

Սուրբ Ստեփանոս Յայց. Եկեղեցւոյ Եռամսեայ Լրատու

DATEV

Saint Stepanos Armenian Church-Elberon, NJ

Fr. Daniel Karadjian, Pastor



Quarterly Newsletter / Spring 2014

WELCOME

We are very happy to introduce you our Datev. We hope that you will enjoy its new format as we continue to chronicle life within our Saint Stepanos Church community.

The Parish Council and Editorial Committee will gratefully accept every donation to help us in publishing and mailing our DATEV to you.

Please feel free to share your comments, suggestions and ideas regarding our DATEV.

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday-Friday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00p.m.

* For any of your needs and concerns, please contact us directly or by email ...

* Since the email addresses of many of you have changed, please send us an email at: **stepanoschurch@aol.com** – with your name and current address so we can update our records, and are able to send you the bulletin and other important news.

If you would like to meet with the Pastor or submit items for “Datev” or for the Sunday Bulletin, please contact the office at 732 229-3661 or (**stepanoschurch@aol.com**).

THE NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

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Submissions of news, articles, photos, essays and letters are welcome and should be sent to our church office at (stepanoschurch@aol.com). All texts must be submitted in electronic format, as text file or as email.

Pastor's Office Hours Tuesday - Friday: 10AM - 2PM.

After hours in an emergency, please contact: Pastor's Cell: (732) 312-8661

Saint Stepanos Armenian Church Quarterly Newsletter

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Մեր Տերոջ կենսատու Սուրբ Յարութիւնը սիրով կը
չնորհաւորենք եւ կը հայցենք որ Յարուցեալ Վրիստոսը
վերանորոգէ ձեր կեանքը երջանկութեամբ,
եւ առողջութեամբ:

«Օրհնեալ է Յարութիւնն Վրիստոսի»

Զատիկ

Հավիթներ եմ գոյն-գոյն շարել
Կողովիս մեջ եւ խնամքով
Կյանքն Հիսուսի պիտի տոնենք
Եկեղեցում շատ մեծ շուքով:

Պիտի հիշենք թե հաղթական
Եւ վոնց ելաւ մութ դժոխքից,
Կյանք խոստացաւ հավերժական
Մեզ կանչելով իր եանից:

Հավիթների նման դու Տեր
Սիրտս ներկիր քո արյունով,
Կյանքի կոչիր հոգիս կրկին
Հին խորհուրդով, քո նոր կյանքով:

Արարտի սուրբ գազարթից
Թող եւ կանչեմ մեզ և այլոց.
Հոյս և հավատ ողջ աշխարհին՝
Քրիստոսն հարիալ ի մեռելոց:

Ա. Օրբեկյան



After a long cold winter, Holy Week began on a sunny spring day, on Palm Sunday, “Dzaghgazart,”

April 13th. Der Hayr, the deacons, and the altar servers conducted Morning Service with some extra spirit as the altar, beautifully decorated with green altar clothes, palm-woven crosses and loose palms, was open after being closed for 40 days during lent. Following morning service, Der Hayr blessed an exquisite set of

newly donated vestments in emerald green.

Divine Liturgy took place with numerous altar servers and a full choir. Divine Liturgy was succeeded by an “Antasdan” or the Blessing of the Fields service outside of the church. Der Hayr, the altar servers, and the choir lead the congregation on a procession around the church, blessing the four sides of the world.

The day concluded with the traditional Palm Sunday Service of “Turnpatsek”. In the moving service, Der Hayr repeatedly “knocked on the door” as he and the choir sang “Pats Mez Der UzToorun Voghormootyan,” “Open to Us Lord the Door of Mercy”.

Holy Thursday services took place in the evening and consisted of two services: the Washing of the Feet, “Vodunlav” and the Great Vigil, “Khavaroom.” The Washing of the Feet service recounts Christ’s humility as He washed the feet of the disciples before the Last Supper. This year Der Hayr washed the feet of men and children.

The Great Vigil followed the Washing of the Feet Service. The service includes the singing of the hymn “Aysor Anjar” which describes events of Holy Thursday. The hymn was interspersed with six readings from the gospels which recounted Jesus’ arrest, betrayal, and passion. The service climaxed with the singing of “Oor es Mayr Im” “Where are you my mother?” at which point all of the candles in church were extinguished and the lights were turned off. When the lights were turned on, Der Hayr and the deacons sang the moving hymn “Khatchee ko Kreestos” “We Venerate your Cross, O’ Christ” and concluded the service.

