



# The Manoogian Voice

Southfield, Michigan

June 2001

A.G.B.U. Alex & Marie Manoogian School

## Students Take Another Step

Nine students graduated from Manoogian during ceremonies held June 11.

Keynote speaker, Mark B. Leyda, executive director of Michigan Merit Awards at the Department of Treasury, congratulated the school on its Golden Apple Award, given to a school for outstanding MEAP scores, and also gave advice to the nine graduates as they enter college.

Two of the graduates, Lavinia Lucaci, valedictorian, and Taline Topakbashian, salutatorian, spoke to those in attendance, and Ida Ishkanian, class president, presented the school with a gift from the senior class – a 25-inch color television and VCR.



*Seniors graduating June 11 were, left to right, Farah Akkam, Lavinia Lucaci, Runda Waad, Anna Mikaelian, Ida Ishkanian, Taline Topakbashian, Michelle Boyer, Kevork Sahakian, and Robert Nance.*

## 25 Graduate from Kindergarten



While nine seniors took an important step in their lives June 11, several days earlier, 25 youngsters also took a big step, as they graduated from kindergarten.

The 25 students recited poems and performed songs and dances for parents and relatives during a program dedicated to the different nationalities around the world. Students performed in French, Russian, Spanish, Armenian, and English.

Those responsible for such a creative and intelligent class included Seran Tcholakian, the teacher; Sosi Palanjian, the assistant teacher; Anahid Toumajan, the Armenian teacher; and Harry Hovakimian, the music teacher.

*Thanks to the teaching of Seran Tcholakian, Sosi Palanjian, Harry Hovakimian, and Anahid Toumajan, 25 kindergartners graduated June 6. These special graduates celebrated by singing, dancing, and reciting poems in front of parents and relatives, as well as their teachers and staff.*

## Manoogian Goes to Stratford

Forty Manoogian high-schoolers were given a little education in theater May 22, as they trekked to Stratford, Ontario, for a performance of *The Merchant of Venice*, a play by William Shakespeare.

had never seen a live stage performance before, and those who claimed that seeing the play made what they had previously read much clearer.

The Stratford trip has become an annual event, as

## *The Merchant of Venice*

by *William Shakespeare*

Students in the 9th and

10th grades were given a treat by attending, since they had read the play as part of their in-class work.

The students were queried following the trip. Comments included many mentioning they

students picked which play they would attend, read the play, then finished with a trip to Ontario.

Judith Kadri, Anahid Toumajan, and Alla Shmidt accompanied the students.

## PTO: Education Update and Elections

The Director of Outreach Development from MAPSA, Lisa Diaz, spoke June 12 at the final school board meeting for this school year. She addressed recent developments in the state legislature.

Diaz said the legislature was discussing reducing the per-student allowance and that because of this, parents were being urged to write their representative, emphasizing the importance of choice in their children's education.

At the May 17 meeting, the PTO elected new officers for the 2001-02 school year: Co-Chairs, Armen Mutafian and Lisa Gilbert Balian; Vice Chair, Ardag Tachian; Secretary, Peter Toukhanian; Corresponding Secretary, Seran Tcholakian; Treasurer, Robert Stepanian; and Advisors, May Kendirjian and Valerie Bagdasarian.

## Students Finish on High Note

Manoogian said goodbye to May with its year-end program May 30, held at the St. John's Cultural Hall.

The program, dedicated to LOVE, included song-and-dance numbers, costumes, and other routines.



*Manoogian School students held their year-end program, dedicated to LOVE, May 30. Though the rehearsals were tiring, the program was splendid.*

According to administrators, the roots of education are bitter, but the fruits are sweet, and our young performers, with their wonderful program, made us forget the stress of the practice sessions.

Dyana Kezelian orchestrated the program, Harry Hovakimian arranged the music and conducted, and Karnig Kazazian choreographed the wonderful Armenian dancers.

## Khunjooyk Celebration

*The women of Manoogian – in other words, the students' mothers and grandmothers – were instrumental in the success of this year's Khunjooyk celebration, held on the school grounds, May 20. Though poor weather had been the norm, clouds were replaced with sun, and everyone enjoyed the day. School administrators would like to thank the mothers and grandmothers for their time and talents in the kitchen, and also recognize the cooking prowess of the fathers, who joined in and lent their skills as well. This year's Khunjooyk was headed by May Kendirdjian.*



## Support Recognized

If not for donations and advertisements supplied by supporters of the school, this year's yearbook would not have succeeded.

Those who gave support included: A&R General Contractor; Art's Gold Shop; Arzo Computers; Burns Investment Group; Camelot Jewelers; Central Michigan University; Mrs. Carolyn Chekaway; Corian Carpet & Furniture Cleaners; Linda Darian, D.D.S.; the Freshman Class; Grandma's Class; Herman's Creations; Edward Korkorian Funeral Home, Inc.; Manoogian Manor; Dr. Nadya Sarafian; Simon Javizian Funeral Home; Spencer's Indoor Grille; Hosep and Shoghig Torossian; and the 2000/2001 P.T.O. Board.

## Music Students Perform



*Thirteen Manoogian School music students performed June 6 in the school's multi-purpose room. Look for these students to successfully continue their studies. It is hoped their success will lead more students to participate in the future.*

## Mother's Day Program



*Pre-kindergartners celebrated Mother's Day June 12 with the presentation of a delightful program, including songs and readings in both Armenian and English. Karen Koundakjian, Jennifer Jacobs, Arpy Bedrossian, and Susan Mardoyan coordinated the event.*

# Field Day for Everyone

Manoogian traded its uniforms and classrooms for fun and frivolity June 8, when the entire school engaged in field day.

All 53 high school students took a tour bus to Ohio's Cedar Point for a day that included numerous trips on the Millennium, Raptor, and other roller coasters and rides.

For the middle school, it was a trip to Utica and Four Bears Water Park. Though rain was expected, Mother Nature gave her blessing and the weather was near perfect.



The elementary students remained closer to home, taking part in relay races on the school grounds.

The sun made an appearance, as did an appropriate outdoor lunch of hamburgers, potato chips, watermelon, and accompaniments.

*Kindergarten through fifth-grade students enjoyed competing against each other during their field day, held June 8. Events included a tug-of-war and wheelbarrow races. While the elementary school students had their fun, middle-schoolers took a trip to Four Bears Water Park in Utica. The high-schoolers traveled to Cedar Point the same day.*



*Remember to Visit Our Web Site for a Virtual Cornucopia of Information  
About the Manoogian School: [www.manoogian.org](http://www.manoogian.org)*



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