

# THE TORCHBEARER • Ջահապիր

## St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit

22001 Northwestern Highway • Southfield, MI 48075  
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The Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian ~ *Pastor*  
The Reverend Father Diran Papazian ~ *Pastor Emeritus*  
Deacon Rubik Mailian ~ *Director of Sacred Music and Pastoral Assistant*



## "ARMENIA - LAND OF NOAH'S ARK" FESTIVAL 2010, SEPTEMBER 21 - 26

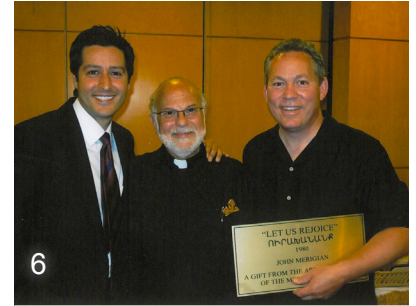


On Tuesday evening, Festival Week officially began with an expanded Health-O-Rama. Health screenings were given for Cholesterol and Diabetes along with Blood Pressure and BMI checks. Basic Eye, Hearing, Spinal, Back and Neck exams were also performed and free flu shots were given to anyone requesting them (1). Pharmacists performed reviews of prescription and over the counter medications to see if there were any conflicts. Consultations were provided to review different programs available to Medicare participants. Counselors were available to advise people without insurance of low cost or free health services. Smoking Cessation for those who were trying to quit smoking was provided and additional information on health care and what your pharmacist can do to help you. Our thanks go out to Greg Baise and Wayne County Pharmacists Association, Henry Ford Hospital, and all the health service providers.

Wednesday morning, a new Festival event took place featuring a tour of St. John's sanctuary with Fr. Garabed Kochakian and a tour of the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum conducted by Lucy Ardash, followed by a buffet lunch in the cultural hall with a special preview of a new short film written and directed by Roza Matevosian entitled, "Green Eyed Boy." This event was conceived with the intent of sharing our heritage with the Greater Detroit community and we thank Diane Ekizian and her team (2) for providing a wonderful experience for nearly 100 guests (3).

In keeping with our tradition, an opening night dinner was held Thursday featuring a lavish Armenian mezza, wine, open bar, and an auction of 60 items that were provided by our Church School, parishioners and local merchants. The highlighted auction item was a one-week stay in a Sarasota, FL condominium donated by Mike and Cathy Boucher (4). F. El Chemmas Catering (Faouzi El Chemmas), Bosco Pizza (Mark Artinian), Allegro Restaurant (Garri Mazmanian), Uptown Catering (Gary Reizian), Sweet & Savory Bakery (Christina Papazian), Westborn Market (Anusbigian families), Zingerman Coffee (Steve Mangigian), Crave Creative Group (Lilly Marinelli), Cocina Salpi (Salpi Tachian) provided food, beverage and services for the dinner and we wish to thank them for their generosity (5). We thank Kathy Mekjian for taking reservations and all those who made this night possible.

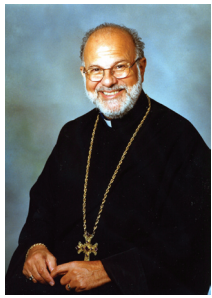
*Continued on page 4*



**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

NOVEMBER 2010



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

*A little thanks goes a long way!*

How often have we heard this expression? How often do we remember to use the word *Thanks*?

Yes – as we worship during the *Badarak* we frequently use the words *thanksgiving* and *thanks*, expressing our gratitude to God in formal prayers and hymns. The words are before our eyes to read and say, and we do. But when they are 'out of print' sometimes I wonder if the words *thanksgiving* and *thanks* disappear; 'out of sight, out of mind.'

As Christians we learn things that linger for a long time in our minds, hearts and souls. Among them, the words *Thanksgiving*, *Thanks* and *Thank you*, are the most important, or at least should be.

In these times where everything in life has become so casual and informal, there is a tendency to forget to be grateful and utter those two important words. Young children in their secular education often don't hear them, hardly use them, nor ever see them in print anymore. Adults have become jaded by competitive life styles that conveniently delete these words from our vocabulary. So then what needs to be done? It is the Church, our Christian heritage and culture lived within our families and homes, that all the more become the source of teaching what is proper and correct: to say "Thanks be to God," and "Thank you," too.

