

HYE SHARZHOOM

Armenian Action

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20th
ANNIVERSARY

October 1998

Vol. 20, No. 1 (63)

Supplement to The Collegian

Around the World

• **United Armenian Fund 100th Airlift Celebration -See Page 3**

• **House Maintains Section 907 - By a vote of 231 to 182, the House of Representatives maintained a ban on US aid to Azerbaijan**

• **Chinese mining company intends to invest \$400 million in Armenia**

• **Armenia marks seventh year of independence -See Page 3**

• **Turkey gives permission for election of the Armenian Apostolic Patriarch of Turkey**

• **Multi-national companies not finding much oil in Azerbaijan**

• **Yerevan celebrates its 2,780th Anniversary in October**

• **The Central Committee of the Tekeyan Cultural Association of Armenia awards Baroness Caroline Cox, vice speaker of the British House of Lords, the annual "Golden Ararat" medal for her continued humanitarian aid to Karabagh**

• **Goris-Stepanakert Highway Inaugurated**

• **Council of Europe will send human rights team to Turkey**

• **For More News See Page 3**

Hye Sharzhoom - A 20 Year Perspective



1st and 62nd issues of Hye Sharzhoom

ASO-New Ideas Foster Excitement

By Arakel Arisian
ASO President

Every fall students return to school wondering what new things they will learn and see. Classes provide a solid foundation, but students need more than just textbooks and lectures. The Armenian Students Organization (ASO) tries to provide that extracurricular activity so important to students. Its goal is to give students interested in Armenian culture, history, and language something to be involved in. The 1997-98 academic year proved to be successful and a great learning experience. At the end of the year the club elected the following people as executive officers: President - Arakel Arisian, Vice-President - Matt Maroot, Treasurer - Talin Mekhitarian, Secretary - Taleen Kojayan, Historian - Michael Harutonian.

During the summer the executive board and the ASO advisor, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, met a number of times for planning and organizing purposes. Learning and improving from the year before is the main goal. With that goal, the

executive members began working on several projects for this fall and next spring. The first accomplishment was the printing of ASO T-shirts. Designed by Garo Nakashian, thirty T-shirts were printed and now many of the members wear them with pride. Another exciting development was the ASO booth which is now located in the Free Speech area on

By Barlow Der Mugrdechian
Advisor

Twenty years ago a group of students at Fresno State decided to publish a special issue newspaper to commemorate the Armenian Genocide. That special issue was published in April of 1979 and became the first in what was to become a twenty-year run of Hye Sharzhoom/Armenian Action.

From its inception Hye Sharzhoom became the Armenian student voice on the campus of

Fresno State. Its pages have been filled with opinions, news, and features on a wide variety of subjects. Hye Sharzhoom reflected the attitudes and opinions of students toward their campus, toward the larger Armenian community, and toward the Armenian Diaspora. It also represented the diversity within the Armenian student population, at a time when there were Armenians from Iran, from Lebanon, and Armenians born in America on the campus. And over the years, Hye Sharzhoom changed as it reflected the changing student population.

But let's return for a moment to 1979 and reflect about what motivated those students to initiate Hye Sharzhoom. First and foremost, students in the 1970s had a keen interest in not only what was occurring on the Fresno State campus, but were also interested in the larger world scene, and especially the Armenian landscape.

The first motivation was the fact that in 1979, 64 years after the Armenian Genocide of 1915, the Turkish Government had still not acknowledged its role in the planning and execution of the Genocide. This fact motivated students to speak out about that injustice. They became aware of the silence of the world and responded to that silence through the pages of Hye Sharzhoom. They wanted the world to know that they had not forgotten and would not forget. The memory of the Genocide would outlive the policy of denial.

As an outgrowth of the denial, beginning in 1973, the Armenian Question entered a new phase, with the political violence movement. By 1979 political violence had captured the attention of the world, through a series of daring and violent attacks on Turkish government officials and institutions.

See Hye Sharzhoom, Page 6



ASO executive members at the new booth

campus. The booth was built by Chad Kirkorian, Michael Harutonian, Matt Maroot, Arakel

Once school started the attention shifted towards getting new

See ASO, Page 8

Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem To Highlight ASP Annual Dinner

Mark your calendars now! On Thursday, December 10, 1998, the Armenian Studies Program 13th Annual Dinner will feature His Beatitude Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem as guest speaker.

The exhibit "On the Dome of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem" by local artist Corky Normart will also be featured that evening.

His Beatitude Archbishop Torkom Manoogian was born on February 16, 1919, in a refugee

See Annual Dinner, Page 8

All-State Armenian Student Convention

hosted by the
Armenian Students Organization
of Fresno State

October 23-25

California State University - Fresno campus
For information, call (209) 278-4930

Letters

Dear Editor:

I am very pleased to know you can express your heritage, at Cal State Fresno. As a student in 1940, we as Armenians were discouraged to attend. I did and I graduated in spite of it all.

I am of Armenian descent and proud to be an Armenian. Born in the United States of America. Keep up your Armenian Studies program.

Esther Tootelian
Reedley, CA

Dear Editor:

Great job-we enjoy reading the *Hye Sharzhoom*.

Isabelle and Al Kabrielian
Fresno, CA

Dear Editor:

Thanks for the information you sent our son on Armenian subjects. I would so like him to know the wealth of his culture. Last spring he took a Chicano Studies course and is very interested in black culture. Thank for being there to teach our offsprings about the richness of their roots. Praying for you.

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Shabaglian
Clovis, CA

California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program

Spring 1999 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
General Education				
Division 9-Other Cultures				
• 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	1110-1225	TTh	D Kouymjian
General Education				
Division 6- Literature				
• Arm 148 Mast. Arm Lit.	3	1310-1400	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
General Education				
Division 7- Languages				
• Arm 1B Elem Armenian	4	1110-1200	MTWF	B Der Mugrdechian
Upper Division Courses				
• Arm S 108B Arm History II	3	0910-1000	MWF	I Kaprielian
• Arm S 120T Arm. in N. America	3	1110-1200	MWF	I Kaprielian
• Arm S 120T Armenian Church	1	1710-2200	Fri	D Kouymjian
		0910-1700	Sat	
<i>Class meets the weekend of February 19 and 20</i>				
• Arm S 120T Armenia Today	1	1710-2200	Fri	B Der Mugrdechian
		0910-1700	Sat	
<i>Class meets the weekend of April 9 and 10</i>				
• Arm S 121 Armenian Painting	3	1110-1225	TTh	D Kouymjian
<i>Class meets the weekends of February 26 and 27, March 5 and 6, and March 12 and 13</i>				
<i>All courses can be used for credit toward a minor in Armenian Studies. For more information call the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669 or visit our offices in the Peters Business Building, Room 384.</i>				

March 1998 Banquet Donors

Benefactors

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1999-2000 Fresno State Scholarship Applications Available

California State University, Fresno administers over three hundred and twenty-seven donor-sponsored scholarships. The purpose of these awards is to provide recognition and financial assistance to students who have achieved academic distinction.

The eligibility criteria for scholarships administered by the university vary according to the specifications of the individual donors who provide the funding for the program. The majority of scholarships are awarded on the basis of merit. Most scholarships are awarded annually and range from \$200 to \$4000. Applications are reviewed and award decisions are determined by various campus and community committees.

The Application Deadline is November 13, 1998.

Award decisions will be mailed to applicants in February, March and April of 1999. Applicants must be full-time students with a minimum of a 3.0 cumulative grade point average.

