

Debutante Handbook



The Debutante Ball
Sunday, February 18, 2024

Beverly Wilshire Hotel

Dear Prospective Debutante and Mother,

We are delighted that you are considering participating in our event - the Debutante Ball of 2024. We feel the Ball brings families together within the bounds of our shared Armenian Heritage. It becomes a wonderful memory for parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles, as well as for the debutantes and escorts.

Past experience tells us that if you participate, you will have a wonderful time making new friends and sharing time with those young ladies and young men you already know!

Please review the items covered in the handbook and feel free to call any member of our committee should you have any questions. If you have any friends or relatives who would like to participate as a debutante or escort either this year or in the future, we would like to have that information, so please share their names with us.

Again, we are so glad to welcome you and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Sincerely,

Cindy Norian

Chair, Ladies' Auxiliary of the Western Diocese

Table of Contents

Debutante Information	1-4
Gowns	1
Slip	1
Shoes	1
Gloves	1
Hair, Make-up, and Accessories	2
Alterations	2
Fathers or Presenters' Attire	2
Tickets and Reservations	2
Resume and Publicity	2
Souvenir Booklet	2
Photography	3
Invitations	3
Rehearsals	3
The Day of the Ball	3
Parties	4
After the Ball is Over	4
 Sample Dresses	 5-6
Committees	7-8
Souvenir Booklet Greeting Form	10

Debutante Information

Gowns: We ask that you notify Geraldine Chuchian of your selection before ordering your dress. Geraldine's phone number is (310) 274-1694 or email her at gsc-one@outlook.com. It is mandatory that you forward a photograph of the dress you are considering prior to its purchase. This is to avoid duplications! We also would like to make sure your dress complies with our guidelines.

Gowns should be pure white and floor length. *We request that all gowns be modest and age appropriate.* Beading should be kept to a minimum. A few seed pearls may be acceptable. No colored trim, beads, or rhinestones are allowed nor are jeweled belts.

Dresses preferably would cover the shoulders or be of a style that does not reveal cleavage. *If you choose a strapless style, plan to have straps of at least 1 ½ inch width added for the presentation.* These straps may be removed after the presentation. Halter-top dresses can be selected provided they are not overly low cut.

Not Acceptable:

Mermaid or sheath dresses
Heavy beading
Low-cut décolletage
Backless dresses
Slit skirts
Ecru or ivory colored fabric
Trains

Slip: It is suggested that you wear a long slip. The spotlights tend to make many fabrics, even layers of fabric, translucent.

Shoes: Shoes should be white but may be of any style you feel is appropriate with your dress. Pumps are preferred but sandals are acceptable. Shoes may be of any height. Please no rhinestones or sequins that might catch on to your dress as you descend the stairs during presentation.

We advise that you wear your shoes to the rehearsals so you will feel comfortable in them the night of the ball.

Please select your dress and shoes carefully. You will be dancing all evening!

Gloves: For presentation gloves of pure white solid material covering the entire hand must be worn. Lace, net, or tulle gloves are not permitted nor are half fingered gloves. Glove length is determined by the sleeve length:

Long or full-length gloves (above the elbow) for short sleeved dresses

Elbow length for mid length sleeved dresses. Wrist length for long sleeved dresses.

Hair, Make-up, and Accessories: Hair may be worn as you wish. No hair ornaments such as flowers, tiaras, or fancy hair clips are permitted during the presentation. The spotlights tend to fade facial features; therefore, some blush and a vivid yet complimentary shade of lipstick should be worn.

Jewelry is limited to small earrings such as pearls or studs. No necklaces are to be worn during the presentation since you will be receiving a cross from your father.

Should you wish to add hair accessories or belts after the presentation, that is allowed provided these items are in good taste and appropriate.

Alterations: Please have on the shoes and undergarments you plan to wear the night of the Ball when your dress is altered.

Any questions should be directed to Geraldine Chuchian (310) 274-1694 or email at gsc-one@outlook.com.

Fathers' or Presenters' Attire: Your father or presenter is required to wear a black tuxedo of a traditional single- or double-breasted style, a white shirt (no color trim), black bow tie, black cummerbund or vest, and black shoes and socks.

Tickets and Reservations: Michele Chalfant will make all ticket and table reservations on a first come first served basis. Please make your reservations early. Student tickets may be purchased for guests of college age or younger. As an accommodation, a child's menu may be ordered in place of the adult menu. Please notify Michele of your food selection at the time of purchase.

