

# THE TORCHBEARER • Ջահակիր

## St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit

22001 Northwestern Highway • Southfield, MI 48075

248.569.3405 (phone) • 248.569.0716 (fax) • [stjohnsarmenianchurch.com](http://stjohnsarmenianchurch.com)

### The Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian - Pastor

The Reverend Father Diran Papazian - *Pastor Emeritus*

Deacon Rubik Mailian - *Director of Sacred Music and Pastoral Assistant*



## "FESTIVAL": AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION OR ANNIVERSARY! ST. JOHN'S OBSERVES BOTH!

### Large Numbers Attend the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Festival

No longer known by the title of an annual bazaar, even Noah, if he were to be alive today, would be proud of the our festivals named in his memory: *Armenia-Land of Noah's Ark*. The historical and religious story about Noah is without question one of the most well known episodes which continues to capture the imagination of young and old.

This year the Festival included a weeklong array of activities which began on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> with a Health Fair coordinated by the Wayne County Pharmacists Association. This event was very well attended and offered various health care screenings, flu shots, medication reviews, and smoking cessation counseling, all at no charge to participants.

On Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, parishioners had their portraits taken by Lucassian Photography in conjunction with the Celebratory Tea showcasing the "Time & Talent" and lay ministries of St. John's parish family.

A tour of the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum and St. John's sanctuary was offered on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, followed by a traditional Armenian lunch. Many non-Armenians enjoyed a unique experience of our faith and culture.

What has become a tradition in the last few years was the opening night dinner and silent auction held on Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Guests enjoyed a superb four-course dinner prepared by a

*Continuation and photo montage on page 4*



### St. John's Celebrates its 80th Anniversary!

**Kef Time Detroit** Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> was a musical evening that honored our past and celebrated our future. The evening was filled with fellowship, wonderful Armenian food and Armenian music – a combination that made for a great evening. The outstanding ensemble assembled from across the country included Hachig Kazarian, Richard Hagopian, Harold Hagopian, Bruce Gigarjian and Michael Kazarian. The event was sponsored by St. John Armenian Church Women's Guild and the Men's Society. The Co-Chairs Anna Baylerian, Yvonne Korkoian, Greg Baise and Daniel Cristiano and their outstanding committee members worked tirelessly for months to mark the significant milestone in the life of St. John Armenian Church – its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Edward Korkoian, Master of Ceremonies, welcomed everyone and then introduced the Honorable Brenda Lawrence, Mayor of Southfield, who read a proclamation. Greg Jamian relayed greetings from Michigan Governor Rick Snyder. St. John's Pastor Father Garabed Kochakian offered words of congratulations and launched the evening with his Blessing Prayer. The warmth and spirit that filled the room was electrifying. The 575 attendees ate, danced and mingled until 1 am. No one wanted to leave the dance floor. **Kef Time Detroit** was a magical evening that will long be remembered. *Photo montage on page 5*

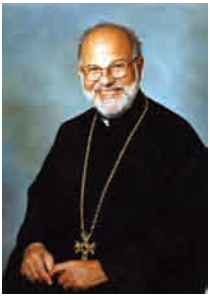
*-Gloria Korkoian*

*Please refer to page 7 for the individuals, services and businesses that support the publication of **The Torchbearer**.*

*We appreciate their participation and hope that **you** will support **them** as well.*

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

After hours in an emergency, please contact: Pastor's Cell: 248.225.9888 • Administrator's Cell: 248.880.8391



## FROM FATHER GARABED'S DESK.....

*Beloved faithful and friends of St. John's,*

It is my distinct pleasure to greet you all on this auspicious 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the founding of our parish.

Imbued with our Lord's Holy Spirit, eight decades have passed uninterrupted and filled with dedicated and zealous service to God and His faithful Armenian flock. From the earliest years when we prayed without our own house of worship, through the years that we spent on Oakman Boulevard at the 'old St. John's,' to our newer home on Northwestern Highway, the vibrancy of our community has continued to grow and increase, never waning in spirit,

honoring the Lord Christ God in worship and transmitting our age-old Armenian customs and traditions by passing the torch of faith and heritage to new generations in order to keep His light burning in our midst.