The Easter Eve service known as “Jurakalouys” started with scripture readings. The last reading was from the Book of Daniel. Holy Badarak immediately followed the scripture readings. The choir joyously sang “Kovyal Yerusalem UzDer Haryav Kristos!” “Praise the Lord O Jerusalem, Christ is risen from the dead!”

Easter Sunday is the most important feast day in the Armenian Church and is often the most crowded day at St. Stepanos Church as the faithful come to church to commemorate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. This year was no exception.

A magnificent Badarak took place following Morning Service. Ten altar servers assisted Der Hayr at the altar. Two deacons censed incense simultaneously throughout the service. The choir sang Komitas versions of “Sourp Sourp” and “Amen Hayr Sourp” which brought heightened awareness of the importance of the day.

Services concluded with a procession into the church hall, where Der Hayr performed a Home Blessing Service and blessed Easter eggs.

LENTEN FELLOWSHIP DINNERS - LORD TEACH US TO PRAY

Every Lenten Friday at 6:30PM

Around 1989, on a “Friday Community night” gathering at St. Stepanos Armenian Church hall, Mrs. Alice Bakhtiarian requested from Hayr Soorp Haygazoun Najarian to conduct Lenten service Husgoom (a church night vesper).

Hayr Soorp was very pleased and delighted with the request. He started a half hour Lenten service every Friday night at 8:00PM during the period of Lent. Since that day, our prayers in the church sanctuary have become a tradition.

Few years later the Chairman of Parish Council, Dr. Asbed Vassilian come up with the idea to have Lenten dinner for the entire parishioners attending (Hsgoom service) on Friday nights by stating: “Have you fed your soul today?” It was around 1993 when his mother mama Isgouhie Vassilian prepared the first Lenten dinner, followed by different families on each week of the Lenten.

That is how this tradition was established at St. Stepanos Armenian church.

Sylvia Bakhtiarian



On the Feast of Palm Sunday

Mrs. Lisa Deckmejian and her family in loving memory of her husband Birj S. Deckmedjian donated to our church a Liturgical Vestments.

During the Morning Service, Der Hayr held the Blessing of New Church Vestment service.

At the end of the service, behalf of our church community, he expressed his thankfulness to Mrs. Deckmedjian and her family for their heartfelt donation and asked the Lord to reward them with His “great and abundant mercy here and in the world to come.”

Datev

WG Bake Sale Helps Preserve Tradition and Support Church

On April 12 Members of the St. Stepanos Women’s Guild were busy baking choregs for our Palm Sunday choreg sale. The kitchen was filled with laughter and hard workers. A special thank you goes out for the following for their time and help:

Alice Bakhtiarian, Sylvia Bakhtiarian, Norig and Tanya Buchakjian, Maral Karakashian, Mariam Corrigan, Rose Froonjian, Arlene Heitman, Lori Lombardi, Linda Patruno, Ginny Sabonjian, Ethel Yezdanian and Araxy Zohrabian.

We were also treated to baked goods, coffee and lunch which consisted of “eech” and vegetables by Maral Karakashian. The church hall was beautifully decorated with love and style for the Easter season.





Ամեն Կիրակի, մեծ հետաքրքրութեամբ կը կարդամ Սուրբ Ստեփանոս Եկեղեցւոյ թերթիկը՝ պատրաստուած Եկեղեցւոյ հովիւին՝ Տէր Դանիէլի կողմէ:

Թերթիկը խտացած կ'ըլլայ գիտելիքներով, ընդհանրապէս օրուան սուրբին վերաբերելով, օրուայ սուրբ գրային ընթերցումներով եւ զանազան ծանուցումներով:

Վերջերս աչքառու կը դառնան գալիք ձեռնարկները՝ որոնք իրենց ծիրին

մէջ կ'առնեն ընտանիքին ամեն հասակի անդամները իրենց հաւատալիքներով, ապրելակերպով եւ կարիքներով. օրինակ.

