

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

(248)569-3405

[www.stjohnsarmenianchurch.org](http://www.stjohnsarmenianchurch.org)

<https://stjohnwomensguild.square.site>



*A Message from our chairman...*

Dear Women's Guild Members,

As you are reading this newsletter, we are in the middle of the Christmas season. Thanksgiving has come and gone - and all of the leftovers are out of our refrigerators. Advent has started. We are all busy decorating, baking, cooking, and shopping for gifts. This year I'm trying to spend more time with friends and really experiencing the joy of friendships. I want to spend peaceful time with family and share all the hope and love of the Christmas season - for that season ends on January 6.

And speaking of January 6, we are still in need of a chairperson and a committee for the Armenian Christmas luncheon. If you are able to help, please reach out to me (248)515-9264 or [andoniansl@gmail.com](mailto:andoniansl@gmail.com).

Please join us on December 6 for our Christmas Cocktail Party. Details are in the newsletter and please RSVP. We would love to see you there.

Lastly, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Prayerfully yours,

*Sara Andonian*



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Christine Kazarian, mother-in-law of new member Karen Kazarian, on October 28, 2023. Our deepest condolences to Karen and her family.

Our deepest sympathies to Paula Derbabian & Susie Reizian on the passing of their mother and grandmother of Lauren Gershonowicz, Tacque Derbabian, on November 10, 2023. Our deepest condolences to them and their family.

It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of our dear member Elizabeth Aprahamian on November 14, 2023. We express our deepest sympathy to her loving family and friends.

- Asdvadz Hokeeneruh Loosavoreh

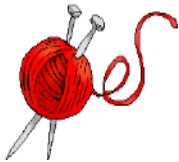


Wishing a speedy recovery to Debbie Morgan. As you heal and rest, know you are missed and thought of often.



Congratulations to Yvonne and Edward Korkorian on the birth of their twin grandsons. Shant Edward and Christopher Bedros, on November 4, 2023. Proud parents are Christopher and Shakay Korkoian.

### **KNITTING CLUB**



The knitting club is back in full every Thursday from 10am-noon in the St. Vartan room. The group will get together the third Thursday of every month with the exception of December. No experience necessary – come learn while making new friends! We are still knitting baby blankets for St. Joe's hospital. Please reach out to Linda Assarian [linda.assarian@gmail.com](mailto:linda.assarian@gmail.com)

### **ST. JOHN ARMENIAN CHURCH SCHOOL ANNUAL TOYS FOR TOTS COLLECTION**



Collection dates November 5<sup>th</sup>- December 17<sup>th</sup> - Please bring new, unwrapped toys and place them in the collection boxes which are located in the church lobby. Contact Sara Andonian with any questions.

### **St. John Armenian Church Volunteer Day at WORLD MEDICAL RELIEF**



Join us on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1:00pm - 3:00pm. and sort badly needed medical supplies and equipment to be used locally and around the world. World Medical Relief donated over \$1.5 million dollars in medical supplies to Armenia in 2021! Contact Greg or Edith Baise (313)673-3325 or [ebaise@umich.edu](mailto:ebaise@umich.edu)

Fri., Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup>	RSVP deadline for Christmas Cocktail Party ( <i>see flyer below</i> ) – Linda Houhanisin (248)321-3896 or <a href="mailto:fitrunnerms@gmail.com">fitrunnerms@gmail.com</a>
Fri., Dec.1 <sup>st</sup>	Men's Society & Women's Guild Game Night 6:00 pm – Veteran's Building
Sat., Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	World Medical Relief 1:00pm-3:00pm. Contact Edith Baise (313)673-3325 or <a href="mailto:ebaise@umich.edu">ebaise@umich.edu</a>
Wed., Dec. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Cocktail Party - 6:00pm – <i>see flyer below</i>
Sun., Dec. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Executive Board Meeting
Sun., Dec. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Cookie Sale – <i>see flyer in the newsletter</i>
Sun., Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Eve Church Services
Mon., Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Merry Christmas!!!
Sat., Jan. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Armenian Christmas – Church Services and Women's Guild Luncheon
Sat., Jan. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Manoogian Manor Armenian Christmas visit – 11:00am – Contact Elise Papazian <a href="mailto:elisepkp@gmail.com">elisepkp@gmail.com</a> or call 248-943-6162)



