

JANUARY 29, 1985

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE IN FEB. _____ ISSUE, PLEASE

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Reporter - Feb. 7
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After a while, I may stop describing the Diocesan Open House each Friday night. But not until I'm certain everyone knows about it. Last Friday, ~~January 24~~ more people came than on opening night, attesting to the power of the press—and the grapevine. Nearly 100 in all.

Volunteer entertainers were led by Haig Nargixian, who plays excellent oud. He was ^{capably} accompanied on dumbeg by Mary Aroutian in a variety of Armenian dance tunes. Mary's son, Armen, 14, plays drums "a little;" his friend, Jerry Impini, gave us an hour of piano music—popular, jazz, rock, etc.

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Members of the Diocesan Council, with Archbishop Torkom Manougian, the Primate, in the vanguard, filed in for the supper break from their meeting. They pronounced Vartouhi Papaxian's dinner very satisfying. Mesrob Kerjian, Director of Diocesan Operations, used his break time to talk with his old friends, Regina and Khajag Tehakerian. "We never have time otherwise," the trio said.

So Haig Ohanian and Ross Najarian and I, who happened to be at the same table, just listened. Haig, who is a well-known tarist, promised he'd think about playing at one of the F.A.S.T. evenings. (The initials stand for "Fridays at 630"—meaning 630 Second Avenue, the Open House locale). Vahe "Babe" Hagopian put in a rare but welcome appearance, Antreas Ghazarossian did an informal m.c. stint, and Azaxi Chirishian accepted congratulations on her new Cathedral Guild presidency.

Hope to see you ^{next Friday} February 15 or 22 or whenever

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DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA, 630 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016-4885 212 686-0710

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

N E W S R E L E A S E

CONTACT: Lynne Kassabian

DATE: December 20, 1984

FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DIOCESE LAUNCHES NEW FRIDAY NIGHT OPEN HOUSE BY POPULAR DEMAND

The first of the weekly Friday night socials is launched at the Diocese on January 18, 1985. Each Friday night, F.A.S.T. - Fridays at 630 - will be open from 6:00 - 11:00 p.m., with dinner being served between 6:00 and 9:00. The \$5 admission includes dinner, but those who prefer to simply come and enjoy the social activities without dinner will be admitted for \$1.

The committee has made F.A.S.T. activities inviting to all. On various Friday evenings, tournaments and games, musical programs in cabaret and concert settings, dance and demonstration classes, along with a nice, hot meal, are offered. In addition to dinner, such à la carte foods as boureg, choureg and lahmajoun are available for purchase.

"We'd like 'Friday at 630' to be a place where people of all ages may come to socialize - to meet old friends and make new ones - but especially to have fun," says Nancy Mooradian, Chairperson of F.A.S.T. "We are looking forward to seeing our friends from previous Friday Open House evenings, as well as many new faces," she says.

So, come one, come all!

DECEMBER 20, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (NO LATER THAN JAN. _____ ISSUE)

Wait on this
Ann - A BEMA
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Friday Night Socials

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A welcome Christmas gift, the community from the Diocese of the Armenian Church is the restoration of the Friday Night Open House, *which began again with great success on* January 18. The weekly socials in Kavookjian Auditorium have a new name: F.A.S.T.- for "Fridays At Six Thirty." That's a reference to the address, 630 Second Avenue, not the time of day.

In its previous incarnation a few years ago, the Friday night gatherings were popular and well-attended. Sighs went up all over the metropolitan area when the project closed down because Agnes Kalfayan Gzurian, the manager, got married and moved to Jersey.

Recently, the Diocese assembled a new Friday night committee and tapped Nancy ^{Mooradian} Muradian for its chairman. The plans include dinner, served from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., and a la carte items like lamajune, boereg, chareg, etc. Vartuhi Papasian, the chief chef of the Diocesan kitchen, whose abilities are common knowledge by now, will be in charge of food planning and preparation.

^{Mooradian's} Nancy Muradian's lovely face and personality are familiar ones at the Diocese where she is a dedicated member of several important Diocesan committees (and an earnest Armenian language student.) The chairmanship of F.A.S.T. is a new challenge for her which she is meeting head-on.

(MORE)

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"The committee has something for everybody," Ms. Maradian explained. "There will be games, tournaments, musical programs - either in cabaret style or concert style settings - and demonstration classes, such as dance, cooking and so on." The hours for F.A.S.T. are 6 pm. to 11 p.m.

Admission any Friday night is \$5 which includes dinner, or \$1 without dinner. Nowhere in Manhattan can you beat that for moderateness. And F.A.S.T. is a blessing for people who don't like to cook - singles, couples, college kids, even a handful of elderly bachelors who don't know how to cook.

"We would like Fridays At Six Thirty to be a place where people of all ages will come to socialize," Nancy said. "And to meet old friends as well as making new acquaintances. But most especially to have fun. We're looking forward to seeing people from the previous Friday Open House evenings, as well as many new faces, many young faces." Amen to that.

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