

Happy Spring!



A message From Our Chairwoman...

Kreesdos Hayrav ee Merelotz! Christ is Risen!

Have you ever heard the expression of "Paying it Forward"? A few years ago, I was on vacation in Florida having breakfast with my family. At the end of our meal we asked for our check and the waitress indicated that it had already been taken care of. We were at first surprised and felt uncomfortable because we could pay for our own meal. We wanted to thank the generous individual only to find that he had already left the restaurant. Now that was truly an unselfish act. He did an act of kindness without expecting to receive anything in return.

How many times in life have you been the recipient of an act of kindness? Why are we uncomfortable when people do nice things for us? *The Bible* teaches us that it is better to give than to receive. A friend told me once to just say "Thank You." Why does the good feeling of giving need to be one way? Today, look to do something nice for someone. Paying it forward always comes back to you when you least expect it.

Don't forget to make your reservations for "*Our Favorite Things*" Family, Friends, Fashion..., the Women's Guild Spring fundraising event. We have an action-packed morning planned for you starting out at 9 am with our vendors showcase. Brunch follows with fashions by Chico's and Gap Kids. You won't be disappointed in our raffle with over fifty prizes available. The committee has been working hard to make this day special, so don't delay!

Plans are underway for the July outing. Planners Cathy Zwinck and Carol Chomakjian have some great ideas which will be announced soon.

A special thank you to the members of the executive board who filled in for me while I was away during the month of March.

Remember to "Pay it Forward" today!

Barb Rupas



It is with sorrow that we share with you the passing of Richard Martin Apkarian, husband of our dear member, Paulette Apkarian, and brother-in-law of Jackie Klugman and Cynthia Apkarian and uncle of Dawn Karagosian, Lynne Kojamanian and Renee Apkarian.

We send our sympathy to Jackie ElChemmas on the passing of her dear mother, Diramayr Virginia Melkonian.

We also extend our condolences to Dr. Linda Darian Karibian on the passing of her beloved mother, Vrejouhi Darian.

May happy memories bring comfort and peace in midst of your sorrow.

The Women's Guild sends get well wishes to our members, Lydia Doyon, Susie Reizian, Anita Kachadurian, Margaret Derderian and Kathy Mekjian. We wish all of them a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing them back with us soon.



April 22 nd (Sunday)	Luncheon for His Eminence, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian following Episcopal Divine Liturgy
April 24 th (Tuesday)	7:00 p.m. 103 rd Anniversary Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide hosted by the four Armenian churches of Greater Detroit to be held at St. John
May 2 nd (Wednesday)	7:00 Guild Meeting
May 5 th (Saturday)	Spring Fashion Show & Brunch

Bazaar Preparation Bake Days

May 15 th (Tuesday)	9 a.m. – 12 p.m. <i>Sou Beoreg</i> Anita Arslanian
May 22 nd (Tuesday)	9 a.m. – 12 p.m. <i>Sou Beoreg</i> Anita Arslanian
June 4 th (Monday)	9 a.m. – 12 p.m. <i>Cheoreg</i> Dolly Matoian
June 5 th (Tuesday)	9 a.m. – 12 p.m. <i>Sou Beoreg</i> Anita Arslanian
June 11 th (Monday)	9 a.m. – 12 p.m. <i>Cheoreg</i> Dolly Matoian
June 12 th (Tuesday)	9 a.m. – 12 p.m. <i>Sou Beoreg</i> Anita Arslanian
June 18 th (Monday)*	6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. <i>Cheoreg</i> Marianne Dardarian
June 19 th (Tuesday)	9 a.m. – 12 p.m. (<i>Kufta</i> middles) Dolly Matoian
June 26 th (Tuesday)	9 a.m. – 12 p.m. (<i>Kufta</i> middles) Dolly Matoian



***Evening Bake Date**

AN INTERVIEW WITH FR. ARMASH BAGDASARIAN

As the Chair of the Guild I was asked to interview Fr. Armash for our monthly newsletter. In preparation, I put together a list of questions with the full intention of going through the list and reporting it as a "Q & A." However, when the interview started it began to take on a completely different complexion.