*St John's Women's Guild  
presents a  
Christmas Cocktail Party  
"Ladies Night Out"*

*An evening of good food, good friends,  
and good times!*

*Wednesday, December 6, 2023  
6:00 pm*

*St. John's Cultural Hall  
donation: \$20.00*

*RSVP by Friday, December 1st  
Linda Houhanisin: 248-321-3896  
email: [fitrunnerms@gmail.com](mailto:fitrunnerms@gmail.com)*

*This year we are also collecting monetary  
donations for AYO! (YES!) to purchase  
bedding, blankets and clothing for  
Artsakh refugees in Armenia.  
Please make all checks payable to  
St. John's Women's Guild.*

# Women's Guild 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Armenian Heritage Collection 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala

A spectacular time was had by all at the St. John Armenian Church Women's Guild 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Armenian Heritage Collection 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala on Saturday, October 28, 2023. Over 200 guests enjoyed mouthwatering Armenian appetizers while Armenian music played in the background as they were welcomed into our beautifully renovated banquet hall where guests were seated at their tables anxiously waiting for what came next. In honor of the Women's Guild Anniversary, 20 past chairmen (dating back to 1962) of our church's 85-year-old organization were honored before we were served our delicious dinner, and one by one lit the candles on our anniversary cake as they were introduced by current Women's Guild Chair Sara Andonian and Women's Guild Anniversary Chair Jacqueline ElChemmas, followed by a toast to their years of service. Thank you to the following past chairs (listed by year served) who were honored at our Gala:



Rose Shahinian	Lora Kazanjian	Linda Stamboulian
Angela Banerian	Jane Hovsepien	Yerchanig Joy Callan
Mary Keoleian	Jacqueline ElChemmas	Barbara Rupas
Isabelle Vahratian	Marianne Dardarian	Lisa Derderian
Alice Terzian	Linda Assarian	Denise Karakshian
Nina Sarkisian	Linda Tiffany	Denise Boyagian
Rose Mardigian	Joyce Obenhoff	Carol Cholmakjian
Mary Demir	Dawn Karagosian	Sara Andonian

Following a delicious dinner of Shish Kebob and Salmon, the second half of the evening began – the Armenian Heritage Costume Collection Program. Since 1977, when the collection was first performed at St. John Armenian Church, this collection has enriched audiences all over the United States and Canada. Under the guidance of the Armenian Heritage Collection chairman Paulette Apkarian, this 50-year-old legacy was brought to life for us all. The following twenty-six models had the honor of participating in the program:

Shahan Ashkarian	Hiyk Ghazarian	Sevana Mailian
Armen Arslanian	Sevag Ghazarian	Madeline Mardigian
Michael Baghdasarian	Gayane Hovhannisyen	Nayiri Ourlian
Sona Baldwin	Isabelle Kazarian	Maria Palaian
Stella Baldwin	Marissa Kazarian	Lindsay Sahakian
Melanie Boskovich	Adam Krikorian	Christine Santourian
Vartuhi Dilakian	Mona Kurjian	Jennifer Scappaticci
Nazeli Doghramadjian	Madisen Lundquist	Olivia Thomas
Patricia Fantazian	Areg Mailian	

The Gala committee worked diligently for the past six months under the guidance of the Anniversary Gala chairman Jacqueline ElChemmas. We thank her for her leadership and also thank her committee for their tireless dedication, making the evening an experience we will not soon forget! We would also like to thank Armenian Heritage Collection chair, Paulette Apkarian, and her committee for ensuring the theatrical production of the collection performance was flawless.

## Women's Guild 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee



Jacqueline ElChemmas – Chair  
Sara Andonian  
Paulette Apkarian  
Sara Sarkisian Bell  
Carol Cholmakjian  
Marilyn Dadian  
Diane Ekizian  
Nyree Giragosian  
Denise Karakashian  
Yn. Roberta Kochakian  
Dolly Matoian  
Anna Svirid Sarkisian  
Linda Tiffany



## Armenian Heritage Collection 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

Paulette Apkarian – Chair  
Patricia Kezelian  
Terry Palaian  
Marilyn Sarkesian



