

# HYE SHARZHOOM

## Armenian Action

### ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՍՄ

March 1996

Vol. 17, No. 3 (53)

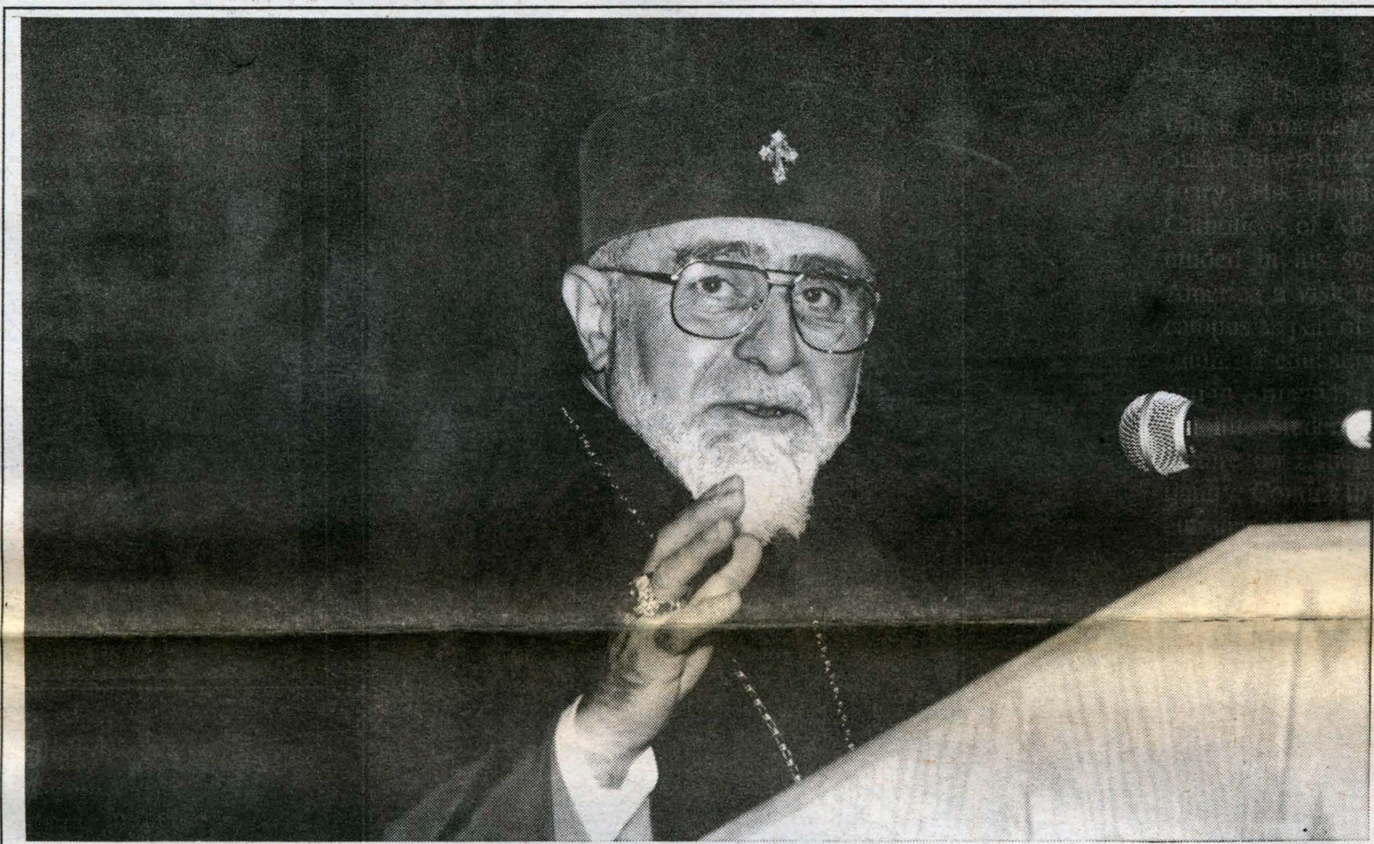
Supplement to The Collegian

## Catholicos Karekin I at Fresno State

By Sean Clark

The representation of all that is Armenian came to Fresno State University on the 9th of February. His Holiness, Karekin I Catholicos of All Armenians, included in his sojourn to North America a visit to the university campus as part of his focus of the future of education in the church and in Armenia. He arrived at the Satellite Student Union to give a lecture on Education and Christianity. Coming in through the rear entrance of campus the crowd that assembled to greet him was a combination of clergy, coordinators, the Armenian Studies Department, supporters, photographers, and with the addition of security and the United States Secret Service the excitement shared by all surged when his entourage arrived.

Hurried into a rear dressing room he was able to visit before his talk. The Armenian Studies Department presented him with several journals, catalogs, and books concerning the Armenian culture in the Central Valley and abroad. Dr. Dickran Kouymjian,



His Holiness Karekin I Catholicos of All Armenians speaks to Fresno State

Director of the Armenian Studies Department, included several of his own works. For Karekin I and Kouymjian it was a reunion of sorts. In the early 1960's the two men

shared the relationship of teacher and student. The entire time seemed to fly by for soon it was time for the lecture.

Speaking before a stand-

ing room only crowd the Catholicos spoke authoritatively and with fervor on the subject of the human wholeness of Christianity and the pursuit of knowledge. His speech

Fresno State students were ushered in for an audience with the

was paced and well developed. He brought innovation to the subject and divine insight about the reality of contemporary Christianity. With command that only he could possess he spoke against the decline of spirituality in teaching. There were questions allowed at the end both on topics he was well versed and specific in answering. The gratitude admonished by the audience was enthusiastic.

Immediately following the lecture a group of

See CATHOLICOS page 4

## Mr. Harry Topoozian Establishes \$10,000 Scholarship Fund

### Staff Article

Mr. Harry Topoozian of Fresno has donated \$10,000 to Fresno State to establish the Harry and Mary Topoozian Armenian Studies Merit Scholarship Endowment Fund.

The annual income from the endowment will be disbursed in the form of scholarships to students enrolled at Fresno State.

The *Outstanding Achievement Scholarship* will be awarded to a student who is or has enrolled in one or more Armenian Studies courses and has demonstrated the most outstanding achievement in overall academics, leadership, and community service.

A general scholarship will also be awarded to students enrolled in one or more Armenian Studies Program courses and who have demonstrated excellence in scholarship.

During his childhood, because of the necessity to work on his father's farm, Harry Topoozian never got the opportunity to get a higher education. His decision to fund a scholarship was based on his desire to see that students could get the opportunity he never received.



Mr. Harry Topoozian with son Dr. Mark Topoozian

He also wanted to give something back to the Armenian community and his heritage.

Harry Topoozian is a life-long farmer and businessman who was born and has lived his entire life in Fresno. His late wife Mary Kazarian Topoozian, was born in San Francisco and attended Catholic schools. Upon Harry's return in 1945, after serving in the U.S. army

during World War II, he quickly got back to work at his family farm.

In June of 1947 he was introduced to Mary by a mutual friend and they were married in December of the same year.

Harry Topoozian's parents, Mugrtich and Zartar Topoozian, were from Kharpert and immigrated to the United States before the Genocide. They raised six chil-

dren. Mary Kazarian Topoozian's parents, Abraham and Eva Kazarian, who were natives of the Tabriz region near Lake Urmia, lost three children in the Genocide. One child, Robert Kazarian, survived the Genocide, and currently resides in the Bay area. The Kazarian's, after their arrival in the United States, had four more children.

Mary Topoozian was a homemaker who initially knew very little about farming quickly learned the family trade and provided support and assistance to her husband. She was devoted to raising her five children and noted for her ability to cook and bake. She was a member of St. Gregory Armenian Church and a member of the Executive of the Ladies' Society of which she had been a member for over 40 years. Like her husband she was an avid sports fan, especially fond of the San Francisco 49'ers and Fresno State athletics.

Harry Topoozian is the father of five children: Tom Topoozian, Dr. Mark Topoozian, Nancy Topoozian, Christine Sahatdjian,

and Karen Sahakian, all of whom graduated from Fresno State. Mr. Topoozian has nine grandchildren whom he greatly enjoys. Four of his grandchildren currently attend the Armenian Community School of Fresno.

Mr. Topoozian is a Benefactor of the Armenian Community School of Fresno and a long time supporter of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church. He is a lifetime member of St. Gregory Armenian Church of Fowler.