Special scholarships/grants are available for students who enroll in Armenian Studies courses at Fresno State. Contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669 for full information on the scholarships/grants available.

Applications are now available in the Academic Departments and Financial Aid/Scholarship Office in Joyal 296. For more information, please call Linda Tamura, Scholarship Coordinator, at 278-6572, (e-mail lindata) or stop by the Scholarship Office in Joyal 121.

Please visit our homepage at http://studentaffairs.csufresno.edu/financial_aid/

Social History Project

The Armenian Studies Program and the History Department at California State University, Fresno continue to work on the Social History Project focusing on the Armenian Experience in Fresno County.

It is essential that the voice of Armenians be preserved on tape and that their contributions to the development of the Valley and the State of California be documented. The project is seeking the following in both paid and voluntary capacity:

1) Interviewees-If you know of someone who has a story to tell, or if you, yourself would like to be interviewed, please contact us. Interviews will be carried out in either English or Armenian.

2) Interviewers-We need people to carry out interviews. We will organize training sessions and provide guidance in interview methods.

3) Transcribers-We welcome people who would be interested in transcribing the tapes. Far too often, individuals are interviewed and the audio tapes are inaccessible. We must have them transcribed to hard copy.

4) We are also collecting the following: Photographs, letters, clippings, flyers, newsletters and bulletins, diaries and journals, constitutions and minutes of organizations and any other memorabilia.

We will copy items at our expense and return the originals to you.

For further information please contact Professor Isabel Kaprielian at 278-6493.

Research requirements:

Students who are engaged in the following research require further information:

1. Armenians who came to the United States by way of China or Japan.
2. Armenians who entered the United States via Mexico or Cuba.
3. We are looking for photos, programs, flyers, or posters about Armenian concerts, picnics, *hantes*, feast, or festivals. We will copy at our expense.
4. Information on Lady Diana Agabeg Apar.

ASP Annual Fund Donations

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Selma Chapter

HYE SHARZHOOM

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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. MS/4
Fresno, CA 93740-8001
(209) 278-2669

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

News From Armenia and About Armenians

President Kocharian, His Holiness Karekin I, His Holiness Aram I, Unite; \$1 Million Raised for Humanitarian Aid to Armenia

Kirk Kerkorian, Elizabeth Dole, Gov. George Deukmejian, Jay Leno Among More than 1,800 Guests

Los Angeles-Sept. 26, 1998

Nearly \$1 million was raised to further aid beleaguered Armenia at a black-tie fundraiser hosted by the United Armenian Fund (UAF) last night in Los Angeles. The evening was a celebration of the UAF's nine-year effort and 100th humanitarian airlift to Armenia.

The sold-out event drew such notables as His Excellency Robert Kocharian, president of Armenia; His Holiness Karekin I, Catholicos of All Armenians; His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia; Kirk Kerkorian; Alex Yemenidjian, MGM president and CEO, UAF Chairman; Elizabeth Dole; and former California governor, George Deukmejian. Jay Leno also entertained the crowd with a monologue specifically written for the gala.

Addressing the audience, President Kocharian expressed his appreciation of the humanitarian efforts of the UAF and the Armenian-American community.

President Kocharian declared philanthropist Kirk Kerkorian honorary citizen of Armenia and presented him with the first honorary passport of his administration.

Kerkorian has been integral to the success of the United Armenian Fund since its inception in 1989. Through the Lincy Foundation, he provides cargo airplanes for airlifting relief supplies.

"For Armenia and the many democratic challenges it faces, and to President Kocharian, you have my personal support

at \$235 million — which has been sent to Armenia via 100 airlifts and 400 sea containers.

The United Armenian Fund was formed in November 1989 as a tax-exempt nonprofit organization and is the collective effort of the Armenian Assembly of America, the Armenian General Benevolent Union, the Armenian Missionary Association of America, the Armenian

important factor of political stability." Moreover, the President voiced Armenia's readiness to resume negotiations for the resolution of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict.

Armenia Marks Seventh Year of Independence

The seventh anniversary of Armenia's independence was marked with marches, cultural

where he addressed the 53d session of the United Nations General Assembly. On Thursday, Kocharian was the main speaker at an independence day rally for the Armenian community of greater New York. Kocharian told that audience that the 20th century divided the Armenian people in half, but that the next century would be a time of unity between the Armenian

plant will use natural gas and fuel oil.

But Suren Azatyan, the director of the nuclear plant, said the EBRD's demand was unjustified, the Interfax news agency reported Thursday. He said that the Medzamor plant had operated during just 13 years of its reactors' 30-year service life.

The plant was built in 1979, then closed in 1989 as a precaution after a devastating 1988 earthquake in northern Armenia that killed 25,000 people.

Armenia's decision to restart one of its two reactors in 1996 triggered protests from neighboring Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey, which consider the plant unsafe because of its proximity to a geological fault line.

But Armenian officials insist the plant is reliable and absolutely necessary to the nation. Fuel and energy supplies were critically low for a number of years, but the situation has eased in part because the Medzamor plant resumed operation.

Huntsman Pledges \$10 Million Loan to Armenia

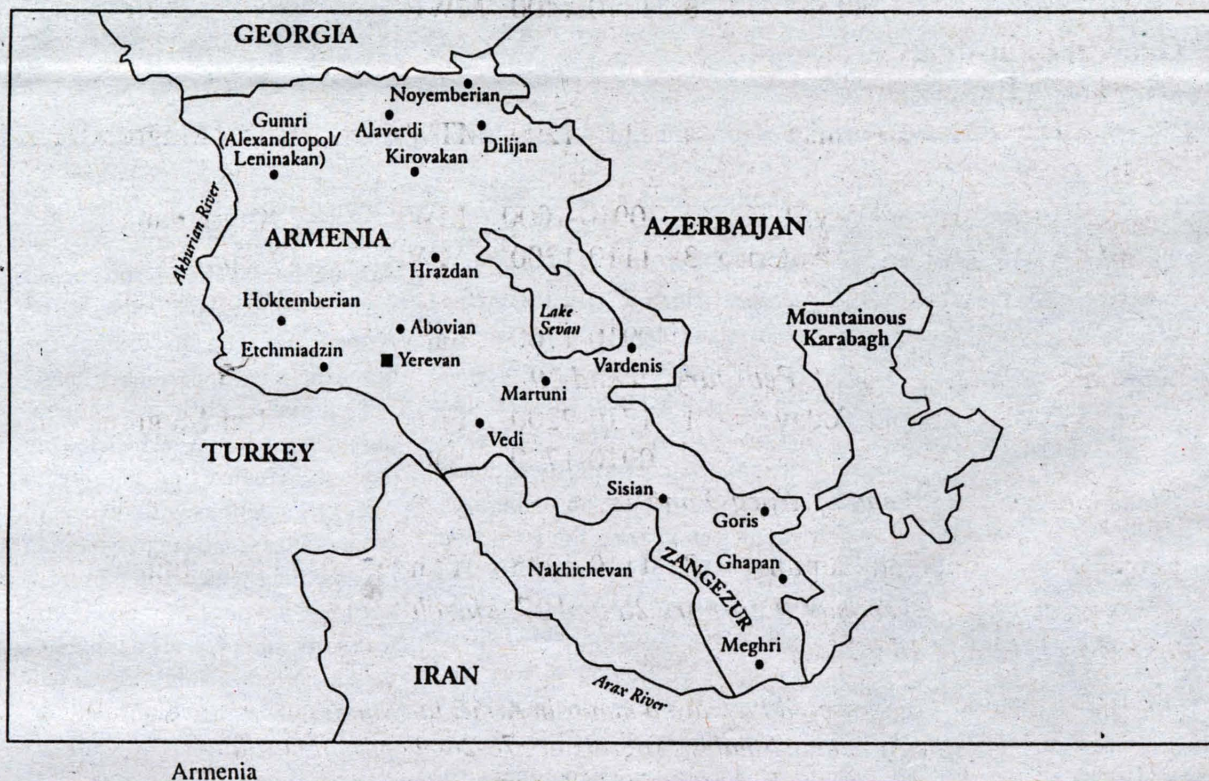
Salt Lake City, Utah business magnate Jon Huntsman plans to provide an interest-free \$10 million loan to the Armenian government to build homes in part of the country that was devastated by a 1988 earthquake.

