



# The Manoogian Voice

Southfield, Michigan

June 2004

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

## Manoogian Observes 89th Anniversary



*Souren Aprahamian, 97, spoke to Manoogian students April 23, relating his experiences during the Armenian Genocide. Aprahamian published his autobiography in 1993.*



*Competitors in the PTO Middle School Armenian Genocide Essay Contest pose together and display their entries during the April 23 Manoogian School event marking the Armenian Genocide.*

Manoogian School students, staff, and faculty took time out on April 23 to recognize and reflect upon the Armenian Genocide.

The program included a trip to downtown Detroit, a tradition at the school, to place flowers at the Jefferson Avenue statue of Gomidas. Students also heard from Souren Aprahamian, a 97-year-old Southfield resident and Armenian Genocide survivor. Aprahamian lost 35 members of his family in the Genocide. He published his autobiography chronicling his experience, *From Van to Detroit, Surviving the Armenian Genocide*, in 1993. According to Dyana Kezelian, elementary and middle school head teacher, Aprahamian acts as school historian whenever the need arises. He speaks to the students frequently on issues related to the Armenian Genocide.

A highlight of the program this year was the eighth-graders' recital of Aprahamian's 1994 Armenian Genocide speech given at Wayne State University.

## “Big Fat” Follow-up Set for June 5

Manoogian's Second Annual “Bigger Fatter Armenian Party” and silent auction takes place June 5 at the St. John's Recreation Center.

Last year's event, held at the Parthenon House in West Bloomfield, raised more than \$8,200.

Barb Oknayan, PTO president, said that everyone is hopeful even more money will be raised at this year's event.

There will be a wide array of items up for bid to help the PTO reach that goal. Here is a peek at some of the auction items:

- An anti-gravity chair massager from HoMedics
- A painting from Art Leaders valued at \$1,000
- Numerous baskets filled with a variety of spirits
- 2 Karat Diamond Chandelier earrings from Avani, Inc., valued at \$2,365
- Various pieces of jewelry, valued between \$350 – \$600

Besides the silent auction, the evening will include a premium open bar, a strolling dinner, and a midnight pizza party. Oknayan stresses that there will be no ticket sales at the door, so don't miss out.

*See back page for ticket information.*

## School Receives Grant!

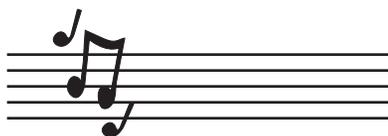
On May 26, Manoogian received official notification of an approved grant of \$153,970 from the Walton Family Foundation.

The grant is earmarked for school improvements in the areas of technology, the media center, and the science lab. Each will get a solid lift thanks to the Walton family.



# School Program

*Manoogian School students performed to an enthusiastic audience April 28 during the School Program for kindergarten through eighth grade. Third-graders (above) did a prop-filled song while eighth-graders (right) showed their dancing prowess to all in attendance.*



## PTO Corner

Manoogian's PTO would like to announce the winners of its Middle School Armenian Genocide Essay Contest - "I Hold in My Hands." Aram Cholakian (6th) took first place, Vazken Hartounian (8th) was second, and Michael Kalfayan (8th) placed third. Awards of Achievement were earned by: Reem Hanna (8th), Alec Kurjian (8th), Vartan Kurjian (6th), Tatevik Movsisyan (8th), Rita Shamamie (8th), Narine Shirvanian (8th), and Haigan Tcholakian (6th).

Thanks also to Annette Cholakian for organizing and implementing the contest.

And last, but not least, a big thanks to the men and women who judged our contest. They were: Dr. Linda Darian-Karibian, Esther Lyons, Alice Nigoghosian, Martin Shoushanian, and David Terzibashian.

The PTO would like to welcome the 2004-2005 board:

Barb Oknayan, president

Peter Toukhanian, vice president

Laura Lucassian, recording secretary

Lisa Belian-Gilbert, corresponding secretary

Robert Stepanian, treasurer

Armen Mutafian, advisor

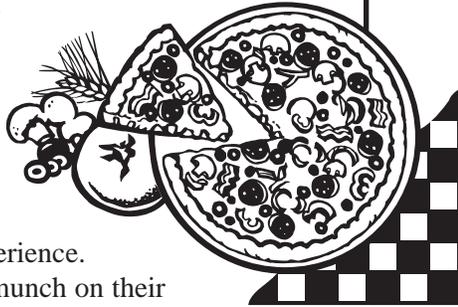
*We would also like to thank the outgoing members of the 2003-2004 board for their faithful service.*

# Wondering What the Students Have Been Up To?

## Here's Your Answer...

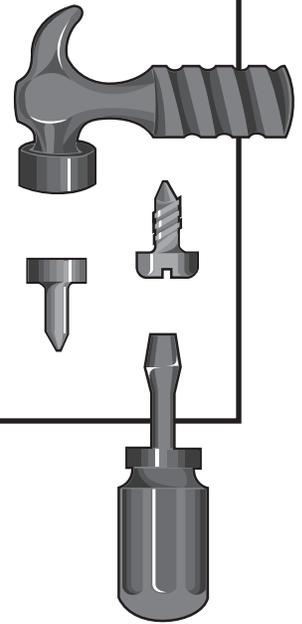
On **April 20**, Sonia Kalfayan took her fifth-grade class to the California Pizza Kitchen in Livonia for a little fun... and a little lunch.

