

Affiliations

Camp AREV (E.J.M. Armenian Evangelical Conference Center) is a ministry of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) and is an approved member of Christian Camps and Conference Association (CCCA)



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Camp AREV Christian Retreat and Conference Center

Cover Photo

Tuesday afternoon mud pit games during high school weeks at summer camp 2014. By: Natalie Kaldjian

About

Camp AREV is a non-profit evangelical camp and retreat center that provides an opportunity to each person to make a personal commitment to Jesus Christ our Lord and to grow in the understanding of that commitment.



CAMP AREV THE STORY

Spring 2015

STRONGER TOGETHER

SPRING 2015

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Upcoming Events 2015

May

3 Camp AREV Annual Banquet

June

5-7 Volunteer Clean Up Weekend

July (Summer Camp)

8-11 Counselor and Staff Training Weekend

12-18 Juniors Camp

19-25 Junior High Camp

26-August 1 High School Camp

July (Family Kebab Nights)

16 Juniors Camp Week

23 Junior High Camp Week

30 High School Camp Week

August (Summer Camp)

7-9 College & Career Camp

October

9-11 Annual Men's Retreat

camparev.org | info@camparev.org | 818.507.0922

WE WILL SHINE

THE 38th ANNUAL CAMP AREV BANQUET

SUNDAY MAY 3, 2015 AT 6:00PM

DELUXE BANQUET HALL

237 E. OLIVE AVE, BURBANK, CA. 91502

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: ARIEL BABIKIAN

ENTERTAINMENT: LARK MUSICAL SOCIETY

RSVP BY: APRIL 27

YOUR STORY YOUR VOICE

If you have a story about your camping experience at Camp AREV we would love to hear it. Please Email us your favorite and most memorable story so we can include it in our next publication. info@camparev.org

SUPPORT *THE STORY*

We hope this edition of THE STORY was encouraging and uplifting to you and your family. Our prayer is that many more stories would be created through the publication of this newsletter. Your financial support which will help us publish the next edition is much appreciated.



SERVING TOGETHER

By: Razmig Minassian

Lately, Interstate 5 between the north San Fernando Valley and the Frazier Park exit has become very familiar. I know almost every bump on the road, every gas station and every Starbucks with a drive-thru along this 40-mile stretch of mountain views and amazing scenery. That drive means a lot to me. I get to spend time singing, praying and thinking about how our camp can impact lives.

Although my drive seems lonely, I'm not alone. I'm surrounded by a group of individuals that are passionate to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and ready to love others. We want every camper to know that Jesus loves them in a deep and profound way. The gospel-centered ministry of Camp AREV is a team effort. As we serve together, the opportunity for each camper to make a decision for Jesus Christ becomes a reality.

As I write, I'm reminded of Jesus' prayer for his team. In John 17:11, He prays for the oneness and unity of his disciples. These men needed Jesus, but they also needed each other. So he prays for them to remain one in their love for Him and in their passion for the truth. It's amazing to know that Jesus continues to intercede for us

even today.

This issue of "The Story" is about the strength that comes from serving together. United in Christ and His word, and united in our passion to serve. I thank God for the various teams that make camp a God-honoring experience: from the Camp AREV committee dedicated to overseeing the bigger picture, to the staff that handle the day to day operations in our business center and our conference center, to our kitchen staff that do an amazing job feeding all of us and our guests. Our team of coordinators are exceptional in making sure every week is well thought out, organized and memorable. Our team of counselors are committed to serving every camper for the glory of God.

Our drive is on an upward momentum because we want to serve together. We want everyone to see that God is honored when we as a team stand firm on the main, gospel-centered mission. We have noticed a fresh excitement in the way that it impacts lives and we can't wait to experience what God has planned for the future of this amazing ministry.

Rev. Razmig Minassian is the Executive Director of Camp AREV. He has been involved with the ministry of Camp AREV since 1998.

ANNUAL Ministry Report

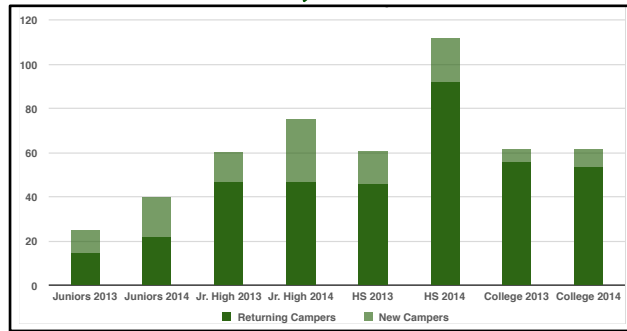
CAMP AREV WISH LIST

We all love looking at growth charts. It's exciting and it shows progress. These charts show how we've been doing over the past year and a half and it's evident that our programs, our income and donations, and our outlook are growing!

