



The Manoogian Voice

Southfield, Michigan

December 2005

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

Meet the New Interim Principals of Manoogian School



After many years of distinguished service, Manoogian School principal Dr. Nadya Sarafian retired at the end of the 2004-2005 school year. The school's board of trustees appointed two interim principals – Dr. Hosep Torossian for the high school and Ms. Dyana Kezelian for the preschool, elementary and middle schools.



Dr. Hosep Torossian graduated from the A.G.B.U. Hovagimian-Manougian School in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1973. He then moved to Canada to study chemical engineering at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Torossian worked as a chemical/environmental engineer for 21 years. Prior to making the switch to the education field, Dr. Torossian was the Global Environmental Director for Tenneco Automotive. In 1999, Dr. Torossian joined Manoogian School as vice-principal and pursued a master's degree in educational leadership. In June 2005, Dr. Torossian was awarded a doctorate degree in educational leadership from Central Michigan University.

Ms. Dyana Kezelian has been involved in education for 31 years, all of them at Manoogian School. She worked as a second-grade teacher for 27 years and as vice-principal for the preschool, elementary and middle school students for three years.

Ms. Kezelian received a B.A. in English and psychology from Mercy College of Detroit and an M.A. in elementary education from Oakland University. She is also a recipient of the Golden Apple Award from *Metro Parent* magazine.

Technology Improvements at Manoogian School

In the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year, Manoogian School experienced a technology upgrade. The two computer labs in the school have been updated to include state-of-the-art flat-screen computer monitors, Microsoft Office 2000, and additional new software to supplement students' work in the classroom. Intermediate Armenian students already use the computers for vocabulary, conversations, and



grammar usage; and pre-calculus students do homework and take tests on the computers.

In addition, the PTO raised \$30,000 to purchase 30 laptops. These computers are stored in a cart donated by Arzo Computers. The cart storage system makes it easy for the laptops to be used anywhere in the school.

We are proud to note that, while the per-school average in Michigan is one instructional computer to five students, at Manoogian School, the ratio is one computer for every 3.5 students.

Community Honors Dr. Nadya Sarafian

Under the inspirational leadership of Alex Manoogian, former principal Dr. Nadya Sarafian worked to make the Manoogian School a lasting legacy to the Manoogian spirit.

To honor this distinguished woman “with grace and style and unequalled leadership skills,” a gala banquet was held on Friday, October 21, 2005, at St. John’s Armenian Church Cultural Hall. More than 300 well-wishers attended.

The evening’s festivities began with an invocation offered by His Eminence, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. He presented Dr. Sarafian with the Mesrob Mashdots medal along with an encyclical issued by his Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of all Armenians.

Throughout the evening, several community members bestowed accolades on Dr. Sarafian. Among them were: Orlando Castellon of Central Michigan University Charter Schools; Daniel Quisenberry, President of the Michigan Association of Public School Academies; Dr. Richard Marburger, President of the Manoogian School Board and President Emeritus of Lawrence



Dr. Sarafian Thanks Event Attendees

Technological University; students Tamar Avakian and Haigan Tcholakian; Dr. Maro Sarafian-Meyer, eldest of the three Sarafian children; Carol Aslanian, A.G.B.U. Central Board of Directors member; and St. John’s pastor Fr. Garabed Kochakian.

Laura Lucassian, president of the Manoogian School Parent-Teacher Organization, as well as Manoogian School interim principals Dyana Kezelian and Hosesep Torossian, presented gifts to Dr. Sarafian on behalf of the parents, faculty, and staff. On behalf of the Manoogian

family, Edmond Azadian presented Dr. Sarafian with an exquisite oil painting titled “Royal Peacocks” and announced that, in her honor, a mural titled “Heavenly Peacocks” by artist Seroon Yeretizian will be permanently displayed in the school.

Following a video presentation, the school choir performed a musical interlude directed by St. John’s deacon Rubik Mailian and accompanied by pianist Margaret Benian.

Finally, Dr. Sarafian took the podium and expressed her great appreciation, first to His Holiness Karekin II and then to all the participants and colleagues who attended the event. She expressed special thanks to benefactors Richard Manoogian and Louise Manoogian Simone for their continuing support of the school. Dr. Sarafian extended her appreciation to school board vice president and the night’s master of ceremonies Edmond Azadian.

Dr. Sarafian also thanked her husband Osep and their children for their understanding and patience.

Students “Add” Up Donations

This fall, nineteen elementary students participated in the Math-A-Thon, a fund-raiser for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. They raised \$1,081.42 by obtaining sponsors while completing 200-250 math problems. Students had the opportunity to earn certificates, free passes to Six Flags theme parks, t-shirts, and sports bags.

