



**California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program
5245 N. Backer Ave. M/S PB 4
Fresno, California 93740-8001**

Armenian Studies Program News Service

**CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program activities as reported in local,
national, and international media.**

Spring 2001

**Vol. 16 Release #74
January 2001-July 2001**

Armenian celebration shines

A symbolic light arrives from Armenia as Fresno plans to mark anniversary.

BY JOHN ELLIS ·
THE FRESNO BEE

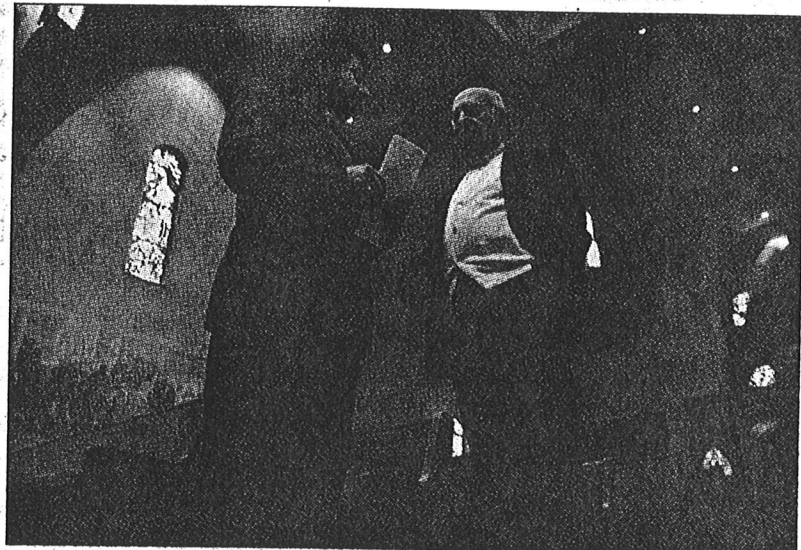
A light flickers in a pit in Armenia where St. Gregory the Illuminator was imprisoned 1,700 years ago.

In the early hours of Jan. 1, Karekin II — the 132nd successor to St. Gregory as Catholicos of All Armenians — descended into the pit and symbolically brought up the light.

It was taken to the church of Holy Etchmiadzin, where it was presented to the president of Armenia, Robert Kocharian.

He took it to the capital, Yerevan, where it was spread throughout the country and then the world, starting a year-long celebration of the 1,700th anniversary of Armenia's becoming the first nation to adopt Christianity as its official state religion.

In Fresno, the celebration will



MARK CROSSE — THE FRESNO BEE
Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, left, primate of the Diocese of Canada and executive secretary of the Holy Etchmiadzin 1,700th Anniversary Committee, speaks with the Rev. Shahe Altounian, former parish priest at St. Paul Armenian Church in Fresno.

be highlighted May 7-9 by the first visit here by Karekin II.

It was St. Gregory who in 301 A.D. persuaded his captor, the pagan Armenian sovereign Trdat III, to accept Christianity.

After his baptism, the king proclaimed Christianity the na-

tional religion. It wasn't until 313 that the Edict of Milan granted religious freedom to Christians in the Roman Empire.

On Monday, a piece of St. Gregory's symbolic light was in the
Please see **EVENTS**, Page B2



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier; Glendale, CA

DATE: February 8, 2001

SUBJECT: 1700th Anniversary of Christianity-in Fresno

PAGE: 1 of 1

St. Gregory's Symbolic Light Arrives From Armenia to Launch Fresno Celebrations

By John Ellis
Fresno Bee

FRESNO - A light flickers in a pit in Armenia where St. Gregory the Illuminator was imprisoned 1,700 years ago.

In the early hours of Jan. 1, Karekin II -- the 132nd successor to St. Gregory as Catholicos of All Armenians -- descended into the pit and symbolically brought up the light.

It was taken to the church of Holy Etchmiadzin, where it was presented to the president of Armenia, Robert Kocharian.

He took it to the capital, Yerevan, where it was spread throughout the country and then the world, starting a yearlong celebration of the 1,700th anniversary of Armenia's becoming the first nation to adopt Christianity as its official state religion.

In Fresno, the celebration will be highlighted May 7-9 by the first visit here by Karekin II.

It was St. Gregory who in 301 A.D. persuaded his captor, the pagan Armenian sovereign Trdat III, to accept Christianity.

After his baptism, the king proclaimed Christianity the national religion. It wasn't until 313 that the Edict of Milan granted religious freedom to Christians in the Roman Empire.

Last week, a piece of St. Gregory's symbolic light was in the sanctuary of St. Paul Armenian Church in Fresno as church leaders gathered to announce celebration plans.

"This monumental event is to raise awareness of our Christian identity," said Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, primate of the Diocese of Canada and executive secretary of the Holy Etchmiadzin 1700th Anniversary Committee. "These celebrations have become truly the source of new life which will give us a new momentum to live our Christian faith."

Joining Derderian were Barlow Der Mugrdachian, an Armenian studies lecturer at California State University, Fresno and chairman of the local anniversary committee; the Rev. Arshen Aivazian, parish priest of St. Paul Armenian Church; the Rev. Sahag Kaishian, parish priest of St. Mary Armenian Church in Yettum; the Rev. Kevork Arakelian, parish priest of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church in Fowler; the Rev. Vartan Kasparian; and the Rev. Vazken Movsesian, parish priest of St. Gregory Armenian Church in Pasadena.

Movsesian and Derderian are on a three-city tour -- Los Angeles, Fresno and San Francisco -- to promote the 1,700th anniversary celebrations.

Events, which run through September, include carnivals, retreats, music celebrations, divine liturgies and a youth pilgrimage to Armenia.

On April 14, there will be a

caravan to deliver the flame from the light of St. Gregory to Valley parishes.

On June 16, there will be the Belfries of All Christendom, which encourages churches worldwide to join the Armenian Church in ringing their bells in honor of the Feast of Holy Etchmiadzin.

And from May 7-9, Karekin II will make his first official pontifical visit to the Valley to mark the celebrations.

In Armenia, the highlight of the year will come in mid-September with the consecration of St. Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral in Yerevan, the celebration of the 10th anniversary of Armenia's independence and the blessing of the Holy Murom at Etchmiadzin.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

California State University, Fresno • 5245 N Backer Ave PB 4 • Fresno, CA 93740-8001

ՀԱՅ

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Fresno Bee; Fresno, CA

DATE: February 13, 2001

SUBJECT: Ara Sarafian to Speak on Genocide in Fresno

PAGE: 1 of 1

**Speech titled "Britain and the
Armenian Genocide", 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 20, California State
University, Fresno, University
Business Center. Speech by Ara
Sarafian of the Gomidas Institute
Details: 278-2669.**

Sarafian Will Speak on 'Britain and the Armenian Genocide' at CSUF on Feb. 20

FRESNO - Ara Sarafian of the Gomidas Institute, will speak on "Britain and the Armenian Genocide," Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m. at the CSUF's Alice Peters Auditorium, University Business Center.

Sarafian is the editor of the British Blue Book, "The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire 1915-1916... [Uncensored Edition] by James Bryce and Arnold Toynbee, released at the House of Lords last December.

The talk is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and the Armenian Students Organization of Fresno State.

Sarafian is a archival historian specializing on the later Ottoman Empire and modern Armenian history. He is currently editor of Gomidas Institute Books and co-editor of "Armenian Forum: A Journal of Contemporary Affairs." He has extensive experience doing research in the ar-

chives of Armenia, in London, Boston, Athens, in the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and also in the Prime Ministry Archives of Istanbul.

He has participated in many conferences, including UCLA, the International Conference on Genocide, Religion, and Modernity at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and Drew University, among others.

Sarafian has edited a series on *United States Official Documents on the Armenian Genocide*, and the recently published *Days of Tragedy: Personal Experiences in Harpoot, 1915-1917*.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Parking restrictions are relaxed on Lots A and J after 7 p.m.

For more information, contact the Armenian Studies Program at (559) 278-2669.

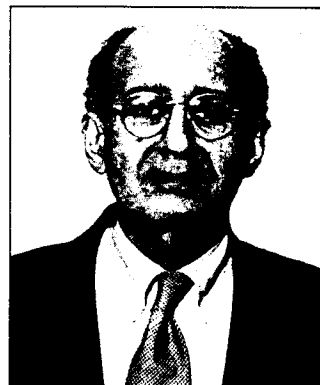
Dickran Kouymjian will serve on international committee

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, director of Fresno State's Armenian Studies Program, has been invited to serve on the selection committee of the Francqui Scientific Prize, Belgium's equivalent to the Nobel Prize.

The jury is made up exclusively of internationally recognized non-Belgium scholars, who after reviewing the elaborate files of each candidate meet for two days in Brussels to choose the winner from a field of some dozen candidates. In addition to Kouymjian,

there are three other jury members from the United States, three from the United Kingdom, two each from France and Germany, and single scholars from the Netherlands, Sweden and Taiwan.

The prize is awarded most years to scholars in the hard sciences, but this year it will go to a scholar in the humanities or social sciences. The prize is named after Emile Francqui, a banker and sometime cabinet minister of Belgium who greatly aided his countrymen during the famine conditions of World War I.



The award will be made on Saturday, April 21, by King Albert II of Belgium. On the evening before there will be a banquet for the jury and the candidates.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer; Los Angeles, Ca

DATE: April 4, 2001

SUBJECT: Der Mugrdechian Elected President of SAS

PAGE: 1 of 1

Society for Armenian Studies Holds Elections

FRESNO - The Society for Armenian Studies announced the results of recently held elections and the new Executive Council includes Barlow Der Mugrdechian, President; Peter Cowe, Vice President; Levon Chorbajian, Treasurer; Houri Berberian, Secretary; along with council members-without-portfolio Robert Hewsen, Richard Hovannisian, and Dickran Kouymjian. Dennis Papazian, as last year's out-going President, will serve a one year term as an ex-officio member of the Executive Council.

George Bournoutian and James Russell are leaving the executive Council after serving three-year terms.

In November of 2001, the Society will be holding its annual meeting in San Francisco in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association. The Society is planning several panels on a variety of Armenian-related topics.

The Society of Armenian Studies is composed of scholars, students and patrons of Armenian Studies. Although its membership is international, the overwhelming majority of members are based in the United States and Canada.

The Secretariat of the Society is now at the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno, 5245 N. Backer Ave. PB4, Fresno, CA 93740-8001.

The Society for Armenian Studies was founded in 1974 and is dedicated to the development of Armenian Studies as an academic discipline.

The aims of the Society for Armenian Studies are to promote the study of Armenian culture and society, including history, language, literature, art, and social, political, and economic questions, to facilitate the exchange of scholarly information pertaining to Armenian studies around the world, and to sponsor panels

and conferences on Armenian studies.

The programs of the Society include publication of a *Newsletter* (three times a year) on the Society's activities and on current research on Armenia, publication of *The Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies* (annually), encouragement, sponsorship and publication of research on all facets of Armenian culture and society, and such other activities as the SAS Executive Council may from time to time determine.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter; Fresh Meadow, NY

DATE: April 7, 2001

SUBJECT: ASO Sponsors Theatrical Presentation

PAGE: 1 of 1

Aram Kouyoumdjian to Present One-Man Plays

FRESNO, CA - Aram Kouyoumdjian of Sacramento, California will be presenting "Bedlam," two one-man plays, at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 17, 2001 in the Alice Peters Auditorium, University Business Center, on the California State University, Fresno campus. The evening performance is co-sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization at Fresno State and

the Armenian National Committee, Central California.

Combining prose and poetry, "Bedlam" is a rumination of the roles that choice and chance play in shaping the course of human lives. Mixing seemingly incongruent images such as surfing, marriage, food, and work, Mr. Kouyoumdjian crafts a piece that is both humorous and contemplative.

"Bedlam" premiered in 1996 in Southern California as part of the "Literary Corner" series of the Glendale Public Library.

Mr. Kouyoumdjian is a co-founder of Vista Players and serves as that theater group's Artistic Director. He recently won an Elly Award as Best Director of a Drama for the Vista Players production of *Three Hotels*, a Sacramento premiere that was nominated for Best Overall Production of a Drama. He had been earlier nominated for directing Vista Players' premier production, *Six Degrees of Separation*, which was also nominated for Best Overall Produc-

tion of a Drama. Having directed *Marvin's Room* this past fall, Mr. Kouyoumdjian will next helm *The Substance of Fire* in the spring.

Alongside directing, Mr. Kouyoumdjian authors and performs solo works, among them "Bedlam," "Cosmic Collisions," and "Protest," which he has performed at various venues in Southern California, including, most recently, the Downey Museum of Art. Mr. Kouyoumdjian has also performed, as solo pieces, writings by Armenian authors, such as Hagop Oshagan and Krikor Beledian, in their original language. He will return to Los Angeles in March to present selections from Mr. Beledian's latest novel.

The performance is free and open to the public. Parking restrictions are relaxed on lots A and J after 7:00 p.m. For more information on the lecture or about parking on campus, interested persons should contact the Armenian Studies Program at (559) 278-2669.

**ARCHIVE****SOURCE:** The Armenian Observer; Los Angeles, Ca**DATE:** April 11, 2001**SUBJECT:** ASP Sponsors Dance Presentation by Tom Bozigian**PAGE:** 1 of 1

Tom Bozigian Armenian Dance Seminar in Fresno May 4-5

FRESNO - Internationally recognized dance instructor Tom Bozigian will teach a weekend of traditional Armenian dance, on Friday, May 4 and Saturday, May 5, 2001. The Friday session begins at 7:00 PM and continues until 10:00 PM in the South Gym, Room 134 on the Fresno State campus. Saturday's class runs from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Mr. Bozigian's dance seminar is sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.

There is a \$50 per person fee for the course and those interested in registering should contact the Division of Extended Education at (559) 278-0333 to receive registration materials. The Dance Seminar is open to the public and is expected to fill quickly, so make sure to register early.

Tom Bozigian was born in Los Angeles, California to Armenian parents and he was raised and educated in Fresno, California, receiving his B.A. degree in Russian Area Studies and M.A. in Education.

At the invitation of the Soviet Armenian government in the early 1970's, Mr. Bozigian

traveled to Yerevan, Armenia where he continued his classical and character dance training graduating from the State Choreographic School Sayat Nova in a three-year program. After returning to the United States Mr. Bozigian devoted his career to the preservation, performance and instruction of original Armenian song and dance.

In 1975 Tom Bozigian founded the International Song and Dance Symposium and directed the one week seminar for 5 years at the University of Hawaii Oahu campus and for 20 years at University of California Santa Barbara campus. Many noted folk dance specialists presented their dance programs at these institutes.

