

ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՒՄ  
*Hye Sharzhoom*

May 1993

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Supplement to the Daily Collegian



Etchmiadzin, Armenia -- Father Sasoon Vartabed Zumrookhdian, center, leads Congressman Al McCandless, R-Calif., left, and Richard Lehman, D-Calif., right, on a tour of the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin, Mother See of the Armenian Church. Congressman James Bibray of Nevada and Gassia Apkarian, Director of Armenian Assembly of America in Armenia are talking on the right. Photo By: Michael Penn/Fresno Bee.

Armenian Diplomat Nanagulian Visits Fresno

By Marlene Bryant  
Staff Writer

"The purpose of this visit is to establish communication between Armenia and the United States. We want to become acquainted with the Armenia community of Fresno," said Garnik Nanagulian, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Armenian Embassy in Washington, D.C., during his first visit to the Fresno area on March 26, 1993.

"Five years ago, Armenia was sunny, beautiful and picturesque. But now, the country is a wasteland of misery due to the blockade imposed by the Azerbaijan government. Armenia has suffered a breakdown in the economy and there is a lack of medicine, food, and shelter."

The conflict in Karabagh is now a full-scale war with high-tech weapons and casualties to match. The Azeri economic blockade has cut off all energy and transportation between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The border is now closed, with no transportation moving from either side.

Political turmoil in Georgia has compounded since Armenia's economic difficulties and the explosion of the railbridge over the Haram River. Irony exists since on the same day, a ship delivered wheat to Armenia. Due to the destruction of the bridge, 28 thousand desperately needed tons of wheat remained in the United States until the bridge was repaired. Fifteen days were needed to construct an added link to the bridge that would be used for only sixty

days. It would take approximately sixty days to reconstruct the bridge. The bridge was secured by joint Georgia and Armenian troops.

The first shipment of 150 containers arrived in Armenia on Saturday, March 26, 1993, as part of Operation Winter Rescue. Of the 700 containers shipped from the United States, an estimated 500 containers were filled through the efforts of Armenians.

During the summer of 1993, more plans will be discussed concerning a new campaign to aid Armenia. These efforts will allow Armenia to prepare for the next winter that it must endure.

"The assistance you (the Americans) are sending will save many lives in Armenia.

This is no exaggeration," said Nanagulian.

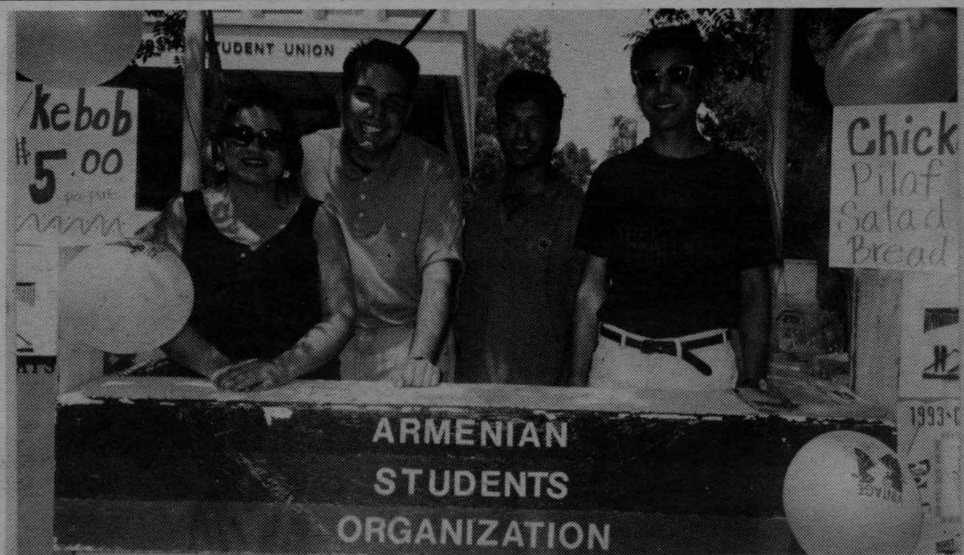
According to Nanagulian, Armenia's new democracy should have the opportunity to succeed with help from the oldest democracy in the world, the United States.

Armenia has a long, difficult road to travel before it reaches economic stability. Other countries will assist Armenia through this difficult transition. Maintaining the fundamental rights of the Armenian citizens and gaining a healthy economy are the main objectives facing the Armenians.