We remember with gratitude all of the patrons and great benefactors of the past who expended every energy and strength possible to assure us that we would be here today. We pledge ourselves as a people of God to continue our sacred ministry and mission to our people so that we may continue to build, educate and propagate our faith-heritage to our posterity.

Yeretzgin Roberta and I extend our prayerful congratulations and blessings to the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary planning committee members and to all the members of our St. John community. May the future children of our parish emulate your zeal and dedication and continue on the good road which you have opened up for them.

Your good works and acts of faith lift our hearts as we share the words of Christ's blessings saying ...*"Well done good and faithful servants."*

Blessings and continued prayers to you all,

*~Father Garabed*

### **Father Garabed's "Children's Sermon" Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**

During his October 16<sup>th</sup> "Children's Sermon", Father Garabed taught the children about the *Ten Commandments* and with their participation enlightened for them the meaning of each giving examples from daily life. *Der Hayr* told the story of Moses and the Burning Bush on Mt. Sinai and how these Laws of God were given to us. He even pointed to the Holy Letter 'eh' resting high above the Holy Altar as a symbol to teach us that God is always present watching us to see if we are keeping His laws. He also asked the parents who were sitting nearby to refer to the *Sunday Bulletin* in which the list of the *Ten Commandments* was printed, encouraging them to review the list at home every week, one by one, and discuss the Laws of God.



### **Dear friends from the St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit community,**

*Please accept heartfelt congratulations from the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia to all of you and your families for the St. John Armenian Church's 80th anniversary. Your community is one of the unique Armenian communities based in USA that kept the strong faith and Armenian spirit. We wish your community prosperity and strength to continue keeping the strong connections with Armenian faith and culture as you have been doing.*

*We would like to take the chance to thank again all of you for your involvement in eliminating poverty housing in Armenia since 2006. The immediate help of 47 volunteers from your church has supported 4 families completing their house construction with the support of house donors Ms. Marie Vanerian and St. John Armenian Church School. More families have been supported with the help of your community members, Komitas Choir and Daughters of Vartan chapter.*

*Special thanks to Mrs. Jackie El-Chemmas, our ambassador in St. John Church, for coordinating the volunteer teams, and raising funds for helping families in housing need in Armenia.*

*We look forward to continue our partnership with your community and see you in Armenia.*

**Gohar Palyan**  
Resource Development Manager  
the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia

## FESTIVAL 2011....

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This year's *Festival* was another success for St. John Armenian Church due in part by the support and service provided by the organizations and committee persons listed below:

### **Church Groups:**

ACOYA Juniors & Seniors  
Church Choir  
Church School Staff & Students  
Men's Society  
Women's Guild

### **Committee Chairs and Sub-Chairs**

#### **Overall Chairperson Baking & Cooking – Dolly Matoian**

*Boorma* – Yn. Roberta Kochakian  
*Cheoreg* – Marianne Dardarian & Dolly Matoian  
*Katah* – Margaret Gozmanian  
*Khalkha* – Cathy Atesian

Armenian Delicacies – Women's Guild: Diane Aginian  
Giftarama Vendors' Market – Cathy Atesian  
Baked Goods – Women's Guild: Esther Kulhanjian  
Country Store & Deli – Gary Hachigian  
Snack Shop – ACYOA: Lisa Mardigian

### **Shopping:**

Fine Arts Committee – Dr. Raffi Belian  
Grandma's Attic – Daughters of Vartan: Matron Gloria Korkoian  
Giftarama Vendors' Market – Cathy Atesian

### **Raffles:**

50/50 Raffle – Patti Morris  
\$50 Raffle – Lisa Mardigian  
Silent Auction – John Yavruian