As the American holiday of Thanksgiving is upon us, let's use the day as an opportunity to share at our tables what we are thankful for, verbalize our gratitude and thank each other for being a mother, father, sister, brother, grandparent, aunt or uncle or for just being a friend. And when you do, you will see how *a little thanks goes a long way*. Your meal will be doubly delicious, your appetite immensely satisfied and perhaps what you give will be what you receive. *Thanks*.

To all who read these words, our faithful parishioners, our friends of St. John's, I thank you for the wonderful acts of faith, gifts of charity, offerings of time, talent and treasures you have made. I pray that your Thanksgiving table be blessed, your lives be graced with love so that together we can go even a longer way.

*And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

*~Fr. Garabed*

### ***The Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 21, 2010, Come Celebrate the Blessing of Our Newest Acolytes.***

***His Eminence, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate  
will celebrate the Divine Liturgy and bless six of our youngest Altar Servers  
to the four minor ranks of the Armenian Church.***



A unique family Thanksgiving Dinner prepared by our Senior High School students to benefit the Church School's commitment to orphaned children in Armenia through CASP will follow the Divine Liturgy.

Adults - \$10. Children under 18 - \$5.

For reservations contact:

Lisa Mardigian – [lmardigian@sjchurch.org](mailto:lmardigian@sjchurch.org) or 248.569.3405  
Roseann Attar – [vart@comcast.net](mailto:vart@comcast.net) or 248.980.3221

***Guests from the Saint Nersess Armenian Seminary  
will join us as well.***

***Let Us Celebrate Vocations and Service!***

## MEET YOUR PARISH COUNCIL.....



**Gary Hachigian** (left) has served on the St John's Parish Council for almost three years. He has been a member of the Church for over 23 years, served on ACYOA Juniors-Project Youth Committee, ACYOA Seniors, November Dance Committees and as a Co-Chairperson, and the Chairperson of the Festival Country Store for nine years running. He has participated on committees for Church Picnics, River Front Festivals, Bingo, Bazaar, in fundraising, cooking, cleaning, and decorating. Gary was a Church School sixth grade teacher for over sixteen years, which he left only when elected to serve on the Parish Council. His wife Patricia continues to teach in the Church, as she has for over 26 years. He is also a member of the newly reactivated Men's Society. Gary has been married to Patricia Tootikian for over 33 years and they have three wonderful children. Gary has sold new Cadillacs for over 25 years and for the last six years added all other makes and models, including used and Classic automobiles. He is self-employed and president of Car Choices, Inc., of West Bloomfield.

"I'm very proud to serve my Church by being an active Parish Council member. We have made great strides, and some very difficult decisions over the last three years to help ensure longevity for ourselves and for future generations. Given our world economy, it is, and will continue to be a great challenge for future Parish Councils, as well. You are needed to help with this ongoing endeavor. Please step forward and offer to run for this coming year's Parish Council. Thank you, and see you in Church!"

**Gary Gumushian** (right) has been a dedicated member of St. John Armenian Church for 25 years. He married his wife Barbara 25 years ago at St. John's, and together they have two children; Andrea (20) and Adam (17). Gary grew up in the Detroit area, attending engineering school and has worked in various sales and marketing capacities in the automotive industry for over 30 years. He is currently the National Director of CARFAX. Gary is also a car enthusiast and continues his hobby to this day. Most conversations with Gary will include two of his favorite subjects; his family and cars. In addition to his work at CARFAX, he is also a frequent co-host on *Car & Driver Radio*, *Road & Track Radio*, *Car Connections*, and the *Car Doctor* radio shows. So, maybe he will get all the car-talk out of his system in those areas!

Serving on the altar as a young boy, Gary grew up knowing that service was an important part of every community. In addition to serving on the St. John's Parish Council, Gary is also treasurer of his college alumni association, and an active member of the Dad's Club at the high school. Gary loves being able to help others, and as an Armenian is truly proud of his heritage. He is excited about the activities and renewed energy of the St. John's parish, and about the opportunity our church has to touch the lives of so many people in and around this community.