### Inside...

Catholicos Special Feature,  
pages 4&5  
Catholicos and Holy Mass,  
page 8



**Benefactors**

Dr. Arnold & Dianne Gazarian  
Mrs. Alice Peters

**Associates**

Berge & Alice Bulbulian  
Ed Kashian  
Mrs. Herbert Lion

**Patrons**

Varouj & Lena Aldebarmakian  
M/M Gerard Y. Chahmirian  
N. Leon Demenjian  
(Derco Associates Inc.)  
Gajarian Farms  
Oscar Kasparian  
Bob & Norma Der Mugrdechian  
Varaz Samuelian  
General Society of Vasbouragan

**Friends**

Harriet Tarjian Bedoian  
Caro Danielian  
Michael A. Matosian  
Yergat Packing Co.

**Sponsors**

Joe Agajanian  
Bill & Florence Antablin  
Ralph & Louise Ayzavian  
Dr. & Mrs. R. Bablanian  
Nubert & Jeannette Baker  
Larry Balakian  
Charles Bedoian  
Everett H. Berberian  
Zaruhy Sara Chitjian  
Mrs. Sylvia Chooljian  
Peter & Mary Ann Dorian

George & Flora Dunaian  
Jake Eknoian  
Dr. Martha Googooian Ensher  
Fowler Packing Co.  
David Gabrielian  
Ray & Gail Garabedian  
Harry Gaykian  
Dr. & Mrs. Leon George  
Michael & Anoush Gorjian  
J.D. & Coke Hallowell  
Russell Scott Hazarian  
The William & Flora  
Hewlett Foundation  
M/M Ashod A. Hovsepien  
John & Jasmin Jacobs  
Sam & Meliné Kalfayan

Edwin & Seda Sadoian  
Arthur & Steve Saroyan  
Mrs. Al Saroyan  
Walter Sepetjian  
Vernon & Sylvia Shahbazian  
Leo & Arminee Shishmanian  
State Farm Foundation  
Bob Tafejian  
Jerry Tarkanian  
Zaven & Nina Tashjian  
Edward & Grace M. Zartarian

**Donors**

Varoosh Alaverdian  
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Alexanian  
Charles B. Amirkhanian

Kay Cloud  
Vagharshag H. Danielian  
Aram and June Darmanian  
Paul & Barbara Davis  
Zarooki Der Mugrdechian  
Ted & Arpie Dick  
Sossie Djabrayan  
Stephen T. & Angele Dulgarian  
Mary Fermanian  
Kathleen E. Friebertshauser  
Mrs. Harper Gabrielson  
Aram & Barbara Garabedian  
Haig Garabedian  
Hagop A. & Marie Ghajanian  
George D. & Julia Hagopian  
Patricia Peterson Hansen

Gina Mechigian  
James & Marion Melcon  
Charles & Mary Merzian  
Judy Michalowski  
Jirair M. Moughamian  
Charles & Virginia Mugrdechian  
Sam & Dora Muradian  
Elizabeth Nahabedian  
Richard & Cynthia Nikssarian  
Krikor Nishanian  
Richelle Noroyan  
Steven & Margaret Ohanesian  
Leo & Marlene Pilibosian  
Sarkis & Iris Sahatdjian  
Seta & Garbis Sariyan  
J. Sarian  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert M. Sarkessian  
Arthur A. Saroyan  
Leon A. & Shirley Saryan  
Dean V. Shahinian  
Gregory C. Simonian  
Raffi & Deborah Soghomonian  
Avedis Tehlirian  
Patty Torosian  
Martin M. & Virginia Tourigian  
Kenneth L. Wilcox  
John H. Zerounian  
Ramon Zorabedian  
Myda V. Bakoian

## ASP Annual Fund Donors- 1995

(donations received as of February 28, 1996)

George Kapanagian  
Dr. Bernard K. Karian  
Henry S. Kazan  
Diane Barsam Keligian  
Deran Koligan Farms  
Rose Koobation  
Ben & Clarice Krikorian  
Harold & Elizabeth Manselian  
Robert S. & Jackie Manselian  
McGraw-Hill Foundation  
Brian & Janalee G. Melikian  
Ara & Arax Movsesian  
Bob Mugrdechian Jr.  
Malcolm & Sandra Narlian  
Richard & Vartouhy Pandukht  
Irene Marootian- Peloian

Angelus Plating  
Dr. & Mrs. Fred Assadourian  
Arten J. Avakian  
Albert & Queenie Avedikian  
Vahe Baladouni  
John Baronian  
Harold R. & Betty Battersby  
Mrs. John Bedeian  
Martin & Barbara Bohigian  
Mariam Z. Boyajian  
Ralph T. & Mary Boyajian  
Harry B. Buyuklian  
Caprelian Farms  
James Calusdian  
Glen & Ellen Sarkisian Chesnut  
Carole Chooljian

Carl & Grace Hovsepien  
Sam & Mary Hokokian  
Albert & Isabelle Kabrielian  
Angela R. & John Kalashian  
John K. & Ruth B. Kallenberg  
Kenneth J. & Tina Karagulian  
Dr. Anahid Kassabian  
Richard H. & Edie Kassabian  
Herant & Stina Katchadourian  
Aram & Sandra Kermoyan  
Hapet J. Kharibian  
Mr. & Mrs. Aram Khushigian  
Elizabeth B. Koojoolian  
John Krikorian  
Alma Margosian  
Stephen & Violet Mayian

Due to space limitations  
the Armenian Studies  
Program Book Donor list  
will be published in the  
May edition of Hye  
Sharzhoom.



## Armenian Trunk Tour

The Fresno Historical Society is making available to the community its newest addition, the Armenian Heritage Trunk, part of the *Traveling History Trunk Series*. In it are numerous books and objects that explain and interpret Armenian history and the story of Armenians in Fresno. Wendy Costa of the Fresno Historical Society and Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program headed the team which put together the heritage trunk. Teachers may borrow the trunk for a week at a time from the Fresno Historical Society for a token fee of \$10.

There are objects of interest for children of all ages. For

young students there is a doll, a backgammon game, Armenian money, books of costumes, audio and video tapes, a book of recipes, and a notebook full of activities. For older students, there are fifteen copies of the Newberry Honor Book *The Road From Home* by David Kherdian, two copies of Saroyan's *My Name is Aram*, books and articles about Armenian history and architecture, and a curriculum packet about the Armenian Genocide. Students will also be able to enjoy the boxes of crackerbread donated by Valley Lahvosh Baking Co.

The Fresno Historical Society wishes to thank the following individuals and organizations for contributing to the trunk: Mrs. Alice Peters, Zarooki Der Mugrdechian,

Jane Knar, Barbara and John Chookasian, Major Benjamin Amirkhanian, Richard Darmanian, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian and the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State, The William Saroyan Society, the Armenian National Committee, First Armenian Presbyterian Church, Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, and Valley Lahvosh Baking Co.

There is always room for more items reflecting Armenian Culture and history; The Fresno Historical Society welcomes donations. For information please call the Historical Society at (209)441-0862.

Be a part of this staff!  
Now accepting stories,  
articles, and news items  
for May publication.

## HYE SHARZHOOM

### ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՒՄ

**Editor**

Sean Clark

**Staff**

Jaqueline Arikian

Tina Attashian

Karen Karabian

Aram Gevorkian

Ali Peyvandi

Mike Pogolian

**Photographers**

Gina Kaklikian Garo

Barlow Der Mugrdechian

**Layout Assistant**

Garo Nakashian

**Advisor**

Barlow Der Mugrdechian

*Hye Sharzhoom* is a supplement of the *Daily Collegian* and the newspaper of the CSUF Armenian Studies Organization and the Armenian Studies Program and is funded by the Associated Students. Articles may be reprinted provided *Hye Sharzhoom* is acknowledged. *Hye Sharzhoom* welcomes prose, poetry, articles, and other material from its readers. For further information concerning the newspaper or Armenian Studies Program:

c/o Armenian Studies Program

5245 N. Backer Ave.

Fresno, CA 93740-0004

(209) 278-2669

<http://www.csufresno.edu/ArmenianStudies/>



# Women's Studies Professor Challenges Ideas

By Sean Clark

She has been at Fresno State now for two semesters and her appreciation for the students here continues to grow. Some students will rise to the occasion and reaffirm that there is hope for the shapers of the next generation, but not without changing their perspectives. "Understanding the underlying themes of nationalism, gender, and class structure allows us to dissolve the stereotypes that we so often malign against each other." Anahid Kassabian educates to challenge thinking patterns that, she hopes, will eventually change the way we behave. It is her endeavor to further define family, historic, and social relationships within her students and her own Armenian heritage.

