

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,

Spring has arrived! It's time to start cleaning up gardens, planting, watching the trees bud, and enjoying the sunshine (hopefully). For me, spring arrives when the swans return to the pond near me. Two swans are swimming around looking for a place for the mommy swan to nest. Spring is rebirth for all of us after a long winter.

To all the Mothers, Grandmothers, Aunts, and Godmothers - I wish you a Happy Mother's Day. Thank you for inspiring all of us!

*Sara Andonian*



We send our get well wishes to Joyce Slowick and Rozann Vartoogian. As you heal and rest, know you are missed and thought of often.

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*Thank You*

Evie Ezmerlian for donating chocolate chips for cookies to serve at our Easter Tea this year.

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Big Congratulations to Pat Akkashian and her grandson Cameron Sirian. Cameron is in the North American Touring company of Aladdin which is coming to Detroit May 9-14. You can get tickets through the Fisher Theatre box office.

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Jackie ElChemmas is making a trip to Armenia soon and will be bringing small gifts with her to hand out. Hoping you can help by contributing any the following: combs, brushes, jewelry, makeup (lipstick, eye shadow), new socks, folding umbrellas, toothbrushes, scarves, gloves, hats, nail polish, and finger nail files. **Please NO used or old makeup.** Bring to May meeting or membership dinner.

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



Join us on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:00am-11:30 am 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).

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**DIRECTORY CHANGES**



Joyce Yeghissian - Eliminate home number, add cell: (248) 496-1552

Virginia Mekjian – 7373 Sashabaw Road, Apt. 142  
Clarkston, MI 48348  
Home: (248) 369-7527  
[avamek@aol.com](mailto:avamek@aol.com)

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Do you have some big news you would like to share with the Women's Guild? Please email Nyree Giragosian [nyreevgir@gmail.com](mailto:nyreevgir@gmail.com) or call/text (248)231-2547 with the information. Newsletter deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Wed., May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	General Body Meeting – 7:00pm
Wed., May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Executive Board Meeting – 7:00pm
Thurs., May 18 <sup>th</sup>	Knitting club 10:00am-noon at the church in the Ararat room - Linda Assarian <a href="mailto:linda.assarian@gmail.com">linda.assarian@gmail.com</a>
Fri., May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Men's Society/Women's Guild Game Night 6:00pm in the Veteran's Building – see flyer
Sat., June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	World Medical Relief – Edith Baise
Sun., June 4 <sup>th</sup>	"Women's Guild Hokehankist" Tea after service
Wed., June 7 <sup>th</sup>	Membership Dinner – 6:00pm St. John's Hall Membership photo will be taken this evening for display at the Women's Guild 85 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary & Heritage Collection 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on <b>October 28, 2023 – note date change</b>
Wed., June 21 <sup>st</sup>	Executive Board Meeting – 7:00pm
Thurs., June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Women's Guild Summer Outing – Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum (see flyer for details)



thank you

ST JOHN WOMEN'S GUILD



TIME



TALENTS



BAKED GOODS  
DONATIONS



MONETARY  
DONATIONS



FRIENDSHIP &  
FUN



TREASURES

a successful sale thanks to you!

WITH LOVE, PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE CIRCLE

Women's Guild Members, this summer  
we'll be touring one of Mother Nature's gems:

***Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum***

***Thursday, June 22, 2023***



**1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48105**

**Plan:**

- 8:45am (A) Carpoolers may meet at St. John's parking lot  
(B) Those leaving for AA from home should inform leaders
- 9:45am Arrive at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens  
Parking suggested in the West Parking Lot\*, cost \$2/hr. (pay at kiosks)  
(\*if needing closer access to stairs/ramp, you may park in the front parking lot)  
Gather outside the main entrance to meet our guides
- 10:00am Guided Tour of Garden & Conservatory begins
- 11:00am Continue to tour gardens & gift shop independently
- 12:30pm Lunch at Paesano's Restaurant & Wine Bar  
3411 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 (designated parking behind bldg.)
- 2:30pm (A) Independent touring/shopping  
(B) Return to church/home

**Members – Please RSVP by June 12<sup>th</sup> with slip below & check to Marilyn Sarkesian or Sue Vian...Cost \$35/Checks(covering tour & lunch) payable to St.John's Women's Guild**

Mail to: Marilyn Sarkesian 2338 Heronwood Dr, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

OR

Submit to: Sue Vian at the Guild's Membership Dinner June 7, 2023

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Plan to carpool from church: \_\_\_\_\_ Willing to be a driver: \_\_\_\_\_

Plan to drive from home: \_\_\_\_\_ Others riding w/you: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: *\*This is a walking tour. Dress casual & appropriate for the weather*