- փոքրիկներու օրհնութիւն
- ոսկերէն տարեդարձի հրաւեր- հիւրասիրութիւն
- հայ լեզուի դասաւանդութիւն
- սուրբ գրային սերտողութիւն եւ այլն:

Յունուար 25ի Կիրակիին Եկեղեցւոյ սրահը հրաւիրուած էր «Մարիս Մարգէթի» գոյքը Դաւիթ եւ Մարի Ռօզ Առաքելեաներ իրենց խանութի ապրանքները ցուցադրելու, ծախելու եւ նիւթապէս օգտակար դառնալու մեր Եկեղեցւոյ:

Հակառակերեցկնոջ Մարիամի անհատու միզերուն, զանազան ծանուցումներուն եւ յիշեցումներուն, օդին անպատեհութիւնը, համբաներու վրայ յամառող ձիւնը արգելք հանդիսացան շատերու Եկեղեցի ժամանման:

Սուրբ Պատարագէն Ետք՝ Տէր Դանիէլ սրահ բարձրացաւ, բարի գալուստ եւ յաջողութիւն մաղթելէ Ետք հիւր գոյգին, օրհնեց հաշատեղանը պատրաստուած Ազատուհիի եւ Եսթերի կողմանէ:

Ներկաները, թիւով մօտ 30, յոյժ հետաքրքրութիւն ցուցաբերեցին ապրանքներու զանազանութեան եւ նոխութեան վրայ, քաջալերեցին «Մարիս Մարգէթը» գնումներ կատարելով եւ որոշ ապապրանքներ ընելով:

Բայց այս նիւթական երեսոյթէն անդին, հոգիս կը հրնուի ի տես այս փոքրիկ ածուին, բոլորուած, մէկ ընտանիքի նման, իրենց հօր եւ մօր շուքին տակ միասին հաց կը բաժնեն, զիրար կը քաջալերեն, սիրոյ փոխյարաբերութեամբ, մէկ սիրտ, մէկ հոգի կ'աշխատին մեր Եկեղեցւոյ պայծառութեան եւ Աստուծոյ փառքին համար:

Աստուած օրհնէ այս ծուխը:

WE CELEBRATED THE 50+

**Ոսկէ Տարեդարձ
1 Մարտ 2014**

Բացառիկ եւ հանելի հանդիսութիւն մը տեղի ունեցաւ Սուրբ Ստեփանոս Եկեղեցւոյ յարկէն ներս ի յարգանս 50 եւ աւելի տարիներէ ի վեր ամուսնացած գոյգերու:

Ներկայ էին 9 գոյգեր 50-էն մինչեւ 70 տարիներէ ի վեր ամուսնացած եւ մօտ 80 բարեկամներ:

Ձեռնարկին ամեն մի մանրամասնութիւն - սրահի սարքաւորում, հաշի պատրաստութիւն եւ սպասարկութիւն, խաղեր ու նուէրներ, - նախատեսուած էր եւ պատշաճօրէն իրագործուեցաւ Եկեղեցւոյս հովիւ Տէր Դանիէլի եւ իր ազնիւ տիկնոջ Երեցկին Մարիամին կողմէ:

Մթնոլորտը անուշ եղանակներով կը խանդավարէր Եկեղեցւոյս ընկեր



հանրածանօթ երգիչ Պօպ Ասլանեան, հին ու քաղցր յիշատակներ արթնցնելով տարեց զոյգերու հոգիներուն մէջ եւ փոխադրելով զանոնք երազական աշխարհի մը մէջ:

Երեկոն անմոռանալի դարձնելու համար կազմակերպիչները ազնիւ գաղափարն ունեցած էին նուիրել գեղեցիկ, նաշխուն բարձի ծածկոց մը ամեն մէկ պատուող զոյգին հետեւեալ գրութիւնով՝ « 50+ մէկ բարձի վրայ ծերանաք»

Ուշ գիշերին հիւրերը ցրուեցան նորոգուած սրտով եւ պատրաստ դիմաւորելու դեռ շատ տարեդարձներ: Գովելի էր գաղափարը եւ գնահատելի՝ ձեռնարկը:

It was a very special and joyful occasion, the night of March 1st, in honor of 50 and plus years married couples. Under the auspices of St. Stepanos Church, this affair was entirely prepared and executed by our parish priest, Rev. Father Daniel and his lovely wife, Yeretzgeen Mariam. Every single detail decorations, table settings, food preparation and service, games and gifts was handled with care. We thank Maral Karakashian and Nargis Buchakjian for their help to set up the dinner tables and for the decoration of our hall.

