



**California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program
5245 N. Backer Ave. M/S PB 4
Fresno, California 93740-8001**

Armenian Studies Program News Service

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

Fall 2008

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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Azbarez Daily: Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: S.A.S. Issues Latest Journal

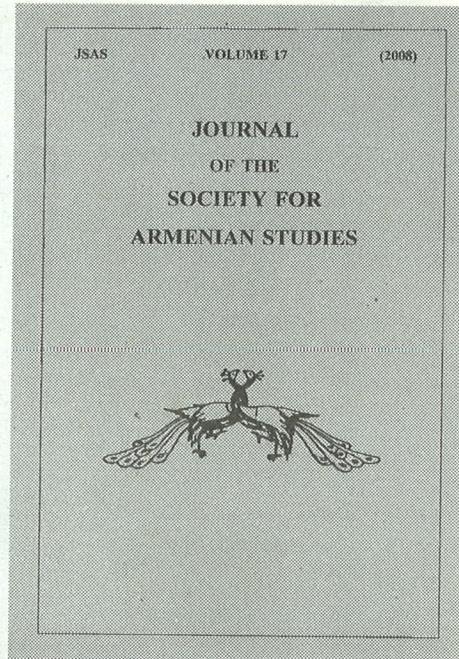
DATE: December 8, 2008
PAGE: 1 of 2

Society for Armenian Studies Publishes 17th Volume of Journal

The Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) announces the publication of Volume 17 of its refereed Journal, under the editorship of Dr. Joseph A. Kéchichian, and contains nine original essays as well as eleven book reviews.

Two articles focus on the Genocide, one by Steven Leonard Jacobs on "The Journey of Death: Lemkin and the Armenian Genocide" that elucidates on Raphael Lemkin's concerns, and a second co-authored by Joceline Chabot, Sylvia Kasparian and Christine Thériault on "A shared memory? The social demand for the recognition of the Armenian genocide by the Armenian community of Quebec (1965-1998)," which sheds light on various perceptions within the Province of Québec in Canada. Both are somewhat specialized that venture into seldom studied aspects of the Armenian Holocaust. Gayané V. Hagopian has penned "Armenian Proverbs and the Biblical Scripture," an essay that offers useful comparisons in a highly detailed study of Armenian proverbs, which make pertinent linkages with Biblical scriptures. In "La migration des Arméniens à Buenos Aires: Évolution du réseau associatif (1900-1950)," Nélida Boulgourdjian-Toufekjian examines the conditions of the Armenian community in Buenos Aires, Argentina, during the first half of the twentieth century. This article is in French with an English abstract.

In addition to these four contributions, five papers from an original collection of nine—with the next four slated for publication in the next JSAS issue, highlight "A Century of Armenians in America: New Social Science Research." The five papers



are by Knarik Avakian, "The Early History of Armenian Emigration to the U.S.A.": "Evidence from the Archives of the Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople"; Claudia Der-Martirosian, "Armenians in the 1980, 1990 & 2000 U.S. Census"; Margaret Manoogian, "Exploring the family ties and legacies of older Armenian American women"; Ani Yazedjian, "Learning to Be Armenian: Understanding the Process of Ethnic Identity Development for Armenian Adolescents"; and Ben Alexander, "To Supply Armenia with Architects: The Press, the Parties, and the Second Generation in the 1930s." Without exaggeration, these articles add significant value to our knowledge of Armenians in the

(Continued on Page 14)



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Asbarez Daily: Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: S.A.S. Issues Latest Journal

DATE: December 8, 2008
PAGE: 2 of 2

Society for Armenian Studies Publishes 17th Volume of Journal

(Continued from Page 10)

United States, and identify critical issues of interest.

The Society for Armenian Studies was established in 1974 by a group of scholars from the universities of California, Columbia and Harvard on the initiative of Richard G. Hovannisian, Dickran Kouymjian, Nina Garsoian, Avedis Sanjian, and Robert Thomson. It is dedicated to the development of Armenian Studies as an academic discipline and aims to promote the study of Armenian culture and society, including history, language, literature, and social, political, and economic questions; to facilitate the exchange of scholarly information pertaining to Armenian studies around the world; and to sponsor panels and conferences on

Armenian studies.

