



The Manoogian Voice

Southfield, Michigan

June 2014

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

Armenian Genocide Commemoration



With the participation of Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian and Elementary and Middle School Principal Ms. Dyana Kezelian, the elementary students planted yet another tree in back of the school, in memory of the innocent victims of the Armenian Genocide. Later, Fr. Papazian and Ms. Kezelian joined the middle and high school students in the auditorium for a genocide program which featured poems and readings by upper school students and a dramatic video and stage presentation, all coordinated by Mr. Sebouh Avedikian. High School Principal Dr. Hosep Torossian reminded the students of the importance of

remembering crimes against humanity, citing the first genocide of the 20th century during the First World War, targeting Armenians and other Christians living in the Ottoman Empire, and stressing the need to be vigilant and outspoken when facing acts of inhumanity. A madagh lunch was provided to all students and teachers as a gift from Ms. Elizabeth Arahamian in memory of her father, Souren Arahamian, a survivor of the Genocide. The Senior class placed carnations at the khachkar in front of the St. John Armenian Church.



SEE SPECIAL INSERT ON THE 2014 ARMENIA TRIP!

All-School Program



< Middle School Choir

∨ High School Singers



On May 13, 2014, a capacity crowd, comprised of students, teachers, parents, relatives, and friends, gathered at St. John Armenian Cultural Hall and were treated to a dazzling display of Armenian dances and songs performed by our elementary, middle, and high school students. Dance choreographers Nayiri Karapetian and Lara Zanazanian worked tirelessly to prepare the students for the big show. Choir Director Paulette Apkarian worked meticulously with the Manoogian Singers (High School) Choir, comprised of Maryana Borys, Diana Druchkiv, and Nataliya Soroachak, and the Manoogian Stars (Middle School) Choir, which included Crystal Azer, Nadiya Borys, Olena Domaretska, Rachel Garabedian, Shamiran Jeddo,

Marleen Kothi, Lerna Lacinian, Rose Mouradian, Nayiri Sagherian, Rose Salatyan, David Saleem, and Valentina Saleem. Violin Director Harry Hovakimian trained the young, largely upper elementary-age violinists Hagop Alajajian, Mardig Alajajian, Christopher Alajajian, Artem Byelosokhov, Alex Koceyan, Raffi Oknayan, and Anthony Shebat. Meanwhile, the Armenian faculty had taught the elementary students the five songs that were sung to open the program. Elementary and Middle School Principal Ms. Dyana Kezelian announced the 2013-2014 community donations, led by the Senior Project Group (Golf Outing) – \$115,000, followed by the Parent-Teacher Organization – \$20,000, the Cultural Society of Armenians

from Istanbul – \$10,000, the Detroit Armenian Women’s Club – \$1000, Daughters of Vartan – \$500. High School Principal Dr. Hosep Torossian added that \$80,000 was necessary to cover the flight, lodging, food, and excursions for the 27 eleventh and twelfth grade students who went on an unforgettable trip to Armenia. Half of the above-mentioned sum came from the families, while major donations from AGBU Headquarters in New York City, MASCO Corporation, Mr. Richard Manoogian, and many businesses, organizations, and individuals, accounted for the remaining \$40,000. Everyone went home reinvigorated and ready to close out another successful school year.

National Geography and Spelling Bees



^ Eighth grade Geography Bee winners

Middle school students participated in the National Geography Bee. School winners were eighth grader Fineas Romanel – first place, seventh grader Aida Richardson – second place, and eighth grader Nathan Muthi – third place. The winners of the Spelling Bee



^ Spelling Bee winners

were seventh grader Celene Philip – first place, eighth grader Rachel Fullmer – second place, and sixth grader Mano Achekian – third place. In place of Celene who was out of town, Rachel participated in the next round of the competition, before finally bowing out.

Christmas Program

On the last day before the winter holiday break, elementary grade students gathered in the Multi-Purpose Room to sing Christmas carols. The highlight of the morning program was a very funny play, "The Fox without a Tail," performed in Armenian by Mrs. Anahit Toumajan's fourth grade class.

That same afternoon, middle and high school students, who had gathered in the high school auditorium, were in for a treat. The Manoogian Stars and the Manoogian Singers, all under the expert direction of Mrs. Paulette Apkarian, sang a medley of Christmas and Armenian songs, much to the delight of the throng of students, teachers, and parents. It was a fantastic send-off for the holidays!

