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St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church
19300 Ford Road, Dearborn, MI 48128

The Illuminator Լուսաւորիչ



Autumn 2013

phone: (313) 336-6200, 6828 fax: (313) 336-4530 e-mail: office@saintsarkis.org

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Information

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Pastor

Rev. Fr. Hrant Kevorkian
20901 W Glen Haven Circle
Northville, MI 48167
Cell: 857-318-9799
Office: 313-336-6828
Email: fr.hrant@gmail.com
Pastor@saintsarkis.org

Office

Phone: 313-336-6200
Fax: 313-336-4530
Email: office@saintsarkis.org
Website: saintsarkis.org

Sunday Services

Morning Service - 10:00am
Divine Liturgy - 10:45am

Illuminator Committee

Rita Dilanian
Jack Garboushian
May Kafafian
Shoghere Ourlian
Maureen Toukhanian
*Please feel free to comment;
we are always open for sugges-
tions and new ideas.*

Friends of The Illuminator

We would like to begin a new program, "Friends of *The Illuminator*," which would enable us to continue to produce a quality parish newsletter and also add to the editorial content. If you are pleased with the issues of *The Illuminator* you have received so far this year, and would like to be a part of a supportive group, please let us know. Your tax-deductible donation will be greatly appreciated.

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Karyn Chopjian	kichopjian@gmail.com
Armen Derderian	arnd3@aol.com
Nancy Gavoor	hyenergy4@hotmail.com
Michael Hagopian	mchlhagopian@aol.com
Arnold Kourtjian	akourtjian@gmail.com
Charles Nalbandian	cnaib@usa.net
Alex Sarafian	alex.sarafian@hotmail.com
Sebouh Sarkissian	sarkseb@yahoo.com
Greg Vartanian	gregoryvartanian@comcast.net

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Jack Demirjian	jdemirj@aol.com
Harry Derderian	hderderian1@aol.com
Michael Hagopian	mchlhagopian@aol.com
Antranig Karadolian	antokaradolian@aol.com
Jerair Ourlian	jerair71@yahoo.com

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 10:00am – 3:00pm

Friday by appointment

Sacraments

Please visit our website www.saintsarkis.org and call the church office to secure a date.

Home Blessings

Traditionally, home blessings are done twice a year after Christmas and after Easter. If you would like to schedule a home blessing at any time of the year, please contact the church office or Rev. Fr. Hrant directly.

Requiem Services

Please contact the church office before Noon on the Thursday prior to the service date.

Hospital or Home Visits

Please contact Rev. Fr. Hrant on his cell: 857-318-9799

What is Church membership? Why do we have to be members?

“For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body” (1 Corinthians 12:13) and *“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”* (1 Corinthians 12:27). These two verses answer the questions above. The Church is the Body of Christ, and anyone who gets baptized at the Church becomes a member of that Body of Christ. The Church becomes their place for spiritual growth and fulfillment.

The Armenian Church is a National Church, which means the members have the right to voice their opinion and vote in any great decision of the church, as long as it doesn't interfere with the teachings of the Church.

Why do we have to pay dues?

“If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits?” (1 Corinthians 9:11). The Church with the Prelacy and the Catholicosate are institutions to serve the Armenian community. The dues we pay supports and insures their existence. On average, the annual dues of the church is one day's pay of an individual.

All the Church asks today is the active participation of the parishioners in church life. At the end, every member of the body (the church) is important.

Church Fees

Members*		Non-Members	
Presenting a baby to the Church on the 40th day			
Church	<i>Donation</i>	Church	<i>Donation</i>
Clergy	<i>Honorarium</i>	Clergy	<i>Honorarium</i>
Baptism			
Prelacy Certificate	\$25	Prelacy Certificate	\$25
Church	<i>Donation</i>	Church	\$300
Clergy	<i>Honorarium</i>	Clergy	<i>Honorarium</i>
Deacon	\$50	Deacon	\$50
Wedding			
Prelacy Certificate	\$50	Prelacy Certificate	\$50
Church	<i>Donation</i>	Church	\$600
Clergy	<i>Honorarium</i>	Clergy	<i>Honorarium</i>
Deacon	\$125	Deacon	\$125
Organist	\$125	Organist	\$125
Soloist	\$125	Soloist	\$125
Choir	\$200	Choir	\$200
Funerals			
Church	<i>Donation</i>	Church	\$300
Clergy	<i>Honorarium</i>	Clergy	<i>Honorarium</i>
Deacon	\$100	Deacon	\$100
Organist	\$100	Organist	\$100
Hall Rental			
Cleaning Fee	\$250	Fee	\$1000

* both bride and groom, parents of the child to be baptized or the deceased must be a members in good standing.

BISHOPS SYNOD IN ETCHMIADZIN



In what is believed to be the first such gathering in 600 years, nearly all of the Bishops of the Holy Armenian Apostolic Church gathered in Holy Etchmiadzin for the Synod of Bishops that was held from Tuesday, September 24th until Friday, September 27th, with the blessings and presence of His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, and His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia. Following the opening prayer, a requiem service was offered for the souls of recently departed Archbishop Shahan Svakian and Archbishop Ardavast Terterian, as well as for the souls of all deceased clergymen.

Armenia's president, Serzh Sarkisian, attended the opening ceremony and welcomed and addressed the participants. Opening remarks were given by Catholicos Karekin II, Catholicos Aram I, and Archbishop Aram Ateshyan, Patriarchal Vicar of Constantinople.

In his opening address, Catholicos Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, spoke of the political circumstances that have created hardship for the Armenian people, as well as the natural disasters, massacres, pogroms, the Genocide, and the Soviet years of atheism. He said today the Motherland is independent and the Church is free to carry out reforms.

In his opening address, Catholicos Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, spoke about various theological and ecclesiastical issues and said that if the Church is not reformed it will turn into a museum. Building a church is important, he said, but becoming a church is much more important. He noted that we have to preserve traditions, but not idolize them.

Participating in the historic Synod were 62 Archbishops and Bishops of the Armenian Church from around the world. Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan and Bishop Anoushavan Tanielian also traveled to Etchmiadzin to participate in the gathering that brought together Armenian bishops from all over the world.

During the opening session, the chancellery of the Synod was established as follows: Archbishop Khajag Barsamian and Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan were appointed to serve as co-chairmen; Archbishop Narek Alemezian and Archbishop Arshak Kachatryan were appointed to serve as secretaries. The Synod discussed the re-establishment of the tradition of canonization in the Armenian Church, and specifically focused on the issue of canonization of the victims of the Armenian Genocide. The canonization of the victims of the Genocide was adopted in principle. The committee was assigned the task of reviewing the canon and ritual of canonization, for presentation and approval at the next meeting. The Bishops discussed the work of the Liturgical Committee on the sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation. The Synod accepted a uniform text for both services. The challenges facing the Armenian Church were also discussed at length, especially concerning liturgical and religious instruction, the Church's educational and social mission, and the preservation of the Armenian identity. These concerns will also be given priority at the next meeting of Bishops that will take place in the autumn of 2014. The Bishops established a foundation to help those in need, especially children, in Armenia, Artsakh, and Syria. Two million US dollars were allocated for this foundation. Catholicoses Karekin II and Aram I closed the Synod with their blessings and prayers.

THE FIRST TWO PARTS OF THE DIVINE LITURGY

In the past issue of the Illuminator we discussed the history of the Divine Liturgy in the Armenian Apostolic Church. In this issue we will learn about the first two parts of the *Badarak*.