The Journal of the Society for Armenia is a fully refereed publication, which means that materials are reviewed by "expert readers" in a "blind" procedure, which ensures full transparency. Starting with its next issue, the editor will follow a slightly revised format—for a maximum of 9,000 words per essay, including footnotes, and without separate references or bibliography.

Membership in the SAS and copies of the Journal may be ordered from Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian, the Director of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, 5245 N Backer Ave. PB4, Fresno, California, 93740-8001, (559) 278-2669 – Office; (559) 278-2129 – Fax. Email is barlowd@csufresno.edu.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Watertown, MA
SUBJECT: S.A.S. Issues Latest Journal

DATE: December 6, 2008
PAGE: 1 of 1

Society for Armenian Studies Issues Latest Journal

FRESNO — The Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) announces the publication of Volume 17 of its refereed journal, under the editorship of Dr. Joseph A. Kéchichian, and contains nine original essays as well as 11 book reviews.

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Membership in the SAS and copies of the journal may be ordered from Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, director of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, 5245 N Backer Ave. PB4, Fresno, CA 93740-8001 or email barlowd@csufresno.edu.

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In addition to these four contributions, five papers from an original collection of nine — with the next four slated for publication in the next *JSAS* issue, highlight "A Century of Armenians in America: New Social Science Research." The five papers are by Knarik Avakian, "The Early History of Armenian Emigration to the USA: Evidence from the Archives of the Armenian Patriarchate of



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Azbarez Daily: Glendale, CA

SUBJECT: ATP Director to Speak at Fresno State

DATE: November 17, 2008

PAGE: 1 of 1

ATP Director to Speak at Fresno State

FRESNO—Jeff Masarjian, the Executive Director of the Armenia Tree Project will present a talk on “The Dangers Facing Armenia’s Natural Treasures: Current Risks and Opportunities” on Tuesday November 18, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, on the Fresno State campus.

The talk set to begin at 7:30PM, is sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program of Fresno State as part of its Fall 2008 Lecture Series.

Masarjian became Executive Director of Armenia Tree Project in 2001, a move that merged his professional life with his personal commitment to the environment and to the people of Armenia. He brought to the Tree Project a long career in clinical social work, family treatment, and organizational management in the non-profit sector.

“Witnessing the impact of our work on the landscape and the lives of Armenians generates a great sense of hope for the future. Together we are helping to build a new nation, providing jobs, conserving and restoring the environment, and creating a new generation of stewards. The forests we plant today will not only contribute to a more secure and independent Armenia, but also help to heal the global environment,” Masarjian said.

Admission is free to the lecture and relaxed parking will be available in the University Business Center parking area or in Lot J after 7:00 PM the night of the lecture. For more information on the talk please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Watertown, MA

DATE: November 15, 2008

SUBJECT: Global State of Armenian Studies Subject of U Mich

PAGE: 1 of 1

Global 'State of Armenian Studies' Subject of U. of Michigan Study

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — The Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in collaboration with the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) and other major institutions and organizations has embarked on an ambitious project to study "The State of Armenian Studies."

Universities and the Academy of Sciences in Armenia have departments and institutes that deal with the subject. In the diaspora, a large number of organizations, endowed chairs and programs in academic institutions and outside devote substantial resources to promote Armenian Studies.

In the past NAASR, the National Academy of Science of Armenia, the International Association for Armenian Studies have organized conferences and colloquia to study various aspects of the field; so have individual scholars. Based on these efforts and undertaking comprehensive surveys and analyses, the University of Michigan project aims at producing a first of its kind comprehensive and global report on the "State of Armenian Studies" and making it available to all concerned by the end of 2009 with the cooperation of organizations, institutions and scholars involved in Armenian Studies worldwide.

That report will encompass a quantitative as well as a qualitative analysis of the whole array of activities, from existing programs and their activities, books and articles published in the last decades, programs and chairs established, to gaps in knowledge, relationships between current output and advances in the social sciences and humanities in general, and future needs.

