

HYE SHARZHOOM

Armenian Action

ՀՅԵ ՇԱՐԺՈՒՄ

December 1996

Vol. 18, No. 2 (56)

Supplement to The Collegian

PBS Special Focuses on Genocide

by Barlow Der Mugrdechian

"But in 1915, total war went a terrible step further..."

With this ominous introduction, the PBS special "The Great War and the Shaping of the Twentieth Century," began an eight minute segment entitled "Genocide," which covered the Armenian Genocide of 1915. The segment was part of the eight-hour documentary on World War I which aired nation-wide in the United States on the Public Broadcasting System in November.

This was a significant show because a large audience in the United States had the opportunity to be introduced to the horror of the Armenian Genocide. Even though pressure was brought to bear from the Turkish government, PBS had the courage to not back down and to air this historically accurate piece.

"Greater misery could not be imagined, the dead and the dying are everywhere...The whole country is one vast slaughterhouse."

Leslie Davis

Although eight minutes did not seem to be a long time, in fact this segment of the special very clearly and succinctly recounted the events of the Armenian Genocide. It not only brought eyewitness testimony, photographs, and quotes together, but also tied the Genocide to the continued policy of denial by the current Turkish government.

The segment begins by connecting events in Ottoman Turkey with the greater context of World War I. The narrator stated that the war had two faces in Ottoman Turkey—the heroic stand at Gallipoli (against the British and Allied forces) and the contrasting brutal plan of mass murder against the Armenians of the Empire.

"In North Eastern Turkey, hundred of thousands of civilians were to die, war was the excuse. Ethnic cleansing of Christian Armenians out of lands controlled by Islamic Turkey, was the true intention."

As the narration continues photographs from the Genocide are displayed in the background.

One of the bright points of the segment are comments by Jay M Winter of Cambridge University who gave the background and context for the massacres and the Genocide. He explained the significant role that the Armenians of the Ottoman Empire played, as a thriving and prosperous community which was perceived as a political and strategic threat to the Ottoman Turks at the outbreak of the War. But that threat quickly became a plan of extermination. Winter said, "Most Armenians, 2,000,000 living in the Turkish Empire were no threat whatsoever."

A brief description of the arrest of community leaders in Constantinople, and the forced deportations of Armenians follows.

Eyewitness testimony is included in the documentary from two sources—one is from Leslie Davis, American Consul in Kharpoor (Kharpert), the other from German medical officer Armin T. Wegner.

Davis' testimony is based on his personal investigation of rumors of large scale massacres of Armenians in the region.

After visiting the desert he wrote, "Greater misery could not be imagined, the dead and the dying are everywhere...The whole country is one vast slaughterhouse."

Armin Wegner visited a refugee camp where Armenian survivors had gathered. Against orders, and on penalty of death, Wegner photographed the diseased and dying Armenians.

"What Armin Wegner captured was a visual record of the first Genocide of the 20th century."

In this segment some of Wegner's shocking and vivid photographs are shown in the background. Photos of dead and dying Armenians, piles of skulls, and Armenian hanged at the gallows are part of his collection.

The narrator says, "What Armin Wegner captured was a visual record of the first Genocide of the 20th century."

Continuing on Jay Winter states that "In many ways it shows that the idea that war is politics by other means is outdated in the 20th century. War is hatred by other

See PBS Special, pg. 8

ASP Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Editor's Report

In an evening filled with memories and surprises no one was more overwhelmed than the honoree Dr. Dickran Kouymjian. Amazingly out of character Dr. Kouymjian seemed to be at a loss for words after the special presentations, decorations, tributes, and accolades. Truly it was one bestowment after another, each one more esteemed than the last. Each one in its own way was neither superfluous nor bereft, they all befit the man they were dedicated to: appropriate and distinct. From the former students and colleagues to the poet to the representatives from the Holy Church each one reflected with respect and dignity the influence Dr. Kouymjian has had on their personal as well as academic life.

However it was the personal remembrances that granted the evening with the sense of community. Fresno artist Ara Dolarian began the time of "Remembering Dr. K" by telling the story of his first encounter with Dr. Kouymjian and the history behind his hiring at Fresno State. Then four others, Flora Istanbulian, Bryan Bedrosian, Cindy Avakian, Knar Guekguezian, friends and students alike came to the podium to relive their experience with the man of the hour. Each story was unique, some were funny, others insightful, all were heartfelt. Finally before the presentations, Jim Baloian presented a sampling of his poetry especially



selected for the occasion. Following his solo performance he was joined musically for additional pieces, including one written about Dr. Kouymjian himself.

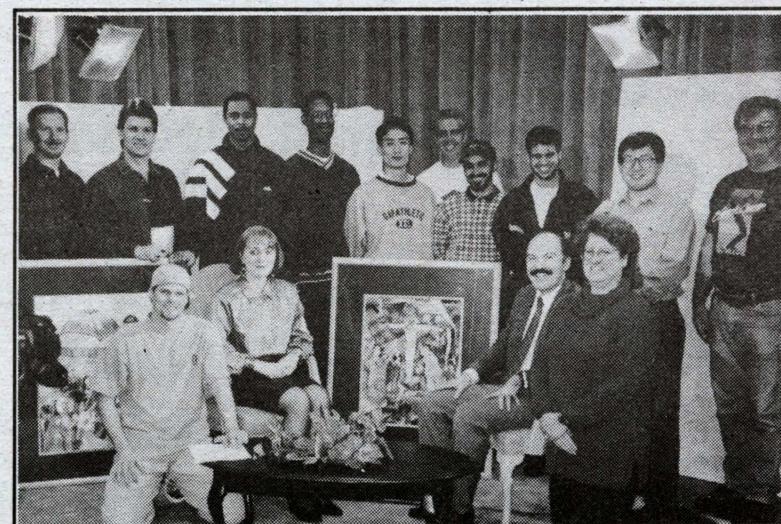
If titles make the man then Dr. Kouymjian is a giant. In addition to the entire page of achievements, degrees, and fellowships he has received he was further honored by a presentation of the Medal of St. Sahak-St. Mesrop, as well as two Encyclical from each Armenian Church. The reading of the

See BANQUET, Page 8

"Hye Talk" Begins Second Season

hye talk, a half-hour television program produced by the Armenian Studies Program of Fresno State began its second year of broadcasting in November. **hye talk** airs on Thursdays from 8:30-9:00 p.m. and on Fridays from 6:00-6:30 p.m. on Continental Cablevision Channel 4. New shows will be broadcast every week through the months of December and January 1997.

Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program is the host for **hye talk**. Der Mugrdechian has been involved with the Armenian Studies Program for the past decade as an instructor. **hye talk** features a variety of guests who discuss local, national, and international issues of interest to Armenians and the community in general. Four new shows have been taped and will be broad-



The "Hye Talk" crew with host Barlow Der Mugrdechian and guest

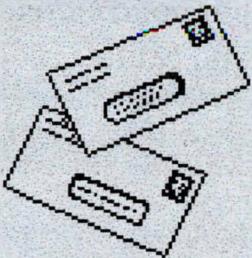
Sona Atoian

cast.

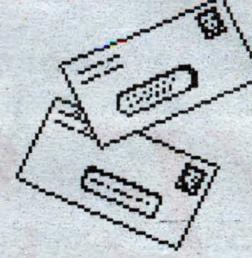
The season premiere featured the **Very Rev. Fr. Sasoon V. Zumrookhdian**, Pastor of St. Paul

Armenian Church in Fresno, who recently returned from Armenia

See Hye Talk, pg. 8



Letters to the Editor



Dear Dickran:

As you know, I will not be able to attend the 20th Anniversary Banquet of the Armenian Studies Program to be held this coming Sunday, November 10. I nonetheless want to take the opportunity to join with others in the program and in the community in honoring you for your more than 21 years of service to the university and to the field of Armenian Studies.

Your many contribution to our institution and to your discipline in the form of programs, professional memberships, endowments, scholarship and publications have brought the Armenian Studies Program to national prominence. We are honored to have you as a faculty member and commend you on your many contributions to scholarship and the campus.

Please accept my congratulations and best wishes for being honored at the banquet this year; and please accept my thanks for your many and continuing services to California State University, Fresno.

Sincerely,

John D. Welty
President
California State University, Fresno

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your invi-

tation to attend the 20th anniversary of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno's California State University, on November 10, at which time Dr. Dickran Kouymjian will be honored.

I regret I will be unable to attend because of prior commitments. However, I did want to express my congratulations to you on this occasion and especially to Dr. Kouymjian, the Director of the Armenian Studies Program. Please extend my very best wishes to him. I wish him continued success in the administration of this important program.

Sincerely,

Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian
Prelate, Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church
New York, New York

Dear Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to salute Professor Dickran Kouymjian's twentieth anniversary in teaching and research in the field of Armenian Studies. During that period he has made a range of contributions signal not only in their quality, but in their diversity. Eschewing any narrowly focused or ethnically preoccupied interpretation of Armenology, his scholarly work has consistently embraced interdisciplinary approaches and sought to contextualize Armenian cultural artifacts within their

broader middle Eastern milieu. One is also struck by the variety of areas which have engaged his interest and benefited from his creative insights, numismatics, art history, codicology, late medieval and early modern Armenian history, Saroyanagit'iw, the list goes on and on ... Moreover, he has been a popular instructor who has not shrunk from handling innovative and controversial topics, such as Armenian film and the roots of Armenian terrorism. Nor has the role of the program in Armenian Studies within the local and wider Armenian community been neglected by him, but nurtured with especial care.

As you are not one to rest on your laurels, Dickran, in wishing you well on this memorable occasion I want to put you on notice that your colleagues have many more expectations of you in the years ahead.

Warmest regards to Angele and yourself,

Sincerely,
S. Pete Cowe
UCLA

Dear Dickran,

It is with great pleasure that, in the name of the Committee and Members of the Association Internationale des Etudes Arméniennes, I congratulate you

on a tenure of 20 years at the helm of the Armenian Studies Program at CSU Fresno.

You have brought to Fresno both your depth of learning and your breadth of horizons, combined with a devotion to Armenian Studies and the cultural creation of the Armenian people. We have had the benefit of your membership of our Committee, and wish to note the international prospective which you undoubtedly bring to the Fresno program.

May I wish you many future years of teaching and of scholarship in good health and with renewed energies.

With best wishes,

Dr. M. E. Stone
President, AIEA

Dear Dickran:

I am delighted to learn that you will be honored on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno. Unfortunately, due to time and distance, I will not be able to join you in personally on this joyous occasion. You may be sure, however, that I am with you in spirit and applaud you heartily on this felicitous occasion.

The great success of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno, as we all know, is due in the greatest measure to your foresight, energy, and dedication to Armenian scholar-

ship and teaching. The fact that you are being honored on the occasion of its anniversary, speaks not only to your work with the Program but also to your many and abiding contributions as a scholar who has for so many years forwarded Armenian studies through your own research, publications, and teaching and in your wise support of so many others in the field.

Congratulations on this occasion and best wishes for many more years of fruitful work for Armenian Studies.

Sincerely,

Dennis R. Papazian
Professor of History
Director, Armenian Research Center
The University of Michigan, Dearborn

Hye Sharzhoom
needs you!

Positions open for

Spring 1997

include:

Writers

Photographers

Layout Artists

Circulation Manager

Copy Editors

Maria Amirkhanian

Piano Master's Recital

for partial fulfillment of the M.A. degree

Sunday, December 15
3:00 pm

Wahlberg Recital Hall
CSU Fresno campus

Playing pieces by
Schumann, Liszt, Berio, Beethoven

Admission is Free

HYE SHARZHOOM

ՀՅԵ ՇԱՐԺՈՒՄ

Editor
Sean Clark
Layout
Tina Attashian
Staff
Jacqueline Arikian
Crissi Jelladian
Karen Karabian
Ali Peyvandi
Tagui Semerjian
Advisor
Barlow Der Mugrdechian

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

c/o Armenian Studies Program
5245 N. Backer Ave.
Fresno, CA 93740-0004
(209) 278-2669

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

California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program
Spring 1997 Schedule of Courses

