

**California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program
Fresno, California 93740-0004**

Hye Sharzhoom News Service

**CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program activities as reported
in local, national, and international media.**

**Vol. 7 Release #52
June-December 1991**



AGBU Lecturer Discusses Crisis in Artzakh

By Jeff Ahronian

Fresno — Dr. George Bournoutian, having visited Armenia numerous times, is an expert in Armenian-Russian relations. He believes that even after years of constant conflict, Armenians will continue to fight for a land they believe is rightfully theirs.

"Basically the Armenian case is this: Artzakh has always been part of Armenia."

On Thursday, May 9, about 30 people turned out for Dr. Bournoutian's lecture on the current crisis in Artzakh. The lecture, co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program at CSU Fresno and the AGBU, was held on the CSU campus.

Dr. Bournoutian, who is a professor of Armenian history at New York University, presented a brief background of the Armenian case in Artzakh and then gave a history of the formation of modern Armenia. He went on to illustrate how Armenian relations with the republic's neighbors have changed over the

years.

Various countries and nations have repeatedly tried to gain control of Artzakh. After World War I, with the onset of the Bolshevik Revolution, the Russians began their march from one side while the Turks marched on from the other side. Armenia was stuck in the middle.

After waiting for help from the U.S., the Armenians decided to side with the Russians and the Republic of Armenia was formed. Ironically, it was Russia that split up Artzakh in the 1920's and delegated the land to another of its republics, Azerbaijan.

"As Azerbaijanis realized that Moscow was not going to punish them, they became bolder," Dr. Bournoutian remarked. "Armenians began arming themselves after they realized no one else was going to help them."

Dr. Bournoutian believes that Artzakh, which is comprised of about 81 percent Armenians and 16 percent Azerbaijanis, should not be part of Azerbaijan.

Bournoutian Lectures on Armenian Merchants of Julfa

By Armen Aghishian

Fresno — Dr. George Bournoutian, a professor of Armenian history at New York University, gave an informative and educational lecture at California State University on Thursday, May 9.

The topic of his lecture was, "The Amazing Khojas and Julfa: The Rise and Fall of Armenian Commercial Empires."

The presentation-lecture was co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and the AGBU. It was the second in a series which ended with lectures in Los Angeles. Introductions and opening remarks were given by Barlow Der Mugardechian, acting director of the Armenian Studies Program.

The first part of the evening consisted of an overview and synopsis of the Armenian *Khoja* who were noted merchants, living mainly in Julfa, a city in southern Nakhichevan. Bournoutian explained that for many centuries, the Armenians were allowed to be the middlemen but the money and profits went to the Turks.

He continued by reflecting on other disheartening events which occurred to the Julfians. When Turks were pushed out of northern Iran in late 15th century, Armenians from Julfa were moved in there. Many died along the way by starvation and disease. The survivors built a new city they called New Julfa.

Armenians became a major force in Iran and benefitted from positive relations with the Shah. However, when Iran eventually collaborated with Turkey against the Armenians, Armenia was divided into Persian and Turkish

sides. Consequently, two Armenian dialects and two Armenian outlooks emerged.

The second part of the lecture involved a slide presentation of

many of the churches throughout the Diaspora. Many of the churches built by Armenians have been abandoned or closed down due to the absence of Armenians who once inhabited the area.

Following the lecture was a brief question and answer session with Dr. Bournoutian.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The California Courier; Glendale, CA

DATE June 6, 1991

SUBJECT Der Mugrdechian to Speak on TV

PAGE 1 Of 1

Karabagh Issue Raised in Fresno TV Talk Program

FRESNO - Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Acting Director of the CSUF Armenian Studies Program, will appear in a half-hour television interview program in Fresno with host Rabbi Kenneth Segel, discussing the current crisis in Karabagh.

The show will air on Fresno Channel 49 (Channel 21 on cable) on June 9 at 9 p.m.; June 11 at 10 a.m.; and June 13 at 6 p.m.

The interview will touch on a historical background of the dispute over Karabagh, specifically looking at the last two years, and will concentrate on the political reasons.

During the interview, Der Mugrdechian will examine the democracy movement in Armenia, the reactions from Moscow and Armenians in the diaspora. Attention will also be focused on the human cost to the Armenians in defense of their independence and newly-found freedom.

METRO

Historic vote thrills Armenians here

■ While Fresno's Armenian community is excited, it is also aware of the struggles that would face an independent Armenia.

