

# AGBU News

Manoogian School student  
Carolyn Philip (at right)  
attended Camp Nubar  
in New York.



## AGBU Camp Nubar

Accredited by the American Camping Association and located in the beautiful Catskill Mountains of Andes, New York, AGBU Camp Nubar was founded in 1963 and continues to be a summer haven for generations of Armenian youth from all over the world.

With a very successful 2005 summer season behind them, the AGBU Camp Nubar Committee is already gearing up for the summer of 2006 with capital improvements. With cabins, tennis courts and outdoor basketball courts recently renovated in 2003-2004, Camp Nubar is once again raising the bar to ensure its growing number of adult staff, guest instructors, and campers have a state-of-the-art facility at their fingertips.

The need for additional quarters quickly became apparent as so many campers are filling the existing cabins to capacity. In the works, the new girls cabin will become the largest on the campgrounds. With all of these exciting efforts already underway, the Camp Nubar Committee is looking forward to welcoming new and returning campers this coming year.

For more information on AGBU Camp Nubar, please call (212) 319-6383, visit [www.agbucampnubar.net](http://www.agbucampnubar.net), or e-mail [agbucampoffice@agbucampnubar.net](mailto:agbucampoffice@agbucampnubar.net).

Remember to Visit Manoogian School's Redesigned Web Site:  
[www.manoogian.org](http://www.manoogian.org)



**A.G.B.U. Alex & Marie Manoogian School**  
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Permit No. 314

## PTO Corner



### Vegas Night

On Friday, February 10, the PTO provided a night of high-stakes fun and excitement at its Vegas Night. The casino-style evening was complete with a Texas hold'em tournament, blackjack, and roulette.

The school would like to send a special thank you to Barbara Oknayan and her committee for planning such a successful event.



Southfield, Michigan

March 2006

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

# The Manoogian Voice

## Manoogian Preschool Achieves Accreditation from NAEYC

In the 20 years since the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high quality in early childhood education programs. More than 10,000 programs – serving over 850,000 young children – are currently accredited by NAEYC.

In a letter dated January 12, 2006, the senior director of NAEYC, Kimberly McClennahan-Means, informed the Manoogian School administration that the early childhood program received NAEYC accreditation effective December 31, 2005. Congratulations to the preschool teachers and administrators for this wonderful achievement.

In Manoogian's PreK-3 program, students attend school three days a week; PreK-4 is a full-week program. Classroom activities include arts, affective skills, cognition, construction skills, language, expression through visual and performing arts, physical skills, and social skills. These activities help the children learn how to respect others, make decisions for themselves, and be independent. Manoogian's preschool students also learn about Armenia, its culture, and its heritage.

The students' experience includes educational activities in an academic environment. They are taught mathematical and scientific



understanding, organization, analysis, and critical thinking. Teachers administer language sessions that include how to read, write, speak, and listen. Students are taught to interact with their classmates, not to be shy,

and to respect their elders, including their teachers. They also learn to appreciate their environment and surroundings, and how to be aware of their bodies and health through physical fitness.

## Reyna Harabedian Receives Full Scholarship at U of M – Ann Arbor

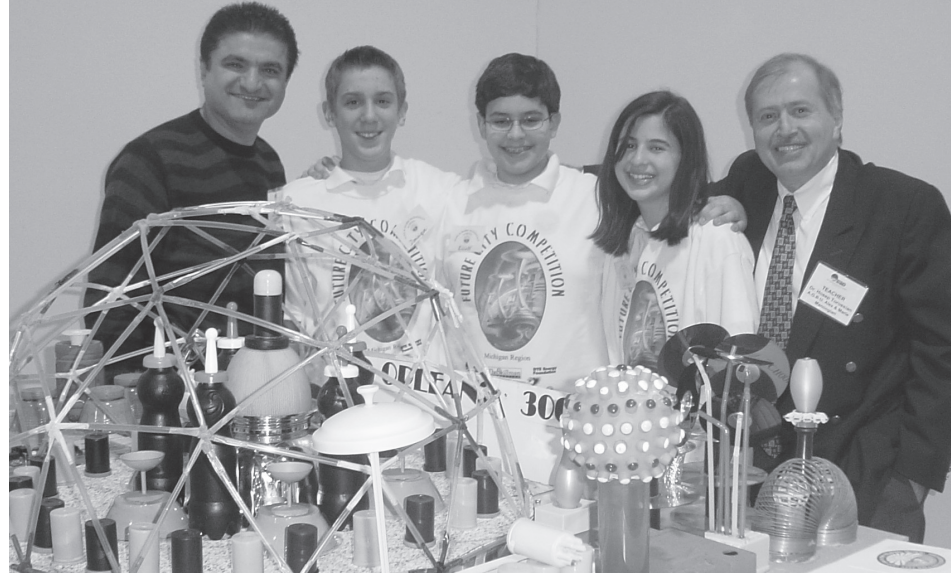
Senior Reyna Harabedian was awarded a full four-year scholarship to the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor. The value of the scholarship is \$38,500 and subject to increase should tuition costs rise.

Reyna received this scholarship because of her "strong academic record and demonstrated scholarly potential." The university also said she "can contribute significantly to the overall excellence and diversity of our entering freshman class."

