

St. John Armenian Church, 22001 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield, MI 48075

(248)569-3405

www.stjohnsarmenianchurch.org

<https://stjohnwomensguild.square.site>

*A Message
from our chairman...*



As I reflect on this year, I'd like to thank the past chairs who responded to my phone calls and emails, generously giving me advice. It might have been many times or just once, but to a woman, each has treated the request seriously and thoughtfully. I gained valuable insight, and they have been an important resource for me.

This brings to mind our Survey. There was a suggestion which I haven't yet acted upon: bringing together past Guild chairs to discuss possible solutions to the present-day challenges of the Guild. I'm not sure if this would just be a one-off or turn into its own Circle. After the holidays I'll contact past chairs to gauge interest; you may contact me beforehand if you like. Thank you, Linda Stamboulian, for this suggestion.

We had to postpone our elections last month, and that's given us an opportunity to try something new by having a Christmas Market. Admittedly, it's a ploy to get you to come to our hastily planned election meeting. But it's a fun idea, don't you think? I hope to see you on Wednesday, December 7th starting at 6:30p for the Market & light refreshments, with elections following at 7:30. No regular meeting is planned.

Here's to all of us enjoying the holiday season,

Carol Cholmakjian



Congratulations to Howard and Cathy Atesian on the marriage of their son Darren to Pashke Arifi on Saturday, November 12, 2022. Darren is also the brother-in-law of Guild member Christine Atesian. Best wishes to the happy couple!

Congratulations to Iris Samson on her marriage to John Tate on November 12, 2022. For those of you who don't know Iris, she is a member of our maintenance staff – our housekeeper – who takes such good care of us! Their wedding and reception were held in our own St. John renovated hall! As a thank you for all she does



for us, the Women's Guild baked choreg and boreg for her mezza table. Thank you, Sara A, Paulette A, Nancy B, George (AKA Denise) B, Joy C, Jackie E, Mona K, Dolly M, Alice M, Terry P, Judy P, Marilyn S, Cathy Z and Ed Z. for all of your hard work!



Congratulations to Elizabeth Amboian on the birth of her great-grandson Chase Robert Grabowski. Chase was born on October 17, 2022 to proud parents Stephen and Lauren Grabowski.



Our Plarning Outreach Program Needs Your Help

Plarning is a form of crocheting with plastic bags to make blankets and pillows for the homeless. The shelters hand them out faster than volunteers can make them. It's very easy and you can find the demonstration on our YouTube Guild Gatherings page. Please reach out to Edith Baise about how to participate (313)673-3325.



Our member Belinda Kabodian, BS, RN. Is the Community Coordinator for Ascension SE Michigan Community Health as well as our Parish nurse. She has generously shared a copy of the Ascension SE MI Community Health, October-December, 2022 electronic flyer. She would also like to remind you they are leading FREE virtual exercise and lectures for the community. Please check it out and share with your family and friends. These FREE virtual exercise classes are a terrific way to help keep you moving and safe while at home. To register go to healthcare.ascension.org/events or call 248-849-5752 for questions and to register your email address.



Please add the following to your Women's Guild Directory:

Lena Montgomery: new email – LenaHMontgomery@gmail.com

Do you have an announcement you would like to share with the Women's Guild??? If so, please email Nyree Giragosian, nyreevgir@gmail.com, the news you would like to share and we will include it in an upcoming newsletter. The deadline is the 20th of the month

Sat., Dec. 3 rd	World Medical Relief 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm – Contact Edith Baise (313)673-3325 or ebaise@umich.edu
Wed., Dec. 7 th	Christmas Market/Election Night Meeting – 6:30 pm
Wed., Dec. 14 th	Guild Gatherings – “Making Boregs with filo dough by Mary”.
Wed., Dec. 14 st	Executive Board Meeting – 7:00 pm
Sat., Dec. 24 th	Christmas Eve Services 11:00 pm
Sun., Dec. 25 th	Merry Christmas!
Fri., Jan. 6 th	Armenian Christmas Luncheon <i>following</i> the FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST Divine Liturgy Blessing of the Waters/Chrorhnek 10:00 am – Jackie EIChemmas. Brief January General Body meeting following luncheon
Sat., Jan. 7 th	Manoogian Manor Armenian Christmas Visit – Elise Papazian
Wed., Jan. 18 th	Executive Board Meeting




JOIN US AND HELP SORT BADLY NEEDED MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT TO BE USED LOCALLY AND AROUND THE WORLD.

SJAC VOLUNTEER DAY AT WORLD MEDICAL RELIEF

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY



World Medical Relief donated over \$1.5 million dollars in medical supplies to Armenia in 2021!