The Divine Liturgy that we know today consists of four major parts and we go through all four parts every time we celebrate the Divine Liturgy. They are:

- Preparation or *Badrastoutyoun*
- Synaxis / Midday Service or *Jashou Badarak*
- Holy Sacrifice or *Poon Badarak*
- Last Blessing or *Artsagoum*

The Divine Liturgy starts with the Preparation or *Badrastoutyoun*, which is divided into five parts: Vesting, Purification, Accession, Prothesis and Procession.

The Vesting takes place in the sacristy, located on the side of the altar. The deacon assists the celebrant in putting on all the garments of the Divine Liturgy. Prior to wearing them, the celebrant recites a prayer on each garment and blesses it with his hands by making the sign of the cross. Through the priestly vestments, the celebrant covers his sinful body with spiritual garments.

After putting on the vestments, the celebrant walks into the church in procession and begins the Purification. Before he ascends the altar, the celebrant washes his hands and confesses his sins in the chancel. Washing hands is an ancient practice; God commanded Aaron and his sons to be washed prior to the offering of sacrifices on the altar: "They shall wash their hands and their feet, lest they die" (Ex 30:21). It symbolizes purification and holiness prior to approaching and touching the Divine Sacrifice.

In the Accession, the celebrant is ready to ascend the altar, which is the holiest place in the church, to prepare the gifts of bread and wine.

For the last element of the Preparation, the Prothesis, the celebrant prepares the bread and wine for Holy Communion, placing some wine in the chalice and the bread on the paten or plate. Normally, people do not see this because the curtain is closed. The Prothesis symbolizes the Incarnation of Christ. The Armenian Church explains that from the time of Christ's birth until the beginning of His ministry, there is little information

about Him. That period of His life remains a mystery for us and is symbolized by the drawn curtain. When the curtain opens, the celebrant censes the Holy Altar and walks among the congregation by censuring them. This act symbolizes the life of Christ, walking and preaching the good news among the people.

The second major part of the *Badarak* is the Synaxis or Midday Service sometimes called the *Jashou Badarak*. This is the teaching part of the Divine Liturgy. The Holy Gospel is elevated and brought around the altar in procession by the deacon. The Biblical passages are read. Then the Gospel reading is recited. In former times, after the Scripture readings, a homily would be delivered, and the "Havadamk" or the confession of faith is recited. Today, for practical reasons, the homily is commonly delivered during the middle of the third part of the Divine Liturgy.

To be continued

Let's learn!!!

The month of December is full of Saints days.

Below is a list of the Saints days of the month:

Dec. 3: St. Minas

Dec. 5: Paulus, Paul, Magar, Evagrius, John (Kpetsi), John the Short, Nilus, Arsenius, Siseos, Daniel, Serapion, Macarius, Poeman, and the other Holy Fathers of Egypt

Dec. 7: St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

Dec. 9: Conception of the Holy Virgin Mary

Dec. 10: Sts. Cornelius the Centurion, Simeon, and Polycarp

Dec. 14: St. Hagop (James) of Nisibis

Dec. 16: Sts. Ignatius of Antioch and Addai

Dec. 21: King Apkar

Dec. 23: Sts. David the Prophet and James the Apostle

Dec. 24: St. Stephen the Proto-Deacon and the First Martyr

Dec. 26: The Holy Apostles Peter and Paul

Dec. 28: Sts. James the Apostle and John the Evangelist

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS

As we once again move toward the Holiday Season, which includes Thanksgiving, Christmas, and then New Year's Day, The Board of Trustees wants to take just a moment to encourage you to pause and consider just how good God has been to you over this past year.

The Holiday Season doesn't need to be filled with stress and anxiety when we realize the purpose for celebrating these wonderful times of the year... and new year!

November brings us the simple reminder that thankfulness is truly the kind of spirit we are to have, and this thankfulness will be more meaningful when we are thankful to those around us.

This said, we would like to thank all of our volunteers and sponsors who helped us go through a year full of events, starting from Christmas and including the Super Bowl party, Poon Paregentan, Lenten services, Holy week, Easter, April 24 Com-

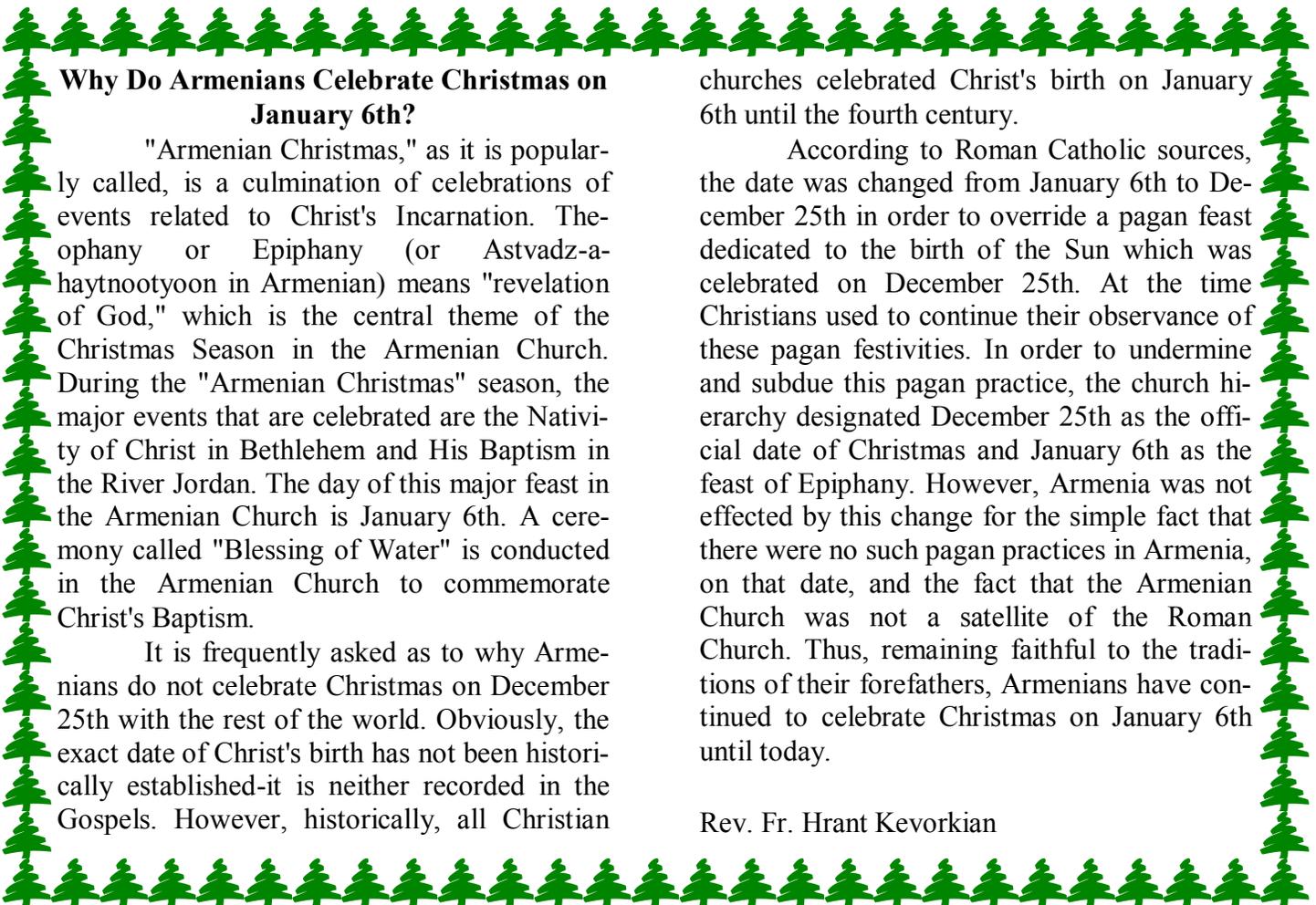
memoration, Mother's Day, Father's Day, the Golf & Tennis Classic, Vartavar, Grape Blessing Picnic, to September Family Night, the Church Anniversary, and finally the Bazaar.

