva is located in Troy.

On October 10th, Bosco Pizza owner Mark Artinian, son of Women's Guild member Gladys Artinian, welcomed Women's Guild members to his extensive facility. Members of the Guild donned white hair nets for a close-up tour of Bosco Pizza in Warren. Starting in a small pizza shop in Rochester, Mark began supplying pizza to Rochester High School. The Bosco Stick, a cheese filled bread stick, was so popular with students, it created the opportunity to expand to the current production facility. Bosco products are now served in schools across the country and can be found in many large food markets. Women's Guild members were treated to lunch featuring Bosco Pizza, Bosco Cheese Stick, Bosco Apple filled Cinnamon Stick, salad and delicious cookies made by Gladys.

Save the Date: Saturday, March 1st, is the date set for a **Poon Paregentan Party and Dinner Dance**. The event will take place under the leadership of Joyce Obenhoff. Plan to EAT, DANCE and be MERRY as we celebrate "A Day of Good Living" before the beginning of Lent. Music with the Vosbikian Band from Philadelphia and local musicians will get the party started and continue into the night.

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.



They did it again! For months, the ever-faithful Women's Guild cooked and prepared for the annual St. John Festival. We thank them for their solidarity, hard work, and of course, delicious Armenian specialties!

A GLIMPSE AT THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL.....

As always, St. John's Annual Land of Noah's Ark Festival flew by as quickly as it came. The success of this year's Festival is due, in great part, to our wonderful volunteers, unique vendors, and many visitors. We thank you all and hope to see you next year!



Pictured above, left to right: Zabel Belian talks with visitors at the Fine Arts Exhibit; Rachel Hachigian is all smiles and hard work in front of the Country Store's *tourshee* station; kids keep active at the St. John's Recreation Center Basketball Clinic.



Pictured above, left to right: Willy Wonka greeting visitors and passing out candy bars. Rawr! A little visitor shows off his fierce face painting with great pride and Armenian vendors serve as the backdrop; Young Oompa Loompa performers pose at the Willy Wonka Show.



Pictured above, left to right: Festival vendors - Vernisaj - helping a customer pick the perfect accessory; George Boyagian sneaks in a break and bite to eat as he volunteers; visitors enjoy authentic Armenian music and line dance as they create a chain around the main hall.

Baptisms

October 2013

- 13 Charles Jonathan
Son of Ronald & Sarah Keoleian
Godparents: Armen Boyagian & Brittney Wolford

Funerals

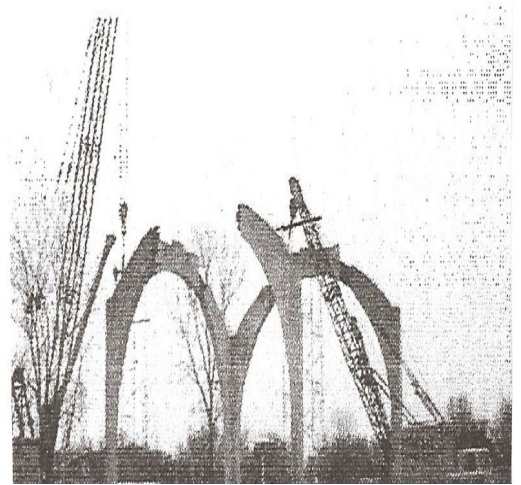
September 2013

- 30 Helen Ruth Torigian, 81, Oakland Hills

October 2013

- 5 Harry Barsamian, 83, Woodlawn
7 Peter Kenyon, 89, Woodlawn
18 Alice Kachigian, 86, Evergreen

The dedication and consecration of our Church occurred on Sunday November 20, 1966. It is marvelous that in the year 2016 we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the present sanctuary. The Parish Council continually evaluates the buildings and grounds of our exquisite



campus not only to improve but preserve our great legacy. One recent project that you may have noticed is the restoration of the sanctuary curtain, (*curtain was off track at one end and dragged when opened or closed- existing curtain was removed, resized and reinstalled*), and replacement of defective lamps in the existing high ceiling fixtures above the altar. There are many other similar tasks planned in the coming months to develop a heightened maintenance schedule. We welcome your viewpoint as we endeavor to sustain our Church and grounds. *The photo above depicts the sanctuary under construction in approximately the year 1964.*

Your Parish Council Chairman,
- Karmen A. Santourian -

THE MAGNIFICENT MUSIC OF THE DIVINE LITURGY.....