Bozigian lives in Los Angeles where, today, the largest concentration of Armenians outside Armenia reside. He continues his classical dance training, studies musical arrangement and harmony. He also directs "Hye Bar Entertainment" (a DJ service). Bozigian is fluent in English, Russian and Armenian.

For more information, contact the Armenian Studies Program at (559) 278-2669.

**ARCHIVE****SOURCE:** The Armenian Observer; Los Angeles, Ca**DATE:** April 11, 2001**SUBJECT:** 2nd Annual Armenian Film Festival Featured at CSUF**PAGE:** 1 of 1

CSUF ASO and Armenian Studies Program to Hold One Day Annual Film Festival April 20

FRESNO – The Armenian Students Organization and Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno are co-sponsoring the “2nd Armenian Film Festival” from 7:30-10:00 PM on Friday, April 20, 2001 in the Alice Peters Auditorium of the University Business Center on the Fresno State campus.

Admission to the “2nd Annual Armenian Film Festival” is free and filmgoers will have the opportunity to ask the directors questions after the screening of each short-film. The films, while in the English language, are all directed and produced by a new generation of Armenian filmmakers.

The Armenian Students Organization is proud to feature the films of a new generation of Armenian writers, producers, and directors.

This program is supported, in part, by funds of the University Student Union Diversity Awareness Program.

The following films will be screened beginning at 7:30 PM: “Gyumri-Armenia” by Director Maria Hacopian Scott (USA, Color, 20 minutes).

“Gyumri-Armenia” is a docu-drama of post-earthquake Armenia. It is a story as seen through the eyes of two reporters who become involved in a plot in the ancient city of Gyumri, which seems in de-

spair. The film addresses the poverty and hardship of people trying to survive the cold winter snow, but also reminds us of the spirit of the Armenian people.

“Stream of Social Inter-course” by Producer/Director Serj Minassians (USA, Color, 25 minutes).

“Stream of Social Inter-course” has won six major awards in various film festivals around the world.

“Morning Execution” by Writer/Director Edwin Avanes (USA, Color, 10 minutes).

Filmed in 16mm non sync-sound and set in France in World War II, “Morning Execution” is a complex narrative about a partisan woman, whose lover is killed by the Nazis. She, then, takes revenge on a German soldier.

Additional films may be added to the program at a later date. For more information on the “2nd Armenian Film Festival,” call the Armenian Studies Program office at (559) 278-2669.

**ARCHIVE****SOURCE:** The California Courier; Glendale, Ca**DATE:** April 12, 2001**SUBJECT:** Armenian Dance Featured in Fresno State Class**PAGE:** 1 of 1

Tom Bozigian Will Teach Armenian Dance, May 4-5, at Fresno State

FRESNO - Internationally recognized dance instructor Tom Bozigian will teach a weekend of traditional Armenian dance, May 4 and 5, at the Fresno State campus. The Friday class begins at 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. in the South Gym, Room 134. Saturday's class runs from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. The dance seminar is sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.

There is a \$50 per person fee for the course. To receive registration materials, interested persons should contact the Division of Extended Education at (559) 278-0333.

Bozigian was born in Los Angeles and was raised and educated in Fresno, receiving a B.A. degree in Russian Area Studies and an M.A. in Education. At the invitation of the Soviet Armenian government in the early 1970s,

Bozigian traveled to Yerevan where he continued his classical and character dance training graduating from the State Choreographic School Sayat Nova in a three-year program.

Each year, Bozigian travels to Armenia to continue his research with various institutions and dance specialists.

In addition to the dances of

the pre-1915 period and the Caucasian Armenian dances, Bozigian specializes in new Armenian folk dances as well as choreography. He regularly tours the Orient and Europe teaching Armenian dance to international folk dance collective and to groups within Armenian communities.

In 1975, Bozigian founded the International Song and Dance Symposium and directed the one-week seminar for five years at the University of Hawaii, Oahu campus, and for 20 years at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Bozigian lives in Los Angeles, and continues his dance training, studies musical arrangements and harmony. He also directs "Hye Bar Entertainment" a DJ service. Bozigian is fluent in English, Russian and Armenian.

For more information, contact the Armenian Studies Program at (559) 278-2669.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier; Glendale, CaDATE: April 12, 2001SUBJECT: Theatrical Presentation at Fresno StatePAGE: 1 of 1**'Bedlam' to be Presented at CSUF on April 17**

FRESNO - Aram Kouyoumdjian of Sacramento, Calif. will present "Bedlam," two one-man plays on April 17, in the Alice Peters Auditorium, University Business Center, on the California State University, Fresno campus. The performance is co-sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization at Fresno State and the Armenian National Committee, Central California.

Combining prose and poetry, "Bedlam" is a rumination of the roles that choice and chance play in shaping the course of human lives. Mixing seemingly-incongruent images such as surfing, marriage, food, and work,

Kouyoumdjian crafts a piece that is both humorous and contemplative. He is a co-founder of Vista Players and serves as that

theater group's Artistic Director. He recently won an Elly Award as Best Director of a Drama for the Vista Players production of Three Hotels, a Sacramento premiere that was nominated for Best Overall Production of a Drama, as well as being nominated for Six Degrees of Separation.

Alongside directing, Kouyoumdjian authors and performs solo works which he has performed at various venues in Southern California. Kouyoumdjian has also performed, as solo pieces, writings by Armenian authors, such as Hagop Oshagan and Krikor Beledian, in their original language.

The performance is free. For more information contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier; Glendale, CaDATE: April 12, 2001SUBJECT: Der Mugrdechian Elected SAS PresidentPAGE: 1 of 1

SAS Elects New Executive

FRESNO - The Society for Armenian Studies recently held elections and the new Executive Council includes Barlow Der Mugrdechian, President; Peter Cowe, Vice President; Levon Chorbajian, Treasurer; Houri Berberian, Secretary; along with Council members-without-portfolio Robert Hewsen, Richard Hovannisian, and Dickran Kouymjian.

In November of this year, the Society will hold its annual meeting in San Francisco in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association.

The Society is composed of scholars, students and patrons of Armenian Studies. Although its membership is international, the overwhelming majority of members are based in the United States and Canada.

The Society was founded in 1974 and is dedicated to the development of Armenian Studies as an academic discipline.

The aims of the Society are to promote the study of Armenian culture and society, including history, language, literature, art, and social, political, and economic questions, to facilitate the exchange of scholarly information

pertaining to Armenian studies around the world, and to sponsor panels and conferences on Armenian studies.

The programs of the Society include publication of a Newsletter (three times a year) on the Society's activities and on current research on Armenia, publication of The Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies (annually), encouragement, sponsorship and publication of research on all facets of Armenian culture.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Asbarez ; Glendale, CADATE: April 14, 2001SUBJECT: 2nd Annual Armenian Film Festival at Fresno StatePAGE: 1 of 1

Second Annual Fresno State Armenian Film Festival

FRESNO—The Armenian Students Organization and the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno are co-sponsoring the "2nd Armenian Film Festival" from 7:30-10 p.m. on Friday, April 20, 2001 in the Alice Peters Auditorium of the University Business Center on the Fresno State campus.

Admission to the "2nd Annual Armenian Film Festival" is free and film-goers will have the opportunity to ask the directors questions after the screening of each short-film. The films, while in the English language, are all directed and produced by a new generation of Armenian film-makers.

"Gyumri-Armenia" by Director Maria Hacopian Scott is the first film being featured (USA, Color, 20 minutes). Hacopian Scott's docu-drama of post-earthquake Armenia is a story seen through the eyes of two reporters who become involved in a plot in the ancient city of Gyumri, which seems in despair. The film addresses the poverty and hardship of people trying to survive the cold winter snow,

but also reminds us of the spirit of the Armenian people.

The second film to be shown is "Stream of Social Intercourse" by Producer/Director Serj Minassians (USA, Color, 25 minutes). "Stream of Social Intercourse" has won six major awards in various film festivals around the world.

"Morning Execution" by Writer/Director Edwin Avaneß (USA, Color, 10 minutes) is the last film featured at this year's festival. Filmed in 16mm non sync-sound and set in France in World War II, "Morning Execution" is a complex narrative about a partisan woman, who takes revenge on a German soldier after her lover is killed by the Nazis.

Additional films may be added to the program at a later date. The program is supported, in part, by funds of the University Student Union Diversity Awareness Program.

For more information on the "2nd Armenian Film Festival," call the Armenian Studies Program office at (559) 278-2669.

***15th Annual Armenian Studies Banquet*****“An Evening on the Lake with William Saroyan”**

FRESNO, CA - The Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno invites the community to its 15th Anniversary Banquet, “An Evening on the Lake with William Saroyan,” at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 6, 2001.

Fresno photographer Paul Kalinian's film, “William Saroyan,” a documentary on the life of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Saroyan, will be shown during the evening festivities. The film is winner of six international film festival awards, including a gold award for best documentary.

California State Senator Chuck Poochigian will be the Master of Ceremonies during the banquet.

Cherie Chooljian will entertain guests on the piano. Her first love is music and she plays the piano and sings, and has recorded Jazz and Latin CDs. She has performed in the Boston area and, for the last ten years, in San Francisco.

The banquet will be held at the home of Dr. Jane Kardashian and Vatche Soghomonian, overlooking Millerton Lake.

Reservations may be made through the Armenian Studies Program office by phoning (559) 278-2669. Tickets cost \$40 per person or \$400 per table of 10. Fresno State students benefit from a special price of \$15.

Deadline for reservations is April 20, 2001.

Further details may be obtained by contacting the Armenian Studies Program office at (559) 278-2669.

Society for Armenian Studies Holds Elections

FRESNO, CA - The Society for Armenian Studies announced the results of recently held elections, and the new Executive Council includes Barlow Der Mugrdechian, President; Peter Cowe, Vice President; Levon Chorbajian, Treasurer; Houri Berberian, Secretary, along with council members-without-portfolio Robert Hewsen, Richard Hovannisian, and Dickran Kouymjian. Dennis Papazian, as last year's outgoing President, will serve a one-year term as an ex-officio member of the Executive Council.

George Bournoutian and James Russell are leaving the Executive Council after serving three-year terms.

In November of 2001, the Society will be holding its annual meeting in San Francisco in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association. The Society is planning several panels on a variety of Armenian-related topics.

The Society of Armenian Studies is composed of scholars, students and patrons of Armenian Studies. Although its membership is international, the overwhelming majority of members are based in the United States and Canada.

The Secretariat of the Society is now at the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno, 5245 N. Backer Ave. PB4, Fresno, CA 93740-8001.

The Society for Armenian Studies was founded in 1974 and is dedicated to the development of Armenian Studies as an academic discipline.

The aims of the Society for Armenian Studies are to promote the study of Armenian culture and society, including history, language, literature, art, and social, political, and economic questions; to facilitate the exchange of scholarly information pertaining to Armenian studies around the world; and to sponsor panels and conferences on Armenian studies.

The programs of the Society include publication of a Newsletter (three times a year) on the Society's activities and on current research on Armenia, publication of The Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies (annually), encouragement, sponsorship and publication of research on all facets of Armenian culture and society, and such other activities as the SAS Executive Council may from time to time determine.

SOURCE Armenian Reporter; Fresh Meadow, NY

DATE April 14, 2001

SUBJECT 2nd Annual Armenian Film Festival

PAGE 1 of 1

Second Annual Armenian Film Festival to Be Held at CSUF

FRESNO, CA - The Armenian Students Organization and Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno are co-sponsoring the "2nd Armenian Film Festival" from 7:30-10:00 p.m. on Friday, April 20, 2001 in the Alice Peters Auditorium of the University Business Center on the Fresno State campus.

Admission to the "2nd Annual Armenian Film Festival" is free, and film-goers will have the opportunity to ask the directors questions after the screening of each short film. The films, while in the English language, are all directed and produced by a new generation of Armenian filmmakers.

The Armenian Students Organization will feature the films of a new generation of Armenian writers, producers, and directors.

This program is supported, in part, by funds of the University Student Union Diversity Awareness Program.

The following films will be screened beginning at 7:30 p.m.:
"Gyumri-Armenia" by Director Maria Hacopian Scott (USA, Color, 20 minutes).

"Gyumri-Armenia" is a docu-drama of post-earthquake Armenia. It is a story as seen through the eyes of two reporters who become involved in a plot in the ancient city of Gyumri, which seems in despair. The film addresses the poverty and hardship of people trying to survive the cold winter snow, but also reminds us of the spirit of the Armenian people.

"Stream of Social Intercourse" by Producer/Director Serj Minassians (USA, Color, 25 minutes).

"Stream of Social Intercourse" has won six major awards in various film festivals around the world.

"Morning Execution" by Writer/Director Edwin Avanes (USA, Color, 10 minutes).

Filmed in 16mm non sync-sound and set in France in World War II, "Morning Execution" is a complex narrative about a partisan woman, whose lover is killed by the Nazis. She then takes revenge on a German soldier.

Additional films may be added to the program at a later date. For more information on the "2nd Armenian Film Festival," interested persons may call the Armenian Studies Program office at (559) 278-2669.

Armenian Dance Seminar at Fresno State in Beginning of May

FRESNO, CA - Internationally recognized dance instructor Tom Bozigian will teach a weekend of traditional Armenian dance, on Friday, May 4 and Saturday, May 5, 2001. The Friday session begins at 7:00 p.m. and continues until 10:00 p.m. in the South Gym, Room 134 on the Fresno State campus. Saturday's class runs from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mr. Bozigian's dance seminar is sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.

There is a \$50-per-person fee for the course and those interested in registering should contact the Division of Extended Education at (559) 278-0333 to receive registration materials. The Dance Seminar is open to the public and is expected to fill quickly, so make sure to register early.

Tom Bozigian was born in Los Angeles, California to Armenian parents. He was raised and educated in Fresno, California, receiving his B.A. degree in Russian Area Studies and M.A. in Education.

At the invitation of the Soviet Armenian government in the early 1970's, Mr. Bozigian traveled to Yerevan, Armenia where he continued his classical and character dance training, graduating from the Sayat Nova State Choreographic School in a three-year program. After returning to the United States, Mr. Bozigian devoted his career to the preservation, performance and instruction of original Armenian song and dance.

Each year Mr. Bozigian travels to Armenia to continue his research. He works with various institutions and dance specialists and, at the same time, visits target areas throughout Armenia for the purpose of drawing comparisons of original dances from both Armenia and the Diaspora.