The entertainer of the day was the well known, friend of the church Bob Aslanian who sang some “oldies but goodies” rekindling some sweet memories in the heart of the guests.

As a kind souvenir of the memorable night, each couple received an embroidered pillow case, a gift from the organizers.

At late night, the guests (80+) left rejuvenated, with grateful hearts, ready to enjoy many more happy anniversaries.

Another successful event! Job well done!



Thank you,

ST. STEPANOS REVIVED ITS WOMEN'S GUILD

On Sunday, March 16th, Charlotte Sevazlian, WGCC Chairman and Marian Varteresian, WGCC Recording Secretary, were invited by Rev. Fr. Daniel Karadajian to visit our Church for a meeting following Badarak to revive St. Stepanos Women's Guild chapter of our Diocese.

A short presentation for the work and goals of WGCC was made. Following it a period of discussion, questions and answers took place affording our ladies a chance to ask questions and thoughts regarding the Women's guild. A vote was taken in favor to revive St. Stepanos Women's Guild chapter followed by a vote to elect members of the first executive board.

The week of March 17 was a busy week for some of our ladies in St. Stepanos Church. On Friday March 21 under the watchful eyes and enormous help of Yeretzgin Mariam the following members Silva Terjanian, Sossie Shekoukian, Sona Toufayan, Krikor Toufayan, Yeretzgin Mariam and her parents who are visiting, made over four hundred small chores. All this preparation is a donation from our church for the upcoming Annual



Diocesan Assembly taking place in St. Vartan Cathedral in New York this year. Several churches are preparing goodies to serve the guests who will participate to this meeting.

We all had so much fun working together for a good cause.

On Saturday March 22 was Sainly Women's Day honoring St. Santoukht, first Armenian Saint and Martyr. This year it was hosted by the Women's Guild of St Leon's Armenian Church,

Fair Lawn NJ, the Rev. Fr. Diran Bohajian, Pastor.

A group of Ladies from St. Stepanos Church, who just joined the Women's Guild and for which we all are so happy, had the privilege to join and honor St Santoukht. Our group consisted of Fr. Daniel, Yeretzgin Mariam as well as her parents visiting them, also Silva and Terenig Terjanian, Mary Gorra, Linda Patruno, Virginia Sabonjian, Sona and Krikor Toufayan. It was a decent group representing our St. Stepanos Church to this important celebration in the Armenian History.

Lunch was served prepared by the ladies of St. Leon's Church, delicious Lenten food that we all enjoyed. It was a very memorable day and informative at the same time. The guest speaker was Prof. Roberta Ervine who enlightened us with her speech. The Professor teaches religion in St. Nersess Seminary. Thank you to all the Women's Guild Ladies of St. Leon's Church for their hard work to make this event a successful affair. Sona T

NARRATION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY

On Sunday, February 2, 2014, Rev. Fr. Daniel Karadjian, our Priest, conducted a special instructive Divine Liturgy. During the service, the narrator interrupted the liturgy from time to time to explain what was happening and why.

The purpose of this narration was to deepen the congregation's understanding and awareness of the most important act of Christian worship so that it could participate more meaningfully. Fortunately, every aspect of the Holy Badarak was explained from the vesting of the Priest prior to the service and the purpose of each garment through the entire service leading up to Holy Communion and continuing through the requiem service or "Hokehankist, Blessing and Dismissal."

Many members of the congregation expressed the appreciation for Der Hayr's institution of this special instructive Divine Liturgy and requested that the members of the congregation receive booklets so they may better understand the reasoning behind virtually every aspect of the liturgy.



THE ARMENIAN AMERICAN SOCIAL CLUB - 2014

The Armenian American Social Club of Ocean County, New Jersey, was formally founded on February 14, 1999. The aim of the association is to have a social club to learn the Culture, the Heritage of the Armenian People and preserve its Identity.

For the past 14 years, our club has had many different functions, but the major event has always been raising the Armenian Flag, celebrating Armenian Independence Day, in front of the Ocean County Administration Building in Toms River. Our Club has been very proud to be part of a handful of counties in the United States to raise their National Flag in front of a government building.



