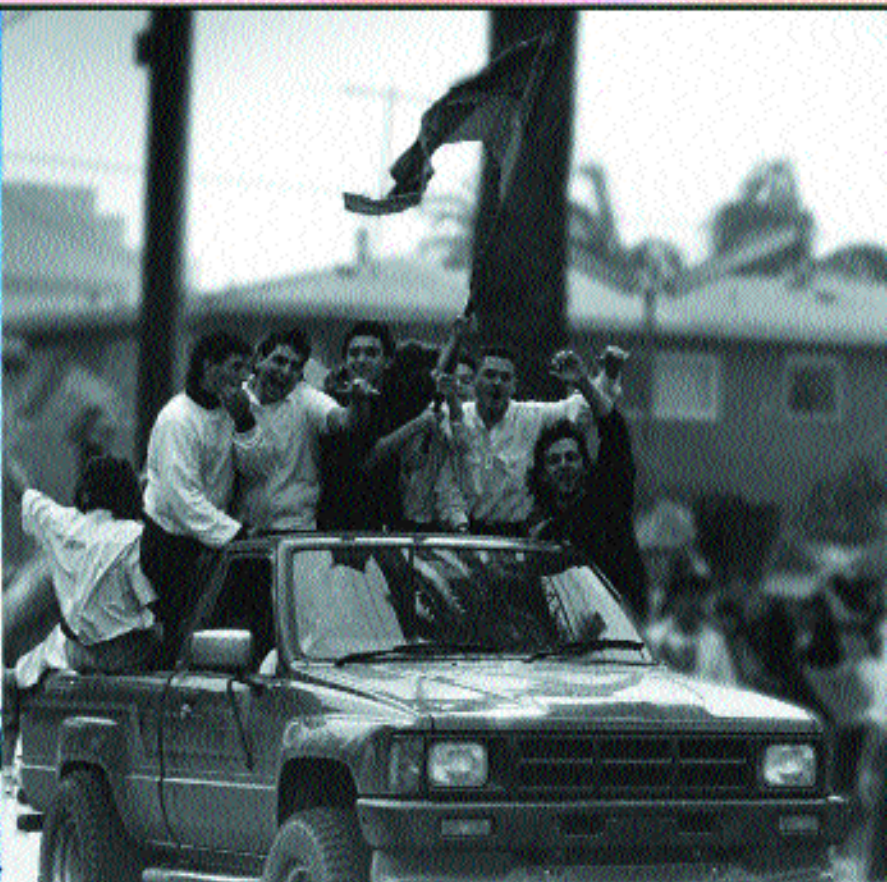


# հայտոյս Haytoug

Official Publication of the Armenian Youth Federation

July/August 2000

Յուլիս/Օգոստոս 2000



Connecting us  
with the times

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Cover Concept By Sako Shahinian

### հայտույց

The Official Publication of the  
ARMENIAN YOUTH FEDERATION  
ARF Youth Organization of Western America

For all Armenian Youth residing in Western America who strive  
for the national, social and economic liberation of the  
Armenian people.

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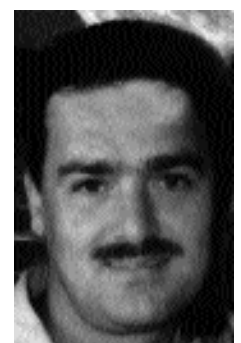
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ԸՆԿԵՐ  
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**Hampig Sassounian C88440**  
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44750 60th Street West  
Lancaster, CA 93536



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When summertime rolls around, for most young people it is time to enjoy vacation and life without school. Some may try out internships while others try out part time jobs in order to save up for a car or next summer's travel plans. Either way, until one delves into a full time career, summer still remains the most memorable season of the year and enviable by those of us who have forgotten the beauty and freedom of summer. Truth of the matter is that if you don't make your summertime special, chances are you will not have that opportunity when you are working in the "real world".

It is easy to laze around all summer and do nothing. You can simply justify it by thinking that you deserve it because you have studied hard all year. You're right. But, when you look back in life and think of the memorable things you've done, you never remember the moments you sat around doing nothing. You remember the special moments when you did something different than the usual. There are some inescapable memories that come to mind when the summer months come around. These memories are of individuals and events that did something. They made it worthwhile by contributing to the betterment of the Armenian people. These are the individuals and events that gave and still give character and identity to the diaspora.