General Education

• Arm S 10	Intro to Arm Studies 3	0810-0900	MWF	I. Kaprielian	
• Arm S 10	Intro to Arm Studies 3	1010-1100	MWF	Der Mugrdechian	
• Arm S 10	Intro to Arm Studies 3	0945-1100	TTh	D. Kouymjian	
• Arm S 10	Intro to Arm Studies 3	1110-1225	TTh	D. Kouymjian	
• Arm S 20	Arts of Armenia	3	1810-2100	Wed	D. Kouymjian

General Education

• Arm 148	Masterpieces Arm Lit 3	1210-1300	MWF	Der Mugrdechian
-----------	------------------------	-----------	-----	-----------------

Division 7- Languages

• Arm 1B	Elementary Arm	4	1110-1200	MTWF	Der Mugrdechian
----------	----------------	---	-----------	------	-----------------

Upper Division Courses

• Arm S 108B	Arm History II	3	0910-1000	MWF	I. Kaprielian
• Arm S 120T	Arm. Genocide	3	1245-1400	TTh	I. Kaprielian
• Arm S 120T	Arm S & Comp. Tech	3	31545-1700	TTh	D. Kouymjian
• Arm S 120T	Armenia Today	1	1610-2100	F	

0910-1700 S

Class meets the weekend of March 14, 15

**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.

ASO's Events and Involvement with the Community

**ASO Events**

By Crissi Jelladian

The semester is coming to an end and the Armenian Students Organization (A.S.O.) is providing a relaxing weekend of fun to give students a break before finals. The trip is at Bass Lake on December 6, 7, and 8th. Not only does this trip provide students with a break from the academic atmosphere, but it allows club members to join together one last time before they head home for the holidays.

Our Halloween party was the last event held and judging from the results of the turnout it's something we're going to definitely do

Some of the ASO members hanging out at the Halloween Party.

again. The evening was filled with dancing, food, fun, and friends. It was nice to see so many new faces in the crowd and of course the old faces too!! Another IMPORTANT event coming up is an activity that will help others enjoy their holiday season. A.S.O. has decided to adopt a family for Christmas that lives at a low poverty status. The mother of these eight kids may have acted irresponsibly, but her children have no control over the mistakes their mother made in the past. To help make Christmas for these kids an enjoyable one, please take the time to go through your belongings and

donate any item that appears to be fairly new. The amount of time it will take to run through your belongings is well worth the enjoyment that these children will experience. Please help us take part in making a family's Christmas brighter.

A.S.O. thanks all members for their support and hopes that it will continue through the upcoming semesters. Once again, we WELCOME ALL NEW FACES!!! If you have any questions or comments about A.S.O. call 278-2669. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!

ASO's volunteer work at the Fresno Armenian Community School

By Crissi Jelladian

In the city of Fresno there is so much to be done and many people that can use extra help in various activities. With this knowledge the Armenian Students Organization has taken time out to assist our friends at the Fresno Armenian Community School. This school educates children of Armenian descent grades K-6. The one problem that the school faces is the continuous struggle to provide co-curricular activities with a limited number of faculty. How can you help? GET INVOLVED!!! This school needs your help.

The principal of the Fresno Armenian Community School, Seth Atamian, makes it convenient for students to assist. He doesn't expect anyone to maintain a set schedule, only that they continue to assist the children and faculty. There is a variety of areas you could assist in: Reading, athletics, poetry, odessey of the mind, or simply just being a good listener will benefit these young students.

Helping out at the school has been a new experience for several A.S.O. members. Some members like myself were concerned that

they didn't speak the Armenian language, but I was informed that most of the students there fluently speak English.

I feel that working at the Armenian school has allowed me to develop a greater awareness of what the youth of today goes through. I don't consider speaking to the students a job any longer, instead I see an opportunity for the students to discuss anything and everything and to hopefully help them through their particular situation. Volunteering time at the Armenian School has provided me with heart warming experiences that I will never forget.

Another student, Vahan Balekian comments, "Working with the boy's basketball team ages 8-12 has taught me plenty of patience. It teaches them discipline and helps to keep Armenian children together as a community and in a safe environment."

All things in life depend upon nurturing in order to continue growth, and it is exactly that, nurturing, that our youth cannot live without.

\$10,000 in Armenian Scholarships**Awarded at Fresno State**

More than \$10,000 in scholarships have been awarded through California State University, Fresno and its Armenian Studies Program to students enrolled in Armenian Studies courses.

Twenty-three students were awarded Armenian Studies scholarships and grants for the 1996-1997 academic year. The recipients are all students at Fresno State and are required to enroll in Armenian Studies courses as part of their awards. The Armenian Studies Program Scholarship Committee, headed by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, announced the awards. Scholarship and grant recipients were introduced by Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program at the 20th Anniversary Banquet of the Armenian Studies Program held on November 10.

Fund Source: Yervant, Rose, and Hovannes Levonian Educational Grant

Tina Attashian, Fresno, Mathematics, Senior.

Fund Source: Charles K. Pategian and Pansy Pategian Zlokovich Scholarships

Hakop Adjinian, Fresno, Business Administration, Senior; **Jason Ahronian**, Fresno, Agricultural Business, Junior; **Jacqueline Arikian**, Fresno, Psychology, Sophomore; **Aline Ekmekji**, Sunnyvale, Sophomore, Biology; **David L. Emerzian**, Fresno, Accounting, Junior; **Jacklin Gharibian**, Fresno, Biological Sciences, Sophomore; **Christopher Gooboian**, Fresno, Business Administration, Senior; **Karen R. Karabian**, Fresno, Mass Communications-Journalism, Junior; **Michelle Karabian**, Fresno, Undeclared, Freshman; **Joseph Krajekian**, Beirut, Lebanon, Biology/Chemistry, Junior; **Robert Makertichian**, Fresno, Computer Science, Freshman; **Matthew Maroot**, Fresno, Political Science, Freshman; **Denise L. McCroskey**, Fowler, Psychology, Senior; **Manuel Momjian**, Fresno, Biology, Junior; **Corinne Ohannessian**, Fresno, Mass Communication, Senior; **Robin Peters**, Fowler, Undeclared, Freshman; **Stephanie Peters**, Fowler, Liberal Studies, Senior; **Greg Tchaparian**, Fresno, Undeclared, Junior; **Jaime Tikjian**, Fowler, Education, Freshman; **Anna Yergat**, Fresno, Sophomore, Business; **Peter Yerkanyan**, Fresno, Business Administration, Freshman.