Other events held by our club include annual picnics, trips to West Point and Atlantic City, and speakers on different pertinent subjects. We also show educational and historical Armenian movies. Articles and pictures about our club have appeared in several Armenian newspapers published in Los Angeles as well as in the Ocean County Asbury Park Press.

Although we do not have any fund raising events, within our means, we have supported the Armenian Orphan Program and made various contributions to our communities.

At the present time, due to ongoing budget cuts and staff reductions, the Ocean County Administration can no longer host any flag-raising ceremony. As a result, our club decided to donate 2 illuminated flagpoles to St. Stepanos Church. We are now in the preliminary stage, working with St. Stepanos Parish Council, to fulfill this proposed project.

We welcome anyone interested in the perpetuation of the Armenian Culture and Heritage to come and join our Social Club.

Levon G. Toutikian

ACYOA SENIOR AND JUNIORS

On Sunday March 2nd the ACYOA Juniors and Seniors held their annual Poon Pargantagan Carnival. Six members of ACYOA participated in the event. Some of them were dressed in tradition Armenian clothing others with their casual clothes.

As usual for this celebration we organized funny games and the little kids who also were dressed up in costumes were happy to participate. All the food was prepared by the ACYOA members. We had salad, pasta and meatballs.

On Sunday April 13th the ACYOA had their annual Palm Sunday Lehmedjun luncheon, which is also ACYOA day across the Diocese. We had 13 people participate. The night before in order to have the palms ready for the Palm Sunday Badarak some of the ACYOA seniors came and helped with striping the palms and putting them in vases.

We would like to thank all of the people who cooked the food this day. We had so much fun and it was a blessed day for all of us.

ML



Church Website: www.ststepanos.org

We hope you will enjoy its new format as we continue to give you information for the church's events and chronicle life within our Saint Stepanos Armenian Church's community in Long Branch, NJ. Please feel free to share your comments, suggestions and ideas regarding our updated Website. Enjoy !

COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

On Tuesday, April 22, 2014, the Center for Holocaust, Human Rights & Genocide Education held the Annual Armenian Genocide Remembrance Program at Brookdale Community College. Armenian Scholar Khatchig Mouradian who has crisscrossed Turkey more than a dozen times, delivered a lecture entitled “Hearing the Footsteps of Dawn”.

His lecture summarized his visits to historic Armenian cities and villages to conduct research and interview the children and grandchildren of witnesses to and victims of the Armenian Genocide. Through a combination of images of historic Armenian centers and his interviews with local residents, he painted a picture of the relentless struggle against destruction and hope for truth and justice. Rather than just viewing the stones, ruined structures and monuments, he spoke with families that invariably have Armenian connections. Most importantly, many Turkish family members not only were told of the Genocide by their parents and grandparents, but they were free to acknowledge the truth of the Genocide. The Program was sponsored by Adrienne H. McOmber in honor of her father Arsen B. Haroutunian.

Richard D. McOmber



St. Stepanos Armenian Church community commemorated the 99th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide on Thursday, April 24th.

The worship of God was mixed with the mourning service (Requiem) for more than 1.5 million Armenians brutally killed in Ottoman Empire In 1915 Genocide, meticulously planned and carried out by the Young Turks. A display poster with the facts about the genocide was created by the Orbelyan Family children, who did not spare any efforts to enrich their work with very informative and poignant documents.

The Poster was displayed not only in St. Stepanos Armenian church, but in Ocean County Christian Academy and Baptist church By the Orbelyan Family who distributed documentary video materials along with educational work in that church among American visitors and members about the Armenian Genocide of the 1915.

It is our duty as Armenian parents to educate our children about evil that was done to our nation, to keep them ready for the fights against the same evil in the future. May God give peace to the souls of those who lost their lives in the Genocide and peace to the hearts of those who live, remember and serve their memory.

A.O.

DONATE:

The Aleppo Compatriotic Charitable Organization (ACCO) is a humanitarian, non-governmental, non-profit organization founded in 2013 that operates in Armenia to provide emergency relief assistance to the most vulnerable Syrian Armenian families. To make a donation, please speak with Maral Karakashian or visit www.aleppo-ngo.org.