The Women’s Guild appreciates all of their effort and we encourage our members to volunteer.

Dec. 3rd / 1:00 – 3:00 pm

CONTACT GREG OR EDITH BAISE AT (313)673-3325 OR EBASE@UMICH.EDU

Thank You


Thank you to Sue Vian along with Joy C., Nora N., and Ygn. Roberta G. for organizing our annual “Alternatives for Girls” holiday gift bag project. We would also like to thank all of the Women’s Guild members who donated personal care items for the bags and for assisted in putting the gifts together. Over 60 gift bags were delivered!

Thank you Yerchanig Joy Callan for organizing our holiday bake sale bake dates and to all of our baking volunteers:

Katah: Dawn A, Betty A, Johanna B, Mary B George B (AKA Denise), Joy C, Marianne D, Diane E, Mona K, Linda L, Dolly M, Carol O, Terry P, Judy P, and Nevart T.

Day 1 Sou Boreg Crowd: Dawn A, Shoushan A, Marilyn B, Mary B, Joy C, Marvin C, Carol C, Marilyn D MacKenzie F, Adreena H, Garry J, Ygn Roberta K, Mona K, Linda L, Vaughn M, Dolly M, Vickee N (1st day of many), Carol O, Terry P, Elise P, Judy P, Viva P, (1st day of many), Marilyn S, Maggie Y.

Day 2 Sou Boreg Crowd: Joy C, MacKenzie F, (new primo dough roller), Fr Aren J (New dough placer - he already can roll), Mona K, and Vaughn M. (self-proclaimed 'Soo-pervisor').



To bring in the holiday spirit,
we're having a

CHRISTMAS MARKET

before our Election Night Meeting
on Wednesday December 7.

Market at 6:30 pm
Elections at 7:30 pm

Stroll the market, where you can shop,
watch holiday demonstrations,
and enjoy delicious light appetizers.

*Because this event is in conjunction
with our elections,
it is only open to Women's Guild members.*

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4aafad2dalfcc25-christmas>



Women's Guild Armenian Christmas Luncheon/Meeting

Friday, January 6, 2023
following Christmas Badarak
at St. John Armenian Church

*Please join us for a
Christmas celebration luncheon.
A brief member only meeting will follow.*

All parishioners and friends are welcome to
the luncheon – free will donation and/or
bring mittens, scarves, full/queen blankets,
hats, and/or socks for
Motor City Mitten Mission.

Contact Jackie ElChemmas for details
jackieelch@gmail.com

or

(248)762-1312

Manoogian Manor
Armenian Christmas Visit
Saturday,
January 7, 2023
11:00 am



Join our clergy,
Members of the choir, the
Men's society, and the
Women's Guild as we spend
the morning in prayer,
singing, and good will with the
residents of
Manoogian Manor.

Contact *Elise Papazian* for information
elisepkp@gmail.com or (248)943-6162

November 2022

Dear St. John Woman's Guild,

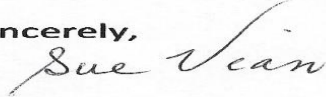
Thank you for your generous donations, time and interest in helping the Alternative for Girls holiday gift bag project.

I wish you could see the reaction on the receiving end when I deliver the bags!

This year, when I drove up, a group of volunteering accountants were doing clean-up landscaping at The Alternative for Girls. The donation coordinator at the shelter put them to work unloading our bags from my van.

Please keep up the good work and I'm looking forward to working with you all on this project again next year!

Sincerely,



Alternatives For Girls
© 1998 Alternative For Girls

903 West Grand Boulevard • Detroit, Michigan 48208-2365
Business Line 313-361-4000 • Toll Free Crisis Line 888-AFG-3919 • Fax 313-361-8938
www.alternativesforgirls.org

November 8, 2022

St. John's Armenian Church - Women's Guild
418 E 3rd St
Royal Oak, Michigan 48067-2756

Dear Ms. Vian,

We can't say thank you enough!

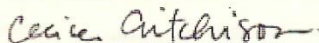
Thank you for your heartfelt donation of holiday gift bags, clothing, and bulk of toiletries. These items are genuinely appreciated and needed throughout our programming.

Thanks to you, a girl or young woman who faces obstacles in violence, teen pregnancy, and exploitation now has the resources and opportunities necessary to be safe, to grow strong, and to make positive choices in her life. Your support not only allows Alternatives For Girls to respond to her needs through shelter, crisis intervention, academic support, and life skills, but it also means she can start planning her bright future today!

We are so profoundly moved by your heartfelt generosity to invest in the lives of girls and young women, and we know you care about their success as much as we do.