Tom Bozigian is particularly sought out for his extensive knowledge of Armenian dances from the pre-1915 period.

In addition to the dances of the pre-1915 period and the Caucasian Armenian dances, Bozigian specializes in new Armenian folk dances as well as choreography for stage presentation. He regularly tours the Orient and Europe, teaching Armenian dance to international folk dance collectives and to groups within Armenian communities.

In 1975 Tom Bozigian founded the International Song and Dance Symposium. He directed the one-week seminar for five years at the University of Hawaii Oahu campus and, for 20 years, at University of California Santa Barbara campus. Many noted folk dance specialists presented their dance programs at these institutes.

Bozigian lives in Los Angeles where, today, the largest concentration of Armenians outside Armenia resides. He continues his classical dance training, and studies musical arrangement and harmony. He also directs "Hye Bar Entertainment" (a DJ service). Bozigian is fluent in English, Russian and Armenian.

For more information, interested persons should contact the Armenian Studies Program at (559) 278-2669.

**ARCHIVE****SOURCE:** The California Courier; Glendale, Ca**DATE:** April 19, 2001**SUBJECT:** 2nd Armenian Film Festival at Fresno State**PAGE:** 1 of 1

Second Armenian Film Festival Slated at CSUF Campus on April 20

FRESNO - The Armenian Students Organization and Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno are co-sponsoring the "2nd Armenian Film Festival" on April 20 in the Alice Peters Auditorium on the Fresno State campus.

Admission is free and film-goers will have the opportunity to ask the directors questions after the screening of each short-film. The films, while in the English language, are all directed and produced by a new generation of Armenian filmmakers.

The program is supported, in part, by funds of the University Student Union Diversity Awareness Program.

The following films will be screened beginning at 7:30 p.m.:

"Gyumri-Armenia" by Director Maria Hacopian Scott (USA, color, 20 minutes). The film is a docu-drama of post-earthquake Armenia. It is a story as seen through the eyes of two reporters who become involved in a plot in

the ancient city of Gyumri, which seems in despair. The film addresses the poverty and hardship of people trying to survive the cold winter snow, but also reminds us of the spirit of the Armenian people;

"Stream of Social Intercourse" by Producer/Director Serj Minassians (USA, color, 25 minutes). This film has won six major awards in various film festivals around the world;

"Morning Execution" by Writer/Director Edwin Avanes (USA, color, 10 minutes). Filmed in 16 mm non sync-sound and set in France in World War II, "Morning Execution" is a complex narrative about a partisan woman, whose lover is killed by the Nazis. She, then, takes revenge on a German soldier.

Additional films may be added to the program at a later date. For more information, call the Armenian Studies Program office at (559) 278-2669.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

California State University, Fresno • 5245 N Backer Ave PB 4 • Fresno, CA 93740-8001

2U.8

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier; Glendale, Ca

DATE: April 19, 2001

SUBJECT: Armenian Studies Program 15th Annual Banquet

PAGE: 1 of 1

CSUF Armenian Studies Program Will Hold Banquet on May 6

FRESNO - The Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno will hold their 15th Anniversary Banquet, "An Evening on the Lake with William Saroyan," on May 6, at 5 p.m.

Fresno photographer Paul

Kalinian's film, "William Saroyan," a documentary on the life of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Saroyan, will be shown during the evening. The film is winner of six international film festival awards, including a gold award for best documentary.

California state Senator Chuck Poochigian will be the banquet's Master of Ceremonies.

Reservations may be made through the Armenian Studies Program office at (559) 278-2669. Tickets are \$40 per person.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee; Fresno, Ca

DATE: April 22, 2001

SUBJECT: Der Mugrdechian Awarded Honorary Doctorate from YSU

PAGE: 1 of 1

CSUF professor honored

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, a lecturer in the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, was recently awarded an honorary doctorate from Yerevan State University for more than a decade of work with that institution.

Yerevan University, situated in the capital of

Armenia, is a sister university to Fresno State. Der Mugrdechian has conducted study tours of Armenia, and he has made arrangements for students from Yerevan to study at Fresno State.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: TheCollegian; Fresno, CaDATE: April 23, 2001SUBJECT: ASO Genocide Display VandalizedPAGE: 1 of 1

Display vandalized at Madden Library

By LISA PADILLA

THE COLLEGIAN

Fresno State officials have no leads on who is to blame for the vandalism of the Armenian Genocide exhibit on display in the Henry Madden Library.

"I think it's sad. They can't come out and say, 'we don't agree with it,'" said Michael Harutunian, president of the Armenian Students Organization at Fresno State. "They have to do it when no one's looking."

"It was very distressing. I

VANDAL

grandfather moved remaining family members to Lebanon.

For decades, Armenians have waited for the Turkish government to acknowledge and apologize for the inhumane treatment of their people, but the Turkish government has refused.

Though it is not yet known who might have been responsible for the vandalism to the display, Tateosian said he feels it would have to be someone knowledgeable about the genocide.

Tateosian also said that tensions between the Armenian and Turkish cultures escalated recently when France recognized the legitimacy of the genocide.

In an act of retaliation, Turkey withdrew from a \$200 million satellite with France, Tateosian said.

Susan Mangini, assistant to the Dean of the Library, said the library has never had a problem like this in the 12 years of her employment. She maintained, however, the library is not responsible for materials on display citing the library's exhibit policy, which has been in effect since 1984.

Mangini said the fact the display was out in the open, instead of enclosed in a protective case, might have contributed to the offense.

thought it was an insult to our people," said ~~Barlow Der Mugrdechian~~, a professor of Armenian Studies.

Posters of pictures and historical information regarding the Armenian Genocide have been on display since April 11 on the second-floor bridge of the library.

On Friday, some of the posters were found smeared with caramel. Other posters were littered with Post-it notes that had the web address of a pro-Turkish Web site scribbled on them. A picture was torn off the front of yet another

poster.

"It's like an anger that I can't describe," said Sevag Tateosian, vice-president of the Armenian Students Organization.

Approximately 500 students of Armenian descent attend Fresno State.

"This is something that all of our great-grandparents went through," Tateosian said.

April 24, 1915, is a date of significance to the Armenian people.

This date marks the anniversary of the murders of hundreds

of thousands of Armenians massacred by the Turkish government, according to Der Mugrdechian. It also was the beginning of the forced deportation of the remaining Armenians by the Turks. Armenians were raped, starved, and murdered during these "death marches," as it is more widely known.

Tateosian's great-great grandparents were victims of the genocide, leaving his great-grandfather an orphan. Eventually, Tateosian's

PLEASE SEE **VANDAL** ON PAGE 12.

Bush skirts reference to 'genocide'

Armenians lash out at him as he commemorates the 'infamous killings' in Turkey.

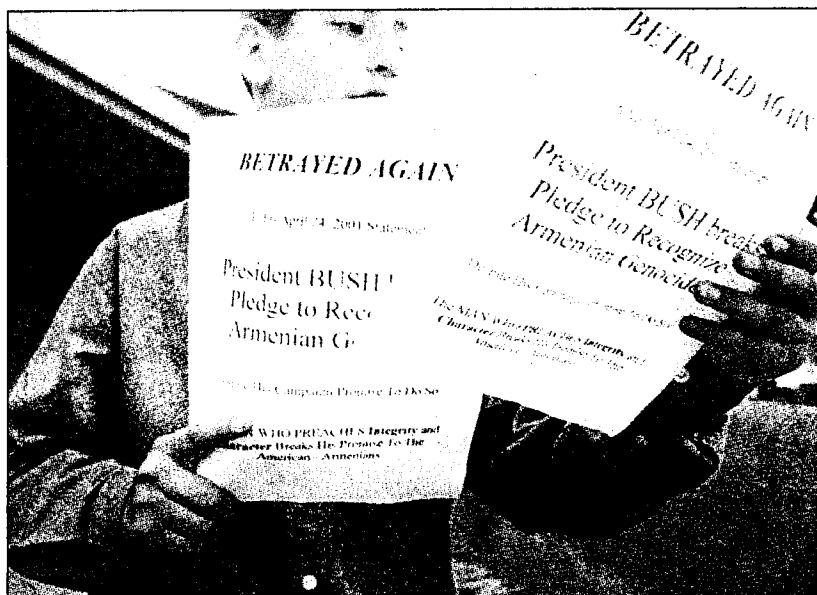
BY MICHAEL DOYLE

BEE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Caught between a campaign promise to Armenian-Americans and the concerns of his own State Department, President Bush sided with the diplomats Tuesday.

Bush scrupulously avoided the term "genocide" in a written commemoration Tuesday of what he termed instead as "these infamous killings [that] darkened the 20th century and continue to haunt us to this day." In so doing, Bush followed the lead of his father but also antagonized the Armenian-American activists who feel once again misled by the White House.

"Armenian groups thought that this time a presidential candidate who promised to Please see **ARMENIA**, Page A5



CRAIG KOHLRUSS — THE FRESNO BEE

Harout Atikian, 12, of Fresno distributes fliers taking President Bush to task for not recognizing the Armenian genocide. "It's important to our history," he said.

Armenia: Bush avoids term 'genocide'

Continued from Page A1

call the genocide a genocide if elected ... would keep his word," said Dickran Kouymjian, director of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno. "He has not."

Said Rep. George Radanovich, R-Mariposa: "I'm obviously disappointed. It didn't do what we wanted it to do, but I think it's something we just keep pursuing."

Toward that end, Radanovich planned to re-introduce legislation today that essentially seeks to use the genocide term avoided by the administration.

The Armenian National Committee of America, which had bombarded the White House with an estimated 100,000 postcards in recent weeks, likewise described itself as "profoundly disappointed" with what it termed Bush's "broken promise."

In Fresno, nearly 400 people packed the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church in Fresno Tuesday night to remember the 86th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Young and old complained about Bush's decision and passed out leaflets, titled "Betrayed Again," that condemned the president for breaking his pledge.

"The Turks killed more than 1.5 million Armenians and took their land," said Harout Atikian, 12, of Fresno, who passed out leaflets. "It is important to us that it is called a genocide. It's important to our history."

The Mass brought together the congregations of five Armenian churches. The requiem

and liturgy were spoken in Armenian, but the priests of each church made their messages clear in English.

"It doesn't matter what a president says," said the Rev. Ara Guekguezian of Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church. "I know the truth. It resides within me. Truth denied is death."

Deacon Allan Y. Jendian of St. Paul Armenian Church said: "The truth is the truth. It cannot be rewritten."

Members of Holy Trinity Armenian Church, First Armenian Presbyterian Church and St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettum were also present.

Said Alma Margosian, who attended: "We are so terribly disappointed," she said. "We believed that, as a Christian man, Bush would have honored his promise. This fight will never stop until our government acknowledges the genocide."

After the service, children sang Armenian songs, and Diane Goshgarian, author of "The Arbitrary Sword," a historical novel about the genocide, gave a speech about the importance of remembering Armenian history.

She also slammed Bush, saying, "He made a promise. If you can't trust the president, who can you trust?"

During last year's presidential campaign, while pursuing the roughly 1 million Americans of Armenian descent, Bush employed the key word that's the centerpiece of a long-running dispute, saying that "the Armenians were subjected to a genocidal campaign."

The phrasing was carefully noted in California, home to an estimated 500,000 Armenian-Americans. Bush further promised he would "ensure that our nation properly recognizes the tragic suffering of the Armenian people."

Tuesday, neither Bush nor his press secretary spoke publicly about the Armenians. Instead, the White House made public without fanfare a five-paragraph statement that praised "the spirit that survived again in the face of the bitter fate that befell so many Armenians at the end of the Ottoman Empire."

Of the suffering, there's no question. But assessments of what happened in the dying days of the Ottoman Empire between 1915 and 1923 can vary intensely. Turkish officials peg the number of Armenian deaths during the period at about 600,000 and stress the chaotic and mutually destructive nature of the conflict.

"It was the Ottoman Armenians' violent political alliance with the Russian forces, not their ethnic or religious identity, which rendered them subject to the relocation," the Assembly of Turkish American Associations said in a statement.

Armenian officials say the death toll reached 1.5 million, and resulted from a centrally planned, attempted destruction of an entire people.

► The reporter can be reached at mdoyle@mcclatchydc.com or (202) 383-0006. Bee staff writer Pablo Lopez contributed to this report.

Ceremony recognizes Armenian Genocide

By TAMISHA FELTON

THE COLLEGIAN

The sign behind the podium read: "Armenian Genocide: 1915-1923 - 2 million massacred."

Unfamiliar tunes escaped the Middle Eastern instruments, grabbing the attention of passersby.

An intimate crowd gathered.

Students, staff members and others gathered at the model of the Armenian Martyred Monument Tuesday to commemorate the Armenian Genocide.

Armenians memorialize the genocide on April 24 because on that day, in 1915, three hundred Armenian leaders in Constantinople (present day Istanbul) were killed, said Michael Harutinian, president of the Armenian Student Organization.

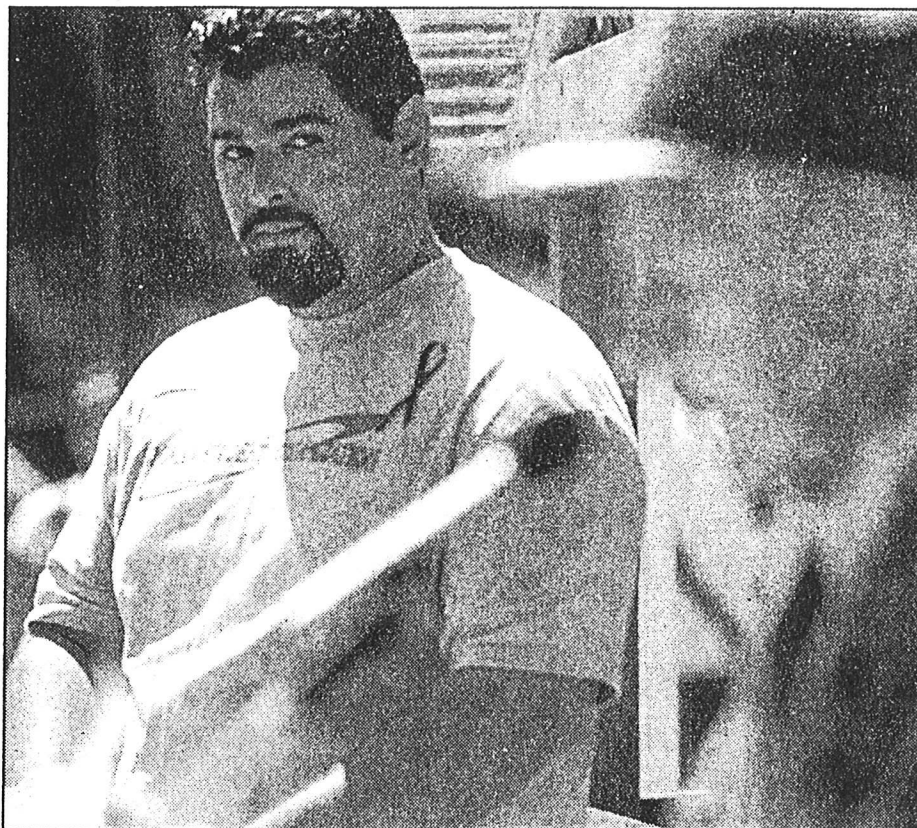
The Ottoman Empire carried out the genocide, and from 1915 to 1923, 1.5 million Armenians were killed, Harutinian said.