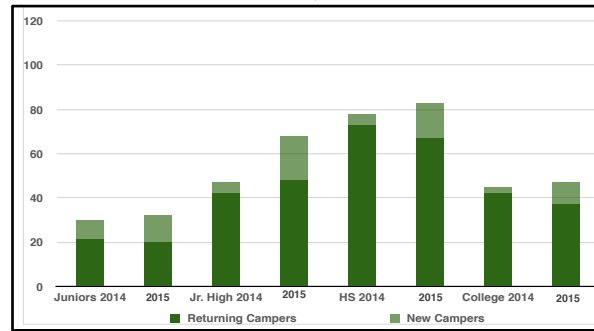
CAMPERS

We are drawing more campers to our Summer and Winter programs

Summer
2013: 208 → 2014: 289

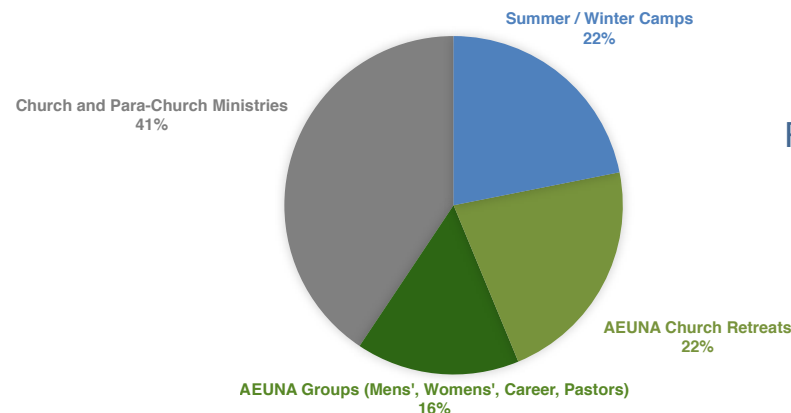


Winter
2014: 200 → 2015: 230



FACILITY USE

We run our rental program as a ministry to church groups, and this income funds facility maintenance and administration. We offer Camp AREV facilities to our member churches and AEUNA organizations at reduced rates, and we also promote the facility to outside church and para-church ministries. We are on track to have the facility in use for at least 35 weeks/weekends this year, which is comparable to last year. We increased rental revenues by \$25,000 over 2013, and continue to reach out to church and para-church ministries to gain revenues. To date, we are anticipating \$160,000 in revenues for 2015.



Retreats at Camp - 2014

Many people ask how they can support our ministry efforts at Camp AREV through GIFTS IN KIND. If you have an item you think we can use, or would like to make a financial donation towards one of these items, please contact us at info@camparev.org

- Industrial Washer & Dryer
- New Bunks & Mattresses for the Lodge Cabins
- Chainsaw
- Overseas Storage Containers
- Go Pro Cameras
- New Drumset
- Sound System/Speakers for Dining Hall
- New Comfortable Chairs for the Lodge

Thank you for supporting our ministry. Your gift will enable us to move forward in creating amazing stories for the glory of God.

THE CAMPERSHIP EFFECT



For over two decades Camp AREV has provided a place and an experience where people draw closer to Jesus Christ. Our goal is to create an environment and an opportunity for each camper to make a personal decision for Christ and be transformed. As culture changes we adopt different methods and strategies, but the authority of the Word that is preached in our chapel, sung at the victory circle and lived among the tall pine trees remains constant.

From the beginning of this ministry, parents, grandparents, churches and foundations have found our efforts worthy of their support. Camp AREV would not exist today without their generous gifts.

