

# HYE SHARZHOOM Armenian Action ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՍՄ

23<sup>rd</sup>  
Year

October 2001

Vol. 23, No.1 (75)

Supplement to The Collegian

## His Holiness Karekin II Gives Address at Fresno State

By Barlow Der Mugrdechian  
Hye Sharzhoom Advisor

His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians made an official visit to California State University, Fresno on Wednesday, May 9, 2001, as part of His Holiness' official visit to the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America. His Holiness was invited by the Armenian Studies Program to give the only university lecture during his visit to the United States and Canada.

His Holiness arrived at the entrance of the Leon S. Peters Business Building with his entourage, which included His Eminence Vatché Hovsepian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Diocese of Canada, His Eminence Navasart Kjoyan, Patriarch Vicar of the Araratian Diocese, and accompanied by the chancellor for the Holy See, by his staff bearer

and by members of the hosting committee of the San Joaquin Valley.

His Holiness was greeted by Dr. Michael Ortiz, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs of the University and by Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program. The Armenian Students Organization executive and members, as well as other Fresno State students were also on hand to greet his Holiness. A banner welcoming the Catholicos was draped across the entrance to the University Business Center.

Prior to his noon address, H. H. Karekin II met with Barlow Der Mugrdechian and the executive of the Armenian Students Organization. The Catholicos presented the Armenian Studies Program a hand-made carpet woven by children at one of the Youth Centers located in Yerevan.

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, on behalf of the Armenian Studies Program, thanked His Holiness for the beautiful gift.

A standing-room only crowd of more than 150 people awaited the Catholicos in the Alice Peters



His Holiness Karekin II with faculty, students, and staff at Fresno State.

Auditorium, where he spoke, in Armenian, on the topic of "The Armenian Church and Globalization and the Armenian Church in the 20th Century." Rev. Fr. Arshen

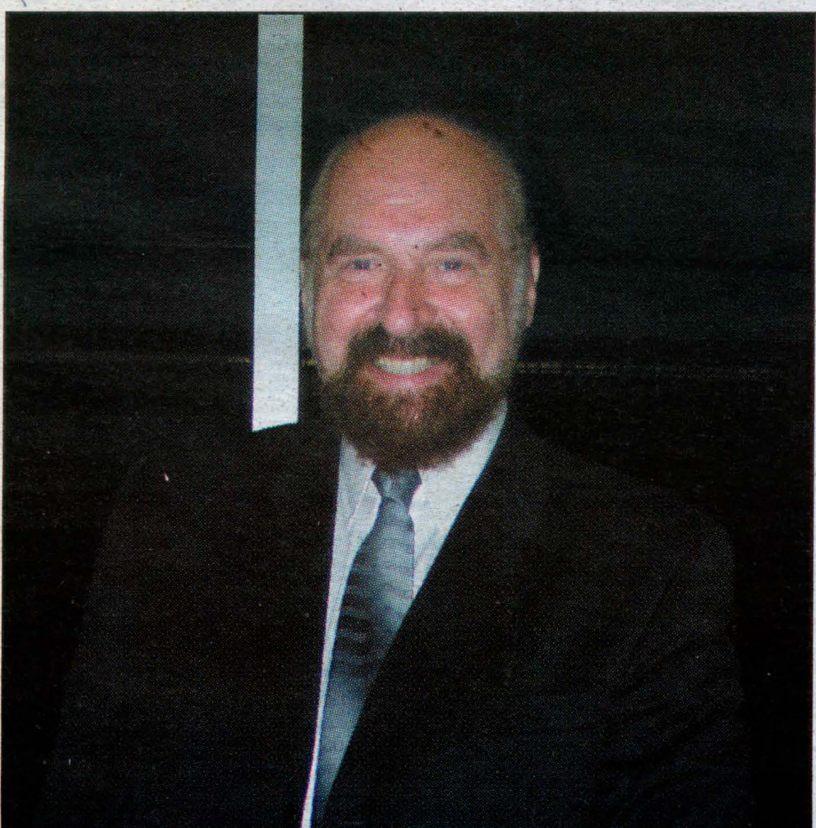
Aivazian, Pastor of St. Paul Armenian Church, translated his remarks into English. Following the prepared remarks, which lasted about 30 minutes, His Holiness spoke

briefly in English and answered questions from the audience.

Following the presentation, His Holiness was met by Univer-

See Catholicos, Page 7

## Robert H. Hewsen Appointed Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor for Fall 2001 at Fresno State



Dr. Robert H. Hewsen

By Chris Tozlian  
Staff Writer

It is rare to sit and converse with a complete stranger who so thoroughly intrigues you; yet I

had this opportunity when, across the table sat Dr. Robert Hewsen, Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor for the Armenian Studies Program. Though our conversation was relatively brief, I left

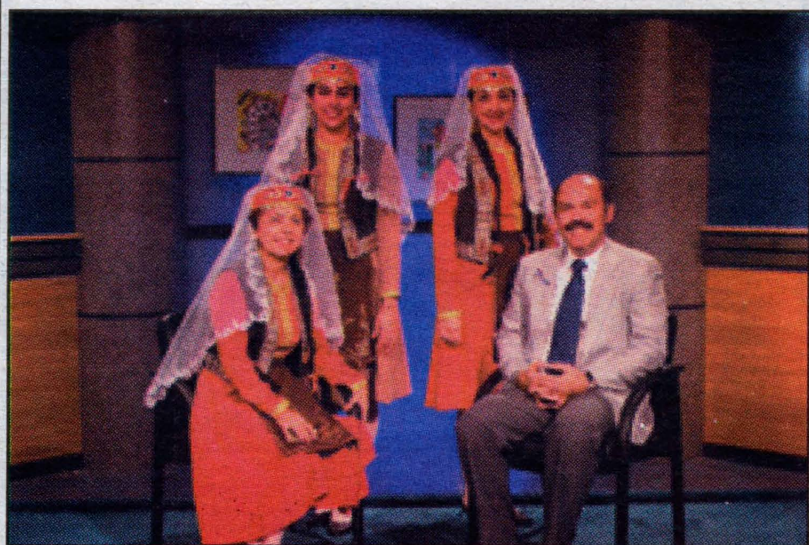
the room realizing that Dr. Hewsen was not only a historian, but also a true scholar.

When Dr. Hewsen received his Ph.D. from Georgetown University, it was at a time when there were no Armenian Studies courses offered, let alone an Armenian Studies program, on any campus. However, since his graduation, Dr. Hewsen has had a passion for Armenian Studies; it is precisely for this reason that he received his Ph.D. in Russian and Byzantine history, since many historians at that time considered Armenian history to be a sub-section of either Russian or Byzantine history. Dr. Hewsen has spent the last 33 years teaching both Byzantine and Russian history at Rowan University of New Jersey.

Dr. Hewsen confessed that he still enjoys teaching Armenian history courses, especially to students who share his enthusiasm for that subject. He said that the interest demonstrated by those currently enrolled in his "Armenians in the 20th Century" course and "The

See Hewsen, Page 7

## Hye Talk Television Show Premieres



Left to Right: Arax Armenian Dancers Zar Der Mugrdechian, Lena Abrahamian, and Mary Mirigian with Hye Talk host Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

### Staff Report

Hye Talk, the television interview program, produced by the Armenian Studies Program and Department of Mass Communications and Journalism at Fresno State, had its premiere on Thursday, October 11.

The show airs on ATT Broadband (Cable) Channel 14 on Thursday nights, from 10:00-10:30 PM.

Hye Talk host Barlow Der

Mugrdechian, of the Armenian Studies Program, will interview a variety of people for the program. The first three shows highlight Armenian dance and music.

Hye Talk will also include a new addition, 2-3 minute "packages," pre-produced and airing during the shows. These "packages" will highlight various areas of interest to the community.

See Hye Talk, Page 7



## His Holiness Karekin II Receives Pope Paul II at Holy Etchmiadzin



AP/ Misha Japaridze

At right: His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, with Pope John Paul II of the Roman Catholic Church at Holy Etchmiadzin, during the visit of the Pope to Armenia.