Assimilation is the slowest form of annihilation, said Deran Koligian, Fresno County Supervisor. The key, he said, is to find a balance and to be a productive part of the United States while retaining the Armenian culture.

"I see three million eyes looking down at us, and they are saying what a small price to pay. All we have to do is give our attention; our ancestors gave their lives," Koligian said.

It doesn't matter if the Turkish government acknowledges the genocide, said Barlow Der Mugdechian of the Armenian Studies Program in the closing ceremonies. The tradition will continue.

"We are here to commemorate this



(above) Michael Harutinian, president of the Armenian Student Association, listens to Fresno County Supervisor Deran Koligian speak to students and guests gathered in the Free Speech area on Tuesday to commemorate the Armenian Genocide. (left) Deran Koligian places a ceremonial flower on a replica of the Armenian Martyred Monument, while the sign of the cross is performed by a guest to pay tribute to the memory of the Armenian Genocide.

Jill Richards/THE COLLEGIAN



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Collegian; Fresno, Ca DATE April 25, 2001
SUBJECT ASO Commemorated Armenian Genocide PAGE 2 of 2

ARMENIAN

continued from page 1

day, and we will be here next year and the year after and the decade after and forever," he said.

Der Mugerdechian distributed pink and white carnations to participants and started a procession, asking each to reflect.

"Think about why you're here," Der Mugerdechian said. "Think about the moment."

The musicians made the middle-eastern instruments resonate calming sounds. The crowd walked slowly while placing pink and white carnations at the base of the model of the Armenian Martyred Monument.

**ARCHIVE****SOURCE:** The Armenian Mirror-Spectator: Watertown, MA**DATE:** April 28, 2001**SUBJECT:** ASP 15th Annual Banquet**PAGE:** 1 of 1

Armenian Studies Banquet Celebrates Saroyan

FRESNO, Calif. — The Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno invites the community to its 15th Anniversary Banquet, "An Evening on the Lake with William Saroyan," at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 6.

The film "William Saroyan," a documentary on the life of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Saroyan by Fresno photographer Paul Kalinian, will be shown during the evening festivities. The film is winner of six international film festivals, including a gold award for best documentary.

California state Sen. Chuck Poochigian will be the master of ceremonies.

Cherie Chooljian will entertain guests on the piano. Her first love is music and she plays the piano and sings, and has recorded Jazz and Latin CDs. She has performed for the last 10 years in San Francisco.

The banquet will be held at the home of Dr. Jane Kardashian and Vatche Soghomonian, overlooking Millerton Lake.

Reservations may be made through the Armenian Studies Program office.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter: Fresh Meadow, NYDATE: April 28, 2001SUBJECT: Der Mugrdechian Receives Honorary DoctoratePAGE: 1 of 1

Fresno State's Der Mugrdechian Awarded Honorary Doctorate

FRESNO – Barlow Der Mugrdechian, lecturer in the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno has been awarded an honorary doctorate degree from Yerevan State University for more than a decade of work with that institution, plus his efforts in the field of Armenian studies and community service.

Yerevan State University is a sister university to Fresno State. Der Mugrdechian has conducted study tours of Armenia and made arrangements for students from Yerevan State to study at Fresno State.

In 1999, he authored a federal grant, which has been extended to 2003, for a Faculty Development Program in Business and

Economics between the two universities. As part of the project, faculty visit each other's campuses to develop curricula, conduct joint research and hold seminars and workshops. The next visit will be in the fall, when four Armenian professors visit Fresno State.

Der Mugrdechian is director of the project, whose goal is to contribute to economic and political stability in Armenia by fostering educational reform in the area of business/economics.

Der Mugrdechian is a graduate of Fresno State and the Armenian Studies program in language and literature at the University of California at Los Angeles. He has been a lecturer in the Armenian Studies program at Fresno State for 16 years.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter: Fresh Meadow, NY

DATE: April 28, 2001

SUBJECT: His Holiness Karekin II to Visit Fresno State

PAGE: 1 of 1

Catholicos Karekin II to Visit San Joaquin Valley

FRESNO, CA - His Holiness, Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, will soon be making his first pontifical visitation to the San Joaquin Valley. Armenian and non-Armenian faithful anxiously await the arrival of His Holiness, as he is the 142nd successor to the Holy Apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew and the 132nd Catholicos since Saint Gregory the Illuminator. This year, the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church is celebrating the 1700th anniversary of Armenia's becoming the first nation to accept Christianity as a state religion.

Catholicos Karekin II will arrive at the Fresno Air Terminal in the Executive Terminal at 3:30 p.m., Monday, May 7. Upon descending from the airplane, His Holiness will conduct the traditional ceremony of "Blessing the Bread and Salt." "Be among the faithful as we gather to greet His Holiness and witness the act of sanctification," stated Deacon Allan Y. Jendian, Regional Chairman of the Pontifical Reception Committee.

His Holiness to Celebrate Badarak

Evening services, with the singing of Hrashapar and the celebration of a Pontifical Divine Liturgy by His Holiness, will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of St. Paul Armenian Church at 1st and Dakota. A combined choir from the parishes of the Western Diocese in the San Joaquin Valley will participate: St. Paul, Fresno; St. Gregory the Illuminator, Fowler; Sts. Sahag-Mesrob, Reedley; St. Mary, Yettem; and Holy Cross, Turlock.

Pastoral Visits to Valley Churches

His Holiness will visit the outlying Valley parish communities of the Western Diocese on Tuesday, May 8, where the welcoming Hrashapar services will be conducted.

Parish visitations will begin at St. Mary, Yettem, 10:30 a.m., Sts. Sahag-Mesrob, Reedley, 12 noon, and St. Gregory, Fowler, 1:30 p.m. Each parish has prepared something special to welcome His Holiness on his first visit to their church. "The faithful are invited to take part in the welcoming of, and worshipping with, the

Catholicos," stated Deacon Varouj Altebarmakian, Diocesan Council Chairman.

Youth Rally: Conversation with His Holiness

During the first pontifical visitation to the San Joaquin Valley, His Holiness Karekin II will be meeting with the youth of the Valley.

Prior to the blessed opportunity of having a "Conversation with His Holiness," worship services will begin at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 8 at St. Paul Armenian Church. Dialogue between the spiritual leader and the faithful youth will follow and conclude the eminent evening.

"During the significant celebration of Armenia's 1700th anniversary of Christianity, youth are encouraged to embrace this unique opportunity to meet the Catholicos, join him in worship, hear his message, and participate in the interactive session," said Deacon Matthew Jendian, Youth Rally Chairman. "Become involved and get energized."

The youth are a primary focus and interest of the Catholicos. His Holiness will also speak to the children at the Armenian Community School of Fresno and to the students at California State University, Fresno.

Pontifical Banquet to Honor Karekin II

A Pontifical Banquet, held in honor of His Holiness Karekin II, is scheduled to commence at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 9 at the Radisson Hotel Grand Ballroom.

"The evening will include a captivating and meaningful address from His Holiness and an opportunity to be gathered amongst the faithful and the Chief Bishop of the Armenian Church," said Ben Krikorian, Pontifical Banquet Chairman. For reservations to attend this distinct event with the Catholicos, interested persons should call St. Paul Church Office at 226-6343 by April 30.

"The faithful of the Armenian Church are encouraged to mark their calendars and plan to join together to honor and meet their Chief Spiritual Leader, the Catholicos of All Armenians," said Megan Jendian, Publicity Chair of the Pontifical Reception Committee.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CA

DATE: May 3, 2001

SUBJECT: Der Mugrdechian Awarded Honorary Doctorate from YSU

PAGE: 1 of 1

Der Mugrdechian Awarded Honorary Doctorate from YSU

FRESNO - Barlow Der Mugrdechian, lecturer in the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno for 16 years, has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate degree from Yerevan State University for more than a decade of work with that institution, plus his efforts in Armenian Studies and community service.

Yerevan State is a sister university to Fresno State. Der Mugrdechian has conducted study tours of Armenia and made arrangements for students from Yerevan State to study at Fresno State.

In 1999, he authored a federal grant which has been extended to 2003, for a Faculty Development Program in Business and Economics between the two universities. faculties visit each other's campuses to develop curricula, conduct joint research and hold seminars and workshops. In the fall four Armenian professors visit Fresno State.

A director of the project, Der Mugrdechian is a graduate of Fresno State and the Armenian Studies Program in language and literature at UCLA.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CADATE: May 3, 2001SUBJECT: Kouymjian Selected for Elite PanelPAGE: 1 of 1

Prof. Kouymjian Selected to Elite Jury for Belgian Scientific Prize

FRESNO - Just as Sweden has its Nobel Prizes and the United States its Pulitzer, Belgium has its annual Francqui Scientific Prize given to an outstanding young (under 50) Belgian scholar. The yearly prize of some four million Belgian francs is the country's most coveted academic distinction.

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Director of Fresno State's Armenian Studies Program, has been invited to serve on this year's selection committee, which is made up exclusively of internationally recognized non-Belgian scholars.

Kouymjian said he was

taken aback, but pleasantly surprised by his nomination to the jury. He attributes this honor to several colleagues in Belgium and the fact that he has given lectures at the Catholic University in Louvain-la-Neuve.

This year's jury is made up of scholars from the U.S., the United Kingdom, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Taiwan.

King Albert II of Belgium presented the award on April 21, following a banquet for the jury and the candidates the evening before.

**ARCHIVE****SOURCE:** The Armenian Reporter: Fresh Meadow, NY**DATE:** May 5, 2001**SUBJECT:** ASP Role at Fresno State**PAGE:** 1 of 1

Armenian Studies Program at CSUF Prepares Students Academically and Administratively

By Jack Arikian

FRESNO, CA (Hye Sharzhoom) - Armenian culture dates back centuries, but little is mentioned in historical textbooks. Fresno State prides itself in being one of the very few campuses nationwide that has an Armenian Studies Program.

Since its inception, the CSUF program has provided a unique opportunity for college students to enlighten themselves about Armenian language and history and, for most, to learn about their own ancestry. The Armenian Studies Program provides students with historical information unavailable elsewhere. It offers an array of courses covering art, literature, language as well as history. Courses also cover topics such as Genocide, Armenian architecture, miniature painting, William Saroyan and Armenian film.

Students have the opportunity to earn a minor in Armenian by completing 24-26 units of such classes. The minor in Armenian Studies not only affords an excellent opportunity to gain an academic background on one of the important Middle Eastern minority groups in America, but also prepares students for administrative positions in an ever-increasing number of Armenian cultural, social, and benevolent organizations.

Furthermore, the Armenian Studies Program offers a generous number of scholarships every year to students who take courses or plan to minor in Armenian Studies.

Students who take courses and minor in Armenian studies have the special opportunity to access information about Armenian culture that is often difficult to locate. The Armenian Studies Program acts as a center of Armenian information in Fresno through its regular lecture series where well-known scholars in Armenian and Middle Eastern Studies are invited to the University to discuss current events and other relevant topics.

The Program encourages students with a minor to enter Armenian cultural or social fields, or continue studies with graduate work in Armenian doctoral programs. Simply stated, the necessity to spread the history of the Armenians is tremendous and the program would like as many of its graduates to be able to spread the knowledge they have gained.

The faculty at Fresno State, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian and Barlow Der Mugrdechian, understand the importance of the course content they offer for the intellectual well being of the students and community and do a tremendous job communicating this. They have developed a comprehensive program to provide students with the skills to foster a lifelong interest in Armenian culture.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

California State University, Fresno • 5245 N Backer Ave PB 4 • Fresno, CA 93740-8001

ՀԱՅ

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: TheFresno Bee; Fresno, Ca

DATE: May 5, 2001

SUBJECT: Catholikos Karekin II in Fresno

PAGE: 1 of 3

KAREKIN II'S VISIT





ARCHIVE

SOURCE: TheFresno Bee; Fresno, CaDATE: May 5, 2001SUBJECT: Karekin II to Visit San Joaquin ValleyPAGE: 2 of 3

REACHING OUT

*Karekin II will bring
the message of
God's love to youth
in the Valley.*

BY RON OROZCO

THE FRESNO BEE

Karekin II, spiritual leader of the Armenian Church, will bring messages of unification, celebration and outreach to youth when he visits the central San Joaquin Valley next week on his first pontifical visit since being elected Catholicos of All Armenians.

"For the faithful in this area, this is the most exciting moment in the last few years," says Barlow Der Mugrdchian, a lecturer in Armenian studies at California State University, Fresno.

"We have an opportunity to celebrate the historic occasion with the leader of the Armenian Church. This is generating excitement among Armenians in the Valley."

Karekin is scheduled to arrive at

ABOUT KAREKIN II

■ **Born:** Karekin Nersissian 1951 in Voskehat, Armenia.

■ **Education:** At 14, entered Theological Seminary of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. Graduated 1971. Taught New Testament at the seminary 1972.

■ **Ordination:** 1970, as deacon; 1972, as priest.

■ **Appointments:** 1980, assistant to the vicar general of the Araratian Pontifical Diocese in Yerevan, Armenia; 1983, vicar general of the catholicos.

■ **Election:** Oct. 27, 1999, as Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians. Takes the name Karekin II.

Fresno Yosemite International Airport at 3:30 p.m. Monday and will depart Thursday morning for Southern California.

The purpose of Karekin's United States visit — beginning today in San Francisco — is to commemorate the 1,700th anniversary of Armenia adopting Christianity as its official religion.

Valley Armenian leaders expect Karekin also to bring a message of connection to Armenians descended from those who fled their homeland in the early 20th century to escape genocide.

And his schedule includes three events designed to make a special connection with young people: a youth rally Tuesday evening, a visit to the Armenian Community School in Fresno and a lecture at a Fresno State Armenian Studies class, both Wednesday.