To produce that report, the Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan

invited an initial organizational meeting of organizations and institutions that might contribute to the planning of and logistical support to the project. That first meeting was held on September 19 and 20 on the campus of the University of Michigan.

Participating in the first meeting of the workshop were representatives of the National Academy of Sciences (Prof. Ruben Safrastyan), Yerevan State University (Prof. Albert Stepanyan), the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (Belmont, Mass., Marc Mamigonian), the Society for Armenian Studies (US, Barlow Der Mgrtchian), the Society for Armenian Studies (Europe, Seta Claire Mouradian), the Armenian Research Center, University of Michigan-Dearborn (Prof. Ara Sanjian and Gerald Ottenbreit), and the Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (Professors Gerard Libaridian and Kevork Bardakjian). The Director of the Matenadaran in Armenia, Dr. Hrach Tamrazian, was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict, but pledged his support to the project. The president of the International Association of Armenian Studies, Prof. Valentina Calzolari, based in Geneva, could not attend because of a personal emergency but sent a full commentary on the questions posed and is fully engaged in the process.

During the next months the project will be made operational; Armenian Studies chair holders, program directors and individual scholars will be asked to contribute to the preparation of the draft report. A second, expanded meeting of the workshop will convene in the spring of 2009 to discuss and review the draft report.

"It is obvious that Armenian Studies is critical to scholarship that will help us understand

and interpret the Armenian past, culture and identity," stated Libaridian, director of the Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan and director of the project.

"But Armenian Studies also constitutes an integral part of the life of our people in Armenia and in communities in the diaspora. Scholarship has been critical in the way the Armenian nation articulated itself in the modern era; policy and agenda making interact on so many levels. This is the time to do an inventory of our resources, think about the problems and propose solutions," he said. "We are delighted to have the support of all institutions and organizations concerned and I am confident we will have the support of individual scholars as well to produce as comprehensive, thoughtful and useful report as possible."

This workshop is being supported by the Harry Ardashes Paul Memorial Fund of the Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: California Courier: Glendale, CA

SUBJECT: Global State of Armenian Studies Subject of U Mich

DATE: November 13, 2008

PAGE: 1 of 1

Global Project to Study 'The State of Armenian Studies' Started at University of Michigan

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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CA
SUBJECT: Masarjian To Speak at Fresno

DATE: November 12, 2008
PAGE: 1 of 1

Jeff Masarjian of ATP Project to Speak at Fresno State, Nov. 18

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In his words: "Witnessing the impact of our work on the landscape and the lives of Armenians generates a great sense of hope for the future. Together we are helping to build a new nation, providing jobs, conserving and restoring the environment, and creating a new generation of stewards. The forests we plant today will not only contribute to a more secure and independent Armenia, but also help to heal the global environment."

Admission is free to the lecture and relaxed parking will be available in the University Business Center parking area or in Lot J after 7:00 PM the night of the lecture. For more information on the talk please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CA
SUBJECT: Der Mugrdechian Director of ASP

DATE: November 5, 2008
PAGE: 1 of 1

Barlow Der Mugrdechian Named Director of the Center for Armenian Studies at Fresno State

FRESNO - Barlow Der Mugrdechian was appointed Coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program and Director of the Center for Armenian Studies at Fresno State.

Mugrdechian began his duties in the Fall semester, having responsibility to coordinate the Program's activities and to administer the Program's community outreach.

He has been with the Program for the past twenty-four years, teaching a variety of courses in the areas of language, literature, art, culture, and history.

Der Mugrdechian received his M.A. and C. Philosophy degrees from UCLA, where he *Between Paris and Fresno: Armenian Studies in Honor of Dickran Kouymjian* (Mazda Press, 2008), a Festschrift composed of forty-six articles from scholars throughout the world, dedicated to Dr. Kouymjian's more than forty year career in Armenian Studies.

In 1996 Der Mugrdechian received the 1995-1996 Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching and in December of 2000, he was honored with an honorary Doctorate Degree from Yerevan State University. YSU President Dr. Radik Martirosyan bestowed the honor on him in Yerevan, Armenia.