Thank you for your belief in them and for investing in their growth. It truly makes a difference in the future of our girls and young women's success.

Sincerely,



Cecile Aitchison
Chief Development Officer

P.S. Please feel free to contact me at caitchison@alternativesforgirls.org if you have questions about our current programs and services.

Donor estimated value: \$500.00

IRS rules require me to state that no goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution.

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE

Soo Boreg and Katah

St John Women's Guild enjoyed three special days in recent weeks. First, we gathered together and made 70 loaves of Katah. Actually, 71, but we ate one!! And then, we made world famous Soo Boreg. However, that required a backup team to come in again, the next day and bat clean-up! Thanks to the Tuesday and Wednesday friends that made day 1 and day 2, a rip-roaring success. Somehow, we thought we made 20 half trays and 20 full trays. But, no! It was 23 full trays and 21 half trays, that meant more hours and days for us, but also for very happy people. On pick-up day, we received very polite requests for 'extra' trays and YES, we were able to fulfill those requests.

So, all in all, our Women's Guild Holiday Bake Sale was a great success.

The success was the many new friends that have come to join with us and make new friends.

The success was in preserving some of our best loved holiday traditions.

The success was fellowship and service.

See you for Palm Sunday Bake Sale days -2023!!

Major thanks to our St. John Staff. Our amazing kitchen staff, in particular Derick who runs clean up behind our giant mess. And, to Ron, Carletta, CJ, Kyle and our newly married Iris! Thank you to Paul Y, Paul A and Anna. You all make us look much better than we are!



Guild Gatherings

Denise Karakashian and Paulette Apkarian would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported Guild Gatherings with their time and talents. They have enjoyed every minute of this project, from its' creation to viewing each of the exciting videos.

However, it is time to pass the torch. If you are interested in chairing this worthy project, please contact Carol Cholmakjian. Denise and Paulette will be happy to meet with you and present all the tools necessary to present these videos to our members. Thank you for your consideration.





THE WOMENS GUILD OF ST JOHN ARMENIAN CHURCH

PRESENTS

Guild Gatherings

a series of creative videos for YouTube

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

LEARN TO MAKE BORAGS
WITH FILO DOUGH
BY MARY

CLICK ON THE LINK

[HTTPS://STJOHNWOMENSGUILD.
SQUARE.SITE/GUILD-GATHERINGS-1](https://stjohnwomensguild.square.site/guild-gatherings-1)



BLAST from the PAST

Have you come across any old Women's Guild photos lately??? If so, please email them to Nyree Giragosian, nyreevgir@gmail.com, along with member names/event and any other news you would like to share and we will include them in an upcoming newsletter. The deadline is the 20th of the month.

This month's Blast from the Past is a Southfield Eccentric article from 1988 about our Women's Guild 50th Anniversary Banquet. It's hard to believe that we will be celebrating our 85th Anniversary next year!!!!

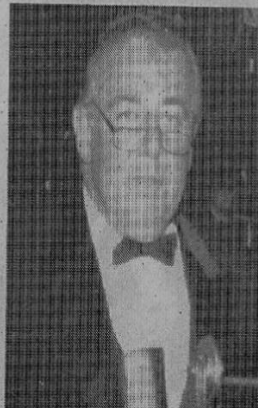
Southfield St. John's Women's Guild Marks 50th Year With Banquet

An evening of celebration was the feeling that prevailed September 24, as the Women's Guild of St. John's marked its fifty years as a Church organization.

St. John's Cultural Hall was the scene of this black tie affair which included elegant centerpieces, delicious hors d'oeuvres and a gourmet dinner complete with dessert table. Upon arriving, guests were treated to valet parking and greeted by those in attendance.

Arthur Apkarian, the evening's master of ceremonies, welcomed the guests and, following dinner, gave a history of the Guild. He then asked the

members and past chairmen with gifts. The highlight of the evening was a candle lighting



Arthur Apkarian, master of ceremonies.



50th Anniversary Celebration Committee of St. John's Women's Guild. Seated, from the left: Yvonne Korkoian, Cynthia Apkarian, Mary Demir, Paulette Apkarian, Alice Terzian, Isabelle Vahratian. Standing: the Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian, Arlene Baylerian, Pam Dayinian, Joyce Karamanian, Dolly Matoian, Mary Ann Artinian, Cathy Atesian, Marianne Zamanigian, Almas Derderian, Doris Kalajian, Helen Torigian, Berjouhi Sanjian.



Charter members and past chairmen of St. John's Women's Guild.

Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian and Guild chairman, Mary Demir to present the Charter

ceremony performed by each Charter member and past chairman as she received her gift.