Over the years we have supported campers because of these gifts. Campers that come from various financial struggles have enjoyed the experience at Camp AREV because we were able to subsidize part or in some cases

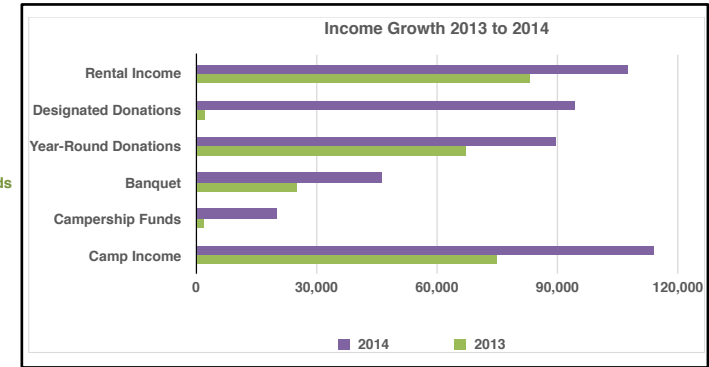
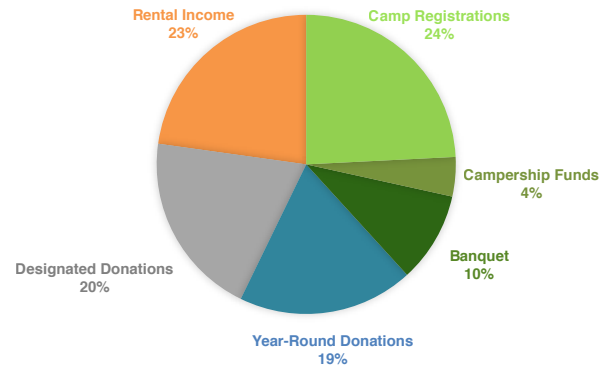
all of their fee. Over the last 2 years, we have provided over \$25,000 in Camperships. Without the Campership Fund, which is fully funded by individual gifts, Camp AREV would not exist.

We are so honored and thankful for our dear friends who graciously partner with us financially so that we can have the ability to freely have campers come and hear the message of hope and salvation.

How about you? Has your child or grandchild experienced the love of Jesus Christ at Camp AREV? Do you know anyone who has had an amazing week at Camp? How about those who have been blessed by the Campership Fund? Take a moment and praise God for the opportunity our campers have to come to a saving knowledge of Christ and to experience His hope in a profound way.

2014 INCOME

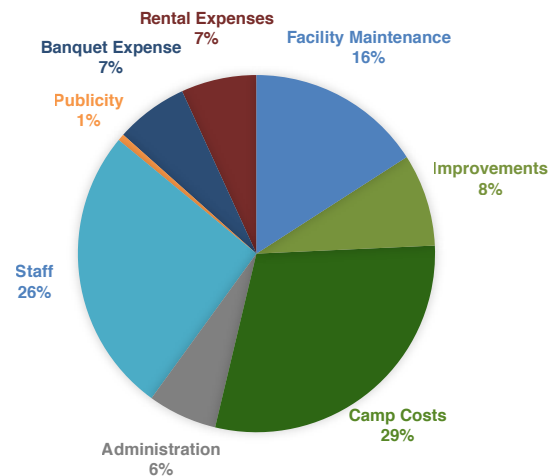
Increased camp enrollments, more campership funds supporting campers, higher rental revenues, our community's general donations, and major designated donations for special projects all were higher, some dramatically so, in 2014.



2014 EXPENSES

Our camp program is a ministry and not a profit center; we match our fees to our anticipated costs and try to do a little better than break even. As insurance and transportation costs have impacted the operation, we will need to raise camp registration fees to reach this goal.

We look to our generous community donors to support the growth of camp programs and to provide funds for facility enhancements in areas such as recreation and lodging upgrades. We are tapping our dedicated recreation fund to install activities that will draw more young people to camp. We are also counting on using some portion of our building fund to renovate existing facilities as our general balance sheet improves.



Elise Kalfayan is the current Camp AREV Office Administrator. She is a long time member of the Camp AREV community and has served our camp in various ways notably as volunteer cook and summer temp.

A CAMP YEAR IN REVIEW

What an amazing year we've had at Camp AREV! It is humbling to look back and see how God was at work in the lives of close to 600 people who participated at camp.

This year was spiritually and programmatically amazing. During summer camp, our campers were challenged to IMAGINE the great things that God has done for them, ultimately his redemption and salvation so that we are able to live life for his glory. Our winter camps enabled all the campers to think about how to live an AMPLIFIED life for Christ. As Christians we are called to live boldly and loudly for Christ.