Women's Guild  
Annual Membership  
Dinner

With 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Photo to be taken

Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>

6:00 pm

St. John's

Cultural Hall

Complimentary Dinner

For reservations and wine donations,

Please contact

Belinda Kabodian

(248)767-3942

[bkabodian@gmail.com](mailto:bkabodian@gmail.com)

ST. JOHN ARMENIAN CHURCH  
WOMEN'S GUILD AND MEN'S SOCIETY PRESENT



**FRIDAY, MAY 19 - FROM 6PM TILL 11PM**

**COME JOIN THE FUN!**

**CARD ROOM AT THE VETERANS' BUILDING**

**LIGHT MEAL - \$15**

PLEASE BRING YOUR TAVLOO BOARDS AND OTHER GAMES  
ALONG WITH YOUR APPETITE.

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT PLEASE CALL

CHRIS KORKOIAN 248-217-5447

OR SARA ANDONIAN 248-515-9264 BY WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023



# PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE

After 3 years of covid altered bake sales our 2023 Palm Sunday Bake Sale found us back to normal!

Baking Chair, Joy Callan, managed most bake days, however Marianne Dardarian and Terry Palaian stepped up and managed a few! The baking ladies and men produced dozens of Sou Boreg, Choreg, Khalkha and Katah. Thank you to all volunteers for your time and talent!

On Saturday before the big sale, we met in the main hall with maintenance manager Ron Ware and the ACYOA planning committee (Palm Sunday is national ACYOA Day) to set up for the expected Palm Sunday rush. We made a plan for the layout and logistics to ensure everyone's comfort. Ron designed a masterful maze of stations to control our line which turned out to be vital in managing the flow. Myself (Marilyn Dadian) and our faithful circle gathered early on Palm Sunday to price, package and display the goods. Thank you to everyone who dropped off their homemade baked goods. Thank you also to the women in this Guild that sent financial donations in lieu of baking. Our baked goods were displayed along the entire wall mixing the Armenian Guild foods with the donated member items. I cannot thank the bake sale circle enough for their hours of hard work. Feeling a little short staffed (several of our circle members were stuck in Florida!), I grabbed members passing by and I want to also thank them for leaving their families to help. You know who you are.



The bake sale was a tremendous success - we grossed over \$15,000 including sales and donations. I'm most excited to share 50 % of our earnings with Armenian victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

We look forward to baking together again soon and often!

*Palm Sunday Bake Sale Committee: Carol Hovsepian, Paulette Apkarian, Marilyn Dadian, Michelle Samarian Ducato, Nicole O'Donovan, Jackie ElChemmas, Linda Tiffany*



# Easter Tea



The Women's Guild Easter Tea Circle started out bright and early Easter morning. Everyone had a job – cutting choreg, plating cheese, grapes & sweets, filling baskets with colorful Easter eggs

donated by over 50 Guild members (*thank you!*), as well as decorating and setting up the cross shaped buffet tables. A few of us even learned how to use the slicer for the cheese! The tables looked beautiful and we finished in record time. Everything was ready to go when our clergy and choir procession came into the hall for the conclusion of the Easter church services. They were followed by hundreds of parishioners who joined in prayer and song as we celebrated this Holiest of days.

Thank you to our circle committee Dawn Aginian, Sara Andonian, Lisa Bahm, Denise Boyadjian, Lisa Boyajian, Nyree Giragosian, Belinda Kabodian, Laurie Keoleian, Donna Lafian, Elise Landis, Denise Pochas and Joyce Yeghissian for putting together this year's annual Easter Tea.

A very special thank you to Ron Ware and his fabulous staff for the setup and coffee – what would we do without him?!

Hope you all had a very Happy Easter!





# *Manoogian Manor Easter Visit*

The Women's Guild along with our clergy and several choir members paid the residents of Manoogian Manor an Easter visit on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Guild members and friends – some of whom are also choir members – Denise Boyagian, Marianne Dardarian (singing & on piano), Lillian Durham, Terry Karebian, Grace Magee (also on piano), Robert Magee, Sandy Nigoghosian (singing) & George Samboujian, along with Fr. Armash and Deacon Onnig celebrated Easter service and communion with the residents. The men and women residing in Manoogian Manor always look forward to these visits – especially the freshly baked choreg and at Easter time the brightly colored eggs!

Thank you, Elise Papazian and Denise Boyagian, for organizing our Manoogian Manor visits. This is the fifth year they have been organizing these gatherings for the five major feast days throughout the year - always making sure they have made enough choreg and taking time to visit with the residents while they are there. Thank you to our members who were able to attend – our next Manoogian Manor visit is Saturday July 22<sup>nd</sup> – hope you can be there!