For Matthew Jendian, a sociology instructor at Fresno State, Karekin's focus on young people is noteworthy. "He's very loving, especially with children," says Jendian, adding that Karekin has been involved in several projects over the years to promote the church among the young.

Jendian, who is organizing the youth rally, expects 200 young people to participate. Jendian says Valley youth want to know where Karekin grew up, how he came to know God as a boy and why he decided to become a priest. "Because of Karekin's personality, we're hoping to have a more intimate conversation," Jendian says of the Fresno rally.

The visit by Karekin, 50, also thanks the 25 delegates — some from the Valley — who represented the Western Diocese at his election in October 1999. As catholicos, Karekin is the universal spiritual head of the Armenian Church, which counts as members 6.3 million of

Please see **KAREKIN**, Page H



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: TheFresno Bee; Fresno, Ca

DATE: May 5, 2001

SUBJECT: His Holiness Karekin II to Visit Fresno State

PAGE: 3 of 3

Karekin: Armenian patriarch hopes to reach others outside of his flock

Continued from Page H1
the world's 7 million Armenians. Karekin's Valley flock numbers about 40,000.

"He sees us as his faithful sons and daughters," says Armen Devejian, a deacon at St. Paul Armenian Church. "He wants to assume the leadership of the church but also to be that caring bishop to his flock."

This marks the fourth visit by a catholicos to the Valley. Vazken I visited in 1962 and '87. Karekin visited in 1996, three years before he died of cancer.

After Karekin's death, just three of the church's 46 bishops submitted their names to become eligible for election as catholicos. Elections in the Armenian Church are conducted by the National Assembly with participation from representatives from all dioceses throughout the world.

Der Mugrdechian and Devejian were among the Fresno delegates who supported Archbishop Karekin Nersissian, who took the name Karekin II when elected catholicos.

Karekin's visit "is a historic event in the life of the Fresno community," Devejian says. "Armenians have been here over 100 years, but they felt disconnected because Armenia was so far away. It was more than an ocean away — it was a world away."

Part of that disconnection occurred in the early 20th century when 1.5 million Armenians were killed by Turks. Thousands of other Armenians took refuge in the United States, the Middle East and other places.

Devejian says Karekin's visit is part of his outreach to Armenians who were dispersed around the world from their traditional homelands. "The catholicos sees an obligation as chief bishop to come out to the diaspora and say: 'We are one church, one people, regardless of borders that separate us, and we have that common bond.' It is important in the diaspora to remember that."

Nersissian served 10 years as

patriarchal vicar of the Araratian Diocese in Yerevan, the Armenian capital. As primate, Nersissian was the administrative head of his region and worked closely with his predecessor.

"Over the years, what I've been impressed with is his work ethic," says Der Mugrdechian, who has known Nersissian for 10 years. "He's a hard worker" who has helped restore churches and founded a seminary.

Karekin is the 132nd catholicos since 301, when Christianity was established as the state religion in Armenia. St. Gregory the Illuminator was the first catholicos. However, the Armenian Church traces its foundation to the Apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew.

Karekin II's tenure began in Yerevan the day nationalist gunmen stormed the parliament building, killing Prime Minister Vaskin Sarkisian and seven others.

The assassination postponed Karekin II's consecration to later in the week. However, Der Mugrdechian, Devejian and others in their delegation weren't able to reschedule return flights and missed the ceremony. For Valley residents who were there, this week's visit is the first opportunity to see him as catholicos.

Karekin's visit also is generating enthusiasm among area spiritual leaders outside the Armenian community.

"It's always important for a community of faith to understand its wider community connection," says the Rev. Marcia Free of College Community Congregational Church and co-chair of the Interfaith Alliance of Central California. "So I would offer my blessings to our Armenian brothers and sisters and welcome the catholicos."

The Rev. Walt Parry, executive director of Fresno Metro Ministry, believes it's an honor when the leader of a major religion visits the Valley.

"The people of Armenian heritage that are in Fresno have

played a very significant role in the history of Fresno and the Valley, and I would celebrate with them in this privilege and honor, having their spiritual leader come into our community," Parry says.

Karekin II's title is Catholicos of All Armenians, yet most of the events planned in his honor involve the four Valley parishes in the Western Diocese: St. Mary in Yettam, Saints Sahag-Mesrob in Reedley, St. Gregory the Illuminator in Fowler and St. Paul in Fresno.

Armenians who worship in different faiths, such as Roman Catholic, Protestant, Presbyterian, Baptist and Congregational, have received invitations to attend the Valley events, Der Mugrdechian says. "Because of the national character of the Armenian Church, they also look to him as a national leader and as a spiritual leader, although not necessarily theirs, per se, with doctrinal issues," Der Mugrdechian says.

As example, Der Mugrdechian says the difference between worshippers at Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church and St. Paul Armenian Church is jurisdiction. Holy Trinity's jurisdiction is the Sea of Cilicia. "All doctrinal and religious beliefs are the same," Der Mugrdechian says. Holy Trinity would still welcome Karekin II as a spiritual leader of the Church."

The new catholicos has an engaging smile, speaks several languages, including English, and is reputed to be a strict administrator, which according to Der Mugrdechian, is important. The Armenian Church had been under Soviet rule for 70 years before becoming independent 10 years ago.

Pressing issues for Karekin are the church's organization, relationships with dioceses, the church constitution, and recruiting and training new priests to help make up for a shortage.

► The reporter can be reached at rorozco@fresnobee.com or 441-6304.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: TheFresno Bee; Fresno, CaDATE: May 8, 2001SUBJECT: Kouymjian Selected for Special PanelPAGE: 1 of 1

Fresnan is Belgium award judge

Literature, medical
experts vie for Francqui

By BETHANY CLOUGH
STAFF WRITER

It's Belgium's equivalent of the Nobel Prize, and one of Fresno's own got to pick the winner.

Dickran Kouymjian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, was one of a group of international scholars who selected the winner of Belgium's Francqui Prize. The prize is a top honor awarded to a Belgian citizen each year in science, medicine or the humanities. The award

will go to a scholar in the humanities this year at a ceremony in late May or early June. Until then, Kouymjian — who splits his time between Fresno and Paris and is now in Paris — is sworn to secrecy.

Kouymjian is one of 14 jurors from the United States, Europe and Taiwan each chosen because they specialize in the same area as one of the 14 nominees. One nominee specialized in several types of literature, including Armenian. The foundation that sponsors the award paid to fly Kouymjian and his wife to Brussels and stay in one of its best hotels.

Non-Belgians are picked to ensure impartiality. After poring over information about the nominees and their published works over one day — some had pub-

lished 35 books and 700 articles — the jurors deliberated for another day. Deliberations were conducted in English.

Although the award is an honor, it's an honor to become a juror, too, Kouymjian said. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, a Fresno State Armenian Studies program lecturer, said he's not surprised Kouymjian was asked to be a juror.

Kouymjian is well known within his field and was invited to Fresno State to start the Armenian Studies program and the Armenian student newspaper, *Der Mugrdechian* said.

Despite the honor, Kouymjian was happy to spend time in Brussels. He lived there for four months while covering the 1958 Brussels World's Fair for *Down*

Beat magazine.

But Kouymjian admitted that he had never heard of the Francqui prize before being asked to be on the jury. He was familiar with just three of the 14 candidates for the award. Aside from a few economics professors at Fresno State, the average educated Fresnan wouldn't be familiar with the candidates either, Kouymjian said.

He is invited to the ceremony in which Belgium's King Albert II will present the award. He is promised a second-row seat — behind the barons, counts and aristocracy on the foundation's board — and a chance to meet the king.

■ Readers can e-mail Bethany Clough at bclough@fresnoneighbors.com.

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee; Fresno, Ca

DATE: May 9, 2001

SUBJECT: His Holiness Karekin II Visits Fresno

PAGE: 1 of 3

Catholicos Karekin II shares a smile with Lindsay Hovannisian, 12, a member of Holy Trinity Armenian Church Youth Organization, after a youth rally at St. Paul Armenian Church in Fresno. The Armenian pontiff visited churches in Tulare County, Reedley and Fresno on Tuesday. He continue his Valley tour today.

CRAIG KOHLRUSS
THE FRESNO BEE



Hispanics salute catholicos

BY RON OROZCO
THE FRESNO BEE

Of all the events squeezed into his central San Joaquin Valley schedule Tuesday, the most poignant for His Holiness Karekin II, the 132nd Catholicos of All Armenians, was an unscheduled stop in a northern Tulare County plum orchard.

It happened after more than 60 farmworkers, most of them Hispanic, put down their tools, spaced themselves a few feet apart along Road 384 and saluted the spiri-

tual leader of Armenia with right hands to their chests.

Karekin and his motorcade continued past the workers to the first stop on the day's itinerary, St. Mary Armenian Church in the tiny community of Yettem.

But the pontiff was so moved by the gesture that he asked orchard owner Harry Davidian to lead the motorcade back to the workers so he could thank them after the ceremonies in Yettem.

With the sun beating down on crops
Please see CATHOLICOS, Page A14

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee; Fresno, Ca

DATE: May 9, 2001

SUBJECT: His Holiness Karekin II Visits Fresno

PAGE: 2 of 3

Catholicos: Hispanics move Karekin

Continued from Page A1

that give the Valley its reputation as the world's agricultural king, the descendant to the throne first occupied by St. Gregory the Illuminator stepped out of his gleaming Ford Crown Victoria onto the dusty soil to place gold crosses in the workers' hands.

"I was born and raised in Yetttem, so what else can I do for Yetttem?" Davidian said of his request to the harvest crew to salute the pontiff. "They were all willing to stand there and wait until he passed by."

The purpose of Karekin's U.S. visit is to celebrate the 1,700th anniversary of Armenia adopting Christianity as its official religion. The pontiff didn't expect, however, that he would be so deeply moved by the significance of his visit to Yetttem, where Armenians established a settlement after fleeing their homeland in the early 20th century to escape genocide, and then by the gesture of respect by the farmworkers.

"I saw a deeper meaning in what they did," Karekin told St. Mary parishioners about the farmworkers' salute. "Their actions showed how they are treated by you and the great love they have for you."

The rest of the day, with parish visits to Saints Sahag-Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church in Reedley and St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church in Fowler, had a new theme based on the welcome shown Karekin by strangers. At both stops, he told those in attendance, "I can't hide my emotions."

Each parish welcomed Karekin with a special service and with flowers presented by children. The excitement of Karekin's visit could be felt at each parish, particularly at historic St. Mary.

"This means my whole life," Margaret Shapazian of Dinuba said. "I've been waiting so long for this. He's going to give his blessings to all of us."

Betty Farsakian, the organist at St. Mary, said she was swept up with joy by the catholikos' visit. "This is something that just does not happen very often."

Karekin's unscheduled stop in the orchard put him 17 minutes behind schedule at Saints Sahag-Mesrob, but Richard Bedoian, a Reedley businessman was philosophical about the reason for the delay. "That's what it's all about," he said of the pontiff's thank you. "It's about stopping to meet the people. He didn't just drive by them. He stopped."

Karekin showed his humor at Saints Sahag-Mesrob, which has no permanent priest. "Are you ready to make me your parish priest?" Karekin asked, looking over his shoulder to Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian, primate of the Western Diocese.

Hovsepian smiled before giving one of those don't-look-at-me looks and telling nearly 100 parishioners, "He is my boss."

Karekin told Reedley parishioners that Armenia, after 71 years under Soviet domination, is experiencing "free life" as an independent nation with an independent church.

"But the fight for liberation in Armenia hasn't come to an end," the prelate said. "It continues in rebuilding the country, renewing our Christian faith and renewing our churches."

Measured against those challenges, it seemed a small task when Karekin pledged to find a parish priest at Saints Sahag-Mesrob "so the glory of God will be among you." Parishioners smiled back.

Sam Estes, senior pastor of Reedley's First Baptist Church, was among those in the Saints Sahag-Mesrob congregation. "It's important for those of us in the Christian faith to





ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee; Fresno, Ca

DATE: May 9, 2001

SUBJECT: His Holiness Karekin II Visits Fresno

PAGE: 3 of 3

KAREKIN IT'S SCHEDULE**TODAY****10:30 a.m.:** Visit, Armenian Community School, 1940 N. Fresno St., Fresno**Noon:** Lecture, California State University, Fresno, Armenian Studies Program, Alice Peters Auditorium**2:30 p.m.:** Visit, California Armenian Home, 6720 E. Kings Canyon Road, Fresno**7 p.m.:** Pontifical banquet, Radisson Hotel Grand Ballroom, 2233 E. Ventura Ave., Fresno**THURSDAY****10 a.m.:** Departs from Fresno Yosemite International Airport**ON THE WEB**Check out fresnobee.com for more on the visit of the catholicos and photos of his consecration

be together," Estes said. "We believe the whole body of Christ needs to be here. We want to be part of what God wants to do in Reedley."

More than 200 parishioners were waiting in the cool of St. Gregory's parish when the Rev. Kevork Arakelian broke the news that the pontiff was running 30 minutes behind schedule. Arakelian urged parishioners to pray for their families and the Fowler community.

"This is a great honor for us," Arakelian said. "We pray his holiness has great vision for the church and for the people so the people can have a deeper commitment in Jesus Christ."

Sandra Donabedian, 10, was one of the first to greet Karekin in Fowler on Tuesday, handing him a bouquet of irises, then telling him, "Orhnetzek vehapar der," or "Bless me, your Holiness." Karekin replied with a smile and touched the girl's cheek.

Karekin's encounter with Sandra was far from his only interaction with a young person Tuesday. In the early evening, he spoke with nearly 200 youths gathered for a rally at St. Paul Armenian Church in Fresno.

After being on his feet all day, Karekin sat in a carved, high-back chair for the two

hours. With great respect, the young people hung on the pontiff's every word.

Karekin told the story of his father's wishes that he enter Theological Seminary School of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. A bishop asked Karekin's father: "Don't you want to give him to the seminary?" Karekin remembered his father replying: "Sold!" The young people roared.

"This really brings everybody together," said Chris Sheklian, 15, a sophomore at Visalia's Mount Whitney High School. "This directs us — the whole Armenian church, the community, the Valley."

Karekin said Armenian church leaders must show an interest in young people while building a relationship with them. "We must meet the youth at their point of interest," Karekin said. "That's where the work begins. It should not be imposing to them."

Nicole Boudakian, 13, an eighth-grader at Kastner Intermediate School, said Armenian-American youths often don't understand portions of services conducted in Armenian. "Some of us believe services should be in English," Boudakian said.