By Lori Silver
The Fresno Bee

Proclaiming Sunday a landmark day, members of Fresno's Armenian community applauded the results of a referendum in the Soviet republic in which voters overwhelmingly approved independence.

"It's a very, very historic day. After 74 years, our dreams are being realized," said Fresnoan Noubar Aghishian, a member of the Armenian Democratic Liberal

organization, a cultural and political group.

Speaking outside St. Paul Armenian Church in Fresno, Aghishian said that Armenia was last independent from 1918 to 1920, when Bolshevik troops occupied the nation and declared it part of the Soviet Union.

Voting on the referendum took place Saturday in Armenia, and according to Armenian Vice President Babrek Ararkstian, preliminary returns showed that 99.31 percent of the republic's 2.05 million voters approved of independence.

The Rev. Sasoon Vartabed Zumrookhdian, pastor of Fresno's St. Paul Arme-

nian Church, may have a chance to witness the changes.

Zumrookhdian left for Armenia on Sunday to participate in the blessing of the Holy Chrism, a ritual every seven years involving the oil used by the church for baptisms and ordination of priests.

"We all expected [the vote], but you never know what's going to happen," Zumrookhdian said before he left.

The pastor described Fresno's Armenian community as divided into two groups: newcomers to the United States who are excited about the changes occurring in their homeland, and Armenian-Americans who are more cautious about the meaning of independence.

Sandy Gostanian, a church member, called the move toward independence

"wonderful," but added that "it's going to be a long, hard struggle."

"We're excited," said Fresnoan Allan Y. Jendian. "To see the vote take place put our people in a more positive frame of mind."

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, a Fresno State University lecturer in Armenian studies, said Armenia's next step would be to seek international recognition.

The U.S. Armenian community can contribute by pressing the government to recognize the new state, Mugrdechian said.

"It's going to be a difficult winter, and we need to be sure that Armenia gets aid if it needs it," Mugrdechian said. "We need to keep the issue in front of our government's eyes."



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- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Fresno Bee; Fresno, CA

DATE October 3, 1991

SUBJECT Three Weekend Courses by ASP

PAGE 1 Of 1

Armenian classes

- Classes on the Armenian dispersion and the Armenian church will be offered this month at Fresno State University.

The one-unit class "Armenian Diaspora," or the dispersion of Armenians throughout the world, will be offered Friday and Saturday.

"The Armenian Church," also a one-unit class, will be offered Oct. 18 and 19. The class is designed as an introduction to the practices of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Armenian Studies professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian will coordinate and teach the classes, offered by the Armenian Studies Program through the Extended Education Department at Fresno State. Details: 278-2669.



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- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The California Courier, Glendale, CA

DATE October 24, 1991

SUBJECT CSUF ASP 6th Annual Banquet

PAGE 1 of 1

Armenian Minister To be Special Guest At Fresno Banquet

FRESNO - Armenian Minister of Culture Berj Zeytounsian will be the special guest at the annual banquet of the California State University, Fresno, Armenian Studies Program, on Oct. 27, at the Residence Dining Facility on campus.

The keynote speaker at the banquet will be Lucy Saroyan who will speak about her father: "William Saroyan After a Decade."

The banquet will also recognize the recipients of Armenian Studies scholarships.

The event will open at 5 p.m. with a social hour, followed by dinner at 6 p.m.

Tax-deductible tickets at \$25 each can be obtained by contacting the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF.

Sixth Annual Banquet at CSU/Fresno

By Armen Aghishian

The California State University, Fresno, Armenian Studies Program held its Sixth Annual Banquet at the Residence Dining Facility on Sunday, October 27. This year's special guest was Berj Zeytountzian, the Minister of Culture, the Armenian Republic. Lucy Saroyan, daughter of writer, playwright William Saroyan, was the keynote speaker. The event also honored and recognized the recipients of the Armenian Studies Scholarships.

Armenian Studies Program professor and director Dr. Dickran Kouymjian acted as master of ceremonies. He welcomed those in attendance and introduced the Very Rev. Fr. Muron Aznikian, pastor of Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, who gave the invocation.

Dr. Kouymjian then thanked everyone for the quality of their participation in the Armenian Studies Program. He stated that "the University's goal is to teach the students — they are the most important — our future." He acknowledged all of the Armenian Studies students by asking them all to stand. He also announced the donors to the Armenian Studies Program.