# HYE SHARZHOOM

## ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՒՄ

### Editors

Michael Harutonian  
Sevag Tateosian

### Staff

Nazik Arisian  
Tamara Karakashian  
Ara Mekhitarian  
Arpik Paraghamian  
Chris Tozlian

### Photographers

Dikran Chekian  
Barlow Der Mugrdechian

### Advisor

Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Hye Sharzhoom is a supplement of The Collegian and the newspaper of the C.S.U.F. Armenian Students 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 student readers. For further information concerning the newspaper or the Armenian Studies Program:

Armenian Studies Program  
5245 N. Backer Ave. PB4  
Fresno, CA 93740-8001

Telephone (559) 278-2669 • FAX (559) 278-2129  
<http://www.csufresno.edu/ArmenianStudies/>

### Armenian Studies Program Faculty:

Dickran Kouymjian, *Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, Coordinator*  
Barlow Der Mugrdechian, *Lecturer, ASO Advisor*  
Robert H. Hewsen, *Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies*  
Frances C. Ziegler, *Program Administrative Assistant*

## California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program

## Spring 2002 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
<b>General Education</b>				
<b>Social Sciences Area D3, for students using 1999/2000 catalog and after</b>				
<b>Division 9-Other Cultures, for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before</b>				
• Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies	3	1230-1345	TTh	R. Hewsen
• Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies	3	1000-1050	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
<b>Division 7-Languages, for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before</b>				
<b>Arts &amp; Humanities, Area C2 for students using 1999/2000 Catalog and after</b>				
• Arm 1B Elementary Armenian	4	1100-1150	MTWF	B Der Mugrdechian
<b>Division 6-Languages, for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before</b>				
<b>Arts &amp; Humanities, Integration IC, for students using 1999/2000 Catalog and after</b>				
• Arm St 148 Mastpcs Arm Lit	3	0900-0950	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
<b>Upper Division Courses</b>				
• Arm St 105 Arm Genocide	3	1000-1050	MWF	I. Kaprielian
• Arm St 108B Arm History II	3	0930-1045	TTh	R. Hewsen
• Arm St 120T Karabagh in Arm Hist3	3	1900-2200	W	R. Hewsen
• Arm St 120T Armenian Dance	1	F 1700-2200; S 0900-1700		

*Armenian Dance will be held on Friday, March 1, and Saturday, March 2, 2002*

For more information call the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669 or visit our offices in the Peters Business Building, Room 384.

### Mailing List Updates

Do we have your name spelled incorrectly? Are you receiving more than one Hye Sharzhoom with the same name at your home?

Please let us know so we can update our mailing list.

Write us at:

Armenian Studies Program  
CSU Fresno  
5245 N. Backer Ave M/S  
PB 4,  
Fresno, CA 93740-8001.  
Or email:  
[franz@csufresno.edu](mailto:franz@csufresno.edu)

## Thank You

The Armenian Studies Program thanks the following women for their preparation of baked goods for the Armenian Studies Program Lecture Series:

Nazik Arisian  
Salpy Adams  
Vartui Filian  
Mary Mirigian

## ASP Annual Fund

(List as of Oct. 1, 2001)

### Sponsors

Sahag & Mary Egoian  
Triple X Fraternity of California,  
Selma Chapter

### Supporters

Alan Atamian  
Ralph & Louise Ayvazian  
Fresno Metropolitan Museum  
Dr. & Mrs. A. S. Hanissian  
Sherry J. Tozlian

## Armenian Studies Program Book/Video Donations

Dr. Kouymjian and the Armenian Studies Program would like to thank the donors, authors, and publishers for the following books, periodicals, videos and archival gifts.

**His Holiness Aram I**, Catholicos of the See of Cilicia for the copies of his books, *In Search of Ecumenical Vision*. Lebanon: Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia, 2000 and *L'église Face Aux Grands Défis*. Liban: Catholicossate Arménien De Cilicie.

**Armenian Cultural Fund**, Yakutsk, Russia, Posters.

**Fr. Zaven Arzoumanian**, for the copies of his booklet, *The Origins of the Armenian Christianity*. Florida: St. David Armenian Church, 2001.

**Vahan Baharian**, Van Nuys, for the copy of his book, *Golgotha Of An Exile*. Yerevan: Armenia Zangak Publishng, 2001.

**Mr. Vahé Barsoumian**, San Jose, CA, for the video by Sarkis Boghossian, *Récital De Poésie Arménienne*.

**Sarkis Boghossian**, *Iconographie arménienne, Armenian Iconography, Vol II*, Paris, 1998, 525 pages in folio, with over 600 reproductions of engravings, maps, documents. A monumental work by the late Sarkis Boghossian, tragically killed in Paris a couple of years ago. Vol. I published in 1987 contains more than 700 illustrations. The volume was donated by Vahé Barsoumian, co-editor, and Marie Louise Boghossian, sister of Sarkis. Originally \$200 a volume, they are available for approximately \$100 a volume, postage included through M.-L. Boghossian, 36 rue Bezout, 75014 Paris, France.

**Casa Editrice Armena**, Venezia, Italy, for a copy of the journal, *Bazmavep, Revue D'études Arméniennes Vol. II*.

**Antranik Dakessian**, *Haigazian Armenological Review*, Volume 20, Beirut: Armenian Department of Haigazian University.

**Armen Haghazarian**. Beirut, Lebanon, for the book by Samuel Karapetian, *Cultural Monuments In The Region of Karabagh*, Vol. III, Research On Armenian Architecture (RAA)Yerevan, 2000.

**Ms. Diana Der Hovanessian**, Cambridge, Mass, for her six books of poetry: *Sacred Wrath*, the *Selected Poems of Vahan Tekeyan*, *Any Day Now*, *The Circle Dancers*, *Songs of Bread*, *Songs of Salt*, *About Time*, *How to Choose Your Past*.

**Carl K. Mahakian**, Palm Desert, for additional Saroyan books, videos, archival material and articles.

**Fr. Vrtanes Oulouhodjian**, for a copy of *Bazmavep*, Armenian Studies Journal of the Mekhitarists of Venice Vol. 158 Nos. 1-4 (2000).

**George Shirinian** of the Zoryan Institute of Toronto, Canada, for the book by Taner Akçam, *Dialogue Across an International Divide: Essays Towards A Turkish-Armenian Dialogue*. Canada: The Zoryan Institute, 2001.

**Mr. Arman Vartanyan**, of Istanbul, Turkey, for the books, *Calupiri* by Arman Vartanyan and *The World of Armen Vartanyan* by Zarine Krikoryan.

**Fr. Boghos Levon Zekian**, *L'Armenia e gli armeni polis lacerata e patria spirituale; la sfida di una sopravvivenza*, Milan-Venice, 2000.

**Berge and Alice Bulbulian**, Fresno, for the book *Vergeen, A Survivor of the Armenian Genocide*. Los Angeles: Atmus Press Publications.



