

## Saint Paul Puzzle Pieces



Growing up, Queenie Emerzian was always close to her family. Her father, Mihran, was born in Samsun, Turkey in 1908. At the age of 10, he and his 12-year old brother, Jivan, were orphaned during the early years of the genocide. Together, the two young boys were forced to live in an orphanage in Constantinople. When news of the boys' survival reached their Uncle Harry Karagozian in the United States, plans were quickly made to adopt the boys and move them to California. Mihran, at 11, and Jivan, 13, landed by boat at Ellis Island in the New York Harbor, along with other Armenian immigrants coming from Samsun, all praying for a new life in a new land.

Once the young boys reached New York, the next part of their journey was made by train. Speaking only Armenian and Turkish, they managed to completely cross the United States to California, and finally to Fresno to meet their family. Once they arrived, as instructed by their Armenian neighbors from Samsun, the boys looked closely for the gold paved streets and hidden treasure under the fig trees.

The young brothers started school and Mihran learned English very quickly. They also worked in the fields for their Uncle Harry, learning about farming, figs, and raisins. Mihran enjoyed high school at Sanger High, where he loved playing football for his school.

At the age of 22, Mihran met a beautiful young lady named Mae Alexander. They fell in love and were married in 1930. Queenie was born in 1932 and blessed with the name of Mihran's mother. Her sister Betty was born two years later, in 1934.

As Queenie grew up, attending church at St. Paul was an important part of family life. Several of her cousins were in the choir, which she excitedly joined with her sister when she was 10 years old. Queenie's mom, Mae, tragically passed away from a prolonged illness when Queenie was just a young girl. The death of her mom created an extremely close bond with her sister and her father Mihran.

Queenie wanted greatly to continue her education after she graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1951. She worked hard at babysitting to save enough money to pay the fees to attend Fresno City College. At the age of 22, Queenie met a handsome young man named John Emerzian at an Armenian dance on Blackstone Avenue. They married in 1956, and their marriage was blessed with 3 sons. John H. was born in 1957, Michael followed in 1959, and their family was complete with the arrival of Thomas Paul in 1961.

While Queenie was busy raising her three sons, she also worked part-time for Fresno Unified. She and her husband were also very involved in church life, working with different church organizations, volunteering, and mentoring as her boys grew. She loved hosting Senior ACYO events and became famous for her delicious desserts and cheese boreg.

In 1967, Queenie was asked to take a full-time position as a Career Counselor for Roosevelt High School, her alma mater. It was a position she had not held previously but she was always up for a challenge. She took the job and managed it beautifully for the next 29 years when she retired. Never one to back down from trying something new, in 1992, after the death of her father Mihran, she took over the running of her father's ranch. Queenie loved overseeing the 40 acres of grapes and implementing new innovations such as mechanical picking machines. She retired from her work on the ranch after 16 years.

Queenie has been a member of our church for 80 years. She has been a member of the Ladies Society for 51 years, serving on the Executive Board as well as assisting with a myriad of lunches, dinners, and fundraising events. Queenie believes that the Ladies Society was an anchor for her in her young life as she raised her children. It can be said that Queenie has been an anchor for St. Paul Church and our parish.

Thank you Queenie, for being such an amazing piece of our St. Paul Puzzle.

# News from our parish



Sunday, February 6, will be the Annual Parish Assembly. For the second consecutive year, the assembly will be conducted via Zoom. All eligible members will be receiving information for the Assembly, and we encourage your participation. To be eligible to participate in the Assembly, you must have paid your annual dues by December 31, 2021.

The Annual Parish Assembly will include the discussion of financial and facility issues of our parish, as well as our annual elections. This year we will be electing six members to the Parish Council as outgoing members Isabelle Bishop, Zaven Devejian, Dn. Hagop Iskenyan, and Jeff Markarian have completed their terms on the council. Dn. Steve Adams and Darlene Chardukian are running for re-election.

Thank you to everyone who attended the annual Jurakalouyts (Christmas Eve) Dinner on Wednesday, January 5. More than 100 people attended the dinner this year and enjoyed one of our parish's most popular events. Many thanks to Yeretsgin Vartine and her committee for all of their hard work and making this annual event so successful!

On Friday, February 4, our Drive-Thru Lunch Committee will be serving a delicious kuftah lunch. Look for more info in this month's Dajar and order your meals today!

Annual statements of contributions will be mailed that will list your contributions to the church in 2021. Please keep this information with your income tax records, and contact the church office if you have any questions or note any errors on your annual contribution statement.