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### ***Lisa Mardigian Elected to O.Y.A.A. Hall of Fame***

St. John Armenian Church Youth Director Lisa Mardigian was the first woman elected to the Orthodox Youth Athletic Association (of Detroit) Hall of Fame in a September ceremony. Following over 20 years of service to the O.Y.A.A. as a participant, coach, and executive board member, Mardigian entered the Hall of Fame as part of a 10-person class on the occasion of the organization's 50th anniversary. She joins her father Arthur Mardigian as the first father-daughter pair in the hall, as well (both pictured at right).

"This is a tremendous honor for me because my father has been an instrumental part of the success of the O.Y.A.A. and an exemplary role model for me," Mardigian said of her selection.

"It is very appropriate, well deserved and long overdue that she is the first woman to be elected to the O.Y.A.A. Hall of Fame," O.Y.A.A. Secretary Dean Niforos said. Mardigian is the lone Armenian representative in the 2010 HOF class, but she will join her father and fellow Armenians Harry Couyoumjian, Jack Karakashian, Richard Vahratian, Chuck Yessaian, Aram Sarkissian, and Nazareth Hadjian in the Hall of Fame.

Couyoumjian was also on the 2010 Hall of Fame selection committee. "This is a great honor for Lisa, our church, and our organization," Couyoumjian said.

"Everyone who contributes to the success of the O.Y.A.A. for the benefit of our children is a Hall of Famer in my eyes. I could never do it all by myself," Mardigian added.

"Without her efforts every season, it would be impossible to run this league," Niforos said. "We know she puts an incredible amount of time for the St. John's parish, overseeing one of the largest basketball programs [in the league]."

Mardigian works countless hours running the gymnasium throughout the season and tournament. She has served as O.Y.A.A. Vice President and has been an advisor to the executive board for many years.

"Lisa devotes a great deal of time and energy to her church," O.Y.A.A. Program Director Adrian Paich said. "I am thrilled for her to receive this honor."

The O.Y.A.A. was established in 1960 to provide inter-Orthodox athletic competition in metropolitan Detroit. The first season of basketball featured two divisions and has since transformed into seven divisions. The O.Y.A.A. has also hosted an annual Pan-Orthodox Tournament to conclude the season for 40 years. Over 70 teams from around the Midwest have made the trip to Detroit to participate.

~Dan Dardarian



Continued from page 1



Following dinner, the Fine Arts Committee under the leadership of Chairman Dr. Raffi Belian, hosted a reception opening the Fine Arts Exhibition that continued throughout the Festival and featured paintings by noted artist Paul Zenian and sculpture by John Merigian. A plaque was presented to Mr. Merigian by Fr. Garabed Kochakian on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the installation of his sculpture of three praying figures entitled, "Let Us Rejoice." (6) A permanent plaque will be placed at the sculpture located on the church grounds.

Friday evening opened with Shish Kabob dinners (Tekeyan/ADL), Cold and Hot Food Mezza Stations, Baked Goods, Country Store (Knights of Vartan), Hye Bar, Snack Bar and Kids' Concessions. Some new items were added by the Men's Society: Lentil Kuftha, Manti in chicken broth, Soujouk and Basterma Paninis, Hummus and Tabouli. Shopping at Gift-arama, Armenian Boutique and Oriental Rugs continued again this year. Grandma's Attic (Daughters of Vartan) and Kids' Used Toy Store opened for the weekend. There were also arts and crafts, kids' games, and movies. Armenian bands and a DJ played throughout the weekend.