## Abcarian Presents Raffi's Novel

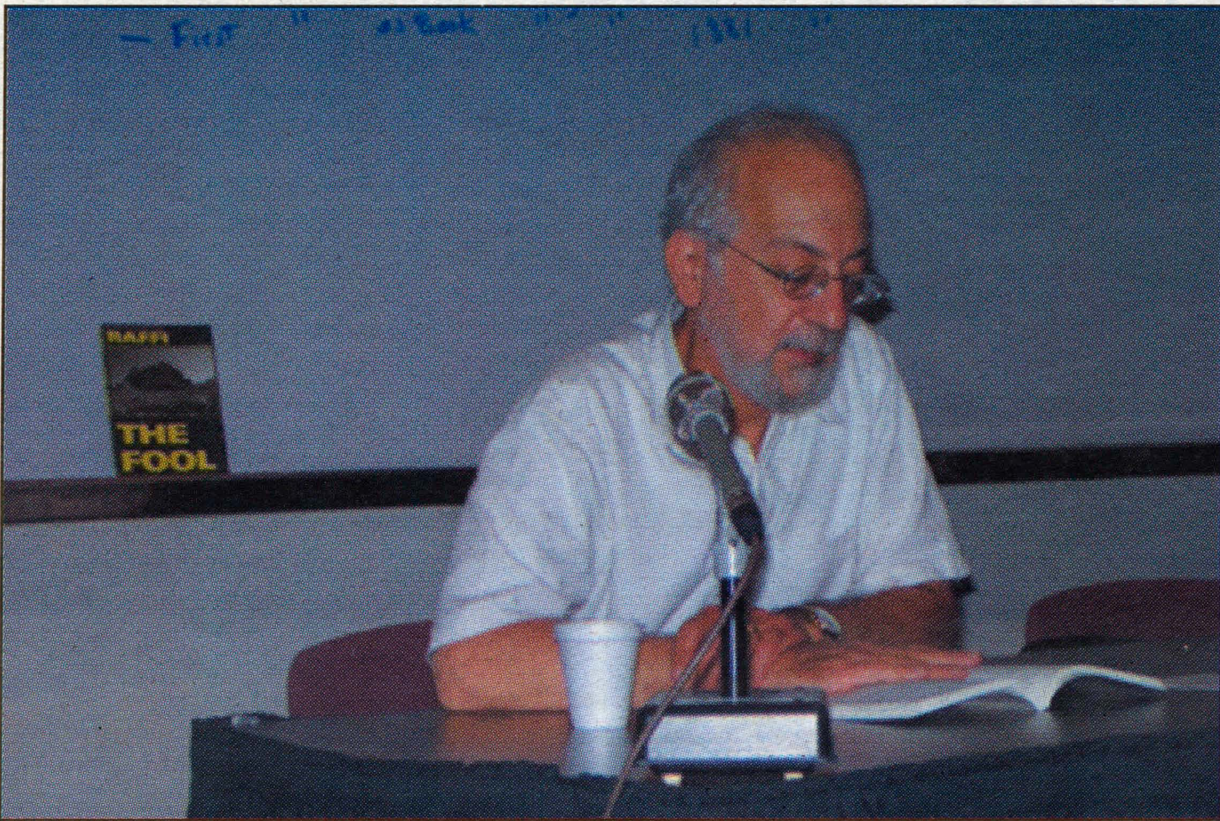


Photo by Dikran Chekian

By Arpik Paraghamian  
Staff Writer

Donald Abcarian, a graduate of U. C. Berkeley and a native of Fresno, recently translated Raffi's *The Fool*. Abcarian opened the Armenian Studies Program's Fall Lecture Series on Monday, September 10, with selected readings from his translation.

In 1835 Hagop Melik Hagopian was born in a village called Bayajuk, near Salmas, in northwest Iran. Though this name may seem unfamiliar, the person behind it is anything but. It was under the pen name Raffi, that Hagopian expressed himself poetically in an Eastern dialect of the Armenian language. With works such as *Salpi*, *Jalaleddin*, and *Davit-Bek*, Raffi kept Armenian literature alive. But, it was with his novel, *The Fool* (Khente), that he was able to capture an audience

that never let go. Though Raffi died in 1888 in Tiflis, he is still considered one of the most well known writers of Armenian literature.

Written in 1878 and set during the last Russo-Turkish war, *The Fool* was a reflection of the times. The results of the war between Turkey and Russia are apparent in the book. As Raffi describes the unfriendly events and paints the bloody images, one can't help but feel compassion for those who suffered.

A crowd of about 60 people, gathered in the Alice Peters Auditorium on campus, listened eagerly as Abcarian dedicated his readings to his father, Manouk Abcarian, who lived through the massacres that swept through Armenia in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, before he came to the United States in 1912.

Abcarian chose to translate *The*

*Fool* because he had a "deep emotional need to solve the mystery of Raffi," and he hoped his translation "gave some glimmer on who Raffi was."

Although he didn't know how to read Armenian, Abcarian says he taught himself by reading Raffi's literature. It also served Abcarian well to compare George Orwell's, *Animal Farm* in English and in Armenian to gain a better perspective on the ways literature can be translated.

*The Fool* took Abcarian about 4 years to translate. Abcarian admits it was challenging at times, but says translating this novel was fun and exciting. When asked if he has plans to translate more of Raffi's works, Abcarian light-heartedly replied, "I'm not ruling it out, but I only have so much eyesight."

*The Fool* is available from the publisher, Gomidas Institute, at [www.gomidas.org](http://www.gomidas.org).

Donald Abcarian

## The Debut of Tigran Chukhadjian's *Arshak II* at the SF Opera

By Tamara Karakashian  
Staff Writer

As the lights dimmed, hundreds of spectators rushed to their seats; the curtains were drawn to reveal the Armenian army and King Arshak II celebrating a glorious victory over the Persians. Armenians for centuries since have learned about the history of the great nation of Armenia from historians such as Agathangelos, Movses of Khoren, and Pavstos Buzand to name a few. Now there is an amazing opportunity to experience Armenian history on the stage-by watching Tigran Chukhadjian's *Arshak II* debut at the San Francisco Opera.

Chukhadjian dramatized the story of Arshak II's reign by writing his opera in the European style. He changed some relationships and

they were given the choice between Chukhadjian's original version and the version that had been on stage in Armenia since 1945. They chose the original version to put on stage for the first time, thereby making history. Although Chukhadjian's opera was originally written in Italian, the San Francisco Opera thought it should be performed in Armenian as a tribute to its late composer.

*Arshak II* was composed in 1868, however, according to Gerald Papazian "...it was not performed during the composer's lifetime because of financial constraints and the stifling political atmosphere of Ottoman rule."

Since 1945 the only known version of the opera had been performed in Armenia. There is a debate about this version, which had been "modified" to conform to



Photo by Susan Ragan (AP)

added a romantic flavor to the war-stricken history of the Armenians. Many people have debated the issue of "changing" history. Some feel that history should be preserved in its original form, and there are others who appreciate the "flare" that Chukhadjian added to *Arshak II*. Chukhadjian did not write a history of the Armenians as Agathangelos did. He wrote an opera to appeal—as most operas do—to the enjoyment of its audience.

When the San Francisco Opera became interested in *Arshak II*,

the communist political control of Armenia during that time. Had the modifications not been made, and the opera staged, there would have been the risk of losing an epic opera.

Chukhadjian did not see his opera performed during his lifetime, however due to the financial support of many people from the Armenian community, in the amount of over \$1,000,000, and from the San Francisco Opera, the opera debuted on September 8, 2001 at the San Francisco Opera.

## Armenians and the Internet

By Ara Mekhitarian

### Virtual Ani

Address: <http://www.virtualani.freemove.co.uk/>

**Brief Summary:** Virtual Ani is a web site based in the United Kingdom, offering extensive information on the ancient city of Ani. A thousand years ago, Ani was the capital of the Bagratid Armenian kingdom. Ani's many churches, palaces and fortifications were among the most technically and artistically advanced buildings of the time. Ani is now a ghost town in Turkey, on the border with modern Armenia. Virtual Ani takes you back in history to the time when Ani was a great city in a powerful kingdom. The site offers extensive history, maps, plans, and pictures of the ancient city of Ani and its surroundings. You can also find out the current status of Ani and the physical threats to its continued existence. This site is nicely designed, informative, and very easy to navigate.

**Main Categories:** History of Ani, Rediscovery of Ani, Ani's Recent History, The Rape of Ani, Maps & Plans of Ani, Bibliography, Messageboard.