Fund Source: Nerces and Ruth Azadian Memorial Scholarship

Sean Clark, Ahwahnee, Art, Junior.

Applications for scholarships and grants for the 1997-1998 academic year are now available through the Office of Scholarships and Grants. New and continuing students at Fresno State are eligible for the awards. The deadline for applications is February 3, 1996. For further information or applications contact: Scholarship Office, CSU, Fresno, Joyal Administration Building, Room 219, Fresno, CA 93740-0064 Phone: (209) 278-6572

Modern Armenian Historian

By Sean Clark

There is a part in all of us that enjoys discovering new things. Isabel Kaprielian wants people to discover old things. It is her life's work, the study and conservation of the past. Dr. Kaprielian is a native of Canada where she earned her MA and Ph.D. at the University of Toronto. Already interested in history, it was the influence of her professor, the Ethnic and Immigration Historian at the University of Toronto, to specifically specialize towards Armenian immigration. She relates, "Professor Robert Harney said to me, 'If you don't study the Armenians, who will?'" It is this exact challenge that she extends to her students now.

This recent semester she has passed on that endeavor to the students and community members here at Fresno State. Dr. Kaprielian cannot emphasize enough how quickly the past can slip away. Earlier in the semester she led a weekend class (See adjacent story) in which one of the assignments was to interview an older family member about their experience growing up Armenian. That is the easiest way young people today can preserve history. A more difficult way is the way Dr. Kaprielian has been doing it for years.

When she started pursuing Armenian Immigration to Canada she found the information in the usual places: state archives, libraries, and government agencies; but as word got out about her work material started to turn up in all sorts of places. "People would have basements full of boxes with pictures and documents just wasting away from neglect." She has come across more information than one person could ever completely disseminate in a life time, and yet she is always searching for more. "Materials are being discarded, invaluable pieces of Armenian heritage are not being preserved." These pieces of Armenian heritage are the proof of the existence of the Armenians in North America. As Dr. Kaprielian discovers them they become little treasures of irreplaceable importance.

Recently one of these treasures was a quantity of material about Armenian orphans sent to Canada after World War I. Actual correspondence between the parties involved, travel, and official documents proved to be a new direction of study that might have been overlooked. Seemingly mundane stores of information quickly become significant resources about the past. Some of the most interesting materials come in the form of early Armenian organization documents, meeting minutes, and cultural events Armenian groups engaged in during the 1930's and 1940's. These documents alone offer testimony to the importance Armenians had influencing the social and political life in Canada and America.

This is no surprise to anyone. This information is not new.



Dr. Isabel Kaprielian

At the lecture given this semester during the Fall Lecture Series, Dr. Kaprielian talked about many of the benevolent, political, labor and women's organizations of the early 1900's. Many people in the audience were familiar with them through relatives and photographs, unfortunately all of those who remembered were not of my generation. This is exactly what Dr. Kaprielian fears: that the memories and oral histories are not being passed down to the next generation. Third and fourth generation American-Armenian children are not being told who they are and where they come from. The photos, stories and artifacts are left to decay instead of preserved for future generations to enjoy.

This story does have a happy ending. Much is being done. Every time Dr. Kaprielian challenges another Armenian to discover the past ground is won. Dr. Kaprielian perseveres to find new and exciting treasures from the past and will continue to do so. She also applauds the community members who diligently work towards preserving the past right here in Fresno. Because the Central Valley is an integral part of the Armenian Diaspora no where else could it be more important than to remain steadfast and never allow the past to slip. Understanding of one's heritage is strength and identity. Imagine what future generations can benefit from knowing a history that is accessible and encouraged.

Dr. Kaprielian is teaching again next semester. She will have courses in immigration history, Armenian studies, and the Genocide. She is a personable woman inspired by her subject matter and allows the class to enjoy the material as well. The love of what she does is easily seen in the clarity in which she presents it, history does not seem so far away hearing it from her. Despite the fact that you are studying what has already happened, it as though you are discovering something you have never seen before.

Armenians in America

By Jacqueline Arikian

An estimated 20 students came together on Friday, October 11 and Saturday, October 12 to learn about Armenians in America. The class was taught by Dr. Isabel Kaprielian.

The class provided information on the genocide and its diasporan effects. The students learned about picture brides, employment hardships, traditional folk dancing and music, the migration from the eastern United States to the Western United States, and life in Fresno.

The material was provided through different sources: films, works of literature, lecture, and class discussion. The class had a particular emphasis on the importance of family history. The students were strongly urged to speak to their family members in order to obtain information about their family history, particularly of Armenian immigration to the United States. The class consisted of first generation Armenians as well as fourth generation Armenians so the stories varied significantly.

As the class drew to an end, the students were given an assignment, one which would essentially determine their course grade. They were to speak to a person who had emigrated to the United States and find out about their childhood and their "Armenian" stories. It was highly recommended to conduct the conversation with a family member in order to learn more about their own family history. These conversations were required to be recorded and utilized as a reference point in writing a paper about the individual's oral history. I spoke with my mother. Many of the stories I had heard before, and yet I was fascinated by the number that I hadn't known about. Armenians in America challenged my understanding of my culture within the course and beyond.

Armenian Poetry and Music

By Jacqueline Arikian

Armenians. A group of people whose stories are a reflection of their suffering and survival throughout time. A group of people whose wars, according to William Saroyan, "have been fought and lost, whose structures have crumbled, whose literature is unread, whose music is unheard, and whose prayers are no more answered." On the evening of November tenth, on the campus of California State University Fresno, during the honoring of Dr. Dikran Kouymjian at the Armenian Studies Banquet, the music of the Armenians was heard loudly and their poetry was read passionately.

We listened to the traditional Armenian music played by Michael Baloian and Jemmy Bluestein, as we sat there, mesmerized at the recreation of the Armenian spirit, the spirit that lurked within each of us on a different level and a music we heard which reminded us of the many stories that we had been told, the stories of death, torment, and beauty. And to a certain extent, we all found ourselves relating to it, recalling fragments told by our relatives or pieces of it presented in our Armenian classes. Somehow, in some way, we each found our connection as we heard the mellow music speak to us in the background.