Kassabian was born in New York City and grew up in a community deeply immersed in the Armenian experience. Her grandparents came to America shortly before the Turks began to aggressively persecute the Armenians. Growing up she was actively involved with the Armenian community participating interested in Armenian national politics and the



Dr. Anahid Kassabian, left, and Dr. Ludmila Haroutunian

Armenian Youth Federation throughout high school. After graduation however, she found that the opportunities for a woman to serve were restricted to complementary positions and not the front-line action that she desired. She continued her education in Europe, where she met her husband, and in America, receiving her Ph.D. from Stanford University. Her current projects focus on the societal perspectives of class, gender, media, and nationalism.

Attracted to Fresno State

because of its diversity and historical Armenian community, she continually encourages her classes to think independently. With the resource of materials she has collected, she gives them inspiration to question the world around them. Kassabian distinguishes her classes beyond a lecture course in that the students are encouraged to invoke the course of the discussion. A risky method if the class doesn't volunteer. This does not frighten her, "I can tolerate silence a lot longer than they can." Fortunately the

students do participate and with eagerness. However, she is careful to keep the momentum controversial without becoming confrontational. It is a fine line she manages successfully; unconstrained dialogue about race, gender, and nationalism could become confrontive and counter-productive to the discussion.

Is there racism in Fresno? What are the stereotypes still surrounding gender? Do we still have barriers within the social structure? And within the Armenian community what are the dissensions? Kassabian engages to ask questions concerning diaspora Armenians versus those who have recently emigrated, the distinctions between Lebanese-Armenians and Russian-Armenians, and the patriarchal conventions of most Armenian culture. These are important controversial explorations whose outcome will decide how the Armenian experience will advance. "The Armenian question, 'Who are we after the genocide?', is now only one of several central questions. Who we are now, and from now on, is what we will be called upon to answer within the next generation."

## hye talk

The interview show of the Armenian Studies Program, is taped on campus and hosted by Professor Barlow Der Mugrdchian. Broadcast schedule for March and April 1996 Continental Cablevision Channel 4. Contact your local cable company for availability.

Thursday, March 7, 8:30 p.m.  
Friday, March 8, 6:00 p.m.

Guest:

Dr. Ludmila Haroutunian (I)  
Thursday, March 14, 8:30  
Friday, March 15, 6:00

Guest:

Dr. Ludmila Haroutunian (II)  
Thursday, March 21, 8:30  
Friday, March 22, 6:00

Guest:

Supervisor Doug Vagim  
Thursday, March 28, 8:30  
Friday, March 29, 6:00

Guest:

Mayor Jim Patterson  
Thursday, April 4, 8:30  
Friday, April 5, 6:00

Guest:

Supervisor Deran Koligian  
Thursday, April 11, 8:30  
Friday, April 12, 6:00

Guest:

Dr. Anahid Kassabian

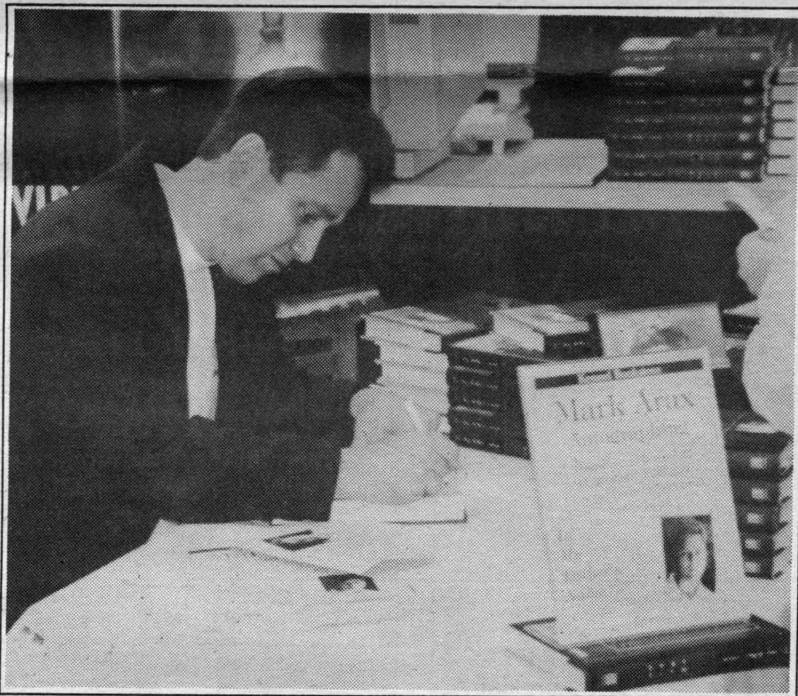
# Fresno Author Returns Home

By Mike Pogossian

On the night of February 23, 1996, at St. Paul Armenian Church, there was a gathering. The gathering was for Mark Arax and the signing of his book, *In My Father's Name a Family, a Town, a Murder*. When you walked into the hall there was an overwhelming feeling. There was warmth, community, and most of all pride. It was a time to gather and recognize one of our own who had succeeded in accomplishing his dream. Also it was a homecoming for Arax from a long journey.

All around me, I only heard comments of how well the book was written or how much someone had enjoyed reading the book. You can imagine how happy we were when Arax himself read portions of his book to the audience. Remembering that the book is based on his family history, and not a fictional account, this is the story of the struggles and tragedies that his family has faced throughout their lives. He began with his grandfather's journey to America and read portions up to his father's death in Fresno. I was drawn in by his narrative and emotionally bound by the events one family went through. There were parts that Mark Arax read that made us laugh and parts that were deeply sad and moving.

The event was not simply to gather and listen to reading or seek an author's signature. It was an evening of remembrance for many. Numerous people were friends and family who associated with the reading because they were there. Certainly the reading stirred up memories that were long forgotten. Both joyous and melancholy, reflections of the not so distant past



Mark Arax at signing for *In My Father's Name*

left its impression on all.

It is a profound moment when so many can be touched so deeply at one time. Mark Arax's book and presence defined that moment. Although I didn't know him personally, I was truly affected

by his experience and the tragedy that directed his personal journey. Without hesitation I recommend *In My Father's Name a Family, a Town, a Murder*, not only as a history of Fresno but as a gripping account of the search for truth.



From left, Ara Jabagchourian, philosophy; Lianna Sarantos, accounting; Matthew Fenk, plant science-business

Ara Jabagchourian, former *Hye Sharzhoom* editor, was awarded the Leon S. Peters Leadership Award for his leadership accomplishments and extra curricular activities. He was nominated simultaneously by the the Philosophy and Economics Departments. At a luncheon honoring the three recipients they were presented with a plaque and \$1,500 scholarship. Aside from his efforts on *Hye Sharzhoom*, Jabagchourian has served in the Economics Club, Philosophy Club and an Armenian Assembly Internship in Washington D.C.

## Books Available through Armenian Studies Program

*In My Father's Name*

Mark Arax

\$25 (hc)

*A History of Qarabagh*

George A. Bournoutian

\$10 (hc)

*Armenia Portraits of Survival*

Jerry Berndt

\$10 (sc)

*Warsaw Visitor and Tales from*

\$24 (hc)

*the Vienna Streets*

William Saroyan

\$14 (sc)

*An Armenian Trilogy*

William Saroyan

\$22 (hc)

\$13 (sc)





## Catholicos, from p.1

Catholicos. Many were deeply moved by the experience even though it was brief. From the Student Union the some supporters followed to the Residence Dining Hall for a reception in the Catholicos' honor. The event was noted by a gift the His Holiness brought from Erevan, Armenia. A wooden *khatch kar*, carved to represent the monumental stone crosses that decorate the grounds of Catholicos' church in Etchmiadzin.

From there Karekin I taped a broadcast of *hye talk* in the Speech Arts television studio. Professor Barlow Der Mugrdchian

interviewed the Catholicos on his visit, some of the specifics in his lecture, and the course that he intends to pursue in the future. Following the taping he retired to his hotel before performing an evening mass at the St. Paul Orthodox Church.

Through it all the man behind the robe maintained his energy. Not only did he maintain it he gave it away. A influence followed him around that day you could see it in everyone he touched. Perhaps it was the sparkle in his eyes, the intensity in his manner, or the purposefulness of his devotion- however one describes it- to be certain it was apparent that one had been touched by a great human being, Christian, ambassador, and Saint.

Photos by Gina Kaklikian Garo

# Historic Visit at Fresno State

## Catholicos speaks to Fresno State

By Jacqueline Arikian

His Holiness Karekin I visited California State University, Fresno to deliver a message of religious education and revival. He centered his speech around the importance of educating Armenians in the homeland, where Christian education has been virtually non-existence over the past several years. "Fortunately faith has been kept in the hearts of the Armenian people," said the Catholicos. Ironically Armenia was the first Christian nation yet in the present they lack religious knowledge. What happened to the Armenian people who once had devoted religious teaching?