Contact: email: [webmaster@virtualani.freemove.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@virtualani.freemove.co.uk)

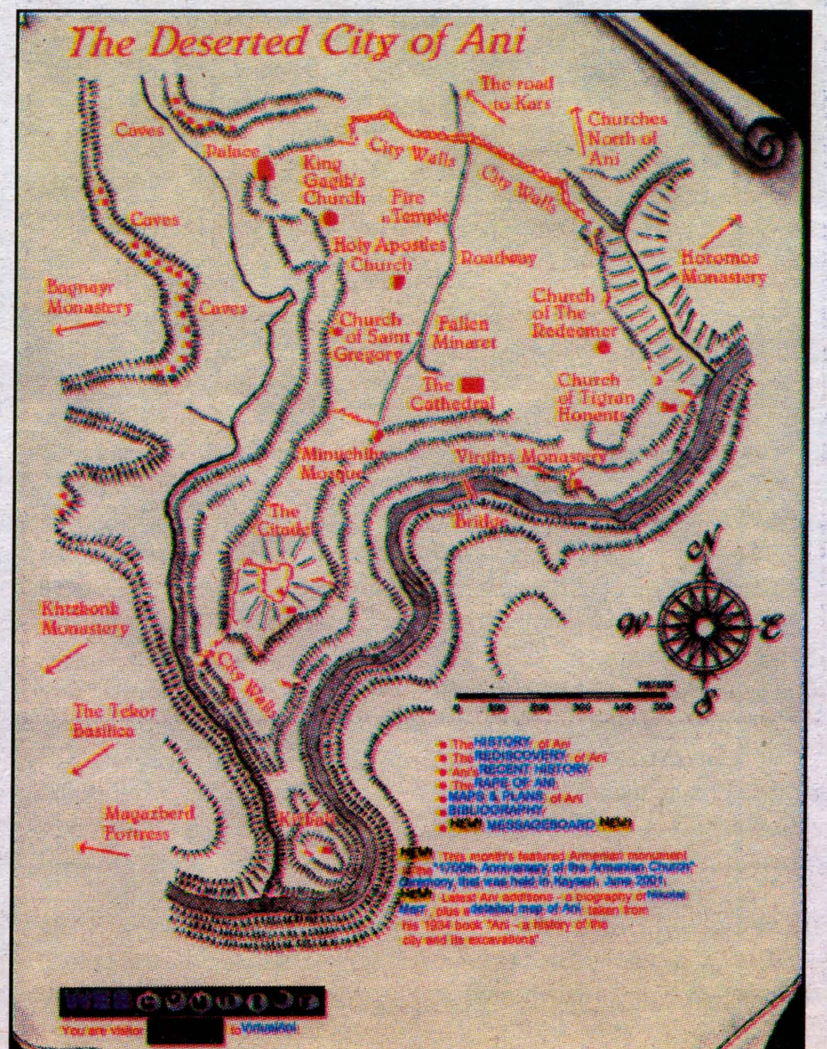
### Church Armenia

Address: <http://www.churcharmenia.com>

**Brief Summary:** Church Armenia is one of the newest online Armenian community web sites. Registration is required to access the site, but it is fast and easy. The site offers a wide range of services including; world-wide news, a free email account, free online file storage, the latest music, available scholarships and jobs. This site's main purpose is to bring Armenians together and offer them free useful services. The Church Armenia community is growing rapidly with several new members every day. This site also offers an online marketplace, and educational Bible games.

**Main Categories:** World, Armenia, Church, Youth, Jobs, Education, Email, Live Mail, Share Mail, File Storage, Calendar, Favorites, Gallery.

Contact: email: [info@churcharmenia.com](mailto:info@churcharmenia.com)





# Armenia Summer Study Trip 2001 Leaves Lasting Memories



Back row, left to right: Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Michael Kazarian, Eric Mouradian, Sevag Tateosian, Sarkis Tarkhanian, Shayla Srabian, Talar Atarian, Megan Jendian, Raquel Tarpin, Charles Srabian, Hasmik Kassabian. Front row, left to right: Armen Postoyan, Arakel Arisian, Talin Arisian, Taleen Kojayan, Jack Arikian, Shant Yemenjian, and Ara Mekhitarian. The group is at Khor Virap, with Mt. Ararat in the background.

By Barlow Der Mugrdechian

*Hye Sharzhoom Advisor*

Etchmiadzin, Garni, Geghard, Hripsime, Oshagan, Sardarabad, Erebuni, Zvartnots, Noravank, Ambert... exotic names which became a reality for a group of 18 adventurous students from Fresno State as they accompanied Armenian Students Organization advisor Barlow Der Mugrdechian for an exciting and unforgettable 3 week visit to France and Armenia.

Planning for the trip had actually begun two years ago when

was the auspicious beginning for the trip. Visits to the Armenian Church of Paris, the Louvre, and Notre Dame were the highlights of the stay in Paris, which passed quickly in anticipation of the trip to Armenia.

Arriving on June 4 in Armenia, on a beautiful cool evening, everyone found it hard to believe that they had actually arrived in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia.

The 16 days in Armenia were filled with many activities. The goal was to not only see the historic sites but also for the students to understand about life in Armenia.

State in May of this year.

In a special gesture, His Holiness, later the same afternoon, met over coffee with the students, and spoke intimately and directly to the students, expressing his feeling and thoughts.

Visits to the museums of Armenia included the National Gallery of Art, the Saryan Museum, the Matenadaran, the Children's Museum, and others. Accompanying us on these visits were such notables as Shahen Khachatrian of the Saryan Museum and Dr. Levon Chookaszian of Yerevan State University, who provided expert commentary of the manuscripts displayed at the Matenadaran.

A visit to an Armenia-Poland soccer match, to a practice of the Maratouk Dance group, attendance at the national symphony and a performance of the National Dance Ensemble provided variety and exposure to the people of Armenia.

A picnic at Oshagan, the home of Mesrob Mashtots and a picnic at Garni, were memorable in their simplicity, and in breaking bread at these special sites.

The Armenian Martyr's Monument was one of the most emotionally moving sites visited. Commemorating the Armenian Genocide of 1915, students were overwhelmed by the symbolism of both the Monument itself and a subsequent visit to the adjacent Genocide Museum.

Playing basketball at Yerevan State University was a welcome touch of home as the Fresno State students played a team of Yerevan State University students.

Interaction with students was a major part of the trip as the student council of the Yerevan State University Business School organized a reception and get together for the visitors from America. Later, the students of the Department of Sociology at Yerevan State University organized a round-table discussion for the students, followed by a visit to the FAR Children's Reception Center.

So many memories, so many impressions, almost impossible to

express in their variety and impact.

What was the outcome of the trip? Not only had students cemented bonds of friendship within their group, but the universal reaction was what can we do to assist Armenia and the Armenians. How can we become more involved with Armenia?

These questions will not soon

be answered, but they provide insight as to the value of providing a forum for young people to visit Armenia.

The universal reaction to the Armenia trip was that every Armenian should visit Armenia and also become more involved in the Armenian community.

## Student Reactions

### Arakel and Talin Arisian

My recent trip to France and Armenia came less than a week after graduating from Fresno State. For many reasons I really wanted to go to Armenia and a trip was finally organized for this summer. Having only traveled outside of the country once before, I was anxious to see more of the world, especially my homeland. Although our three days in Paris flew by, they were packed with sightseeing

Some of the other moments that really stuck out in my mind were visiting the Armenian Martyrs Monument and attending a World Cup qualifying match between Armenia and Poland.

This experience was great in a number of ways. Not only did I make friends in Armenia, but I became closer with those in our group. It was a great culminating experience for someone who had completed an Armenian Studies Minor and a great way to learn about one's culture and people. I would like to thank the students, faculty, and other people in Armenia who took care of us and spent a great deal of time with our group.

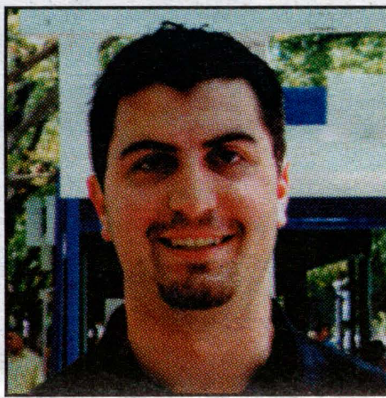
Finally, words can not express the gratitude I feel toward the organizer of the trip Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian. He not only made the trip possible and arranged everything but he also took care of us and taught us so much about our country and people. For those of you thinking about visiting Armenia, it is something every Armenian must do and it is an experience of a lifetime.

### John Jabaghourian

The Armenia trip was a rejuvenating trip for me mentally, physically, and culturally, particularly as I finished up at Fresno State and prepared for graduate school. I think it was a great way to cap off four years of Armenian Studies classes, getting the opportunity to see, hear, and touch, first-hand the things that were only mental images from the lectures in class.

