



The Manoogian Voice

Southfield, Michigan

March 2012

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



2012 Armenia Trip

Thirty eager juniors and seniors (Sandra Alias, Zena Acho, Nicholas Aznavour, Alexandra Bedirian, Ovsana Bush, Angelo Cholagh, Kevin Doss, Lenna Ferhadson, Rafael Gharibyan, Marina Ghazar, Brandon Hana, Reem Israel, Austin Jarbo, Angela Kabara, Donovan Kachi, Ani Karibian, Lilit Kazazian, Hagob Krikor, Sevan Markosian, Dujarwin Murray, Jessica Nofar, Raha Richardson, Ari Sagherian, Christopher Sagherian, Ani Stambouljian, Solomiya Svytka, Arev Vandeveld, Ashante Whitehurst, Saren Yeranorian, and Christopher Zouzani), accompanied by high school principal Dr. Hoses Torossian and Armenian teachers Mr. Sebouh Avedikian and Mrs. Anahit Toumajan, will embark on a ten-day trip of a lifetime to Armenia. The group will leave on April 25th and return on May 4th. The trip was made possible, in part, through the largesse of donors.

Special Guest

On January 30, 2012, Mr. Artoun Hamalian, Director of Education for the sixteen Armenian schools around the world under the auspices of the Armenian General Benevolent Union headquartered in New York City, paid our school a visit. He met with administrators, Armenian faculty, and students during the course of the day. Mr. Hamalian was particularly impressed with the well-organized structure of the school and with the solidarity displayed by the students across ethnic and racial lines. We



wish the peripatetic Mr. Hamalian continued success in his travels and endeavors.

Thanks to Donors

AGBU New York	10,000
Richard and Jane Manoogian Foundation	5,000
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In memory of Dr. H. Darian from the Darian Family	3,250
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Jim and Patricia Stambouljian	100
Student Fundraising	5,000
Total as of March 15, 2012	\$40,615

Meeting Mitt Romney



On February 24, 2012, eight Manoogian juniors (Zena Acho, Janelle Jajou, Lilit Kazazian, Oksana Kutsa, Raha Richardson, Ari Sagherian, Solomiya Svytka, and Chris Zouzani) and their two social studies teachers (Mrs. Joanne Karagosian and Mr. Adam Novak) met Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney just before his speech to the Detroit Economic Club at Ford Field. After shaking hands and exchanging a few words with the presidential hopeful, the students felt that he had made a favorable impression. The meeting left them anxious to hear an outline of the former governor's economic plans for the country. Due to its significance for the Michigan primary, held on February 28, the speech was garnering much attention from the media, which made the atmosphere all the more exciting.

Filmmaker Comes to Manoogian

On December 7, 2011, prior to the premiere public showing of Lebanese/Swedish Armenian Suzanne Khardalian's film, "Grandma's Tatoos," on the campus of the University of Michigan – Dearborn, the filmmaker made a special visit to the Manoogian School, where she presented her latest film and answered questions posed by high school students and faculty. Mrs. Khardalian was born in Beirut, Lebanon, where she grew up in the home of a genocide survivor, her own reticent grandmother, who had been tainted for life with tattoos on her face and chin. She related how difficult it was for her grandmother to communicate with family, relatives,



and friends. "Grandma's Tattoos" is the third film that Mrs. Khardalian has produced, along with her Swedish husband, Pia Holmquist, on the theme of the Armenian Genocide. The other films are "Back to Ararat" and "I Hate Dogs." Pictured are Mr. Sebouh Avedikian, Mrs. Suzanne Khardalian, Dr. Hosep Torossian, and Prof. Ara Sanjian.

"Manoogian Idol" Talent Show

The 6th annual "Manoogian Idol" talent show showcased the many talents of the high school students at the Manoogian School. This year's show, which was held on February 10, featured singers, instrumental music, dancing groups, and a special performance by "The Sunshine String Band," featuring our own science teacher Robert Maul on banjo.

Junior Raha Richardson was awarded 1st place for her singing and guitar-playing talents; junior Lilit Kazazian was awarded 2nd place for her piano-playing capabilities; and senior Ryan Hereford came in 3rd place with his singing solo.

"Every contestant did an amazing job, and it was a great opportunity for students to show their various talents. I believe that all the participants were winners," said Sandra Alias, a senior and the National Honor Society president. She co-hosted this year's talent show with senior Donovan Rayis. The National Honor Society sponsors the talent show each year.



Manoogian Students visit Detroit Economic Club

On January 11, 2012, nine seniors and their physics teacher, Mr. Robert Maul, were fortunate to attend a Detroit Economic Club meeting at COBO Convention Center, featuring U.S. Secretary of Energy, Dr. Steven Chu. The school wishes to thank Masco Corporation for making the trip possible. In a room of several hundred professionals, the Manoogian School representatives were one of only three schools in attendance. Chu discussed the role Americans play in reviving the American auto industry, and how innovation can help keep the industry and America's auto workers competitive. He stated, "As a nation, we have the resources, the ambition, and the potential to restore our economy."



Vartanants Celebration

Every year it has become a tradition at the Manoogian School to commemorate the Battle of Avarayr and the Vartanants War. Their slogan was: "In defense of the faith and the homeland," guaranteeing the survival of the Armenian nation. This year, two programs were organized by the Armenian faculty.