### **Activities:**

Welcome Tour and Luncheon – Diane Ekizian  
Luncheon – Dolly Matoian & Women's Guild  
Church Tour – Fr. Garabed Kochakian, Dn. Rubik Mailian,  
Margaret Lafian  
Museum Tour – Lucy Ardash  
Beer Tasting – Bryan Boyadjian  
Slot Cars – Ed Baharian  
Moon Walks – Evereg-Fenesse  
Kid's Apple Fest – Evereg-Fenesse  
Wii & Xbox – Sarkis Toroyan

### **Promoting/Fund Raising & Organizing**

Donor Ads – Kim Kalajian  
Advisor – Paul Yousoufian  
Brochure – Daniel Cristiano  
Cashiers – Jackie ElChemmas  
Dinner Cashiers – Dr. Gary & Marianne Zamanigian

### **Outside Organizations:**

Evereg-Fenesse  
Cultural Society of Armenians from Istanbul (CSAI)  
Knights & Daughters of Vartan  
Tekeyan Cultural Association / ADL  
Wayne County Pharmacists Association

*Kharpert Kufteh* – Dolly Matoian  
*Sou Beoreg* – Anita Arslanian  
*Spinach Beoreg /Khadayif* – Pam Dayinian  
*Yahlanchi* – Kim Kalajian  
Dinner Service/Choir: Denise Karkashian & Linda Jevahirian  
Meat Preparation and Kitchen – George Boyagian  
Grilling – (Tekeyan) Hagop Alexanian & (KofV) David Terzibashian  
Hye Bar – John Kalajian  
Panini & Manti Station – Men's Society: Glen Akarakcian

Bookstore – Lucy Ardash  
Oriental Rugs & Boutique – Hagopian World of Rugs  
Specialty *Tourshi* & Jams – Pat Hachigian

Armenian Basket – Women's Guild  
Tin Can Raffle – Pat Hachigian  
Casino Night / Texas Hold 'Em – CASI

Family Portraits – John Lucassian  
Forgotten Harvest – Church School  
Health Fair – Greg Baise  
Petting Zoo – Paul Andonian  
Red Cross Blood Drive – Ruth Pinto-Cieslak  
Opening Night Dinner – Paul Yousoufian and the caterers:  
Uptown Catering, Allegro Restaurant, Steve & Rocky's,  
2 Unique Catering & Event Planning, Zingerman's Coffee  
Reservations – Judy Cristiano  
Auction – John Yavruian

Sponsors – Paul Yousoufian  
Treasurer – Sara Andonian  
Assistant Treasurer – Roseann Attar  
Website and Purchasing – David Dardarian  
Festival Co-Chairmen – Dan Cristiano & George Boyagian

A special "Thank You" to all the members of each organization and their supporting staff and the vendors for everything they accomplished during the *Festival*. A special "thank you" to the maintenance staff, Ron Ware, Knut Shattuck, Jeff Perna and Pam Black who were there whenever we needed them.





Opening Night Dinner & Auction



Fine Arts Exhibit



*Festival - continued from page 1*

culinary team of our parish caterers and restaurant owners. Local Armenian talent, guitarist Sean Blackman provided a smooth mix of international sounds during dinner. The same evening many attended the opening of the Fine Arts Exhibition featuring works by Armenian artists.

When the Festival doors swung open on Friday at 5:30 pm, guests had already arrived in numbers that would soon fill the main hall of the cultural building. Initially, those who had arrived early were eager to enjoy a dinner from a varied menu. Throughout the weekend, the food, music and fellowship were great to witness, however the renewal of friendships was probably the most important social event of the Festival.

Other events included tours of the church's sanctuary, Fine Arts Exhibition, Country Store, Grandma's Attic, Red Cross Blood Drive, Giftarama vendors' market, Hagopian Rugs and Boutique, Vegas Night, Kids' Apple Fest, Moon Bounce, mini car races, Wii and Xbox games, pony rides and petting zoo, Book Store, raffles, Hye Bar, beer tasting, Forgotten Harvest Food Drive, and all the food venues. Armenian music was provided by the Johnites Band on Friday night, and on Saturday night by the Negosian Band. The Festival is an event which captures the talent and effort of all church and community organizations. Please refer to page 3 for an acknowledgement of organizations and volunteers without whom the Festival could not have been possible. It is truly an event that the entire parish can be proud of each year. "Vardzkernit Gadar!"