Dr. Kouymjian then introduced CSUF President John Welty.

Mr. Welty began by thanking the community members, who had greeted and welcomed him to his new job. He acknowledged

that "in my first two months as president, I see that there is much trouble" — referring to the budget cutbacks. "We celebrate what is possible, because the students and faculty are supported."

Dr. Kouymjian had met Berj Zeytountzian in 1982, and had seen some of his plays in Yerevan.

During the first part of his speech, which was in Armenian, Mr. Zeytountzian stated that he was delighted to be in Fresno, a city he called "Little Armenia." Referring to the independence referendum in Armenia on September 21, he said people had "hoped to secure 70% of the vote — but 99% of the vote in the referendum was nothing short of a miracle." He expressed his jubilation for Armenia's recently acquired independence. He was specifically proud of the victory President Levon Der Petrosian had won.

The latter part of the lecture was in English. Mr. Zeytountzian's insightful comments were taken well. He called for the resignation of Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev for, as he put it, "Gorbachev is the only one to blame for the problems in the Soviet Union, specifically in Artzakh." He also added that "Perestroika has meant very little to Armenia — they have seen little economic/social benefits

from it." He said angrily that what Armenians have received have been massacres such as the ones in Baku. To this day, Armenians are being deported from Azerbaijan. The most resounding statement made by Mr. Zeytountzian came at the conclusion of his speech. He quoted the famous French writer Anatole France, who had said in 1916: "Those small drops of blood still possessed by Armenians will someday generate heroes."

The next part of the evening was acknowledgement of scholarship recipients, by Armenian Studies instructor Barlow Der Mugrdchian.

Dr. Kouymjian described Lucy Saroyan as a "one-woman international symposium." She has been an actress for over 20 years, and has had roles in movies such as "Hopscoth," "Blue Collar," and the TV series, "Mannix." She currently resides in one of William Saroyan's houses in San Francisco.

Ms. Saroyan read excerpts from her father's book "Mame, I Love You" written and published specifically for her when she was 9 years old. Consequently, the book "Papa, You're Crazy" was written for his son Aram. She finds writing a challenge, despite the fact that she "always saw how easy it was for him to write."

The nearly 300 guests were then invited to ask questions to the speakers.



Kouymjian to Present Illustrated Lecture

FRESNO — Dr. Dikran Kouymjian Studies and Director of the Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies at CSU Fresno will present an illustrated lecture on "The Early History of Armenian Manuscripts" on Monday, November 18, 1991 at 7:30 p.m. in the Haig Berberian Hall of the St. Paul Armenian Church in Fresno.

Dr. Kouymjian is currently working on "An Album of Armenian Paleography". The Album will present a chronological series of Armenian scripts taken from ancient manuscripts. The oldest fragments of parchments date as early as the seventh century and most fully preserved manuscripts of the ninth, tenth, and eleventh centuries will be included.

Professor Kouymjian has also recently completed a volume on "The Arts of Armenian" published by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in Portugal.

The cultural evening is co-sponsored by the St. Paul Armenian Church Parish Mission Program and the Tekeyan Cultural Association-Fresno Chapter. Refreshments will be served and admission is free. For more information contact the Armenia Studies Program at 278-2669.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter Int'l; Fresh Meadows, DATE November 14, 1991

SUBJECT Lecture on Arm. Art by Dr. Kouymjian PAGE 1 of 1

Lecture on Armenian Manuscripts To Be Given in Fresno, Ca.

FRESNO, CA - Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies and Director of the Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies at CSU Fresno will present an illustrated lecture on "The Early History of Armenian Manuscripts" on Monday, November 18, 1991 at 7:30 p.m. in the Haig Berberian Hall of the St. Paul Armenian Church in Fresno.

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ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Armenian Life Weekly; Watertown, MA

DATE Nov. 15, 1991

SUBJECT Lecture on Armenian Art by Dr. Kouymjian

PAGE 1 Of 1

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SOURCE The Armenian Mirror-Spectator ; Watertown, MA DATE November 16, 1991SUBJECT Dr. Kouymjian on Armenian ManuscriptsPAGE 1 Of 1

Dr. Kouymjian to Lecture on Armenian Manuscripts

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Dr. Kouymjian Discusses Armenian Manuscripts in Fresno Lecture

By Armen Aghishian

Fresno — Dr. Dikran Kouymjian gave a lecture and slide presentation focusing on "The early history of Armenian manuscripts" on Monday, November 18.