Nanagulian was in Fresno at the invitation of the Armenian Community Council of the San Joaquin Valley. He spoke to the public at the St. Paul Armenian Church Berberian Hall and on Saturday was the guest of the Community Council at a private breakfast.

Fall 1993 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Instructor
<b>General Education</b>			
Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies	3	0945-1100 TTH	D. Kouymjian
Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies	3	1010-1100 MWF	B. Der Mugrdechian
Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies	3	1245-1400 TTh	D. Kouymjian
Arm S 20 Arts of Armenia	3	1110-1225 TTH	D. Kouymjian
<b>Upper Division Courses</b>			
Arm S 108A Arm History	3	0910-1000 MWF	B. Der Mugrdechian
Arm S 120T Armenian Film	3	1810-2100 TH	D. Kouymjian
Arm S 120T Armenia Today	1	1610-2200 Oct.8 0900-1700 Oct.9	B. Der Mugrdechian
Arm S 120T Armenian Cooking	1	1610-2200 Oct.29 0900-1700 Oct.30	B. Der Mugrdechian
<b>General Education-Div. 7</b>			
Arm 1A Elem Armenian	4	1110-1200 MTWF	B. Der Mugrdechian
Arm 2A Intermed Arm	4	1310-1400 MTWF	B. Der Mugrdechian



Armenian Students Organization - Vintage Days Food Booth. Tania Alikian, Khatchig Jingirian, Harry Merzian, and Brent Tahajian were some of the students who helped at the event.



# CA Democratic Party Resolution on Azeri Blockade

The blockade of Armenia by the Republic of Azerbaijan has left a nation literally starving to death. According to world renowned human rights activist Elena Bonner, the daily ration of bread being distributed to residents of the capital city of Yerevan is nine ounces, that is, less than what Russian workers in Leningrad received during the Nazi siege of that city throughout the course of World War II. No nation should be denied the ability to provide the basic needs, such as food and electricity, to her citizenry. This Resolution seeks to support the lifting of the blockade of Armenia

and condemn the continuing blockade of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh as a violation of international law.

**WHEREAS**, the blockade of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh by Azerbaijan, has, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, placed thousands of Armenians at risk of exposure and starvation due to the lack of medicine, shelter and adequate health facilities.

**WHEREAS**, the European Parliament has passed a resolution condemning the Azerbaijani blockade as an act that has substantially destabilized the Transcaucasus and

threatens to derail progress of democracy and economic reform in the Caucasus.

**WHEREAS**, already over 100 members of the United States House of Representatives have co-sponsored House Resolution 86 (introduced on February 17th by House Majority Whip David Bonior (D-MI)), which seeks the immediate transfer of humanitarian supplies to Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh and condemns the Azerbaijani blockade as a violation of international law.

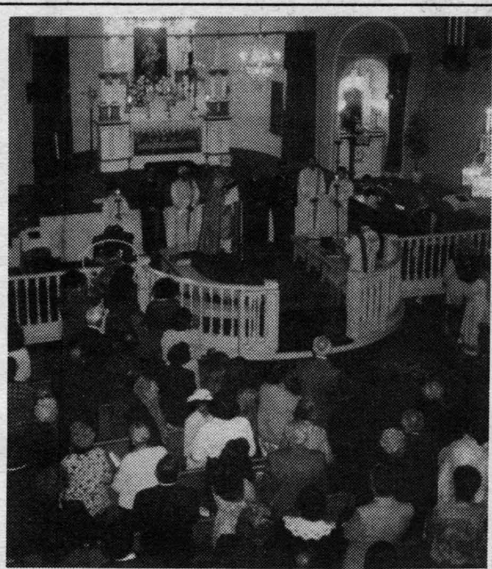
**RESOLVED**, that the California Democratic Party should:

(1) condemn the continuing blockade of

Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh as a violation of international law and demand the immediate lifting of the blockade and the opening of humanitarian corridors to facilitate the delivery of relief supplies to Armenia; and

(2) pursuant to the Freedom Support Act, continue to withhold all United States assistance to Azerbaijan until it lifts its blockade and other uses of force against Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh.

Submitted by Richelle Noroyan



Armenian Genocide Commemoration at Holy Trinity Armenian Church on April 24, 1993.