Vartanants



The annual Vartanants celebration, recalling the 5th century Armenian "do or die" battle in defense of the faith and homeland, was commemorated with a morning program for elementary and an afternoon program for middle and high school students. The high school auditorium was filled to capacity for both events which began with a video, "Armenia: Cradle of Civilization," displaying the majestic architecture of

Armenian churches and monasteries in present-day and historic Armenia. Elementary grade students performed traditional Armenian poems and songs. During the morning program, Mr. Avedikian's fifth grade class, and in the afternoon program, his high school students presented a play where Vartan Mamigonian and other Armenian noblemen traveled to Persia in order to meet and try to convince the unreasonable Shah about their willingness to pay taxes and provide soldiers to the Empire, but also to stress their insistence on maintaining their unwavering faith, as well as language and culture. The ensuing first battle of the war, the Battle of Avarayr, would cost the Armenians 1036 lives, including that of their heroic leader. Though the Persians had an overwhelming number of soldiers and weapons, they would, nevertheless, suffer three times as many casualties and eventually sign a treaty with the Armenians, allowing them to remain a Christian Armenian nation.



*Co-Valedictorian
Grace Torossian*

*Salutatorian
Viken Yerosian*

*Co-Valedictorian
Gohar Melkonyan*

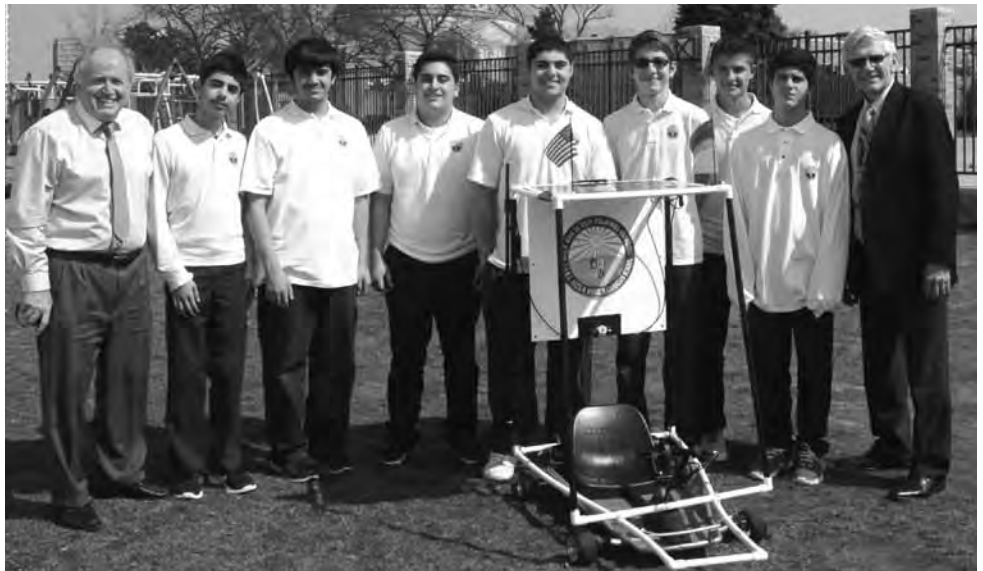
Essay Contest Winners



Three of our eighth grade Middle School students have been named local winners in the 45th annual America and Me Essay Contest sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance. Angela Kirma garnered a first place award, with Christina Tufenkjian finishing second and Shamiran Jeddo third. All three received award certificates for their achievement. As the school's first place winner, Angela's name will also be engraved on a plaque for permanent display in the school. Nearly 450 Michigan schools participated in the contest. The topic this academic year was "My Personal Michigan Hero."

ROBOTICS

This year, Professor Ken Cook of Lawrence Technological University became the technology advisor to the Junior Robotics Team. After giving the students an initial introduction at LTU, Professor Cook visited the school on six occasions, inspiring the students about electrical engineering and bringing “magic” to their solar car project. Dr. Torossian added, “His pleasant and approachable demeanor, his enthusiasm toward the solar project, and his passion to teach is admirable. The students simply loved him.” The former President of LTU and current Chairman of the Manoogian School Board of Directors, Dr. Richard Marburger, served as the liaison. Dr. Virinder Moudgil, the newly appointed President of LTU, visited our school on this occasion and had the following to say: “I was very impressed with the school facilities. The lecture rooms and laboratories are well furnished, appropriately equipped with computers and relevant support. The teachers seem to enjoy being mentors and the students are very polite and



respectful – qualities prized in good academic environments. We were all excited to read the ‘Best Schools in America’ recognition for the Manoogian School. Congratulations.” Dr. Moudgil will be the commencement speaker, addressing the graduating class on Monday, June 2, 2014. As an update, we should mention that the students have completed the solar car, which races at 14 mph. In a separate competition held at LTU on May 16, Jacob Garabedian and Guilio Basilisco won first prize for the fastest robot.

Silent Auction

The annual Manoogian School Silent Auction featured a truly creative display of art works produced by students in pre-K through 8th grades. In addition, attendees bid on an exquisite selection from the Michael Aram Collection, and paintings from the Nork Children’s Center in Yerevan. We thank all of our parents and friends who donated items for the auction. The event generated \$12,000 for the school.

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



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