**WE BEGIN AGAIN!**

## ***BAZAAR PREP DAYS***



Bazaar Baking is upon us, led by Yerchanig Joy Callan along with choreg pros Sara Andonian & Marianne Dardarian on Monday nights. Terry Palaian is our new Katah queen!

Bazaar Baking is *every Tuesday* morning from *9am-noon* beginning May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Tuesday bake days will be for Souboureg and Katah.

*Monday night* choreg baking – watch for details!

*Note: There are 4 “No baking Mondays/Tuesdays”: Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, Labor Day Weekend, & Arts of Armenian week.*

Please reach out to Yerchanig (248)533-6320 or [yerchanigc@gmail.com](mailto:yerchanigc@gmail.com) if you can help or have any questions.



*Come help, come learn, bring a friend, make friends.  
All Hands are Good Hands!!!*



Every year, our St. John Community looks forward to our annual Bazaar. Our friends and families gather to share in our culture and heritage. Our delicious foods, that we all appreciate, are a part of the culture. Please consider giving a bit of your time, lending a hand to the creation of our delicious foods. We always look forward to meeting new friends. All interested women and men are welcome and no experience necessary!!!

**Bazaar 2023 – Beginning Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>!**



**THE WOMEN'S GUILD OF ST. JOHN  
ARMENIAN CHURCH**

**HAS REQUESTED REQUIEM PRAYERS**

**FOR THE SOULS OF ALL  
DECEASED WOMEN'S GUILD MEMBERS**

**AND RECENTLY DEPARTED...**

**EMMA BETROSIAN**

**EUGENIE KAREBIAN**

**MARGARET MOUSHMOULIAN**

**HOKIHANKIST WILL BE HELD ON  
SUNDAY, JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>  
WITH A TEA TO FOLLOW**

Women's Guild presents  
GUILD GATHERINGS

Packing tips  
for  
*Travel*  
with Barb



GO TO OUR WEBSITE:

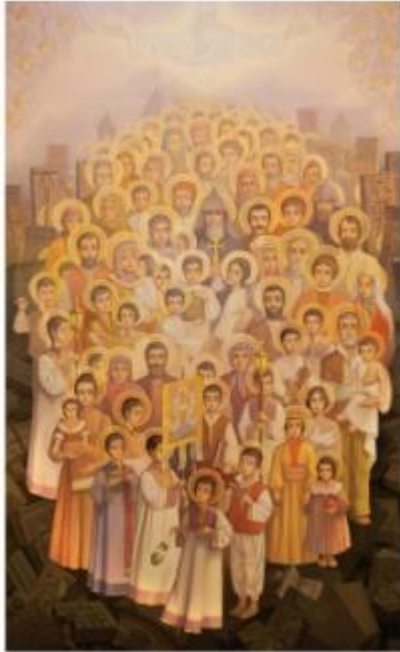
[https://stjohnwomensguild.  
square.site/guild-gatherings-1](https://stjohnwomensguild.square.site/guild-gatherings-1)

Then click LEARN MORE

Next month: Yahlanchi Sarma



# 108<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE



The Armenian Churches of Greater Detroit Genocide Committee (St. John Armenian Apostolic Church, St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church, St. Vartan Armenian Catholic Church, and Armenian Congregational Church) hosted the Divine Liturgy Service in honor of the Sanctified Martyrs of the Genocide on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Special Guest Homilist was His Grace Bishop Seraphim Coptic Orthodox Bishop of Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana. The service was held at St. Sarkis Armenian Church.

The United Genocide Committee invited the Women's organizations from the four Detroit area Armenian churches to once again provide reception refreshments following the memorial Badarak. We would like to extend our appreciation to the women who led their efforts from each of the four churches: Armenian Congregational Church – Anne Zatarian, St. John Armenian Church – Sara Andonian, Nancy Banks, Joy Callan, Terry Palaian, Sue Vian, St. Sarkis Armenian Church – Mary Bedikian, Diane Garbooshian, Karen Gouleserian, Amy Mardigian Hecht, and St. Vartan's Catholic Church – Azniv Kezirian, as well as Zmrukhd Arman of the United Genocide Commemoration committee for organizing and bringing us all together. Under the leadership of the St. Sarkis Ladies Guild, choreg, cheese, pakhlava, grapes and bottled water were provided for every guest and the reception was held in the St. Sarkis Hall. As always, it was a great pleasure to work with the wonderful women from all of the Armenian churches in our community.

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## DONATIONS EARMARKED FOR

The rebuilding of Vakif in Musa Dagh, the only remaining Armenian village in Western Armenia, that was severely damaged during the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey.