## Students Remember Genocide Day

By Michelle Ann Maroot  
Editor

Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day was recognized this year on April 23, 1993 in the Free Speech area at CSU, Fresno. 1993 marked the 78th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Many students gathered around for the rally, both Armenian's and non-Armenian's alike.

A.S.O. President Michelle Ann Maroot gave a brief history of the Armenian Genocide of 1915. And at the conclusion of her

speech she stated: "We must continue the fight, keep the memory alive, and continue to help our brothers and sisters in Armenia."

Professor Barlow Der Mugrdchian detailed the history of the Genocide and reminded the audience that remembering is not enough, and that we must also use action to keep the memory alive.

Nina Momjian, a student at CSUF read a poem entitled "Sun-flavored Speech" by Yeghishe Charents.

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian closed the rally with his speech about the current situation in

Armenia and asked "how long will the victims of Genocide continue to be victimized?" He compared the situation in Armenia to the current situation in Bosnia and the Jewish Holocaust.

Following the rally a few students attended a showing of the film entitled "The Hidden Genocide" shown recently on the BBC (against Turkish protest), containing rare footage of the tragic events of 1915. Traditional Armenian music was provided by Rosie Kalpakian and made possible by KFSR.

## 78th COMMEMORATION

By Nina Momjian  
Staff Writer

Over 700 Armenians in Fresno gathered at Holy Trinity Armenian Church on April 24th to commemorate one of the most traumatic experiences in Armenian history - the Armenian Genocide.

It was 78 years ago when the Turkish government organized massacre of over 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children, lead to the Armenian diaspora, an attempt later mentioned by Hitler prior to the Jewish Holocaust. Armenians around the world come together on April 24th every year to remind the public about the experience their culture has survived.

The Armenian Community Council (ACC) organized this year's commemoration at Holy Trinity Armenian Church. The evening consisted of church services followed by a civic observance in the church social hall. ACC was successful in having a number of politicians in Fresno attend the observance that evening to support the past and present situation in Armenia.

Among them were Fresno Mayor Karen Humphrey, Congressman Richard Lehman, and mayoral candidates Jim Patterson and Brian Setencich. Humphrey expressed her thoughts regarding the degree of love and strength throughout the Armenian people, which she felt had been a great contributor in the survival of the Armenian people and their culture.

Another powerful speech was delivered by the keynote speaker, Congressman Lehman, who told of his positive reactions to the Armenians in Armenia during his visit to the country with local news reporters from Fresno. Along with these empathic speeches, Armenian songs, such as the Armenian National Anthem, were performed by students of the Armenian Community School of Fresno. Their performance included various poems written by famous Armenian poets, some of which were victims of the Armenian Genocide in 1915.

Edward Megerdichian gave the Armenian message for the evening.

By Kimberly Smith  
Staff Writer

The Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno hosted a William Saroyan Symposium on Saturday May 1, as part of the Ninth Annual William Saroyan Festival.

This year's symposium theme was "How I Remember Willie." The afternoon event was moderated by Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at CSUF.

Five speakers, who knew Saroyan well, shared their stories about the Fresno writer: Roxie Moradian, Varaz Samuelian, Edward Hagopian, Jimmy Baloian and Brenda Garretty.

Mrs. Moradian's family had been friends with Saroyan's family for many years. One of the numerous stories she shared was one about Saroyan's beat up suitcase that he used on his trip to Bulgaria. He had used the suitcase for many years and when he was unable to fit all of his clothes into his suitcase, Roxie told him he should get a new suitcase but Saroyan insisted he would use his old one and got some rope to tie around the suitcase. Saroyan returned from his trip with fifty red ties, all the same, obviously a present from a government official.

Hagopian met Saroyan in 1960 in Paris and remained close until Saroyan's death in 1981. Hagopian was with Saroyan when he bought his Paris apartment for about \$20,000 in 1960. The two men had a small falling out which lasted several months until the death of President Kennedy. When Hagopian heard on the radio that Kennedy had been killed, he knew that Saroyan didn't listen very much to the radio or watch television, so Hagopian called Saroyan to give him the news. The first thing of Saroyan's mouth was, "The sons of a bitches, the CIA did it!"

Baloyian, a poet and farmer from Fresno first met Saroyan in 1968-69. Baloyian was putting together an anthology of Fresno poets entitled "Down at the Santa Fe Depot. When Saroyan found out, he wanted to promote the book. One foggy morning 20 poets gathered at the depot to take a photograph with Saroyan and waited almost two hours before Saroyan finally appeared. Afterwards, the group went the Fresno Hofbrau and spent three hours drinking and talking. At the symposium, Baloyian read three poems: The Ararat Cemetery, To Uncle Willie in Heaven and Uncle Willie Writes From Heaven.