If you haven't had a chance to complete your 2022 Pledge Form, we urge you to do so as the annual pledge forms help us to plan the church finances for the year.



## LADIES SOCIETY

Our Ladies are back in the swing of a new year and planning events for all our parishioners to enjoy! Coming up is the monthly Business/Dinner meeting on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Paul Haig Berberian Hall. There will be a delicious dinner-\$15 per person and an interesting program featuring Simply Organized by Zar. Zar will help us get ideas on how to spring clean and organize our spaces.

To make your reservations, please call Annette Moushigian-559-906-2114. February is a busy month for us. On Saturday, February 26, 2022, the Ladies will have their 3rd annual "Spa Day" which will have various services and activities for those who attend. Join us for a delicious lunch and a day of pampering. Please see the flyer in this Dajar for more details. Also, mark your calendars for March 3, 2022, as the Ladies will have a night out at Roger Rocka's for dinner and the play, "Guys and Dolls." This is a limited seating event. For reservations call Jackie Manoogian-559-252-2097. Look for more information in our monthly newsletter.



It was a relatively quiet January for Men's Forum, although we were able to host Sunday Fellowship on Jan. 9. Much appreciation to two eleven-year-old school-mates, Adoline Haun (granddaughter of Patty Markarian) and her friend, Milani Magdalena, who did a commendable job of preparing platters for the food table. Please note that our next hosted Fellowship will be on Sunday, Feb. 13, which also happens to be Super Bowl Sunday. Since the game is not scheduled to start until 3:30 p.m., our members will not be able to use that excuse for being unable to attend church service and/or assisting with Fellowship. This is a great opportunity to socialize and predict the game-winner!

Due to on-going concerns with the prolonged Pandemic, the much anticipated resumption of Dinner-Meetings will not be scheduled in February. At this time, we are still intending to host some type of Saturday field trip and/or luncheon at a local restaurant in the spring. Also, with Daylight Savings Time returning in mid-March, we will be more encouraged to finally hold the first Dinner-Meeting in over two years. We also encourage our members to attend the Annual Parrish Assembly, scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 6, following church services. Until then, we encourage all members and their families to stay safe. We hope and pray for their good health during these challenging times.

In closing, we congratulate our Secretary-Treasurer, Jeff Markarian, whose oldest son, Patrick, serves on the Baylor University Football coaching staff. Their team managed to win the Big 12 Conference Title, the Sugar Bowl on New Year's Day, and finished the season ranked #5 in the country. Great job, Patrick!



Sunday School class lessons will mostly be held virtually during the month of February. We hope to resume in-person classes on Sunday, February 27, in time for “Poon Paregentan.”

Following is the Sunday School Schedule for the month of February:

Sundays, February 6, 13, and 20 — Virtual class lessons (each teacher will send out invites for their respective class time)

Sunday, February 27 — Family Sunday with brief assembly starting at 10:45 a.m. followed by church attendance for “Poon Paregentan.” We will sit together in reserved rows up front with No Sunday School classes/lessons.



## Junior ACYO

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.*

*- 1 Corinthians 13: 4-5*

In January, the Juniors helped the Ladies Society with their Jurakalouyts dinner. They helped with preparing the Ghapama and setting up the tables. They also put stickers on parishioners during the Christmas Badarak.

Many fun activities are planned in the month of February. Stay tuned for more details regarding upcoming events, fundraisers and other activities via Instagram, Facebook, and the church Eblast.

**If you have any questions or would like to join ACYO Juniors, please contact chairman Erik Barsegian at [stpauljuniors@gmail.com](mailto:stpauljuniors@gmail.com) or (559) 269-3592.**

## *A Home Blessing Service*

is one of the most important traditions in the Armenian Orthodox Church.

The Priest visits the home and spreads good news of Christ's birth. He conducts a meaningful religious service by saying a prayer and blessing the bread, water, and salt.

***To request a traditional Home Blessing, contact the church office at 559-226-6343***

You can also call the church office to schedule a hospital visitation, graveside funeral or Sunday hokehankisd.



***LET'S ALWAYS PRAY AND SHARE  
GOD'S LOVE TOGETHER***



We pray for all the parishioners who are sick and recovering from being ill. May the Lord watch over you and strengthen you.

***Tigran Vartabedian, Marge Noorigian, Daisy Avedisian and  
Haygouhi Mikayelian***

If you know anyone that needs a prayer, contact the church office and provide their full name.

