



# The Manoogian Voice

Southfield, Michigan

June 2006

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

## 2006 Graduation Ceremonies

The AGBU Alex & Marie Manoogian School graduation ceremonies were events that all the students, parents, and teachers had been anxiously awaiting. The seniors – the largest and most successful class to ever graduate from Manoogian School – walked the stage for commencement on June 5. Following in their footsteps, the kindergarteners graduated on June 8, and the fifth- and eighth-graders graduated on June 12.

The high school graduation kicked off with a welcome address by principal, Dr. Hosep Torossian. Greetings followed from the Chairman of the Board of Education, Dr. Richard Marburger. The keynote speech was given by Alex Manoogian Armenian history chair at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Dr. Gerard Libaridian, who is also the former Ambassador-at-Large and Advisor to the first President of the Independent Republic of Armenia, Levon Ter-Petrosian. Speeches delivered by the graduating seniors included Valedictorian Ani Toumajan, Salutatorian Naro Babaian, class president Reyna Harabedian, and Keisha Jackson. After the address of the upper school head teacher Judith Kadri, and a performance by the Manoogian choir – under the

direction of Rubik Mailian and piano accompaniment by Margaret Benian – the 30 proud graduates walked the stage and received their well-earned and long-awaited diplomas. With diplomas in their hands and smiles on their faces, the class of 2006 glowed with motivation to take on the world.

The fifth- and eighth-grade graduation ceremony packed the hall to capacity with a most attentive and appreciative audience which also bore witness to the achievements of so many children. Principal Dyana Kezelian delivered the welcome address. Fifth- grade teacher, Ms. Sona Kalfayan, presented the graduation certificates to the fifth-graders, while Suzanne Collins distributed the certificates to eighth-graders.

**The entire Manoogian School family is saddened by the very unfortunate event that occurred during our annual Khunjouyk Carnival on Sunday, May 21. A man driving a van entered the school grounds and hit several parents and students. Our prayers go to all those who were injured. We wish a quick recovery to all, and especially to Mrs. Sona Shoushanian-Manzo and kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Seran Tcholakian.**



# All-School Program 2006

The AGBU Manoogian School held its All-School program on Monday, May 15, in St. John's hall. This year's program was dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU). All year, elementary students prepared dances and songs, with the help of dance teacher Mrs. Nayiri Karapetian and music teacher Mrs. Arsho Avedikian. Middle and high school students practiced their Armenian dances, choreographed by Mrs. Karapetian, and songs, with choir director Deacon Rubik Mailian.

Elementary students opened the show with talented singing and dancing performances. The sixth and eighth grades partnered for a spectacular dance, and the seventh grade followed with their solo performance. The high school students showed off their dancing talents; the high school boys even performed their own solo. The choir sang, and the elementary students concluded the show on a high note with the final song. All the students did an excellent job with their performances. Although they made it look easy, the students, with the program director, lower school principal Ms. Dyana Kezelian,



worked hard, showing that all their practice paid off.

Ms. Kezelian recognized several groups for their donations to the school, including Special Projects, Cultural Society of Armenians from Istanbul, PTO Board, Daughters of

Vartan, and Detroit Armenian Women's Club. That night, high school principal Dr. Hosep Torossian honored the middle and high school students who received awards in the art competition commemorating the Armenian Genocide.

## Memorial Day Program

On Friday, May 26, Southfield Mayor Brenda L. Lawrence hosted the annual "City of Southfield Memorial Day Program" on the front steps of City Hall. The Manoogian School Choir, directed by Rubik Mailian, was honored to be invited. The choir, accompanied by the elementary and middle school principal Ms. Dyana Kezelian, once again participated in this special day of remembrance and tribute to the armed forces.

## National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

On Monday, May 22, students, parents, and faculty council gathered in the media center for the induction ceremony for new National Honor Society members of the Manoogian School chapter. After high school principal, Dr. Hosep Torossian, gave his inspirational speech, the six new members lit the candles and all NHS members read the pledge together. Congratulations to newly inducted NHS members Halyna Chaykivska,



Oleksandra Goysan, Angelica Terhune, Yana Lapytska, Alec Kurjian, and Zena Yaldo! The existing NHS members of the Manoogian School are Albert Antonyan, Naro Babaian, Saro Babaian, Paul Dawidian, Tamar Djaridjian, Melene Hajakian, Harout Hartounian, Rami Haddad, Reyna Harabedian, Benjamin Newman, Lisa Shekerdeman, Alexandra Terhune, Vali Toma, Ani Toumajan, Ksenia Vandalov, and Maria Yuhana.