Samuelian knew Saroyan for 23 years and always called him by the name of "Willie". He recalled how Saroyan used to go into the store and steal penny candies even though he could afford to buy them. He also recalled how Saroyan would look through trash cans just looking to see what he could find. Saroyan never threw anything and he had the ability to find the most unusual things. Samuelian remembered the last time he saw Saroyan alive in the Veterans Hospital and said the last words he heard from Saroyan before he died was, "I wish you a good life, a very creative life."

Magaritty first met Saroyan through her father, Paul who owned a dry cleaning shop in Fresno. On several occasions Saroyan brought dry cleaning into her father's shop. Her father never accepted payment but instead asked Saroyan to autograph his book to be given to Brenda and her siblings. Brenda finally met Saroyan after writing a letter to Saroyan in Paris. When he came to Fresno the two of them finally met. After some persuading, she convinced Saroyan to come talk to her students at Madera High. Until the last minute she didn't know if Saroyan would show up but on January 27, 1977 he arrived and spent the day on campus signing autographs and talking to the students.



Michelle Ann Maroot, President of the A.S.O., gives a speech at the rally held for commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.



Friends of Saroyan. -Varaz Samuelian, Edward Hagopian, Roxie Moradian and Dickran Kouymjian



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Staff,

I was just watching the *Horizon* television show and I happen to watch the piece on your efforts. I'm very interested in your publication and I would appreciate it very much if I may have a subscription to the *Hye Sharzhoom*.

Due to the fact that I'm incarcerated at this time, it would be somewhat difficult for me to send a donation to you by way of cash, but enclosed in this letter are some postage stamps. I'm sure you can make use of them.

Vrej Apelian  
Corcoran, California

Dear Editor,

After reading *Hye Sharzhoom* I found myself surprised at how much information was in the newspaper. I learned many different things by reading it. It first supplemented my knowledge of the current conditions of Armenia and its people. When I first heard of the newspaper, I expected it to be a historical paper but I found it to be just the opposite. It provided more detailed information than the newscast could of Operation Winter Rescue and the different groups providing aid to the country.

Secondly, I became aware of how involved my professor was in the Armenian community. I found that he is on the executive board of the Armenian Community Council, advisor of the "Hye Sharzhoom", and takes part in nearly every social function dealing with Armenian culture.

The third aspect of the publication that I found interesting was how diverse it was. This was not simply a paper focussing on problems with Armenia today, but a complete newspaper having everything from recipes to advertisements for real estate and bakeries. It also included dates of films that are to appear on television.

It was unfortunate to see that the newspaper is in financial trouble and may

not be mailed to the many readers.

- Zack Skochko  
Fresno, California

Dear Editor

On behalf of the staff of the *Hye Sharzhoom*, please accept my enclosed check.

The *Hye Sharzhoom* has been an outstanding effort of the Armenian Studies Program. I am pleased that you and your staff are continuing the quality tradition.

Please consider my check from not only me but also my family.

Keep up the good work.  
Sincerely,  
Penny Mirigian-Emerzian

Response to Story:

Would I go to Armenia on vacation? The answer is no. I would have to say that my emotions for Armenia is not so strong that I would spend my vacation time and money there. I do feel sympathy for the Armenians in flight but I don't really have any ties to Armenia. My grandfather came to America when he was 18 and never really had any desire to go back. He instilled in the family that we were Americans and that America is now our country. While I agree with this, I don't see anything wrong with staying in touch with your past. My father grew up in the Armenian church but left. No Armenian was spoken in our family.

I am only half Armenian. Strangely though some nationalities seem to always be dominant. Armenian is one of those nationalities or ethnic groups that seems to always make it to the forefront. As far as traveling is concerned, I like to go and enjoy myself. I think of vacationing and traveling as an enjoyable experience that I work very

hard for each year and use to refresh myself. I don't think that I would have such a refreshing and wonderful time in Armenia right now. My choice would be to go to our cabin at Huntington Lake and spend a couple of weeks waterskiing and pondering the question of whether the woolly bugger is the correct dry fly for catching trout in the fall.