When Fr. Armash arrived at St. John, the Church put out a one page letter introducing him to the community, sharing with us where he was from (Istanbul), about his family (wife Yn. Maran and four-year old son Nathaniel), and about his educational background. This background is quite extensive: *Ozel Icik* Lyceum High School, Kultur University where he earned a Bachelors in Liberal Arts with a specialty in Ottoman Languages and history of the Ottoman Empire, in addition to his diploma from All Saints Presbyterian Church in the Old and New Testament.

Fr. Armash told me that he knew at a young age that he had a calling to be a priest. It came from within. He is here to serve God. Some priests make the decision that this is what they want to do, but for him, he knew. He had family members who were priests in a family very involved in the church community. At a young age, he loved to spend time with the elderly, listening to them talk about their lives.

All citizens living in Turkey are required to serve in the military. Fr. Armash was a sailor who became the first Armenian to serve in their Military Police division. This was quite an honor to achieve. Before Fr. Armash came to America he traveled to active Armenian Churches throughout Turkey as a guide for travelers and priests making pilgrimages. At these churches, he would celebrate *Badarak*. He would travel by bus under the auspices of the government and police. At times, he was faced with physical and verbal danger in the areas. When asked how he dealt with these challenges he responded that he truly loves people and that we all have a connection. Some Turkish people would say, "My grandfather was Armenian." The genocide denial comes from the government, not the people.

So how did Fr. Armash end up in the United States? Actually, he was not seeking to come, but initially he wanted to visit his brother in New Jersey, so he applied and received a visa. He traveled back and forth from Istanbul to the United States for ten years. He met his wife, Maran, in New Jersey and eventually came to stay permanently in the United States.

I was intrigued with Fr. Armash's hobbies. He loves to explore old cities. He'll first read about the history and then walk through the town absorbing the culture, architecture and people. Old museums are also one of his favorite past times. He specifically enjoys 10th and 17th century history and the French culture. Walking by the sea gives him a sense of spiritual peace and reflection.

Being a true Armenian I had to ask about his favorite foods. His immediate response was seafood. Not ocean fish but small fish. Of course, he loves *sou beoreg*, *cheoreg*, but *tas kebob* and eggplant sautéed in tomatoes are also favorites. In New York, he enjoyed the old small vintage restaurants with home cooked meals.

When asked what his impression of the Detroit Armenian community, Fr. Armash did not hesitate to say that we are friendly people, a real community within the church, steeped in tradition and faith.

The last question I posed was to ask about his hopes for our Women's Guild. He quickly responded, hoping that we show more sisterly love as true Armenian Christians to others outside of our community. Spiritual outreach will help spread God's word.

As I reflect back, on my time with Fr. Armash, I felt spiritually uplifted to know that we are guided by a truly humble, intelligent and kind person. The Guild is looking forward to Fr. Armash becoming our liaison. Welcome Fr. Armash, and thank you for allowing me to share your story with The Guild.

www.stjohnsarmerianchurch.org

April Guild Meeting Speakers



Our membership was treated to a special night when Nayiri Karapetian and Dikran Callan, instructors from the Hamazkayin Arax Armenian Dance Ensemble, demonstrated and taught us various Armenian dance steps. We were informed on how the different steps originated in the many regions of Armenia.

Upcoming May 2nd Meeting

We will enjoy the beauty of Spring flowers as we are inspired by a flower arranging demonstration from English Gardens floral designer, Cynthia Kidd. She is from the West Bloomfield store and will have a question and answer session following her brief demonstration.



Also during the May meeting, we will be collecting new items for Jackie El Chemmas to take to the girls at Mer Doon in Armenia during her visit in June. Items such as socks, wallets, sunglasses, slippers, jewelry, underwear, umbrellas and makeup items are some suggestions. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Any questions, please contact Jackie at (248) 762-1312.

Palm Sunday Bake Sale



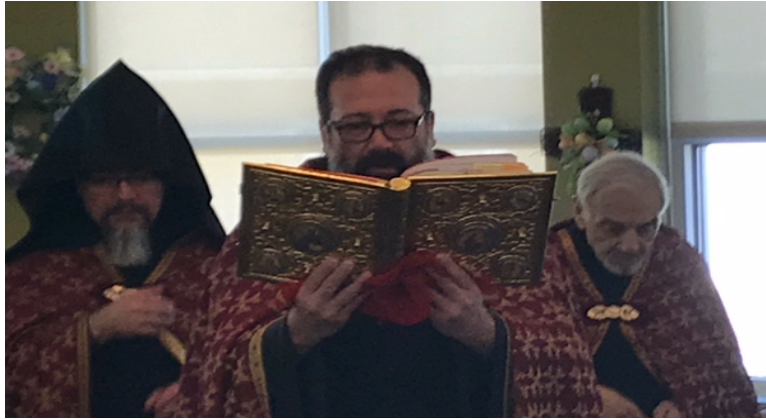
Thank you to co-chairs Diane Nolff and Marilyn Sarkesian and their committee for a very successful bake sale! Proceeds now top \$7,000! Of course, a special thanks to Yerchanig Joy Callan and her committee for baking many of the delicious delicacies! Now the baking group switches gears and is focusing on Bazaar baking.