Juniors

We love all our juniors campers. They bring such joy to our hearts as we serve them, run with them, pray with them, do arts & crafts with them and guide them to know that Jesus loves them. In the last year our juniors camp numbers grew. More and more parents are feeling more comfortable sending their little ones to camp. Yes, some do still get home sick through the middle of the week, but our counselors enjoy them so much they try to convince them to stay just 2 more days.

Junior High

Our junior high campers are always

exciting to be around. They love being at camp and are eager to participate in all the activities. They have challenging questions and love asking them during cabin times. Our counselors enjoy them and love serving them. Winter Camp 2015 saw a tremendous growth in our junior high weekend. We went from 44 campers in 2014 to 68 campers this year.

High School

More and more high school campers are inviting their friends to camp. Last summer high school camp was sold out. All together we had 150 campers, counselors and staff at camp. During winter camp 2015 we had 83 campers and a total of 120 people. Most importantly it's encouraging to see the spiritual growth of our high school campers. Many of them have come to know Jesus at Camp and love serving the young campers during our summer and winter sessions.

College & Career

Our college & career weekend camps act as a refresher for most of our counselors and volunteers. They love to sing, fellowship, spend time in the Word and connect with Jesus. They love staying up late to create long lasting memories.

VOLUNTEERS

WE THINK THE WORLD OF THEM!

Without our valued volunteers, many of Camp AREV's buildings would cry for help, projects would remain undone and campers would be left without cabin leaders.

During our camp season, our kitchen staff feeds hundreds of campers and counselors in our dining hall and these volunteers serve and take care of all mealtime chores. They are in charge of setting up, serving, cleaning, mopping and doing that again and again. They might as well be considered "heroes" because they work close to a 24 hour shift and are instrumental for God's transformational work in hundreds of lives. They feed us so that we might be able to minister effectively. Our event staff help us set up and tear down all the games and activities. We rely on them to carry out our plans. This allows them to think of others first so that campers have an experience of a lifetime.

Each year our volunteers contribute hundreds and sometimes thousands of hours to make this ministry run smoothly. Without their help our ministry would be strained.

We invite you and your friends to come and join these amazing servants. It's an incredible blessing to be able to work together to see lives transformed - both yours and those you get to bless by serving them.

Volunteer Clean-Up Weekend! June 5-6

Do you want Camp AREV to look beautiful so you and others can enjoy it? Now you can volunteer your time, skills and tools to make that possible.

RSVP by May 29. Meals and accommodations FREE!

Call 818.507.0922 or Email us at info@camparev.org

Thank you in advance!



MEN'S RETREAT 2014

BY: MANNY SAGHBAZARIAN



If there is one word to sum up The 2014 Men's Retreat: **INSPIRING!**

The Men's Retreat Committee knew the importance of having a speaker that would both challenge and provide resources to develop Godly character and help equip men to influence the world for Jesus Christ.

Rev. Berdj Djambazian, known within the Armenian community for his passion to serve the Lord challenged 70+ men to be "MEN OF CHARACTER." His love for ministry goes back to his own childhood. As expressed in a recent quote in Pro Hope International article; "I feel the LORD is calling me now to reach thousands of people all around the world with the love of Christ Jesus, which was my dear father's prayer from the very beginning." He quotes his beloved father's words; "The enemy burned my family into ashes, but they could not burn my faith in God."

Throughout the weekend we were able

to analyze our inner struggles and leave them at the foot of the cross. We were also called to stand and make a difference for Christ in our homes. As well as uniting men in Bible study, prayer, ministry, and accountability within our local churches, he personally challenged us to reach the 100,000 unchurched Armenians within the San Fernando Valley. The weekend ended with a time of worship, prayer, reflection, and some fun jokes around the fire circle.

The weekend also included exciting outdoor activities, sports, card games and the annual competitive Tavloo Tournament. One of the highlights of the evening is Kebab dinner where most of the men sneak over and grab the meat right off the grill, PRICELESS!

The dates are set for next year's men's retreat, October 9 – 11, 2015. We can't wait to see you and know that if you decide to go, the retreat will challenge you, build you up and renew you so you can be the man that God wants you to be.



Manny Saghbazarian is a long time member of the Camp AREV community. He is the current chairman of the Camp AREV Men's Committee.

BUILDINGBLOCKS

BY: REV. RON TOVMASSIAN

FIRST EVER WOMEN'S RETREAT

BY: CYNTHIA KETENJIAN



The weekend of November 7-9, 2014 was a first for Camp AREV! After many years of hosting a Men's Retreat in the fall, Camp AREV held its first Women's Retreat. Over the course of the weekend there were about 50 women who participated.