Perhaps if my Armenian background had been emphasized more in my youth I would have a strong desire to go there and see what all the talk is about. But the talk in our family was not positive about Armenia, and I have no desire to go there.

- Richard Samuelian  
Fresno, California

Dear Editor,

The Armenian paper *Hye Sharzhoom* is a very interesting paper. I have never read this paper until the other day.

An article that I found interesting was the article on enrollment in the Armenian Studies classes. The article states that this semester, the enrollment in the ASP is the highest ever. The reason I took this class is to fulfill my general education requirement, but now I am very interested in the Armenian culture. To be honest, before I took this class, I didn't know anything about Armenians, but now I am learning about their history, and interested in this class.

The other article that I found interesting was "What makes you Armenian?", these people say that being Armenian makes them very proud, being involved in the Armenian community, speaking the language, and being around one's family, and that they are a walking celebration of their ethnicity.

Bob Buchner  
Fresno, California

## Ararat Cemetery on Mother's Day Morning

*At the Ararat Cemetery  
in Fresno, California  
the Armenian gravestones  
have small oval pictures  
of their namesakes,  
in the area out behind  
the Pharoah's Tomb mausoleum.*

*It could be its own  
village, this section,  
where the faces in the  
pictures have profound  
straight noses, deep-set  
eyes, every face sad  
for its death, glad  
to be buried next to  
her husband Mikael,  
whose face shows  
a sad but happier time.  
Friends are closeby.*

*One grave, on the fringe,  
has a picture of a husband  
and a wife, a large oval;  
the man gravely sick,  
the wife best attempt  
at life's happiness in her sad smile.  
Dispossessed said their faces.  
He's been dead for five years,  
the year of her demise  
not yet etched there.  
"Together, forever." it read,  
but not yet. . . .*

*Many tall gravestones  
stand in the morning air,  
cool and indifferent  
from the wet lawn, with  
family names of Armenian  
pioneers that struck-out  
from their homeland  
to a new place: Fresno;  
diasporic pioneers,  
genocide survivors,  
and thier children.*

*Well-crafted lives  
led to large monuments  
in this marble village.  
Some stones had names  
in undecipherable symbols  
of an ancient language,  
a secret language  
only a few could know.  
That, in itself  
left less to know  
whose life spanned  
the dates clearly etched  
in the granite stones.*

*And old, hefty Armenian  
man, wearing a black  
eye-patch, glanced a  
stare through the  
remaining porcelain,  
the only eye searching  
for his mother's name,  
while his younger brother  
wandered among names  
of old friends,  
names that sang  
with musical notes,  
in the morning sun,  
one syllable song,  
two syllable songs,  
ending in the  
same refrain,  
the son of. . . .*

*Or, those Armenians  
with American names,  
shortened to the point,  
like Ross, or Peter;  
apart from their names  
they rest with their  
ancestors' souls,  
in the still village.*

*Each gravestone  
in a line looks like  
marble steps  
leading to the top  
of Mt. Ararat.  
Surely,  
in each name's hope  
for generations to climb  
when they become  
assembled once again  
in a neat row.*

By Y. Stephan Bulbulian

## NOTICE:

APPLICATIONS FOR EDITOR  
OF THE HYE SHARZHOOM  
ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED  
AT THE ARMENIAN STUDIES  
OFFICE IN PETERS BLD. 384  
OR CALL: 278-2669

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

**May 15** - Armenian American Citizens' League: 60th Annual State Convention/Dinner and Dance. 6:00 p.m. social hour, 7:00 p.m. dinner. Music by the John Chookasian International Folk Ensemble. At Smuggler's Inn, 3787 N. Blackstone Ave. For more information call (209) 222-2936 or 449-1777.

**May 19** - Meet Rouben Shugarian, Ambassador in the United States for the Republic of Armenia. A luncheon to discuss trade and business opportunities in Armenia. 12:00 Noon at the Centre Plaza Holiday Inn on "M" and Ventura

Streets. \$12.00 per person. For reservations contact Rose Safarian at (209) 244-6940

**May 19** - Dinner with His Excellency Rouben Shugarian. At St. Paul Armenian Church at 3787 N. First St. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Donation \$25.00 per person. All Proceeds to benefit the Armenian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

**June 20** - St. Gregory Armenian Church of Fowler will hold their annual church picnic at the California Home for the Aged: 6720 E. Kings Canyon Road, Fresno.