Checks may be made payable to the Aleppo Compatriotic Charitable Organization. IRS Section 501(c)(3) status is pending.

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Annual Parish Assembly of St. Stepanos Church was held on Sunday, February 23, 2014 with 44 members present and Fr. Daniel Karadjian, our pastor, presiding. After the opening prayer Ms. Aida Kado requested a moment of silence for all members of our church community who passed away the prior year. Mr. McOmber the chair of the PA 2013 called for nominations for the day's officers. Richard McOmber and Nanor Terjanian were elected Chairman and Secretary of the Day. Mr. Jeffrey Surenian was elected as a parliamentarian.

Our Diocese granted a special permission for the outgoing Parish Council members Ms. Kado and Mr. Nakshian to run for a consecutive term in the 2014 elections for Parish Council.

The following were elected to the Parish Council for a term of three years: Jeffrey Surenian, Aida Kado, Taleen Terjanian and Boby Nakashian. Mr. Vahe Surenian was elected as a member of the Auditing Committee for a term of 3 years; Mrs. Sonia Toufayan, Mrs. Adrienne McOmber and Mrs. Linda Patruno were elected to the Nominating Committee for a term of one year.

The 2013 Assembly Minutes and all Reports were reviewed and accepted. Der Hayr thanked to all members of our church for their dedication and excellent work during 2013, and also expressed his thankfulness to God who brought his wife and him to work for the benefit of our church. Der Daniel concluded the Meeting at 3:20 p.m with prayer.

At their transitional meeting on April 21 the Parish Council elected their Executive Committee: Chairperson Aida Kado, Vice Chairman Jeffrey Surenian, Secretary John Haytaian, Treasurer Ashkhen Tadevosyan, Ass. Treasurer Taleen Terjanian, Advisers Bobby Nakashian and Armen McOmber.

St. Stepanos Armenian Church Sunday / Armenian School

This spring the Sunday School started Great Lent with the annual Diocesan Lenten Drive. The proceeds for the drive from all of the Diocesan Sunday Schools will go to the Berd Soup Kitchen in Armenia and the Feeding America organization in the United States. The children were given Lenten boxes to put money into during the 40 days of Lent. We set a goal of \$800 and beat our goal by the children and their parents donating \$825.



This year our Easter Breakfast, Egg Hunt and Egg Fight held on Saturday April 26th was off to a wonderful start with Der Daniel doing a special service in the sanctuary that included the children reading parts of the service. The breakfast in which the food was donated by the Sunday School parents was a wonderful menu of eggs, bacon, pancakes, bagels, fruits and desserts. The kitchen crew of David Sabonjian, Jennifer Haytaian, Louise Vartanian and Marie Haytaian had the breakfast ready right after church services. Maso and Tina Vartanian helped with set up with

fast ready right after church services. Maso and Tina Vartanian helped with set up with

Sharlene Hovsepien providing a great effort in cleaning up the kitchen with Marie and Jennifer. Taleen Terjanian set up the Easter Egg Hunt outside on the church grass with every child getting a lot of eggs filled with candy and 10 filled with a surprise gift. We then had what always is a lot of fun for the children, the egg fight. With hard boiled eggs colored and prepared by Ashken Tadevosyan and her children, the children cheered and groaned as their eggs survived each hit or were cracked. Since it is so much fun, next year we may have to have the parents in their own contest.

To all the parents that donated food and labor a very big thank you for what is always a wonderful event for the children.

Armenian School and Sunday School ended this past Sunday May 18th. We started off the last day with a graduation ceremony for Tina Vartanian our only 8th grader this year. The children in her class (6th/7th/8th) grade read to Tina what they hoped for in terms of her continuing church life. Richie and Meli Pekmezian and Ryan Kozak hoped that they would continue to see Tina in Sunday School as an assistant. Tina was presented with a silver Etchmiadzin Cross with the hope that it will give her strength and remember her ties to the Armenian Church.



On Saturday May 17th, the children of the Armenian School provided the entertainment for the Mother's Day Dinner and celebration of Aida Kado as the St. Stepanos women of 2014. The parents and teachers of the Armenian school taught and practiced the Armenian songs and poems with the children.