The Armenian Youth Federation is one organization that can offer you the opportunities to add value to your summer. The AYF Youth Corps and AYF summer camp programs are just two of the programs that have served the Armenian-American youths in the Western USA throughout the past decades. Camp Hayastan in the Eastern United States also offers a marvelous program with the goal of informing Armenian youths from that region of their culture, history and identity. Going up to summer camp is not just about spending time away from home. It is about developing friendships. The friends you make at camp are the friends you have forever. Those same friends at camp are also your ungers in the AYF. The day will also come for today's campers to be counselors, directors, EMT's and lecturers. That is when you have turned a summer camp into a life experience. That is when you have given complete meaning to your summer experience.

Another unforgettable event, which deserves to be noted, happened before most teenagers were even born. Some 17 years ago on the 27th of July, five young Armenians from Lebanon spent the last day of their young lives a bit differently. Having taken over the Turkish Embassy of Lisbon in Portugal, they decided to take their own lives as well in order to remind the world once again of the Armenian Genocide. They have gone on to be remembered as the Lisbon 5. These courageous young men took it upon their shoulders to further the Armenian Cause. Vatche, Sako, Ara, Simon and Sarkis believed that by sacrificing themselves, they can make the world more aware of the Armenian Genocide. And that they did. They understood that it does not take a single event or action for the world to recognize the Genocide. It takes decades of commitment and struggle to insure the Genocide's recognition. They did not vie to become immortal heroes, yet they became just that by inspiring Armenians worldwide through their ultimate sacrifice.

Whether at summer camp, in the village of Ashan as a Youth Corps volunteer or at an ANC project, let us all be inspired by the heroic and ultimate self-sacrifice of the Lisbon 5. Let us all take it upon us to become soldiers of Hai Tahd through our high level of political and community activism.



- ◆Group leader of the summer program initiate a group reunion party.
- ◆Fill out "evaluation forms."
- ◆Have a page in Asbarez.

September

- ◆Return back to Armenia.
- ◆Stay in Yerevan for two days.
- ◆Try to arrange a meeting with the Yeridasartagan.
- ◆Return back to America.

August

- ◆Create new fiscal year's Youth Corps Council.
- ◆Encourage youngsters who might be interested to become members of the council.
- ◆Have a "get-to-know-each other" council meeting where everybody will talk about his/her strengths and weaknesses and how each member will be able to assist the council.

October



The AYF Youth Corps, for the past six years, has helped rebuild an old camp site (see above). The project was completed last year (see new building below).

- ◆Invite former year's group leader to a meeting.
- ◆Go over evaluation forms from the previous fiscal year and have a brainstorming session about how we can improve program.
- ◆Review prior year's files and see what things need to be changed.

November



December

- ◆Make sure brochures are available.
- ◆Talk about the budget and plan monthly fundraising events such as garage sale, Shakey's Night, and etc...
- ◆Discuss PR, and advertising

January

- ◆Send out an initial circular to chapters.
- ◆Send a letter to East Coast and Canada regarding Youth Corps Program.
- ◆Put a posting on the Internet.

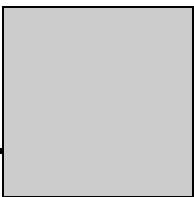
# AYF O U T H

- ◆Pick up tickets and visas.
- ◆Finish shopping.
- ◆Write up Press Release.
- ◆Pack boxes together
- ◆Call Armenia one day prior to departure to finalize everything.
- ◆DEPART!!!!
- ◆Five days of sightseeing then arrive at Ashan.

July

- ◆Interview applicants.
- ◆Send visa applications to Consulate.
- ◆Call Armenian and give final dates for stay in order for hotel reservations to be made.
- ◆Call travel agency and finalize ticket arrangements.
- ◆Have a participant orientation meeting.
- ◆Begin preliminary shopping.

June



Before (see left) and after (see below) pictures of one of the rooms.

- ◆Applications are due.
- ◆Make sure each application is complete and applicant has valid passport.
- ◆Make contact with Armenia/Artsakh again giving them an estimate of the number of participants.
- ◆Finalize working arrangements in Ashan.
- ◆Give tentative list to travel agency.

May

# CORPS

Silva Tovmassian  
Staffwriter



- ◆Continue ASA and begin high school presentations.
- ◆Finalize dates of trip (after deciding on one travel agency.)
- ◆Set up a time in early April to appear on "Horizon Live."
- ◆Send in visa letter to Consulate.