The lecture, co-sponsored by St. Paul Armenian Church and the Tekeyan Cultural Organization, was held at St. Paul's Haig Berberian Hall.

Dr. Kouymjian, director of Fresno State University's Armenian Studies program, recently returned from a sabbatical in

Paris.

He began the evening by providing the audience with background information about Armenian manuscripts which date back to the 5th century. He illustrated many of his points with slides.

Very Rev. Fr. Sassoun Zurookhdian opened the meeting, and Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Fresno State University Armenian Studies Professor, introduced the speaker. He mentioned that Dr. Kouymjian currently is working

on "An Album of Armenian Paleography." He had recently completed a book on Armenian painting, "The Arts of Armenia."

Dr. Kouymjian feels that it is possible, with adequate research, to discover and unveil many more "lost or undiscovered" manuscripts. He said that these manuscripts are of great importance to the Armenian people because they "give proof of the existence of not only the Armenian people, but their language and religion as well."

These manuscripts can be seen in many locations, including university libraries at UCLA, Fresno State, and the famous Madenadaran in Yerevan, as well as in the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem, the Mekhitarist monasteries in Venice and Vienna.

Dr. Kouymjian's lecture/presentation captivated the audience. In closing, he mentioned that this one single lecture "did not serve justice to all that the manuscripts entail, "and invited all to enroll and participate in the class he is teaching at Fresno State in the fall, dealing solely with the study of manuscripts.

CSUF Armenian Studies Program Banquet



From left: Lucy Saroyan, Berj Zeytounsian, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Mrs. Roxie Moradian.

FRESNO — The California State University, Fresno Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies and Armenian Studies Program (A.S.P.) held their sixth annual banquet on Sunday, October 27 at the residence dining facility with nearly 300 people in attendance. This year's special guests were his excellency Berj Zeytounsian, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Armenia and Lucy Saroyan, daughter of writer William Saroyan.

Dr. Dickran Kouyoumjian, director of the Kalfayan Center and Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies was master of ceremonies. The event also honored and recognized the student recipients of ASP scholarships.

After the Very Reverend Father Muron Aznikian, Dean of the Holy Trinity Apostolic Church, gave the invocation, Dr. Kouymjian thanked everyone for the quality of their participation within the A.S.P. Dr. Kouymjian stated that, "The University's goal is to teach the students - they are the most important - our future." He then acknowledged the over thirty students present by asking them all to stand.

CSUF President Dr. John Welty, in his first year as President, was attending his first A.S.P. banquet. In his remarks he acknowledged that even though there is much financial trouble on campus (referring to the budget problems) that, "we celebrate what is possible." In addition to the President, the acting Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Alex Gonzalez, and the Deans of the Schools of Arts and Humanities, Business, and Social Sciences were present. Many faculty from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures were present including Chairman Dr. Jose Elgorriaga. What made the evening special was also the many friends of the Armenian Studies Program who had traveled from San Francisco and Los Angeles to be present at the dinner.

Berj Zeytounsian has written a total of twelve books, plays, and novels. One of his books concerns Soghomon Telerian, the young man who in 1921 shot and killed Talaat Pasha. Following Dr. Welty's remarks, Berj Zeytounsian, in the U.S. on a grant sponsored by AT&T, spoke about recent events in Armenia. During the first part of

his speech, which was in Armenian, he stated that he was delighted to be in Fresno, a city he referred to as "little Armenia." He expressed his jubilation for Armenia's recently acquired independence and popular election and, was specifically proud of Levon Ter Petrosian's victory as the first popularly elected President of Armenia.

The second part of his lecture

was in English and Zeytounsian called for the resignation of Mikhail Gorbachev who, as he put it, "is the only one to blame for the problems in the Soviet Union, specifically in the Azerbaijan/Nagorno-Karabagh region." He said, "The events that took place in August of 1991 took place because of Gorbachev's actions. Recent events exposed his policies and he was a victim and also a cause of those events. It is time for Gorbachev to yield to other progressive leaders. Human rights violations continue against the Armenians of Karabagh and those who were in Azerbaijan.

Zeytounsian then added, "More than 1600 historic and religious pieces of architecture exist in Karabagh and not even one medieval Muslim statue.