Huntsman is host to Armenian President Robert Kocharian for two days as Kocharian tours the United States addressing civic groups, private individuals, US government officials and the United Nations.

At a Tuesday press conference, Huntsman said he and Kocharian also discussed plans to build a concrete tile factory that would be finished in March 1999.

This would complement an existing concrete plant Huntsman built there that produces concrete slabs. That factory has been instrumental in supplying materials to build as many as 8,000 homes per year.

Kocharian, the second democratically elected president in Armenia since the republic became independent from the former USSR in 1991, was equally complimentary. He particularly praised Huntsman's long-standing generosity to the country. During the past 10 years, the Huntsman family has given \$18 million in food, clothing, eyeglasses, kerosene heaters, medical supplies and other assistance to Armenia. Family members have made 50 visits there. Among other things, Kocharian said it is significant that Huntsman's charity didn't end after the initial earthquake-relief efforts but has continued for the past decade. The country is rebuilding the infrastructure that the earthquake flattened, but Armenia has a "long way to go," Kocharian said, although Huntsman quickly added that the capital city of Yerevan looks "beautiful" compared to a decade ago.



Relief Society, the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America and Kirk Kerkorian's Lincy Foundation.

Kocharian Addresses United Nations General Assembly

United Nations-Armenian President Robert Kocharian addressed the 53rd United Nations General Assembly September 25 at 10 a.m. EDT, at which time he highlighted the importance of recognizing the

performances, speeches and the commemoration of a Victory Arch at the entrance of the nation's main military cemetery where most of the casualties of the Karabagh war are buried.

President Robert Kocharian spoke to the nation on the eve of his leaving for the United States and his address before the United Nations General Assembly. In Yerevan, Kocharian declared, "Armenia will enter the 21st century as an economically developed, politically free and stable country." He added, "the nation made a historic choice to live independently in a democratic state." Kocharian recalled the difficult sacrifices that followed Armenia's declaration of independence in 1991 noting that the people braved a severe energy crisis and established a democratic state.

He acknowledged that the public was impatient for a rise in the standard of living. He said, "We inherited a ruined economy which needs the help of everyone, both you and me, to restore." Messages of congratulations were received in Yerevan by world leaders including President Bill Clinton and Britain's Queen Elizabeth. In his message to Armenia President Clinton said, "The Armenian people have made

homeland and its Diaspora. He appealed for all overseas Armenians to join Armenia's efforts to restore the nation's economy. He pledged that his government would take all steps to facilitate and protect Diasporan investments in Armenia. [Sources: RFE/RL 9-22, 23, Noyan Tapan 9-22, direct reportage of N.Y. rally]

Armenian Nuclear Plant to be Shut Down For Repairs

Yerevan, Armenia-A nuclear plant that produces 40 percent of Armenia's power supply is being shut down Friday for maintenance and refueling, the plant director said Thursday.

The press service of the Armenian Energy Ministry said that the Medzamor nuclear power plant, 32 kilometers (20 miles) west of the capital Yerevan and 11 kilometers (7 miles) from the Turkish border, would be closed for 55 days. The ministry is spending 10 million dollars on nuclear fuel purchases from Russia, and 8 million dollars on scheduled repairs.

The London-based European Bank for Reconstruction and Development called on Armenia

Kocharian declared, "Armenia will enter the 21st century as an economically developed, politically free and stable country."

considerable progress, in a short time, in building a free market democracy."

Following independence day commemorations, President Kocharian left for New York

to close the plant by the end of 2004 as a condition for a 57.4 million dollar credit extended in 1994 for construction of a new power station, Energy Ministry official Areg Galstyan said. That

President Kocharian declared philanthropist Kirk Kerkorian honorary citizen of Armenia

through the Lincy Foundation," said Kerkorian.

Devastated by an earthquake in 1988 that killed tens of thousands of people and left the country in ruin and, continuing to struggle from the collapse of the Soviet Union, Armenia became dependent upon help from outside the country.

Armenia continues to feel the effects of a blockade by Turkey and Azerbaijan as a result of a territorial dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh.

According to Yemenidjian, the money raised at the gala allows the UAF to procure \$20 million worth of goods at a fraction of the actual cost.

Over the past nine years, The United Armenian Fund has arranged for more than 16 million pounds of humanitarian assistance — including basic, much needed pharmaceuticals, valued

Armenian Genocide as a means to prevent further such actions.

Kocharian also called on the international community to exert efforts to overcome obstacles facing the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process. He also addressed the deadlock stemming from Azerbaijan's refusal to directly negotiate with Nagorno-Karabakh.

He stated that the United Nations plays a great role in different aspects of international life as the challenges that the international community faces are diverse and complicated. He also spoke about peace and stability in the Caucasus region. Kocharian said, "Equality and mutually beneficial cooperation among countries in the political and commercial-economic spheres, based on free-market principles, should become an

Armenian Summer Studies Brings Youth Together

By Chad Kirkorian and Michael Harutonian
Staff Writers

BRADFORD, MA.-

This year's ARS Summer Studies Program, organized by Mary Mooradian, was held on the beautiful campus of Bradford College. The three week intensive program offered a wide variety of Armenian courses taught by highly qualified professors. These intellectually challenging courses: Armenian history taught by Dr. Simon Payaslian, Armenian literature taught by Dr. Peter Cowe,

Armenian music taught by Dr. Leon Janikian, and Armenian Cinema taught by Ara Madzounian. The overall program was directed and coordinated by the very capable Dr. Houri Berberian, who also gave a lecture on the role of Armenian women in Iran.

A total of seventeen students arrived at Bradford with the same common goal-to gain a deeper understanding of their Armenian culture and heritage. These students traveled from France, England, Canada, and all parts of America, ready for an intellectual challenge and the opportunity to meet fellow

nian youth became better acquainted with each other, each individual was able to learn from the others experiences not only as Armenians but as French Armenians, Canadian Armenians, English Armenians, and American Armenians. Therefore, each student was able to take back home a piece of the Diaspora.

Although the program consisted of intensive studies, it was balanced with plenty of extra-curricular activities. Besides a couple of excursions into the city of Boston, the ARS students traveled to Hampton Beach, N.H., for a fun filled day under the sun. Another stop for the students was the Cultural Festival in Lowell, MA, where the students were treated to the fine classical Armenian music of the Ayriyan Family. The students were also treated to an incredible shish kebob dinner at the house of Armen and Sossy Jeknavorian. The most enlightening experience outside of the classroom was visiting the Armenian Library and Museum of America in Watertown, MA. The well organized tour encompassed all aspects of Armenian history and culture. However, the most emotional aspect of the tour was the Genocide exhibit which conjured up emotions buried deep inside of the students. Not one student left the Genocide exhibit without a tear rolling down the side of their face.