April



Beginning this year, Youth Corps will start helping rebuild an old school (see left)

February

- ◆Begin distributing brochures.
- ◆Arrange for presentations at ASA's to be done in late March or early April.
- ◆Make sure applications are up to date.
- ◆Make initial contact with Armenia and Artsakh with tentative dates.

March

- ◆Write up Press Releases and send out to any and all media affiliated with us.
- ◆Send a follow-up circular to chapters, east Coast and Canada.
- ◆Begin ASA presentations.
- ◆Send out sponsorship letters..
- ◆Call travel agencies and find out prices.



# RAGE AGAINST

Tanya Gulesserian  
Staffwriter

RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE IS CURRENTLY ONE OF THE MOST POLITICALLY ACTIVE BANDS WHO CEASELESSLY BRING TO THE FOREFRONT CRITICAL SOCIAL ISSUES TO THE ATTENTION OF THE YOUTH. THE WEB SITE [WWW.RATM.COM](http://WWW.RATM.COM) ILLUSTRATES THE BAND'S STANCE ON NUMEROUS POLITICAL ISSUES, IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING AN OPEN FORUM FOR A FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND OPINIONS. RATM'S SITE IS CATEGORIZED INTO SIX BASIC CATEGORIES; **NEWS, TOUR, TIMELINE, SOUNDS, BENEFITS AND GOODS**. THE SITE ALSO PROVIDES INTERESTING LINKS TO OTHER PERTINENT SITES THAT FURTHER EDUCATE PEOPLE ABOUT CURRENT GLOBAL ISSUES.

**Action**- small introductions to organizations that RATM supports:

The Mummia Abu-Jamal struggle- [www.mummia.org](http://www.mummia.org)  
Rock for Choice- [www.feminist.org](http://www.feminist.org)  
FAIR- [www.fair.org](http://www.fair.org)  
RegenerationTV- [www.regenerationtv.com](http://www.regenerationtv.com)

**Freedom**- a link to "freedom fighters" of today on a large and local scale.

***Freedom Fighter of the Month***- showcases on individual whose actions are supported by Rage Against The Machine.

***Fight for Social Justice***- want to know about actions taken by others to fight -homelessness

- ◆ organize boycotts
- ◆ organize protests
- ◆ lobby politicians
- ◆ challenge authority

**Messages**- open board for registered users to voice concerns and opinions.

***Bulletin Board***- several sections for General messages, Touring, Music, and Politics.  
Issues discussed - Genocide in Iraq, Death Penalty, Gun Control, Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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[www.ra](http://www.ra)

# THE MACHINE

Environmental degradation, slave labor, and racism are some of the many pressing issues present in today's world, sometimes becoming a bit overwhelming. This confusion tends to lead to the creation of a certain mystique clouding activism. That is why it is our bare minimum duty to familiarize ourselves with the most pertinent contemporary issues in order to provide ourselves with subjective facts needed in establishing a personal moral code of conduct. Consequently, this collective internal evolution will result in the transformation of slogans into actions with results.

Neglect and disregard have penetrated many grievous historical accounts of atrocities and crimes against humanity. The Armenian Genocide is no exception to this phenomenon, as the eighty-five years since its occurrence in 1915 continually dull away our ancestor's screams of pain and suffering. However this disheartening trend prompted many Armenians settling into their new host lands to join together in their crusade to slow down, if not stop completely, the "blind-eye" tactic exercised by many revisionists and disreputable international figures. Human Rights is not just limited to the present,

as it also entails past historical massacres, tortures, and systematic slaughters. These "long ago" events need to be examined because their long term effects could be as detrimental as the initial human right crime itself. The Armenian Youth Federation, founded in 1933, is one such organization concerned with human rights organization established to bring together the youth of all the Armenians in the Diaspora and have them fight for the recognition and retribution from the Turkish government. It is not only with protests and boycotts that this entity fights for their cause but also with political lobbying and awareness in the community at large. Some of us have never seen our homeland, having fled during the Genocide, and the Armenian Youth Federation is a way to keep the fire in the youth alive to caring on with our struggle for human rights to every generation of Armenians that come along.