WOMEN'S GUILD PAST CHAIRMEN  
CANDLE LIGHTING TOASTING











# “The Art of Letters, Our Identity”

*Linda Karibian, contributor*



On Saturday, November 4, 2023, Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian led the Women's Guild painting workshop, "The Art of Letters, Our Identity." The morning began with a power point presentation followed by a demonstration by Fr. Garabed and a prayer prior to the actual artwork. Each "artist" was given a set of gouache paints and all the materials necessary to create their own illuminated Armenian letter(s). The room fell quiet as each person concentrated and was drawn in to the peace of creating a unique work of art for themselves. A light lunch was also served, but the artists were eager to return to their projects. As the afternoon drew to a close, many were reluctant to stop their work, but in the end gathered for a photo holding their letters.

The committee consisted of Linda Tiffany, Sara Andonian, Sue Carman Vian, Nora Noraian and Linda Karibian – thank you so much for organizing this enriching activity. The Women's Guild would like to thank Fr. Garabed and Yn. Roberta for their hard work bringing our rich art and heritage to our Church in this unique, personal way. It was an amazing day enjoyed by all!



# MEN'S SOCIETY and WOMEN'S GUILD GAME NIGHT



Over 20 people gathered for an evening of fun on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, as they played games, shared a delicious meal, and enjoyed each other's company in our Veteran's Hall.

Our next Game Night will be on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6pm -

*Hope to see you there!!!!*





**Alternatives For Girls**

© 1998 Alternatives For Girls



Thank you Sue Vian and your circle members Anita Boyagian, Michele Ducato, Evie Ezmerlian, Sandy Jamian, Yn. Roberta Kochakian, Gloria Korkoian, and Nora Noraian for organizing this year's Alternatives for Girls Collection. Your dedication to this project every year makes such a difference in the lives of the young women touched by Alternatives for Girls

*Please see a message from Sue below:*

“The Alternative for Girls Holiday Gift Bags and other donated items that did not fit in the bags were all delivered Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

About 100 bags were filled with our Guild's generous donations of toiletries and small gift items.

The bags were gratefully received by, Amenia Army, the Fund Development Manager at The Alternative for Girls. They will then go into vans and be passed out to young women on the streets.

This small gift can help encourage girls to come to the Alternative for Girls Center.

The center is located on W. Grand Blvd. near Michigan Ave.

Thank you to all our guild members who contributed to this worthy cause! Keep collecting your toiletries and I'll see you next year!”

*-Sue Vian*



Have you ever thought about volunteering for one of our many events but weren't quite sure which one was right for you? Take a look at the 2024 circle list below and sign up for the committee of your choice! There are twelve events ending with an asterisk that are still in need of chairmen – you don't have to chair alone – grab a friend and co-chair a committee!

Please reach out to  
Sara Andonian (248)515-9264 or  
[andonians1@gmail.com](mailto:andonians1@gmail.com) for more information!

**Armenian Christmas Luncheon\* - January 6, 2024**

**Palm Sunday Baking\***

**Palm Sunday Bake Sale - March 24, 2024**

Contact Marilyn Dadian  
([dadian@comcast.net](mailto:dadian@comcast.net)) or call 248-882-0935)

**Easter Sunday Tea - March 31, 2024**

Contact Nyree Giragosian  
([nyreevgr@gmail.com](mailto:nyreevgr@gmail.com)) or call 248-231-2547)

**Armenian Martyrs Day\* – four churches\***

**Women's Saints Day\* - March (TBD) 2024\***

**Member Memorial Tea\***

**Membership Dinner\***

**Summer Outing \* - TBD**

**Armenia Fest\* - July 2024**

**Four Churches Ladies Event\* – Summer 2024**

**Church Picnic Bake Sale\* (Assumption of the Holy Mother of God) August 2024**

**Khunjook\* - September 8, 2024**

**Bazaar Hot Foods\* and Bake Sale (Saturday)\* - October 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Alternatives For Girls - November 3, 2021**

Contact Sue Vian  
([suecarmanvian@gmail.com](mailto:suecarmanvian@gmail.com)) or call 248-414-5246)

**Advent by Candlelight\* - December 4, 2024**

**Manoogian Manor visits: the**

**Saturday following major Feast**

**Days:** Armenian Christmas, Easter, Transfiguration, Assumption of the Holy Mother of God, Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Contact Elise Papazian ([elisepkp@gmail.com](mailto:elisepkp@gmail.com)) or call 248-943-6162)