The theme of the weekend was "Woven" with the key passage being Psalm 139:13-14. *"For You created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well."*

The speaker was Rebecca Hakimian Emenaker who has served alongside her husband Rick with Mission Aviation Fellowship for many years and in many countries. In God's

providence, the last country they served in is renowned for its weaving so she brought delicate handiwork for us to observe as she presented the topic of "Woven." Each session included a short message from Rebecca followed by discussion groups. Everyone enjoyed the group discussion as it made us think deeper about the subject individually.

Times of worship, good food and fellowship were enjoyed by all as well. During free time on Saturday afternoon, ladies could enjoy the outdoors, sign up for 15 minute massages, or take a short trip to the new outlet mall in Tejon Ranch. The first Camp AREV Women's Retreat provided a wonderful time to rest and renew our faith in God and friendships with one another!

SAVE THE DATE
2016 CAMP AREV WOMEN'S RETREAT
APRIL 29 - MAY 1

Cynthia Ketenjian is a long time member of the Camp AREV community. She has served our camp in various ways notably as a speaker for weekend retreats and week long camps.

Photo taken by: Razmig Minassian

FOUR WAYS OF GIVING THAT WILL CHANGE LIVES FOREVER!

You love Camp AREV and want to support it. We want to point out four ways of giving that will be used for God to transform hundreds of lives.

Campership Fund: The Campership Fund exists to help campers that are in need of financial assistance. This fund creates an opportunity for every camper to experience the love and hope of Jesus Christ at Camp AREV. Read more regarding this fund on page 20.

Friends of Camp AREV: This program will give you the chance to make a commitment to the ongoing ministry of Camp AREV. Your monthly contribution of any amount would help us continue reaching lives for Jesus Christ.

Individual Donation/Contribution: Every dollar is valuable to us. Whether it's used for operations, or special projects, your one time tax deductible donation will be used carefully and wisely to enhance this ministry.

Gift in Kind: Camp AREV would be tremendously blessed if you decided to donate something from our "Wish List." Please see our Wish List on page 21 for more details.

Camp AREV was started in the late 1970s as a dream of a small group of people within the AEUNA. Their vision was to enhance the spiritual lives of our young people by creating a camping ministry that also connected them with their Armenian Christian heritage. Over the ensuing years, as a result of the dedicated efforts and contributions of many faithful people, the camp has grown, purchased its own property and developed into a thriving ministry that has been a tremendous influence in the spiritual lives of our children, as well as people of all ages.

Initially Camp AREV was a two week program that took place in a rented facility each year during the summer. Camperships were provided for Armenian children who could not afford to attend, so that they too could benefit from the ministry of the camp. Many of those young people who attended camp and received spiritual nourishment and challenge through the teachings, lessons and campfire sessions, are now adults who are spiritually mature and serving as leaders in our churches and also in the current Camp AREV leadership.

Today, the Camp AREV ministry has its own campgrounds and has expanded to three and a half weeks each summer, plus four weekends of winter camp, as well as a men's retreat and women's retreat each year. The young people and adults of our churches are excited to attend and are being enriched in their Christian lives by their participation. If you were to ask any of our young adults where they were when they first understood the message of the gospel and gave their lives to Jesus Christ for

salvation, invariably, most of them would say this happened at Camp AREV.