We may arrange to have hotel rooms at a reduced rate; however, the hotel requires us to pay for all rooms reserved whether they are used or not. We will not request a block of rooms unless we have firm commitments two months in advance of the Ball.

Resume and Publicity: Please be sure to print your name and those of your parents (and grandparents if you wish to include them) accurately on your Debutante Application as you wish them to be printed for publicity purposes. On the Biography and Activities form we will gather other information needed: your current school, grade level, activities, future plans for school and career, church affiliation, and interests. If an activity is specific to your school, please explain what it is.

In the weeks before the Ball, press releases about the Ball will appear in the following Armenian newspapers: California Courier, Mirror Spectator, Massis Weekly, and the Western Diocese Newsletter. Please submit the names and addresses of any other papers you would like this release to be sent. These articles will include photos and biographical information about all of the debutantes, please submit an appropriate head shot of yourself.

As you are presented, only a brief outline of your resume will be read; however, your entire biography will be printed in the souvenir booklet of the evening. We encourage you to prepare your own biography of about 250 words, although we reserve the right to edit!

Souvenir Booklet: Each year we prepare a keepsake booklet for the evening that includes professional portraits and biographies of all the debutantes, as well as photos of the escorts and

cross bearers. We ask for your help in encouraging family, friends, and business associates to participate by placing a congratulatory message in the booklet. Please use the included form or go online at wddebball.com. There will be multiple page types and sizes to select from for your personal tributes.

Photography: Our photography chairmen (Gerri Day) will arrange a date for booklet portraits to be taken. We hope your dress will be fitted by that time; however, if the final adjustments have not been made, you can arrange to pick it up for the photo date. Pins will not show!

On the day of the Ball a professional photographer will take photos of each deb and escort, as well as group shots with the Archbishop. During the presentation and the father-daughter dance other photos will be taken. A video of the presentation will also be recorded. These photos and the video will be given to each debutante, escort, and cross bearer as a gift from the Ladies' Auxiliary.

Family photos may be taken. You will be asked to sign up for a time for your family photos.

We do not allow cameras during the presentation!

Invitations: Formal invitations will be provided for you to send to your family and friends. Please let us know how many you will need at the family luncheon.

Rehearsals: There will be five rehearsals (the dates, times, and location will be announced at a later date).

- 1) Debutantes Only
- 2) Debs and Escorts
- 3) Debs and Escorts
- 4) Debs, Dads or Presenters, and Escorts
- 5) All Participants at the Hotel or alternative location.

You are required to attend all rehearsals. Your attendance ensures a presentation of which you will be proud. Please wear a casual skirt or dress and the shoes you will be wearing on the night of the ball or shoes of a similar height. Rehearsals will be approximately 2 1/2 hours. Please be on time! Rehearsals are followed by refreshments.

The final rehearsal will be in the Beverly Wilshire Hotel (pending availability) or alternative location and will be for all participants: Debs, Escorts, Dads or Presenters, Cross Bearers, and Master of Ceremonies, along with the lighting and sound engineers.

If you cannot attend a rehearsal, please contact Sandi Hampar at (818) 640-0412.

The Day of the Ball: The hotel will provide rooms for use by the debutantes on the afternoon of the Ball. We recommend that the girls plan to arrive with their gown, slip, gloves, shoes, undergarments, makeup, etc. Also, please bring clothes to change into if there is an after party planned. Since many people will be using the room, it is not secure. We ask that you not leave anything of value in the room.

We ask that you eat lunch before coming to the hotel on the day of the ball. Room service or use of the mini bar is not permitted!

Parties: We encourage debutante families to host parties, barbeques, dinners, or other get-togethers for the debs and escorts. The Ladies' Auxiliary asks that a parent be present at all parties and does not accept responsibility for any of these activities. Contact information for all the debutantes and escorts will be distributed. Please include all debutantes and escorts in any parties.

After the Ball is Over: Often parents of the participants organize an after party either in a home or by arranging transportation to an appropriate restaurant. It is a nice way of ending what will be a memorable evening. The Ladies' Auxiliary does not plan this event. Often the parents have arranged for transportation to take the debutantes and escorts to the event.