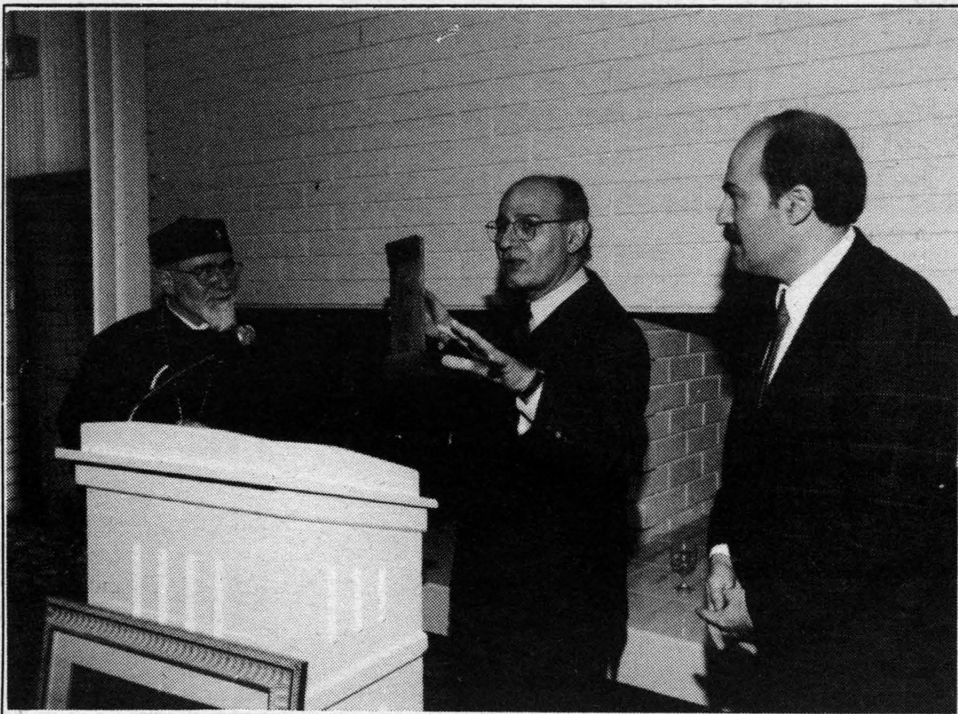
In the not so distant past communism took its toll. "It was official communist policy to eliminate religion from the life of the people," explained His Holiness to the students, faculty and community of Fresno State. Armenia is now a free and independent nation. With their new found freedom, has come new found religious education that promises to provide knowledge to the youth and residents of Armenia.

The message of the Catholicos not only had religious impact on the audience, but provided insight on the true meaning of education. "Christian education is not a function of the church. The church is the education of life. It is a spiritual and intellectual uplifting," explained His Holiness. He went on to say, "Teaching is a matter of life, not the transmission of ideas." He enabled the audience to grasp that knowledge is not only formal education, rather the fusion of traditional education and personal experience. It is with the combination of both, that one is able to better understand the ways of life, and with the interjection of Christian education one is able to obtain greater light in understanding the purpose of life.

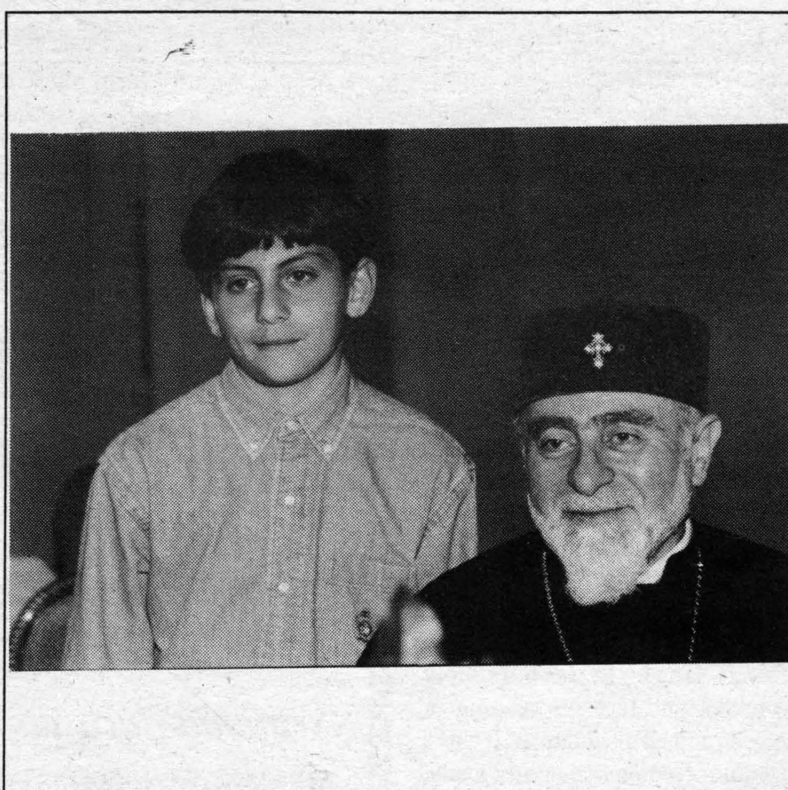
The insightful, youth focused, message of His Holiness, did not stop at Fresno State. The following morning it continued at St. Paul Armenian Church, where a special breakfast was held in honor of His Holiness Karekin I. His Holiness, sitting at the head table with the many other priests, had heartfelt smile upon his face, a smile that lit up my heart and touched my soul. Their was something pleasing about his very presence and the happiness he experienced as he watched the little servants of God

perform a heartwarming presentation, consisting of traditional Armenian songs and contemporary musical pieces, clearly expressing the love of God that the children had within their hearts.

As the performance of the children grew to an end, the people knew that the visit of the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of all Armenians would soon be coming to an end as well. However, their was one last message to be delivered. "If anyone asks me if Armenia is a nation of the past, I would say if you were in St. Paul's Hall on February 10th, you would know that this nation is a nation for the future, not of the past."



Karekin I presents Armenian Studies Department with *khatch kar* (cross icon) from Yerevan, Armenia



Reflecting on His Holiness during his four day visit, it is obvious that one was not only listening to a man who was elected as the head of the Armenian Church, but listening to a man of great in-

sight and knowledge, not only in a religious aspect, but in an aspect of everyday life, where "the truth is always within."





Fresno State students get opportunity to meet the Catholicos and receive a blessing.

## Student Reaction

By Tina Attashian

Having the opportunity to listen or actually meet His Holiness Karekin I was a first time

experience for many of the youth at Fresno State. Talking to Fresno State students, His Holiness' visit created a lot of thoughts and emotions about Christianity. Vahan Balekian, a junior at CSUF and

member of ASO stated, "Karekin I really changed my everyday views. He left me realizing that knowing about the Bible and is one thing and living by it is another. Also, his speech about the Word being in our souls and that we need to bring it out and pass it on to others was inspiring and emotional." Other students like Autumn Goodman, the vice-president of the Christian Sorority on campus, Alpha Delta Chi, agreed, "I didn't really know what to expect, but I was impressed how well he spoke English. He was able to touch the hearts of many students, including myself."

Although His Holiness touched the lives of many students in a religious way, he approached the topic of preserving the Armenian culture and encouraged many of the youth, leaving them with patriotic feelings. Raffy Khorozian, president of ASO, said, "After hearing him at the youth rally he gave

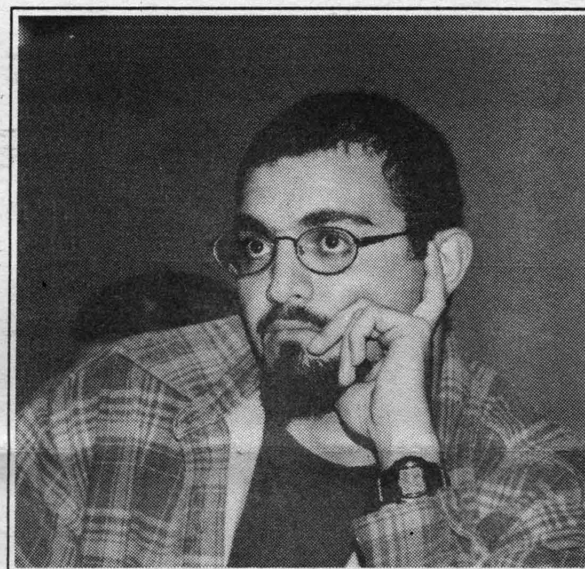
will judge how Armenian you are by the fact of if you know the language, but as the Catholicos told everyone, 'Just as long as your heart and efforts are in the right place, then you are just as Armenian as anyone else!'"