Next, Father Avedikian gave a message regarding an understanding of the Women's Guild as an organization.

Later, dancing to the music of two bands, the Johnites and Mirage, completed the evening's merriment.

Special thanks to co-chairmen, Cynthia and Paulette Apkarian and their committee for coordinating this lavish affair. Committee members were: Dinner, Alice Terzian and Cathy Atesian; dessert table, Helen Torigian, Berjouhi Sanjian and Marianne Zamanigian; booklet, Joyce Karamanian,

Mary Ann Artinian, Almas Derderian, Yvonne Korkoian, and Dolly Matoian; reservations, Isabelle Vahratian; publicity, Arlene Baylerian; Guild history, Pam Dayinian; decorations, Doris Kalajian; and advisor, Mary Demir.

The twelve women who began the Women's Guild 50 years ago have seen it grow to its present membership of 250. During this time the Guild has been the mainstay of the

Church. The 50th anniversary celebration was a joyous tribute to this very special group of women.

The Chapter members were: Siran Yagoobian, Lillian Boyajian, Queenie Hanoian, Victoria Zamanigian, Rose DerStepanian, Varsenick Apkarian, Sylvia Artinian Ezmerlian, Peggy Gavjian, Armenouhi Hovsepian, Florence Ruzgerian, Armenouhi Terzian, and fifty-year member, Rose Avakian.

Photos by Rinde Finnian

Women's Guild 2022 Calendar

Including Event Chairs

Thurs, Jan 6	Armenian Christmas Luncheon Take Away Noon	Wed, July 27	Summer Outing - Detroit Tour of Historic Churches, Marilyn Sarkesian
Thurs, Jan 6	General Body meeting 7:00pm Zoom	Sat, July 30	Manoogian Manor visit, Transfiguration of Our Lord, 11:00am
Date TBD	Manoogian Manor visit, Armenian Christmas, Elise Papazian, <i>Cancelled due to COVID</i>	Wed, Aug 17	Executive Board Meeting, 7:00pm
Wed, Jan 19	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm, ZOOM	Sat, Aug 20	Manoogian Manor visit, Assumption of the Holy Mother of God, 11:00am
Wed, Feb 2	General Body meeting, 7:00pm, ZOOM	Sun, Aug 21	Church Picnic Bake Sale, Edith Baise & Alice Argonian
Wed, Feb 16	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm, ZOOM	Wed, Sept 7	General Body meeting, 7:00pm
Wed, March 2	Saintly Women's Day observance 11:00am/Luncheon/ General Body Mtg, Jackie ElChemmas	Sun, Sept 11	Khunjook/Family Fun Day, Paulette Apkarian
Wed, March 16	Executive Board meeting after Lenten services, 7:00pm, ZOOM	Sat, Sept 17	Manoogian Manor visit, Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 11:00am
Wed, April 6	7:00-7:30pm Fellowship & Book Exchange, 7:30pm General Body meeting	Wed, Sept 21	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
Sun, April 10	Palm Sunday Bake Sale, Marilyn Dadian, <i>outdoors</i>	Sept 30 – Oct 1	Bazaar Bake Sale, Sue Vian & Rose Najarian Fri, NEED CHAIR Sat; Hot Foods, Denise Boyagian & Dawn Aginian
Sun, April 17	Easter Sunday Tea, Nyree Giragosian, <i>outdoors</i>	Wed, Oct 5	General Body meeting, 7:00pm, ZOOM
Wed, April 20	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm, ZOOM	Wed, Oct 19	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
Sat, April 23	Manoogian Manor visit, Easter, 11:00am	Wed, Nov 2	Alternatives for Girls drop-off 5:30pm, Sue Vian
Wed, May 4	General Body meeting, 7:00pm. Speaker Dr. Christine Matoian, Women's Health	Wed, Nov 2	General Body meeting and Elections 7:00pm
Wed, May 18	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm	Wed, Nov 16	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
Wed, June 1	Membership Dinner, Belinda Kabodian & Shoushan Ameriguan	Wed, Nov 30	Advent by Candlelight, Sara Andonian
Wed, June 15	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm, ZOOM	Wed., Dec 7	Christmas Market 6:30, Election Night 7:30
Sun, June 26	Hokehankist for Women's Guild Members, Tea after church, Paulette Apkarian	Wed, Dec 14	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
Sat, July 23	Armenia Fest Royal Oak Farmer's Market 5-10pm, Denise Boyagian		

COMING 2023

Saturday, October 21, 2023
85th Anniversary of the Women's Guild
 and
50th Anniversary of the
Armenian Heritage Collection
Evening Event