My greatest memory of the trip was walking up to and down into the Armenian Martyrs Monument for the very first time. I was completely overcome by emotion, something that I have never experienced before. It was an unexplainable feeling that made me reflect on my life and my future in a way I could not have done at any other time or place.

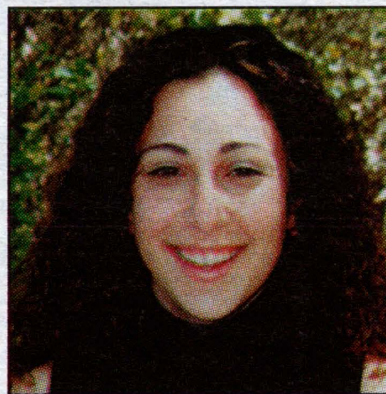
Another great memory was our adventure up to Ambert. Even though we were passive passengers in Ghugas' bus, the culmina-



Arakel Arisian

and having fun. Not only did we see Notre Dame, the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre, but we also were invited to dinner at the home of Dr. Dickran and Angèle Kouymjian, who were nice enough to have us over.

Next it was off to Armenia. We arrived there late at night and the feeling after getting off the plane was indescribable. Although I had never been to Armenia and my parents were born in the Middle East, I still felt somehow connected to Armenia.



Talin Arisian

Things only got better after that, as we had many days and nights of sightseeing and having fun. Our accommodations at the Yerevan State University Hotel were great and the employees there became our good friends.

Of all of the excursions we had, the best was our time spent with the His Holiness Catholicos Karekin II at Etchmiadzin. We not only were able to visit with His Holiness, but he also blessed my wife (at the time fiancée) and I for our upcoming wedding in August.



Students with Shahen Khachatrian at Saryan Museum.

students expressed a desire to travel to Armenia, a place that they had heard about and seen in slides and video, but never visited. The Armenian Studies Program had previously organized such trips in 1988 and 1990.

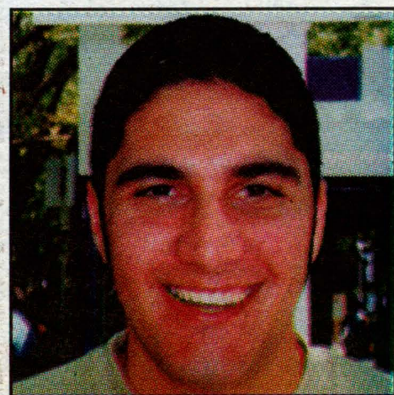
This year, 2001, the 1700th Anniversary Year of the Proclamation of Christianity as the State Religion in Armenia provided the right opportunity and motivation to actually go.

It wasn't hard to find 18 students to endure the long travel but ultimate satisfaction of traveling to Armenia.

The group spent two nights and three days in beautiful Paris on the way to Armenia. Dr. Dickran and Angèle Kouymjian hosted a dinner in their Paris home, which

The first goal was achieved through visits to Lake Sevan, to Gyumri, to Khor Virap, Ashtarak, and other sites. At each location, arrangements had been made for local people to provide added information. Sometimes, experts from the Yerevan State University would accompany the group to add valued insight. Students from Yerevan State University were invited to join, and did join, the Fresno State students on all of the outings.

Two visits to Holy Etchmiadzin offered a spiritual dimension to the trip. On Sunday, June 17, the Feast of Holy Etchmiadzin, thousand of pilgrims gathered at Holy Etchmiadzin. His Holiness Karekin II granted us a private audience and expressed his fond memories of his visit to Fresno



John Jabaghourian





The Fresno State Armenian student group with His Holiness Karekin II at the Vahan.

tion of all the obstacles in our journey: the rock slide, faulty brakes, and rain and hail, made the end prize of witnessing one of the most beautiful sceneries high in the Aragats Mountains much more spectacular.

But one of the greatest parts of the trip was the opportunity to make this pilgrimage with such a close-knit group of friends that I was able to share the experiences and fun with.

#### Megan A. Jendian

Prior to embarking on another journey to Armenia, I reminded myself of a passage from William Saroyan's *The Return to the Pomegranate Trees* that I knew would be important to be mindful of while abroad: "There are journeys you



Megan Jendian

take again and again, like books you read or music you listen to, faces you see or people you speak to, and each time something is changed and something is the same."

For the third time, I ventured out of the United States to what I now refer to as another home for me: Armenia. This summer, however, I did not travel by myself. I was fortunate to set out on June 1st for a three-week trip with a group of eager Diasporan youth from Fresno. I am thankful to our group leader, Barlow Der Mugrdchian, for organizing and executing such an incredible study program, and for his extensive knowledge about Armenia and its countless treasures.

Our experience was not only full of excursions, cultural events, and informational history, but also of important interaction with locals (university students & professors, social workers, dance performers, talented & artistic youth, and seminarians.) If not for Barlow

Der Mugrdchian and his close connections, we would have been a group of merely disconnected tourists. Rather than passively viewing our new environment, we had the opportunity to be participants in that new culture, and we were able to have an authentic and essential exchange with our sisters and brothers there.

While in Armenia for my third summer, it became evident to me as to why I return and what I gain from my time there. I know very well that Armenia is rich in culture, art, spirituality, and enjoyment of real pastimes. And although Armenia is a beautiful country with many sites and landscapes to look upon with wonder, I now believe that one's lasting impression of the country is seemingly more dependent upon something intangible; your feelings about that distant land have much to do with the connections you harbor with those people with whom you share your experience.

For me, I was able to build bridges and create memories with fellow Fresnoans and with locals. It is with their kindness that I became enriched. That process continued for an additional eight weeks, while I stayed behind as an international university student to study Armenian language in Yerevan. I returned from my time in Armenia with a lighter spirit, a new group of diverse acquaintances, a greater capacity for hope, an interesting perspective on both Armenian & American culture, and an internal, external, and eternal smile."

#### Hasmik Kassabian

This was the best trip of my life. I was surprised when I got to Armenia, because it was more beau-



Hasmik Kassabian

tiful than I had imagined. When we first got to Armenia, I was so tired and the airport did not smell good, but as soon as we got outside, the air was so refreshing. The air in Armenia smelled differently than the air in America. The hotel was really nice too. It was modern and the people there were very friendly. I enjoyed walking around Yerevan and looking at the people. They are so friendly there and everyone that I spoke to was so happy to be talking to someone from America.

What surprised me the most in Yerevan was the metro. It was so beautiful with all of the chandeliers. It was so clean too. I loved taking the metro.

I also loved taking our bus when we went on trips. The rides never seemed long. Everytime we would visit a church, the scenery on the way was so nice. A lot of it reminded me of Fresno. The churches were beautiful and unique. It was very exciting when we went down in St. Gregory's pit at Khor Virap. I was very scared, but after seeing the rest of our group go down, it didn't seem that bad.

My favorite place that we visited was Garni. I had seen so many pictures of it, but actually seeing it up close was much different. It was so much bigger than I had expected it to be. I was amazed by it, because it was so beautiful.

What changed me most about this trip was visiting Gumri. It was so sad to see all of those people, especially the elderly people, begging as soon as they saw tourists. It made me appreciate what I had much more than I did before the trip.

I loved going to Armenia. It was exciting to see our homeland and interacting with the people and the University students. Before our trip, I was hesitant to go, but now I can't wait to go back.

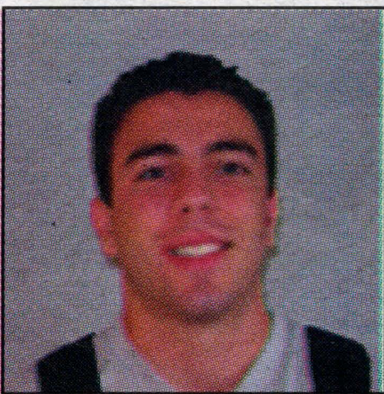
#### Ara Mekhitarian

Going to Armenia was one of the best experiences of my life. While pursuing an Armenian Studies Minor, I always wondered what it would be like to visit the monuments and sites I have been studying for some time. I am now able to say that I have been to my homeland and as a result can better un-

derstand my culture. I really enjoyed the visit, and it was not only fun but a great educational experience for me.