Of the vast number of village once located in Karabagh, only a couple remain. Where there were once 19 different Armenian newspapers in Shusha in 1916, today none remain. Perestroika has meant very little to Armenia - they have seen little economic/social benefit from it." He stated that the only thing Armenians have received have been massacres.

The most resounding statement made by Zeytounsian came near the conclusion of his speech. He quoted famous French writer Anatoly France, who said in 1916, "Those small drops of blood still possessed by Armenians will someday generate heroes." Heroes it generated indeed.

Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the A.S.P. introduced each of the A.S.P. scholarship* recipients, commenting on their ma-

jors and their Armenian related activities. The students were recipients of Charles Pategian and Pansy Zlokovich Pategian Scholarship, Yervant, Rose, and Hovannes Levonian Educational Grants, and Knights of Vartan Scholarships.

Dr. Kouymjian then introduced keynote speaker Lucy Saroyan, describing her as a "one woman international symposium." Saroyan, who has been an actress for over twenty years, has had roles in movies such as "Hopscotch," "Blue Collar," and the television show "Mannix." She currently resides in San Francisco, in the former home of her father and aunt, and is busy writing.

Saroyan read some excerpts from her father's book "Mama, I Love You-" a book written and published specifically for her when she was nine years old. William Saroyan wrote the book hoping that his daughter would someday write a book for him - a book that she said she would title "Papa, I Love You. . . ." "I find writing a challenge," she stated, "despite the fact that I always saw how easy it was for my father to write."

During the few days Zeytounsian and Saroyan were in Fresno, they had the opportunity to visit many of the Armenian landmarks of Fresno. Together they visited William Saroyan's homes in Fresno, the monument to Soghomon Tehlirian at the Massis Armenia cemetery, and an emotional visit to the permanent William Saroyan exhibit at the Fresno Metropolitan Museum.

- ARMEN AGHISHIAN

Hye Sharzhoom

By Armen Aghishian



Left to right: Lucy Saroyan, Berj Zeytounsian, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Mrs. Roxie Moradian

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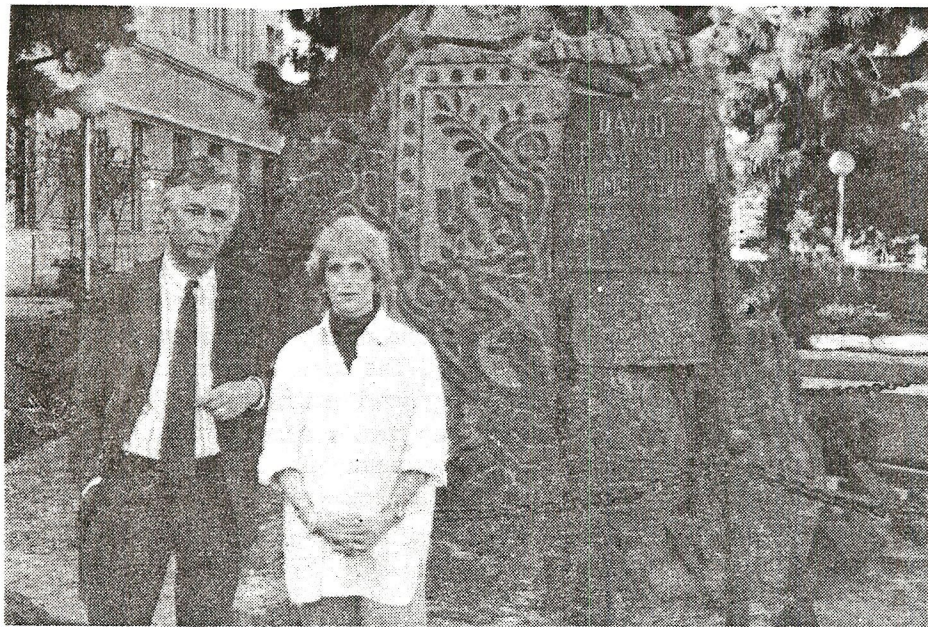
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Berj Zeytountsian with Lucy Saroyan at the David of Sasoon monument in Fresno