As the music danced on stage, the words of the poet, Jim Baloian, verbalized our feelings. With each word that he spoke, with each emphasis and escalation in his voice, his passion vibrated throughout the room, bouncing off the walls, making itself known to the world, a world who knew. It was not difficult to understand the Armenian message behind Baloian's poems, for each word spoke of a truth, one which we all knew and understood.

We listened to the reflections of Armenia's beautiful land, of its people, and its customs. And as Baloian paused, the look in his eyes and his very being created an Armenia in itself, an Armenia which broke the serene vision in our imagination.

Looking around the room, I saw the applause in the eyes of the audience. I knew that they were feeling the intensity of Baloian's reflection of Armenia and Armenian life. They listened, laughing with him and hurting with him,



Jim Baloian with his musical group.

feeling the stabbing wounds of those before them. Through Baloian, they saw the fire of what they had known for so long.

There was no need for explanation, Baloian's presence said enough. Watching his hands firmly grip the sides of the podium as he briefly looked up from his ignited words, the vibration of his gestures helped to explain. As the poem concluded, they all reinforced him through their friendly faces and applause, illustrating their unity loudly and encouragingly, anxiously awaiting for the next recreation.

Modestly, Baloian fed them, recreating what they were awaiting. The music in the background emphasized the visions. With each note the musicians played, the audience absorbed within themselves, releasing the bottled passion through their cheers. And so this cycle continued, with each new poem and each new song adding to the completion of the puzzle.

On that evening, each person entered into the banquet room with their own heartaches and their own individualistic qualities, a commonality of Armenianess bringing them together. Unknowingly, each piece came together, feeding off of each other, and for a brief moment in time, unifying the Diasporic puzzle. As these Armenians came together, living through Baloian's words and feeling the Armenian music, they reiterated Saroyan's point by creating a New Armenia.

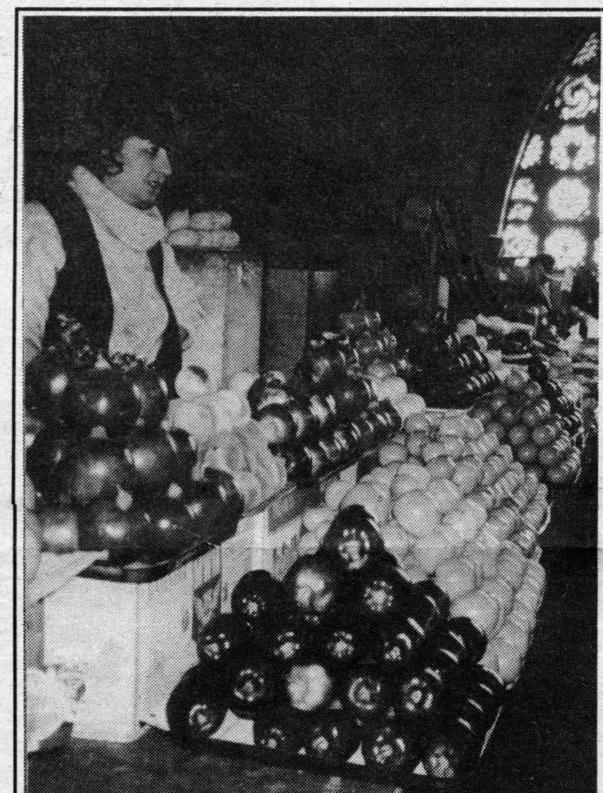
Fresno Ag Specialists Report Continued Progress in Armenia

By Bill Erysian

For the newly-arriving visitor to Armenia these days, expectations about the state of an economy in transition can be uncertain, but it does not take very long after your plane lands to see there are lots of bright spots on the horizon especially for Armenian agriculture.

That's the consensus from a team of Fresno agriculture specialists who returned earlier this month from a fact-finding trip to Armenia. The group was part of CSUF's latest contribution to the US Department of Agriculture's Marketing Assistance Program currently underway in Armenia.

Juan Batista, CSUF Professor of Agricultural Economics and director of the academic portion of the



USDA project was accompanied by two local experts—Victor Sahatdjan of Victor Paving in Madera and Duke Golden, a local attorney and trade specialist. It was the first trip to Armenia for the three Fresnans.

The team was also put together to provide expertise in the development of Armenia exports and to offer guidance on western farming tech-

niques.

Batista's role is to assist the Armenian Agriculture Academy in the planning of a western-style curriculum. He says the outlook for the Academy is very optimistic.

"The agriculture Academy is doing an excellent job even though they don't have a lot of teaching resources at this time," Batista explained. The most important thing we found there is a great enthusiasm by students and faculty to cooperate with CSUF. They really know what they want."

He is exploring ways to

scheduled visit to California in January by the director of the academy, Dr. Armen Khachatrian, to observe university strategic planning processes firsthand.

CSUF also has plans to bring 10 Academy faculty members to Fresno to attend introductory courses in business, micro-economic theory, finance, marketing and computer applications in business.

Batista also said that he is actively seeking donations of 20 computers from the local community to set up a computer lab at the Academy.

Victor Sahatdjan was specifically requested by several individuals in Armenia to offer some of his expertise in fruit drying. After discovering that the dehydration business in Armenia was not yet at the commercial level Sahatdjan quickly began making some interesting observations about general farming practices in Armenia.

"What struck me immediately was that I saw abundant farm land, good soils, and an adequate water supply in Armenia, which is a big plus," he said.

"The Armenians are growing a variety of crops in very large amounts and we are particularly impressed with the high quality of the fruits and vegetables."

Recognizing that there is actu-



L to R.: Deputy Minister of Agriculture Davtian, Duke Golden, Harley Martin, Siranoosh (translator), winery owner, Juan Batista, Victor Sahatdjan.

ally an over supply in certain crops one of Sahatdjan's first recommendations was that farmers should try to sell organically grown fruits and vegetables, which would provide a higher profit margin, especially as exports. He also noted a lack in cold storage facilities and effective transportation routes in the country.

"We were able to provide some guidance on western farming techniques and storage, as well as a few things we have learned about how to develop a strong organic

menia has stabilized its currency and continues to develop reliable export routes for its products, which provide Golden with the chance to focus on building immediate export opportunities.

"The problem of Armenia being a landlocked country may not be insurmountable to the future development of international trade," Golden emphasized. "There is every indication that exports through a Georgian port could be economically feasible, which we hope to test in a few months."