One of the main reasons why I had such a good time was because of the people I went with. I knew just about all the students on the trip, and many of them were already my good friends. The entire group got along with each other really well, and Professor Der Mugrdchian did a great job in giving us a productive tour of the country.

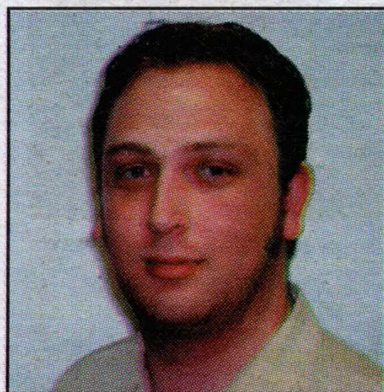
I definitely want to visit Armenia again in the near future. Maybe I will go again in a couple years with a few friends. I highly recommend to any Armenian who hasn't yet visited Armenia to do so. Visiting the country gave me a better understanding of my culture, homeland, and people. This trip was an experience I will always remember.



Ara Mekhitarian

#### Sarkis Tarkhanian

All I have to say about Armenia is that it is a beautiful country and that anyone who is of Armenian descent or has any affiliation with Armenians should visit Armenia at least one time in their lives.



Sarkis Tarkhanian

However, let's not forget that Armenia is a very backward country and still needs a lot more time to get on pace with the rest of the world. Hopefully this can happen sooner than later. They can start by getting rid of the corruption that rears its ugly head all throughout the nation.

#### Sevag Tateosian

Today there are an estimated eight million Armenians in the world. Out of the eight million, more than half live in the Armenian Diaspora. The main reason for this is the genocide of 1915, and also the poor economic conditions in the country of Armenia after the break up of the former Soviet Union. I am one of those Armenians that are from the Diaspora; during the genocide my family fled and took refuge in the Middle East. As a child growing up I heard many stories of my

"Mayr Hayrenik" or Mother Homeland. I heard that the air smelled of fresh apricot and the natural beauty of the country was astonishing. After hearing these types of stories from different individuals, I felt that it was essential to visit my homeland, one to see my people and two to see our beautiful land.

My dream came to reality when in June of 2001 myself as well as eighteen of my friends from Fresno State went on a study tour that began in Paris, France and ended in Yerevan, Armenia. We spent three days and two nights in Paris mainly touring the major sites in the city. We saw the Mona Lisa, we saw the Eiffel Tower, but the highlight of the city was Notre Dame Cathedral. When looking at the Cathedral I couldn't believe the expert detail of its architecture. It had statues carved out of the building that were three-dimensional and they looked so real that it was simply amazing. However, this was only the appetizer. The main course was when we left Paris and landed in Armenia on the morning of June fourth.

It was early morning when we reached Armenia. We were all tired but there was so much excitement that it turned into energy. When I got off of that plane I remember saying to myself, "Well Sevag this is it, you are in Armenia, the country that your people came from." We then got on the bus and headed to our rooms. The night was dark, the bus was quiet and everyone was just looking outside to get a first glimpse of the small country that has a place in many people's hearts. When we stepped off of the bus many of the student's faces, including my own, had a look of amazement and disbelief on them, that we had finally arrived in Armenia.

For the next three weeks we toured the country of Armenia. We saw the churches, we saw the people, and we saw the students of the University there. The trip was full of excitement, happiness and joy. However, on two occasions some students including myself had tears in our eyes. As we walked into the Cathedral of Etchmiadzin, I couldn't help but begin tearing up from the excitement of being in the first Christian church in the world-the church that my grandparent's told me all about-the church that is a symbol to all Christians in the world.

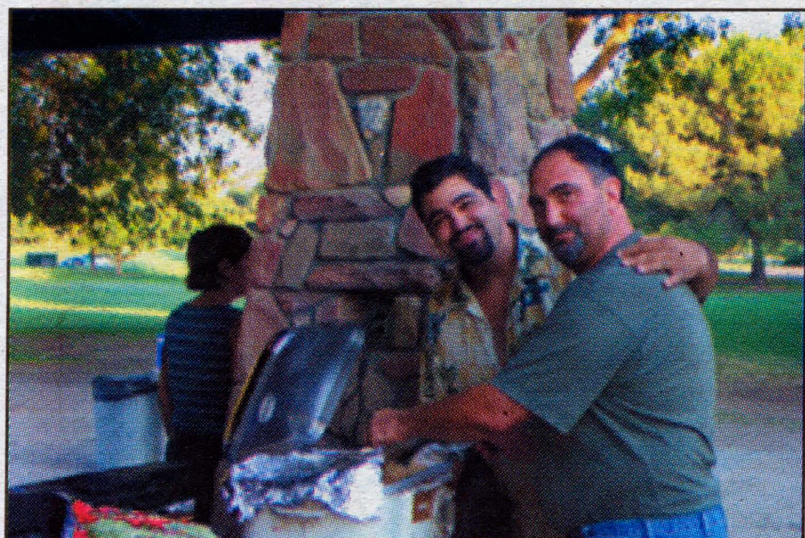
On this trip I learned many things. I learned about my people, I learned about my land and I learned about my history. Armenia is a place that every Armenian should travel too. It will be an unbelievable experience that one will never forget and, they will come back with a whole new way of thinking about life.



Sevag Tateosian



# ASO Back to School Barbeque Welcomes Students for Fall



ASO President Michael Harutinian, left, with Ken Melkonian.



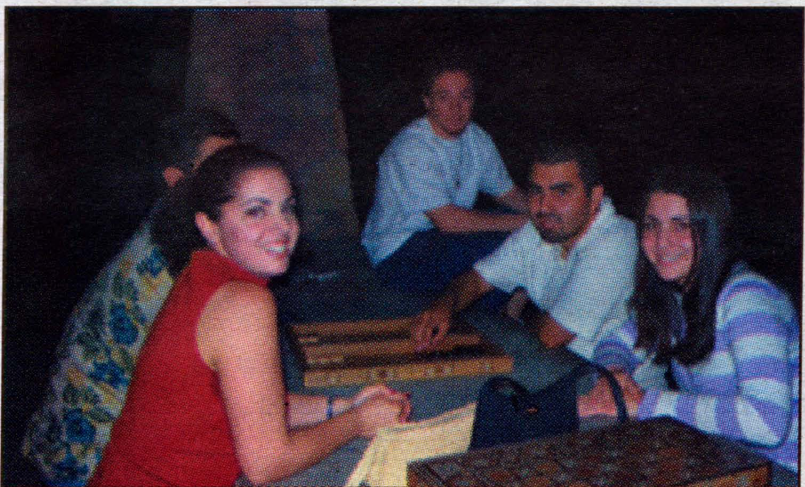
L. to r.: Erica Ananian, Tamara Enfiedjian, and Nayiri Torigian.

The Armenian Students Organization semester opening barbeque was a great success. Held at Fresno's Woodward Park, more than 60 new and old ASO members gathered for an evening of fun.

Armenian music could be heard throughout the night on a perfect September evening.

The ASO is planning many new activities for the upcoming year.

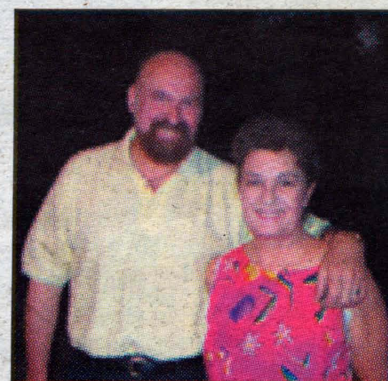
The Armenian Students Organization is open to all students enrolled at Fresno State. Contact the ASP office at 278-2669 for more information.



