

## Saint Paul Puzzle Pieces

Born and raised as a California boy, Barlow Der Mugrdechian has always had a heart for all things Armenian.

His great grandfather, Der Hayr Melkeset, left Van in 1915 and came to America in 1917 to serve as the parish priest at St. Gregory Armenian Church in Fowler. Barlow's grandfather, Anooshavan, farmed land in Malaga and Calwa here in Fresno County. Barlow's dad, Bob, also grew up in Fresno and attended St. Gregory Armenian Church with his family.



In 1945, Barlow's dad, Bob, came home after serving with the United States Air Force in World War II. He decided to attend the annual "St. Paul Grape Blessing Picnic" and was blessed to be reacquainted with a beautiful young lady named Norma Tavookjian. Bob and Norma knew each other growing up, both attending church functions at St. Gregory as well as St. Paul. Bob and Norma fell in love and were married in 1948 at St. Paul Armenian Church. God blessed their marriage with four children, Zar, Van, Bob, and their youngest, Barlow, in 1956.

Growing up, the love of learning was always encouraged, and learning about his homeland was always at the forefront. Barlow and education were a seven-day-a-week affair. He went to public school five days a week, and his Saturdays were spent at St. Paul, learning the Armenian language and culture from Yeretsgin Zabel Dulgarian. On Sunday mornings, you would find Barlow on the altar, holding candles with the other acolytes.

Barlow graduated from Roosevelt High School and began attending college at Fresno State in 1974. Professor Dickran Kouymjian started teaching at Fresno State in 1976, with a desire to anchor a strong Armenian Studies Program on campus. Barlow enjoyed his classes immensely, and began thinking about pursuing a career in Armenian Studies. They worked, together with other students, to establish the Hye Sharzoom newspaper as well as revitalize the student club, the Armenian Students Organization.

After Barlow graduated from Fresno State with his bachelor's degree, Professor Kouymjian encouraged and guided him to pursue a graduate degree in Armenian Studies from UCLA. In 1985, with his degree from UCLA in hand, his mentor and friend encouraged him to come home. Professor Kouymjian was looking for another Professor in the Armenian Studies Program. Looking back, Barlow sees God's hand in allowing all of these pieces to fall into place. He accepted the position, and they worked closely together to continue building the Program. In 2008, when Professor Kouymjian retired, Barlow became the Berberian Director of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.



Barlow has remained passionate about teaching and learning throughout his life. There are many duties as the Director of the Armenian studies program besides being in the classroom. He has always fostered a great desire to bring people together and to engage and encourage individuals to learn more about the rich culture, art, music, literature, and traditions of the Armenian people. Over the years, Barlow has worked tirelessly to bring programs connected with Armenia to the Fresno State campus, connecting both Armenian and non-Armenian students. He estimates he has organized 20 events a year, or approximately 720 programs since 1985, which is a monumental accomplishment. These events range from musical concerts, art exhibits, lectures, and dance performances just to name a few.

Being the Director of the Armenian Studies Program, Barlow has developed contacts all over the world. He has led nine student groups to Armenia over the years and has himself visited Armenia more than forty times. He has fostered university ties with Yerevan State University, the Matenadaran, and the Armenian Genocide Museum Institute.

Barlow is a third-generation American but his heart is 100% all things Armenian. Little did he know, when he stepped on the campus of Fresno State in 1974, that the course of his life's work was being set. He has been a lifelong member of our church and has served as a Deacon on the altar, a Parish Council Member, an ACYO member, and a Diocesan Delegate, just to name a few. He worked diligently on the committee to bring our Genocide Memorial to the Fresno State Campus. He has been instrumental in the teaching and encouragement of many young minds to learn about and embrace Armenia. More than 150 students over the last 40 years have obtained a Minor in Armenian Studies with Barlow's influence and leadership. Thank you, Barlow, for your never-ending contributions to our community and our church.

We are blessed to have you as a piece of the St. Paul Puzzle!

# News from our parish



Thank you to all who participated in the Annual Parish Assembly on February 6. Although many participated via Zoom and some attended in person, the assembly was very efficient and productive. Congratulations to the following members elected at the Assembly:

Parish Council: Dn. Steve Adams, Deborah Adishian-Astone, Darlene Chardukian, Margarit Dumanyan, Dr. Sergio LaPorta, and Ted Mooradian

Diocesan Delegates: Salpy Adams, Dn. Barlow Der Mugardechian, and Zaven Devejian

Assembly Chairman: Dr. Dn. Varouj Aldebarmakian

Assembly Vice-Chairman: Gerald Chooljian

Assembly Secretary: Isabel Chilpighian

Auditing Committee: Isabelle Bishop, Zaven Devejian, and Ben Krikorian

Thank you to outgoing council members Isabelle Bishop, Zaven Devejian, Dn. Hagop Iskenyan, and Jeff Markarian. Parish Council officers for the coming year will be elected at the March meeting.