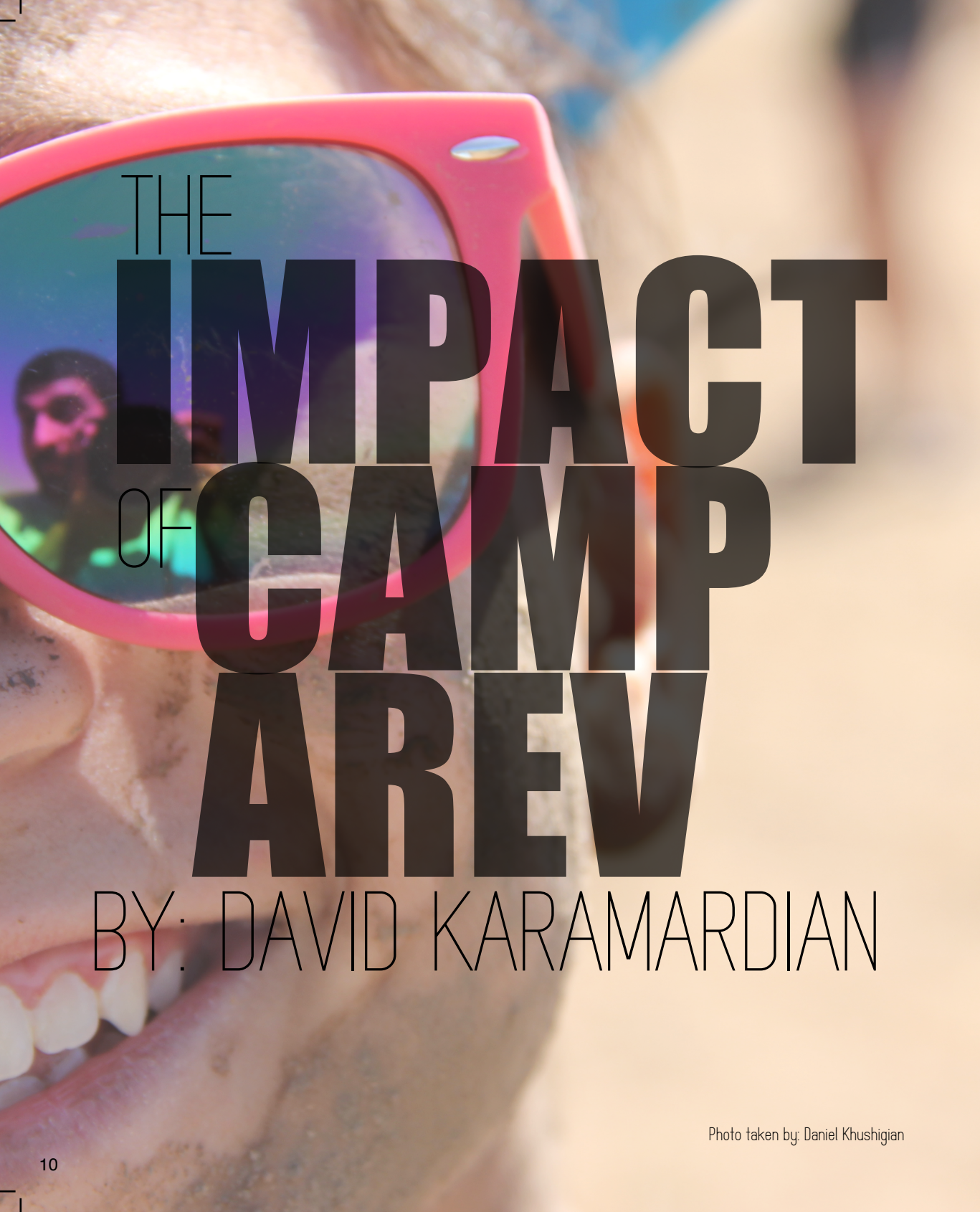
The influence of Camp AREV has spread even further, however, because the facility is available to all of our AEUNA churches for their own retreats. Also, the AEUNA uses the camp on a regular basis for their pastor's retreats and have even held their board meetings there. In addition, the campsite is rented out to other churches and groups on a regular basis, encouraging ministries outside the AEUNA as well.

The fact is that Camp AREV has grown from a small, volunteer based ministry that could meet the needs of a few small groups, into a growing, thriving ministry, with a professional staff, that meets the spiritual needs of a wide range of families and churches both within and outside of the AEUNA. As exciting as all of this is, we are just getting started and there is still a long way to go.

Camp AREV has been instrumental in providing discipleship for our young people, training leaders, creating relationships between our various churches and individuals from those churches, bringing together our AEUNA men and women for fellowship and providing many of our young people the opportunity to develop their gifts as teachers and worship leaders through their participation. It is humbling to imagine what the AEUNA would look like today without the impact of this ministry over the past 30+ years. We have been blessed by Camp AREV in so many ways and it is exciting to imagine what is yet to come as the camp grows and becomes even more influential in the years to come.

It is humbling to imagine what the AEUNA would look like today without the impact of this ministry over the past 30+ years. We have been blessed by Camp AREV in so many ways...

Rev. Ron Tovmassian is the current senior pastor of the United Armenian Congregational Church in Los Angeles, CA. He is also the interim chairman of the Camp AREV Committee.