Sample Dresses





COMMITTEES

LADIES AUXILIARY CHAIR

Cindy Norian-310-277-4490 or cnorian@aol.com

DEBUTANTE BALL CHAIR

Audrey Matoesian-818-269-4438 or amatoesian@gmail.com

DEBUTANTES

Sandi Hampar-818-640-0412 or Sandihampar@gmail.com

Laura Estephanian-626-524-3212 or lestephanian@yahoo.com

ESCORTS

Carla Simonian-818- 216-4267 or cmcsimonian@gmail.com

Cindy Arzouman-818- 378-7150 or cynarzouman@gmail.com

Adrineh Ghookasian-818-640-7671 or adrinehghookasian@gmail.com

Laura Surmeian-818-621-9697 or LLsurmeian@gmail.com

WEBSITE

Renée Missakian-818-282-6363 or rmissakian@gmail.com

GOWNS

Geraldine Chuchian-310-274-1694 or gsc-one@outlook.com

RESERVATIONS

Michele Chalfant-323-449-3769 or chalkidsmom@gmail.com

Jeanine Ash-310-753-1786 or krikorianj@gmail.com

CHOREOGRAPHY & MUSIC

Sandi Hampar-818-640-0412 or Sandihampar@gmail.com

Laura Estephanian-626-524-3212 or lestephanian@yahoo.com

Diyana Danielian-949-533-3203 or Diyana1@mac.com

Doris Sarkisian-626-355-1789 or normandy1@earthlink.net

SOUVENIR BOOKLET

Janet Roberts-949-500-1367 or Janet@RobertsMarketing.com

Monique Arakelian-818-914-8286 or monique.arakelian@yahoo.com

Arda Deramerian-818-469-5513 or realestate@ardaderamerian.com

Margaret Lulejian-818-321-7411 or mklulejian@sbcglobal.net

INVITATIONS

Audrey Matoesian-818-269-4438 or amatoesian@gmail.com

PUBLICITY

Gina Eskigian-310-989-2848 or gina.eskigian@gmail.com

DEBUTANTES SCRIPT AND BIOS

Silva Katchiguian-951-203-1078 or Skatchiguian@hotmail.com

PHOTOGRAPHY

Gerri Day-818-378-9676 or gerriday@gmail.com

Anahid Karahagopian-818-426-2604 or Akarahagopian@gmail.com

CROSS BEARERS

Diane Barsam-949-705-7714 or Dianebarsam@gmail.com
Lucille Bogosian-310-990-5697 or lbogosian@verizon.net

FLOWERS

Natalie Bailey-858-735-8208 or nataliebailey3@gmail.com
Annette Kosker-818-415-3730 or annettekosker@yahoo.com

REHEARSAL REFRESHMENTS

Araxie Boyamian-818-404-1662 or araxie.boyamian@gmail.com
Alice Skendarian-818-606-6606 or Alice.skenderian@gmail.com
Diruhi Petrosian-626-255-0517 or petrosiandee@gmail.com

LIAISONS**BAY AREA**

Pam Abaci-408-219-3466 or pamelaabaci@aol.com
Lisa Chorbajian-925-357-5553 or lisachorbajian@gmail.com

FRESNO & VALLEY AREA

Jane Asmar-559-434-4364 or jasmar@nationalraisin.com
Mo Richburg-559-307-0521 or karriemen@yahoo.com

SAN DIEGO AREA

Lisa Ajamian-858-442-2213 or lisa@anthem-llc.com
Nora Balikian-858-342-0500 or njanoyan@yahoo.com

MOTHER DAUGHTER LUNCHEON

Diruhi Petrosian-626-255-0517 or petrosiandee@gmail.com



2022 Debutante Ball Committee

**Debutante Ball
Souvenir Booklet Greeting Form**

Check # _____
Date _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: () _____ Email: _____

Please limit a full page greeting to 50 words or less and half page greeting to 20 words or less.
Copy of color ready artwork may be emailed to: Janet@RobertsMarketing.com

DIAMOND PAGE: \$2,000 ____
GOLD PAGE: \$1,000 ____
SILVER PAGE: \$500 ____
BRONZE HALF PAGE: \$250 ____

Kindly make checks payable to: **Ladies' Auxiliary Western Diocese** and mail to:

Jeanine Ash
16007 St. Andrews Place
Gardena, CA 90247

The deadline for submitting greeting pages is **January 5, 2024**, so get them in early!

Please direct any questions or inquiries regarding the above to
Janet Roberts. (949) 500-1367 or Janet@RobertsMarketing.com