Another important aspect of the session was the open

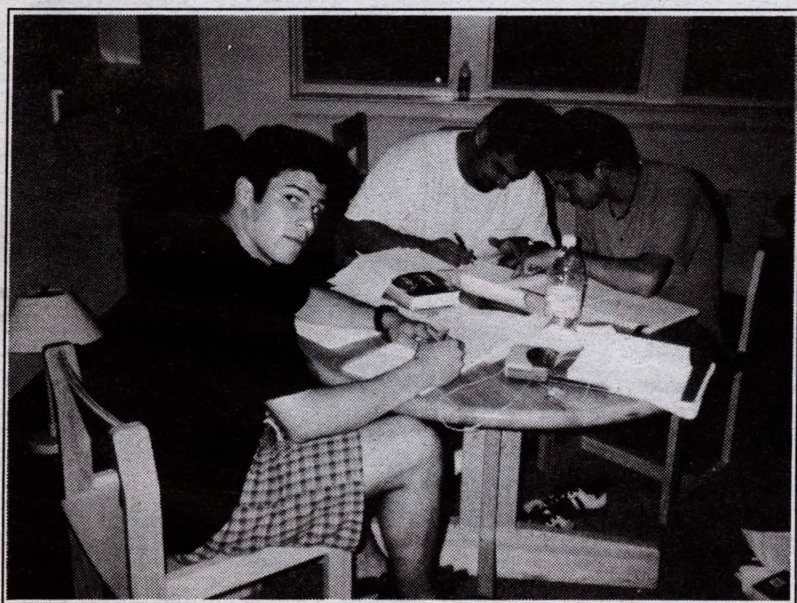


forum in which the students had a chance to discuss the issue of Armenianness. The question posed was, What does it mean to be Armenian? The discussion was based on each individuals heartfelt opinion regarding their own unique perspectives, which led the students to realize that there are no rules or guidelines with respect to Armenianness. Being Armenian is something which you feel from deep inside your heart, and if you feel Armenian, you are a true Hye. As for both these authors, we will always bleed red, blue, and orange.

The most difficult part of the session was not any homework or exam, but instead our last days together. On our final day we could feel the sorrow and sadness which began to overcome us, and filled us with a desire for the experience not to end. The typical

Armenian good-bye could not last long enough on our last day because the camaraderie which had been formed between us created not just friendship but a sense of family. This reaction was not only on the part of the students, but also a feeling felt mutually between the professors and students.

There were bonds and memories formed which will last a lifetime, so we would like to thank the ARS for allowing us the opportunity to develop these new friendships with: Michelle Amirkhania; Laurie Arslanyan; Nayiri Arzhoumanian; Twine Balian; Laurie Bedikian; Tamar Der Ghazarian; Natasha Kantzabedian; Lauren Kazarian; Gregory King-Underwood; Lalai Manjikian; Zabelle Margossian; Bethany Mooradian; Raffi Moughamian; Garine Tcholakian; and Anoush Yezeguelian.



Armenian language taught by Dr. Ara Caprielian, Armenian art and architecture taught by Dr. Lucy Der Manuelian, Armenian dance taught by Gary and Susan Lind-Sinianian,

Armenian peers. A bond quickly developed between this diaspora of students, and friendships were established which will last a lifetime. As this tightly knit group of Arme-

Armenian Quiz

- Name the Armenian All-Pro NFL placekicker who played for the Miami Dolphins?
 - Gary Danielson
 - Ted Torosian
 - Garos Yepremian
 - Stephen R. Furness
- Name the Armenian who was a head coach in the NBA?
 - John Koligian
 - Jerry Tarkanian
 - Ara Parsegian
 - Greg S. Goorjian
- How many Gold medals did Armenians win in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics?
 - 1
 - 3
 - 5
 - None
- Where is the oldest Armenian Apostolic Church in America?
 - Fresno, California
 - Watertown, Massachusetts
 - New York, New York
 - Worcester, Massachusetts
- What is the highest point in Armenia?
 - Mt. Aragats
 - Mt. Ararat
 - Mt. Achkassar
 - Mt. Kapoutdjough

Answers: 1. c 2. b 3. b 4. d 5. a

Professor Speaks on Armenian Art

By Matthew Maroot
Staff Writer

On August 25, 1998, Professor Levon Chookaszian, UNESCO Chair of Armenian Art from Yerevan State University spoke to a crowd in the Alice Peters Auditorium on the topic of "Royal and Self Portrait in Armenian Painting." This was the first presentation in the Armenian Studies Program Fall Lecture Series. Professor Chookaszian is a well-published expert on this topic. Through this vividly illustrated lecture, Professor Chookaszian presented numerous examples of Armenian Art, most of which are centuries old.

Professor Chookaszian, whose field of specialization is manuscripts and manuscript illuminations, is responsible for the re-opening of the Chair of Armenian Art at Yerevan State University in 1996. He has published literally hundreds of articles and entries in major encyclopedias and is now working on a major book on the

most famous Armenian painter, the 13th century artist Toros Roslin.

Included in the realm of Armenian Art are works such as manuscripts, portraits, stone carvings and miniatures. It is also interesting to note that several examples of Armenian coins were presented as examples of Armenian Art. Though much artwork



and many Armenian manuscripts have been destroyed through the course of history, we are very fortunate to still be able to view many works of art that have been wisely preserved. Perhaps some of the longest-surviving forms of Arme-

nian Art can be found in and around the churches of Armenia. These elaborately decorated churches not only serve as a symbol of the art form of Armenian Architecture but also serve as historical remnants of the kings who built them. Because of the rich history of Armenian Art, many people find it to be a very captivating example of Armenian culture. "I find the area of Armenian Art to be very thought provoking," said senior Chad Kirkorian.

Armenian Art, in a sense, serves as a window through which we can view Armenian History. "I had no idea that Armenian Art and culture were so interwoven," said junior Armen Ghanbarian. Numerous Armenian kings including Tigran the Great and the great King Gagik commissioned artists to

transfer their images to objects such as coins. And thanks to them, we are able to catch a glimpse of Armenian life from their time up through the present.

Armenian Forum Editors at Fresno State

By Jennifer Keledjian
Staff Writer

Bringing in a room full of interested listeners and supporters of the Armenian community, guest speakers Vincent Lima and Ara Sarafian successfully held the attention of the audience for over an hour.

The speakers were Vincent Lima, a doctoral student at the University of Michigan and Ara Sarafian, also working at the University of Michigan, who is an expert on Armenian genocide documentation. These young scholars are the editors of the recently published journal, *Armenian Forum*.

The lecture, co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and the Armenian Students Organization, was held at Fresno State on September 10th.

Ara Sarafian spoke about the background of the *Armenian Forum*. He mentioned that the purpose of the journal was to gather

scholars together and encouraging them to publish articles on contemporary issues in the Armenian community. He talked about the stages that they went through in

Sarafian also noted that when it comes to Armenian issues concerning the Armenian people, the Genocide isn't the only topic to be further explored. He stated that

and Armenian foreign policy. *Armenian Forum* is committed to a wide range of issues and topics that effect all Armenians and that will increase the level of interest in the journal. The editors of the *Armenian Forum* are confident that by producing this publication, Armenians will be kept informed.