In the summers of 1988, 1990, 2001, 2005 and 2007 Der Mugrdechian led the "Armenia Summer Study Program," taking students to Armenia for an intensive series of coursework and classes, as well as interaction with students from Yerevan State University, and to travel to various parts of the country.

Der Mugrdechian has



majored in Armenian Language and Literature through the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Literatures.

Der Mugrdechian is the author of the newly published *Between Paris and Fresno: Armenian Studies in Honor of Dickran Kouymjian* (Mazda Press, 2008), a Festschrift composed of forty-six articles from scholars throughout the world, dedicated to Dr. Kouymjian's more than forty year career in Armenian Studies.

From 2001-2004 Der Mugrdechian was President of the Society for Armenian Studies (SAS), the international organization composed of scholars and teachers involved in the study of the Armenians. He also was the editor for the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*, Volume 12. From 1997-2003, he was editor of the *SAS Newsletter*, published three times a year.

Currently he manages the SAS Secretariat, based in the Armenian Studies Program.

For the past twenty-four years he has been the advisor to the Armenian Students Organization on the university campus and advisor for the *Hye Sharzhoom/Armenian Action* newspaper, celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Watertown, MADATE: November 1, 2008SUBJECT: Emeritus Prof Celebrates Saroyan Centennial on World Scale PAGE: 1 of 2

Emeritus Professor Celebrates Saroyan Centennial on World Scale

FRESNO, Calif. — One of the William Saroyan centennial's busiest celebrants is Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, Emeritus at California State University, Fresno, who has traveled extensively marking the renowned author's life and works.

Saroyan was born 100 years ago in Fresno and died there in 1981. In a career that included writing short stories, books, plays, even lyrics, Saroyan won an Academy Award and a



Prof. Dickran Kouymjian

Pulitzer Prize (which he refused). He was also an artist and filmmaker.

Often his stories and characters grew out of his early years in Fresno's Armenian community, but they also were shaped by visits and living in Europe, San Francisco, Hollywood and New York.

In sharing his expertise on the author, Kouymjian, whose home is in Paris, has experienced something of Saroyan's peripatetic life. And his travels won't end until spring. His "Year of Saroyan" began in April, when he par-



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Watertown, MADATE: November 1, 2008SUBJECT: Emeritus Prof Celebrates Saroyan Centennial on World Scale PAGE: 2 of 2

ticipated in and helped Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian organize an international symposium, "William Saroyan at 100," at Fresno State.

In July, Kouymjian traveled to Yerevan, Armenia, for the Golden Apricot Armenian International Film Festival to screen Saroyan's film, "The Good Job," subtitled in Armenian, and the Oscar-winning "The Human Comedy." He also presented a workshop on Saroyan and cinema.

In September, Kouymjian discussed Saroyan's literary work during Armenian Culture Days at the Vígðis Finnabogdóttir Institute of Foreign Languages at the University of Iceland in Reykjavík. He returned to Paris to present a paper, "Saroyan as Painter," at a conference of the Association Internationale des Etudes Arméniennes at the Sorbonne.

October 8-10, Kouymjian lectured and also

chaired two roundtable discussions at an international Saroyan conference he helped organize in Yerevan, Armenia. Four of the five participants in the Saroyan symposium at Fresno State joined him in Yerevan.

Attendance by Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian, the newly appointed American ambassador, Mary Jovanovich, and Hasmik Poghosyan, Armenia's Minister of Culture, indicate Saroyan's stature in his ancestral land.

In Yerevan, Kouymjian also instructed young theater directors on how to direct and stage Saroyan's later plays. Fresno State's own Ed Emmanuel staged one of such a work, "Slaughter of the Innocents," at the same time Kouymjian was lecturing in Armenia.

Another Kouymjian project is "Saroyan in Paris," a tribute to be held on December 1 at the Musée de la Vie romantique. The museum is in the 9th Arrondissement (called Opéra district) near the apartment where Saroyan

spent part of nearly each year from 1960 until just before his death.