We were also blessed and we are thankful to have new vestments for our Der Hayr, a new Lenten curtain, the grounds beautification project, and finally new copier machine for our office.

Looking forward and thinking about the future, there will be a separate "budget meeting" early next year. This would eliminate lengthy General Membership meetings and have an approved 2014 budget at the start of the year.

May you and your loved ones have a wonderful Holiday Season!

Arnold Kourtjian, Chairman
St. Sarkis Board of Trustees



Why Do Armenians Celebrate Christmas on January 6th?

"Armenian Christmas," as it is popularly called, is a culmination of celebrations of events related to Christ's Incarnation. Theophany or Epiphany (or Astvadzahaynootyoon in Armenian) means "revelation of God," which is the central theme of the Christmas Season in the Armenian Church. During the "Armenian Christmas" season, the major events that are celebrated are the Nativity of Christ in Bethlehem and His Baptism in the River Jordan. The day of this major feast in the Armenian Church is January 6th. A ceremony called "Blessing of Water" is conducted in the Armenian Church to commemorate Christ's Baptism.

It is frequently asked as to why Armenians do not celebrate Christmas on December 25th with the rest of the world. Obviously, the exact date of Christ's birth has not been historically established-it is neither recorded in the Gospels. However, historically, all Christian

churches celebrated Christ's birth on January 6th until the fourth century.

According to Roman Catholic sources, the date was changed from January 6th to December 25th in order to override a pagan feast dedicated to the birth of the Sun which was celebrated on December 25th. At the time Christians used to continue their observance of these pagan festivities. In order to undermine and subdue this pagan practice, the church hierarchy designated December 25th as the official date of Christmas and January 6th as the feast of Epiphany. However, Armenia was not effected by this change for the simple fact that there were no such pagan practices in Armenia, on that date, and the fact that the Armenian Church was not a satellite of the Roman Church. Thus, remaining faithful to the traditions of their forefathers, Armenians have continued to celebrate Christmas on January 6th until today.

Rev. Fr. Hrant Kevorkian

LADIES' GUILD HAS A BUSY SUMMER

The St. Sarkis Ladies' Guild is happy to report that six months of hard work and dedication to the church has paid off with a projection of a fair amount of money earned for the church. The Ladies' Guild oversees the baking sessions, bulk sales and the sweet table for the bazaar.

Hopefully, the ladies will have had time to rest and celebrate the holidays. They are already setting plans for the annual Armenian Christmas Luncheon to be held on Monday, January 6th. Time flies and we will be planning the Easter events starting off with the Lenten Luncheon that will be held at the end of March. The Palm Sunday Dinner, a Ladies' Guild tradition, will be on Sunday, April 13, 2014. As always, we depend on your donations and support for these events. This coming year will be busy at that time with April 24th following Easter in the same week. Not to forget, the St. Sarkis Church community will be busy planning for the 2014 National Representative Assembly that we are hosting. That will mean some extra work for the ladies.

Our ladies are as tough as nails. Considering some health issues with themselves and family members, age and other items, they still get in their cars and come to church to help. They don't want to be thanked; instead, they always say "It's for the church."

The problem, though, is they are not able to do the baking as they did in the past. The last two years, we have had to rely on many other members, men, women and children to come to the kitchen to offer a hand. So, on behalf of myself and the St. Sarkis Ladies' Guild I would like to thank all of the 90 or more persons who came faithfully to bake on Thursdays. Everyone served with love and duty to the church, but I also need to thank those who made it possible to carry out the job. First, thank you to Mr. Art Kournoian, who faithfully opened every time with me in the early hours of the morning. Without him, this project would not have worked out the way it did. Thank you to Mrs. Rose Kehetian, who also came in the early hours, when she could. As the project went on, Mrs. Nancy Der-



Stepanian stepped in for the early shift and helped direct throughout the day. Mrs. Lucy Gurganlian and Mrs. Cythnia Keshigian kept the ball rolling by calling all those 90 people to remind them we needed extra help. They also arranged that each session had a donated lunch. Sorry for the few days that more than one lunch arrived at church. Ms. Siran Toukhanian handled the night shift by cleaning, chopping, etc. all the vegetables that were needed for our projects. Mr. Richard Kamar, thank you for your continued support. The members of the Ladies' Guild, the Fellowship Club and our church members pulled off a project that resembles a commercial bakery. Considering the work and cost of preparing these much loved Armenian traditional foods, you sure got a great, delicious bargain. Words cannot express the thankfulness to each and every one of you.

Please thank those that are on the list that is attached for all the hard work. Next year join us. If you don't get asked, please call the church or myself and find out what we are up to. May you enjoy the holidays with your loved ones. Thank you again.

Sharon Kehetian Broglin

We extend our thanks to all those who helped during the baking sessions in preparation of our annual bazaar. These names were taken off the baking sign in sheets. If your name was omitted or spelled incorrectly, please accept our apologies.

Sharon Kehetian Broglin

Mano Achekian
 Seta Achekian
 Ophelia Alabakoff
 Annie Almasian
 Hampo Almasian
 Maral Arslanian
 Alice Atikian
 Ani Attar
 Lucine Baghossian
 Mary Bedikian
 Yervant Bedikian
 Tanya Bedrossian
 Anne Berger
 Alan Broglin
 Amy Broglin-Peterson
 Randy Broglin
 Sharon Kehetian Broglin
 Sona Broglin
 Soseh Broglin
 Ani Dakesian
 Laurie Dakesian
 Nina Dakesian
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 Rosanne Darakdjian
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 Annie Michaelian
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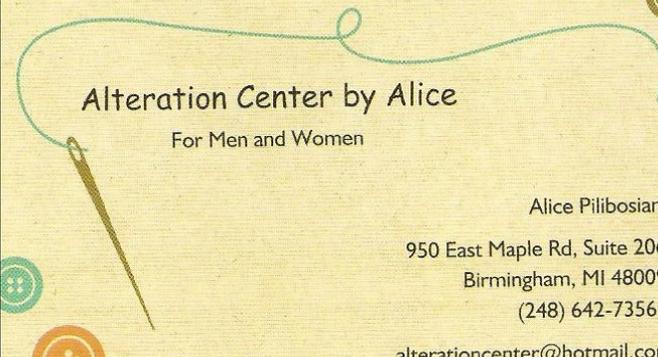
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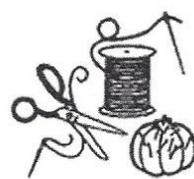
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CHOIR CORNER

Q&A with Violet Apkarian, Senior Choir Member

Could you give a short description of your personal background?

I was born 92 years ago in Syracuse, NY. Our family moved to Michigan when I was 5 years old. I attended Cary School and Southwestern High School in Detroit. After graduation I did secretarial work. I married Edward Apkarian in 1950, and we are blessed with one daughter, Rochelle.

How many years have you been a member of the St. Sarkis choir?

I started singing in the choir 72 years ago. That is when I met my husband.

Have you sung in any other musical groups?

No, I have only sung in the church choir, which I enjoy very much.

Can you tell us what the choir was like when you first joined? Did they have many activities besides the regular Sunday service?

We had over 52 members at the time. We had picnics, hayrides and at Christmas we would go caroling, visiting the homes of many of our parishioners.