Second-grader Talia Oknayan (right) raised the most money and will receive a digital camera. Fifth-grader Raha Richardson also deserves recognition for the money she raised. Thank you to all of our Math-A-Thon participants and organizer Karen Goulasarian for helping St. Jude in the fight against childhood catastrophic diseases.



PTO Corner

Following the highly successful Halloween party, book fair, and skating party, the PTO’s next event is Thursday, December 15, when they will bring the Santa Shop to the students to do their holiday shopping. Nothing will cost more than \$1.

The PTO board wishes everyone a happy, healthy holiday season.

DID YOU KNOW...

Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, is an older city than Rome?

It was originally called Erepouni, a city/fortress built in 1782 B.C. by King Argishti. Erepouni also happens to be the name of the Manoogian School’s periodical.

Introducing the Newest Members of the Manoogian School Family



Mrs. Jacqueline Kaschyk is the new Pre-K-3 teacher and elementary school librarian.

Mrs. Kaschyk earned her teaching certificate in language arts and early childhood (ZA endorsements) and bachelor's degree in child development and language arts from Michigan State University. She is married to a police officer who works for the Bloomfield Township Police Department.



Mrs. Suzanne Collins teaches seventh- and eighth-grade math, high school psychology, and enrichment for grades K-12.

Mrs. Collins is a graduate of Michigan State University, with a degree in communications. She received her teaching certificate from Wayne State University. She is currently working towards completing her master's degree in teaching. Prior to becoming a teacher, Mrs. Collins was a brand development manager at a local advertising agency.



Mrs. Lilit Bablounian is the new English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher.

Born in Armenia, Mrs. Bablounian earned her master's degree in Russian language and literature from Yerevan State University. With her family, she came to the United States in 1996 and attended Wayne State University. She is fluent in Armenian, Russian and English.

We are happy to welcome three new teachers to Manoogian School!

Teachers Attend Genocide Workshop

On Wednesday, October 5, Manoogian School friend Edgar Hagopian recruited local clergy, educators and advocates to join him in bringing the "Facing History and Ourselves 'Crimes Against Human Civilization: The Genocide of the Armenians'" program to secondary school educators in the Metro Detroit area.

The goal of the workshop was to provide teachers with model strategies to engage students of diverse backgrounds in an examination of the Armenian Genocide, as well as racism, prejudice and anti-Semitism, in order to promote development of a more humane and informed citizenry. Manoogian School participants in this full-day workshop were social studies and history teachers Michael Huff, Dikran Toumajan, and Marelene Baker, and interim principals Hosep Torossian and Dyana Kezelian.

As an American of Armenian heritage, Hagopian has worked tirelessly for U.S. recognition of the Armenian Genocide. He was recently awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor at a ceremony on Ellis Island. We congratulate him on this honor.



Pictured left to right: Edgar Hagopian, Dr. Nadya Sarafian, Richard Norsigian, May Derderian, Natalie Mosher, Bob Tomassian, and Fr. Garabed Kochakian

Manoogian School Board Vice President Edmond Azadian Appointed as Honorary Diaspora Affairs Advisor

The Armenian Minister of Culture and Youth Affairs Hovik Hoveyan appointed Edmond Azadian an honorary Diaspora Affairs Advisor, effective July 1. The Minister said, "It's an honor for me to work with such a bright intellectual as Edmond Azadian; his good deeds, articles and public work speak well of his personality. Not only the Culture Ministry will benefit from this appointment, but the whole country."

We at the Manoogian School congratulate Mr. Azadian on this appointment and wish him much luck in this new endeavor.

A Musical Visit from Nune

Renowned Armenian singer Nune Yesayan visited Manoogian School to meet the students, faculty, and staff.



Nune answered some of the students' questions and sang some well-known Armenian, English, Arabic, and Russian songs. The elementary school girls loved her and couldn't help but dance with her while she was singing. The students were impressed that Nune was able to sing in many languages, and everyone enjoyed the mini-concert.

After-School Tutoring and Latchkey Programs Available

Manoogian School currently offers an after-school tutoring program for students, free of charge. This is to help students of all grade levels who need additional help. Tutoring is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15 to 5:00 p.m.

Starting this year, Manoogian School's latchkey program provides supervision in the school library for students to remain at school until 5:15 p.m. While waiting for their parents, students can work on their homework, read books, and eat their snacks. The program is available every day.

Several elementary students are currently enrolled in the program. For more information regarding latchkey programs, please contact Mrs. Sosi Jalhaian at (248) 540-0962.

*Remember to Visit Manoogian School's Redesigned Web Site:
www.manoogian.org*



A.G.B.U. Alex & Marie Manoogian School
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, Michigan 48075

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