Scheduled are a dramatic reading by Reine Bartèvre of Saroyan's, "The Armenian Mouse," a piano concert of his music by Vahan Mardirossian, who played in the Philip Lorenz Keyboard Concerts series at Fresno State in 2005, and a screening of the Saroyan film, "The Good Job." Kouymjian will present an illustrated talk about Saroyan's time in Paris.

Also on Kouymjian's Saroyan schedule is a photographic exhibit in Istanbul, Turkey, late this year, a March tribute in Amsterdam and writing an introduction to the publication by the Press at CSUF and the *Fresno Bee* of Saroyan's early novel, *Follow*, planned by year's end.

Kouymjian retired last year as director of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State, which he established in 1977. The campus also is home to the Center for Armenian Studies.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

California State University, Fresno • 5245 N Backer Ave PB4 • Fresno, CA 93740-8001

2008

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CA

SUBJECT: 10th Annual Golden Raisin Armenian Film Festival

DATE: October 23, 2008

PAGE: 1 of 2

10th Annual Golden Raisin Armenian Film Festival Calls for Entries

FRESNO - Sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization, and

the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno, the 10th annual Golden Raising Armenian Film Festival will be held in Spring 2009.

Partially funded by the Diversity Awareness Program of the University Student Union, CSUF, the Festival issues its first call for entries last week.

Films made by Armenian directors/writers, or films with an Armenian theme are being sought.

Criteria include: Films up to 1 hour in length; films may be in any language, English preferred; films may be on any topic, Armenian theme preferred; film must be in

video (NTSC)/DVD format.

Deadline for entries to be received is January 15, 2009.

Video/DVD submissions should be sent to: Armenian Film Festival, c/o Armenian Studies Program, 5245 N Backer Ave. PB4 Fresno, CA 93740-8001

Entries should be accompanied by a CV of the director/writer and a synopsis of the film.

The Festival Committee will meet to view and judge which entries will be accepted for the Film Festival. Entrants will be contacted by email with the decisions.

For more information, email: barlowd@csufresno.edu.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee, Fresno, CA
SUBJECT: Artist Soars Past Tour De Force

DATE: September 23, 2008
PAGE: 1 of 1

Artist soars past tour de force

Babayan takes music to hearts of his audience.

By George Warren
Special to the Bee

Pianist Sergei Babayan has nothing to prove to his fans in Fresno. He's been here many times before and has shown extreme range of emotion, total command of the keyboard, and a musical vision that goes well beyond the idea of mere entertainment.

Babayan drew a full house to the Concert Hall at California State University, Fresno, Sunday to open the season of the Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concert series. The CSUF Armenian Studies Program co-sponsored the recital.

Rather than putting on a tour-de-force of pianism as he has in the past, Babayan brought a program that focused on the spiritually expressive potential of his instrument. Opening with "Fur Alina" by Arvo Part is an unusual way to draw in an audience. This music is quiet and slow, and the harmony changes little throughout the brief span of the composition.

In the hands of Babayan, what might be just a few notes turns into a timeless experience of speechless beauty. Babayan was in no hurry to finish phrases or get on with the piece. He allowed space to breathe, and he allowed time for notes to recede to silence. While the composition might not be groundbreaking in terms of harmony and rhythm, the singular feel of the music sets Part in his own camp of living composers.

As the last notes faded, the audience sat spellbound. There would be no applause here, the magic would have evaporated. After a moment of complete silence, Babayan

began Liszt's Ballade No. 2, the loudest and most dynamically expressive music on the program. Babayan demonstrated his understanding of the music by creating the wash of sound in the background and then bringing the themes out front.

His demeanor here was not filled with excitement and energy. Instead, he took the tone of presenting a sober moment of truth from Liszt's oeuvre. This is no slouch of a piece of music, but the unfolding harmony sounds like something Moses might have written were he a composer.

Brahms' Theme and Variations in D Minor, an arrangement from his String Sextet Op. 18, provided a brief diversion from the serious nature of the program, and Babayan seemed to enjoy the rolling chords and various treatments of the themes. He also delivered Liszt's passionate setting of two Schubert songs with a clear eye on the meaning of the program.