We are currently observing Lent, a time to strengthen our faith and dedicate ourselves to the will of God. This year we encourage you to join us for the six Wednesdays of Great Lent. Weekly Lenten services will take place every Wednesday at 6 p.m., beginning March 2.

On Friday, March 4, our Drive-Thru Lunch Committee is serving a delicious vegetarian lunch. Look for more info in this month's Dajar and order your meals soon!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 11, for the Annual Armenian Festival. Unfortunately, we have been unable to have the traditional Festival celebration the last two years, but this it returns to St. Paul and promises to be a great event as in past years!

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## LADIES SOCIETY

The Lenten season is upon us and we look to how we can become closer to God.

Our ladies are insightful and think of our dear Sisters in Christ that are homebound or haven't been at church for some time.

We are reaching out to them by way of phone calls and cards. If you know of any of our dear Sisters that need a call, card or visit, let us know.

Please join us this month for our Ladies Society General Meeting on March 9, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., at our church hall for program and dinner. Dinner includes; baked ratatouille, salad, French bread and dessert for \$15.

To make your reservation, call Annette Moushigian-559-906-2114.



Sunday school will focus on the Lenten lessons for the month of March.

We thank all families for their support!



**MEN'S FORUM**

We were saddened to learn of the passing of our long-time Forum member, Paul Mooradian, in early February. Paul was an active and devoted member of our organization for over twenty-five years and will certainly be missed by all of us. Our prayers and deepest condolences are extended to Paul's wife, Jane and family.

Although we are still delaying our first regular Dinner-Meeting since the beginning of the Covid Pandemic, we are pleased to announce a planned joint-dinner (barbeque style) with the St. Paul Ladies Society, scheduled for Wednesday evening, April 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Church Hall. More details will be forthcoming as we certainly will look forward to this special event.

Congratulations are in order to our Chairman, Ted Mooradian, who was recently elected by the Parish Assembly to serve, along with five other Parishioners, on this year's Parish Council. We also offer our appreciation to our kitchen duo of Bob Der Matoian and Jerry Mootafian for helping prepare the delicious Kuftah-in-broth take-out lunch on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

Once again, we thank Adoline Haun, and her sister Lola, for their assistance setting up for our February 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday Fellowship. Our next hosted Sunday Fellowship will be March 13<sup>th</sup>, which also happens to be first day of Daylight Savings. We should remind our members to set their clocks forward the night before.

We are delighted to learn that the Annual St. Paul Armenian Festival has been scheduled for Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. We encourage our members to participate and support this very worthwhile event.



# Christmas Youghakin Donations

THANK YOU  
KINDLY  
FOR YOUR DONATION.

Dudley & Helen Moordigian  
Dennis & Vicky Hagobian  
Alice Koligian  
Gary & Joyce Kerkorian  
Theodore Mooradian  
Zaven & Berjoughie Devedjian  
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Jerry Mootafian  
Jerry Hairabedian  
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Varoujan & Lena Aldebarmakian  
Gregory & Karolina Eritzian  
Mark Simonian  
James & Roza Karakashian  
Stanley & Irene Antranikian  
Dn. Allan & Rosemary Jendian

## Junior ACYO

*Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to those with knowledge, but time and chance happen to them all.- Ecclesiastes 9:11*

In the month of February, the ACYO Juniors helped out with the Poon Paregentan celebration. Fellowship was also hosted by the Juniors the same day. Thank you to everyone who came out and made the event go smoothly as well as to those who brought delicious goodies.

For the month of March, there will be a meeting on the March 6th after church to discuss upcoming events and activities especially for Easter. 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.**





## Baptism



On January 30, 2022, Reina Armine Zakarian received the Sacrament of Baptism. Congratulations to the parents, Adam & Christine Zakarian, and the entire Zakarian and Kalandjian families.

**Congratulations on this wonderful milestone.**

### *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.**

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

***Jeffrey Kutumian, Tigran Vartabedian,  
Marge Noorigian, Daisy Avedisian, Haygouhi Mikayelian***

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

**General Donations**

Dr. Timothy Baker  
Dennis & Vicky Hagobian  
Aram & Lisa Tokatian  
Jack & Alberta Bedoian  
Jeff & Diane Hagobian  
Matthew & Christina Zakarian  
June Kutumian

**In Memeory of Esther Kalebjian**  
Wayne & Linda Minier

**In Memeory of Arsho Kismetian**  
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**In Memory of Paul Mooradian**  
Gerald & Nelda Baker  
George & Shenora Adishian  
Zaven & Berjounie Devejian  
Bob & Sara Dermatoian