Sareen Bedoyan, a seventh-grader at Tenaya Middle School, said Armenian-American youths also wish the Armenian Church Youth Organization didn't place an age limitation of 17 on pilgrimages to Armenia. Tamar Bedoyan, 14, a freshman at Bullard High School, agreed.

"For those under 17, we want to know if they're planning anything for us here in the United States," Bedoyan said.

The pontiff begins today's schedule with young people, too, visiting the Armenian Community School of Fresno. He also plans a noon lecture to Armenian Studies students at California State University, Fresno, a visit to the California Armenian Home for seniors and a banquet this evening.

Karekin is scheduled to depart Fresno on Thursday morning for Southern California, the final stop on his first pontifical visit to the United States since his election as catholicos in 1999.

► The reporter can be reached at rorozco@fresnobee.com or 441-6304.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee; Fresno, CaDATE: May 10, 2001SUBJECT: His Holiness Karekin III VISITS FRESNOPAGE: 1 of 2

He honors seniors for their service, tells youths to cherish their heritage.

BY JOHN ELLIS
AND RON OROZCO
THE FRESNO BEE

His Holiness Karekin II sat among his hooded entourage, looking out over a room full of Armenians.

He was ready for questions.

After a short silence, Henry Jacob spoke up, asking in English whether the pontiff was schooled in England. Actually, Karekin replied through an interpreter, it was Germany and Vienna.

Jacob quickly followed with a comment in Armenian. "I am 91 years old," he said, "and I have served the

church all my life, the last 41 as a choir member."

Replied Karekin: "I thank you for your service. I bow before your service, which is an example for us."

Watching the exchange, the Rev. Arshen Aivazian, pastor of St. Paul Armenian Church in Fresno, called it "one of the most touching moments of this trip."

Time and again during his Wednesday afternoon visit to the California Armenian Home on East Kings Canyon, the 132nd Catholicos of All Armenians stressed the work and sacrifices of the older generation.

And so it was with Jacob.

Earlier in the day, the prelate mixed with the youngest generation, starting his day at the Armenian Community School. There, he encouraged the students to treasure their Armenian heritage.

Please see VISIT, Page B3





ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee; Fresno, Ca

DATE: May 10, 2001

SUBJECT: His Holiness Karekin II Visits Fresno

PAGE: 2 of 2

Visit: Catholicos reaches all generations

Continued from Page B1

He then moved to the next generation, speaking at California State University, Fresno, where he touched on the challenges Christian churches are facing in a secular world. He finished with a dinner at the Radisson Hotel's Grand Ballroom in downtown Fresno where Fresno Mayor Alan Autry gave him a key to the city.

It was at the Armenian home, however, that the catholicos seemed most touched. Walking the halls, he greeted resident and employee alike. "God bless you," he said in English to a group of employees. "Thank you," they replied.

Down another hall, the pontiff leaned over Paris Kenosian, who was sitting below a map of historical Armenia. He blessed her. "I have lots to say to you, but I can't put it in words," she said.

Wherever he was Wednesday, it was hard not to recognize Karekin. When he walked with six other black-hooded priests of the Armenian Church, though, it was especially hard for children to tell which was the pontiff.

Two doves were released as Karekin walked onto the grounds of Armenian Community School. Not realizing the prelate had stopped in front of her, preschool student Rita Adehlian, 5, did all but pull the back of Karekin's vestments as she asked, "Where is the vehapar?"

Karekin turned and smiled. Rita asked cautiously, "Are you the vehapar?" Karekin asked, "What is your name?" Rita needed the encouragement of her teacher, Vicky Kataroyan, to respond. Then the child gave him fuchsias and chrysanthemums.

"You gave me a flower; I give you a cross," the prelate said.

Karekin listened as 130 students sang hymns and recited poems. "I can't think of a better way to start a day than to be here," he told them.

After urging the students to treasure their Armenian heritage, Karekin mingled, asking questions. "Do you know where Armenia is?" One student shot back her answer: "I have an uncle there." Everyone laughed.

With an ever-present smile, Karekin asked, "How many have family there?" A bunch of hands went up.

"How many have seen Mount Ararat, even in pictures?" More hands up.

Not just the students were excited, either. "That's him — he comes down and joins the people," said the Rev. Aivazian of St. Paul, where Karekin was a guest at a youth rally the night before. "He loves children."

Seth Atamian, the principal, visited the pontiff's base cathedral at Etchmiadzin, Armenia, with 30 students and parents on Palm Sunday. But the group saw Karekin only from a distance. This time, it was up close.

At California State University, Fresno, Karekin gave a brief lecture to about 150 people as part of the Armenian Studies program.

"The Christian church has concerns that various Christian nations of the world and their common values will be replaced by worship of secularism and human materialism," Karekin read from his prepared text.

About halfway through, however, Karekin removed his glasses and stopped reading. He later explained, "I was feeling uncomfortable as I was reading it, so I summarized what I wanted to say."

Michael Harutinian, a senior agricultural business major and president of the Armenian Studies organization, said Karekin's task is huge.

"There are obstacles facing the Armenian Church," he said. "It's no longer a church administering to one country. Since the genocide, it has had to administer to a worldwide flock."

"He not only has to identify Armenians in Armenia, but also Armenians in Europe, North America and South America."

Arakel Arisian, majoring in finance and the Fresno State student president, said Karekin's words touched him since he's part of a group bound for Armenia next month.

"We need to incorporate our individual values into our everyday lives as we move toward globalization," Arisian said. "We need to use technological advances to magnify the message that we're trying to bring."

The pontiff's Valley visit ends this morning when he flies to Southern California.

► The reporters can be reached at jellis@fresnobee.com, rorozco@fresnobee.com or 441-6330.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter: Fresh Meadows, NY

DATE: May 12, 2001

SUBJECT: Dr Kouymjian to Serve on Special Panel

PAGE: 1 of 1

Kouymjian Chosen to Serve on Jury of Prestigious Scientific Prize

FRESNO, CA - Just as Sweden has its Nobel Prizes and the United States its Pulitzer, Belgium has its annual Francqui Scientific Prize given to the outstanding young (under fifty) Belgian scholar. The yearly prize of some four million Belgian francs is the country's most coveted academic distinction and its most famous award of any kind. It is the only honor given personally by the King of Belgium to the winner during a special ceremony in Brussels.

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Director of Fresno State's Armenian Studies Program, has been invited to serve on this year's selection committee. The jury is made up exclusively of internationally recognized non-Belgium scholars who, after reviewing the elaborate files of each candidate, meet for two days in the Belgian capital to choose the winner out of a field of some dozen candidates. This year's jury is made up of scholars from the U.S., United Kingdom, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Taiwan.

The prize is named after Emile Francqui, a banker and sometime cabinet minister of Belgium who greatly aided his countrymen during the famine conditions of WWI. Francqui was a business rival of Herbert Hoover, but later a close friend of the American President. They worked closely together in a massive Belgian relief project at the end of the First World War, which eventually became the Belgian American Educational Foundation. This, in turn, together with Francqui's own funds, helped establish the Francqui Foundation in 1932. Like the Rockefeller and Carnegie Foundations in this country, the Francqui Foundation touches every sector of Belgian scientific and educational life.

The prize is awarded most years to scholars in the hard sciences, but this year it will go to a scholar in the humanities or social sciences. The field of candidates reads like a Who's Who of Belgian intellectuals and scholars. Kouymjian was taken aback by his nomination to the jury, though he has several colleagues in Belgium and has given lectures at the Catholic University in Louvain-la-Neuve. Kouymjian says he was surprised by the honor of serving, but absolutely delighted by it.

King Albert II gave the award will on Saturday, April 21, following a banquet for the jury and the candidates the evening before. Interestingly, all proceedings and documents for the Francqui Prize are in English rather than French or Flemish, the official languages of Belgium.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Mirror-Spectator: Watertown, MA

DATE: May 12, 2001

SUBJECT: Kouymjian to Serve on Special Panel

PAGE: 1 of 1

Prof. Kouymjian Serves on Jury Of Prestigious Scientific Prize

BRUSSELS — Just as Sweden has its Nobel Prizes and the United States its Pulitzer, Belgium has its annual Francqui Scientific Prize given to the outstanding young (under 50) Belgian scholar. The yearly prize of some four million Belgian francs is the country's most coveted academic distinction and its most famous award of any kind. It is the only honor given personally by the King of Belgium to the winner during a special ceremony in Brussels.

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, director of Fresno State's Armenian Studies Program, was invited to serve on this year's selection committee.



Dr. Dickran Kouymjian

The jury was made up exclusively of internationally recognized non-Belgian scholars, who after reviewing the elaborate files of each candidate meet for two days in the Belgian capital to choose the winner out of a field of some dozen candidates. This year's

jury was made up of scholars from the US, United Kingdom, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Taiwan.

The prize is named after Emile Francqui, a banker and sometime cabinet minister of Belgium who greatly aided his countrymen during the famine conditions of World War I. Francqui was a business rival of Herbert Hoover, but later a close friend of the American President. They worked closely together in the massive Belgian relief project at the end of the First World War, which eventually became the Belgian American Educational Foundation. This in turn, together with Francqui's own funds, helped established the Francqui Foundation in 1932.

The prize is awarded most years to scholars in the hard sciences, but this year it went to a scholar in the humanities or social sciences. The field of candidates reads like a "Who's Who" of Belgian intellectuals and scholars. Kouymjian startled aback by his nomination to the jury, though he has several colleagues in Belgium and has given lectures at the Catholic University in Louvain-la-Neuve. Kouymjian says he was surprised by the honor of serving, but absolutely delighted by it.

King Albert II gave the award on Saturday, April 21 following a banquet for the jury and the candidates the evening before.

ARCHIVE
SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CA

DATE: May 30, 2001

SUBJECT: His Holiness Karekin II Visits Fresno

PAGE: 1 of 3

Central California Pontifical Visit of His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians

By MEGAN JENDIAN

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY - His Holiness, Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians made a historic first pontifical visit to the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America during the jubilee year of Armenia's 1700th anniversary as the first nation to accept Christianity as a State Religion.

His Holiness is the 142nd successor to the Holy Apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew and 132nd Catholicos since Saint Gregory the Enlightener.

After departing from his residence in the historical center of the Armenian Church, Holy Etchmiadzin, founded in 301 A.D., His Holiness first visited Northern California. Prior to the Southern California visit, His Holiness Karekin II visited sunny Central California where he left, and was left with, quite a lasting impression.

Arrival in

San Joaquin Valley

Upon arrival at the Fresno Air Terminal on Monday, May 7th, His Holiness carried a radiant smile and received a warm welcome from the faithful gathered to greet him. Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian, Primate-Western Diocese, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate-Canadian Diocese, Bishop Navasard Kjoyan, Vicar-Pontifical Diocese of Ararat, Father Arak Vartabed Khachaturian, Chief of Staff, Father Vasken Apegha Nanyan, Staff Bearers, Father Arshen Avak Kallana Avazian, Official Translator, and Mr. Sooren Der Krikorian, Videographer accompanied the Catholicos.

Dressed in decorative Armenian costumes, Carolina Karakashian and Maria Alchermakian, presented bread and salt for His Holiness to conduct the traditional blessing. After some thoughtful welcoming remarks offered by Deacon Allan Y. Jendian, Regional Chair of the SJV Pontifical Reception Committee, His Holiness then addressed the curious crowd prior to speaking with the media at a special press conference. "Thank you very much for your warm welcome in Fresno. God bless you. I am glad to be here with the prayers of Holy Etchmiadzin, our love and greeting from the fatherland [Armenia]."

Pontifical

Divine Liturgy

His Holiness and his entourage arrived Monday evening at Saint Paul Armenian Church where the singing of "Hrashapar" (the welcoming



A young child receives Holy Communion from His Holiness Karekin II during the Divine Liturgy at St. Paul Armenian Church of Fresno.



While visiting Sts. Sahag-Mesrob Armenian Church in Reedley, His Holiness offers a gift from Holy Etchmiadzin to the Reedley Mayor as Jerry Surabian, Fr. Arshen Avazian and Archbishop Hovnan Derderian of Canada look on.

procession) led the pontiff, clergy, deacons, and altar servers into the sanctuary. The celebration of this Pontifical Divine Liturgy by His Holiness, was attended by over 700 faithful who filled the pews and spilled around the back and sides of the sanctuary. Complementing the service, and filling both the church and hearts of the people with their beautiful singing, was a combined choir from the parishes of the Western Diocese in the San Joaquin Valley directed by Svetlana Epremian and accompanied by Ben Krikorian at the organ; participating choir members were from St. Paul, Fresno, St. Gregory the Illuminator, Fowler, Sts. Sahag-Mesrob, Reedley, St. Mary, Yettam, and Holy Cross, Turlock.

His Holiness delivered an enlightening and encouraging sermon, "Toward Light and Life", and commented: "Your presence here in such great numbers fills our heart with greater joy and reassures us

once again, that on this distant but blessed and prosperous soil of America, the descendants of our people have kept alive and well the faith of their forefathers, the Christian heritage of our Mother Church and the spirit of our nation."

Pastoral Visits to Valley Churches

His Holiness visited the outlying Valley parish communities of the Western Diocese on Tuesday, May 8th. Welcoming "Hrashapar" services were conducted at St. Mary, Yettam, Sts. Sahag-Mesrob, Reedley, and St. Gregory, Fowler. Each parish greeted the Catholicos enthusiastically and presented him with gifts and bountiful trays of Valley-famous fruits. Although the Armenian communities that exist outside of Fresno are small, their members are committed individuals, strong in character, who contribute to a cohesive group.

Father Sahak Kaishian specifically spoke of the Yettam parish. "We may be small in

number, but not weak in faith." His Holiness praised the congregation in English for their dedication and their works. "I can see goodness in your eyes. I am very proud of you." Aside from his valuable intangible gift of the spoken word, His Holiness also delivered a tangible gift: each parish received a hand-carved wooden plaque depicting Holy Etchmiadzin.

Following services in the sanctuary, a gathering in the fellowship hall of each church included a pleasant and personal exchange between His Holiness and the Parish Priest, church members and community leaders. Most notable were the following events: While driving to and from St. Mary, His Holiness was greeted by farm workers who stood alongside the road and the orchards to pay their respects. Rather than simply waving back through the car window, His Holiness stopped to personally greet them after feeling moved by their gesture that illustrated the connection between them and their employer, Harry Davidian.

The church bells at Sts. Sahag-Mesrob rang loudly and clearly as His Holiness was met with children carrying bread and salt to be blessed. In the reception hall, decorated with a magnificent cross-shaped ice sculpture, His Holiness presented the Mayor of Reedley with a gift from Holy Etchmiadzin.