The first half of the program ended with Schumann's Variations on a Theme by Beethoven. The theme comes from Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, and Schumann presents it unabridged the first time. Then Schumann's imagination takes over, and while his development of the idea does not match Beethoven's immediate appeal, the growth of the idea to the stunning and riveting summation transforms Beethoven's more primitive musical constraints into seminal material for Arvo Part.

The end of the set matched the beginning, with Babayan unwinding Schumann's melody and countermelody over an unchanging harmony. It took a few seconds after the end for the audience to realize that it was time to applaud.

The second half featured the Suite in A Minor of

Jean-Philippe Rameau, the great 17th-century theorist who wrote the book on tonal harmony and sealed the modal system into its churchyard grave. While Rameau the composer has not achieved the following of Bach or Vivaldi, his music belongs in the same museum as the other Baroque masters. After all, it was Rameau who put into words the argument for a functional tonal system.

How this fits into a program of highly emotional music is clear. Without the foundation of Rameau and the other Baroque composers, the music of Part, Brahms, and Schumann would not have been possible. Moreover, in the hands of Babayan, this "intellectual" music of Rameau becomes as spiritually profound and expressive as the other music on the program. Maybe it's not the era or the style, maybe it's that some compositions more than others elevate the spirit of the listener.

Certainly, when Babayan is the pianist, the music is going to reach the heart of the audience.

► George Warren, Ph.D., directs the music program at Hallmark Charter School.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CADATE: September 18, 2008SUBJECT: Zeitlian to Speak on Folk Traditions of Musa DaghPAGE: 1 of 1

Sona Zeitlian to Speak on 'Folk Traditions of Musa Dagh' at Fresno State

FRESNO - Sona Zeitlian will present a talk on "The Folk Traditions of Musa Dagh" at 7:30PM on Wednesday, October 1, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, on the Fresno State campus.

The talk is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program of Fresno State and the Musa Dagh Com-patriotic Union of Fresno.

Folktales are vehicles of age-old manners, customs, and folk wisdom. As such, they are instruments for asserting cultural identity, based on shared experiences and values. The oral tradition has been central to the lives of Musa Daghtsis as a form of popular entertainment during festivals and especially as a means to while away the long winter nights. Its importance has waned as the living conditions have changed after the relocation of Musa Daghtsis to Anjar, Lebanon.

Recording the oral tradition of Musa Daghtsis has convinced Zeitlian that at a time of cultural globalization through the internet and the international mass media, the folktales are more than ever valuable in preserving our traditions and national identity.

Sona Simonian-Zeitlian was born in Cairo, Egypt. Political turmoil in the early 1960s forced her and her

family to leave for Lebanon. Then the hardships of the Lebanese Civil War and the tragedy of the abduction of her husband, Sarkis Thomas Zeitlian, forced her and her four children to finally settle in California. A graduate of the American University in Cairo, she has held teaching posts in Cairo and Beirut. In 1995 she was nominated by the Near Eastern Studies Center at UCLA to become a member of its Advisory Board.

As an author, Zeitlian's abiding interest has been in the formation of individual identities while reflecting on historical evolution and cultural development. Her works include *The Role of Women in the Armenian Revolutionary Movement* and *The Folktales of Musa Dagh* based on the oral tradition that she recorded for the first time in Anjar, Lebanon. Two of these folktales, *The One and Only* and *Grateful Animals* have also appeared separately as bilingual (Armenian/English) illustrated publications.

Admission is free to the lecture and relaxed parking will be available in the University Business Center parking area or in Lot J after 7:00 PM the night of the lecture. For more information on the talk, contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

California State University, Fresno • 5245 N Backer Ave PB4 • Fresno, CA 93740-8001

2008

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee, Fresno, CA

SUBJECT: Hopefuls Split on Armenia Genocide

DATE: September 15, 2008

PAGE: 1 of 2

CAMPAGN '08

Hopefuls split on Armenia genocide

By Michael Doyle

Bee Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The two major presidential candidates differ sharply over an Armenian genocide commemoration, with Republican John McCain opposing it and Democrat Barack Obama supporting it.