During the Catholicos' visit he spread his enthusiasm about unity among the Armenian community. The youth rally at St. Paul's Church was an event that the youth from all different churches attended. Manuel Momjian, a CSUF student and ASO member at the rally stated, "There

me the determination and hope to preserve and uphold Armenian culture and tradition." Crissi Jelladian, vice-president of ASO, expressed her feelings as she explained, "It was so encouraging when His Holiness spoke of how the Armenian culture is not only knowing the language, but also different things like the food and the dancing. Sometimes people

should not be a difference between one Armenian and the other because of the church we attend, we are all the same, we are all Armenians! It's great that tonight I can look around and see many of the youth from other churches in just one. This is a step of unifying the Armenians that we should have taken a long time ago." Anna Yergat, also a Fresno State student, added, "Just the Catholicos' presence helped bring the churches together. After listening to Him speak I know the two churches are going to join together as one more often."

From talking to many of the youth His Holiness Karekin I came and left leaving a mark in all those lives he had contact with. Aznive Tchapadarian, vice-president of ASO, explained, "I was surprised and impressed that someone of such high caliber was able to communicate so effectively with the youth and really reach out to all of us. He left leaving us all something to think about."



Njeh Gharibian, student, listens during lecture

# Catholicos of All Armenians

## Message for the Youth

By Karen Karabian

Fresno's Armenian youth were united in one place at one time. Children, as young as five, gathered inside St. Paul's church hall. They sat among older brothers and sisters, they sat beside my fellow college classmates. We were all drawn together for one reason — to witness the Catholicos of Armenia.

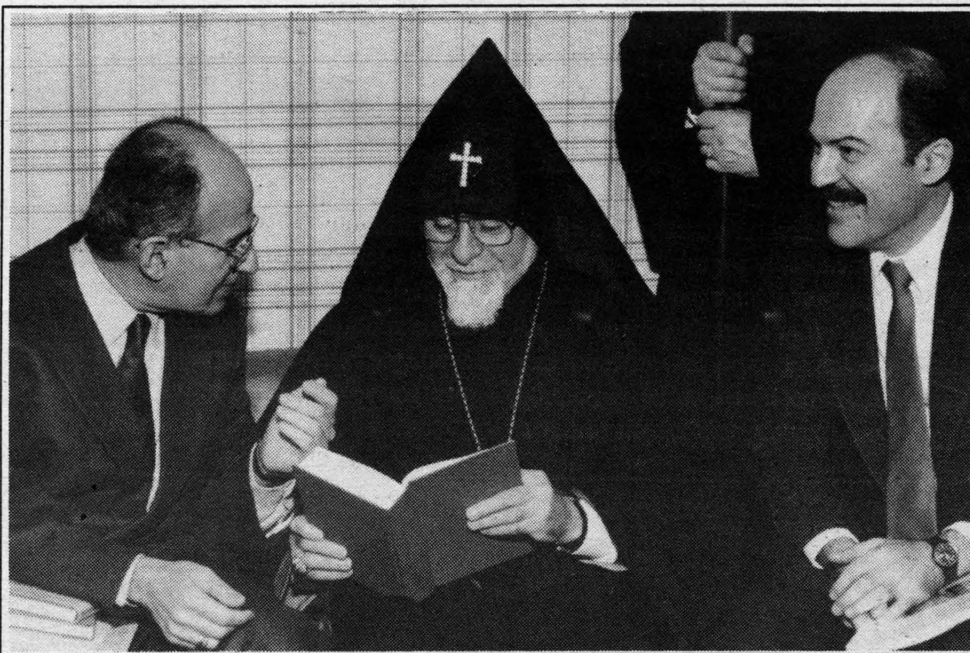
St. Paul's rally had already begun and I impatiently stood at the door looking in. I scanned the rows of chairs angled in a half circle, desperate to find a vacant seat. I ventured into the room, I wanted to maneuver between the rows of chairs, race up toward the front like a child, and break the bond which held the audience captive. If only I could touch his valiant robe or witness the intense faith in his eyes I would somehow know more, be more. I wavered back and forth stretched up on my toes, hoping to spot His Holiness above the heads in front of me. But when I caught my very first glimpse of Karekin I disappointment fell over me.

I had envisioned a man with powerful presence, a man with flawless stature. I wanted to be

overpowered by a sense of greatness and prestige. Why didn't the Armenian Catholicos, his life a living sermon, move me?

Then he spoke. It wasn't the words, but the grace and passion that came forth from those words. The crowd was silenced and I was reverent. I saw an invisible light radiate through him. Certainly not a great feat for someone who has devoted his life to fellowship with Christ. It was obvious that it was not the merely position that made him the leader of the Armenian Church but his true Christian heart that made him the Catholicos of All Armenians.

Throughout the night a few brave souls stood up and voiced questions regarding race, religion, faith, culture, and church service. Brave seems accurate because I would cower from the attentive gaze of Karekin I and his entourage. The thought of exchanging



Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, left, and Professor Barlow Der Mugredechian present His Holiness with books donated by the community and Armenian Studies Program

ing words or facing that gracious smile intimidated me. The Catholicos does smile, unlike his entourage, whom he referred to as overprotective policemen. I was charmed by his humor. Unfortunately, many of his punch lines were in Armenian that I didn't understand. But the laughter that swept the room was infectious and I felt included in his anecdotes.

His commitment to connecting with Armenian youth was so effortless it could only be genuine. And without a doubt, a con-

nection was made. It wasn't as though he was brought down to our level of righteousness and understanding, but rather he honorably elevated us up to his. At that point I realized the realm of his greatness.

He spoke to us as a father, a friend, and as a man, destined to unify two worlds. He was not quick to judge or reluctant to praise. I agree that his hopes of reviving the Armenian culture and passing on tradition lie within the hands of the youth. There was a definite charge

aimed at the Armenian youth to keep our culture alive.

My classmate raised the question of why we do not have two church services — one in Armenian the other in English. Karekin answered, "If we say the Lord's Prayer in English in America, French in Canada, and Turkish in Turkey, then where does the Armenian language live? Once the language is lost, you have destroyed a culture, and the only people left who will preserve such traditions."

The Catholicos had to concede to the clock and answer questions with hurried responses. One could tell it left him incomplete. It left us incomplete, as if we were losing our only chance to hear this man. The faith and morality he preaches are not part of his job but the whole of his life. His rare honest virtue is inseparable from who he is and all he has. I was inspired by his unwavering devotion to the Lord.

He left behind a gold cross. The word Etchmiadzin is etched in Armenian on the back. The cross when worn, unifies all those in attendance, and it is a visible start in the effort to link the Armenian church and the Armenian people around the world.



# American-Armenian Artist Expresses with Energy

## Staff Article

The immediate reaction towards Ara Dolarian's exhibition *Interior Energy Fields*, currently at the Fresno Art Museum, February 13 through March 31, is the power of his scale and the movement he creates. Dolarian leaves the representational attributes to the audience. "People say they look like palm trees or the ocean," explains the artist, "that's okay. To me it represents the pushing/pulling tension that exists in life." Although the artist was educated in art during the era of the abstract expressionism movement he rejects the idea of labeling his art. His pieces are personal, a two year period of his searching and investigating of his own internal energy fields. His pieces are also, he asserts, an expression of his Armenianness.

Dolarian's paintings accomplish his objective of pushing

and pulling, but also within the long sweeping blades of color they also seem to achieve a transient relationship. One vivid hue comes slicing up from the bottom merging with another descending from the top. Many of the pieces work along this convention, creating a completeness within the exhibition. The paintings are, as the artist describes it, the resolution of the situation within the painting. The paintings do not necessarily represent periods or circumstances in his life directly, but rather an extension of life itself.

Dolarian, born and raised in Fresno has memories of childhood and family that have become a strong influence on his contemporary themes. Although his father would probably disparage his choice of careers, he attributes his earliest inspirations to his father. "He would be driving," recalls Dolarian, "and screech the brakes

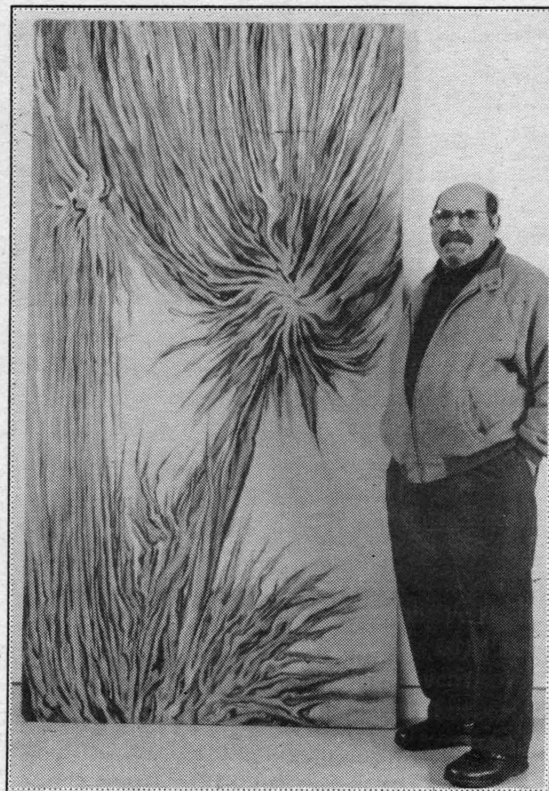
and say, 'Look at that view.'" This visualization ability within children to create and express is lost in maturity because negative environments around us.