Vincent Lima informed the audience about the involvement of the Turkish government in the Armenian Genocide and their consistent denial of its occurrence. Lima gave a new perspective on the Turkish denial to many listeners. Lima stated that the denial of the Armenian genocide is actually a "blessing in disguise." The Turkish denial has led to higher motivation in the Armenian community and has given them raw material and determination in fighting the denial.

Lima also spoke about de-

ARMENIAN FORUM

A Journal of Contemporary Affairs



Arthur M. Markey & Robert S. Markey: Caspian Oil and Gharabagh
Anahit Kossobian • David Kazanjian • H. Aram Vesset
Mikael Voskanyan: Nationalism, Sexuality, and Armenian Identity
Loren A. Laitman: The Lessons of History
The State of Armenian Studies
Linda Gannan May: Hayastan in Present-Day Yerevan: Polaroids
Book Reviews • CD Reviews

Number 1 • Spring 1998



order to produce the journal. He noted that with "hard work and perseverance", the journal has become successful, with a second issue just published.

one current and important issue is the Armenian diaspora today. These topics are included in the second issue, as well as two other topics: breast feeding in Armenia

bates among specialists of the genocide. He also mentioned the Turkish government's goal in denying the genocide, as well as the issue of Pan-Turkism.

The lecture was concluded by intriguing questions and comments that demonstrated the interest level and attentiveness of the audience.

Armenians and the Internet

The Internet and the World Wide Web are one of the fastest growing areas in computers today. There is a web site for almost any subject, including the Armenians. Using any search engine, one can make hundreds or even thousands of matches just by typing the keyword "Armenian." There are web sites for educational institutions, churches, youth organizations, political organizations and so on. But with all of these different sites and different subject areas it can often be difficult to find exactly what one wants. Fortunately, there are sites that can be helpful in locating the information desired. Here are some of those sites.

Armenian Sites on the Internet:

Armenpress News Agency:

Address: www.armenpress.am/

Maintained by: Norair Heybatian

Supported by: Armenpress News Agency

Categories: News, Photos, Education, Sport, Ads, Constitution of Republic of Armenia, Armenpress Bulletin, Economic News, AGN.

How to use: By simply clicking any of those categories and following the directions one can navigate through the site.

Comments: This site has a lot of information and has a creative design. With a variety of categories it is good for anyone seeking news on Armenian subjects.

California State University - Fresno Armenian Studies Program:

Address: www.csufresno.edu/

ArmenianStudies/

Supported by: CSUF Armenian Studies Program

Maintained by: Ara Mekhitarian

Categories: Faculty, Department Information, Hye Sharzhoom, Sched-

ule of Courses, Minor in Armenian Studies, Public Lectures & Speeches, Book of the Month, Information on Scholarships, Society of Armenian Studies (SAS), Armenian Students Organization, Upcoming Events, ASP Links.

How to use: Selecting any of the categories will give the information or links to where the information is.

Comments: This site is very user-friendly and well-organized. It is especially good for those seeking information about Armenian Studies or the CSUF campus.

This is just a sampling of the many Armenian web sites that exist. *Hye Sharzhoom* is going to begin a project to find and bring to its readers the most useful and interesting Web sites. If anyone has any ideas or knows of any good Web sites please let us know by e-mailing: arakela@csufresno.edu or barlowd@csufresno.edu.

Armenian Studies Program

California State University, Fresno



Faculty

Dickran Kouymjian Barlow Der Mugrdchian Isabel Kaprielian

• Department Information	• Hye Sharzhoom
• Fall 98 Schedule of courses	• Minor in Armenian Studies
• Public Lectures and Speeches	• Society for Armenian Studies (SAS)
• Armenian Textbooks for Learning Modern Western Armenia	• Armenian Students Organization
• Upcoming Events	• Book of the Month

[Click here for Information on Armenian Studies Scholarships](#)

ASP Links

Memoirs of a Genocide Survivor

The following is a continuation in a series of student essays to be published by Hye Sharzhoom. If you have an essay about any aspect of Armenian life or culture that you would like to publish in Hye Sharzhoom, please contact Dr. Kaprielian in Social Science Room 216 or call her at 278-6493 or the Armenian Studies Program office at 278-2669.

By Chad Kirkorian

Staff Writer

Last semester I interviewed Richard Ashton, an Armenian Genocide survivor, for a term-paper on the Genocide. While interviewing Mr. Ashton I realized how much I have missed by not discussing the Genocide with other survivors, especially relatives, who lived through the horrific years of bloodshed. There are few survivors left, and I as a student of history believe that we should develop relationships with these survivors who can offer us more than any type of

information we may find within a textbook. The following is an excerpt of my interview with Mr. Ashton:

In February of 1915, Jevdet Bey was appointed governor of Van, and demanded 4,000 Armenian men for military conscription. The Armenian community was determined not to provide Jevdet with a pretext for violence, and therefore offered 400 men along with a military exemption tax-payment. Jevdet determined the offer was unacceptable, and government terror began to break out in the countryside. Richard Ashton, a six-year old child during the Van resistance (1915), was living in the small seaport town of Avantz. In April, the majority of the Armenian male population of Avantz was murdered, and throughout the Van province 55,000 Armenians were put to death. Many Armenians in Van expected an attack from the Turks, therefore, a small resistance group took precautionary action fortifying the city prior to assault.

According to Ashton, "The Armenians had formed a defense perimeter around Van consisting of two to three foot high stones. The Armenians would lie down flat on the ground, and shoot at the edge of the stone, so they were only one-tenth of a target to the Turkish soldiers." Since it was illegal by government decree for non-Moslems to possess arms, the Armenians of Van were outmatched by Turkish firepower. "The Armenian resistance of Van, recalls Ashton, consisted of 150 rifles and 300 pistols against ten to twelve thousand Turkish soldiers with 24 cannons. The Turks would blast our buildings, and we would patch one up and then the other. We were getting nowhere, so we tunneled under the Turkish barracks and dynamited them. It was all the Armenians could do." Armenians resisted the initial Turkish assault and organized a makeshift system of government to run the city. They held out until the Russian army arrived and forced the Turks to retreat. Ashton acknowledges that, "When the Russian army arrived at Van the exuberance was beyond reason." However, the Russian army was experiencing enormous

bloodshed on the European front, and the Russian government decided to abandon its Turkish offensive in order to save materials and men. Ashton recalls the Russian commander's explanation, "We have received orders from Moscow to return to mother Russia... and we suggest that you Armenians leave too, because any main buildings, food supplies, or equipment we cannot take, were going to burn."

The threat of another Turkish attack, following the Russian withdrawal, forced many Armenians to leave the city of Van. The destination of these refugees was a relief camp near Erevan, which was organized by a relief organization. Although the main route to Erevan covered a distance of 163 miles, the road was subject to constant attack by Turks in search of Armenians, their property, and possessions. Therefore, the Armenians traveled west around Lake Van beyond the Caucasus Mountains and then turned back southeast through Tiflis before reaching Erevan.

According to Ashton, there was a scarcity of water along the 300 mile detour to Erevan. One day a woman approached him and his brother

to use their tea kettle in order to fetch water from a nearby spring she had found. In desperate need of water, Ashton and his brother fell out of line and waited for the woman to return. Although the woman never reappeared, Ashton admits, "She saved our life. The next noon we came upon a scene where the Turks had attacked about seventy people, who had

their throats cut and their heads bashed from the butt of a gun. They had been the people we fell out of line from."