To all of the parents and teachers in the Armenian and Sunday School, we thank you for your devotion and support of the St. Stepanos schools by bringing your children and to the teachers for being there each Sunday. It was a wonderful 2013 – 2014 school year.

John Haytaian

Mothers Day Dinner and Mother and Woman of the Year 2013



On Saturday, May 17, 2014 we had a very special dinner and evening at St. Stepanos. All of the mother's of St. Stepanos were honored at the celebration of Mother's Day and the award of Mother and Woman of the Year to our Parish Council Chairperson Aida Kado. The event chaired by Yerezgin Mariam was supported by the donation of the dinner by the Lahham family. The dinner was prepared by Azad Lahham, Yester Garabedian. Robina Chaudhari provided all of the prizes for the evenings raffle. We thank all that helped in preparation and the serving of the dinner as well as all donations. During this write-up the word special will be used such that it will seem over used. It is not, it fits every place it is stated.

Our Master of Ceremonies Mr. Krikor Toufayan opened the dinner by welcoming all in attendance. We immediately were treated to an outstanding program from the children of the St. Stepanos Armenian School. Freida and Maria Topuzyan, Anna Arzumanyants, Arianna and David Hovsepian, Larisa and Alisa Avetisyan all sang two songs to mothers in Armenian and recited in Armenian a poem honoring mothers. During the singing Anna's little sister (a little over one years old) stole the show by joining the singers and following all of their arm and feet movements. Yes, it was wonderful.

Arianna Hovsepian at almost 10 years old played the violin and had us all in her hands with the skill of a child much older. To add to our musical pleasure Altar Server Maurice Lahham surprised the audience with a piano recital and sang a song accompanied by his piano teacher, Ms. Violetta.

We were then treated to a powerful, emotional and special presentation by **Dr. Roberta Ervine**, Professor of Armenian Studies at St. Nerses Seminary in New Rochelle, NY titled Armenian Mothers of Faith. Professor Ervine taught for more than 20 years at St. Tarkmanchatc Armenian School in Jerusalem. Even though not Armenian she has a total command of the Armenian language.



We brought the evening to a close with the presentation of the Mother and Women of the Year which was made to Aida Leon. Der Daniel made a heartfelt statement to Aida's devotion to the church and support of him. A letter then was read from Der Diran Bohajian the pastor at St. Leon's Church in Fairlawn and pastor of St. Stepanos prior to Hayr Soorp Mamigon reflecting the help and support that Aida gave to him which was well over 14 years ago.

Asbed Vassilian, who is in Armenia now, wrote a moving letter thanking Aida for her love and support and treatment like a brother.



Aida thanked everyone for the honor and stated she had not prepared a speech but spoke extremely well and thanked all for the honor which she felt was not necessary but we all knew rightfully deserved. Sitting at her table were her family and friends. Aida's children also said some wonderful and loving things about their mother with all of them stating the respect they have for her and quite obviously the loving emotion towards her. Some of the parishioners also spoke of Aida's devotion to the church and of her friendship to them.



We all expected a letter to be read from Hayr Mamigon but in his usual fashion he surprised Aida and all of us by coming into the hall towards the end of the ceremony for Aida and thanking her personally for all that she did for him during his years as St. Stepanos' pastor. Even though late and needing to go back to the Diocese for the Badarak the next day, Hayr Mamigon stated he had to be at St. Stepanos for Aida. As stated at the beginning of this column, it was a special evening.

As we approach the half way mark, 2014 is proving to be a very active and bountiful year for St. Stepanos. With a rise in church events and fundraisers, our community is becoming increasingly engaged and continually sustaining the growth of our parish.



Lenten Dinners alone yielded nearly \$2,000 (we thank specially WClub, Alla Monokian, the Mouradian, Bakhtirian, Nakashian, Toufayan, Terjanian, Lahham and Garabedian families and Manushak Vardumyan), while **Easter and Lily** donations surpassed \$4,000. We also would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the individuals and families who contributed their time and resources during this blessed season.

With the promise of many more enjoyable events and fundraisers to come, we encourage you to take a moment in making your annual Stewardship contributions, which greatly assist in offsetting operational costs for the church.

As it is said: *“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*-2 Corinthians 9:7

SAVE THE DATE CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

June 1, 2014 - Women’s Guild General Meeting at Church

June 7, 2014 - **“Evening of Armenian Folk and Classical Songs”** 7:00p.m. at our Kevork and Sirvart Hovnanian hall performed by **Anna Mehrabyan**.