Our struggle is year round and will not die down until Turkey takes full responsibility for their action of 85 years past. Imagine being ignored for 85 years and having this feeling inside of you that only encourages the desire to be active and fight for human rights letting those 1.5 million lost souls come to rest.

Anyone is welcomed to write to Rage Against The Machine at [rageemail@aol.com](mailto:rageemail@aol.com) to voice his or her concerns and opinions. RATM is always eager to hear from their fans, and their community activism.

Everyone is encouraged to write to Rage Against The Machine and let them know about the Armenian Struggle and the oppression of our people for 85 years. Let them know that there is a driving force known as the Armenian Youth Federation striving for recognition and retribution in every spectrum of the struggle.

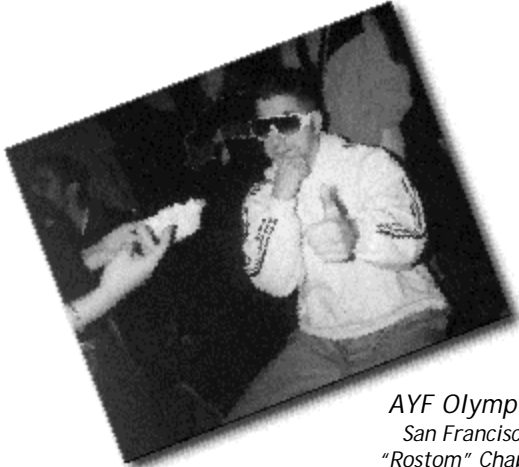
Write to Rage Against the Machine and also send us a copy at [Haytoug2000@aol.com](mailto:Haytoug2000@aol.com).

# 2000 Armenian PICTORIA

Compiled by Maria Hovsepian  
Staffwriter



*Culture Night  
La Crescenta  
"Zartonk" Chapter*



*AYF Olympics  
San Francisco  
"Rostom" Chapter*



*AYF Winter  
Seminar*



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*ARF Badanegan  
Seminar*



# an Youth Federation AL YEAR IN REVIEW



*April 24  
Youth Rally*



*April 24  
Demonstration*



*Memorial Day,  
placing of the  
wreath*



*May 28 Picnic*



# General Tro Returns Home:

## FERRAHIAN STUDENTS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES

*Talar Aslanian*

On May 18 I had the opportunity to visit Armenia and Karapagh with my senior class, Ferrahian High School class of 2000. It was my second time there, but every time it gets even better. On May 28, 2000 I was privileged enough to attend the burial of Zoravar Tro at Pash Abaran. His ashes were brought from Boston to Pash Abaran to be buried where he fought his biggest battle. The honor of being present at this solemn event was unlike anything else I had ever experienced, making it a life-long memory. The image of the soldiers carrying his casket and his "Jermag Tzee", his white tank, following his casket are still vivid in my mind and still conjure up emotions that can not be described by words. All around me were the pictures of Unger Tro, welcome signs for him and the Tashnagtzagan flag flying from the hands of the youngest to the eldest mourner. Zoravar Tro's legacy shined through that day when a unique fervor of national pride and honor radiated from the crowd, most noticeable in our eyes. In the front was a sign that read, "Doon Tartzit Parea Zoravar Tro." On the top of the hill there were Zoravar Tro's words, which were very inspiring and will always remain with me. It said, "Yes voch meg joghovourtee hanteb adeloutyoun chounem, paytz vay ayn azkeen vor geh hamartzagvee vad-outyoun ehnel hye joghovourteen." This event left a huge imprint on my mind and soul, making it an episode that will remain with me throughout my life. Hogheh tetev ka vehrat Zoravar Tro.



*Aline Andonian*

Last month I had a chance to visit Armenia and Karabagh with my senior class from Ferrahian High School. Besides being a lot of fun, our trip was also educational. We visited the very churches and monuments we studied about, such as Sardarabad, Echmeadzin, Dzidzernagapert, Keghart, Sasountsi Tavit, and Haghpart. The most exciting event that we were a part of during our trip was the burial of Tro's remains in Abaran. Seeing the white tank, the crowd standing strong in the pouring rain, holding red ARF flags, made me proud to be an AYF member. We witnessed the efforts to rebuild Shooshi and visited the untouched ruins of Ani. Meeting the Gatoghigos was a wonderful experience. We got to celebrate our graduation with all the other graduates on May 27, which is known as "Vercheen Zank", the day all graduates receive their diplomas. Fun and games seemed to be the idea when we visited a school in Stepanagerd. The school children were eager to show off their talents. They challenged us to games of soccer, volleyball, and ping-pong. After some friendly competition we exchanged addresses and promised to write. The trip to Armenia left me with a renewed Armenian spirit. When I saw what I have been working for I became more determined and ready to help the Armenian cause. Once I saw Ararat I knew how much work was needed to get it back. Seeing the beautiful mountainsides of Karabagh I knew why so many people gave up their lives fighting. Armenia is our land and we need to keep working hard and doing our best to help the Armenian cause. I can't wait to go back home.