If you find the music of the Divine Liturgy mysterious and beyond comprehension, you will want to attend Deacon Rubik Mailian's lectures on Armenian Sacred Music. On September 19th, the second in a series of four lectures, Deacon Rubik explained the origin, evolution and meaning of the songs of the Divine Liturgy - from the *Khorhoort*

Khorin (literally Deep Mystery) to the *Orhnetsits uzDer* (I will bless the Lord), Psalm of David 34:1.

The *Badarak* is the most ancient Christian Service. It originated in liturgical assemblies as early as the second century based on Christ's command, "Do this in remembrance of me" (1 Cor. 11:24). The early liturgy was a combination of the Christian-Jewish synagogue service followed by a memorial meal.

The music of the Divine Liturgy is a combination of

ordinary and proper songs. The ordinary songs are sung every Sunday. These are the songs that you leave the church humming *Kristos ee Mech Mer Haydnetzav, Hayr Mer*, you know the songs. The variable, or proper songs, change depending on the feast or the mode of the day. These may be less familiar to you because they are heard less often.

There are actually 10 versions of the music of the Divine Liturgy, but only three of them have been approved to be used in the Armenian Apostolic Church. They are composed by Magar Yegmalian, Komitas Vartabed and Khoren Mekanejian. The most commonly used version is the one by Yegmalian, although many Komitas versions are also sung. The Mekanejian is the least often heard because of its complexity.

One of the most definitive questions of the night was: "How long was the *Badarak*?" How could it be that the *modern Badarak*, though still about a simple meal, is so much more complex?

In the third lecture of this series, held on October 24th, Deacon Rubik discussed the music of the baptism, wedding and funeral services.

- Linda S. Jevahirian-
Board Member and Soprano in the Komitas Choir

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We welcome your comments and suggestions, so please feel free to contact the Church Office so we may continue to improve the way we bring information to our parishioners, subscribers and the St. John community. If you would like to help defray printing and postage costs, and are computer savvy, please consider receiving your *Torchbearer* online as 10% of our readership already does. The added bonus is that it appears in color online! Please contact the Church Office.

If you would be interested in sponsoring an issue of *The Torchbearer*, that is, assuming the costs of producing one, please contact May Kafafian at the Church Office for further information. We also need volunteers who would be interested in helping prepare *The Torchbearer* for mailing. This occurs around the 25th of the month and for just a few hours. Again, please contact the Church Office.

We invite you to visit the St. John web site for up-to-date calendar information, the Sunday Bulletin, *The Torchbearer*, event information and links to internet sites of interest to our parishioners:

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PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.....

November

- 5 *"Who am I and what do I believe?"*
All you want to know about the
Armenian Church
Presented by Father Garabed Kochakian
- 10 Veterans Remembrance
DSO Neighborhood Chamber Recital
Sponsored by St. John's Music Guild
- 17 Thanksgiving Dinner
Sponsored by the Church School
Prepared/served by the High School Division
- 20 Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study
- 21 Presentation of the Holy Mother-of-God
- 26 *"Who am I and what do I believe?"*
All you want to know about the
Armenian Church
Presented by Father Garabed Kochakian
- 28 Thanksgiving - Complex Closed
- 30 ACYOA November Dance

December

- 4 Women's Guild Advent by Candlelight
- 9 Conception of the Holy Mother-of-God
- 18 Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study
- 24 A Family Christmas Worship
- 25 Western Christmas-Complex Closed

IN THE COMMUNITY.....

"Let Us Adore Him"

Advent By Candlelight 2013

Wednesday, December 4th

Doors open promptly at 7:00 pm

Joyfully sponsored by St. John's Women's Guild

To hostess a table, members are invited to
place their reservation.

Please call Arlene Baylerian at 248.735.4495

Starting Monday, November 1st - November 10th

Visit the Parish Bookstore

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