

CALIFORNIA NEWS - CALIFORNIA NEWS - CALIFORNIA NEWS

Vartan Djihanian, "Congressman in Training," Seeks Republican Office

LOS ANGELES, CA - Djihanian already has a pretty good Republican resume. He was a page on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, appointed by Newt Gingrich. He is a member of the Armenian American Republican Council and deputy director of the California College Republicans. And he is currently finance director for the Bruin Republicans at UCLA, something that doesn't always make him the most popular person at school. "We're quite a minority and it's uphill battle, but we have a good one," he said. Djihanian has launched a bid to become a member of the 43rd Assembly District Republican Committee, a group that finds Republican candidates and registers GOP voters throughout the district that includes Glendale and Burbank. Djihanian and nine other candidates are on the March 7 ballot. Pam Aradi, chairwoman of the Central committee, is seeking her fourth term. Djihanian would make a good member of the group, she said. "He's a great kid, a wonderful young man," she said. Djihanian became involved in politics at a young age. Born in Lebanon, he emigrated to the United States with his parents when he was

He grew up with Republican parents who talked politics around the dinner table. RIDES ROGAN'S WAGON After a field trip with Toll Middle School to a courtroom presided over a Glendale judge named James Rogan, he picked up the newspaper and read Rogan was running for a seat in the state Assembly. "I started volunteering for him and he hung around ever since," Djihanian said. Someday, Djihanian wants to go to law school and run for higher office. He has been with Rogan nearly every step of the two-term

Dr. C. Everett Koop to Speak at AEUNA Convention 2000 at Occidental College in June

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Armenian Evangelical Adult Fellowship, which takes place every two years, will include outstanding speakers from the U.S. and abroad, worship and praise services, seminars, panel discussions, music and dance presentations, a concert, and the ban-

gressman's political career. "He just has a lot of integrity," Djihanian said of his role model. "He's someone people can trust, even if they disagree with him. He's never disappointed me." Rogan thinks as highly of his protégé. "Djihanian will be governor or president or anything he sets his mind to," Rogan said. Rogan joked that he wants to get on the good side early of the future President Djihanian. "I may need a job as a law clerk someday," he said. Djihanian said including young people is one key to electing Republican leaders in the district, which before 1996 was a traditional Republican stronghold. Today, a majority of Glendale's elected state and federal representatives are Democrats. "I think one group that has always stayed away from politics is young people," he said. "Jim Rogan and even (Glendale's Democratic Assemblyman) Scott Wildman will tell you the same thing. Young people can play a critical role in the process." Those interested in more information concerning Vartan Djihanian's campaign may contact: Vartan Djihanian for Republican Central Committee, TEAMYARTAN@aol.com 1221 Thompson Ave., Glendale, Ca 91201 (818) 395-1614.

The Rev. Father Arshen Aivazian Appointed Parish Priest at St. Paul, Fresno

FRESNO, CA - The Parish Council of St. Paul Armenian Church announces the appointment of the Rev. Fr. Arshen Archpriest Aivazian as parish priest. On March 3, Father Arshen will begin his new duties at the St. Paul Armenian Church. In honor of the occasion, the St. Paul Parish Council has planned a series of activities to welcome Father Arshen to the parish. WELCOMING ACTIVITIES On Thursday evening, March 3, at 6:30 p.m. there will be a Service of Installation at St. Paul Church, followed at 7:00 p.m. with a Welcoming Banquet in his honor in the Haig Berberian Hall. The donation for the banquet is \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for ACYOA members and children under 12. Reservations can be made by calling the church office at (559) 226-6343. There will be no tickets sold at the door. On Sunday, March 5, at 10:00 a.m., Father Arshen will celebrate his first Badarak at St. Paul Church. Following Divine Liturgy there will be a fellowship in the church hall. BIOGRAPHY Father Arshen was born in Beirut, Lebanon. He attended the Apkarian Parochial Elementary School and, upon graduation in 1956, was admitted to the Seminary of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem. He was ordained a celibate priest on August 1, 1965 and received his degree of "Vartabed" in 1968. He then served in various positions in the Brotherhood of St. James. In 1969, while serving as Assistant Dean of the Seminary, he was sent to Turkey on a six-month mission to recruit students for the Seminary. Of the fifty students he recruited, many have entered into the priesthood and a few are serving in various hierarchical positions. Father Arshen's first visit to Fresno was 30

years ago when he accompanied the late Patriarch of Constantinople, His Beatitude Archbishop Shnorh Kaloustian, as his staff bearer. At the conclusion of a four-month fund-raising tour of Europe, South America, Canada and the United States, he started his graduate studies at St. Vladimir Orthodox Theological Seminary in New York, graduating in 1994 with a Master of Divinity degree. In 1982, after serving nine years as the Pastor of Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Cheltenham, PA, he was appointed Dean of St. Nersess Armenian Theological Seminary, where he served in that capacity for two years. In 1984 His Holiness, the late Catholicos Vazken I, granted his petition to be relieved of his vows of celibacy and to continue his service as a married priest. In 1984 Father Arshen married Sirapi Feredjian. Der Hayr and Yeretgin have two children, Macrina, age 13, and Timothy, age 11. Father Arshen completed his doctoral course work in liturgical studies at Fordham University and in 1985 he was appointed Pastor of St. Leon Armenian Church of Fair Lawn, New Jersey. Since 1992 he has been serving as Pastor of St. Mary Armenian Church of Livingston, New Jersey and as an instructor in Liturgical Theology at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary. Besides his pastoral responsibilities, Father Arshen has pursued his academic interests by participating in various seminars and has published scholarly articles in academic journals. He contributes regularly to the ecclesiastical and Armenian press on historical and current issues. He has translated many special liturgies into English. His accomplishment of note after many years is the translation of the complete text of the Divine Liturgy into English and Modern Armenian.