The devastation and critical situation in Vakif village can be viewed on YouTube at: [https://youtu.be/e4foU\\_7y8Fc](https://youtu.be/e4foU_7y8Fc)

Checks should be made payable to the Armenian Churches of Greater Detroit, a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

Donations can also be made online using the link:  
[Bit.ly/4churches](https://bit.ly/4churches)

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# To all Guild Dues Paying Members ... Thank You!

Dawn Aginian  
Diane Aginian  
Correne Akarakcian  
Tala Alarmany  
Anne Marie Ameriguian  
Susan Ameriguian  
Sara Andonian  
Charlene Apigian  
Cynthia Apkarian  
Paulette Apkarian  
Renee Apkarian  
Carol Aprahamian  
Alice Argnian  
Cathy Atesian  
Edith Baise  
Angela Banerian  
Nancy Banks  
Zabel Belian  
Nancy Berryman  
Dolores Blakian  
Nan Bogosian  
Jacqueline Boskovich  
Sandra Bourgeois  
Denise Boyagian  
Anita Boyajian  
Louise Brocher  
Marilyn Brown  
Joy Callan

Denise Chiroyan  
Carol Cholmakjian  
Marilyn Dadian  
Marguerite Dakhlian  
Marianne Dardarian  
Margaret Dayinian  
Sona Dedeian  
Paula Derbabian  
Lisa Derderian  
Michelle S. Ducato  
Lillian Durham  
Ann Marie Egigian  
Serena Egigian  
Jacqueline ElChemmas  
Melina Fayroian  
Nyree Giragosian  
Linda Houhanisin  
Carole Hovsepian  
Jane Hovsepian  
Sandra Jack  
Linda Jevahirian  
Cheryl Joboulian  
Elizabeth Johnson  
Sally Kabodian  
Anita Kachadurian  
Dawn Karagosian  
Denise Karakashian  
Terrie Karebian

Dr. Linda K. Darian  
Lora Kazanjian  
Vanna Kazarian  
Lorrie Keila  
Mary Keoleian  
Anoush Korian  
Yvonne Korkoian  
Esther Kulhanjian  
Donna Lafian  
Linda Lutz  
Patricia Magee  
Karen Mangune  
Janet Mardigian  
Judy Mardossian  
Janice Megerian  
Alice Mekjian  
June Mekjian  
Virgina Mekjian  
Gloria Melkonian  
Deborah Morgan  
Baytzar Nersessian  
Diane Nolff  
Nora Noraian  
Carol Ohanesian  
Erika Palaian  
Terrie Palaian  
Nancy Panaretos  
Judy Parks

Laurie Reizian  
Susan Reizian  
Barb Rupas  
Alice Safilian  
Berjouhi Sanjian  
Marilyn Sarkesian  
Anna Sarkisian  
Jean Sarkisian  
Nina Sarkisian  
Victoria Sarkisian  
Paulette Schmidt  
Mary Seremjian  
Rose Shahinian  
Joyce Slowik  
Linda Stamboulian  
Patricia Stamboulian  
Deborah Stamp  
Blanche Swidersky  
Sue Tafralian  
Ann Tashjian  
Alice Terzian  
Maral Thomas  
Linda Tiffany  
Isabelle Vahratian  
Rozann Vartoogian  
Sue Vian  
Diana Vosganian  
Dr. Joyce Yeghissian





*Greetings to All*

*St. John Women's Guild Members*

*It's time to pay your 2023 annual dues!*

**Please make checks of \$25 payable to St. John Women's Guild**

Mail checks to Paulette Apkarian

7430 Brookberry Court

West Bloomfield, Michigan 48322

OR

**Credit Card payments of \$26 are payable on**

**<https://stjohnwomensguild.square.site>**

(Includes \$1.00 processing fee)

*For questions, please contact Paulette Apkarian at (248) 225-3823*

*or pauletteapkarian08@gmail.com*

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***Please fill out the form below and mail it with your payment.***

2023 \_\_\_\_\_ 2024 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Husband's name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

# BLAST from the PAST

*In honor of Mother's Day,  
this month's Women's Guild Blast from the Past  
includes photos of members and their mothers, daughters,  
grandmothers, granddaughters, and aunts.  
Hope you enjoy the next two pages!*



Marilyn Sarkesian, Nancy Panaretos,  
& Nevart Godoshian



Karen Dardarian &  
Marianne Dardarian



Grandmothers & Granddaughters  
Nora Noraian & Vartanoush Noraian  
Marianne Dardarian &  
Hamaspvr Baylerian