Church Services at 11:30 a.m. Music by Richard Hagopian's Band. Public is invited to attend. For more information, call: (209) 834-2919.

**August 8** - Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church will hold its annual Blessing of the Grapes picnic. Divine Liturgy and blessing of grapes ceremony at 10 a.m. Held at the California Armenian Home. For more information call: 486-1141.

**August 15** - St. Paul Armenian Church Blessing of the Grapes Picnic. Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. followed by Blessing of the Grapes Ceremony. Held at the California Armenian Home. Call 226-6343 for info.



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

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## LIBRARY DONATIONS

Carl Mahakian of Palm Springs has donated five file boxes of 3X5 Armenian bibliographical cards accumulated over a lifetime of "Armenian book research" and a number of early pamphlets and clippings for the Sahatjian Library.

Armen Farmanian of Santa Clara has donated a number of books in Armenian and English in memory of his parents Haig and Jeneve Farmanian. These will be added to the program library as well.

## BOOK REVIEW

**A History of the Armenian People  
Volume 1: Pre-History to 1500 A.D.-174**  
pages, 18 maps, 10 time lines, 13 plates,  
bibliography, index. Costa Mesa, CA:  
Mazda Publishers, 1993. \$15.00 (paper)

George A. Bournoutian

### Book Review By Barlow Der Mugrdechian

During the past thirty years, the study of Armenian history has increasingly become part of the larger world-historical scene. The initial difficulty in the study of ancient Armenian history, by non-Armenians in particular, has been associated to the problem of language and the relative inaccessibility of sources in translation from Armenian into English.

The teaching of a one semester survey course in Armenian history, common in the institutions where Armenian history is taught, has been hampered by the lack of a single coherent text. An instructor by necessity must assign readings from a variety of sources. The student must attempt to read and assimilate knowledge from a variety of styles, often causing unneeded confusion. Although this lacuna has been recognized and the Society for Armenian Studies has attempted to fill it with a planned volume, George Bournoutian's current volume fills the void and surveys the political history of the Armenians, from their origins to the year 1500 A.D.

A teacher and writer, as well as an accom-

plished historian, Bournoutian is cognizant of the needs of a general purpose history. The volume is student friendly-i.e. it takes into account the needs and interests of students. For instance the copious maps and time lines provide a useful method for locating and comparing Armenian historical events with those of her neighbors. The well drawn maps add interest to the text and provide a visual context of history.

Eleven chapters span the history of the Armenians, from Chapter I-Highlands and Crosslands: The Land of Armenia to Chapter XI-From Majority to Minority: Armenia under Turkish, Mongol, and Turkmen domination. Notwithstanding the great span of time covered-more than two thousand years-Bournoutian concisely and clearly discusses the political history of the Armenians.

Intended for college undergraduates and high-school seniors and their instructors, the usual footnotes, which could distract from the text, are dispensed with. Bournoutian compensates for this intentional choice by supplying an excellent Selected Bibliographic Guide at the end of the text, which provides the student with a plentitude of sources, usefully divided chronologically.

*A History of the Armenian People* is an ideal text for the introductory survey of Armenian history, and should become a mainstay in history classrooms for years to come.

The publication of the volume was made possible by a grant from the AGBU Alex Manoogian Cultural Fund. The Fund deserves credit for the support needed to publish such a volume. A second volume to cover the post-1500 period of Armenian history is planned.

### Hye Sharzhoom Needs Your Support

There is a critical financial crisis affecting the mailing of our newspaper.  
Your immediate support is vital.

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*The Armenian Community Council  
cordially invites you to attend  
a Banquet to honor*

*His Excellency  
Rouben Shugarian  
Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia  
to the United States*

Wednesday, May 19, 1993

Haig Berberian Hall  
St. Paul Armenian Church  
3767 N. First St.

Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Please respond by May 15, 1993

Donation \$25.00 per person

All proceeds to benefit the Armenian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Reservation Slip  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Reservations: A check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_ dinners at \$25.00 each. We wish to be seated with: (Please list)

\_\_\_\_ Please reserve a table for 8. A check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

A donation of \$150.00 or more will include two banquet tickets and entrance to a special reception for the ambassador.

There is limited seating by reservation only.

Please make checks payable to: *Friends of the Armenian Embassy-ACCI/AGBU* and send to: Armenian Community Council, P.O. Box 11844, Fresno, CA 93775.

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