**Congratulations Reyna on your accomplishment!**



## Young Engineers Win Accolades



Since the beginning of the school year, 13 dedicated 7th-grade students were eager to win a competition sponsored by the Engineering Society of Detroit (ESD). The competition included four parts: a computer design of a futuristic city (Sim City), a written essay about the design of the future city, a model built using only recycled materials, and a presentation of the project to a group of judges.

The team met twice a week for four months with their mentors Dr. Hosesep Torossian and Mr. Mike Arzoumanian. Other faculty members and parents also contributed to help make the project a success: Mrs. Mraçna helped with the artistic portion; Mrs. Baker helped train the students on presentation; Mr. Bob Stepanian helped with the moving of parts of the model; Mr. Kadri advised on the engineering aspects; and the Armenian Society of Engineers (ASE) ran a practice judging with the students.

Given the devastation of New Orleans and the urgent need to rebuild the city, the team decided to call their futuristic city "Orleans 3000." On January 18, the representatives of the group – Elliott Stepanian, Carolyn Philip, and Dominique Duduman – presented the team's design in front of more than fifty judges. At the end

of the competition, our "Manoogian Engineers" won three awards: the People's Choice Award donated by the Engineering Society of Detroit, the Environmental Award donated by the American Society of Chemical Engineers, and the Best Use of Engineering Materials (third-place) donated by the American Society of Materials.



The competition was a huge achievement, and receiving these awards was an even greater accomplishment since the 7th graders were competing against all 8th graders, and this was the first time

## Congratulations to Keisha Jackson



Keisha attends classes at the Oakland Schools Technical Campus in Engineering/ Manufacturing Technology, and was awarded an Outstanding Student Award for being a self-starter and always willing to take charge of tasks. Great job Keisha!

## Health Awareness Month at Manoogian School

The Manoogian School community observed Health Awareness Month from January 23 to February 17. Speakers were invited from the Oakland County Health Division to talk to students about topics related to the effects of smoking, alcohol, and other drugs on their bodies; the importance of nutrition, fitness, and exercise; and techniques related to stress management. All teachers supplemented the presentations with lessons that emphasized the importance of a well-balanced and healthy lifestyle.

Following Health Awareness Month, students will have workshops and seminars on personal and social development and group discussions about personal safety skills, friendships and healthy relationships. These activities are part of the Guidance and Counseling Program, which includes bully-proofing, teaching tolerance, friendship in colors, and peer mediation.

Manoogian School encourages all community members to do their part by cooperating with the school in our efforts to raise healthy children and teach them good habits. For more information, you may contact:

Libby Rabonz 248-424-7125  
*Smoking and Relationships*

Erin Caycee 248-452-8673  
*Alcohol and Other Substances*

Contessa Rudolph 248-424-7083  
*Nutrition and Exercise*

Lindsey Terry 248-424-7128  
*Stress Management*

Andreea Bordeianu 248-569-2988, x228  
manoogiancounselor@yahoo.com  
*Manoogian School Counselor*

Manoogian School participated in this competition. From this experience, the students learned how to work together as a team and dedicate themselves to a big project while meeting deadlines.

## Cyberbullying – A Note for the Parents From *Teaching Tolerance* Magazine

Cyberbullying is the latest version of an age-old phenomenon. By age 4 or 5, children learn to use name-calling and teasing as a form of social power. The power continues from elementary school all the way to high school. Many generations have viewed this phenomenon of social cruelty as a childhood rite of passage, but research has shown that some children's experiences can follow them throughout their academic careers, sometimes leading to depression, low self-esteem, and even violence.

Cyberbullying refers to this type of name-calling and teasing when it is exhibited on the Internet. Here are some ways parents can help prevent cyberbullying:

- Tell children to never share personal information online.
- E-mail addresses and cellphone numbers should be guarded.
- Limit amount of time children spend online.
- Purchase tracking software that can block inappropriate messages and websites, as well as track online activity.
- Ask your child to report threatening messages.
- Assure bullied children you will not take away the phone or computer.
- Never respond to a bully.
- Print messages if harassment continues.
- Report the situation to the bully's ISP (Internet Service Provider).
- Change your child's e-mail address if necessary.

## Reader's Digest National Word Power Challenge

With words varying from "amiable" to "zoster," the *Reader's Digest* National Word Power Challenge is not your typical spelling bee. It is actually a vocabulary bee, testing students around the nation to measure the extent of their word knowledge.

First, each middle school contest participant is given a written test. Five top finalists in each grade are chosen, and they compete in a "Weakest Link" competition. Each of the three grade winners complete another written test to be sent to *Reader's Digest* for official checking. Students with the top scores from all participating schools are invited to attend the Michigan state competition. This winner goes on to the nationals, where the overall winner receives a scholarship.

With the initiative of middle school English language and social studies teacher Ms. Marlene Baker, our middle school students participated in this competition. The winners and finalists were:

	WINNER	FINALISTS
6th Grade	Damaris Duduman	Kevin Doss, Harout Janjanian, Ani Karibian, and Kodi Stricker
7th Grade	Carolyn Philip	Dominique Duduman, Garen Gilbert, Rachel Newman, and Elliott Stephanian
8th Grade	Christopher Pope	Arick Flesch, Vartan Kurjian, Julia Papiyants, and Haigan Tcholakian

*Congratulations to all of the participants and winners!*