**Pastor and Parish Council  
gratefully acknowledge the following donations  
May God bless you and your families  
*Thank You!***

**General Donations**

Steven & Ann Yahnian  
Richard & Rosanne Rojas  
Markos & Elmon Garabetyan  
Rod & Carol Stark  
John & Lisa Garabedian  
Mark & Margaret Shirin

**Dajar Donations**

Venus & Genese Phillips

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**In Memory of Lillian Nishkian**

Jon & Mary Ember

**In Memory of Charlotte Dyer**

Rose Hairabedian Oganesian

**In Memory of Mark Melkonian**

Paul & Kathleen Mesple

**In Memory of Sylvia Chooljian**

Venus, Terry & Genese Phillips  
Jon & Mary Ember  
Rod & Carol Stark  
Jack & Alberta Bedoian  
Ben & Clarice Krikorian  
Mardeen Jones  
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Randal & Terri Garabedian  
Jackie Manoogian  
Virginia Sarabian  
Ron & Jane Kazarian  
John & Carol Garry



**St. Paul Parish extends its sincere sympathy**

**John Dennis Hagopian** - December 15, 2021 he is survived by his Daughter Linda Hamby, and numerous cousins.

**Khachatur Muradyan** - December 31, 2021 he is survived by his Son, Sedrak Muradyan, and Daughter, Kristina Muradyan.



**MAY GOD REST THEIR SOULS IN PEACE**



## WHY COOK?

### When You Can Drive—Thru

# Friday, February 4, 2022

**A Delicious Lunch Ready to Take Home and Eat**

**Kuftah with Broth**

**Bulghour Pilaf**

**Brown Sugar Baby Carrots**

**Hummus/Pocket Bread**

**Cream Filled Khadayif**

**Bottle of Water**

Prepared by the  
ST. PAUL ARMENIAN CHURCH  
LUNCH COMMITTEE

To place an order CALL 559-226-6343 between 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

TEXT Diane at 559-301-2515 or 559-970-9354

Or Email to: [stpaulfresno.lunch@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulfresno.lunch@gmail.com)

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Order by 9:00 a.m.  
On Thursday, February 3rd

Pickup between  
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

# *St. Paul Ladies Society*

## *Spa Day*

*Saturday, February 26, 2022*

*10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at St. Paul Hall*

*\*Join us for a day of rejuvenation and relaxation experiences and techniques.*

*\*Come, relax in the warm and soothing atmosphere and experience a variety of Spa encounters.*

*\*Sample the latest products and services to make you feel fabulous!*

*\*Have a hand massage, try some yoga, and explore acupuncture*

*\*Enjoy a delicious Buffet to enjoy with friends. \$15 per person*

*\*Please make your reservation by Monday, February 14, 2022, to Annette Moushigian-559-906-2114 or email: [moushigian@comcast.net](mailto:moushigian@comcast.net)*

*\*All our church family ladies are welcome!*





# Hye Camp 2022

MAKE FRIENDS AND MEMORIES THAT LAST FOREVER

## DATES

- *Week 1 - July 10-16 (Ages 8-12)*
- *Week 2 - July 17-23 (Ages 8-17)*
- *Week 3 - July 24-30 (Ages 8-17)*
- *Week 4 - July 31-August 6 (Ages 10-17)*

Camper and Staff application dates will be announced soon!  
Visit [hyecamp.com](http://hyecamp.com) for more information



HYE CAMP 2022

## WANTED: COUNSELOR AND STAFF VOLUNTEERS!

*Are you looking for a fun opportunity for a volunteer experience this summer? Join us for a week full of Armenian culture, faith, and great memories! This year we're offering 4 one week sessions as follow:*

- Week 1 - July 10-16**
- Week 2 - July 17-23**
- Week 3 - July 24-30**
- Week 4 - July 31-August 6**

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**ARE YOU INTERESTED?  
FIND MORE INFO AT [WWW.HYECAMP.COM](http://WWW.HYECAMP.COM)**

**COUNSELOR** and **STAFF** applicants **MUST** be **18 years of age or older** in order to volunteer at Hye Camp. If you are currently 17, but will be 18 the day before your week of camp starts, you may still apply to be a counselor or program staff member.

# Yost & Webb FUNERAL HOME

FD - 489

Willard "Billy" Phipps, President  
Scott Harrell, Vice President & General Manager  
Doug Yavanian, Community Relations  
Jack Sarafian, Emeritus



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# San Joaquin Spotlight

Hosted by Sevag Tateosian and airing on CMAC Comcast 93/ATT 99 at 7 P.M. on Thursdays and Talk Radio 1550 KXEX on Saturdays at 5 P.M.

**Christian White**



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