The policy clash could make a political difference

in the San Joaquin Valley and other regions with sizable Armenian-American populations. McCain may

have more to lose, in the short term. But in the long run, based on past candidates' stances, Obama may have more to prove.

Commemoration could be in the form of a congressional resolution or presidential proclamation. Last fall, though, came the latest signal that federal commemoration is a fleeting ideal: A House resolution calling on the president to use the word "genocide" in his annual Armenian message, supported by a House committee, never

reached the floor for a vote.

Now, the popular presidential vote is at stake, and the potential short-term political cost is readily apparent.

Estimates of the number of Armenian-Americans range from 385,000, in the 2000 census, to more than 1 million. Many track the genocide issue closely.

By contrast, only 117,000 U.S. residents nationwide claimed Turkish ancestry.

"There are many Armenians in states such as Michigan and Florida," said Barlow Der Mugrdechian, coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno. "Since the race is expected to be close in these states, and many others, the Armenian vote could prove to be the difference."

The long-term challenge is different. If Obama is elected, he would face tremendous pressure from the State Department, the Pentagon, other countries — and maybe even his own advisers — to back away from emphatic Armenian genocide language. That is what other presidents have done.

In 1988, for instance, a campaigning George H.W. Bush declared the United States should "acknowledge the attempted genocide of the Armenian people." As president, Bush instead stressed "the differing views of how the terrible events of 1915-23 should be characterized."

Bush's son, while campaigning in 2000, similarly referred to a "genocidal campaign" against the Armenians. Once elected, he avoided the genocide term, and his State Department withdrew a U.S. ambassador who dared use it.

"I think the Armenian community is very leery of any candidate who says he will support a genocide resolution, because those promises haven't necessarily been kept," said Rep. George Radanovich, R-Marietta. "When push comes to shove, the State Department gets in there and has its way."

Genocide is what Armenian-Americans and many scholars say happened in the dying years of the Ottoman Empire, between 1915 and 1923. By this account, the slaughter and violent exile of some 1.5 million Armenians met the definition of genocide and should be commemorated as such.

Genocide means the systematic and intentional destruction, in whole or in part, of an ethnic, racial, religious or national group.

Presidents traditionally deliver a public statement about what happened between 1915 and 1923 each April 24 — Martyrs Day, considered by Armenians the day that the genocide began in 1915. The question



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thus becomes: Will the statement next spring include the word genocide?

Obama's stance

"There was a genocide that did take place against the Armenian people," Obama said while campaigning this year.

He hasn't been very active on the issue in his four years in the Senate, despite serving on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Obama has not co-sponsored the Senate's Armenian genocide resolutions, and he did not attend confirmation hearings for President Bush's nominees to serve as U.S. ambassador to Armenia.

Obama's rhetorical support now for recognizing the genocide nonetheless helped secure the endorsement in January of the Armenian National Committee of America. It's a view long held publicly by Obama's vice presidential candidate, Sen. Joe Biden, the Delaware Democrat who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. It's also a position being deployed on the campaign trail.

Samantha Power, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and Harvard scholar who has advised Obama on foreign policy, posted on YouTube a campaign-style video explicitly addressed to the Armenian-American community. Power declared that a President Obama would "call a spade a spade" and publicly acknowledge the genocide.

Power, a strong proponent of Armenian-American issues, no longer has a formal role advising Obama. One top adviser, Anthony Lake, was national security adviser to Bill Clinton during the period that Clinton avoided the genocide word in his annual proclamations. Another top Obama adviser, Susan Rice, was Clinton's assistant secretary of state in fall 2000 when Clinton blocked a genocide resolution written by Radanovich.

McCain's reasoning

McCain's position is the opposite, as he cites the diplomatic and strategic risks associated with alienating Turkey.

"I was disappointed that many in Congress were ready to legislate a historical judgment of the Armenian genocide whatever the cost to our relations with Turkey," McCain declared in Iowa last October. "Turkey is essential to stabilizing Iraq, containing Iranian power, and encouraging economic and political reform in the Arab world. We should be strengthening our partnership, not erecting new barriers to it."