L. to r.: Lisa Shanoian, Antranik Avedikian, Jack Arikian, and Hasmik Kassabian enjoying a game of tavloo.

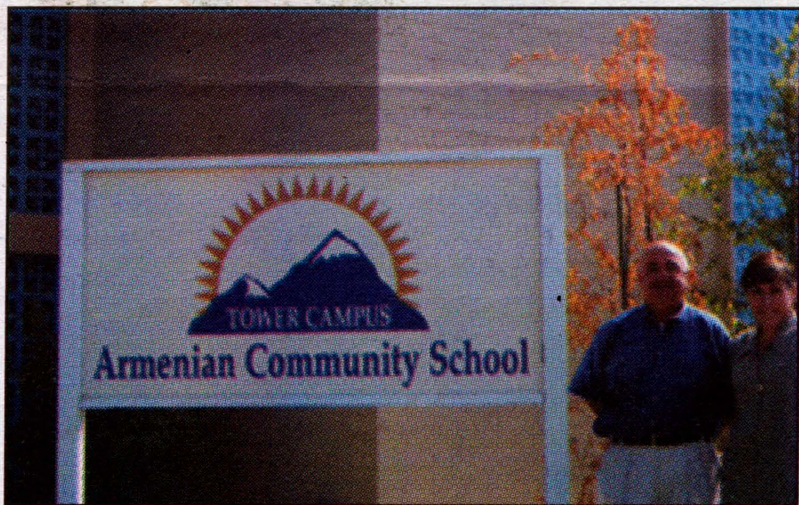


L. to r.: Jude Dunbar, Barbara Harutinian, Armen Karlozian, and Chris McCole.



Dr. and Mrs. Robert and Mary-Ellen Hewsen enjoying the ASO picnic.

## Armenian Community School of Fresno Moves to New Home



Armenian Community School Principal Seth Atamian, with Vice Principal Rosie Bedrosian at the new school site.

By Nazik Arisian  
Staff Writer

For over twenty years, parents had to drive to the corner of Fresno and Weldon streets to take their children to the Armenian Community School of Fresno (ACSF). This year, however, the school moved to a more convenient location at the corner of Olive and Wishon streets in the Tower District.

This move was very much needed by the school. The administration, teachers, and students feel that the move was a positive one. When the opportunity arose, the administration decided to take advantage of it. The new location is the former campus of St. Therese Parochial School that closed in the 1980's. Even though the Armenian Community School plans to build a permanent campus on property that was donated several years ago, a better facility in a more secure area was needed immediately.

The Weldon site was the school's second location since its inception in 1976, when it opened its doors in the basement of the

Holy Trinity Armenian Church on Ventura & "M" Streets. The old school on Weldon had previously been a church, so it was not well suited to be a school campus. For many years, the Weldon facility served its purpose. Often, however, much work was needed to keep up with proper maintenance. Parents and friends generously volunteered their time and materials over the years in order to maintain the old building. It was not uncommon to see Mr. Seth Atamian, the Superintendent/Principal of the school, with his wrench and hammer doing some type of maintenance work.

The opportunity to lease the new site came up during the latter part of last school year when a representative of the Catholic Diocese of Fresno approached the building committee. Realizing this was a good opportunity, the Principal and the Board of Education felt that the school would benefit from the move, until the building of the permanent school site some time in the future. During the summer, Board members Bryan Bedrosian

and Barrett Arakelian oversaw the project and had the contents of the school moved over to the new building.

Secure fencing and buildings surround the property. One enters the premises through a courtyard. On the left side are administration offices and a small hall for morning assembly and to the right of the administration building, are most of the classrooms, both on the lower and upper levels. To the left of the administration building is St. Therese Church. There is also a small building on the property that is now the Pre-Kindergarten class. The only problem both parents and the school personnel talk about is the fact that the play area is across the street from the school; however, they are managing the situation well.

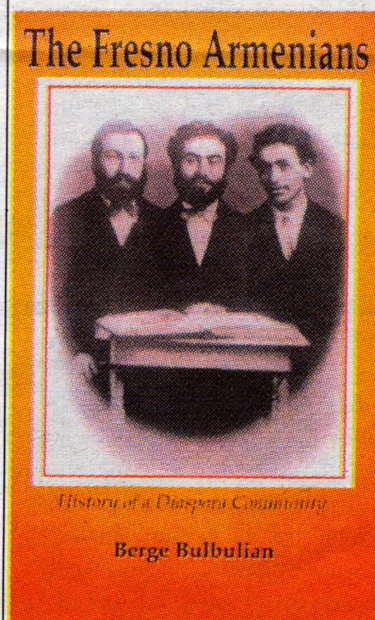
One of the teachers, Lucine Varjabedian, who teaches Armenian to the children, feels very much at home there. "Teaching is a little easier here," she says. She is from Los Angeles and this school site reminds her of the Mesrobian School, where she taught for many years prior to moving to Fresno.

The neighbors, too, are glad to have a new tenant. Some of the comments made by neighbors are, "It's about time children came back to this facility and neighborhood." "It's great to have school activity around here." "The Tower District can only benefit from the move of the school."

Congratulations to the school for a fine decision to relocate. Principal Seth Atamian says, "We are very fortunate to be here in this well established, resourceful and safe neighborhood."

I know that many parents feel the same.

## Fresno Armenians Republished for Holidays



Berge Bulbulian's *The Fresno Armenians* is being reprinted by Quill Driver Books/Word Dancer Press, Inc., with the book expected to be ready by November 1.

The new edition has a forward by Professor Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies at Fresno State.

The second edition has been updated with added information.

### Order Form

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) at \$18.95 each of *The Fresno Armenians*.

(Add \$2.00 for the first copy and \$.50 for each additional copy for postage and handling.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Armenian Studies Program  
5245 N. Backer Ave., M/S PB4  
Fresno, CA 93740-8001

Check or money order, made payable to the Armenian Studies Program, must accompany orders.

Hye Sharzhoom  
would like to hear your comments.  
Please write.



## 1700th Anniversary Commemorated with Visit of His Holiness Karekin II



His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians

### HEWSEN, Cont. from Page 1

Conversion of Armenia to Christianity" course made teaching these courses remarkably enjoyable.

Because Dr. Hewsen is originally from New York, I thought life in Fresno might be a drastic change, for he and his wife Mary-Ellen, from life in the largest city in the nation. Yet when asked how he likes Fresno, Dr. Hewsen replied, "I really like it. It's a really nice town and the community has been very welcoming to us." Then, when asked about how Fresno State students compare with students at other universities where he has taught, Dr. Hewsen replied, "I have some very enthusiastic students who make the time fly," and then commended his students for their desire to learn the subject matter. Dr. Hewsen says he enjoys teaching at Fresno State because the classes he's offering are specialty courses and, as a result, only those interested in the subject are taking the classes.

Dr. Hewsen has carefully studied Armenia's conversion to Christianity. When asked to explain the global and historical importance of the conversion of Armenia to Christianity early in the fourth century AD, he succinctly answered that the Armenian conversion to Christianity was important "because the question of who was going to control Armenia during this time was always complicated by the fact that the Armenians were Christians and that all those around them were not. That is, of course, what has been causing the problems in Armenia down to the present day."

This semester, Dr. Hewsen, as

part of his duties as the Kazan Visiting Professor, will be giving a series of three lectures dealing with the topic of "Conversion of Armenia to Christianity." In his own words, "The three lectures will be a distillation of the course," which will survey pre-Christian Armenia, King Trdat & the conversion to Christianity, and Armenia in the century after its conversion to Christianity.

This lecture series is promising for three reasons. First, Dr. Hewsen is a captivating historian who will speak in a way that will intrigue all who attend. Second, Dr. Hewsen's course on the "Conversion of Armenia to Christianity" is the only course being offered on the conversion of Armenia to Christianity anywhere in the United States this semester, which gives those who attend the lectures a taste of this unique course. And lastly, the subject matter covered by Dr. Hewsen is not only complex, but is difficult to interpret due to biased sources and common mis-

conceptions; both of these problems will be discussed and treated by Dr. Hewsen during the lectures.

Dr. Hewsen's plans for the near future involve publishing two books that deal with Armenian history; one that focuses on the conversion of Armenia to Christianity, the other focusing on the Armenian national movement of the 18th century. He will continue teaching at Fresno State through the end of the Spring 2002 semester, offering courses on the history of Karabagh and modern Armenian history.