Saturday was an exciting day opening at 10 am with a Build-A-Bear Luncheon for children hosted by the Evereg-Fenese Educational Society and it turned out to be a great hit with old and young alike (7). Once again we thank Mary Negosian and her committee. A City of Southfield fire truck, ambulance and McGruff, the Crime Fighting Dog, visited throughout Saturday to the delight of all the children. Saturday and Sunday, the ACYOA hosted its first Annual Basketball Tournament as a part of the Festival with local and out of town teams coming as far away as Toronto. This was a great hit not only financially, but as a great activity for our youth and young adults. We thank Danny Dardarian and the ACYOA Seniors. Along with all the other activities for Saturday, the Cultural Society of Armenians from Istanbul (CSAI) ran our Texas Hold 'Em Night that was a great success. Our appreciation goes to Steve Kalfayan and the CSAI committee for a job well done.

Festival 2010 continued Sunday after church services with a car show in the parking lot featuring several rebuilt and specialty cars. Thank you to Bob Karakashian for organizing this show and to all who brought their cars for viewing. The finals of the Basketball Tournament and Tavloo Tournament completed our Sunday with a wrap up about 5:30 pm.

Some important parts of this year's Festival should also be mentioned which made the week that much more special. Seven cases of canned goods were brought in by Festival-goers and donated to Forgotten Harvest, and 39 pints of blood were collected and donated to the Red Cross.

It is difficult to list here all the volunteers who made this year's Festival a success, but we had some people or organizations that went above and beyond. In alphabetical order, we thank Dr. Heidi Aprahamian, Renee & Ed Baharian, Ruth

Pinto Cieslak, Danny and Judy Cristiano, David Dardarian, Gjon and Anoosh Ivezaj, Patricia and Robert Magee, Dolly Matoian, our Women's Guild, of course, for all the delicious foods, and all of the Armenian organizations: AGBU Alex and Marie Manoogian School, CSAI, Evereg-Fenese Educational Society, Knights and Daughters of Vartan, and Tekeyan Cultural Association/ADL.

Our deepest appreciation goes to our benefactors: Mike Kojanian, John Yavruian, Dr. Norman Hogikyan, Ed Papelian, Elizabeth Aprahamian and Ebbco Inc., each of whom have donated \$1,000 or more to help defray expenses of the Festival.

And finally, of course, our appreciation to all of you who worked on these events, whether preparing for this over the last six months, volunteering over the weekend, donating money and products to make an event more special or profitable and/or attending the week-long events.

~Paul Yousoufian

## ACYOA NEWS.....

### **Detroit Edges Toronto for Inaugural Basketball Title**



In conjunction with the annual church festival at St. John's, the ACYOA Seniors hosted a basketball tournament for high school age athletes in the Midwest September 25 - 26.

In the 3rd place game, Troy St.

Nicholas (MI) defeated Detroit St. John's (team #2), 76-73, in overtime. Andrew Hovsepian scored 27 points for St. John's, but Niko Parks put in 14 points and banked in a shot from half-court at the buzzer to win the game.

The championship also went down to the wire, with St. John's (team #1) hanging on to defeat AGBU Toronto by two, 40-38. Peter Krane and Aram Cholakian had 16 and 14 points respectively for Detroit, while Nareg Zargarian scored 19 points to lead Toronto.

Six participants were selected to the All-tournament team and they are as follows: Andrew Hovsepian, Alex Bageris, Argin Malakian, Nareg Zargarian, Aram Cholakian, and Peter Krane (MVP). Also, Vartan Kurjian of St. John's was presented with the sportsmanship award.

~Dan Dardarian

## WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS.....



In the photo at left, Fr. Garabed Kochakian is shown with Dolly Matoian and Pam Dayinian, holding the Women's Guild's newly published and now dedicated cookbook, *Armenian Cuisine-Preserving Our Heritage*. Proving a huge success, 900 copies have already been sold. It is a comprehensive collection of over 450 Armenian recipes from the Detroit metropolitan area made current for the 21st century. Full descriptions of all cooking and baking methods make this cookbook very "user friendly" with up-to-date modern techniques.

*Armenian Cuisine, Preserving Our Heritage* can be ordered via the St. John's website: [stjohnsarmenianchurch.org](http://stjohnsarmenianchurch.org) or by contacting Marianne Dardarian (248.661.0617). Price is \$25.00 per copy. This cookbook is a must for every household!

## CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS.....



### **High School Students Participate in Blanketed with Love**

Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> the High School Division Church School students participated in an activity to make micro-fleece blankets for the non-profit organization, *Blanketed With Love*. This organization was founded by two high schools girls. Their mission was "to help all those in need by giving the homeless, homebound, poor, ill and disadvantaged blankets throughout the year." Since its inception in 2008, they have made more than 500 blankets.

These particular blankets were made for the inner city program *Sweet Dreamzzz*. This program is "committed to improving the health, well-being and academic performance of at-risk school-aged children by providing sleep education and bedtime essentials," like the blankets completed by our Church School students. *Blanketed With Love* was given a grant from the Junior League of Detroit for this project.



### **A special request for e-mail users**

Due to the less frequent access to news through newspapers, many of our faithful hear about deaths in our community too late to attend services. Taking note of this concern and requests by many for the Church to pass on this information, the Parish Council has approved a trial program — an email blast to those who wish to be informed about *Dahn Gark* and Funeral services. If you wish to be on the list, please contact the Church Office.

### **Attention: From now on...**

#### **Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study will be held on Wednesdays each month.**

The next gathering will be November 17 at 12 noon.

This monthly Bible study group is led by Yeretzgin Roberta Kochakian.

Bring your Bible and your lunch - coffee will be provided.

**Join us!**



### Seeking volunteers for the *Torchbearer*.

If you would be available to help prepare the *Torchbearer* for mailing around the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month, please contact May Kafafian at the Church Office.

### **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 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)**

### **Baptisms & Chrismations**

#### **October**

- 2 James Derian - Chrismation  
 John Van Derian – Chrismation  
 Lora Marie Derian – Chrismation
- 16 Anika Joboulian  
 Daughter of Robert & Michelle Dziadula  
 Godparents: Mark Mimnaugh & Lisa Joboulian

### **Weddings**

#### **October**

- 10 Karen Garibian & Marina Plish  
*Khachyeghpayr*: Artem Sahakian  
 Maid of Honor: Nina Gulardova

### **Funerals**

#### **October**

- 7 Linda Ishkanian, 53, Holy Sepulchre

### **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.

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

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 CAN HELP THE CHURCH  
 MEET TOMORROW'S NEEDS.

  
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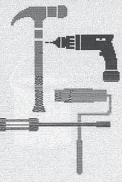
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and be sure to have your  
**Kroger Plus** card handy.  
Follow the directions on the website.

Call the Church Office if you need help.  
Thanks for participating in this program  
and helping the Church grow.

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## PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.....

### November

- 7 Men's Society Pancake Breakfast
- 14 Veterans Blessing & Tea
- 19 "Kef Klub" at St. John's Recreation Center,  
6:00 pm  
"A Concert of Armenian Folk Music"  
presented by The Komitas Choir
- 21 Presentation of the Holy Mother of God;  
First Sunday of Advent;  
Episcopal Divine Liturgy; Blessing of  
Acolytes by Diocesan Primate,  
Archbishop Khajag Barsamian;  
Thanksgiving Family Dinner honoring  
Acolytes sponsored by the Church School
- 25 Thanksgiving – Complex Closed
- 27 ACYOA November Dance

### December

- 5 Men's Society Pancake Breakfast
- 19 Saline Fiddlers Concert
- 24 Western Christmas Eve Service,  
Caroling & ACYOA Tea
- 25 Western Christmas – Complex Closed

Moms and *Manoogs* play group sponsored by the Women's  
Guild: first and third Tuesdays in the Nursery at 10 am

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

### January, 2011

- 1 New Year's Day – Complex Closed
- 5 Armenian Christmas Eve Service
- 6 The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ –  
Armenian Christmas Luncheon  
sponsored by the Women's Guild
- 9 Armenian Christmas Family Dinner  
sponsored by the Church School

## EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY.....

### December, 2010

- 31 New Year's Eve Party sponsored by the  
Knights and Daughters of Vartan.  
Proceeds to be shared equally among  
Detroit's four Armenian churches.

### AT THE PARISH BOOKSTORE

Armenian books and CDs make wonderful gifts  
at the holidays and throughout the year  
for the adults and children on your list.

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