Which directors have you learned the most from?

Baron Saco was an outstanding director of choral music.



Which hymns do you personally feel are your favorites and why?

I love all of them. When I enter the church and hear this wonderful music, I get tears in my eyes.

I'm sure that through all your years of service to our church you have seen many changes. If you were to speak to the younger generation, what would you say to encourage them to take part, not only in the choir, but in the church as a whole?

I would tell them to get involved. When you're in the choir you not only learn the hymns but the meaning behind them, which brings our faith into focus. Also, you make friendships which can lead you to other organizations and activities.

Lastly, how would you improve the choir and what steps would you take to achieve that goal?

I really have not given that much thought. Therefore, I have no suggestions at this time.

We would like to thank you, Violet, for your honest answers to our questions. We have been blessed with your devotion and participation in our church these many years.

Illuminator Staff

Talk on Fresno Armenians is well-received

On Sunday, November 10th, an interesting program about the Armenian community of Fresno was co-sponsored by the Armenian Research Center, University of Michigan-Dearborn and St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church. The guest speaker was Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Director, Armenian Studies Program, Fresno State University, who, for the past twenty-nine years has taught Armenian language, literature, art, history, and culture courses there. He has also edited books on Armenian studies.

Prof. Mugrdechian explained that Armenians first settled in Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley of California in 1881, overcoming many obstacles and eventually prospering. He

highlighted many of the leaders who made major contributions in agriculture, land development, and industry. Fresno was also home to the author William Saroyan, who became an internationally recognized figure. Prof.

Mugrdechian illustrated his talk with slides which brought his narrative to life. His animated presentation held the appreciative audience's interest, as many could relate to the immigrant experiences their own ancestors faced.

Illuminator Staff



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The new Sunday School year was kicked off on Saturday, September 14th with a fun-filled Family Night. Children, parents, grandparents and friends all enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by Sunday School teachers, entertainment, face-painting, photo ops, and plenty of fun and games. Thank you to all our teachers for their hard work, to Meline Topouzian for offering her artistic tal-



ents in creating our wooden Armenian girl and boy for photos, to Ara Topouzian for the slideshow and his services as our emcee, to Nick and Rick Katcherian for serving as photographers, and to our benefactors again this year, Toros and Karyn Chopjian, who generously sponsored this event in loving memory of Arakel Chopjian, Naiyri Chopjian, and Mary Atamian Sarian. Proceeds from the evening were used for the purchase of new curriculum materials for our students this year.

Sunday School officially began the next day, September 15th. Students met their teachers, received their new books, heard Der Hrant's first children's sermon of the school year, and took Holy Communion together. This year we are blessed with many returning teachers, and several new faces as well. Our new Assistant Director, Laurie Haroutunian, along with teachers Kyane Crane, Marina Pilibosian, Tracey Katcherian, Shoghre Ourlian, Ani Pilibosian, Tamar Ferhadson, Sandi Magar, Carolyn Sirian, Sebouh Sarkissian, Roupina Carman, and Mike Crane have been hard at work planning for an interesting and fulfilling year for their students.

We wish to thank Yn. Tamar Kevorkian, Ani Hock, Melanie Markarian, and Ani Hagopian



for their service to the Sunday School. We wish them well as they take a little time off, and look forward to their return very soon.

Students have enthusiastically engaged in their studies, and are enjoying the new curriculum, which offers a balance of Bible study, and the study of the traditions of the Armenian Church. They attend Badarak every Sunday, seeing and participating in a different portion each week. They continue to hear Der Hrant's sermon once a month, and they continue to learn sharagans and prayers so that they may participate in parts of the Badarak.

A recurring theme for this Sunday School year comes from 1 Corinthians 12:12: "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ." Students are learning about using their own God-given gifts and talents, each individually, to make up a stronger body – to work together to lift up their Church. To that end, our 10th grade class will spend time this year, identifying ways in which they can serve the Church. After completing their coursework, these students will spend their 11th grade year in internship positions, serving the Church in many different aspects.

In addition to their studies in class and in Church, students have begun rehearsing for the annual Christmas pageant. This year's program, entitled, "O Come Let Us Adore Him," will be presented on December 22nd, immediately following Badarak, in the Lillian Arakelian Hall. Sunday School parents will provide refreshments for the day. Please mark your calendars, and come hear the angelic voices of our children heralding the Good News!

Diane Changelian

FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

The Fellowship Club continues its energetic role in the activities of St. Sarkis. In October club members took a field trip to Frankenmuth. We had lunch at Zenders and later went to Bronner's where it was "Christmas in Wonderland." One of the highlights of the trip was how Olive Mooradian was treated. The restaurant regarded her like a queen, showing her the utmost respect, and treating her to dinner on the house. At Bronner's everything in the store had a Christmas theme. Members also found several Armenian Christmas bulbs and motifs for sale. Near the end of the trip we stopped at the Frankenmuth Lutheran Church that was built in the 1880s. Members enjoyed visiting the unique edifice and viewing the fine architecture.

In November the club had its annual Thanksgiving Dinner. This traditional meal is more elaborate than our usual monthly luncheons and is thoroughly enjoyed by members and guests.

If St. Sarkis parishioners are looking for an organization that flows with companionship and friendship, this is the group for them. Membership



is open to all parishioners and those who are interested may contact Randy Broglin at 313- 383-2453.

George Mouradian

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH!

"God loves a cheerful giver." (II Cor. 9:7)

There is no more satisfying a feeling than giving to the Church. Your generosity helps us to maintain our community outreach and ensures that many others will be affected by your kindness. Not sure how you can give? Let us give you some ideas and suggestions :

CASH DONATION: This is the most common form of charitable giving. All gifts mailed to the church by December 31st of the current year qualify for tax deduction in the same year. Please be as generous as you can and give according to your ability.

SECURITIES: Stocks, bonds, and mutual funds are gifts that just keep giving! You will not only enjoy a tax deduction for the fair market value of the gift, but will save on capital gains tax that would be due if you sold your security differently.

THROUGH A WILL OR A LIVING TRUST: Leave a lasting legacy by remembering the church in your will, in a living trust, in an insurance policy, or a retirement account. It is never too late, or a bad time, to review long term financial planning.

ENDOWMENT: Gifts can be directed to our endowment fund. If you would like to honor a special someone or make a donation in the name of a loved one, this is the right place to invest. These funds are invested by the church and will continue to grow so that we may become more inclusive in our goal to enhance our spiritual outreach.

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms

THOMAS CHARLES NEWLIN III, son of Thomas & Taleen (Derovakimian) was baptized on August 17, 2013. The godparents were Christopher Newlin and Ani Tarzi.

NAREEN BEDROSSIAN, daughter of Krikor & Nyrie (Halajian) was baptized on August 25, 2013. The godparents were Michael Bedrossian & Tanya Bedrossian.

SASHA SERINE MAGARIAN, daughter of Jack & Bernadette (Graham) was baptized on August 25, 2013. The godparents were Mark Burchell & Amber Graham.

NORA ALINE OURLIAN, daughter of Jerair & Ani (Vorsganian) was baptized on September 1, 2013. The godparents were Raffi Ourlian & Shoghere Ourlian.

GAREN SHANT YEREMIAN, son of Hratch & Rossy (Karjian) was baptized on September 8, 2013. The godparents were Sarkis Karjian & Ani Karjian.

JACOB ROBERT SCHLEICHER, son of Matthew & Ani (Wallace) was baptized on September 22, 2013. The godparents were Avadis Hagopian and Krystin Carpenter.

We extend our congratulations to the parents and grandparents on the very happy occasion of the baptism of their children and grandchildren and welcome them into our Armenian Apostolic Faith.