# Operation Bentley

Manoogian social studies teacher, Mr. Michael Huff, nominated tenth-graders Vazken Hartounian and Nayiri Kaissarian to participate in an intensive week-long program at the Albion College campus from May 22-26.



This program focused on politics, government, and important current issues. Vazken and Nayiri were two of 86 students chosen from all over Michigan. The Bentley Foundation covered all costs for the seminar.

Highlights of the program included simulations of a city council and the Michigan Senate. During the city council simulation, everyone had a role to fulfill – whether it was a council member, city manager, planning commissioner, or an involved citizen. During the Michigan Senate simulation, all “senators” were required to write a bill covering an important issue in Michigan.

The “senators” chose their political parties – Democrat, Republican, or Independent – and each party chose their governor and lieutenant governor. The three governor candidates had a gubernatorial debate.

Along with the intensive learning, the students enjoyed the Albion campus and participated in recreational activities with new friends. The program also included a trip to Lansing to see the Capitol Building and Hall of Justice. Here, participants met the Minority and Majority Michigan Senate Floor Leaders and the Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court.

# Peer Mediation

The Peer Mediation program has new middle school peer mediators this year, thanks to the help of the school administration and the wonderful training conducted by Mrs. Gina Buckley from the Oakland Mediation Center in Bloomfield Hills. Accompanied by high school science teacher Ms. Laura Batarseh, a group of twenty middle school and high school students received certificates of participation for 12 hours of intensive skill-building activities.

Our guests from OMC even noted the remarkable help of the “veteran” peer mediators – Sarine Arslanian, Sally Kesto, Julia Papyants, Mike Kalfayan, and Vazken Hartounian. The students and staff were very excited about the training, and they are ready to participate in all the Peer Mediation program activities. For more information, please contact Andrea Bordeianu at [manoogiancounselor@yahoo.com](mailto:manoogiancounselor@yahoo.com).

## *Manoogian Welcomes Visitor*



On Thursday, May 18, Reverend Father Baryur Avedisian from Holy Etchmiadzin made a special visit to the Manoogian School. He was accompanied by Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian, pastor of St. John’s Armenian Church, and Kim Yakoubian from the AGBU Central Office in New York. They spoke to the students and then listened with delight as the elementary students sang Armenian songs.

## *Senior Engineering Competitions*

The Class of 2006 finished their high school science careers by testing their creativity and skills in engineering. In April, the senior class created bridges out of toothpicks and glue. The bridges were tested by hanging weights from the center until the bridge either collapsed or bent beyond the supporting points. The maximum weight held was 42 pounds for a bridge 25 cm long. The top three winners were Ani Toumajan first place, Zena Yaldo and Melene Hajakian second place, and Samantha Ware third place.

In May, students constructed hot air balloons out of tissue paper and glue. The balloons were then filled with hot air and tested to see how high they could rise and how much weight they could carry. Balloons ranged in size from one to four feet tall. The best balloons hit the ceiling of the gymnasium and remained in the air for a few minutes. The winners for maximum height were Paul Dawidian and Harout Hartounian in first place, Nadya Burda in second place, and Samantha Ware in third place. For maximum weight held, the winners were Paul Dawidian and Harout Hartounian in first place, Samantha Ware in second place, and Nadya Burda in third place. Congratulations to all the seniors on a job well done!

# Field Day a Big Success

The annual Field Day was held on Friday, June 2. While the high school students enjoyed the day at Great Lakes Crossings Mall, middle school students had a blast at Joe Dumars' Fieldhouse, and elementary students' fabulous Friday was held on the school grounds. All the students give a big thank you to the teachers and parents; Field Day was a huge success, and everyone had lots of fun!



## Save the Dates

**AUGUST 14**

### **Manoogian School Golf Outing**

Please join us at the school's annual golf outing, sponsored by the Special Projects Group. The school raised \$120,000 at last year's outing. Come enjoy the day and help raise funds for the Manoogian School! If you are interested, please call the school office.

**SEPTEMBER 5**

### **First Day of School**

Welcome back to the AGBU Alex & Marie Manoogian School! We look forward to seeing you.

**SEPTEMBER 9**

### **Welcome Back Picnic**

Join us at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills for great excitement, great food, great friends, and lots of fun!

## Habitat for Humanity

Each year, the National Honor Society members of the Manoogian School take part in the Habitat for Humanity program. On May 24, NHS students went to Detroit to help build a house at a Habitat for Humanity construction site. After a day of hard work volunteering, the students rewarded themselves with a traditional water fight before heading home.

*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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