Suggested Donations – \$15.00 per person Students – \$10.00; Children under 10 – free. All proceeds from this event will support St. Stepanos Church’s future cultural events. Light snacks and beverages will be served after the concert.

June 8, 2014 - Pentecost - Come and celebrate with us the day when the Christian church was established.

June 9, 2014 - Bible Study Class at 7:00p.m.

June 21-22, 2014 - St. Stepanos Yard Sale.

June 22, 2014 - The Feast of Holy Echmiadzin. Father’s Day Picnic and Yard Sale after Badarak. We also will celebrate the Man of the Year. En-tree platters served all day (a la carte menu, take-out platters & bulk purchases.) Shish Kebob, Chicken Kebob, Lula Kebob, Delicious Armenian Delicacies & Desserts... Free admission! Free parking!

July 26, 2014 - One Day Summer Camp Bible Adventure -“Jonah and The Big Fish”.

All our children at age 7 and more are invited. Suggested Donations – \$10.00. Please sign up not later than July 14th. More details to follow.

July 27, 2014 - Feast of Transfiguration of our Lord/Vartavar - ACYOA Car Wash after Badarak.

August 17, 2014 - Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother-of -God/Asdvadzin - Blessing of the Grapes Service.

September 2, 2014 - Armenian Language Conversational Class for Adults at 6:30p.m.

September 14, 2014 - Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

September 15, 2014 - Bible Study Class at 7:00p.m.

September 21, 2014 - The Armenian Independence Day Picnic. The Sunday / Armenian School of 2014-2015 will started. Registration at 10:30a.m.

September 23, 2014 -Armenian Language Conversational Class for Adults at 6:30p.m.

Each year St. Stepanos budgets an amount to be raised by those faithful parishioners of our Church who agree to be good Stewards of that which God has given to them and to make an annual Stewardship contributions to the Church, because the Church's mission is vital to all of us. This year the Parish Council and Parish Assembly have agreed that the amount to be raised should be \$35,000.

However, the financial needs of the Church are significant. There are salaries to be paid. Insurance, utilities, snowplowing and landscaping bills must be paid. The electrical and other systems of the Church are in substantial disrepair and need to be upgraded to current standards. New fencing is needed along the southerly and westerly boundaries of the Church. In short, the needs of the Church are substantial.

Stewardship
a way of life

If we are faithful in believing in, living for and giving of our time, talents and monies to the Lord, He will take care of us no matter what the economic conditions are around us, the political turmoil, or other daily events that seem to drain our energies.

Won't you give of your time, talents and monies to the Lord and trust in the Lord that He will take care of you. If you believe that, please be guided by the Holy Spirit and complete the enclosed Stewardship form and mail it back to the Church, give it to one of the members of the Parish Council, the Priest, place it in the collection plate on Sunday, or return it to the Church.

Respectfully yours,
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

DATEV thank the following for their donations in the amount of **\$125.00**: Albert & Rosemary Sahatjian; Maurice Lahham Jr; Anna Hovsepien; William & Jennifer Folker, the Nakashian and Mouradian families, Suzanne Manning and Iris Ganimian.



Baptisms and Confirmations

You that have been Baptized in Christ and put on Christ. Alleluia.
May:

Leo Alexander Forbes and Frieda Heripsime Kermizian.



Weddings

Crown with Glory and Honor

May:

Yetkin Pashalian and Ailen Diamndatidis

Best-man: Kalust Gokoglu

Maid of Honor: Ani Gokouglu



Funerals

May our Lord shed His Eternal Light upon the souls of our dearly departed

April: Gegham Tukmanyants passed away after a long illness on Saturday

April 5th, 2014 at his home.



Sr. Stepanos Armenian Apostolic Church
1184 Ocean Avenue
Elberon, NJ 07740

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SEND YOUR DONATION FOR "DATEV"



To: Saint Stepanos Armenian Church
Please accept my donation for "DATEV"

Amount: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____



NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE

HOURS OF WORSHIP

- Morning Service: 9:30AM
- Divine Liturgy: 10:30 AM
Sunday School - Summer break
Come celebrate with Father Daniel