- Harry Avagian





## "KEF TIME DETROIT" - CELEBRATING 80 YEARS.....



1. The Honorable Brenda Lawrence, Mayor of Southfield. 2. Greg Jamian, Oakland County Road Commissioner, delivering greetings from Governor Rick Snyder. 3. Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian & M.C. Edward H. Korkoian. 4. Ensemble Extraordinaire: Harold Hagopian, Michael Kazarian, Hachig Kazarian, Richard Hagopian & Bruce Gigarjian. 5. Before their final selection of the evening at 1:00 am, Hachig Kazarian, left, thanked all those who attended and those who planned such an evening. He said that they travel all over the country, but only in Detroit would they attract a crowd of almost 600 who were so enthusiastic and willing to literally dance the night away! 6. The "Kef Time Detroit" committee.

• **Introducing the SJAC Nominating Committee Webpage**

On this page of St. John's web site you will find eligibility for voting or running for office at the Annual Parish Assembly. Also, you will find clear and concise descriptions of all elected positions. You can even download a 'candidate profile form' to submit your information for candidacy. Just click on the link below and you can even submit your name as a candidate for one of the following positions:

**CHAIRMAN OF THE DAY • SECRETARY OF THE DAY • PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP & STEWARDSHIP ADVISORY BOARD  
NOMINATING COMMITTEE • AUDITING COMMITTEE**

<http://stjohnsarmenianchurch.com/parishcommittees/nominatingcommittee.html>

Your "Time and Talent" in service to St. John's in one of these capacities would be greatly appreciated. Please consider volunteering to serve and submit your name, as your Church needs you. Many thanks to everyone who participates in these efforts.

Current and past members of these committees stand ready to consult and share information with any parishioner contemplating becoming a candidate.

Contact David Dardarian, 2012 Nominating Chair, at 248.661.0617, if you have any questions or for further details.

• **The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure:** This popular Detroit event which is scheduled for Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup> in downtown Detroit, includes a 5K Run, a 5K Walk and a 1 Mile Walk and supports breast cancer awareness, education and research.

For more information on the Race itself, refer to the web site: <http://www.karmanos.org/raceforthe curedetroit> or contact St. John's chair, Barbara Rupas at 248.643.7666 or troyfam@comcast.net.

**The team needs a name, so if you have any creative ideas, feel free to contact Barb at the contacts above. We look forward to a great team in support of this worthy cause.**

• **Are you trained or talented in graphic design, desktop publishing, photography or other computer work?** Would you like to share your skills with St. John's? Keep your skills sharp and help with projects as they come up. Contact the Church Office!

• **An important notice to all who visit the St. John's campus:** The Parish Council wishes to advise those who visit SJAC property not to park in areas labeled "no parking fire lane." This will help ensure emergency vehicles can access the facility when needed.

Also please display your handicap parking permit in your vehicle when parking in a handicapped spot.

Thank you for helping to keep our facility safer and more accessible.

• **Your computer and internet connection has a wealth of information from St. John's.** Become a friend with your Facebook account, access the St. John's web site as well as the Armenian Church Eastern Diocese site for all manner of information and insight for your daily life. There is a new APP for your iPhone or iTouch called "Vemkar" updated daily by the Diocese featuring activities throughout the U.S., blogs, inspirational readings and more. Make the internet work for you in your daily spiritual life!

