



The Manoogian Voice

Southfield, Michigan

May 2011

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

“Vartanantz” Celebration at Manoogian School

March 7th marked the anniversary of a significant event in Armenian history. In 451 A.D., the Armenian nation, led by General Vartan Mamigonian, defended its freedom and Christian faith against the Persian Empire’s aggression. At the battle of Avarayr, Vartan and 1,036 Armenian soldiers were martyred; however, their dream of freedom prevailed. Armenians immortalized Vartan Mamigonian for his bravery and leadership and for securing the Armenian heritage and Christian identity.

Since its founding, the Manoogian School has celebrated the Vartanantz spirit through cultural programs of plays, songs, and recitals.

This year, the opening remarks of the program were made by the principal of the elementary and middle



school, Ms. Dyana Kezelian. Afterwards, the Manoogian choir took to the stage under the direction of Ms. Paulette Apkarian. The choir sang nine traditional Armenian songs and received a standing ovation. After thanking the choir director, Ms. Kezelian welcomed the tenth grade students who had prepared a play with the help of their director, and Armenian language teacher, Mrs. Anahit Toumajan.

After the play, the elementary students recited Armenian poems all dedicated to Vartan Mamigonian and his courageous comrades.

The celebration came to a cheerful, and musical conclusion as the school sang traditional Armenian songs with the same national pride that Vartan Mamigonian had centuries ago.



The 96th Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide

On April 24, 2011, hundreds of thousands of people made the solemn journey to Dzidzernagapert, the Armenian Genocide memorial in Yerevan, Armenia, to lay flowers and pay tribute to the memory of the 1.5 million Armenians, who were brutally massacred or killed on death marches in the Ottoman Empire during the years of 1915-1918.

Michigan-Armenians, like their compatriots elsewhere around the world, remembered those innocent men, women, and children, who were brutally slaughtered because of their identity and religion.

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The 96th Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide

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The Manoogian School held its commemorative ceremony on Tuesday, April 26, 2011. The day started at 8:30 A.M. with the gathering of the elementary school. Students from fifth and seventh grades recited poems dedicated to the will of survival of the Armenian people.

At 11:30 A.M. the entire school gathered outside by the Khach Kar (cross stone) in front of St. John's Armenian Church. Mr. David Terzibashian led the school with the Lord's Prayer in memory of those who perished in the first genocide of the 20th century. The fifth grade and faculty members laid red carnations at the foot of the cross.

Later that afternoon, middle and high school students gathered in the high school auditorium for a program directed by Mrs. A. Toumajan. Select high school students narrated a poem on the history and causes of the



Armenian Genocide. High school Principal, Dr. H. Torossian, presented his thoughts and read President Barack Obama's press release on this somber occasion. Afterwards, he invited community leader Mr. David Terzibashian to deliver the

keynote address. Mr. Terzibashian drew a parallel between the Armenian Genocide and the other genocides of the 20th century. He also strongly advised every student to remove the word "hate" from their vocabulary as it is the root of all evil.

Did you know...?

This year Armenia is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its independence. Armenia became one of the first republics to declare independence from the Soviet Union. Armenia's desire to break away from the Soviet Union stemmed largely from Moscow's intransigence on the Karabakh region, their inept response to the devastating earthquake of 1988, and the shortcomings of the socialist economy.

On September 21, 1991, the state of Armenia became a fully recognized and re-established independent republic.

National Geographic Bee Participation

Taline Bedirian, in 8th grade, won the school-level competition of the National Geography Bee, held on Monday January 3, 2011, and a chance to win a \$25,000 college scholarship. The school-level Bee, where middle school students answered oral questions was the first round. Angelina Antonyan was the 7th grade winner and Giulio Basiliisco for the 6th grade.

Taline took a written test and if she is one of the top 100 scorers, will be eligible to compete at the state level.

Congratulations to Taline for being the school winner, to Angelina and Giulio for being their class winner, and to all middle school students who participated.