Michael Kalashian demonstrating the preparation of dried tomatoes.

farming industry."

In addition, Sahatdjan offered advice on the need for proper grading, sizing, inspections and documentation of produce in Armenia as a prerequisite to compete in the international marketplace.

Duke Golden was originally asked to accompany the team to establish a barter exchange house in Armenia, due to perceived lack of strength in the Armenian currency (Dram) and ineffective transportation routes out of the country.

But the reality is that Ar-

menia has stabilized its currency and continues to develop reliable export routes for its products, which provide Golden with the chance to focus on building immediate export opportunities.

His next plan is to establish a trading company in Armenia that can find international customers for these products.



Left to Right: Duke Golden, Bill Erysian, friend Martin, and Victor Sahatdjan.

Letters from Armenia for Dr. Kouymjian

Dear honored Professor,

On behalf of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia I warmly congratulate you, on the 20th anniversary of your directorship of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno. In the position, through your diligent and fruitful activities, you have taught many generations of students with your dedicated work. Many of these have now begun their own efforts in the field of Armenian Studies.

As a worthy son of the Armenian people, and an indefatigable laborer in the field of science, you have devoted an enthusiasm and diligence which have been felt in the work of presenting to the international scientific public the study and analysis of the spiritual treasures of our people. Your more than thirty-five year career in academics in the areas of numismatics, manuscripts, literature, art, and architecture, have entered into the treasure book of Armenian Studies.

Dear professor, in connection with this special occasion, I wish you good health, a long life, a happy life, and new creative successes, in the name of the future progress of Armenian Studies. With deep respect,

Fadei Sarkissian. Academician President, Armenian Academy of Sciences

Vladimir Barkhoudarian Academician Secretary, Armenian Academy of Sciences

Honorable Dr. Kouymjian,

In the name of the scientific Council, Rectorate, and the faculties of the philological and history departments, I send warm greetings to you, on the occasion of the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of your productive activities as Director of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno.

Under your leadership an active Armenian Studies Program, through the courses which it offers, has brought numerous Armenians and non-Armenians alike toward the Armenian culture, awakening in their souls a love and interest toward Armenian language, literature, history, and art.

The lectures you have given and classes which you have taught at universities in Beirut, Cairo, Paris, New York, and Fresno and at Yerevan State University have played a great role in bringing broader international attention to Armenian Studies.

The books and articles which you have published and the papers which you have read at various conferences and symposia, have provided a great contribution to contemporary knowledge. Through those works you have created a valuable body of knowledge in Middle Eastern coinage, Armenian historiography, and medieval art, especially in the area of manuscript illumination.

Your studies have also been an invaluable treasure in the analysis and discussion of the ages old Armenian architecture, sculpture, carpets, and archaeology.

You were the first among

the scholars to utilize the computer in the study of Armenian art and in Armenian Studies, communicating a new contemporary quality to your work in Armenian history and philology.

Your work in the area of Armenian film has been a unique contribution in that field in the Diaspora.

With your numerous and varied interests you have become unique among the new and old generations of Armenian scholars, with your new, bold ideas bringing a fresh breath to the fields of Armenian Studies and Middle Eastern Studies. By your authoritative work you have benefited the development of Armenian Studies in different countries.

In appreciation of and in recognition of your scholarly achievements you have been worthy of many honorary degrees and are a member of important scholarly organizations and societies.

Accept please, our wishes for your good health, for your happiness and for your continued contributions and success.

Radick Martirossian
Academician
Rector, Yerevan State University

Greatly respected professor, dear friend, and associate,

On behalf of the scientific council and all associates of the Mashtots Matenadaran, and personally, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations on your

See LETTERS, page 8

Karabian Reunion: 100 Years

By Karen Karabian

On Thanksgiving day, November 28, a pioneer Fresno family celebrated 100 years in Fresno. The Centennial celebration included a gathering of nearly 250 cousins and relatives who were descendants of Krikor Karabian.

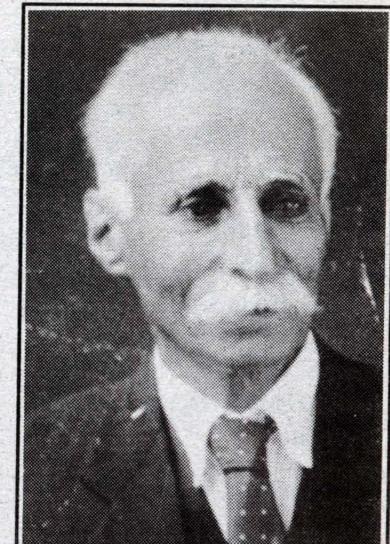
Krikor had arrived in Fresno with his family in 1896 in time for Thanksgiving. He had spent four years in Constantinople saving up for the trip. By 1906 Krikor, who was working as a sheet metal worker, had managed to save enough money to bring his brother's son, Hosep and wife, with their three children Mary, Satenig, and Frank (Tex) to Fresno. His sister had stayed in Bitlis and was ultimately killed in the Armenian massacre of 1912-17.

It was Frank as a young man who initiated the name change from Karibian to Karabian. He believed the family needed to assimilate into American culture.

The celebration was hosted by Wally Karabian, a man whose passion for his family has inspired so many. In attendance was 86-year-old Levon (Leo) Krikorian. He was the last of the family to immigrate from the ancestral home of Bitlis.

On display at the reunion was a remarkable historic treasure. Satenig (Hazel) Karabian had kept volumes of scrap books in her home preserving the newspaper clippings of every Armenian who appeared in the Fresno Bee from 1930 until 1980, when she died.

It was rare to find an article or photograph regarding an American Armenian in the Fresno Bee.



Krikor Karabian. Founder and patriarch of the Karabian clan of Fresno.

For this reason Satenig, unknowingly captured the births, deaths, and major events of every original Armenian family in Fresno. We can now trace the families, who are unidentifiable as Armenians today because of a name change, back to their original Armenian roots.

The reunion was an awesome moment in history for the Karabians, Simonians, Krikorians, Avakians, Badigians, and Basmajians. The room was united in prayer and peace as they must have been in 1896. It reminded everyone of the little Armenia that exists in Fresno. The families drew comfort in each other for each stood next to a fellow friend, a fellow Armenian.