Engagement

Dr. Shant Bedigian and Hiba Naoum, son of Mr. and Mrs. Yervant and Mary Bedigian and daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Riyadh & Magda Naoum, were engaged on November 23, 2013, by Rev. Fr. Hrant Kevorkian.

Our congratulations to the happy couple and their families. We wish that they will be blessed by the holy matrimony.



Weddings

BRAD LUDWIG BUNDY and LAUREN ELIZABETH BARGAMIAN were married on October 19, 2013. The bestman was Alexander Andrews and the maid of honor was Suzanne McCarthy.

ROBERT CHARLES FARKAS and ANNETTE MARIE KEOSSIAN were married on October 20, 2013. The bestman was Roger Carmanoff and the maid of honor was Rachel Vartanian.

Our congratulations to the happy couple and their families. We wish them a long and fruitful life together.

«Մէկ բարձի վրայ ծերանար» “*Meg partsi verah dzeranak.*” “May you grow old on one pillow.”



Funerals

WILLIAM MAZMANIAN
September 11, 2013

SARKIS SAHAKIAN
October 12, 2013

CHARLES SIROONIAN
October 22, 2013

MARGUERITE
BADALOW
November 12, 2013

We extend our deepest condolences to those in our community who have lost loved ones.
May God Bless their memories.



2013 ANNUAL CHURCH BAZAAR

The Annual Bazaar of St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church took place on the weekend of November 1st, 2nd and 3rd with activities for every age. Festivities began on Friday evening with a Wine Tasting and Cigar Night which included a lavish buffet. On Saturday, the Bazaar continued at Noon with the sale of homemade Armenian food prepared by our Ladies' Guild, delicious kebob dinners, a Sweet Table, Armenian Store, Attic Treasures, and vendors of all kinds. Activities for children included a magic show, face painting, balloon animals, carnival games, Activ8 video games and kids' raffles.



Outside on the lawn a large tent was set up with a big screen TV where guests viewed the U-M vs. MSU football game. Inside in the Lillian Arakelian Hall Armenian music for dancing was provided by the Ara Topouzian Ensemble throughout the night. The Bazaar concluded on Sunday afternoon with the drawing of raffle prizes.

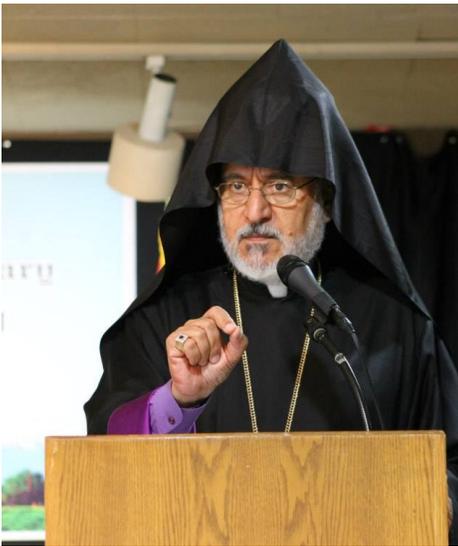


This wonderful three-day Bazaar could not have been a success without the efforts of many volunteers. We thank them for their hard work and sacrifice, and we thank the Bazaar Chairs Maggie Ornazian, Taline Derderian, Soseh Baghdasarian and Ani Hagopian for organizing and coordinating all the events.





Impressive Program Marks 51st Anniversary Celebration; 29 Couples Honored with Awards Presented by Prelate



On Sunday, October 6th, a large crowd gathered at the Lillian Arakelian Hall to mark another milestone in the history of St. Sarkis Church – 51 years at the Dearborn location. This event was very ably co-chaired by Carolyn Sirian & Silva Sagherian.

Following opening remarks by emcee Sebouh Sarkissian, the singing of the national anthems by Mrs. Anne Movsesian accompanied by Mrs. Helen Membreian Movsesian, and invocation and remarks by Rev. Fr. Hrant Kevorkian, dinner was served. Lovely dinner music was provided by violinist Mr. Harry Hovakimian.

The program continued with a poetry recitation by Ms. Sanan Malkajian, accompanied by Ms. Nayiri Carman on the piano. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Sebouh Sarkissian offered an inspiring message. Representing the youth of our parish, Kegham Jalhaian offered a dynamic recitation.

The debut performance of a trio of young singers trained by Father Hrant took place at this event. Their beautiful voices joined in perfect harmony, Ms. Araxie Tossounian, Ms. Tamar Changelian and Ms. Nayri Carman brought a fresh perspective to traditional Armenian folk songs. They have a bright future ahead.

The always enthusiastic and inspiring message of His Eminence Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan preceded the awards presentation to 29 couples – the mainstay of the St. Sarkis community – who had been married 51 years or more. Srpazan congratulated each couple as he presented them with a beautiful, individualized plaque illustrated with the image of Mount Ararat, the symbol of Armenia.

The program concluded with the singing of *Giligia*.

Illuminator Staff



DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Total: \$ 10,210

St. Sarkis Ladies' Guild
 St. Sarkis Fellowship Club
 ARS Mid-Council & 5 Sister
 Chapters: Maro, Shakeh, Sybille,
 Tzolog, Zabel
 Hamazkayin Armenian Educa-
 tional & Cultural Society
 Ms. Sandra L. Afetian
 George & Zabel Arakelian
 Don, Carolyn & Anto Arslanian;
 Dawn, Adi & Soseh Asadoorian
 Lucy Arzoomanian, in memory
 of Sam Der Manuelian
 M/M Sarkis Atanosian
 Garo Baligian
 M/M Onnig Boghikian
 Arpine & Matko Brajkovich
 Michael & Carolyn Sirian Crane
 Mrs. Violet DerManuelian &
 Family
 Jack & Silva Demirjian

Annie Gharibian
 Terri & Anita Granger
 Ms. Ann Grigorian
 M/M Armen & Sirvart Guldalian
 Colette Gulian
 M/M Popkin Harabedian
 Ann Jevizian
 Josephine Kalustian
 Mitch & Rose Kehetian
 Nareg Sebouh Kevorkian
 Sarkis & Virginia Kojian
 Armen & Mary Korkigian
 Ralph & Roxanne Kourtjian
 Sue Kurtjian
 Dick & Rose Maloian
 Ms. Elsie Doumanian Martin
 Hovagim & Hermine Manoogian
 John & Rose Manoogian
 Mrs. Pearl Mooradian
 George & Rose Mouradian

Movses & Anna Movsesian
 M/M Thomas Newlin II
 Charlie & Alice Noorian
 Angel Ohanesian
 Oshagan Family
 Papakhian Family
 Krikor & Reba Pilibosian
 Armen & Emeline Santikian
 Al & Geno Sarkisian
 Pamela Sayre
 Liz Serafin
 Peter & Anahid Sirian
 Mrs. Emma Sogoian
 Kegham Tazian
 M/M Sarkis Telbelian
 Esther Vosgerchian
 John F. Wright
 Sarkis & Helen Yeghiazarian
 M/M George Zamanian

GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

Total: \$4,820

- All American Restaurant
Equipment
- Dr. Vahagn & Mary Jo
Agbabian
- Zaruhi Arabian
- Edna Avedesian
- M/M David Bargamian
- Shant Gharibian
- Family of Helen Javizian
- Siroon Karapetoff
- Mike & Sandi Keossian
- Mihran Kupelian
- Alice Mouradian
- Helen Membreian Movsesian
- Donna Onesian
- Navasart & Susie Mardoyan,
squirr guns for Vartavar Cele-
bration
- M/M Kenneth Poladian
- M/M Albert & Mary Seychel
- In honor of Yervant's retire-
ment: M/M Yervant Bedikian
& Family
- In honor of Graduate Sunday:
Raffi & Julie Der Manuelian,
Daron & Simone' Topouzian
- In honor of Lucia Sahagian:
June Mekjian
- In honor of parents married
over 51 years, Helen Knar &
Michael Cirrito & Family
- In honor of Roxy Manoogian's
birthday: Albert & Geno
Sarkisian
- In honor of Oghig Mooradi-
an's 100th birthday: Garabed
& Vicki Darakdjian, Siroon
Karapetoff, Tony & Chris
Maisano
- To help defray cost of NRA:
Toros Chopjian
& Jack Demirjian

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS**In memory of CHARLES SIROONIAN****TOTAL: \$755**

George & Zabel Arakelian
 Rose, Harry & Marty Arkelian
 Haig Aznavoorian
 Janeen & David Crittenden
 Aram & Violet Gavoor
 Alice & Narses Gedigian
 Bonnie & Vaskin Gerjekian

Rose Gerjekian
 Tom & Silva Gerjekian
 Mitch & Rose Kehetian
 Walter Kizel
 Krikor & Anna Krikorian
 Dick & Rose Maloian
 David Mann

John Gary McDonald
 John Metzgian
 Amo Sarafian
 Ara & Ganelle Shooshanian
 Marty & Diana Shoushanian
 Peter & Louise Topelian
 Aram & Esther Vosgerchian

In memory of MARGUERITE VARTABEDIAN BADALOW**TOTAL: \$1,205**

Ollie & Marie Abdalla
 Vahan & Marguerite Badalow
 Dr/Mrs. Vahagn & Mary Jo Agbabian
 Joann Collins

Patricia Cusick
 Mark & Erin Danovski
 Sena Harootunian
 Pearl Mooradian

Albert & Mary Seychel
 Isaak & Lisa Simopuolos
 Jeffrey Swiatkowski
 Lance & Carrie Whitacre

In memory of WILLIAM MAZMANIAN**TOTAL: \$180**

Ron & Elaine Alexander
 Marge Klavanian

Jack & Lillian Kojamanian
 Korkoian Family

McKeevers Family
 Archie & Barb Montgomery

ADDITIONAL IN LIEU OF FLOWERS**TOTAL: \$ 575**

ARTHUR ANDREWS
 Sarkis & Helen Yeghiazarian

ZABEL NAHIGIAN
 Anahid Malkasian
 Lucille Shamlan

ELIZABETH BOYAJIAN
 Lucy H. Koncagul

ANDREW CHINARIAN
 George & Zabel Arakelian
 Bonnie & Vaskin Gerjekian

SARKIS SAHAKIAN
 Mary & Anita Amerkhanian

MARY KEVORKIAN
 Bedros & Patricia Avedian

ANDREW "TANGE" TOROSIAN
 Clara Dzovigian
 Violet Der Manuelian
 M/M Manuel Karjian
 M/M Hratch Yeremian

LAYLA NERDJIVANIAN
 Dr/Mrs Edward Essayan

MANOOG TARPINIAN
 Harry & Rose Arkelian
 Leo & Elaine Klopec

ELIZABETH MAMASSIAN
 Helen Membreian Movsesian

ANDRANIK MESROBIAN
 Sadie & Vahan Basmajian

LOUISA GOULASARIAN
 Carol Apkarian

"Basil" for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Total: \$65

Mrs. Mary Antonian
 M/M Sarkis & Silva Karadolian
 Ms. Liz Serafin

"Friends of the Illuminator"

Rita Dilanian
 Arpine Garbooshian
 Stephen & Doris Krikorian
 Avedis & Sona Mishigian

COMMUNITY NEWS

Hamazkayin Armenian Educational & Cultural Society of Detroit

On October 12th, the Hamazkayin Arax Dance Ensemble of Detroit, along with Hooys and Hrashk groups, held its 9th annual dance performance.

This year's slogan was "To predict the future of a nation, set your sights on the youth" by Karekin Njdeh. Seeing close to 100 dancers on the stage, ages ranging from 7 to 18 years old, we can proudly say we're going in the right direction. Every dance performance is unique and takes almost a year of planning, practice, preparation and hard work. We all look forward to this event and take it very seriously, as it is one of the most anticipated events in the metro Detroit Armenian community.

Mrs. Hermine Manoogian, Hamazkayin Chairlady, welcomed the audience and gave a brief history of the Hamazkayin Arax Dance Ensemble. After the opening remarks, the dancers started with "Yerakouyn," a dance dedicated to the Armenian flag. They presented 19 dances, representing different regions of Armenia, or different historical periods, closing the program with "Fedayiner – Armenian Soldiers," a dance dedicated to Armenian freedom fighters, our national heroes.

Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society of Detroit congratulates the instructors, dancers and parents for a great performance and acknowledges their commitment and

dedication. We stand as a testament to the strong and vibrant Armenian community of Detroit. Our continued success is made possible as a result of your enthusiasm and encouragement of the Armenian culture and heritage, as well as your financial support.

On Sunday, November 24th, Hamazkayin hosted the fellowship hour at St. Sarkis and sponsored a lecture on the occasion of the "Year of the Armenian Mother." Earlier

this year, His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia had declared 2013 the "Year of the Armenian Mother."

Shoghre Ourlian welcomed the attendees gathered at the Lillian Arakelian Hall and offered a brief biography of the guest speaker, Rev. Fr. Hrant Kevorkian, Pastor of St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church.

Father Hrant thanked Hamazkayin for sponsoring this lecture on the Armenian Mother. He presented a survey of Armenian history and the role of the Armenian mother from pagan times to the present in preserving the Armenian faith and identity, even to the point of self-sacrifice. He explained that Armenian mothers became the prime educators of their children during times when schools and churches were non-existent. Father Hrant brought numerous examples from the writings of historians, scholars, religious leaders and poets extolling the important place occupied by Armenian mothers in transmitting faith, love, a strong will and hope.



One outstanding quotation expressed it well: "... without the Armenian mother, life is parched, colorless, and impoverished." He summed up his presentation by stressing that we remain Armenian thanks to our mothers, and we will continue to meet the challenges of the future with the strong support and presence of the Armenian mother.

Mrs. Hermine Manoogian thanked Father

Hrant for his beautiful and inspiring presentation.

We always look forward to hear from you, your ideas and feedback. We would like to know what kind of events interest you. Please contact us via email: Detroit@hamazkayin-usa.org
Or like/follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/HamazkayinofDetroit

Shoghere Ourlian

News from Homenetmen of Detroit



On October 19th, Homenetmen of Detroit hosted its annual *barahantes* (dinner/ dance) at Regency Manor in Southfield. Some 270 people attended the dance, which was a great success. The crowd was entertained by the singer Joseph Krikorian from Los Angeles and his band. At the opening of the event, about twenty Homenetmen cubs and scouts received their shoulder scarves presented to them by a local Homenetmen benefactor, Mr. Hagop Dakessian. Der Hrant conducted the blessing of the scarves ceremony.

On the weekend of November 8th and 9th, some twenty five Homenetmen cubs and scouts spent two nights on the grounds of St. Sarkis Church Lillian Arakelian Hall as a local *panagoom* (jamboree) event. During the two-day event the

cubs and the scouts learned new Homenetmen scouts' chants and some rope tying techniques. On Sunday, November 10th, Veterans' Day, during the coffee hour, a group of those scouts sang Hayortik to a crowd of churchgoers gathered in Lillian Arakelian Hall as a tribute to the veterans. They presented a folded American flag to the most senior Armenian American veteran present in the hall at the time, Mr. Charles Noorian.