When our conversation ended, not only did I realize how lucky I had been to meet such an interesting individual, but I also came to a fuller realization of the quality of professors that the Armenian Studies program has had, does have, and will continue to have.

Dr. Hewsen's lectures on October 4th, November 1st, and December 6th will offer the community an opportunity to hear this remarkably knowledgeable professor.

### Second Annual Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Lectures in Armenian Studies

by Dr. Robert H. Hewsen

#### "The Conversion of Armenia to Christianity"

• Thursday, November 1, 2001

"The Conversion of King Trdat: Reading Between the Lines"

• Thursday, December 6, 2001

"The Conversion of the Armenian People"

All lectures will take place at 7:30 PM in the Alice Peters Auditorium of the University Business Center. All lectures are free and open to the public.



L. to r.: Archbishop Vatché Hovsepien, His Holiness Karekin II, and Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program.

### CATHOLICOS, Cont. from Page 1

sity President Dr. John Welty, who officially greeted the Catholicos on behalf of the University. The Catholicos and guests enjoyed a warm interchange in a relaxed and intimate setting. The very successful and enjoyable visit of the Catholicos to Fresno State ended with His Holiness' pontifical blessing.

His Holiness was visiting the United States and Canada on his first Pontifical visit to the United States, on the occasion of the 1700th Anniversary of the Proclamation

of Christianity as the State Religion of Armenia.

The Catholicos visited local Armenian churches and celebrated Divine Liturgy at St. Paul Armenian Church. A special banquet in his honor was also held.

Following his visit to the San Joaquin Valley, His Holiness continued on to Los Angeles, and then on to Canada and the East Coast of the United States.

Right: Armenian cross-inscribed carpet, a gift from His Holiness Karekin II to the Armenian Studies Program.



Photo by Randy Vaughn-Dotta

### Listen to Fresno State's

#### Armenian Radio Show



## Hye Oozh

Every Saturday morning from 9:00AM-12:00 noon

FM 90.7

Your D. J.s

Sevag Tateosian and Armen Postoyan

### Fresno State's Scholarship Application Form for 2002-2003

On-line beginning October 19 through January 5, 2002.

Students can apply for hundreds of institutional scholarships by simply logging on to the web site at <http://studentaffairs.csufresno.edu/scholarships> during the application period.

Click on "Scholarship Application" and complete each item. Students applying for Armenian Studies scholarships/grants must complete the ASP supplementary form, found on the ASP web site at [www.csufresno.edu/ArmenianStudies](http://www.csufresno.edu/ArmenianStudies).

Applications will then be reviewed by various selection committees. Students will receive notification of awards for the 2002-2003 academic year beginning in March of next year.

### HYE TALK, Cont. from Page 1

Don Priest, who is the producer of the show, and teaches the advanced course in television production, is happy to have Hye Talk on the air. He and his students have put in many hours to put together the only locally produced Armenian television show in the San Joaquin Valley. Producing Hye Talk is the ideal way for students to get a real hands-on experience in television production.

The students meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays to discuss new ideas for the show and then put in hours of their own time after class.

The sum of their efforts and the efforts of the Armenian Studies Program is Hye Talk.

Executive producer Barlow Der Mugrdechian has involved students from the Armenian Studies Program in assisting and in preparing material for the show. The students are excited to be involved in the project which airs throughout the San Joaquin Valley.



## Kennel Bookstore Opens Armenian Section

### Staff Report

Janet Van Wyhe and the Kennel Bookstore staff are very excited about the new Armenian section opened recently in the Fresno State Kennel Bookstore. Van Wyhe, who manages the general book section of the Bookstore, says "There is much to learn about a group of people in this city who play an important role in the things that make Fresno a great place to live, work and enjoy family. The Kennel Bookstore staff has been working cooperatively with the Armenian Studies Program on campus and we especially appreciate the advice and enthusiasm of Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program in setting up the new section."

Fresno State and the commu-

Ron Durham arrived on the job in Fresno about a year ago. He learned early on that Fresno has a large Armenian population. He wanted to learn more about their culture and was surprised to learn there was very little information in the General Book Department on that subject. It was then the staff started the groundwork for opening the section. This is the beginning of the endeavor to share the rich cultures that inhabit the San Joaquin Valley area.

What is in the new section? There is a sprinkling of subjects, such as books on Armenian history, the Armenian Genocide, language, drama, cookbooks, novels, and poetry. Van Wyhe expects that the subject matter will be expanded as time passes.

The new section fits in well

diverse and informative department within the Kennel Bookstore. The bookstore aspires to become the source for information on all cultures, especially those of the San Joaquin Valley.

The Kennel Bookstore serves not only the campus community but also the entire city of Fresno and the surrounding area. The Bookstore sponsors many conferences and special events throughout the year and will reach people from all over who come to the Fresno State campus.

An official opening for the Armenian section and a book signing will be held later this Fall semester.

The Kennel Bookstore is open Monday through Thursday 7:45 - 7:15, Friday 7:45-5:00 and Saturday 10:00 - 3:00. There is relaxed



General Book manager Janet Van Wyhe with display of new Armenian books.

nity it serves are composed of a diverse group of people. The Kennel Bookstore wants to supply the needs of as many students, faculty, staff, and the general public as possible. The Valley is now one of the most diverse areas in California and the Bookstore would like to help share the heritage of all of its neighbors.

Kennel Bookstore Director

with the Kennel Bookstore, as their goal is to facilitate learning. The Bookstore can help educate those who wish to learn more about Armenian people and to carry titles that will interest Armenians and non-Armenians alike. New titles have been spotlighted to make customers aware of the new arrivals and it is anticipated that this will be the cornerstone collection of a very

parking on Saturdays. The main bookstore number is 559-278-4062 and the general book department can be reached directly at 559-278-4286. There is a toll free number 800-996-2411. The Kennel Bookstore is always happy to take special orders for books over the phone or by email kennel@csufresno.edu.

## HYE SHARZHOOM

### NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

**Hye Sharzhoom** is sent without charge to thousands of people throughout the world. Although there is no subscription fee, 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: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **Armenian Studies Program** and send to:  
**Armenian Studies Program**  
**California State University, Fresno**  
**5245 N Backer Ave M/S PB 4**  
**Fresno, CA 93740-8001**



AP/Paolo Cocco/Pool

His Holiness Karekin II and Pope Paul II preside over special commemorative service at the Armenian Genocide Memorial.

## 1700th Anniversary Activities Held in Armenia September 20-27, 2001

- St. Gregory Cathedral Consecrated
- Holy Muron (Holy Chrism) Consecrated
- Four Bishops Ordained
- 10th Anniversary of Armenia Celebrated
- Pope Paul II Visits Armenia

## Thank You Donors

Alice M. Arutunjan	Niagara Falls NY
AMC Doors & Windows	South San Francisco
Paul & Mary Cazian	Whittier
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Darmanian	Fresno
<i>In memory of Kayane Kapöian, mother of Angéle Kouymjian</i>	
Lesta & Mike Ekizian	Dinuba
Ed & Alice Eknoian	San Francisco
Leo H. Gardarian	Oceanside
C. J. Graham	Dallas TX
Al & Isabelle Kabrielian	Fresno
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kandarian	Fresno
Scott Kateian	Duluth GA
Kathy Khatoonian	El Macero
Rubina Kingwell	Norfolk UK
Elizabeth B. Koojoolian	Fresno
<i>In memory of Kayane Kapöian, mother of Angéle Kouymjian</i>	
Mrs. Violet Mayian	Escondido
John & Lucile Melkonian	Fresno
Roxie Nikssarian	Fowler
Richard & Vartouhy Pandukht	Fresno
Joan Quinn	Beverly Hills
Nona Rustigian	Madera
Ed Shehirian	Scarborough, Ont. Canada
St. Gregory Armenian Church	Pasadena
Mary & Patty Torosian	Dinuba

Thank you Arnold & Dianne Gazarian for a donation to the Amenian Studies Endowment Fund in honor of the 60th Birthday of Judi Margarian-Gold.