There were 30,000 Armenians situated in the refugee camp, which was located three miles from Etchmiadzin. However, an outbreak of cholera caused up to 300 deaths a day. Ashton's words tell of this tragedy: "They brought in the sick, and if they were going to die they would leave the stretchers outside and take into the barracks only those who could recover... for a while they buried them individually then they opened up a pit and threw in 200 to 300 bodies and covered it up." Ashton witnessed five of his family members succumb to disease in a total of eight days in these horrendous conditions. Aside from disease, the impoverished living conditions within the camp left many Armenians in despair. A wagon would come by once a day and ladle out soup to only those individuals who possessed their own plate or pan. Refugees lined up in makeshift dwellings. Ashton and his brother left the camp and walked to Baku in an attempt to survive.

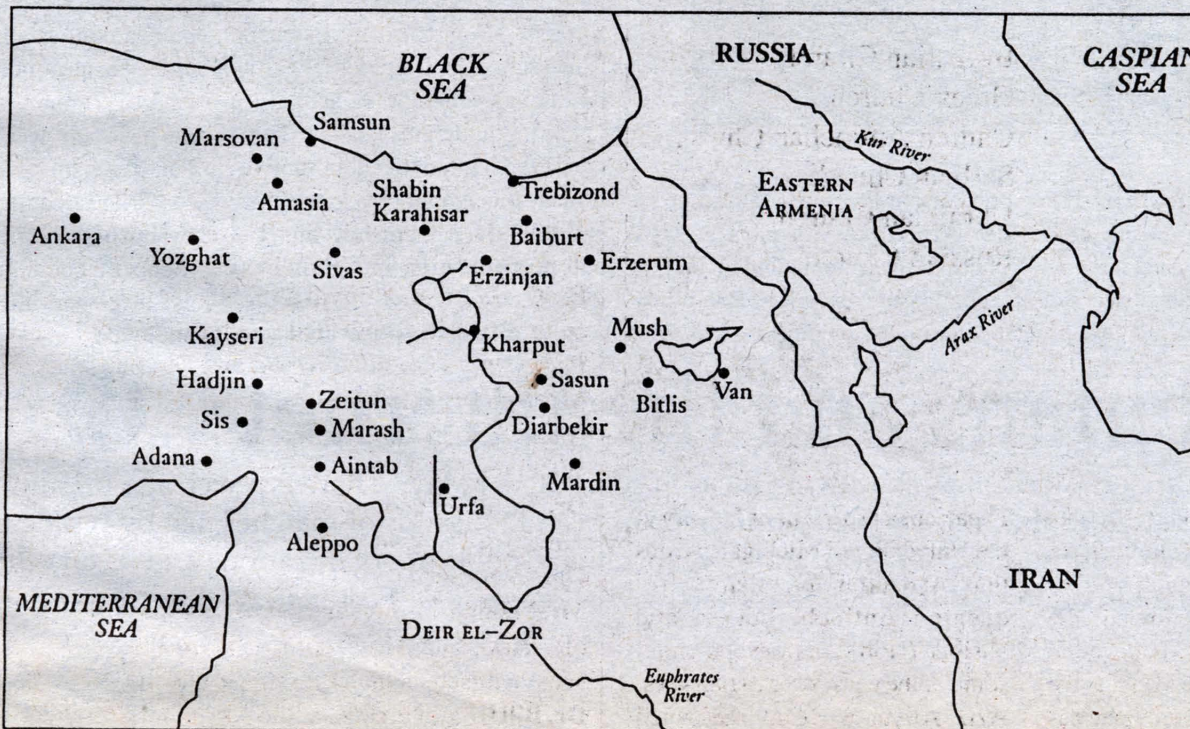
Ashton finally found a better life when his eldest brother, who had been shipped to the United States in order to evade the Turkish draft, went back to Erevan in search of his family. In 1916, Ashton's eldest brother proceeded to the refugee camp, and received word that two young boys had traveled to Baku a few days earlier. Eventually, Ashton was reunited with his brother and taken back to the United States. Richard Ashton now resides in Fresno and has worked hard in order to create a prosperous life for himself in America.

Ashton and his brother left the camp and walked to Baku in an attempt to survive.

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The Genocide (1915-1922)

HYE SHARZHOOM, Cont. from Page 1

A small number of people had suddenly thrust the Armenian Question into full view once again. This activity coincided with the growing awareness of Fresno State students of their culture and history. Most Armenian students at Fresno State then had grand-parents and great-grand-parents who were from historical Western Armenia, the locus of the Genocide. They became interested in oral history and in learning more about their own identity.

Armenia in 1979 was still behind the Iron Curtain, in the Soviet Union. Very few people visited there. Some dreamt of the day when Armenia would be independent, but this was a far off dream.

No one could have predicted the events of 1988-1991 which resulted in the independence of a second Republic of Armenia. And yet those students thought about these issues, about Armenia, her past, present, and future.

Hye Sharzhoom did not start in a vacuum. There was already an Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State, directed by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, offering classes for students to learn about their culture and heritage. The Program provided much information to students to learn more about their culture and history. This educational base combined with the energy and interest of the students led to the formation of Hye Sharzhoom.

And so students Mark

Malkasian, Bill Eryasian, Bryan Bedrosian, Dale Tatoian, Mark Najarian, and others started a newspaper, a small step, which over the years developed into a voice which today reaches an international audience of more than 6,000 readers, as well as the students on the Fresno State campus. Hye Sharzhoom has remained the authentic voice of the Armenian students.

What remains for Hye Sharzhoom? Has everything that needs to have been said, been said? Are students interested any longer in expressing themselves about the issues which affect them today? There is still much to be said. New generations of students are adding to the Hye Sharzhoom tradition. They are bringing fresh perspectives

and new energy and as long as there are students on campus who take an interest in the world, Hye Sharzhoom will continue in its mission.

Hye Sharzhoom is the oldest continuously published Armenian student newspaper in the United States. It has, and will continue to stimulate and intellectually engage future generations. Hye Sharzhoom provides an avenue for involvement that students will continue to take advantage of in the coming years.

A new generation of students will lead Hye Sharzhoom into the twentieth century. They will have the responsibility to continue the tradition. We will all look forward to their words.

Hye Sharzhoom Staff

Following are the names of the dozens of students who served on the staff of Hye Sharzhoom throughout the years.

We congratulate their efforts and dedication in putting together this great newspaper. We will publish the remaining names of staff in future issues of the 20th Anniversary Hye Sharzhoom.