# Myr Anzovcagan D. aku

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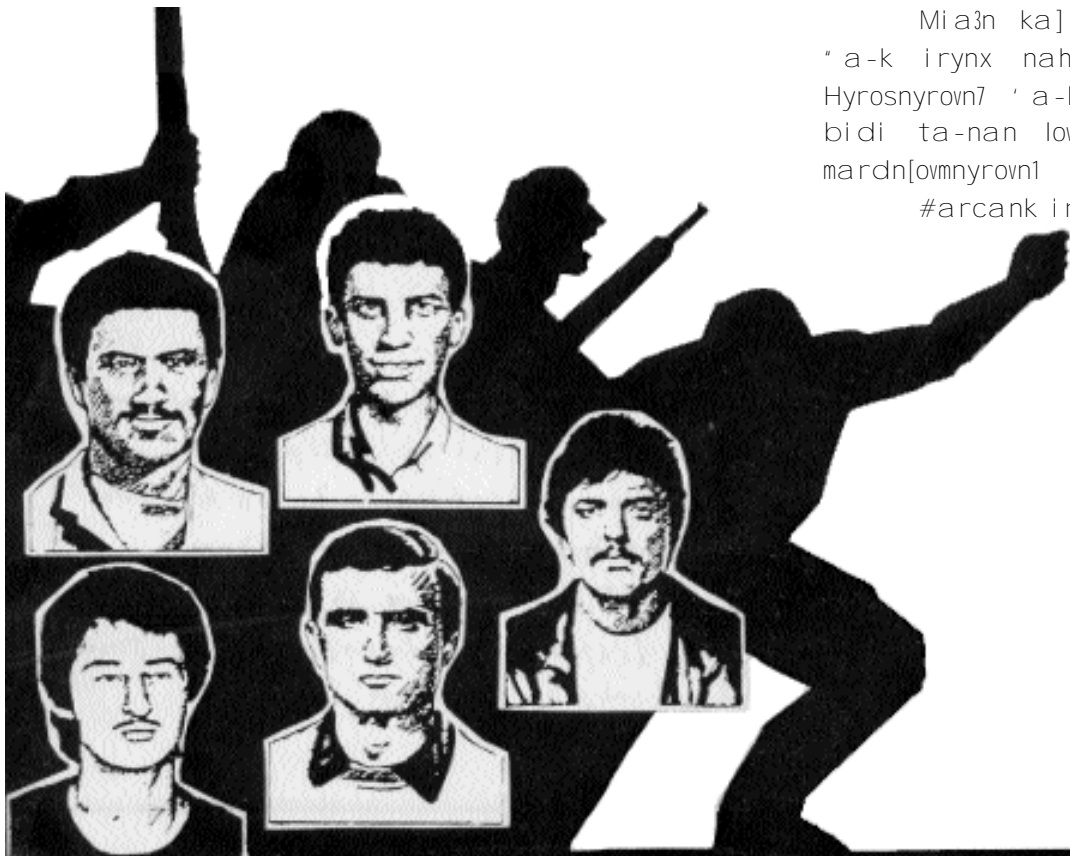
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11  
haytoug

# be or

## ***To be or not to be: the Armenian Spirit***

*Christopher Guldjian*

Imagine a thousand people in a single hall. In this room, you are the only human with an Armenian nationality. No one understands your culture, nor do they care whether you uphold your traditions or return to your own room someday. You want to leave the crowded hall but there is nowhere to turn. The norms of the majority determine your survival but not your national pride. At this point, what can you do to maintain your identity? Nothing right? Wrong, that is when you turn to your roots and create a spirit to combat assimilation and distinguish yourself from all the others in the room.

