



# The Manoogian Voice

Southfield, Michigan

June 2015

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



## GRADUATING CLASS OF 2015

Twenty five Manoogian School seniors held their commencement ceremony at St. John Armenian Church Cultural Hall on June 1, 2015. Mariya Nakonechna and Michelle Hami were honored as class Valedictorian and Salutatorian, respectively. Oakland County Judge

Lisa Asadoorian was the keynote speaker. High School Principal Dr. Hosesep Torossian presided, while Head Teacher Judith Kadri served as Master of Ceremonies. The graduates will be continuing their education at various venues, including the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor and Dearborn),

Wayne State University, Oakland University, Oakland Community College, Madonna University, and as far away as Glendale Community College in California. They will never forget their alma mater and the school will never forget them. Good luck to them all!

## 2015 Valedictorian and Salutatorian – Academic All-Stars



Mariya Nakonechna

**Mariya Nakonechna** is this year's Valedictorian. She will attend the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor), where she will study Bio-Chemistry and become an anesthesiologist. Mariya has continuously been on the Administrators' List and is a member of the National Honor Society. Born in Ukraine, she has become proficient in English and conversant in Armenian, all within a span of six years. Mariya credits her English teacher, Mrs. Judith Kadri, for "contributing a lot to my knowledge of the English language," and to her Science teacher, Dr. Anca Stefan, for "inspiring her to go into the medical field."

**Michelle Hami** is this year's Salutatorian. She will attend Oakland University, where she will pursue a degree in Psychiatry. Michelle was also constantly on the Administrators' List and was a member of the National Honor Society. She credits her academic success to Mrs. Kadri, who "motivated me to stay focused throughout high school," and to Social Studies teacher, Mrs. Joanne Karagosian, who "inspired me to become the person I am today."



Michelle Hami

We should mention that Natalie Arslanian, Nicole Davtyan, Elleanna Saco, and Marta Zholobetska were only hundredths of a percentage point behind the Salutatorian. Congratulations to all of them!

# Spring Program



^ *Manoogian Stars*

< *7th grade dancers*

*7th grade girls* >

*Manoogian Singers* v



A large audience filled St. John Armenian Church Cultural Hall on May 21, 2015, in anticipation of a spectacular program by Manoogian School students in grades six through twelve. The Middle and High School students did not disappoint the guests, displaying an array of songs, dances, and instrumental numbers. The evening began with welcoming remarks in impeccable English and Armenian by sixth graders Artem Byelosokhov and Adar Moore, respectively. Interspersed among the numerous talented dances by the Middle and High School classes, adorned in dazzling ethnic costumes, were the songs “Sardarabad” and “Galıs Es” by the Manoogian Stars choir and “Im Anoosh Davigh” and “Jan Yerevan” by the Manoogian Singers choir. Both the Stars and the Singers collaborated in accompanying a group of high school dancers, led by senior Taline Bedirian, in a moving song and dance number dedicated to Giligia, a part of the historic homeland that was lost during the Armenian Genocide. Student accompanists Jacob Garabedian (piano – 10th grade) and Elaine Azar (violin – 6th grade) played beautifully. Junior violinists from the third and

fourth grades and senior violinists from the fifth and sixth grades also participated in the program. Elementary and Middle School Principal Dyana Kezelian announced the generous donations received from the Detroit Armenian community. These included the Special Projects Group (\$115,000), which has contributed \$4,000,000 in more than 40 years of support of the Manoogian School; the Parent Teacher Organization (\$20,000 annual contribution); the Cultural Society of Armenians from Istanbul (\$10,000 annual contribution for more than 40 years); and the Detroit Armenian Women’s Club (\$1,000). Dr. Hosep Torossian, the High School Principal, noted in his closing remarks that, “While other schools have had to cut cultural programs and the arts from their curriculum, the Manoogian School has actually enhanced these programs.” The Principals not only lauded the great achievements of the students who participated in the program, but also their mentors: Nayiri Karapetian and Lara Zanazanian (dance directors and choreographers), Paulette Apkarian (choir director and choreographer), and Harry Hovakimian (violin director). What a night!