On February 29th, elementary students recited poems and sang patriotic songs, while Mr. Sebouh Avedikian's fifth grade class presented a play, capturing the mood and spirit of the occasion. Presentations were made in Armenian and English by Celene Phillip and Mary Rose Azar. General and commander-in-chief of the Armenian army, Vartan Mamigonian, played by Daron Markosian and his brave companion, the priest Ghevont Yerets, played by Ara Calukyan, led 66,000 Armenian soldiers into battle against a superior and well-armed Persian Army (220,000 soldiers). Even after the martyrdom of their leader, Vartan, the Armenians continued their resistance movement for the next 33 years,



culminating in the signing of the Treaty of Nvarsak, which guaranteed the Christian Armenians the right to maintain their own identity in their ancestral homeland.

On March 2nd, another program was held for middle and high school students. Dr. Hosep Torossian, the high school principal stressed the importance of taking an interest in history and learning life lessons from it. He mentioned the importance of devotion, commitment, loyalty, and sacrifice as some of the virtues embodied by Vartan and his comrades.

The story of Historic Armenia's do or die battles with the Zoroastrian Persians was narrated by seniors Sandra Alias (English) and Hagob Krikor (Armenian), accompanied by a YouTube video, entitled "East of Byzantium," which connected Armenia's past to the present with soldiers protecting the country and

singers and dancers displaying the continuum of Armenian culture through the ages. Seniors Lenna Ferhadson, Marina Ghazar, Reem Israel, and Sevan Markosian read the names of the martyred knights listed in detail in the brilliant eyewitness account of Vartan and the Vartanants War by the 5th century historiographer Yeghisheh. Seniors Austin Jarbo (English) and Ani Karibian (Armenian) retold the plight of the wives of the martyrs. They were the delicately-bred women of Armenia who remained resilient and defiant in the face of adversity. Junior Janelle Jajou recited poet Vahan Tekeyan's "Holy Rebellion," while Mrs. Anahit Toumajan's eighth grade class recited poet Vahagn Davtyan's "Armenia in Songs." The program concluded with congratulatory remarks by elementary and middle school principal, Ms. Dyana Kezelian.

RoboFest Championship

With only one week of preparation and experience, and a whole lot of Armenian engineering and ingenuity, four Manoogian freshmen (Robert



Basilisco, Antranik Markosian, Ronald Nasibyan, Raffi Vandeveldel), coached by Dr. Torossian and Mr. Maul, won a second place trophy in an interscholastic robotics competition held at Somerset Mall on Sunday, February 12, 2012. The robots designed by the Freshmen-Four were autonomous (without remote control) and, like sumo wrestling, were able to push their opponents off the table. The robots were equipped with sensors to detect the opponent robot, to stay within the boundary, and, with enough traction and power, to remove the competing robot. Salutations to Dr. Richard Marburger, Chairman of the Manoogian Board of Education, for serving as an intermediary, and to parents, teachers, and students who came out in support of the Manoogian Team.

Fabulous First-Line Contest

Scope Magazine, an eighth grade classroom supplement, offered a contest last October challenging students to come up with a fabulous first line for a story. The winner of this competition will have their first line published in an original story by Roland Smith, as well as win a \$50 iTunes gift card.

Rachel Blohm, Selena Cholak, Alexandra Dehnerova, Aram Ferhadson, Liana Gevorgyan, Gabriela Najjar, Allan Oganyan, and John Sokana came up with some creative first liners. *Scope Magazine* will announce the winner this April. Good luck, students.

America and Me Competition

Each year, Farm Bureau Insurance sponsors a writing contest for all Michigan students that can earn them a cash award of \$1,000. Along with a monetary award, the student also has the opportunity to meet Michigan leaders in Lansing, as well as attend a Lansing Lugnuts minor league baseball game and a luncheon cruise aboard the Michigan Princess Riverboat.

The theme of this competition is "My Michigan Hero." The following students scored high enough to have their essays considered for the competition: Angelina Antonyan, Noor Arbel, Rachel Blohm, Aram Ferhadson, Jeano Kashat, and Gabriela Najar.

Farm Bureau Insurance chose three of the essays from our school and forwarded them to the next level. These students are: Gabriela Najar, Noor Arbel, and Angelina Antonyan. Gabriela Najar's essay, the first place winner from our school, will now

advance to the statewide competition from which the top ten entries in the state will be selected. The statewide winners will be announced in April.

Congratulations to our school winners; and good luck to Gabriela.



National Spelling Bee

The National Spelling Bee, sponsored by the *Detroit Free Press*, is underway. In January, Alex Baljian from 8th grade, Celine Bouery from 7th grade, and Kevin Petrus from 6th grade won first place in their grade level. Their next level of competition was against each other for a school winner. Kevin Petrus won this title by spelling the word "nonreturnable." He will attend an area-wide competition (against other local schools) in March. If he wins, he will head up to Lansing and compete with other area winners. Congratulations to Alex, Celine, and Kevin, and good luck to Kevin in his upcoming competition.



National Geographic Bee

Last January, the Manoogian Middle School students competed in the National Geographic Bee. State winners attend a national-level competition in May in Washington, D.C. and have the opportunity to win a \$25,000, \$15,000 or \$10,000 college scholarship. Grade level winners were: Jasmine Kakos, 8th grade; Armen Vandevelde, 7th grade; and Patil Tcholokian, 6th grade. The school winner was Patil! In January, Patil took a written exam that was submitted to the competition. If she scores high enough, she will be invited to attend the state competition. Congratulations to all grade winners and good luck to Patil!



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



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