The students stepped behind the counter for some practical pizza-making experience. Then they got to munch on their own creations.



Also on **May 5**, 14 members of the National Honor Society (NHS), led by Andrea Bordeianu, participated in a community service project in Detroit.

The students helped build a home for Habitat for Humanity. This was the second consecutive year that Manooagian NHS members were involved.



On **April 29** through **May 2**, 15 members of Manooagian's senior class also took a road trip. However, this one took a little more time.

High school head teacher Judy Kadri, along with her husband, took the students to the Windy City of Chicago via Amtrak.

One of the trip's highlights was a meal at Sayat Nova, an Armenian restaurant near where the group stayed.

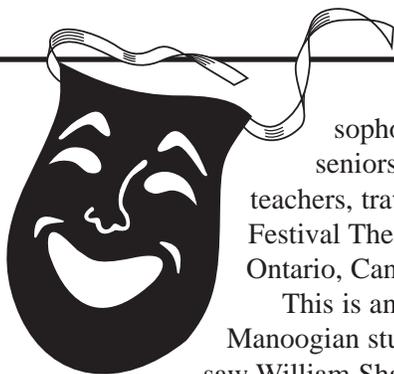
Other highlights included taking in the view from 103rd floor of the Sears Tower; the famous Shedd Aquarium; and shopping along the Magnificent Mile.



According to Kadri, the 2003-2004 senior class was the first in five years to successfully plan and carry out a senior trip.



On **May 5**, several juniors and seniors became some of the first residents of Michigan to take the newly reopened Ford Rouge Factory tour.

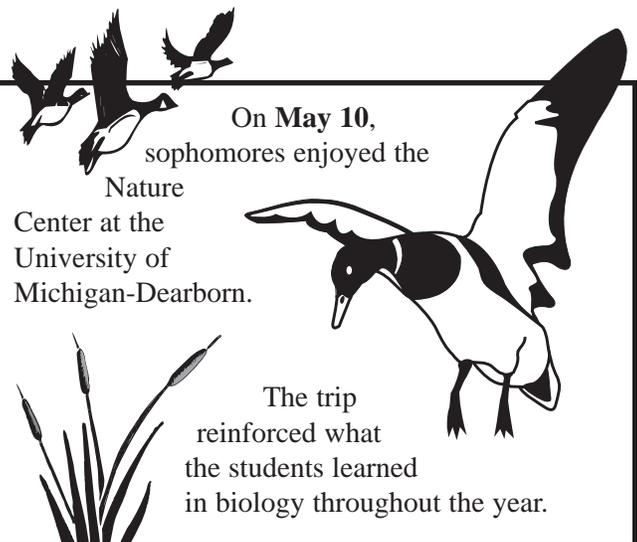


On **May 4**, 25 sophomores, juniors, and seniors, as well as a pair of teachers, traveled to the Stratford Festival Theatre in Stratford, Ontario, Canada.

This is an annual trip for Manooagian students who, this year, saw William Shakespeare's play,

*A Midsummer Night's Dream.*

According to Kadri, the trip might be considered the most successful one the school has ever had to Stratford.



On **May 10**, sophomores enjoyed the Nature Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

The trip reinforced what the students learned in biology throughout the year.

Back by  
popular demand!

# OUR BIGGER FATTER ARMENIAN PARTY II

**Saturday, June 5, 2004**

**7:30 P.M.**

**St. John's Recreation Center**

All tickets are \$50 and are available by contacting Elizabeth Oknayan at (248) 426-7405, Nayiri Misirliyan at (248) 374-5282 or Haigan Ferhadson at the school office at (248) 569-2988.

## Helpful Hint for Parents

Parents need to be involved in their children's progress in school, especially as their children become older. Monitor them in middle and high school, in particular. As students enter the middle school years, they

increasingly need to take control of their own learning. This means organizing their assignments, seeking help when necessary, and having the self-discipline to complete work thoroughly and on time.

Demonstrating this kind of independence and initiative is even more important for high school students.

## Events Calendar

**Thursday, June 3**  
Graduation Rehearsal

**Monday, June 7**  
Graduation

**Thursday, June 10**  
Kindergarten Graduation

**Friday, June 11**  
Fabulous Friday  
(K-5) (6-8) (9-12)

**Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday,  
June 14/15/16**  
Finals  
Grades 9-11

**Thursday, June 17**  
Last Day – Students  
Dismissal 11:30 a.m.

**Friday, June 18**  
Last Day – Faculty

**D A T E S T O  
R E M E M B E R**

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



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