**In Memory of Dudley Moordigian**  
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Jackie Manoogian  
Isabel Chilpugian  
Roger Simonian  
Dennis & Paulette Kalebjian  
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Vernon & Lillian Avakian  
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**In Memeory of Sylvia Chooljian**  
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**In Memory of Betty Apkarian**  
Paul & Kathy Mesple  
Gerald & Tammy Chooljian

**In Memory of Amanda Johanson**  
Gerald & Tammy Chooljian

**In Memory of James Dubbels**  
Lloyd & Diane Thatcher

***Thank You!***



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

**February 06, 2022 — Dudley Moordigian-** is survived by his wife, Helen, daughters Angela, and Dr. Bernadette Moordigian

**January 24, 2022—Paul Mooradian-** is survived by his wife, Jane Mooradian, daughters, Stacy Mooradian, Shelly Raffeo, Michael Raffeo, grandson's Paul Raffeo and Alex Raffeo. His two sisters Seta Cholakian and Ann Hovsepien, many nieces and nephews and his best buddy Maxwell.

**MAY GOD REST THEIR SOULS IN PEACE**



# ՄԵԾ ՊԱՀՔ Lent



St. Paul Armenian Church  
Ս. Պօղոս Յայց. Եկեղեցի  
Weekly Lenten Service  
ՄԵԾ Պահոց արարողություն

Every Wednesday

Ամեն Զորեգշաբթի՝

March 2

Մարտ 2

March 9

Մարտ 9

March 16

Մարտ 16

March 23

Մարտ 23

March 30

Մարտ 30

April 6

Ապրիլ 6

Evening service 6:00 PM Երեկոյեան ժամը 6:00-ին

Եկե՛ք միասնաբար Մեծ Պահքի շրջանը աղօթփով եւ զղջումով  
նորոգենք մեր հոգիները՝ տօնելու համար  
Քրիստոսի հրաշափառ Յարութիւնը:

Join us in our Lenten Journey  
leading up to the Resurrection of our  
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ



## WHY COOK? When You Can Drive-Thru

### Friday, March 4th

A Delicious VEGETARIAN Lunch  
Ready to Take Home and Eat

Potato Piroshki  
Eech  
Garbanzo Salad  
Yalanchi  
Olives/String Cheese  
Struesel Cake  
Bottle of Water

Prepared by the  
ST. PAUL ARMENIAN CHURCH  
LUNCH COMMITTEE

To place an order CALL 559-226-6343 between 9 a.m.—3 p.m.  
TEXT Diane at 559-301-2515 or 559-970-9354  
or E-MAIL to [stpaulfresno.lunch@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulfresno.lunch@gmail.com)  
(Include your name, phone number, number of lunches and pick up time)  
Delivery of lunches is available—please inquire while ordering

3767 N. First St.  
Fresno, CA 93726  
(SW Corner of  
First and Dakota)

Enter through  
the Dakota Gate

**\$20.00**  
**Per Lunch**

Order by 9 a.m. on  
Thursday, March 3rd

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

*Date Change-Mark your  
Calendars*

*St. Paul Ladies Society  
Spa Day*

*Saturday, March 19, 2022*

*11:00am-3:00pm 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, or try some yoga*
- \*Enjoy a delicious Buffet to enjoy with friends.  
\$15 per person*
- \*Please make your reservation by Wednesday, March 9, 2022, to Annette Moushigian-559-906-2114 or email: [moushigian@comcast.net](mailto:moushigian@comcast.net)*
- \*All our church family ladies are welcome!*





# *Palm Sunday Champagne Brunch*

**New Revised  
Date**



*April 10 - Following Church Services  
Haig Berberian Hall  
Hosted by St. Paul Ladies Society*

**Prices:**

Adults - \$25 & Children 11 yrs and younger - \$10  
Reservation Deadline is April 3

**Menu:**

Soujook and Eggs, French Toast Casserole, Ham, Tri-Tip Roast, Pilaf, Yalanchi, Cheese Boreg,  
Torshi, Salads, Choreg and Cheese, Fruit, Dessert, Mimosas, Ice Tea, Coffee

-----  
(Cut and include with payment)

Name/Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets \$25 per adult

Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets \$10 per child 11 yrs and younger

My payment for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed

Make checks payable to St. Paul Ladies Society

Seating by reserved tables of eight. We would like to be seated with the following people:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR

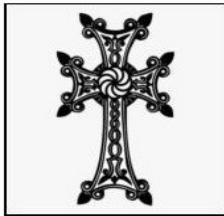
**Mail to:**

Palm Sunday Champagne Brunch  
St. Paul Armenian Church - 3767 N. First St. Fresno, CA 93726

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Hosted by Sevag Tateosian and airing on **CMAC**  
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**Christian White**



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