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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter Int'l: Paramus, NJ
SUBJECT: Pianist Babayan in Concert at Fresno State

DATE: August 30, 2008
PAGE: 1 of 1



Sergei Babayan. Photo: Cleveland Institute of Music.

Pianist Sergei Babayan to appear in concert at Fresno State

FRESNO, Calif. — On Sunday, September 21, at 3, award-winning pianist Sergei Babayan will perform in the opening recital of the Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concert Series. The concert, co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program of Fresno State, will be held at the Concert Hall on campus.

Mr. Babayan, winner of the 1989 Robert Casadesus International Piano Competition, will be performing works by Rameau, Bach, Schubert, and Brahms.

Born in Armenia to a musical family, Babayan studied music in Yerevan and Moscow, earning his doctorate at the Moscow Conservatory in 1989. Since making his New York recital debut in 1990 at Alice Tully Hall, he has had numerous solo appearances with orchestras across the globe, including The Cleveland Orchestra, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Osaka Symphony.



connect:
tickets 559-278-2337
Armenian Studies Program 559-278-2669



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: Pianist Babayan in Concert at Fresno State

DATE: August 28, 2008
PAGE: 1 of 1

Pianist Sergei Babayan in Concert at Fresno State

FRESNO - Award winning pianist Sergei Babayan will perform in the opening recital of the Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concert Series at Fresno State. The concert will be held at 3 PM on September 21 in the Concert Hall on the Fresno State campus.

The concert is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program of Fresno State. Babayan will be performing works by Rameau, Bach, Schubert, and Brahms.

Acclaimed for the immediacy, sensitivity, and depth of his interpretations, Sergei Babayan's performances reveal an emotional intensity and bold energy, equipping him to excel in repertoire ranging from Rameau to Ligeti.

Winner of the 1989 Robert Casadesus International Piano Competition in Cleveland, this Armenian pianist returns to Fresno for another display of his "phenomenal level of color and imagination" (The American Record Guide).

One of the most charismatic personalities on today's concert stage, Babayan's vibrantly expressive performances have spirited audience

acclaim worldwide. Ever since his arrival in the United States, on his first trip outside of the Soviet Union in 1989, his breathtaking virtuosity and a wide- ranging tonal palette have brought him critical praise and accolades.

Babayan was born in Armenia to a musical family and started to play the piano at the age of three. He began his musical studies at the age of six under Luisa Markaryan and later with George Saradjev. He continued his studies at nineteen with Mikhail Pletnev at the Moscow Conservatory and completed post- graduate work there in 1989 as a student of Professor Vera Gornostaeva. He also studied privately with Lev Naumov in Moscow.

After making his New York recital debut in 1990 at Alice Tully Hall to great critical acclaim, Babayan embarked on a busy schedule that has included solo appearances with The Cleveland Orchestra, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Osaka Symphony, among others.

General tickets for the concert are available for \$18 per person, for

seniors tickets are \$12, and tickets for students are \$5.00 per person. Ticket reservations for the concert may be made by calling 278-2337. Relaxed parking will be available in Lots C and V after 7:00 PM the night of the lecture. For more information on the Concert please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.

**ARCHIVE**

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CA
SUBJECT: Pianist Babayan in Concert at Fresno State

DATE: August 27, 2008
PAGE: 1 of 1

Sergei Babayan to Perform in a Piano Concert at Fresno State, Sept. 21

FRESNO - Award winning pianist Sergei Babayan will perform in the opening recital of the Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concert Series at Fresno State. The concert will be held at 3:00 PM on Sunday, September 21 in the Concert Hall on the Fresno State campus.

The concert is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program of Fresno State.

Babayan will be performing works by Rameau, Bach, Schubert, and Brahms.

Acclaimed for the immediacy, sensitivity, and depth of his interpretations, Sergei Babayan's performances reveal an emotional intensity and bold energy, equipping him to excel in repertoire ranging from Rameau to Ligeti. Winner of the 1989 Robert Casadesus International Piano Competition in Cleveland, this Armenian pianist returns to Fresno for another display of his "phenomenal level of color and imagination" (The American Record Guide).

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For more info contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.