



The Manoogian Voice

Southfield, Michigan

June 2007

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

Lucene Meguerditchian Retires After 35 Years



Following the all-school dance and music program on May 14, the Manoogian family honored the retirement of Oriort Lucene Meguerditchian after 35 years of service with the school. High School and Elementary School Principals, Dr. Hosep Torossian and Dyana Kezelian,

were joined by former Principal Nadya Sarafian in farewell comments regarding Ms. Meguerditchian's dedication and commitment in her role as Armenian Language teacher. As a token of their appreciation, school administrators presented Ms. Meguerditchian with a Waterford Bowl and books featuring the works of Armenian artists Martiros

Sarian and Minas Avetissian.

Born in Jerusalem, Oriort immigrated to Windsor, Canada in 1969.

In 1972, she began her career at the Manoogian School, teaching Armenian. Her enthusiasm, energy and caring nature touched students and peers for many years.

Congratulations on your retirement, Lucene!



New Graduates Join Ranks of Manoogian Alumni

Graduating Class of 2007

Monica Alkasmikha
 Lavan Antoon
 Tamar Avakian
 Zaven Bush
 Ivan Castorena
 Halyna Chaykivska
 Darisha Cope
 Tamar Djaridjian
 Oleksandra Goysan
 Ziad Hamama
 Arminohi Inofak (Krikorian)
 Sahar Jerjes
 Renee Kallabat
 Sosi Krikor
 Kazimier Lukowski
 Inna Marynyak
 Simon Melkonian
 Sherelle Nabors
 Yuriy Pikh
 Lisa Shekerdeman
 Maryna Skoblyak
 Alyssa Strain
 Alexandra Terhune
 Vasyl Vegerzhynskiy
 Maria Yuhana

Before a crowd of family members and friends, 25 Manoogian School graduates claimed their diplomas on Monday, June 4 at St. John's Armenian Church Hall.

State Representative and previous Mayor of Farmington/Farmington Hills, Aldo Vagnozzi, presented the keynote address. In his speech, Mr. Vagnozzi stressed the importance of active participation in community life as part of an ongoing political process for young members of our global society.

Speeches were delivered by School Board Chairman, Dr. Richard Marburger; High School Principal, Dr. Hosep Torossian; Head Teacher, Judith Kadri; graduating class salutatorians, Lisa Shekerdeman and Oleksandra Goysan; valedictorian, Maria Yuhana and Darisha Cope. Lower School Principal, Dyana Kezelian, recognized this year's donations to the Manoogian School by the Special Projects Group, Cultural Society of Armenians from Istanbul,



PTO Board, Daughters of Vartan and the Detroit Armenian Women's Club.

The class president, Lisa Shekerdeman, presented the graduating class donation.

At the end of the ceremony, the graduates were individually called to the stage to receive their diplomas. As members of the class of 2007 proceeded across the stage, Mrs. Kadri read their accomplishments and future plans.



Armenian Genocide Remembrance Competition

The A.G.B.U. Manoogian Armenian Arts Competition has become a popular annual event. Students have a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon Armenia's history and the genocide.

This year, there were 27 entries of literary and visual works among the middle school students. Eighth-grader Linda Kalfayan won first prize for her creative painting and corresponding essay on Armenia, 8th-grader Arsen Melkonyan taking second place for his collage of Armenia and 7th-graders Lena Ferhadson and Ani Karibian tying for third place with their essays. Honorable mention awards were given to 7th-grader Nicholas Aznavour, 8th-grader Yaroslav Shtyha and 6th-grader Solomiya Svytka.

There were 40 entries (with 61 overall participants) among the high school students, who either individually or as teams produced three-dimensional projects, often featuring churches, crosses and architectural monuments such as Sardarabad.

The winners were 11th-grader Angelica Terhune, whose statue entitled, "The future is in my own hands," earned first place. Tenth-graders Dolores Duduman and Zara Gilbert and 9th-grader Dominique Duduman earned second place for their grand depiction of Armenia's history and 10th-graders Sylvia Hanna and Natalie Pope taking third place for their multi-faceted monument to Armenia. Honorable mention went to 10th-grader Sarine Dakissian, 11th-graders Vazken Hartounian and Michael Kalfayan and 9th-grader Julia Papiyants.

Congratulations are in order to an impartial group of judges and for the \$520 in generous prizes offered by the Manoogian School PTO.

Elementary Science Fair

On Monday, May 14, a very excited group of 4th- and 5th-



grade students turned in their completed display boards for the Elementary Science Fair. Students were given almost two months to decide on a topic for their science investigation. They conducted research, performed their experiments and completed their display boards which depicted the process of the scientific method. The display boards were set up in the Media Center for two weeks, allowing students from all grade levels to observe the creativity and effort of the students.

All students who participated received a participation ribbon and a free dress pass. In 4th grade, first-place ribbons were awarded to Karine Eurdekian and Elleanna Saco. Honorable Mention ribbons were received by Natalie Arslanian, Talin Bedirian, Nikole Davtyan, Michelle Hami, Natalie Janjanian and Sanan Malkadjian. Fifth-grade students awarded a first-place ribbon were Dunia Atcho, Tyler Blohm, Chris Kourtjian, Irene Petou and Grace Torossian. Receiving Honorable Mention ribbons were Olga Goysan, John Negosian and Karoun Tcholakian.