Debbie Zazaian, Anita Khatchadurian,  
& Diane Nolf



Jane Hovsepien &  
Carole Hovsepien



Lisa Mardigian, Laura Mardigian  
Marilyn Dadian, & Rose Mardigian



**BLACT**  
from the

**PAST**

# Mother's Day Photos



Yn. Roberta Kochackian, Agnes Carmen Hovsepian,  
& Sue Vian



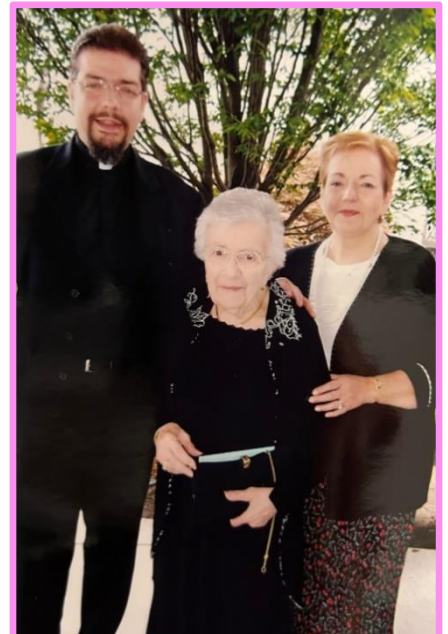
Ann Sarkisian & Deborah Sarkisian Stamp



Yn. Roberta w/ Carman Aunts – Rosemary Carman, Ramela Carman,  
Yn. Roberta, & Margo Carman Hatcherian (past WG chairman)



Denise, Kim, & Lori Karakashian, Kelly Callan, Agnes Dourjalian  
(three generations)



Fr. Aren Jebejian,  
Grandmother Margaret Melikian  
& mother Diramayr Aurora Jebejian

## Women's Guild 2023 Calendar

<b>JANUARY</b>	Fri, Jan 6	Armenian Christmas Luncheon, General Body meeting afterwards
	Sat, Jan 7	Manoogian Manor visit, Armenian Christmas, 11:00am
	Wed, Jan 18	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	Wed, Feb 1	General Body meeting, 7:00pm, <b>ZOOM</b>
	Wed, Feb 15	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
<b>MARCH</b>	Wed, March 1	General Body meeting, 7:00 pm
	Sat., March 4	Saintly Women's Day program & luncheon, 11:30am
	Wed, March 15	Executive Board meeting after Lenten services, 7:00pm
<b>APRIL</b>	Sun, April 2	Palm Sunday Bake Sale
	Sun, April 9	Easter Sunday Tea
	Wed, April 12	General Body meeting, <b>DATE CHANGE</b> (Holy Week), 7:00pm
	Sat, April 15	Manoogian Manor visit, Easter, 11:00am
	Wed, April 19	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
	Mon, April 24	Armenian Martyrs' Day
<b>MAY</b>	Wed, May 3	General Body meeting, 7:00pm
	Wed, May 17	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
<b>JUNE</b>	Sun, June 4	Hokehankist for Women's Guild Members, Tea after services
	Wed, June 7	Membership Dinner
	Wed, June 21	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
	Thurs., June 22	Summer Outing – Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum
<b>JULY</b>	Sat, July 22	Manoogian Manor visit, Transfiguration of Our Lord, 11:00am
<b>AUGUST</b>	Wed, Aug 16	Executive Board Meeting, 7:00pm
	Sat, Aug 19	Manoogian Manor visit, Assumption of the Holy Mother of God, 11:00am
	Sun, Aug 13	Church Picnic Bake Sale, after services
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Wed, Sept 6	General Body meeting, 7:00pm
	<b>Sun, Sept 10</b>	Khunjook/Family Fun Day
	Sat, Sept 23	Manoogian Manor visit, Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 11:00am
	Wed, Sept 20	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
<b>OCTOBER</b>	Wed, Oct 4	General Body meeting, 7:00pm, <b>ZOOM</b> or in Vet's Building
	Fri & Sat, Oct 6-7	Bazaar Bake Sale & Hot Foods volunteers
	Wed, Oct 18	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
	<b>Sat, Oct 28</b>	<b>Anniversary Gala: WG 85<sup>th</sup> &amp; Heritage Collection 50<sup>th</sup>, Evening Event (NOTE: DATE CHANGE)</b>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Wed, Nov 1	General Body meeting, Elections & Alternatives for Girls drop-off
	Wed, Nov 15	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm
<b>DECEMBER</b>	Wed, Dec 6	Christmas Dinner
	Sun, Dec 17	Christmas Cookie Sale, after services
	Wed, Dec 13	Executive Board meeting, 7:00pm