**Baptisms**

**October**

- 2 Gregory  
Son of Edvin & Anna Komarov  
Godparents: Gregory Babayan & Diana Arutyunova
- 9 Ava Gacia  
Daughter of Peter & Narine Bedrossian  
Godparents: Nareg Bedrossian & Elizabeth Chamourian

**Weddings**

**October**

- 8 Kellie Matteson & Dikran Ornekian  
Bestman: Derek Ornekian  
Maid of Honor: Kathryn Matteson

**Funerals**

**October**

- 12 Mihran Haig Joboulian, 86, Woodlawn  
18 John Kalfaian, 88, Woodlawn

*Remember  
St. John Armenian Church  
in your Will.*

**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.





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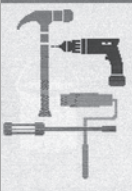


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**The Torchbearer Staff**

Fr. Garabed Kochakian, *Editor-in-chief*  
Anna Sarkisian, *Managing Editor, Copy & Layout*, Harry Avagian, Mary Davidson  
Diane Ekizian, May Kafafian, Dolly Matoian

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 25<sup>th</sup> 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:  
[stjohnsarmenianchurch.com](http://stjohnsarmenianchurch.com)

## PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.....

### November

- 6 Veterans' Blessing & Pancake Breakfast  
Cosponsored by the Men's Society  
& Armenian American Veterans Association
- 11 Men's Society Strolling Tasting Party
- 12 Pajama Party Blanket Project (for girls ages 7 and up)  
2:00-5:00 pm, Recreation Center  
RSVP: Lisa Johnson 248.624.8408  
Sponsored by the Women's Guild
- 13 Thanksgiving Dinner - Sponsored by the Church School  
RSVP: Roseanne Attar 248.980.3221 or vart@comcast.net
- 16 Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study, Noon-2:00 pm
- 16 Lecture: "Armenian Genocide Recognition: A New Approach"  
Guest Speaker: Sandra L. B. Livingstone, Ph.D.  
Refreshments at 7:30 pm; Lecture at 8:00 pm
- 18 Kef Klub, 6:00 pm, Recreation Center
- 21 Presentation of the Holy Mother-of-God
- 24 Thanksgiving - Complex Closed
- 26 ACYOA November Dance
- 27 Advent Season Begins
- 30 Women's Guild "Advent by Candlelight"  
Contact Anita Boyajian from November 3-20  
[wgmail@sjachurch.org](mailto:wgmail@sjachurch.org) or 248.851.4133

### December

- 4 Dinner at Allegro Restaurant to benefit the Baku  
and Sumgait Memorial Fund (*details to follow*)
- 9 Conception of the Holy Mother-of-God
- 16 Kef Klub, 6:00 pm, Recreation Center  
Music by Ara Topouzian
- 18 Men's Society Christmas Pancake Breakfast
- 24 A Family Christmas Worship, 5:00 pm
- 26 Christmas - Complex Closed
- 28 Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study
- 29 *Barekendan* of the Fast of Nativity

**Note:** All parish events at St. John's Church and Cultural Hall unless specified.

## EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY.....

### Tuesday, November 8, 7:30 pm

"The Armenian DNA Project:  
Discovering History through Our Genes"  
Speaker: Peter Hrechdakian  
Armenian Congregational Church  
26210 West Twelve Mile Road, Southfield

### Saturday, November 12, 2011, 8:00 pm

Sergey Khachatryan, violin  
Lusine Khachatryan, piano  
Sponsored by Chamber Music Society of Detroit  
Seligman Performing Arts Center  
Detroit Country Day School  
22305 W 13 Mile Rd, Beverly Hills  
For tickets/information: 248.855.6070 or [comehearcmsd.org](http://comehearcmsd.org)

### Armenian Studies Program University of Michigan, Ann Arbor November/December Programs

### Tuesday, November 8, 4:00-5:30 pm

Lecture by Gerard Libaridian, "From Historian to  
Accidental Diplomat: The Writing of History  
Before and After Participating in its Making"

### Tuesday, November 22, 4:00-5:30 pm

Lecture by Kevork Bardakjian, "How to Petition for  
Poetic Grace?: Kostandin Erznkac'i's 'Strange' Vision-poem"

### Tuesday, December 6, 4:00-5:30 pm

Lecture by Ronald Suny, "The New Turkey and the Issue of  
Genocide: Armenians in a Progressive Imagination"

## Moms and Manooogs

- play group meets once or twice a month.

For dates, contact Kristen Gustafson: 248.765.0471

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