



# The Manoogian Voice

Southfield, Michigan

Fall/Winter 2007

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

## Pontifical Visit

On Thursday, November 1, Manoogian School students, staff and faculty witnessed an historic event. On that day, His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of all Armenians and spiritual leader of seven million Armenian-Apostolic Christians, was hosted during a rare and eventful visit.

His Holiness, Vehapar, arrived with an entourage which included His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the United States, along with other bishops and clergymen.

The Manoogian students, under the direction of Deacon Rubik Mailian from St. John Armenian Church, greeted Vehapar with a Hrashapar procession and responded to him saying, "Asdvadz Oknagan, Vehapar Der" (May God assist you).

After the "Hayr Mer" was sung, welcoming speeches were delivered by the school principals, Ms. Dyana Kezelian and Dr. Hosesep Torossian, who conveyed their gratitude in awe of this pontifical visit.

From K to 12, each class, in turn, saluted Vehapar with poems, songs and dances, after which Primate Barsamian expressed his joy regarding the enthusiasm of the students, mentioning that Vehapar loves very much to see young audiences. He then invited the Catholicos to address the students and faculty.

Vehapar's message was simple: love of God and love of Armenia, our homeland. Vehapar asked the students to visit Armenia because that is the place where the history of our people has been written. He asked them to meet with their peers in Armenia, who would be happy to become acquainted with them. In a rousing conclusion, Vehapar told the excited children that God conceived the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin, the spiritual and religious center of all Armenians, inherent in the love of Armenia, its land and its people.



# Pontifical Visit

To mark his pontifical visit, Vehapar presented Armenia's detailed atlas, featuring its physical and political geographical delineation. On this occasion, the Manoogian School family donated a monetary contribution to the Toufeyan Youth Center in Yerevan, which is sponsored by Holy Etchmiadzin. A reception

followed in the school library where board members and teachers had an opportunity to converse with Vehapar and receive his blessing.

In the farewell to the Vehapar, 11th and 12th grade students lined up on the school porch and had the opportunity to talk to His Holiness personally and received his blessing.



# Alex and Marie Manoogians' Remains Rest in Holy Etchmiadzin



On Friday, July 18, 2007, the earthly remains of Alex Manoogian, National Hero of the Republic of Armenia, Life President of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, national benefactor of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin and founder of Alex & Marie Manoogian School, along with those of his wife, Marie Manoogian, were lowered into the hallowed ground of the Mother See of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Holy Etchmiadzin, Armenia.

Richard Manoogian and Louise Manoogian Simone sprinkled soil consecrated by His Holiness Catholicos Karekin II into the new graves of their parents, a few meters from the Pontifical residence. Richard Manoogian called reburial of his parents "a pilgrimage...that symbolized for us the shining path that always directed toward the ancient soil of Armenia." Louise Manoogian said her parents "have started a new era in their lives."

Alex and Marie were married in 1930. Death separated them 63 years later; she died in 1993 and he followed her to the grave in 1996.

None, except holy men, Catholicoi, have been laid in the holy grounds of Etchmiadzin.

# Dignitaries Visit

The newly elected president of Karabagh (also known as Artsakh, a breakaway Armenian-populated region which declared independence in 1991 from neighboring



Azerbaijan), Bako Sahakyan, together with His Eminence Primate of Karabagh, Archbishop Barkev Martirosyan, and other dignitaries, visited Manoogian School on November 12 during a trip to America's Armenian communities. The students performed Armenian songs and poems, which delighted Mr. Sahakian, who expressed his appreciation for keeping the Armenian spirit and heritage alive.

# New Teacher

Miss Theresa Jabero is the Pre-K-3 teacher and elementary school librarian. Miss Jabero received her Bachelors degree in Elementary Education with a major in science from Wayne State University in May 2005. After graduation, she taught preschool and went on to teach as a substitute teacher in several school districts for grades Pre-K through 5th. As a newcomer to Manoogian, Miss Jabero believes in a secure, caring and stimulating atmosphere in which each student will have the opportunity to grow and mature emotionally, intellectually, physically and socially.