Upcoming activities next year include pinning carnations on churchgoers' lapels on Palm Sunday, bake sale on Easter Sunday, one or more family nights, and the Father's Day Picnic. We would love to see you all there. Thank you.

Sebouh Sarkissian

An Unforgettable Evening: Montreal Singer Elie Berberian Wows Detroit Audience at ARS Anniversary Celebration

On September 28th ARS Mid-Council of Detroit hosted an unforgettable musical event celebrating the 103rd anniversary of founding of the Armenian Relief Society and the 70th anniversary of the ARS Mid-Council of Detroit at the St. Sarkis Church Lillian Arakelian Hall. The featured singer was Elie Berberian and his band from Montreal. The tables were filled with a delicious array of Armenian appetizers made by members of the five ARS Detroit chapters, and the enthusiastic crowd waited in anticipation for the program to begin.

Ungh. Lara Nercessian welcomed the audience on behalf of the ARS Mid-Council and provided some background on the guest performer. Born in Beirut, Elie Berberian showed vocal talent as a young boy and his parents encouraged him in his musical studies. Eventually he received a master's degree from the Lebanon National Conservatory.

ARS Mid-Council Chairman Sirvart Telbalian delivered a moving address about the mission of the ARS and the work of the Mid-Council in promoting Armenian language instruction at the one-day Zavarian School, which has been in operation for seventy years. She then turned the program over to Elie Berberian.

A great part of the program consisted of superb interpretations of Sayat Nova as well as the work of other Armenian singer-poets (*kousans*) of the 19th century. Berberian possesses a well-trained baritone voice that spoke to each and every person in the room. He enhanced the program with comments about the composer, the meaning of the lyrics, and provided masterful recitations of poetry. Berberian mixed the evening with several dance numbers and concluded with revolutionary songs at the request of the audience. His keyboardist and percussionist provided outstanding backup. Berberian's incredible rapport with the audience was evident and he often moved the microphone towards the amateurs in the audience who could not resist participating. This evening will be remembered for bringing to Detroit an exceptionally talented young singer who excels in every genre of Armenian music he performs.

The ARS Mid-Council is to be applauded for continuing to promote Armenian culture and for sponsoring musical events of a high quality.



HEART STRINGS

ARA TOPOUZIAN'S EYES ARE ALMOST AS BLACK AS THE DISTINCTIVE DARK COFFEE of his grandparent's ancestral home in Armenia. He casts them upward as he tries to pinpoint the captivating sound of the kanun, the 76-stringed laptop harp he's strummed for countless audiences.

"It's got a very wide range of a harp sound," says Topouzian, a Detroit-born Armenian American. "When I play with a band, I'm usually the first one that they look at because they're like, 'Wow, I've never seen that kind of instrument before.'"

Topouzian performs the kanun as both a solo and ensemble musician. For the past 22 years, his American Recording Productions company has made more than 30 recordings of Armenian and Middle Eastern music. Receiving one of only 12 Kresge Artist Fellowships for the Performing Arts in 2012 has allowed him to become a better ambassador for his beloved instrument.

One of his projects includes collaborating with rock and techno musicians to embellish their contemporary songs with the kanun's exotic sound.

It's a far cry from the instrument's more humble roots in Armenian folk songs, which often focus on daily life. Such "village" music is traditionally "very simplistic," Topouzian says, but still provides an interesting route to understanding the heritage of Armenia as a whole. During the Ottoman-implemented massacre of an estimated 1 million Armenians in the early 20th century, for example, many folk

song lyrics were lost because they had never been formally recorded, unlike Armenian classical and church music.

What the massacre didn't erase, however, was the music itself. "What they didn't take," Topouzian says, "was our history."

Topouzian's goal is to promote that history among non-Armenians through the kanun. He says his ideal audience doesn't have links to the mountainous Eastern European nation. This allows for a pure conversation about Armenian culture, he says.

Nevertheless, plucking the kanun's



strings still has a way of transporting Topouzian from the suburbs and his day job as president of the Troy Chamber of Commerce — and the impressive venues like Detroit Orchestra Hall where he's been known to perform. He can often imagine his

grandfather's ancestral home, a place of towering stone monasteries and forests that cover the rugged, mountainous landscape.

"I can actually picture my grandparents and their parents and what it [might] have looked like," Topouzian says. "They're all laughing and dancing and hearing music. I picture that. In my small part, I'm helping to try to preserve that."

aratopouzian.com

By Rachel Premack

Reprinted by permission of Hour Magazine

DETROIT CHAPTER FINISHES 4TH IN WASHINGTON SENIOR AYF OLYMPICS

The Detroit AYF Senior Chapter participated in the 80th AYF Olympics in Washington, DC over Labor Day weekend and finished fourth among thirteen chapters. Philadelphia won the games with 143 points.

Our chapter gained 66 points and was led by Taleen Shahrigian's three first place finishes in the 400, 800 and 1600-meter runs with a total of 15 points to be one of the high scorers. Last year, in her first AYF Olympics, she broke the 800 and 1600-meter records. A Northville High senior and a standout member of the cross country and track teams, Taleen earned all-state recognition in girls' cross country this fall, placing 14th out of more than 250 runners from high schools throughout the state.

Knar Topouzian, a West Bloomfield High student in her first AYF competition this year, won the 5-event pentathlon with first place finishes in the shot put, and the 200 and 800 meter runs. She also was a high scorer and earned 15 points for the

chapter. Her win was more impressive because she defeated last year's pentathlon winner; Knar is a member of her school varsity soccer and basketball teams.

Other chapter members gaining points were: Ara Markarian - third in pentathlon for 9 pts; Melanie Topouzian - first in the 50-yard backstroke and fourth in breaststroke for 6 points; Araxie Tossounian - second in shot put and third in both baseball throw and 100 meters for 6 points; Armen Nercessian - first in the shot put for 5 points; Avedis Tcholakian - third in the shot put for 3 points; Stephanie Dolik - second in girls' tennis for 3 points, and Armen Shahrigian - fourth in the 1600-meter run for one point.

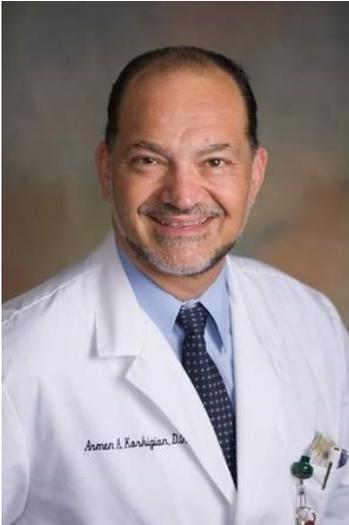
The girls' swim relay team placed second in the freestyle event and fourth in the track 200 meter relay.

Congratulations to all our participants!

The AYF Olympics will be held in Detroit in 2014.

Harry Derderian

Doctor Earns Honors As Top Teacher



The American College of Osteopathic Internists recently named Armen A. Korkigian, D.O., FACOI, Teacher of the Year for the major contributions he has made to osteopathic medical education. Korkigian is an internal medicine specialist on the medical staff at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills and a longtime professional

instructor in Botsford's Medical Education Department.

"Armen has always been his own man – extremely knowledgeable, loves to teach, never a doubt where he stands on any issue," stated Vance Powell Jr., D.O., director of Botsford Hospital's Medical Education Department. "Armen's clarity of mind is one reason why people want to be on his service. He teaches his students so much and holds them accountable for everything. I admire his unfettered ability to 'tell it like it is."