Dolarian contends it is weakness to set aside individual innate originality and lean upon previous success. He refers to the 5th century as golden era of Armenian art. "Innovation in painting and architecture was beyond anything comparable today." He asserts, "They attained the space of spirituality, pushing inorganic to the edge of profound faith and beyond." This is the kind of inspiration he seeks to invoke within his own journey.

As Dolarian recognizes forces within his own life those energies begin to take on a life of their own within the piece. "Each composition is a resolution of the problem within it. Each piece is different because the evolution of

color and composition demands an individual response." Viewers are captured inside of the image, identifying or associating with something from their own personality.

To admire his structures for their communication of the proposition allows an involvement within the medium no less than inclusion into Dolarian himself. *Interior Energy Fields* transcends abstract art with this awareness and entitles its audience to resolve their own inner forces.



Artist Ara Dolarian with *Untitled # 54*



From l. to r., Dr. Vostanik Maroukhian, Dr. Edward Chubarian, Dr. Harold Haak, Rafael Matevossian, Dr. Michael Sarafian, and Varoujean Der Simonian.

### By Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Yerevan State University and State Engineering Institute of Armenia officials were in Fresno for a two-day visit, February 13-14, with Fresno State officials.

The Armenian Studies Program hosted the delegation, whose visit and itinerary were developed with the assistance of Dr. Harold Haak, President Emeritus of Fresno State, who deserves special recognition for his participation. The officials were based in California State University, Pomona where they had been participating in a month-long program to learn about American universities and how they operate.

Academic Vice-President Dr. Edward Chubarian and Vice-President for International Relations Rafael Matevossian represented Yerevan State University and Vice-President Dr. Vostanik Maroukhian and Chairman of the Foreign Relations Office Dr. Michael Sarafian represented the State Engineering Institute.

Fresno State University Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Alex Gonzalez met with the delegation to discuss future closer ties between the universities. Dr. Peter Klassen, Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Director of International Pro-

grams was also involved in the discussions.

The delegation from the State Engineering Institute had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Elden Shaw, Dean of the School of Engineering and with Dr. Hamo Lalehzarian and Dr. Kenneth Moshier of the Industrial Technology Department.

The delegation from Yerevan State University met with Dr. Luis Costa, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program, and Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program.

It was generally agreed that the result of the three day stay in Fresno was a clear perception and a definite willingness on both sides for an enlarging of the existing exchange agreement between Fresno State and Yerevan State University. A further agreement between Fresno State and the State Engineering University should be drafted soon.

The delegation urged Fresno State students to come to Armenia for a year, semester, or summer program, especially as conditions in Armenia are improving.

Although brief, the visit by the Armenian University officials was extremely beneficial in developing plans between the universities.

## Armenian Studies Program

Fall '96

### SCHEDULE OF COURSES

#### Armenian 1A- Elementary Armenian

11:10-12:00 MTWF

#### Armenian 2A- Intermediate Armenian

12:10- 1:00 MTWF

#### Arm Studies 10- Intro Arm Studies

9:45- 11:00

10:10-11:00 MWF

5:10- 9:00 F/ 8:10- 4:00 S

(section meets 9/20-9/21, 9/27- 9/28 & 10/4- 10/5)

#### ArmS 108A- Arm History

9:10-10:00 MWF

#### Arm Studies 45- Saroyan & Film

5:10- 9:00 F/ 8:10- 4:00 S

(section meets 10/25- 10/26, 11/1- 11/2 & 11/8- 11/9)

#### Arm Studies 120T- Armenians in America

5:10- 9:00 F/ 9:10- 5:00 S

(section meets 10/11- 10/12)



# Visiting Professor Advocates for Women's Issues

*Dr. Ludmila Haroutunian, Chair of the Department of Sociology of Yerevan State University, was a special guest of the Armenian Studies Program, the Department of Sociology, and the Women's Study Program of Fresno State from Thursday, February 22 through Tuesday, February 27.*

*Dr. Haroutunian was invited by the Armenian Studies Program of Fresno State to spend a week in Fresno to lecture and speak to faculty and students.*

*Dr. Harold Haak, President Emeritus of Fresno State, was instrumental in arranging Dr. Haroutunian's trip to the United States. Barlow Der Mugrdchian of the Armenian Studies Program and Matthew Jendian of Sociology arranged her schedule.*

*Dr. Haroutunian received advanced degrees in both economics (Yerevan State University) and sociology (Institute of Sociology, Moscow). She has been active in politics serving as a People's Deputy of the former USSR and a member of the Supreme Council of the USSR.*

*Based on recent polling data, Dr. Haroutunian has been able to document the transformations taking place in Armenian society. In particular she has paid special attention to the role of women in Armenia.*

*During her stay Dr. Haroutunian gave two public lectures. Her first lecture, "Peace and Conflict in Nagorno-Karabagh," was co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program, the Department of sociology, and the Peace and Conflict Studies Program.*

*The second lecture, "The Role of Women in the New Armenian Republic," was sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program.*

## Women's Role in Post-Communism Armenia

By Ermira Farka

The collapse of Communism in East Europe is associated with drastic changes of the former Soviet Republics encompassing political policy, economic transformation, and institutional changes. Armenia specifically has undergone

this reconstruction while still facing the challenge of war, economic blockade, and the creation of an Armenian State. The magnitude of these important issues however, is consequently overshadowing burgeoning social issues also inspired by the release from communism. The Nagorno-Karabagh conflict, severe economic recession, and newly developed infrastructure seem to reduce the importance of gender relationships in contemporary Armenian society. Nevertheless Dr. Ludmila Haroutunian of Yerevan State University, forcefully attacks the assumption of diminished women's roles in Armenia, especially now in this post-communist era.

Historically the women's movement in Armenia has had an interesting progression. Traditionally the conservative image of women has been mere housewife and mother. In 1917, after the socialist revolution in Russia, the subsequent impact on all Soviet Republics was the liberation of women's rights. The principle of socialism is equality. This mani-

ests ideally into equality in salary, equality in rights, and even more so equality in poverty. This twentieth century innovation, granting unlimited rights to women and regarding them equal to men, came unexpectedly. Women had not fought for these accomplishments, there was no feminist movement in Armenia before 1917. Women's representation was dictated by the state stipulating certain percentage of women serving in the Soviet Parliament. Unfortunately this participation contributed nothing to the advancement of women. The appointments were policy to symbolically represent that individual rights are best preserved and improved by the communist system.

Since the fall of communism, the charade of political influence is exposed and women must fight for what little ground they had. The feminist movement, under leaders like Dr. Haroutunian, rallied active segments of society, men and women, in the struggle against the remnants of the old system. The fight to place a woman in any prominent position within the



**Dr. Ludmila Haroutunian** newly created free society fell short. The conservative establishment, suppressed by communism, reassumed power and reasserted the traditional roles of women. Absence of the even the artificial balance enforced by Moscow has created an uphill endeavor for the small but growing feminist movement of Armenia. Dr. Haroutunian believes the exchange of inspiration and information will allow a greater equality to become a reality.



Rare artifacts borrowed from the Armenian Library and Museum of Watertown, MA were on display in the Fresno Art Museum, as testimony to the horror of the Armenian genocide. Also on exhibit were a series of photographs from the Armenian Assembly of America and the U.S. Holocaust Museum. The exhibit complemented the *Anne Frank in the World* which also gathered attention to the Genocide.



## ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆ 95 / 96

Գրեց՝ Արամ Գևորգյան

Մեկ հոդվածի սահմաններում անհնար է ներկայացնել այն ամենը, ինչ տեղի ունեցավ Հայաստանի կյանքում 1995 թվականի ընթացքում: Այնուամենայնիվ, սա մի փորձ է՝ ամփոփելու անցած տարվա գլխավոր արդյունքները, ինչպես նաև նշելու 1996 թ. սպասվելիք գլխավոր իրադարձությունները:

Նախ՝ Արցախի հիմնահարցի շուրջ: Ամբողջ տարվա ընթացքում պահպանվեց հարաբերական խաղաղությունը, ուսումնական ոչ մի նկատելի փոփոխություն չարձանագրվեց: Չնայած աշխարհի տարբեր պետությունների մերթ ընդ մերթ ակտիվացող միջնորդական ջանքերին, շարունակվում է «ոչ պատերազմ, ոչ խաղաղություն» անորոշ իրավիճակը: Ինչևէ, պարզ դարձավ, որ հակամարտության կարգավորման բանալին բանակցությունների սեղանի շուրջն է: Բանակցություններ, որոնք պետք է ընթանան Լեռնային Ղարաբաղի Հանրապետության լիիրավ մասնակցությամբ, որպես հիմնաքար ընդունելով Արցախի ժողովրդի ազատ ինքնորոշման իրավունքի ճանաչումն ու անվտանգության երաշխիքների ապահովումը:

Հայաստանի Հանրապետության ներքին քաղաքական

կյանքում 95թ. դարձավ նոր սահմանադրության և առաջին Ազգային ժողովի ընտրության տարի: Նոր խորհրդարանը շատ կարճ ժամանակահատվածում միահամուռ ընդունեց մի շարք օրենքներ, որոնցից ամենակարևորը «ՀՀ Քաղաքացիության մասին» օրենքն էր: Վերջինիս համաձայն՝ ժխտվեց երկքաղաքացիության գաղափարը Հայաստանում, ինչը մտահոգության ալիք բարձրացրեց Սփյուռքում և բազմաթիվ հայեր արտասահայտեցին իրենց դժգոհությունը:

Տնտեսական կյանքում կատարվեց ևս մեկ քայլ՝ հաղթահարելու Հայաստանի էներգետիկական ճգնաժամը: Վերաբացվեց Մեծամորի Հայկական Ատոմային Կայանի բլոկերից մեկը: Եվ նորից հնչեցին իրարամերժ կարծիքներ: Ի պատասխան իրավապահպանների՝ և՛ կառավարությունը, և՛ միջազգային հաստիքի կազմակերպություններ միաբերան երաշխավորեցին կայանի անվտանգությունը և համապատասխանությունը համաշխարհային նորմերին:

Ինչևէ, ատոմակայանի վերագործարկումը փոքր-ինչ բարելավեց ձմռան շեմին ազգաբնակչությանը էլեկտրականության մատակարարումը: Բնությունն էլ, իր հերթին,

մեղմացրեց ժողովրդի հոգսերը՝ պարզեցնելով ավելի տաք եղանակ, վերջին 3 տարիների ցրտաշունչ ձմեռների հետ համեմատած:

Որպես 95թ-ի ամենաբացասական արդյունք կնշել բնակչության արտահոսքը Հանրապետությունից: Վիճակագրական տվյալներով՝ վերջին հինգ տարիների ընթացքում Հայաստանը լքածների թիվը հասել է 700.000-ի, ինչը կարող է հանգեցնել բարդ աղետի մոտ ապագայում: Պետք է անել հնարավոր ամեն ինչ կանխելու այս երևույթը:

Եվ այսպես, 95 թվականը գեները վայր դրեց 96-ի առջև, և Հայաստանն էլ, համայն աշխարհին համաքայլ, մտավ դեպի 21-րդ դարն առանց նորոգվող վերջին հնգամյակի:

Տարին սկսվեց Ամենայն Հայոց Կաթողիկոս Գարեգին Առաջինի՝ Քանադա և Ամերիկայի Միացյալ Նահանգներ այցելությամբ: Սա, փաստորեն աշխարհի ավելի քան 7 միլիոն հայերին միավորող կրոնական առաջնորդի առաջին շրջագայությունն էր 1995թ. ապրիլի 4-ին Ամենայն Հայոց 131-րդ Կաթողիկոս ընտրվելուց հետո: Փետրվարի 9-ին Գարեգին Առաջինի պատվին ընդունելություն կազմակերպվեց նաև Կալիֆորնիայի Ֆրեզնոյի նահանգային համալսարանում՝ Հայկական Ուսումնական

Ծրագրերի, Հայ Ռուսանդների Միության և այլ կազմակերպությունների հովանավորությամբ:

Հույս ունենալով, որ այս շրջագայությունը ավելի կհամախմբի համայն աշխարհի հայությանը, ինչպես նաև կմոտեցնի մեր երկու եկեղեցիների միավորման օրը:

Այս նույն օրերին ԱՄՆ-ում էր գտնվում նաև Լեռնային Ղարաբաղի Հանրապետության նախագահ Ռոբերտ Քոչարյանը՝ հանդիպումներ ունենալով մի շարք սենատորների և այլ բարձրաստիճան պաշտոնատար անձանց հետ: Կարող է թվալ, թե այս իրադարձությունը իր կարևորությամբ զիջում է նախորդին, սակայն չի կարելի թերագնահատել նաև այն: Սա է այն ուղին, որ կմոտեցնի հաղթանակը նաև դիվանագիտական ասպարեզում: Այսօր առաջին պլան է մղված հեղափոխությունը՝ ամրապնդելու համար նվաճվածը և այսքան սպասելի անկախությունը բերելու Արցախի հոգնատանջ ժողովրդին:

1996 թվականը կնշանավորվի նաև անկախության ձեռք բերումից հետո Հայաստանի Հանրապետության երկրորդ նախագահի ընտրություններով: Ո՛վ կլինի նա, կփոխվի, արդյո՞ք, վարչակարգը և տարվող քաղաքականությունը՝ ցույց կտա ժամանակը: Ամեն դեպքում,

հոկտեմբերին Հայաստանի ժողովուրդը հնարավորություն կստանա ևս մեկ անգամ կատարելու ընտրություն և արտահայտելու իր կամքը:

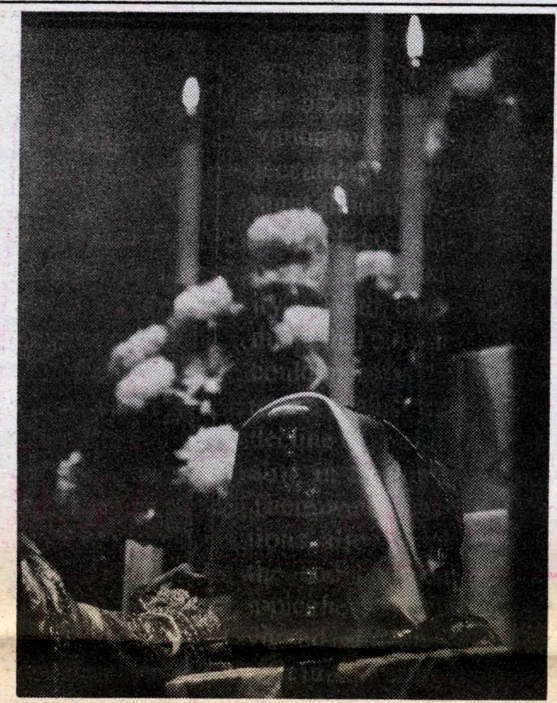
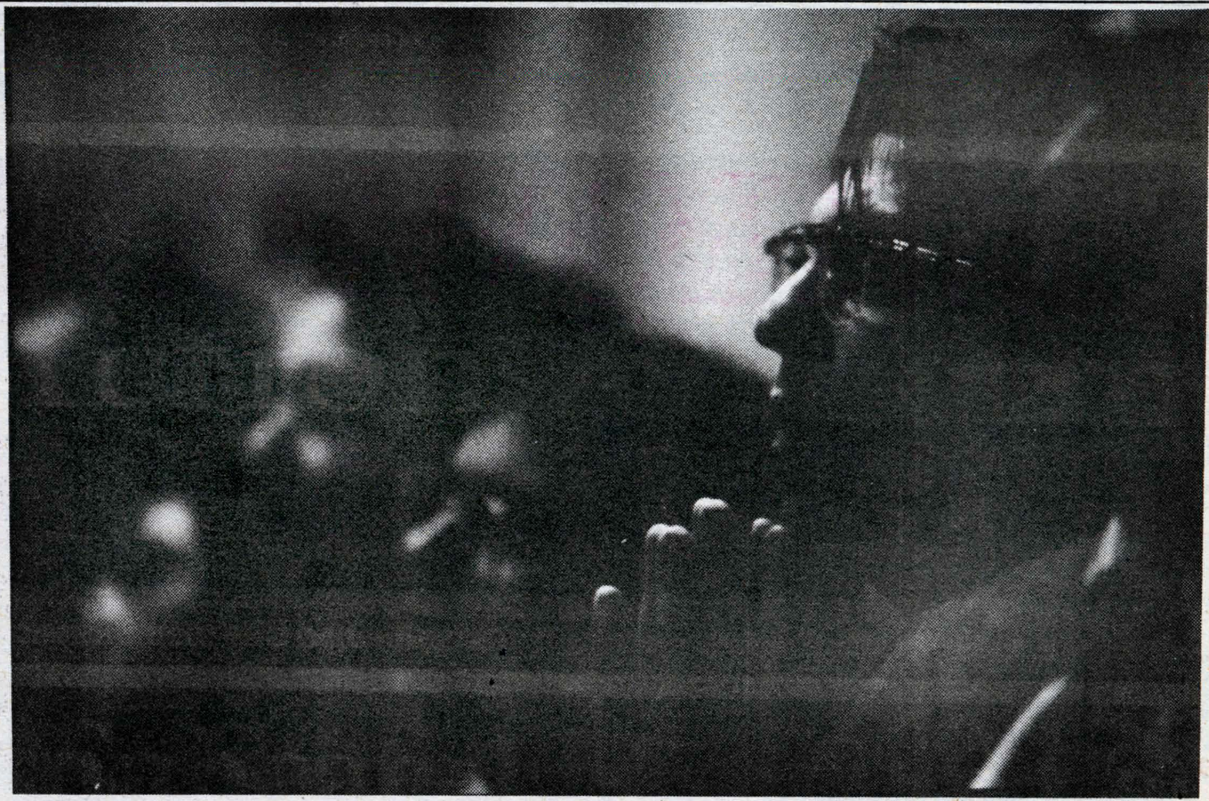
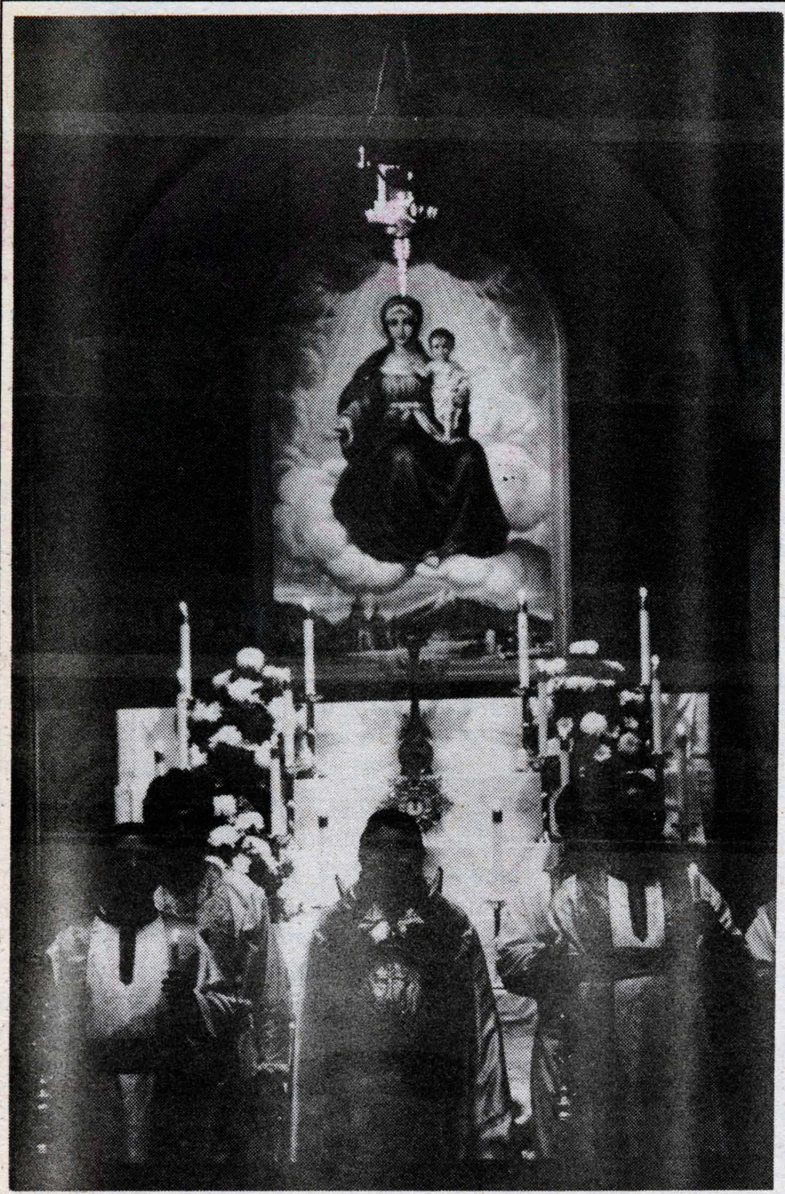
Վերջում կցանկանայի հայ ժողովրդին մաղթել նախ և առաջ խաղաղություն 1996 թվականին (և իհարկե դրանից հետո):

Թող այս տարին հիշվի որպես Ղարաբաղում վերջնական և անհետադարձ հաղթանակի տարի՝ մի նոր էջ բացելով հայ ազգային-ազատագրական պայքարի պատմության մեջ:

Մի պայքար, որը նույնանում է հենց ժողովրդի պատմությանը: Քանզի միշտ էլ մեր ճամփան եղել է քաղաքատու փշոտ, տեսել է կովի բոհ և կրակի բոց, վերապրել է եղեռն ու ջարդ, պայքարել է, մաքառել ու երբեք չի կորցրել հույսն ու հավատը: Հույսը դեպի արդարություն, հավատը սեփական ուժերին: Եվ միշտ վերջում հաղթանակել է: Քանզի ի սկզբանե դատապարտված է եղել հաղթանակի:

Սա է մեր ժողովրդի ընտրած ուղին, նրա անմահության ճանապարհը: Քանի որ անմահ է այն ազգը, որ ունեցել է Նոդեհ, Մոնթե ու հազարավոր այլ հերոսներ: Ամսաթիվ է ու անհաղթ: Այս ժողովրդի դեմ խաղ չկա:





## If Two or More...

Photos by Gina Kaklikian Garo

The faithful gathered February 9, at St. Paul Armenian Apostolic Church for a once in a lifetime encounter. It was truly a unique experience to have the Holy Mass celebrated by his Holiness Karekin I, Catholicos of All Armenians.

The pews were filled to capacity as well as members of the congregation standing in the back. A memorable service of prayer and dedication, the atmosphere of the sanctuary resonated with reverence befitting the occasion. Much as it might

be in Etchmiadzin, the pageantry of precious icons and wardrobe was displayed in full splendor.

As the Catholicos ministered, many of the devotees took the opportunity to reach out to God, as if the proximity of Karekin I himself made their prayers more expedient. The congregation knew no distinction of age as young and old came together before their Lord. Truly this is how the Father God sees his beloved.

## ASP Donors

### Carmel, CA

Mr. Brad H. Boghosian

### Clovis, CA

Mr. Armand J. Gougasian

### Escondido, CA

M/M Stephen M. Mayian

### Fresno, CA

Mr. & Mrs. Nubert Baker

Mr. Clint Sorensen

Ms. Sharon L. Mack

Ms. Alma Margosian

Ms. Margaret Breed Williams

Mr. Raymond F. Ensher

M/M Robert S. Manselian

M/M Bob Der Mugrdechian

Ms. Jasmine Cloud

Mr. Ara Keshishian

### Lindsay, CA

M/M Stephen Kaplan

### Los Angeles, CA

Ms. Shogig Terzian

### Madera, CA

Victor Packing, Inc.

### Sacramento, CA

Mr. Franklin Penirian

### Selma, CA

Mr. Harvey Stepanian

### South Lake, CA

Ms. Anne M. Phelps

### Visalia, CA

M/M David J. Vartanian

### Milford, MI

M/M George Mouradian

### Hanover, NJ

Ms. Zabel H. Leamond

### East Port Washington, NY

M/M Armen A. Dildilian

### Fairborn, OH

M/M Roger H. Terzian

### Brookfield, WI

M/M Hacheck Chobanian

### Montreal, Quebec

Mr. Arpi Hamalian

### **BOOKS AND GIFTS**

### Beirut, Lebanon

Haigazian University

### Culver City, CA

Mr. Vanig Shaghoian

### Fresno, CA

Rev. Harry Missirlian

### Fresno, CA

Berge & Alice Bulbulian

### Lowell, CA

Mr. Levon Chorbajian

# HYE SHARZHOOM

## NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Hye Sharzhoom is sent without charge to thousands of people throughout the world. There is no subscription fee, however, we urge readers to support our efforts with donations of any amount. This request has assumed a special importance because of increased mailing costs.

Yes, I would like to support the Hye Sharzhoom mailing expenses with a donation of:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Armenian Studies Program and send to:  
**Armenian Studies Program**  
**California State University, Fresno**  
**Fresno, CA 93740-0004**