Vol. 1, No. 1

April 16-24, 1979

Editors: Mark Malkasian, Mark Najarian
Staff: Bryan Bedrosian, Dale Tatoian, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Patty Torosian
Advisor: Dr. Dickran Kouymjian

Vol. 2, No. 1

November 2, 1979

Editors: Mark Malkasian, Bill Eryasian, Mark Najarian
Staff: Dick Ashjian, Warren Paboojian, Maro Kechejian, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Bryan Bedrosian, Bill Sahatdjian
Advisor: Dr. Dickran Kouymjian

Vol. 2, No. 2

January 11, 1980

Editors: Mark Malkasian, Bill Eryasian
Staff: Dick Ashjian, Warren Paboojian, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Bryan Bedrosian, Bill Sahatdjian, Varoujan Der Simonian, Alan Atamian, Marx Arax
Ad. Manager: Janalee Gazarian
Advisor: Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Allan Jendian

Vol. 2, No. 3

April 1980

Editors: Mark Mark Malkasian, Bill Eryasian
Staff: Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Warren Paboojian, Bryan Bedrosian, Cindy Avakian, Flora Tchaderjian, Mark Najarian, Mark Arax, Maral Tchaderjian, Bill Sahatdjian
Ad Manager: Jim Malkasian
Advisor: Dr. Dickran Kouymjian

Vol. 2, No. 4

June 1980

Editors: Bill Eryasian, Mark Malkasian
Staff: Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Bryan Bedrosian, Cindy Avakian, Karekin Setian, Mark Arax
Production: Bill Eryasian
Ad. Manager: Jim Malkasian
Advisors: Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Allan Jendian

The Armenian Church Its Sister Churches

By Jennifer Ounjian
Staff Writer

Introduction: Throughout my studies I have always been interested in the interaction and sharing between cultures. I hope that this two part series will help us as Armenians identify our religious allies and build even stronger 'family' relations

phers of the time including St. Basil and Cyril the Great. This led to the Ecumenical Movement, a series of four meetings or Councils of the hierarchy of all Christian Churches to discuss Early Christian beliefs and traditions and decide upon which rules and laws should be followed

It was the Fourth Council, the Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon in 451 A.D. which marks the sepa-

tor in 301 A.D. during the reign of King Tiridates. The Coptic Church of Egypt traces its conversion back to St. Mark in the first century and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church to the time of the Apostles and officially during the reign of King Ezana (320-356 AD.). But what was the relationship between the Armenian Church and its sister churches in the 1st century and after the 451 A.D. Council? Dr.

Western Christianity-Eastern Christianity

Roman Catholic Church

Protestant Churches
Baptist
Presbyterian
Congregational
Many others

Lesser Eastern Orthodox Churches

Armenian Church
Ethiopian Church
Coptic (Egyptian)
Indian Church of Malabar
Syrian Church

Greater Eastern Orthodox Churches

Bulgarian Church
Greek Church
Church Antiochan Church
Serbian Church
Ukrainian Church
Russian Church

What makes a people? What makes a culture? It has been said that the term "ethnic" or "cultural" group can be used to define a group of people that share a common land, history, and language. But what is the bond that holds us, the Armenians, together in the Diaspora? If we no longer live in our homeland and only know parts of our history what makes us call ourselves Armenians after a few generations in America? Aside from language, the bond that links

ration of East and West. At this meeting the Western Churches accused the Coptic Church and its sister churches of following the Bishop Eutyches, who believed in monophysitism, or the idea that the Lord Jesus Christ has only one nature, the divine. However, it was not true that they followed Eutyches. The Encyclopedia Coptica states that the Council wanted to exile the Churches because of their belief in separation of Church and state. It has also

Papazian, a professor of History at the University of Michigan, writes that Armenian merchants frequented Antioch, Edessa and Nisibis (Northern Mesopotamia) some of the earliest Christian sites. Aziz Atiya, a world renowned scholar of Mediaeval and Near East studies and UNESCO committee member, writes that the Egyptian Coptic missionaries moved freely through Palestine, Syria, Cappadocia, Caesara, Arabia, and India.

What relationships, if any, were held between the Armenians and the Copts? Did Egyptian Copts or Ethiopians visit Armenia? Did Armenian merchants or missionaries travel into Africa?

Unfortunately, after 451 A.D. Egyptian Copts were under heavy religious persecution from the ruling Byzantine Empire until 641 A.D. when they fell to Arab conquerors and the promise of religious freedom. Armenia, which had won religious freedom from the Persians in 484 A.D., also fell to Arab conquests in the 7th century. Dr. Atiya writes that during Arab rule Ethiopia had no contact with anyone except Coptic Egyptians from about 650 A.D. until 1270 A.D..

In 1965 then Bishop Karekin Sarkissian writes that the Muslim conquests "had such repercussions on the situation of these churches that their numbers and influence were very much reduced and weakened....all such tribulations converted these churches into inward looking, self contented communities."

Did this massive Muslim domination keep the Eastern Orthodox Churches separate and individual?

What is the relationship between these Eastern Orthodox Churches in the 20th century?

Of what importance was the Conference of the Heads of the Oriental Orthodox Churches in

Armenians to the homeland is religion. It is the thread that has been woven into our memories and binds us to our ancestors. But what makes our religion special and different? Are we the only people in the world whose church belongs to the Lesser Eastern Orthodox family?

The answer is no. There are actually 4 other churches that belong to our family. They are the Syrian Church, the Indian Church of Malabar, the Egyptian Coptic Church, and the Ethiopian Church. Christianity spread first from Palestine through Northern Africa through Ethiopia, in Syria, Iran, as far as India, and also in Anatolia, Asia Minor, Greece, and Rome. But what made us separate from the others?

Two early Coptic contributions lead us to that answer. The first was the Catechetical School of Alexandria before 200 A.D. It was here that the Bible and Christianity were studied by a wide variety of theologians and philoso-

been theorized that the Eastern Churches resented the growing political power of the Western Churches.

Despite the reason, it is here that the Eastern Churches adopt the definition of St. Cyril of Alexandria, which was stated at the 431 A.D. council, "the one nature united in the Incarnate Word of God." This is to say that there were two natures before incarnation but only one after the union, the human nature (of Lord Jesus Christ) was not dissolved in the Divine but rather the Divine made the human nature immediately it's own. This is what originally bound us together as a family.

However, questions still remain. It is maintained by most religious scholars that Christianity was brought to the Armenians by the apostles St. Thaddeus and St. Bartholomew in the 1st century; later the official conversion was made by St. Gregory the Illumina-

Gifts and Books

The Armenian Studies Program, its Sahatdjian Library and the Avedian Archives, would like to thank the following individuals for their generous donations.

Consulate General of the Republic of Armenia, of Beverly Hills, for a subscription to *Armenia and the World*.

Tamar Dasnabédian for the book: Dasnabédian, T., *Tiramayr-2*, Beirut., Sipan, 1997.

Department of Armenian Affairs, of Portugal, for *Catalogue des Manuscrits Armeniens de Venise Vol. VII*.

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America of New York for: Arzoumanian, Z., Azgapatum, *History of the Armenian Nation Volume Four Book Two 1930-1955*, New York: St. Vartan Press, 1997 and the set of *Etchmiadzin* journals.

Diocese of the Armenian Church of Iran for Manoogian, A., *Shoghartzak (Rays) Vol. 4*. Iran: Alik Publishers, 1997.

Dr. Molly Ruth Harris of Washington D.C. for *The History of Holy Places of Jerusalem. Constantinople, 1727*.

Fiona Hill, Harvard University Kennedy School of Government, Two reports on the Caucasus: *The Search for Peace in Chechnya A Sourcebook 1994-1996* and *The Caucasus and the Caspian 1996-1997 Seminar Series Volume II*.

Japan Armenia Friendship Association (Ex-Japanese Institute of Armenia) for the 5th Anniversary of the booklet "Armenia".

Prof. Dickran Kouymjian Response to 'Modern Armenian culture' the distinguished lecture of Levon Zekiyan", *Armenian Perspectives*. United Kingdom, Curzon, 1997, pp.355-361.

Mr. Henry Manoogian of Amherst for a copy of: Ghazarian, V., (Edited by), *A Village Remembered, The Armenians of Habousi*. Waltham, Mayreni Publishing, 1997.

Dr. Rubina Perroomian of Glendale for her book, Perroomian, R., *A.R.F.-Bolshevik Relations in Armenia 1917-1921*, Erevan: Erevan University Press.