"Armen is one of the best clinical teachers we've ever had at Botsford and is one of the top reasons why Botsford is considered among the leading osteopathic teaching hospitals."

In the 17 years since seeking nominations for this award, its member internal medicine specialists have selected Botsford physician trainers three times. In addition to Korkigian, hematologist-oncologist Harold M. Margolis, D. O., FACOI was honored in 2001 and infectious disease specialist Gerald W. Blackburn, D. O., FACOI was recognized for his work in 1998.

(“HEALTH”

Sunday, November 10, 2013

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA)

The St. Sarkis community is very proud of Dr. Korkigian's achievement. We wish him well in all his future endeavors. Dr. Korkigian is the son of late Ara Korkigian and Manya Korkigian. Armen, in his early years, was an active member of the St. Sarkis Church Sunday School. Following in his father's footsteps, Armen was a forceful Armenian Youth Federation member.

Armen is married to his lovely wife Mary for over 30 years, and they have two grown sons, Dr. Shant Korkigian and Alex Korkigian.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER	
07	ARS Maro Chapter Breakfast with Santa (Fellowship Hall)
07	ARF Azadamard Gomideh of Detroit Dinner Dance Celebration of the 123rd Anniversary of the ARF (Embassy Suites – Livonia)
08	ARS Sybille chapter bake sale
16	ARS One Day School Christmas Program (Orchard Lake Middle School)
22	Sunday School Christmas Pageant (Fellowship Hall)
31	ARS Tzolig Chapter New Year's Eve Celebration (Sheraton – Novi)

JANUARY	
05	Christmas Eve Services & Christmas Eve Concert performed by Farmington Community Chorus (St. Sarkis Church)
06	Christmas Day Services & Ladies' Guild Christmas Luncheon

FEBRUARY	
02	Super Bowl Party (Fellowship Hall)
09	Book Presentation by Deacon Shant Kazanjian of the Armenian Prelacy
27	Vartanants Service (St. Vartan Church)

MARCH	
01	Poon Paregentan Family Night (Fellowship Hall)
22	ARS Shakeh Chapter Lenten Dinner
26	Ladies' Guild Lenten Lunch

Thank you to the following sponsors of our Sunday Fellowship Hour

- 
- 8/25: Movsesian Family, in honor of Anna Movsesian's 80th birthday
 9/29: Larry Avedesian, Richard, Dorian, Avedis, Karine, Aram & Anto Keshgegian (Phil, PA), and Eric Avedesian, in loving memory of Alice Avedesian
 10/13: M/M Aram & Violet Gavoor and Nancy Gavoor, in loving memory of Laura Ani Gavoor
 10/20: Marie Jeanne Kouchoukian & Moses Zoarob, Silva Kouchoukian, Nairy Kouchoukian & Anahid Haido, in loving memory of Kevork Kouchoukian, Hawa Haido, Garabed Hagopian, All Kouchoukian and Haido Family Members
 10/27: Armenag Topouzian, Keri (Rita) Topouzian, Taline, Armen, Shant & Stepan; Daron (Simone') Topouzian, Meline', Ani, Knar & Teny; Ara (Della) Topouzian, Aline & Alexan, in loving memory of Norma Topouzian
 11/10: Homenetmen of Detroit and the Armenian Research Center, University of Michigan-Dearborn
 11/24: Hamazkayin Armenian Educational & Cultural Society

**PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE OR A BOARD MEMBER IF YOU
WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR THE FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR.**

ARMENIAN LANGUAGE CORNER

The First Letter of Christ and the Last Letter of Armenian Alphabet

The letter ք (k'), called քէ (ke), is the last of the 36-letter alphabet created by St. Mesrob Mashdots in the early fifth century A.D. As it is well known, the letters օ and ֆ were added to the alphabet in the late Middle Ages.

The pronunciation of this letter is a bit problematic in Western Armenian. The loss of aspiration of the consonants (the pronunciation of ք should be something like the k in kite) has led us to not differentiate between ք and զ (kim), a problem that is also present in the pairs փ (piur)-բ (pen) and դ (ta)-թ (toh). We will use the transliteration k', which is utilized in scholarly texts, to show that phonetic difference in writing.

It was certainly fitting that the last letter of the alphabet was the one used to write the name of Christ: Քրիստոս (K'ristos). The passage of Revelation 1:8, "I am the Alpha and the Omega" (omega is the last letter of the Greek alphabet) was translated into Classical Armenian as the equivalent «Ես եմ Այբ էւ էս եմ Քէ». As a matter of fact, the letter Ք is equivalent to the Greek X (Χριστος) and, indeed, to the ch used in words such as Christopher (Քրիստոսափոր), chrysantemus (քրիզանթեմ), chronicle(քրոնիկ). When German physicist Wilhelm Röntgen discovered X-rays in 1895, the equivalence between ք and the Greek X led to translate the word X-ray as «Ք ճառագայթ» (K jarakayt) in Armenian.

Most interestingly, this letter had a double function in Classical Armenian (krapar). It served as a plural suffix. For instance, the plural of the word գիր (kir) "letter" was kirk' ("letters") and this created in time the word kirk' ("book"). In Modern Armenian (ashkharhapar), the function of the k' was mostly taken up by the suffixes -ner and -er; thus, today we say kirk'er ("books"), where the root is kirk' and there is no longer awareness of k' being a plural suffix.

However, this does not always work. One way or another, krapar is always alive in our current usage of ashkharhapar. There are some words used in plural interchangeably with the suffix k' or

the suffixes er/ner; however, we cannot (we should not) use both of them together. For instance, we say dghak' or dghaner ("boys"); it is grammatically incorrect to say dghak'ner.

This plural use of the k' gave birth to its use as a suffix for place names. For instance, the plural of hay "Armenian" was hayk' ("Armenians"), and this became the name of the country of the Armenians: Hayk' (Հայք). Thus, throughout history we have used the words Medz Hayk' (Մեծ Հայք) and P'ok'r Hayk' (Փոքր Հայք) to designate "Greater Armenia" and "Lesser Armenia." Additionally, we should remember that every time we use the word hayots (հայոց), as in hayots badmoutioun, we are using krapar: hayots is the declined form of hayk', and hayots badmoutioun is the standard way to say "history of the Armenians" (in krapar, it also meant... "History of Armenia").

- Dr. Vartan Matiossian
Executive Director of ANEC

THE ARMENIAN ALPHABET					
Ա	ա	aip	Մ	մ	men
Բ	բ	pen	Յ	յ	he
Գ	գ	kim	Ն	ն	noo
Դ	դ	tah	Շ	շ	shah
Ե	ե	yech	Ո	ո	vo
Զ	զ	zah	Չ	չ	chah
Է	է	ai	Պ	պ	bay
Ը	ը	yet	Ջ	ջ	chay
Թ	թ	to	Դ	դ	rrah
Գ	գ	zhay	Ս	ս	say
Ի	ի	ini	Վ	վ	vev
Լ	լ	lune	Տ	տ	dune
Լ	լ	kh	Ր	ր	ray
Ծ	ծ	dzah	Ց	ց	tso
Կ	կ	ghen	Դ	դ	hune
Հ	հ	ho	Փ	փ	pure
Ջ	ճ	tsah	Ք	ք	kay
Ղ	ղ	ghad	Օ	օ	o
Ճ	ճ	jay	Ֆ	ֆ	fay



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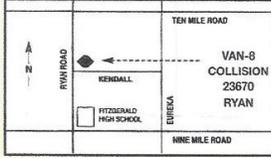
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Յուլյոս 5, 2014

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