# 100th Anniversary – April 24, 2015

The centennial of the Armenian Genocide was solemnly commemorated by Manoogian School students. The Elementary program was coordinated by Mrs. Anahit Toumajan and included readings and recitations by third, fourth, and fifth graders. Her eighth grade class presented a program dedicated to American and European individuals and organizations that saved the lives of thousands of Armenian orphans, invoking their memory with the motto, “We remember and we are thankful.” As has been the custom for the past several years, a tree was planted in back of the school, in memory of the 1.5 million innocent victims of the Genocide. The Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian shared the message of the day and blessed the memorial meal which was graciously donated by Mrs. Mayda Kayayan and her children, ninth grader Garo and eighth grader Jennifer, in memory of their recently departed husband and father, Masis Kayayan. The afternoon remembrance for Middle and High School students and teachers took place at St. John Armenian Church Cultural Hall and was organized by Mr. Sebouh Avedikian, with the participation of his eleventh and twelfth grade students. In his opening remarks, Dr. Hosesep Torossian, High School Principal, commented that April 24th was the darkest day in Armenian history and, because of a blanket denial by Turkey and lack of international recognition by some key countries in the world, the wounds of the Genocide continue to fester. The program included a video from the Genocide Memorial in Yerevan, Armenia, and a dramatic presentation of the hundreds of Armenian schools, churches, and communities that existed in 1915 and the juxtaposition to 2015, when hardly any are left in the historic Armenian homeland. In addition, four pieces by Gomidas, the father of Armenian music and a victim of the Genocide, were played by the Henrik Karapetyan string quartet. A moving song, “Giligia,” dedicated to a lost homeland, was sung by the Manoogian Stars and Singers, under the direction of Mrs. Paulette Apkarian, with the accompaniment of a group of high school dancers, under the direction of Mrs. Nayiri Karapetian. Ms. Dyana Kezelian offered closing remarks, imploring all those in attendance to never forget, but always remember the Armenian Genocide.

## Art Project

For the centennial commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, Mrs. Elizabeth Mack’s art students in Elementary, Middle and High School have produced 100 pieces of art. The message the students wish to convey is one of rebirth and renewal. They have a positive attitude toward the future and wish to celebrate Armenian culture.



The Eye Project aimed for students to create a realistic self-portrait of their eyes. Exactly 100 sets of eyes are on display, honoring the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Regardless of the eyes you look through and the heritage of the person behind them, those eyes stand for the rights of human dignity. They recognize that no one should be discriminated against because of race, ethnicity, religion, or gender. Those eyes stand for justice and the hope that basic human rights will be upheld in the future. Those eyes seek truth and justice.



The following students were inducted into the Manoogian Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society on May 28:

**6TH GRADE**  
Christopher Alajajian  
Elaine Azar  
Karine Calukyan  
Mariam Habring  
Adar Moore

Liliya Ptyts  
Zoriana Saviak  
Yuliya Velhan

**7TH GRADE**  
Rose Mouradian  
Angela Yuhana

**8TH GRADE**  
Mykyta Mihalkin  
Khrystyna Prokopiv



< A group of 50 students, led by teachers Adam Novak, Joanne Karagosian, and Tim Caldwell, represented the Manoogian School at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. on the Centenary of the Armenian Genocide.

At the Detroit >  
Economic Club,  
shortly after a meeting  
with Four-Star  
General Wesley Clark  
who discussed the  
situation in Ukraine.

Attending were 19  
Ukrainian students,  
led by Dr. Torossian  
and Mrs. Lilit  
Babloumian, the  
ESL teacher.



*Ms. Kezelian and Dr. Torossian wish to thank all students, faculty, staff, and parents for a wonderful year and look forward to greeting everyone on September 8, 2015, at the start of a brand new school year. Please have a safe and happy summer.*

*Visit Manoogian School's Web Site: [www.manoogian.org](http://www.manoogian.org)*



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