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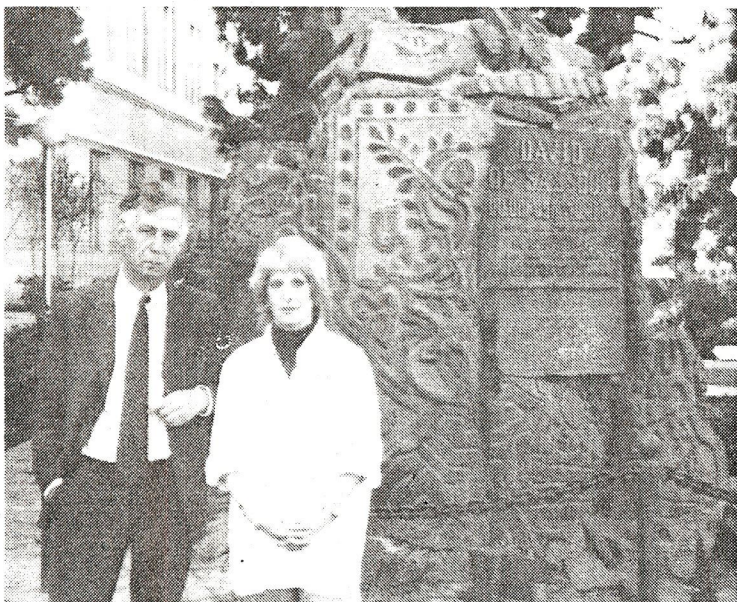
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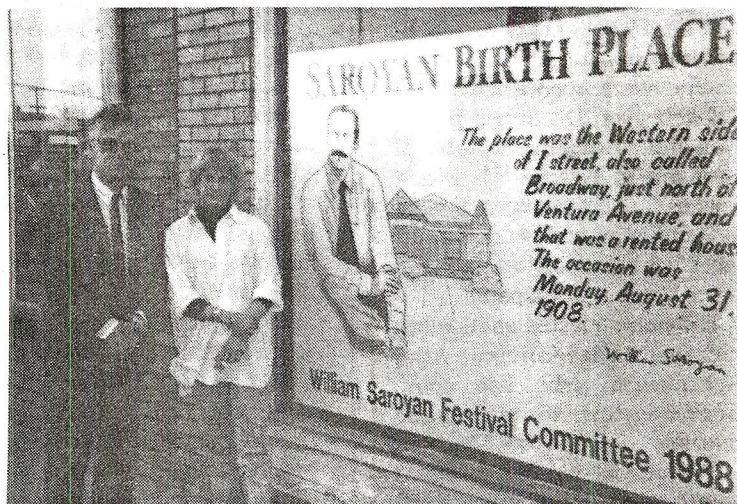
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6th Annual Banquet Honors Cal State Fresno's Armenian Studies Program



Lucy Saroyan and Berj Zeytountzian at the "David of Sassoun" monument in Fresno. The sculpture is the creation of Varaz.



Lucy Saroyan and Berj Zeytountzian at W. Saroyan's birthplace.

By Armen Aghishian

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CSUF President Dr. John Welty, in his first year as President, was attending his first A.S.P. banquet. In addition to the President, the acting Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Alex Gonzalez, and the Deans of the Schools of Arts and Humanities, Business, and Social Sciences

were present. Many faculty from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature were present including chairman Dr. Jose Blgorriaga.

Barlow Der Mugerdechian of the A.S.P. introduced each of the A.S.P. scholarship recipients, commenting on their majors and their Armenian related activities. The students were recipients of Charles Pategian and Pansy Zlovich Pategian scholarships, Yervant, Rose, and Hovannes Levonian Educational grants, and Knights of Vartan scholarships.

Following a speech by Mr. Zeytountzian, Dr. Kouymjian introduced the keynote speaker, Lucy Saroyan, describing her as a "one woman international symposium." Saroyan, who has been an actress for over twenty years, has had roles in movies such as *Hopscotch*, *Blue Collar*, and the television show *Mannix*. She currently resides in San Francisco, in the former home of her father and aunt, and is busy writing.

Saroyan read some excerpts from her father's book *Mama, I Love You* — a book written and published specifically for her when she was nine years old. "I find writing a challenge," she stated, "despite the fact that I always saw how easy it was for my father to write."

During the few days Zeytountzian and Saroyan were in Fresno, they had the opportunity to visit many of the Armenian landmarks of Fresno. Together they visited William Saroyan's homes in Fresno, the monument to Soghomon Tehlirian at the Massis Armenian cemetery, and the permanent William Saroyan exhibit at the Fresno Metropolitan Museum.

Hye Sharzhoom