There were unfamiliar faces and forgotten stories. There were voices of encouragement and ever-changing dreams. But one thing would always stay true in the lives of these people, the Armenian blood which flowed through their veins.

Encyclical, from Pg. 6

scholarly research and successes in the field of Armenian Studies. Consequently, We can without hesitation affirm, that You have become not only a dedicated teacher, who has led many Armenians and non-Armenians alike into an appreciation of Armenian history and culture, but You have also been and remained a scholar-philologist. Your philological interests have been multi-faceted and extensive. History, numismatics, Islamic Studies, manuscript illumination, the study of manuscript texts, bibliography, and other areas have all been a part of your scholarly interest and scientific research. You did not simply follow others but investigated your own original path. A serious, attentive, and organized work became a part of your everyday life, a permanent struggle. You stayed away from a quest for glory. You became tied to serious work; you believed in your work, as a permanent value. The scholarly research You have conducted over the past years and the work You have published are eloquent testimony to Your multi-faceted interests, Your specialization, and diligent labor.

At this important moment in Your life, when your friends, colleagues, and students remember You, and praise your merit, we do not only want to mention Your work as a teacher, but also as an Armenian, a true Armenian, who in the assimilating atmosphere of America has been able to maintain firmly his Armenian identity, as a sacred inheritance, and to live it every moment, and every place, from the home to the classroom.

In Your work and actions, in Your service and success, Your matchless wife Angelé has been an inseparable part. You have not been only a beloved and inseparable life-partner, but You always thought together, planned together, and labored together, believing that love and unity would always be a source of success and progress. Therefore, today We also today congratulate and honor her.

Dear Dickran, this moment in Your life is surely a beautiful occasion to look back and to remember the past. This moment is also a decisive occasion to look into the future and to plan it for it. We are sure that You still have many plans. We wish You complete health and the total realization of your plans and dreams. May God bless Your family and always lead You towards happiness and active success.

With Pontifical Blessings and warm affectionate greetings,
Prayerfully,
Aram I
Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia
November 1996

CD review

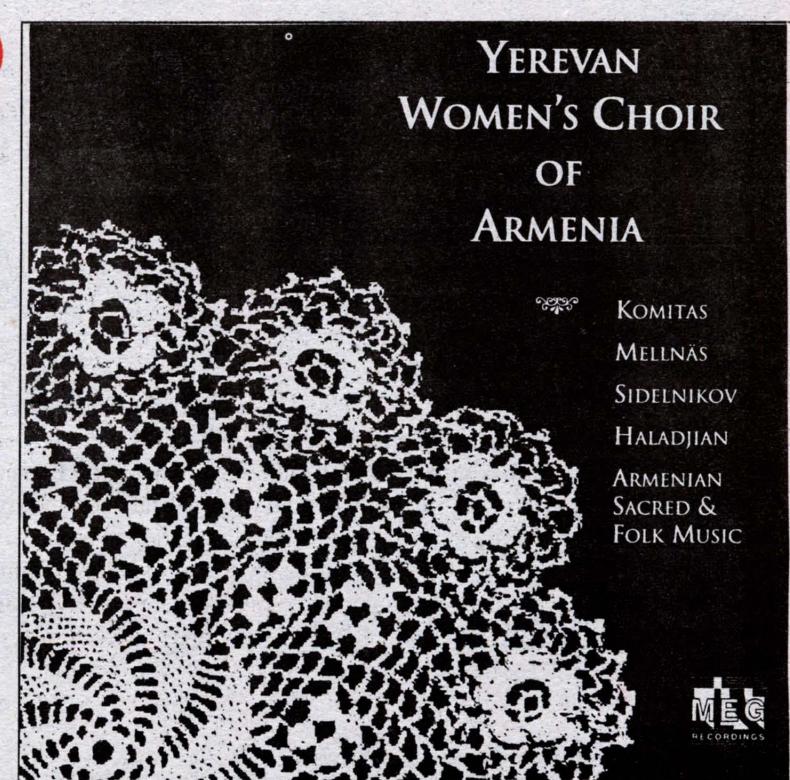
By Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Yerevan Women's Choir of Armenia (69'18")
MEG Recordings, PO BOX 412, Cambridge, MA 02338.

Cambridge, Massachusetts based composer and musician Dr. Ohannes Salibian has been producing a series of digitally recorded compact discs, one of the latest of which is called Yerevan Women's Choir of Armenia.

The choir is under the direction of Artur Veranian, a graduate of the Komitas conservatory in Yerevan, Armenia, and who founded the Yerevan Women's Choir in 1976. He has adapted work especially for women's choral groups.

The CD is comprised of eighteen works, eight by the world-famous Armenian musician Komitas. In addition, works by Robert Petrosian, Makar Ekmalian, Nerses Shnorhali (12th century), Mesrop Mashtots (5th century), Ervand Erkanian, Giovanni Gabrieli (16-17th century), Nikolay Sidelnikov, Arne Mellnäs, and



David Haladjian round out the mix of classical and modern composers.

The Yerevan Women's choir is a thirty-member musical chamber group with a distinctive sound. Most of their works are from the *a capella* tradition of Armenian music. They have performed at more than 300 concerts world-wide: throughout Armenia, the former Soviet Republics, and Western Europe. They have received many international awards.

This CD highlights the choral mastery that the Yerevan Women's Choir of Armenia has achieved. They move easily from sacred pieces to traditional folk music, always producing a beautiful sound.

Excerpts from the Armenian Divine Liturgy are among the most beautiful of their renditions (for example *Surb, Surb; Amen Hair Surb*).

This CD is a must add to the anyone's collection of music.

PBS Special, from p.1

means- and in this case hatred means extermination."

World War I was the biggest war to date and World War II which followed was even bigger. What marked both was genocide. As Winter says, "It was the logic of brutalization of total war."

The written testimony of an Armenian women, whose letter gets to the outside world, is also recounted in this section.

It is clearly stated, "To this day the Turkish Government denies the Genocide."

"To this day the Turkish Government denies the Genocide."

Towards the end of the segment, the number of victims of the

Genocide is discussed. Although the figure of 500,000 deaths is cited by some, and 1,000,000 by others (in this documentary) the number of Armenian deaths is over 1,500,000 in the period of 1915-1923.