# CAMP

On November 5 and 6, the 5th and 6th grade students went to the Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center for camp. The students participated in classes each day which correlate to science state benchmarks. It was another successful year at camp. We thank the parent chaperons who helped –



Mr. Shebat and Mr. Aznavour, along with faculty Mrs. Kalfayan, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Matlen, Mr. Avedikian and Ms. Kezelian.

# The Newest Publication

“Learning by Doing It Write!” is the motto of the A.G.B.U. Alex & Marie Manoogian Charter Schools newest publication. The school has recently undertaken the task of re-emphasizing the importance of teaching writing skills across the entire curriculum. Teachers are being asked to find ways to incorporate writing exercises into classes which are not traditionally linked with the language arts. *The Sounder* is one attempt to bring computer literacy and written literacy into alignment. The newsletter is researched, written and published by the 7th grade computer class, which emphasizes writing skills as well as desktop publishing.



Mr. Molecule visited the Manoogian School students in grades K-6 on Friday, November 9. This presentation included magic, scientific definitions and the units discussed in the students' science classes.



The students found Mr. Molecule to be very energetic, exciting and entertaining.

# October Testing

From October 8 through October 26, Manoogian students successfully took state mandated tests that are a part of the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP). These tests are administered to all students in grades 3–9 in the state of Michigan.

This assessment spotlights students' strengths and weaknesses in math, language arts, social studies, science and writing. Data gathered from these tests is used to improve curriculum and help individuals with specific needs.

# Trip to Armenia Fundraising

It is a busy year for seniors and juniors. Beside their usual classes, tests and sports activities, this year they have to raise money for the trip to Armenia, scheduled in April 2008. Twelve students have signed up for this memorable trip, which will be the capstone to a student's years in the A.G.B.U. Alex & Marie Manoogian School. The students will participate in the commemoration of the Armenian Genocide in Yerevan, and will visit the gravesite of Alex and Marie Manoogian in the holy ground of Etchmiadzin.

In the coming days, the students will engage in more fundraising activities needed to help make this trip a success. Any contribution to this effort will be greatly appreciated. Your tax-deductible gifts will help make their dream a reality.



## Fall Sports Wrap-Up

This fall, the Manoogian varsity volleyball and soccer teams both had successful seasons.

The boys' soccer team had a record of 3-2-3. All games were very close, and both losses were by one goal. This was a significant improvement from last year, when the boys only won a single game. Goal-scoring was well-balanced, with many different players contributing.

The girls' volleyball team saw their two-year unbeaten streak come to an end.



Their record was still a remarkable 8-2 in match play. The team placed third in an invitational "Good Sportsmanship" Tournament held at the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus. Seniors Anastasiya Amelanie and Melanie Shammamie led the team.



## College Night

More than 30 sophomores, juniors and their parents attended the second-annual College Night at the Manoogian School on Tuesday, September 18. Dr. Hosep Torossian, High School Principal; Judy Kadri, High School Head Teacher and Joanna Holsinger, School Counselor, gave informative presentations on the college application process, scholarships and financial aid. Vatche Bassmagian, a former Manoogian School student and current University of Michigan-Dearborn student, spoke about his experiences at the Manoogian School and how they prepared him for college.

## Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair began on November 12 in the library Media Center. PTO members Cindy Stepanian and Silva Sagherian supervised the week-long event. The focus of the book fair is to encourage children to read and teachers to collect more books for classroom use. Although it is not as large a fund raising event some others conducted by the PTO, it is definitely a serious BOOKRAISER for the classrooms. The Alex & Marie Manoogian School extends special thanks to the PTO members who took part in this program.



## Trip to the Orchards

Pre-K3 to 5th grade students went to Erwin Apple Orchards to pick apples and a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch. Everyone enjoyed the wagon ride, delicious donuts and apple cider. Thanks to all parents who chaperoned this trip.

*Remember to Visit Manoogian School's Web Site:*  
***www.manoogian.org***



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