Now, here is the problem-how do you "create a spirit?" Detach yourself from the large group(s) in the hall and start to believe that a future as an Armenian is possible. Learn the reason why someone forced you into this lonely space with other people that ridicule your self-respect. Face reality: you are alone as a young Armenian and your nation's future is in your control. The system in the hall is set up for the benefit of the ruling group,

therefore your actions as an Armenian are pointless to the people that don't care whether you live or die.

This Is It: reject the system in the hall and embrace a mentality that has kept you (and past generations) Armenian. Look to your emotions and your character. Suddenly, you notice another lost person that resembles and acts like you. She is also an Armenian stuck in this hall with a thousand people. She, too, has created and maintained an Armenian spirit by recalling the people that sacrificed their lives for her existence today. She asks for protection against the majority's rules and standards. You turn to each other and communicate your feelings: you're not as uncomfortable as before in this dark room because it's easy to escape the majority's kingdom together. Both spirits grow together.

Without any guidance you kept your nation in mind. Both of you remembered that you as a human belong in a place with people that practice your own culture. Now you have a chance to be the majority. What saved you? The Armenian Spirit. With nothing else to work with-the proud yet unclear Armenian spirits found their way home because they rejected the majority and found peace with their people in their own hall. You get to make the rules now and no one can ever ridicule you again. The future looks good because you don't need to convince anyone that you are right.

If one of those persons had given up the Armenian spirit, there would be no way home and no way to feel complete. Here is the truth: I am not sure what exactly the "spirit" is, but it works. It works in times of frustration and loneliness. It helps explain why we need to reject the majority and find that one person in the crowded hall. "Spirit" creates itself when you ask: why was there genocide? armed struggle? land rights? human rights? camps? organizations? struggle? youth's future? why do Armenians always notice other Armenians? why do we come together?

All of us carry a spirit that gives us reason to continue struggling against the majority and find our way home. One morning, you'll wake up and the thousand people in the hall will be gone-you have found your Armenian spirit ... looking for another.

Onward With the Movement!

# not

# 2 be

## ***To be or not to be: the essential explanation***

*Alex Sardar  
Staffwriter*

It is difficult to make a list of attributes or characteristics that make a person Armenian. Some would have people believe that being Armenian means to speak Armenian, to eat Armenian food, to dance Armenian, and to disassociate from anything non-Armenian. Truthfully, if these were the guidelines on how to be an Armenian, surely most Armenian-born people both in Armenia and the Diaspora could easily be considered non-Armenians. So, what is it that makes a person Armenian? If it is not a list of tangible traits, or a number of learned skills, then what makes a person Armenian?

Instinctually, in today's society, where individualism is a dominant way of conducting life, all people look for categories where they can create a small community for themselves, so as to belong to something. At the same time, the forces that bind humans-globally-together, are becoming stronger everyday, and so, instead of local categorization, more and more individuals find themselves in communities, where physical closeness is not necessarily a must. Advanced technology, such as the Internet and easier access through telecommunications, make it much simpler for a group of people to create 'virtual' communities. So, if this is the case, what then, makes a group of Armenians from Australia, Armenia, the United States, France

and Iran, create a small community on the Internet and understand each other and relate to each other extremely well, while they certainly do not have much in common in their everyday lives? Is it a common goal? Perhaps. Is it the common understanding of certain facts of history? Surely. But there must be more than that. It must be something perhaps untouchable or invisible.

Many scholars of identity speak about the creation of a person's self-understanding that is decided before a person is born, and that identity is passed down in blood. This is also known as the essence of a person or a group of people-the spirit of a nation. As Armenians, it is quite evident, that all of us possess that spirit in varying degrees, and because of this, Armenians are able to bind together, regardless of from where they are and for what reason they have met.

A great example of this spirit, is Camp AYF in California, where children, raised in different parts of the United States and at times the world, come together for a few days, and almost immediately there is a connection between them, that goes beyond the fact that they are children. Many of these children have one Armenian parent, some have grown up in total isolation from Armenian communities, and many don't speak Armenian, but when they gather at Camp Big Pines, they are fully aware of the spirit that binds them all together.

The complexities of this spirit make it a difficult idea to discuss, but suffice it to say that the spirit of the Armenians-that which gives us

the unique features as a nation, has survived centuries, and it will survive millennia beyond the present day. Each Armenian individual, possessed of that spirit, has a responsibility of allowing that spirit to move generation to generation. For the Diaspora Armenians, that means to become fully participating members of their respective societies and the global community, while at the same time remembering their Armenian spirit. This way not only does our Armenian spirit move forward, but others have the fortune of experiencing that which so uniquely Armenian.