Science and Technology

The high school science lab was recently equipped with 6 new lap-top computers thanks to a generous donation from Mr. Mike Arzoumanian. Students will be able to conduct higher level scientific experiments connected with probes to the lap-tops. This will help the students see and instantly analyze the results of their experiments.

We are thankful to Mr. Arzoumanian, as he has promised to double his donation and equip us with another 6 lap-tops for our second science lab.

Talent Show

For the fifth consecutive year, the “Manoogian Idol” competition showcased the many talents of the Manoogian high school students. This year’s show, held on March 18, featured singers, dancers, musicians and a special performance by the senior class.

Senior student Rachel Newman was awarded 1st place for singing and playing her guitar to an original song; singer Gabrielle Vernon from the 10th grade and the dancing duo of juniors Ani Karibian and Sevan Markosian tied for 2nd place. Sophomore Solomiya Svytka came in third for her singing solo.

“It was a good way to give a chance to the many talented students here at Manoogian, and it turned out even better than we thought. I believe all the participants were winners,” said Anahit Movsesyan, a senior and the National Honor Society president. The National Honor Society sponsors the talent show each year.

The senior class, led by the



singing talents of “Manoogian Idol” host Araxie Tossounian, opened and closed the show with its own heartfelt renditions of the songs “Billionaire,”

“The Time of Your Life,” and “Traveling Soldier.” The audience of students, parents, and staff joined them in the final song, “Umbrella.”



PTO CORNER

Camp Nubar

On January 20, 2011, AGBU Nubar summer camp director, Dan Antreasian, was the guest speaker at the P.T.O. meeting. Counselors presented promotional videos about the camp, and announced that they are extending a special discounted price for the camp to Manoogian students.

Fundraising “Manteh” Day

The P.T.O. would like to thank all the mothers and grandparents who took time from their busy schedules to prepare Manteh (traditional Armenian food) on February 24, 2011. Without their support, this fundraiser would have not been a success.

Vegas Night

On Friday, March 4th, the P.T.O. held its Vegas Night/Texas Hold’em Tournament. We would like to congratulate the winners: first place went to Mr. Chuck Bedirian, second place was Mr. Danny Sagherian, and third place award went to Mr. Raffi Markosian. Our special appreciation goes to those who came and supported this event.

“Pennies for Patients”

The Manoogian School students and their families opened their hearts and piggy banks to help children with Leukemia during the “Pennies for Patients” coin drive



March 21-25 at the Manoogian School. One student in particular, 3rd grader Gavin Moore, wanted to help out so much that he donated the entire money he had saved from his birthday and Christmas gifts... \$72.

“I just wanted to help them. I know it will save a lot of cancer patients’ lives,” said Gavin. In total, \$1,400 was donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. In previous years, the coin drive was sponsored by the National Junior Honor Society.

Armenian Dance Performance at Schoolcraft and Ladies Lenten Luncheon

High school dancers participated in performing at Schoolcraft's multi-cultural festival on Thursday, March 31, 2011. Dozens of countries were represented, with their informative booths, unique foods and customs. The Manoogian students led and instructed by Mrs. Nayiri Karapetian, Mr. Shant Kasparian, and Ms. Lara Zanazanian, performed two traditional Armenian dances, to the great appreciation of the capacity audience.



The same day a luncheon program was organized by P.T.O. Manoogian School ladies in observance of Mid-Lent, held in the Veterans hall. Organizer ladies: Tamitsa Dakissian, Silva (Danial) Sagherian, Silva (Christopher) Sagherian, cheerfully greeted arriving parents and guests for the daytime event.

Welcoming remarks were made by both principals Ms. Dyana Kezelian and Dr. Hosep Torossian. Afterwards, Manoogian dancers and singers performed, both receiving outstanding applause by their audience.

The committee thanks the many mothers who donated the delicious food.

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



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