Mrs. Helen Pilibosian and H. Sarkissian of Watertown, copies of: Sarkissian, H., *From Kessab to Watertown: A Modern Saga*, Massachusetts: Ohan Press 1996 and the poem: *The Round Sound*.

Dr. Bill Rice of Fresno for the books and periodicals on Agrosience and Farm Management.

Scholars Press, Ghougassian, V., *The Emergence of the Armenian Diocese of New Julfa in the Seventeenth Century*, Atlanta: Scholars Press 1998.

Sarkis Shahinian of Switzerland for his book *Armenien Tagebuch einer Reise in das Land des Ararat*, Zurich: 1995.

Spurk Magazine of Beirut Lebanon for a copy of their magazine.

Mr. Pascal Tchakmakian of France for copies of his books: Tchakmakian, P., *Le Crepuscule Des Angel*, Paris: 1984 and Tchakmakian, P., *Les Contes du Ballon Rouge*. Paris: 1986.

Mr. Ara Topouzkhaniyan of Fresno for the books: Aved, T., *Toomas the Little Armenian Boy*. Fresno: Pioneer Press 1979 and Jebejian, L., *Life in Christ*, Los Angeles: 1995.

Arman Vartanyan of Istanbul for a copy of his book: Vartanyan, A., *A Pair*, Istanbul: 1997.

Vernadoun Monthly of Glendale California for a subscription to their magazine *Vernadoun Monthly*.

Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund, of Waltham MA a copy of: Ghazarian, V., *Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, An Anthology of Transformation 13th - 19th Centuries*, Waltham: Mayreni Publishing 1998. **Gift unknown:** Danielian, S., *The Inner Artistic World of Rob Haddejian*, Turkey: 1996.

1965?

What are the relationships of the Eastern Orthodox family in Fresno?

In Part II I will attempt to answer these questions and explore some connections between these peoples, these cultures that share one of the strongest bonds that characterize a culture, religion.

For more information on this subject:

Atiya, Aziz. *A History of Eastern Christianity*. University of Notre Dame Press, Indiana. 1968.

Bishop Karekin Sarkissian. *The Witness of the Oriental Orthodox Churches*. 1968.

Papazian, Dennis. *Armenians*. Web site <http://www.umd.umich.edu/dept/armenian/papazian/armenia.html>

Hye Sharzhoom Needs Writers, Photographers, Copy Editors

Annual Dinner, Cont. from Page 1

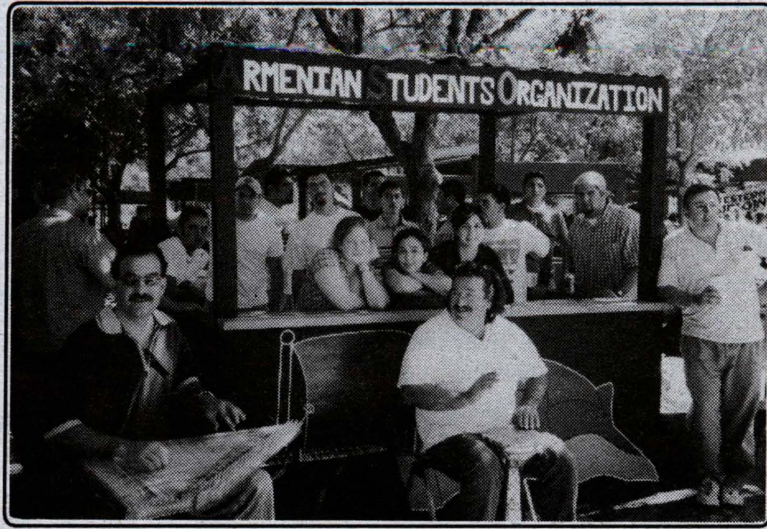
camp near the desert town of Baquba, north of Baghdad, Iraq. After completing his elementary education at the Holy Translators Armenian School in Baghdad, he entered the theological seminary of the Armenian Patriarchate of St. James in Jerusalem as the youngest student of his class. On August 2, 1936, he was ordained into the holy diaconate by his spiritual father and favorite teacher, the late Patriarch, Archbishop Torkom Koushagian. At his ordination as a priest on July 23, 1939, he was given the name Torkom.

After four years as Primate of the Western Diocese, in April 1966, Bishop Torkom was elected Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. Two years later, on the occasion of the consecration of St. Vartan Cathedral, the first Armenian cathedral in America in whose construction he played a pivotal role, the late Holiness Vazken I conferred upon Bishop Torkom the title of Archbishop.

Having served six consecutive terms as Primate of the Eastern Diocese—24 years—Archbishop Torkom was elected Patriarch of Jerusalem on March 22, 1990.

His Beatitude holds several academic honors, including an honorary doctorate granted to him by the General Theological Seminary in New York. In 1986 he was the recipient of two prestigious American medals: the Statue of Liberty Medal, and the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. January 18, 1990 marked the 50th anniversary of his ordination, an event celebrated nationwide in the United States.

A musician, choral conductor, composer, poet and writer, Archbishop Torkom has a wide range of personal interests and pursuits.



Musicians Jimand Edward Karagozian entertaining students with traditional Armenian music at the Armenian Students Organization Independence Day Shish Kebab Sale.

ASO, Cont. from Page 1

members. By participating in Clubs and Organizations Day during Welcome Week and by recruiting heavily, the ASO phone list has grown to over 60 people.

Besides the bi-weekly meeting the ASO tries to have many other socials and events. A Back to School Party was held on September 19th at Barlow Der Mugrdechian's house. Over 35 members got together for shish kebab and socializing. The following Monday the ASO held its Armenian Independence Day Shish Kebab Sale. The shish kebab was so popular that by noon everything was sold out. During the sale, Jim and Ed Karagozian played traditional Armenian Music for the students at Fresno State. Besides these social activities the ASO also co-sponsored, along with the Armenian Studies Program, a lecture by Ara Sarafian and Vincent Lima on their publication *Armenian Forum*. This was a great opportunity for student to interact and talk with

Armenian scholars on current issues.

On September the 26th the ASO went to the Homecoming tailgate and game. It was an eventful evening, especially when it suddenly began raining. Most everyone was unprepared and ran for cover.

It has only been a month and so much has happened. The main focus of the month of October is the All-State Student Convention. The All-State Student Convention is going to be held during the weekend of October 23-25 on the Fresno State campus. The convention will have many goals. One purpose is to have a fun and educational way of getting together all the Armenian student organizations. More importantly, the convention will give students an opportunity to discuss topics that are of interest to Armenian students in college. Already many Armenian Student Associations have responded and said that they are coming.

Besides the convention other event are planned for the coming months. Some of those include an International Dance and Music Festival and a Winter Ski Trip. The coming year will be filled with exciting and educational events. Any student interested in Armenian issues and activities is welcome to come and participate. Students can join by calling Arakel Arisian at (209) 432-8959 or the Armenian Studies Office at (209) 278-2669.

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speaking on

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We do know your correct first name!

Due to a technical mishap in the CSUF Print Shop, our computerized mailing list was scrambled and nearly everyone was re-christened with a new first name. Dr. and Mrs. Kouymjian became “Major & Marge Kouymjian,” Barlow Der Mugrdechian became “Lanny Paul Der Mugrdechian.” Please be assured that our mailing list has your name correctly spelled. We hope you will all be as amused as we were with our new names. We hope you will get beyond the envelope, read my letter and send in your contribution for this year's Fund Drive.

Dickran Kouymjian
Haig & Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies
California State University, Fresno

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