Easter Celebration



Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jabejian, Rev. Fr. Bagdasarian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian and the church choir during the "Home Blessing" service.

Our thanks to Belinda Kabodian, Denise Boyagian, Sue Vian and Joy Callan for coordinating the Easter Tea.



Manoogian Manor Easter Visit

Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian, Rev. Fr. Armash Bagdasarian, Fr. Diran Papazian, Deacon Rubik Malian, Komitas Choir members, Deacon Onig Boyajian, Deacon George Boyagian and Women's Guild Members, joined Manoogian Manor residents for an Easter Service, Saturday, April 7. A special thanks to Denise Karakashian for taking the lead to bring Easter joy to the Manoogian Manor residents. Each resident received an Easter Egg and *Cheroeg* Roll with their lunch.

Thank you to the Guild and family members who took time out of their day to share this special time with residents. Members included; Denise Karakashian, Joy Callan, Karen Mangune, Belinda Kabodian, Nina Sarkisian, Sally Kabodian, Ariana Kabodian, Armen Kabodian, and Barbara Rupas

June Membership Dinner



This is my last call out to the membership asking for someone/team to volunteer to head up the Membership Dinner in June. I have asked several of you individually and at the meetings if anyone is willing to step forward and I have not found any interest. Perhaps this is a sign of the times and is an indicator that we need to go in a different direction. Duly note, we still plan on honoring our members who are achieving their milestones in June. Contact Barb Rupas at 248.561.1147

If you have something you would like to include in our newsletter, please contact Diana Vosgian at pasadenapenguin@gmail.com or (248) 661-1875.

www.stjohnsarmenianchurch.org



The Women's Guild of St. John Armenian Church

cordially invites you to join them for

*"Our Favorite Things"
Family, Friends, Fashion...*

Saturday, May 5, 2018
St. John Cultural Hall

Boutique Shopping
9:00 - 10:30 am only

Brunch and Fashion Show
10:45 am

Fashions
by
Chico's, Somerset • Gap, Farmington Hills

For information contact Yn. Roberta Kochakian:
248.538.9993 • rflk@sjachurch.org



*The Women's Guild
Of St. John Armenian Church*

presents

*"Our Favorite Things"
Family, Friends, Fashion...*

Brunch, Fashions and Shopping

Saturday, May 5, 2018
St John Cultural Hall

Shop with our vendors in the lobby from 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Vendor Preview

Green Olive Soaps – Soaps Ea'Nyw Glamorous Collections – Handbags
Dazzles Jewelry Design - Custom designed artisan jewelry Rodan & Fields Make-Up – Make-up
Barbara's Original Art – Barbara Couyoumjian – Note cards and Armenian themed prints can be ordered
Torigian Farms – Honey Pampered Chef – Kitchenware Color Street Nails – 100% nail polish strips
Women's Guild – Armenian Cookbooks, "Hye Dining" DVD

Raffle Tickets available for purchase \$5 each or 3 for \$10 at the event

Prizes include: \$500.00 gift certificate from Hagopian Rug

Michael Aram tray, Alex and Ani bracelets and more!!!

Please mail raffle ticket stubs and money to:

Diane Nolff 3262 Locosta Court Commerce Township, MI 48382

The Twenty-eight beautiful Peace Lily plants adorning our stage
will be available for purchase following the event for a special price of \$10. (see Lisa Derderian)

Reserve your table today!

Adults – \$45/Children under 10 - \$8

Contact: Yn. Roberta Kochakian at 248.538.9993 or rfa@sjachurch.org



St. John Armenian Church 22001 Northwestern Highway Southfield, MI 48175
248.569.3405 www.stjohnsarmenianchurch.com

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