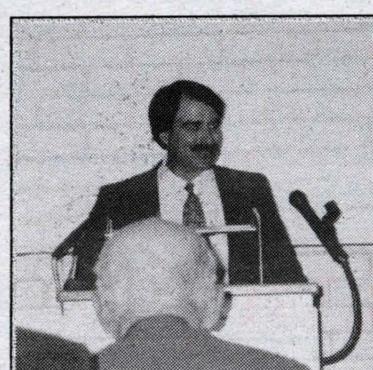
"Whatever the number, the Armenian Genocide was one of the darkest chapters of the Great War."

In concluding the piece, Adolph Hitler's quote is discussed. Armin Wegner had sent a letter to Hitler in defense of the Jews. However Hitler had learned "a completely different lesson." In a speech to his inner circle he said "Who remembers the Armenian massacres today?"

This chilling quote from Hitler concludes this very special part of "The Great War" series. For those who did not get an opportunity to view the series, and especially the segment on the Armenian, you definitely must see it.

Banquet, from p.1

Encyclical was experience unto itself. Read aloud in Armenian like lyrics to a song, both priests relayed the declarations from their respective Catholicos. It was a significant gesture, these were not compulsory documents given out at random. Both Catholicos know Dr. Kouymjian, especially Karekin I of Etchmiadzin whom Dr. Kouymjian studied under in Lebanon.



Flora Istanbalian

a milestone in a dream that has seen many obstacles and successes. This dream is on the collected consciousness of this community and this institution. The Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State is so much and will be so much more, led by a man like Dr. Dickran Kouymjian someday that dream will be fulfilled.

Bryan Bedrosian

That is part of the fascination around this man and why he deserves such recognition and respect. Fresno State is indeed fortunate to have a scholar so connected and accomplished as the director of our program. Distinguishing himself with twenty years of building a program that has no equal. The ceremony November 10th marked

Hye Talk, from pg. 1

where he and a group of pilgrims from Fresno attended the blessing of the Holy Muron (Holy Oil) ceremony in Etchmiadzin, Armenia. His Holiness Karekin I, Catholicos of All Armenians presided over the centuries old service. Fr. Zumrookhdian had the honor of holding the Right Hand (relic) of St. Gregory and Mr. Vahan Chamlian of Fresno was the God-father of the ceremony. Footage from the ceremony will be aired as part of the *hye talk* show.

Mr. Seth Atamian, newly appointed principal of the Armenian Community School of Fresno, is the second guest. Atamian was hired to lead the school which has now begun its twentieth year of activity. Atamian discusses the current activities at the school as well as its future goals.

Dr. Bill Rice, Professor of Marketing at Fresno State, brings his views on an Armenian agriculture training program which took place at Fresno State in October of

1996. Eleven farmers from Armenia were brought to the United States to participate in a training program which aimed to familiarize the farmers with marketing techniques. Dr. Rice, who was Outstanding Professor at Fresno State directed the Fresno State project along with Dr. Bill Mallios of the School of Business.

Sona Atoian, an artist from Armenia, has opened the Fresno Art Institute. The Institute is open to the public and provides art instruction. Atoian, who is a noted artist, is the main instructor of the Institute. She brings some of her own works on the show and also discusses her new venture.

hye talk is a production of the Armenian Studies Program in conjunction with the Academic Innovation Center of Fresno State and INTERSEC.

Comments on the program can be sent to *hye talk*, c/o Armenian Studies Program, CSU Fresno, 5245 N. Backer Ave M/S 4, Fresno, CA 93740-8001.

Thank You Donors

Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Y. Chamirian	Fresno CA
Dr. And Mrs. Arnold Gazarian	Fresno CA
John & Jane Havoonian	Yorba Linda CA
Mr. & Mrs. Shavarsh Hazarabedian	Moraga CA
Mr. & Mrs. Hagop Khoubesserian	Willowdale Ontario
Rafik Simonian	Areni, Armenia

Dancers Wanted

The Arax Dancers of Fresno

meets once a week
February through May

Come to learn Armenian line
and choreographed dances
For enjoyment and performances

Call 298-5023 for more details

Letters, from p.7

20th anniversary as director of the Armenian Studies Program. Your productive and completely dedicated efforts are worthy of the highest praise and deep thanks.

We wish you, our dear friend, a long life, and new successes in the field of Armenian Studies.

Sen Arevshatian,
Academician
Director, Mashtots Matenadaran

Looking forward to Hye Sharzhoom 1997! Positions available for writers, photographers, and graphic artists. Be a part of a staff that reaches thousands internationally. Inquire at the Armenian Studies Office.

ASP 20th Anniversary Banquet Donors

Benefactors

Armenian-American Citizens' League
Mrs. Nectar A. Avedian

Berge & Alice Bulbulian

Dr. Arnold & Dianne Gazarian

Patrons

Dr. Varouj & Lena Altebarmakian

Penny Mirigian-Emerzian

Anoush Chamlian

N. Leon & Diana Dermenjian

Friends

Richard & Armon Darmanian

Robert Davoudian

Mrs. Herbert Lion

Michael & Jackline Matosian

M/M Edward Zartarian

Sponsors

Bill & Florence Antablin

Armenian Society of Los Angeles

Maritza Chakmakjian

Jasmin Jacobs

Dr. Gordon Johnson

Mrs. Sylvia Kalbian (in memory of Setrag Balian)

Oscar Kasparyan
George & Sonia Keshishian

Clifford Melikian

Roxie Moradian

Richard & Vartouhy Pandukht

Noubar Tavitian

Steve Saroyan

M/M K Yervant Terzian

Donors

Myda Bakopian

John Baronian

Chas Bedoian

Lois I. Bedoian

S. Bedrossian

Lilyan Chooljian

Dr. Jeronima Echeverria

M/M Jacob Hagopian

Al & Isabelle Kabrielian

Dr. Harry Keyishian

Robert Makertichian

Chuck & Debbie Poochigian

Martin Tourigian

HYE SHARZHOOM

NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

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

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

\$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zipcode: _____

Please make checks payable to Armenian Studies Program and send to:

Armenian Studies Program

California State University, Fresno

5245 N. Backer Ave. M/S 4

Fresno, CA 93740-8001