THE IMPACT OF CAMP AREV

BY: DAVID KARAMARDIAN

Photo taken by: Daniel Khushigian

One of the best parts about camp is the fact that we get to stay together for a whole week in the summer and a weekend in the winter to learn and grow together. It is a retreat that many of us need in order to recommit and focus our lives on the One who is worthy of our undivided attention and adoration. Youth from different cities and different backgrounds join to experience Camp. A divine experience takes place when God's saints join in the gathering of the believers.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12:12 and says "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ." The Bible speaks about the Church as being the Body of Christ. This comparison clearly explains to believers what the function of the Church is. It is a beautiful way of showing unity in diversity. God has created humans, in the most detailed and exquisite fashion. We expect the different parts of our body to operate in the unique functions that they were created for. In this same way, we ought to expect the different members of the Body of Christ to each do their own part as well.

I've realized that as Armenian evangelicals, we all have our own churches, and each church has various similarities and it also has some differences. Yes, our churches stand firm on the basic truths of the scriptures, salvation and the hope that comes from Jesus Christ our Savior and King. Knowing that our

churches stand firm on the gospel, there are also differences between them. These differences may include theological views, how each church functions, and even cultural differences such as our Armenian dialects. Clearly, we are not all identical, and I thank God for that. As we unite on our similarities and love each other based on our differences, Camp AREV gives us the opportunity to come together as churches in our community. God's grace unites us and His love overflows for each other.

God gave me the opportunity to serve as a counselor at Camp AREV for the last two years. These years have been special to me because I have met and have become friends with many individuals that perhaps I wouldn't have had the opportunity to meet otherwise. Our differences are evident. They are seen in the way we worship, the way we talk, and our personalities. However, we all share a common faith and desire to know God more.

I have learned to appreciate our differences and learn from those I have established friendships and relationship with. The conversations I have had with leaders and youth from other churches has helped us encourage one another and edify the Church. Camp AREV has given me a clearer vision of what heaven will be like, when we will worship our Lord with people of all tongues and tribes. The insight I have gained from the leaders and the friendships I have build with the youth have played a small yet crucial part in uniting the Church.

Camp AREV has given me a clearer vision of what heaven will be like, when we will worship our Lord with people of all tongues and tribes

Meghmik Bakhshi has been one of our female counselors at Camp AREV since 2014. She is involved in the leadership team of COA Church youth ministries in Glendale, CA.

THE GATHERING

BY: MEGHMIK BAKHSI

It is a unique and special experience when different church youth groups come together to worship, grow, and fellowship at Camp AREV



Photo taken by Jack Tchilingirian

Although I attended Camp AREV as a junior high student, my time as a camper in high school is when I really felt its profound impact in my life. Armed with the autonomy that all teenagers gain as they progress in high school, I found myself making decisions on my own more and more. Camp Arev provided me with groups of Armenian friends from Fresno to Los Angeles whom I could connect with on a spiritual level.

The weekly summer camps have acted as a nice break from the real world—at no other time would I find myself in such a secluded environment with such a heightened sense of camaraderie and such a commitment to worship.

But where the real importance of Camp AREV lies is within its ability to bring Armenian youth groups together and set them up with the foundation to stay together, and I experienced that first hand by branching out and getting more involved with UACC's high school youth group from my sophomore to senior years.

where the real importance of Camp AREV lies is within its ability to bring Armenian youth groups together and set them up with the foundation to stay together, and I experienced that first hand by branching out and getting more involved

Spiritually, the single week of Camp AREV each year has allowed me to prosper. The practice of praying and worshipping multiple times each day becomes ingrained in your habits throughout the week.

There is a heightened sense of spirituality that exists during camp and a sense of peace that accompanies it. The large group discussions often foster debate on intriguing issues that teenagers face in the present day. And the more intimate small group discussion settings allow for more open responses and advice from an experienced

counselor and peers.

It's easy to stray away from God throughout the course of each year, but Camp AREV always reins me in and puts me back on a path where I am growing closer to Him. And each year of experience makes my relationship with God grow stronger.

David Karamardian is one of our high school campers from Loyola High School. He will be attending Duke University next year.



Where Ver Treasure Be?

Summer Camp 2015

Juniors: Jul 12 - 18
Junior High: Jul 19 - 25
High School: Jul 26 - Aug 1
College: Aug 7 - 9

CampAREV.org