Brilliantly colored flowers in hand, children stood at the steps of St. Gregory while anxiously awaiting His Holiness' arrival. Father Kevork Arake-



lian introduced them to the Catholicos, while also naming each member who approached His Holiness during "Atchahampoor" to receive a cross. At the luncheon, the Catholicos respectfully acknowledged Fr. Kevork for his personal relationship with his parishioners.

The faithful in each community of the San Joaquin Valley took with them the beauty that was shared amidst the visit of their Chief Spiritual Leader, and will keep that memory alive for years to come.

Youth Rally:

Conversation with His Holiness

During the first pontifical visitation to the San Joaquin Valley, His Holiness met with the youth of the Valley, as they are a primary focus and interest to him. On Tuesday evening, May 8th, nearly 100 youth gathered in the Sanctuary of St. Paul Armenian Church. Following a brief service in which altar servers from each of the Valley churches participated, a personal and interactive dialogue ensued.

Deacon Matthew Jendian, Chair of the Youth Rally Committee, welcomed His Holiness to the gathering and informed those present of the collaborative efforts of several members of the Valley Armenian Church Youth Organizations to make for a meaningful exchange be-

Please Turn to Page 5



His Holiness and Abp. Vatche Hovsepian share a picture with Youth Rally Chair Deacon Matthew Jendian, front center, flanked by Committee members Megan Jendian, left, and Deanna Garbedian.

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CA

DATE: May 30, 2001

SUBJECT: His Holiness Karekin II Visits Fresno

PAGE: 2 of 3

His Holiness Visiting the Central California Parishes and Institutions

Continued from Page 4

tween them and Vchapar. Youth Rally Committee member, Deanna Garabedian, asked the Catholicos to share some information about his life as a boy and how he came to know and serve Christ and the Church.

Vchapar offered vivid images and descriptive experiences of his childhood and recalled, "I can remember the journey to church (Holy Etchmiadzin) every Sunday, walking next to my father, with my family, all of my brothers and sisters, and we would kneel at the entrance gates of Holy Etchmiadzin and make our way to the church on our knees." He and his siblings were taught to view each stone in the church building as a living thing that contained the prayers of our ancestors.

Deacon Matthew thanked Vchapar for his personal remarks, "One could read a hundred biographies and not learn of the things that you have shared with us. You have given all of us a new way of looking at the church and you have given us a window into your life." After the Catholicos was asked about the role of prayer in his life, he mentioned the trust, devotion and dedication to always end his prayers with, "Lord, Thy will be done."

Upon the conclusion of an open question and answer session, the youth individually approached Vchapar for "Aichahampoor" and received a cross from Holy Etchmiadzin. Following the Youth Rally, a reception, organized by Zar Der Mugrdchian, was held in the Hag Berberian Hall. Prior to the Youth Rally, His Holiness entered the Holy Trinity Armenian Church sanctuary with members of his entourage and offered a prayer in the chancel before the altar.

Visitations throughout the Valley

His Holiness was scheduled for a day filled with visitations on Wednesday, May 9th. Following the breakfast meeting with the Valley clergy of the Western Diocese, His Holiness and his entourage visited the Armenian Community School of Fresno. He was showered with heartfelt greetings by smiling children who held carnation flowers and balloons in their hands. The students certainly possessed a glow in their eyes as they stood in awe of Vchapar's presence. Upon his arrival, three doves were set free into the sky and the blessing of the bread and salt took place on the green-grassed field in front of the school.

As His Holiness proceeded

into the auditorium, 135 students aged 3 to 14 let their balloons drift above them by the wind. Students sang songs and recited prose for Vchapar, which brought smiles upon his face. Dr. Berj Kalamkarian, Chair of the Armenian Community School Visit, served as Master of Ceremonies and provided His Holiness with a brief history of the school. Seth Atamian, principal of the Armenian Community School, thanked Vchapar for including the school as part of his itinerary and for visiting them. "This was the highlight of our school year." The Catholicos presented a wonderful, water-colored painting of Christ's resurrection to Mr. Atamian for the school.

His Holiness appeared extremely joyful to be in the presence of the young ones and he descended from the stage to talk with and walk amongst the students. With a chuckle, he asked them "Who am I? Do you know where Armenia is located?" A young student replied, "I have a Kerec (uncle) there." Laughter spread throughout the room. Each student was blessed with Vchapar's presence and will cherish his visit, along with the cross he individually handed to them.

California State University, Fresno was the third scheduled visit of the day. Outside the Alice Peters Auditorium adorned with signs of welcome for Vchapar, students lined up along the walkway to greet His Holiness. Barlow Der Mugrdchian, instructor in the Armenian Studies Program and Chair of the CSUF visit, arranged for the Armenian Students Organization (ASO) executive committee to briefly meet with the Catholicos prior to the lecture. His Holiness pre-



During the St. Gregory parish visitation and luncheon in Fowler, His Holiness Karekin II presents a gift to Rev. Fr. Kevork Arakelian a gift from Holy Etchmiadzin. Far left, Fr. Sahak Khashian of Yettim. To the right: Abp. Vatche Hovsepian, Abp. Hovnan Derderian and Deacon Allan Y. Jendian.

sented an impressively woven rug, adorned with a cross in the center, to the ASO. The students were grateful and humbled in his presence.

Following Der Mugrdchian's introduction of His Holiness in the lecture hall filled with approximately 150 students, faculty and community members, Vchapar opened with the reciting of the Lord's Prayer. The Catholicos then spoke mostly in Armenian regarding the effects of globalization and technology, while Father Arshen Aivazian superbly translated. Vchapar discussed the impact of globalization on the faithful in an increasingly secular world and stated that the Church is concerned that "Christian values will be replaced by the worship of humanly created materialistic values." Vchapar also acknowledged the positive aspect of technology that is "providing an opportunity for Armenians around the world to come in

contact with one another."

The California Armenian Home Visit, chaired by Board President Jack Bedrosian, brought Vchapar to an audience of the older generation. His Holiness spent Wednesday's late afternoon walking the halls while greeting both residents and employees. "God bless you." He later had an opportunity for a moving exchange with a room-full of elderly to whom he offered blessings and also honored, bowing to them for their many years of service to community and church life.

Pontifical Banquet

In honor of His Holiness, Karekin II, on the occasion of his first pontifical visit to the San Joaquin Valley, a banquet commenced Wednesday evening at the Radisson Hotel Grand Ballroom. Along with the creative and diligent efforts of his committee, Banquet Chair Ben Krikorian successfully arranged a memorable event. While the procession of His Holiness swept the periphery of the ballroom, members of the Armenian Church Choirs beautifully rendered a pontifical hymn.

Shortly after the invocation by His Holiness Karekin II, Deacon Varouj Altchamkian, M.D., Diocesan Council Chairman offered a toast. Deacon Allan Y. Jendian, Regional Chairman of the SJV Pontifical Reception Committee, welcomed Vchapar to "the San Joaquin Valley which Fresno's own William Saroyan called 'Armenia again.'" An extra special thanks was delivered to all the Pontifical Reception Committee Members and the many Benefactors and Patrons who unselfishly contributed so the events in honor of His Holiness and the 1700th anniversary of Christianity could materialize in the San Joaquin Valley. Preceding the Banquet, Vchapar

was honored at a private reception where the Benefactors and Patrons were introduced by Deacon Allan and Fundraising Chair, Deacon Nishan Kochian.

Deacon Allan also introduced the members seated at the head table, the Orthodox and Protestant clergy present in the banquet hall, and the local dignitaries who joined the evening's event. Fresno Mayor, Alan Autry, expressed his honor in meeting His Holiness and presented him with a key to the city. Steve Samuclian, Governmental Relations Chair, acknowledged and presented the resolutions and proclamations received from various government dignitaries. Both Autry and Samuclian were presented with gifts brought from Holy Etchmiadzin by the Catholicos.

His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian greeted over 500 guests and spoke of the creatively decorated crosses that adorned the panels around the room. Hovnan Surpazan reported that the youth of the Valley had prepared 1699 crosses for the 1700th anniversary and wished to have His Holiness attach the final cross to the display.

His Eminence Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian also shared his remarks and gratefully thanked Vahan and Anoush Chamlan for their extremely generous \$100,000 donation to Vchapar on this joyous occasion. Vatche Surpazan also thanked Deacon Varouj for his efforts as the Diocesan Council Chairman and General Chair of the Pontifical Visit; the CHP Security for their tireless and protective efforts arranged by Deacon Armen Devezian; Deacon Allan, whom he smiled at and referred to, as the "Amenayn Hayots Sargavak" (Deacon of All Armenians), for his contributions to the Church.

Please Turn t Page 16



Vchapar presenting a painting from Armenia to Seth Atamian, principal of the Armenian Community School of Fresno

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CA

DATE: May 30, 2001

SUBJECT: His Holiness Karekin II Visits Fresno

PAGE: 1 of 3

Central California Pontifical Visit of His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians

By MEGAN JENDIAN
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

His Holiness, Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians made a historic first pontifical visit to the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America during the jubilee year of Armenia's 1700th anniversary as the first nation to accept Christianity as a State Religion.

His Holiness is the 142nd successor to the Holy Apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew and 132nd Catholicos since Saint Gregory the Enlightener.

After departing from his residence in the historical center of the Armenian Church, Holy Etchmiadzin, founded in 301 A.D., His Holiness first visited Northern California. Prior to the Southern California visit, His Holiness Karekin II visited sunny Central California where he left, and was left with, quite a lasting impression.

Arrival in

San Joaquin Valley

Upon arrival at the Fresno Air Terminal on Monday, May 7th, His Holiness carried a radiant smile and received a warm welcome from the faithful gathered to greet him. Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian, Primate-Western Diocese, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate-Canadian Diocese, Bishop Navasard Kjoyan, Vicar-Pontifical Diocese of Ararat, Father Ardashir Vartabed Khachatryan, Chief of Staff, Father Vasken Apegha Nanyan, Staff Bearer, Father Arshen Avak Kahana Aivazian, Official Translator, and Mr. Sooren Der Krikorian, Videographer accompanied the Catholicos.

Dressed in decorative Armenian costumes, Carolina Karakashian and Maria Altibarmakian, presented bread and salt for His Holiness to conduct the traditional blessing. After some thoughtful welcoming remarks offered by Deacon Allan Y. Jendian, Regional Chair of the SJV Pontifical Reception Committee, His Holiness then addressed the curious crowd prior to speaking with the media at a special press conference. "Thank you very much for your warm welcome in Fresno. God bless you. I am glad to be here with the prayers of Holy Etchmiadzin, our love and greeting from the fatherland [Armenia]."

Pontifical

Divine Liturgy

His Holiness and his entourage arrived Monday evening at Saint Paul Armenian Church where the singing of "Hrashapar" (the welcoming



A young child receives Holy Communion from His Holiness Karekin II during the Divine Liturgy at St. Paul Armenian Church of Fresno.



While visiting Sts. Sahag-Mesrob Armenian Church in Reedley, His Holiness offers a gift from Holy Etchmiadzin to the Reedley Mayor as Jerry Surabian, Fr. Arshen Aivazian and Archbishop Hovnan Derderian of Canada look on.

procession) led the pontiff, clergy, deacons, and altar servers into the sanctuary. The celebration of this Pontifical Divine Liturgy by His Holiness, was attended by over 700 faithful who filled the pews and spilled around the back and sides of the sanctuary. Complementing the service, and filling both the church and hearts of the people with their beautiful singing, was a combined choir from the parishes of the Western Diocese in the San Joaquin Valley directed by Svetlana Epremanian and accompanied by Ben Krikorian at the organ; participating choir members were from St. Paul, Fresno, St. Gregory the Illuminator, Fowler, Sts. Sahag-Mesrob, Reedley, St. Mary, Yettam, and Holy Cross, Turlock.

His Holiness delivered an enlightening and encouraging sermon, "Toward Light and Life", and commented: "Your presence here in such great numbers fills our heart with greater joy and reassures us

number, but not weak in faith." His Holiness praised the congregation in English for their dedication and their works. "I can see goodness in your eyes. I am very proud of you." Aside from his valuable intangible gift of the spoken word, His Holiness also delivered a tangible gift: each parish received a hand-carved wooden plaque depicting Holy Etchmiadzin.

Following services in the sanctuary, a gathering in the fellowship hall of each church included a pleasant and personal exchange between His Holiness and the Parish Priest, church members and community leaders. Most notable were the following events: While driving to and from St. Mary, His Holiness was greeted by farm workers who stood alongside the road and the orchards to pay their respects. Rather than simply waving back through the car window, His Holiness stopped to personally greet them after feeling moved by their gesture that illustrated the connection between them and their employer, Harry Davidian.

The church bells at Sts. Sahag-Mesrob rang loudly and clearly as His Holiness was met with children carrying bread and salt to be blessed. In the reception hall, decorated with a magnificent cross-shaped ice sculpture, His Holiness presented the Mayor of Reedley with a gift from Holy Etchmiadzin.

Brilliantly colored flowers in hand, children stood at the steps of St. Gregory while anxiously awaiting His Holiness' arrival. Father Kevork Arake-



lian introduced them to the Catholicos, while also naming each member who approached His Holiness during "Atchamapooyr" to receive a cross. At the luncheon, the Catholicos respectfully acknowledged Fr. Kevork for his personal relationship with his parishioners.

The faithful in each community of the San Joaquin Valley took with them the beauty that was shared amidst the visit of their Chief Spiritual Leader, and will keep that memory alive for years to come.

Youth Rally:

Conversation with His Holiness

During the first pontifical visitation to the San Joaquin Valley, His Holiness met with the youth of the Valley, as they are a primary focus and interest to him. On Tuesday evening, May 8th, nearly 100 youth gathered in the Sanctuary of St. Paul Armenian Church. Following a brief service in which altar servers from each of the Valley churches participated, a personal and interactive dialogue ensued.

Deacon Matthew Jendian, Chair of the Youth Rally Committee, welcomed His Holiness to the gathering and informed those present of the collaborative efforts of several members of the Valley Armenian Church Youth Organizations to make for a meaningful exchange between them and His Holiness.

Please Turn to Page 5



His Holiness and Abp. Vatche Hovsepian share a picture with Youth Rally Chair Deacon Matthew Jendian, front center, flanked by Committee members Megan Jendian, left, and Deanna Garbedian.