National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

The National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society

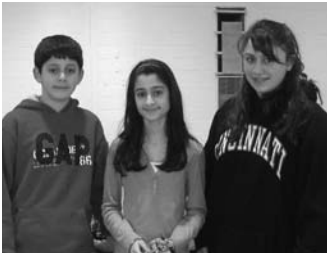
inductions were held on Thursday, May 31, at the Manoogian School.

The National Honor Society inductees were juniors Vazken Haroutunian, Nayiri Kaissarian and Sali Kesto and sophomores Vazken Bassmagian, Dolores Duduman, Zara Gilbert, Olivia Hosmi and Abigail Newman.

The National Junior Honor Society inductees were 8th-graders Khrystyna Bezkosta and Olga Foroshivska, and 6th-graders Zena Atcho, Lilit Kazazian, Ari Sagherian, Oleksandra Sakhapova and Solomiya Svytka.

The school would like to thank Mrs. Joanna Holsinger for her work as sponsor of these two groups and organizing these events.





Middle School Inventions

The second theme project of the year was on the topic of transportation. The final goal of the project was to build and test a wind-up car, make modifications to improve performance and race the car in a competition. The final race was held in the gym to determine the best cars in the categories of distance, speed and design. The winners of the contest were as follows: SPEED: 1st Sandra Allos, 2nd Sasha Sakhapova, 3rd Reem Fatohe; DISTANCE: 1st Vonica Salam, 2nd Ari Sagherian, 3rd Damaris Duduman; DESIGN: 1st Maral Toukhanian, 2nd Carolyn Philip, 3rd Damaris Duduman.



Music To Our Ears

Cecil Koceyan was a third-place winner among 12,000 participants in a Musical Composition Contest held by "Music for Young Children." Cecil's composition was titled, "To Hope, He Flew," a tribute to Hrant Dink, the Armenian visionary who was assassinated in Turkey earlier this year.



Cecil is a piano student of Mrs. Shoghig Torossian, who encouraged her students to participate in this contest. Congratulations, Cecil!

Spring Time for the Pre-K Students

On Thursday, April 19, Pre-K 3 and 4 students attended the show *Go Diego Go! The Great Jaguar Escape* (featuring Dora the Explorer) at the Fox Theatre in Detroit. It was a wonderful show with lots of bright scenery, colors and music that made everyone want to dance.

Throughout the past few months, Pre-K 3 and 4 students have been practicing for the annual Mother's Day Program. This year, the program was held on Friday, May 11. The children did a wonderful job singing and reciting poems in both English and Armenian. There was a reception afterwards for guests and the children who worked so hard.

The last field trip to Upland Hills Farm was scheduled on Friday, May 25. At the farm, preschoolers were able to experience a hayride, see a variety of farm animals and even milk a cow! It was quite an experience for all.



Congratulations to Angelica Terhune

Junior Angelica Terhune was selected from over 800 candidates to be one of 22 participants at a journalism workshop this summer at Princeton University. The university will pay for Angelica's travel and lodging expenses. Congratulations, Angelica!



Manoogian Idol

The first-ever "Manoogian Idol" was a big hit when the talent show debuted in the high school multi-purpose room during lunch on Wednesday, April 25. Nine acts, which included singing, piano playing, a drummer, a magician, a guitarist, a comedy skit and a band performed for the high school students, as well as for judges



Judy Kadri, Laura Batarseh and Mike "Simon Cowell" Huff.

Kristine Mkoyan was awarded first place for singing while Raymond Konja, Ryan Kallabat, Vartan Kurjian and Arten Inofak took second place for their skit on Manoogian teachers and Romana Svytka took third place for her piano performance.

12th-Grade Toothpick Bridge Competition

On April 20, 2007, the senior class competed in a bridge building competition. The bridges were entirely composed of toothpicks and white glue. The bridges were tested to see which bridge could hold the most hanging weight before breaking or falling. The first-place prize went to Arminohi Inofak and Simon Melkonian with their bridge holding 39.4 kg. Ivan Castorena received second place and Inna Marynyak received third place.



Thank you

to the people who supported the 2007 yearbook with donations and advertisements. This yearbook was the first with all color and it would not have been accomplished if it were not for your generous contributions.

From everyone here at the yearbook staff, we would like to thank all of you!

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Mackinaw City Trip

The 8th grade students who attended the Mackinaw trip had a very busy schedule.

First, the students toured the Sawmill and studied the development of lumber processing technology from the axe to the adoption of the sawmill. Then they ventured to Fort Michillimackinac and toured the first fort built in Michigan. Next, the group headed to Castle Rock and climbed 169 steps to oversee the majestic view of Mackinaw City and the Upper Peninsula.

The following day, the group went to Mackinac Island via the ferry and toured the island on a carriage ride. They stopped off at the Butterfly Conservatory and observed the 500 species of butterflies flying freely around them. Then the students were fortunate to see another fort that was built on the island.

Lunch was at the Grand Hotel and it was quite grand. After lunch, the students split up into groups. Some went bike riding or horseback riding while others went shopping. Unfortunately, the trip had to come to an end and the group took the ferry back to the city.

This trip could not have happened without Mr. Michael Huff's careful planning. The faculty chaperones, Mr. Kevin Kline and Mrs. Sona Kalfayan, and the students would like to thank parents Mrs. Bedirian, Mr. Bush, Mrs. Calukyan and Mrs. Newman, who also chaperoned the event.



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



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