Indeed, onward with the spirit!

**Let us  
know what  
you think  
via e-mail.**

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haytoug

# AYF CAMP

## *Counselor Experiences*

*Arpi Minassian*

An AYF camp counselor is more than just fun and games. It is responsibility, respect, honor, providing an educational atmosphere, believing that you can and will make a difference, in even the most minute of ways, in the lives of the children who are left in your care. This will be my third consecutive year as a counselor at the campground. I have to admit that my first year, I was a bit scared and intimidated. I got to the camp and when I saw all the children arrive, I realized that they would all be in my and my peers' care. It was right then that a sinking feeling came into my stomach. A fear rose in me because I was not sure I was the perfect person for the job. As it turns out, I was. During the week we were so busy with all the educationals, games, song nights, and activities the week just flew by. As Sunday rolled around and the campers, who during the week had many times complained about being homesick and missing their parents, were packing their belongings, we were all upset to be leaving each other. It was this exact feeling that made me want to come back year after year. It was the same feeling with which I would leave camp as a camper, when I was just a child. AYF Camp has left me with some of my most incredible and unforgettable memories, as a child, a counselor, a mentor, and a friend.

*Talar Aslanian*

My first experience as an AYF Camp counselor was during the summer of 1999. I was anxious and excited, waiting impatiently for the 2nd week of camp. However, an instant fear developed within me as soon as we arrived at the campsite. It suddenly struck me that this would not be a weekend at camp with my peers. Instead, it was a week with children and teenagers up to the age of sixteen whom we would be with and take care of. However, as soon as the campers began to arrive I was no longer nervous or afraid. The campers were full of energy and overjoyed at the thought of being at camp. Seeing this and spending time with the campers made me realize what an incredible week we would have. The days were full of games, singing, playing sports, and discussions. Furthermore, the nights were full of activities and getting to know each other. The atmosphere created camp was one full of fun and laughter. By the middle of the week, counselors and campers had developed special bonds with one another. The thought of going home did not cross our minds. Soon enough, as though with the blink of an eye, the week was over and we all had to go our separate ways. Campers and counselors cried at the thought of having to leave camp, as well as each other. It was obvious, though, that the same thoughts were crossing through everyone's minds: we'll all be at camp again next year. Until today, one year later, my friends and I talk and laugh about the extraordinary time we had at AYF Camp. I will never forget my first experience as an AYF Camp counselor. It is this experience that has placed within me the desire to become an AYF Camp counselor again.

# Brain Teaser Trivia Question Fun Facts Word Search



Compiled by Houryg Kizirian  
Staffwriter

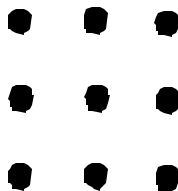
There are two doors: one leads to paradise and the other certain death. A pair of twins stand in front of the doors who know which is which. One twin is evil and always lies, and one twin is good and always tells the truth. You must go through one of the doors, but can ask only one of the twins one question before proceeding. How can you guarantee you go through the door to paradise and avoid certain death?

You have three bags of coins. Two of them contain coins weighing 1 oz. each and the third contains coins weighing 1.1 oz. each. Along with the bags of coins, you have a scale which gives you accuracy to the tenth digit. How would you figure out which bag contains the coins weighing 1.1 oz. if you are allowed to obtain only ONE reading?

You are in an enclosed room with three lights switches. Completely separate from you is a second room with three light bulbs, each connected to one of the switches in your room. You cannot see into the other room in any way and thus cannot look to see which switch controls which light bulb. If you are allowed only one round trip to and from the room with the bulbs, how can you tell which switch controls which light? (You must figure this out for all three connections in one trip!)

Three chickens and one duck sold for as much as two geese; one chicken, two ducks, and three geese were sold together for \$25.00. What was the price of each bird in an exact number of dollars?

Connect all the dots below using four straight lines without lifting your writing utensil.



**solutions on page16**

What male organ has increased in weight by about 2 oz in the last 2 centuries?

What is the largest internal organ of the human body?

How many times does blood circulate through the body during a period of one day?

What is the largest organ of the human body?

How many miles of nerves does the human body have?

What is the largest organ of the human body?