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CA

DATE: May 30, 2001

SUBJECT: His Holiness Karekin II Visits Fresno

PAGE: 2 of 3

His Holiness Visiting the Central California Parishes and Institutions

Continued from Page 4

tween them and Vchapar. Youth Rally Committee member, Deanna Garabedian, asked the Catholics to share some information about his life as a boy and how he came to know and serve Christ and the Church.

Vchapar offered vivid images and descriptive experiences of his childhood and recalled, "I can remember the journey to church (Holy Etchmiadzin) every Sunday, walking next to my father, with my family, all of my brothers and sisters, and we would kneel at the entrance gates of Holy Etchmiadzin and make our way to the church on our knees." He and his siblings were taught to view each stone in the church building as a living thing that contained the prayers of our ancestors.

Deacon Matthew thanked Vchapar for his personal remarks, "One could read a hundred biographies and not learn of the things that you have shared with us. You have given all of us a new way of looking at the church and you have given us a window into your life." After the Catholics were asked about the role of prayer in his life, he mentioned the trust, devotion and dedication to always end his prayers with, "Lord, Thy will be done."

Upon the conclusion of an open question and answer session, the youth individually approached Vchapar for "Atchahampoozy" and received a cross from Holy Etchmiadzin. Following the Youth Rally, a reception, organized by Zar Der Mugrdchian, was held in the Haig Berberian Hall. Prior to the Youth Rally, His Holiness entered the Holy Trinity Armenian Church sanctuary with members of his entourage and offered a prayer in the chancel before the altar.

Visitations throughout the Valley

His Holiness was scheduled for a day filled with visitations on Wednesday, May 9th. Following the breakfast meeting with the Valley clergy of the Western Diocese, His Holiness and his entourage visited the Armenian Community School of Fresno. He was showered with heartfelt greetings by smiling children who held carnation flowers and balloons in their hands. The students certainly possessed a glow in their eyes as they stood in awe of Vchapar's presence. Upon his arrival, three doves were set free into the sky and the blessing of the bread and salt took place on the green-grassed field in front of the school.

As His Holiness proceeded

into the auditorium, 135 students aged 3 to 14 let their balloons drift above them by the wind. Students sang songs and recited prose for Vchapar, which brought smiles upon his face. Dr. Berj Kalankarian, Chair of the Armenian Community School Visit, served as Master of Ceremonies and provided His Holiness with a brief history of the school. Seth Atamian, principal of the Armenian Community School, thanked Vchapar for including the school as part of his itinerary and for visiting them. "This was the highlight of our school year." The Catholics presented a wonderful, water-colored painting of Christ's resurrection to Mr. Atamian for the school.

His Holiness appeared extremely joyful to be in the presence of the young ones and he descended from the stage to talk with and walk amongst the students. With a chuckle, he asked them "Who am I? Do you know where Armenia is located?" A young student replied, "I have a Kerec (uncle) there." Laughter spread throughout the room. Each student was blessed with Vchapar's presence and will cherish his visit, along with the cross he individually handed to them.

California State University, Fresno was the third scheduled visit of the day. Outside the Alice Peters Auditorium adorned with signs of welcome for Vchapar, students lined up along the walkway to greet His Holiness. Barlow Der Mugrdchian, instructor in the Armenian Studies Program and Chair of the CSUF visit, arranged for the Armenian Students Organization (ASO) executive committee to briefly meet with the Catholics prior to the lecture. His Holiness pre-



During the St. Gregory parish visitation and luncheon in Fowler, His Holiness Karekin II presents a gift to Rev. Fr. Kevork Arakelian a gift from Holy Etchmiadzin. Far left, Fr. Sahak Kaishian of Yvetem. To the right: Abp. Vatche Hovsepian, Abp. Hovnan Derderian and Deacon Allan Y. Jendian.

sented an impressively woven rug, adorned with a cross in the center, to the ASO. The students were grateful and humbled in his presence.

Following Der Mugrdchian's introduction of His Holiness in the lecture hall filled with approximately 150 students, faculty and community members, Vchapar opened with the reciting of the Lord's Prayer. The Catholics then spoke mostly in Armenian regarding the effects of globalization and technology, while Father Arshen Avazian superbly translated. Vchapar discussed the impact of globalization on the faithful in an increasingly secular world and stated that the Church is concerned that "Christian values will be replaced by the worship of humanly created materialistic values." Vchapar also acknowledged the positive aspect of technology that is "providing an opportunity for Armenians around the world to come in

contact with one another."

The California Armenian Home Visit, Chaired by Board President Jack Bedrosian, brought Vchapar to an audience of the older generation. His Holiness spent Wednesday's late afternoon walking the halls while greeting both residents and employees. "God bless you." He later had an opportunity for a moving exchange with a room-full of elderly to whom he offered blessings and also honored, bowing to them for their many years of service to community and church life.

Pontifical Banquet

In honor of His Holiness, Karekin II, on the occasion of his first pontifical visit to the San Joaquin Valley, a banquet commenced Wednesday evening at the Radisson Hotel Grand Ballroom. Along with the creative and diligent efforts of his committee, Banquet Chair Ben Krikorian successfully arranged a memorable event. While the procession of His Holiness swept the periphery of the ballroom, members of the Armenian Church Choirs beautifully rendered a pontifical hymn.

Shortly after the invocation by His Holiness Karekin II, Deacon Varouj Altbarmakian, M.D., Diocesan Council Chairman offered a toast. Deacon Allan Y. Jendian, Regional Chairman of the SJV Pontifical Reception Committee, welcomed Vchapar to "the San Joaquin Valley which Fresno's own William Saroyan called 'Armenia again.'" An extra special thanks was delivered to all the Pontifical Reception Committee Members and the many Benefactors and Patrons who unselfishly contributed to the events in honor of His Holiness and the 1700th anniversary of Christianity could materialize in the San Joaquin Valley. Preceding the Banquet, Vchapar

was honored at a private reception where the Benefactors and Patrons were introduced by Deacon Allan and Fundraising Chair, Deacon Nishan Kochian.

Deacon Allan also introduced the members seated at the head table, the Orthodox and Protestant clergy present in the banquet hall, and the local dignitaries who joined the evening's event. Fresno Mayor, Alan Autry, expressed his honor in meeting His Holiness and presented him with a key to the city. Steve Samuelian, Governmental Relations Chair, acknowledged and presented the resolutions and proclamations received from various government dignitaries. Both Autry and Samuelian were presented with gifts brought from Holy Etchmiadzin by the Catholics.

His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian greeted over 500 guests and spoke of the creatively decorated crosses that adorned the panels around the room. Hovnan Surpazan reported that the youth of the Valley had prepared 1699 crosses for the 1700th anniversary and wished to have His Holiness attach the final cross to the display.

His Eminence Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian also shared his remarks and gratefully thanked Vahan and Anoush Chamlian for their extremely generous \$100,000 donation to Vchapar on this joyous occasion. Vatche Surpazan also thanked Deacon Varouj for his efforts as the Diocesan Council Chairman and General Chair of the Pontifical Visit; the CHP Security for their tireless and protective efforts arranged by Deacon Armen Devezian; Deacon Allan, whom he smiled at and referred to, as the "Armenian Hayots Sargavak" (Deacon of All Armenians), for his contributions to the Church.

Please Turn to Page 16



Vchapar presenting a painting from Armenia to Seth Atamian, principal of the Armenian Community School of Fresno

**ARCHIVE****SOURCE:** The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CA**DATE:** May 30, 2001**SUBJECT:** His Holiness Karekin II Visits Fresno**PAGE:** 3 of 3**His Holiness in Central California***Continued from Page 5*

the Diocese, and the Committee; and Rosemary, as well, for her support.

His Holiness concluded the evening with a captivating address and a thoughtful request. "I must not leave Fresno without extending an invitation to each of you to visit Armenia. This old Christian land will speak to your heart." Throughout the evening, Vchapar's ever-present smile was a pleasure to witness as he was amongst the faithful gathered in his honor.

Pontifical Visit**Drawn to a Close**

The faithful of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church in the San Joaquin Valley were blessed with the opportunity to greet and meet His Holiness, Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians on the occasion of his first pontifical visit during Armenia's 1700th anniversary of Christianity. Those in attendance experienced a breath of renewal and hope.

The SJV Pontifical Reception Committee planned, organized, and implemented an itinerary of activities that enabled a successful visit of His Holiness. The efforts of the many dedicated committee members deserve recognition. Acknowledgements are listed in the insert of the commemorative booklet provided by the Diocese, which also included a special history insert, prepared by Deacon Arra Avakian, "Armenian Religious Life in the San Joaquin Valley." Other chairpersons noteworthy of mention include: Sub-Deacon Ara Movsesian and Jerry Baker, Lodging accommodations; Levon Karakashian, Airport Arrival; and Jennifer Zahigian and Megan Jendian, Photos.

With the visit of their Chief Spiritual Leader, the faithful of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church in the San Joaquin Valley were spiritually rejuvenated to receive His Holiness' greetings, blessings and direction.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: TheCalifornia Courier: Glendale, CADATE: June 7, 2001SUBJECT: Kouymjian Publishes New Book on KhorenatsiPAGE: 1 of 1

Dr. Kouymjian's Latest Tome Is About Movses Khorenatsi

FRESNO (Hye Sharzhoom)

- A volume of scholarly essays devoted to the father of Armenian history, Movses of Khoren, is the latest contribution to Armenian studies by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig & Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at CSUF.

Traditionally, Movses Khorenatsi is considered a fifth century author, part of Armenia's golden age, though some scholars, mostly in the West, attribute his "History of the Armenians" to a later century. The new book, "Moise de Khoreneet 'historiographie armenienne des origines'" (Moses of Khoren and Armenian Historiography from its Origines) was released by the publishing house of the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia in Antelias, Lebanon. The work was published under the auspices of Catholicos Aram I and is volume 7 in the series of publications to commemorate the 1700th anniversary of the conversion of Armenia to Christianity.

The 10 essays in the book were originally papers given at a

conference on Movses with the same title, organized by Prof. Kouymjian in Paris in January 1991 under the auspices of the Institut national des langues and civilizations orientales, the Centre de recherches sur la diaspora armenienne (CRDA) and the Ecole pratique des haute etudes.

The essays are by the world's foremost authorities on Movses including the late Gagik Sarkisian of the Armenian Academy of Sciences, Marc Nichanian, Columbia University, Robert Thomson, Oxford University, Dickran Kouymjian, CSU Fresno, Jean-Pierre Mahe, EPHE Paris, Bernard Outtier, CNRS, Paris, and the University of Geneva, Jean-Michel Thierry, EPHE Paris, Krikor Beledian, INALCO and the University of Lyon, Levon Zekiyan, University of Venice, and Giusto Traina of the University of Lecce, Italy.

The 223-page volume can be obtained through the web page of the Cilician Catholicosate: www.cathcil.org.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CADATE: June 27, 2001SUBJECT: Dr Kouymjian Publishes New BookPAGE: 1 of 1

"Moses of Khoren and Armenian Historiography from Its Beginnings"

FRESNO - A volume of scholarly essays devoted to the father of Armenian history, Movses of Khoren, is the latest contribution to Armenian Studies by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig & Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at CSUF. Traditionally, Movses Khorenats'i is considered a fifth century author, part of Armenia's golden age, though some scholars, mostly in the west, attribute his *History of the Armenians* to a later century. The new book entitled *Moise de Khorene et l'historiographie armenienne des origines*, [Moses of Khoren and Armenian Historiography from Its Beginnings] was released by the publishing house of the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia in Antelias, Lebanon. The work was published under auspices of His Holiness Catholicos Aram I and is volume 7 in the series of publications to commemorate the 1700th anniversary of the conversion of Armenia to Christianity.

The ten essays in the book were originally papers given at

a conference on Movses with the same title, organized by Prof. Kouyoumjian in Paris in January 1991 under auspices of the Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (INALCO), the Centre de recherches sur la diaspora arménienne (CRDA), and the Ecole pratique des haute études (EPHE). The essays are by the world's foremost authorities on Movses including the late Gagik Sarkissian of the Armenian Academy of Sciences, Marc Nichanian, Columbia University, Robert Thomson, Oxford University, Dickran Kouymjian, CSU Fresno, Jean-Pierre Mahe, EPHE Paris, Bernard Outtier, CNRS, Paris and the University of Geneva, Jean-Michel Thierry, EPHE Paris, Krikor Beledian, INALCO and the University of Lyon, Levon Zekian, University of Venice, and Giusto Traina of the University of Lecce, Italy.

The handsomely bound 223 page volume can be obtained through the web page of the Cilician Catholicosate: www.cathcil.org.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CA

DATE: June 28, 2001

SUBJECT:

PAGE: 1 of 1

Armenian Studies Program Annual Banquet

Showing of Paul Kalinian's Film on William Saroyan Benefits Cal State Fresno's Armenian Studies Program

By Edna Shamlian Harvey

FRESNO - The latest showing of Paul Kalinian's film, "William Saroyan: The Man The Writer," was shown at a benefit dinner for the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno, on May 6. Vatche Sghomonian and his wife, Dr. Jane Kardashian hosted and underwrote the benefit dinner at their home overlooking Lake Millerton.

California State Senator Chuck Poochigian addressed the gathering of approximately 200 guests.

U.S. Representative George Radanovich was represented by his district director, Steve Samuelian, who spoke of his days in Fresno State's Armenian Studies program and praised its contribution to his own education, and its benefit to others.

Professor Barlow Der Mugrdchian recognized student leaders, students from Armenia, scholarship recipients and outlined a busy, productive year for the department.

Kalinian's biographical film of William Saroyan has won six international film festival awards, including a Gold award for best documentary. Much of the narration was by Saroyan himself. Additional narration was done by in-



From left to right: Paul Kalinian, Susie Kalinian, and Vatche Sghomonian.

ternationally known actor, Mike Connors.

Since 1991, the Kalinians have shown this film to over one million people in 19 countries and 53 cities around the world, including the United States, Canada, Australia, Europe, the Middle East, and Armenia. All the proceeds have directly benefited local charities. The Kalinians will eventually premiere the film in South America, Africa, and Japan. Another European film tour is underway for next year.

A surprise appearance at the Fresno presentation was made by Susie Kalinian, producer of the film and daughter of Paul Kalin-

ian. As an alumni of the Armenian Studies Program and CSUF, she spoke of her fond memories and praised the program. She currently lives in Boston, Mass., where she is a pre-doctoral student at Tufts School of Dental Medicine. Also present was Paul's wife, Araxie, and son Harold, the film's technical engineer.

On Oct. 27 and 28, the film will be shown at the Fresno Memorial Auditorium organized by the Fresno County Public Library.