AUA Reaches First Milestone in the Accreditation Process

OAKLAND, CA - The American University of Armenia (AUA) reached a major milestone in its nine-year history when the accrediting agency, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), granted Eligibility to AUA in November 1999. This is the first step in the process toward accreditation, but is not a formal status with the Senior College Commission. The entire process could extend from 2-5 years. The accreditation process began last year with the preparation and submittal of the AUA Eligibility Report to WASC. The Report provided a response to WASC's 13 eligibility criteria related to a university's organizational structure, institutional purposes, educational programs and mission, faculty quality, admissions criteria, and financial stability. The report was reviewed by a WASC panel of preeminent academ-

Studies, and professors from Santa Clara University and San Francisco State University. Prior to making its decision, the WASC panel met with AUA President and other senior administrative and academic officials to seek clarification on various matters. Accreditation is very important for AUA as it demonstrates academic quality, purpose and sustainability. More specifically, accreditation by WASC would demonstrate that AUA has undergone a period of intensive and comprehensive self-study, followed by an on-site evaluation of institutional performance; that AUA operates at a high level of quality consistent with its stated purposes; that it has documented the availability of sufficient resources to support existing and planned programs at a satisfactory level of quality; and that it has committed it-

Women's World Day of Prayer for Greater Los Angeles Armenian Churches Will Be Observed on March 3, 2000

LOS ANGELES, CA - Women of the Armenian Apostolic, Catholic, Evangelical and Nazarene churches will observe the 30th Annual Women's World Day of Prayer on March 3 at United Armenian Congregational Church, 3430 Cahuenga Blvd., West Los Angeles. The Women's World Day of Prayer, which came about 112 years ago, Encompasses all the Christian churches of the world. Thirty years ago, the late Aznive Apkarian took the initiative to organize and unite the active women in the Armenian churches in the Los Angeles area to have their own day of prayer on the same day as other women around the world. Since then, this observance has continued annually with a different Armenian church taking turns to be the host. Also ladies from several Armenian churches in Orange County, Encino, San Fernando Valley, Hollywood, Glendale and Pasadena will participate in the observance of this unique day. Planning and coordinating this program is a joint committee.

age fellowship, coffee and refreshments will be served at 10:00 a.m. in the social hall, prior to the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The latter will include hymns and sharagans sung by the Armenian women's choir or congregation. Bible readings, prayers read in both English and Armenian, as well as messages in both languages. The Armenian message will be presented by Elizabeth Aghababian while the English message will be given by Ann Sarafian. It will be an inspirational day as well as a good day of fellowship for Armenian women in Los Angeles. Armenian women have historically been full of enthusiasm. They are women of faith; they have always had the potential to influence their communities in significant ways. Praying together means to accept each other, express love and humility, and listen to each other. The women will be praying for our people both in Armenia and the Diaspora to be united as brothers and sisters of the same fam-

the US House of Representatives, appointed by Newt Gingrich.

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Djhanian and nine other candidates are on the March 7 ballot. Pam Corradi, chairwoman of the Central Committee, is seeking her fourth term. Djhanian would make a good member of the group, she said.

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Chairman of the convention task force is Rev. Ron Tovmassian, Senior Pastor of UACC, with Fred Mickaelian as the vice chair. Registration information may be obtained by calling UACC at (323) 851-5265.

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BIOGRAPHY

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Studies, and professors from Santa Clara University and San Francisco State University. Prior to making its decision, the WASC panel met with AUA President and other senior administrative and academic officials to seek clarification on various matters.

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Since then, this observance has continued annually with a different Armenian church taking turns to be the host. Also ladies from several Armenian churches in Orange County, Encino, San Fernando Valley, Hollywood, Glendale and Pasadena will participate in the observance of this unique day.

Planning and coordinating this program is a joint committee, headed by Mrs. Houri Melkonian and consisting of representatives from 17 Armenian churches in the Southland area.

United Armenian Congregational Church is hosting this great event this year. To encour-

age fellowship, coffee refreshments will be served from 10:00 a.m. in the social hall to the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The latter will include hymns and sharagans such as the Armenian women's of the congregation, Bible readings, prayers read in both English and Armenian, as well as messages in both languages.

The Armenian message will be presented by Eliz Aghbabian while the English message will be given by Sarafian.

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Armenian women have historically been full of enthusiasm. They are women of faith who have always had the potential to influence their community in significant ways. Prayer together means to accept one another, express love and build relationships and listen to each other. Women will be praying together in Armenia and in the Diaspora to be united as sisters of the same God who has created and sustains them and to glorify His name.

More information may be obtained by calling the coordinator, Mrs. Houri Melkonian at (818) 920-0776.