**Knitting Club - ongoing**

Contact Linda Assarian  
([linda.assarian@gmail.com](mailto:linda.assarian@gmail.com)) or call 248-310-4366)

**Social Concern/Outreach - ongoing**

Contact Carol Ohanesian  
([carolo95@comcast.net](mailto:carolo95@comcast.net)) or call (248)229-0781)

**Mahs Preparation**

Contact Denise Boyagian  
([dboyagian@yahoo.com](mailto:dboyagian@yahoo.com)) or call (248)892-9739)

**College Boxes\* - Fall 2024**

**Women's Guild/Men's Society Game night - ongoing**

# 2023 Christmas Cookie Sale

Calling  
All  
Cookie  
Bakers!



Help make our sale successful — *just bake cookies at home!*

- There's a variety of recipes: easy, fancy, no-bake, and bars
- Recipe & instructions are provided, including the little paper cups
- Can't bake? Join the gang on Saturday to fill boxes in the Cultural Hall

*Click to Sign Up:*

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AAAFAD2DA1FCC25-46003652-2023#/>

## *IMPORTANT DATES:*

- ⇒ Friday, Dec 15th, 9a to 4p — Drop off cookies to the Cultural Hall
- ⇒ Saturday, Dec 16th 9a to Noon — We fill the boxes in the Cultural Hall
- ⇒ Sunday, Dec 17th, Noon to 2p — Pick up boxes after church services

*As a thank you, our bakers can purchase  
a box of cookies before they go on sale*

**Ordering Info Coming Soon**

# Looking for a Sign Up?

## But Don't Know the Link?

01

**Signupgenius.com**

Go to the Sign Up Genius website.

02

Click on the **magnifying glass**  
at the top right of the page



03

**sjacwg@gmail.com**

Enter our email address under  
*Search for a Sign Up*

04

**Click on the one you want**  
And sign up!



**SignUpGenius**

## Women's Guild 2024 Calendar

<b>JANUARY</b>	Sat., Jan 6	Armenian Christmas Luncheon
	Sat., Jan 13	Manoogian Manor visit, Armenian Christmas, 11:00am
	Wed., Jan 18	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	Wed., Feb 7	General Body meeting, 7:00pm, <b>ZOOM</b>
	Wed., Feb 21	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
<b>MARCH</b>	Wed., March 6	General Body meeting, 7:00 pm
	Wed., March 20	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
	Sun., March 24	Palm Sunday Bake Sale
	Sun., March 31	Easter Sunday Tea
<b>APRIL</b>	TBD	Manoogian Manor visit, Easter, 11:00am
	Wed., April 17	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
	Wed., April 24	Armenian Martyrs' Day
<b>MAY</b>	TBD	Saintly Women's Day and short General Body meeting
	Wed., May 15	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
<b>JUNE</b>	Sun., June 2	Hokehankist for Women's Guild Members, Tea after services
	Wed., June 5	Membership Dinner
	Wed., June 19	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
<b>JULY</b>	TBD	Summer Outing
	Sat., July 13	Manoogian Manor visit, Transfiguration of Our Lord, 11:00am
<b>AUGUST</b>	Sun., Aug 18	Church Picnic Bake Sale, after services
	Wed., Aug 21	Executive Board Meeting, 7:00pm
	Sat., Aug 24	Manoogian Manor visit, Assumption of the Holy Mother of God, 11:00am
	TBD	Four Church, Ladies Guild evening
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Wed., Sept 4	General Body meeting, 7:00pm
	TBD	Khunjook/Family Fun Day
	Wed., Sept 18	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
	Sat., Sept 21	Manoogian Manor visit, Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 11:00am
<b>OCTOBER</b>	TBD	General Body meeting, 7:00pm
	Fri. & Sat., Oct 4-5	Bazaar Bake Sale & Hot Foods Volunteers
	Wed., Oct 16	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Wed., Nov 6	General Body meeting, Elections & Alternatives for Girls Drop-Off
	Wed., Nov 20	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
<b>DECEMBER</b>	Wed., Dec 4	Advent by Candlelight
	Wed., Dec 18	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm