



**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.**

**Spring 1999**

**Vol. 14 Release #70  
January 1999-July 1999**

SUB

ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO,  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Armenian International Magazine; Glendale DATE January 1999  
SUBJECT Hye Sharzhoom Celebrates 20th Anniversary PAGE 1 of 1

# HYE SHARZHOOM

## Armenian Action

### ՀՅԵ ՇԱՐԺՈՒ

20<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

October 1998

Vol. 20, No. 1 (63)

Supplement to The Collegian

#### Around the World

• United Armenian  
Fund 100th Airlift  
Celebration -See Page 3

• House Maintains  
Section 907 - By a vote  
of 231 to 182, the House  
of Representatives  
maintained a ban on US  
aid to Azerbaijan

• Chinese mining com-  
pany intends to invest  
\$400 million in  
Armenia



## Hye Sharzhoom - A 20 Year Perspective

By Barlow Der Mgrdchian  
Advisor

Twenty years ago a group of  
students at Fresno State  
decided to publish a spe-  
cial issue newspaper to commemo-  
rate the Armenian Genocide. That  
special issue was published in April  
of 1979 and became the first in  
what was to become a twenty-year  
run of *Hye Sharzhoom/Armenian  
Action*.

From its inception *Hye  
Sharzhoom* became the Armenian  
student voice on the campus of

Fresno State. Its pages have been  
filled with news, editorials, and features  
on a wide variety of subjects.  
*Hye Sharzhoom* reflected the atti-  
tudes and opinions of students to-  
ward their campus, toward the larger  
Armenian community, and toward  
the Armenian Diaspora. It also  
represented the diversity within the  
Armenian student population, at a  
time when there were Armenians  
from Iran, from Lebanon, and Ar-  
menians born in America on the  
campus. And over the years, *Hye  
Sharzhoom* reflected the interests  
of the changing student population.

But let's return for a mo-  
ment to 1979 and reflect about what  
motivated those students to initiate  
*Hye Sharzhoom*. First and foremost,  
students in the 1970s had a keen

## ASO-New Ideas Foster Excitement

By Arakel Arisian  
ASO President

executive members began work-  
ing on several projects for this fall

Anesian, Ara Mekhtarian, Shan  
Yepenjian, Serop, Kupelian, and

**H**YE SHARZHOOM, the student newspaper of the California State University, Fresno, Armenian Studies Program, is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Published quarterly each year, the newspaper which includes college and regional news of interest to Armenians is mailed to over 6,000 addresses throughout the world. Started by the program's Assistant Director, **Barlow Der Mgrdchian**, *Hye Sharzhoom* is subsidized by the donors and the Armenian Studies department itself which is the only undergraduate program offering Armenian history, culture and language courses in North America. Professor Dickran Kouymjian heads the program.

SUB

ARMENIAN STUDIES

PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE University Journal : Fresno

DATE January 25, 1999

SUBJECT Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem at FSU

PAGE 1 of 1

**Armenian archbishop visits**

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian was the special guest at the 13th Annual Banquet of the Armenian Studies Program on Dec. 10. The Archbishop met with President John Welty and university officials before attending a press conference on campus. He was elected the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem in 1990 and has been the primate of both the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America and the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church. ♦

-mlr



**Sub****ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM**

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

**- ARCHIVE -****SOURCE** The Armenian Observer; Hollywood, CA**DATE** February 17, 1999**SUBJECT** Author Kricorian Introduces New Book**PAGE** 1 of 1

## **Author Nancy Kricorian to Speak on Her Book in Fresno, March 2**

FRESNO - Author Nancy Kricorian of New York will speak about her new book, "Zabelle," at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2, 1999 at the St. Paul Armenian Church, Haig Berberian Hall, 3767 N. First St., in Fresno. The talk is co-sponsored by the St. Paul Armenian Church and the Armenian Studies Program of CSU Fresno.

Nancy Kricorian was raised in Watertown, Massachusetts, which has had a large Armenian community since the 1920's and boasts four Armenian bakeries, three Armenian churches, and two Armenian cultural centers. She grew up in a two family house with her grandmother in a household very much like the one she describes in her novel "Zabelle." "I used bits and pieces of family history amidst the details and episodes I invented. But my grandmother was the inspiration for the whole thing. Writing "Zabelle" was a way of

keeping her with me in the years after she died."

An award-winning and widely published poet, Nancy Kricorian worked on her first novel for six years. Kricorian's Zabelle is an epic tale told with admirable economy and grace. The heroine comes of age in the terrifying last days of Ottoman Turkey. She survives the Armenian Genocide of 1915 and emerges from a period of near starvation in the desert to find a new life in America. The full horror of the suffering endured by the Armenian is powerfully depicted; but so, too, is the almost magical resilience and courage of Zabelle.

Copies of "Zabelle" will be available for sale and signing by the author.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information on the lecture please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669 or St. Paul Armenian Church, at 226-6343.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE

The California Courier; Glendale, CA

DATE

February 18, 1999

SUBJECT

Art Show at St. Paul

PAGE

1 of 1

## ARMENIAN ARTISTS' EXHIBIT BENEFITS ST. PAUL MISSION OUTREACH

FRESNO -- St. Paul Armenian Church Mission Outreach Committee hosted an art show and sale of works by prominent Armenian artists last month at the church hall.

In addition to the display, the three artists Aramouni, Rafael Atoian and Ashot Anatoli Melkonyan mingled with the crowd and discussed their work.

Over 40 pieces of art were sold, with the Mission Outreach Fund receiving approximately \$2,000.

"Our hope is to introduce Armenian culture and art to Fresno," said Rev. Fr. Sasoon Zumrookhdian. "Our food festivals and bazaars are very popular. We've expanded our outreach to include art."

With the number of pieces that were sold, one would have to say that Aramouni's art was well received by art enthusiasts attending the exhibit. This was the first U.S. exhibition for Aramouni's colorful whimsical still-lifes, and portraits depicting the common men, women and children of Armenia. After completing several commissioned pieces, Aramouni will return to Etchmiadzin, where he also teaches at the Tadevosyan Art School.

Rafael Atoian studied at the Art Institute of Mergorov and the Yerevan Terlemezian Art School. In 1982, he was named Master Painter by the Republic of Armenia. He has exhibited in France, Italy, England, Germany and the United States. His watercolors depict agrarian life in Armenia, in addition to still lifes. His work also include many cityscapes and landscapes in Fresno. His talent is being recognized in the U.S. where he is presently residing.

Ashot Anatoli Melkonyan, who is also a Master Painter of Armen-



FRESNO ART EXHIBIT - From left to right, Zar Mugrdechian, Rafael Atoian, Aramouni, Ashot Melkonyan, and Jerry Baker.

ia, is a graduate of the Terlemezian Art Institute of Yerevan. His paintings are characteristically methodical and well organized, with classical balance and warm color consistency. A mural of his "Boy with a Book," is currently in a Moscow museum.

Melkonyan who has exhibited in Armenia, Italy, Spain, Portugal and the US, is currently residing in Fresno where he is working on several pieces of local interest.

Dating back to 1993, under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Zumrookh-

dian, over \$100,000 have been raised by St. Paul parishioners and friends to assist fellow Armenians who were left destitute due to the earthquake, blockades and other major economic setbacks.

Present and past committee members presided by Rev. Fr. Zumrookhdian, and Chairman Jerry Baker, are: Arax Movsesian, Gerry Sarkisian, Sebouh Yergatian, Nish Kochian and Zar Der Mugrdechian. Assisting the committee are Dr. Barlow Der Mugrdechian and Levon Karakashian.

**Sub**

**ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM**

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO,  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

**SOURCE** The Armenian Reporter Int'l

**DATE** February 20, 1999

**SUBJECT** Kricorian Introduces New Book

**PAGE** 1 of 1

## **Author Nancy Kricorian to Speak on New Book "Zabelle"**

FRESNO, CA - Author Nancy Kricorian of New York will speak about her new book, *Zabelle*, at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2 at the St. Paul Armenian Church, Haig Berberian Hall, 3767 N. First St., here. The talk is co-sponsored by the St. Paul Armenian Church and the Armenian Studies Program of CSU Fresno.

Nancy Kricorian was raised in Watertown, Massachusetts, which has had a large Armenian community since the 1920's and boasts four Armenian bakeries, three Armenian churches, and two Armenian cultural centers. She grew up in a two-family house with her grandmother in a household very much like the one she described in her novel *Zabelle*. "I used bits and pieces of family history amidst the details and episodes I invented. But my grandmother was the inspiration for the whole thing. Writ-

ing *Zabelle* was a way of keeping her with me in the years after she died."

An award-winning and widely published poet, Nancy Kricorian worked on her first novel for six years. Kricorian's *Zabelle* is an epic tale told with admirable economy and grace. The heroine comes of age in the terrifying last days of Ottoman Turkey. She survives the Armenian Genocide of 1915 and emerges from a period of near starvation in the desert to find a new life in America. The full horror of the suffering endured by the Armenians is powerfully depicted; but so, too, is the almost magical resilience and courage of *Zabelle*.

Copies of *Zabelle* will be available for sale and signing by the author.

The lecture is free and open to the public. More information on the lecture may be obtained by contacting the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669 or St. Paul Armenian Church at 226-6343.

Sub

# ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Observer: Hollywood, CA DATE February 24, 1999  
SUBJECT Saroyan Conference at Fresno State PAGE 1 of 1

## Saroyan at 90

FRESNO - The Conference "Saroyan At Ninety" will be held on Friday and Sunday, Mar 19 and 20 at CSUF organized by the California State University Fresno Armenian Studies Program.

Friday, March 19 evening: dinner/keynote at CSU Fresno campus

Saturday, Morning session: Saroyan the man; and in the Afternoon: Saroyan the writer. Keynote speakers: Hank Saroyan, Aram Kevorkian.

CSUF

ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

SOURCE - ARCHIVE - The California Courier; Glendale, CA

DATE February 25, 1999

SUBJECT Course on Armenian Painting at Fresno State PAGE 1 of 1

## CSUF Offers Weekend Course on Armenian Painting

FRESNO - "Armenian Painting" is one of three classes offered by the Division of Extended Education at California State University, Fresno, for those who are interested in studying foreign cultures.

The class will review the history and development of Armenian painting with special concentration on the art of manuscript illumination and the origins of Christian art.

The six-session course is scheduled for three consecutive weekends: Feb. 26-27, March 5-6, and March 12-13. Friday sessions will meet from 4 to 10 p.m., and Saturday sessions from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The instructor is Dickran Kouymian, coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF, and fee for the course is \$75 non-credit.

To register, call the Division of Extended Education, (559) 278-0333.

Sub

ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

SOURCE

- ARCHIVE -

University Journal; CSU Fresno

DATE March 8, 1999

SUBJECT

Saroyan Conference at Fresno State

PAGE 1 of 1

"Saroyan at Ninety: A Conference and Celebration" Saturday, Mar. 20 — This conference celebrating the life and works of author William Saroyan is free and open to the public. The conference opens at 8:45 a.m. in Industrial Technology 101. Sessions run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.

# U.S. aid at heart of Armenia debate

Valley folks believe Azerbaijan should be shut off; lobbyist tries to change minds.

BY MICHAEL DOYLE  
BEE WASHINGTON BUREAU

**WASHINGTON** — Harold Manselian sells lumber in Fresno. Lawrence Eagleburger deals in global expertise.

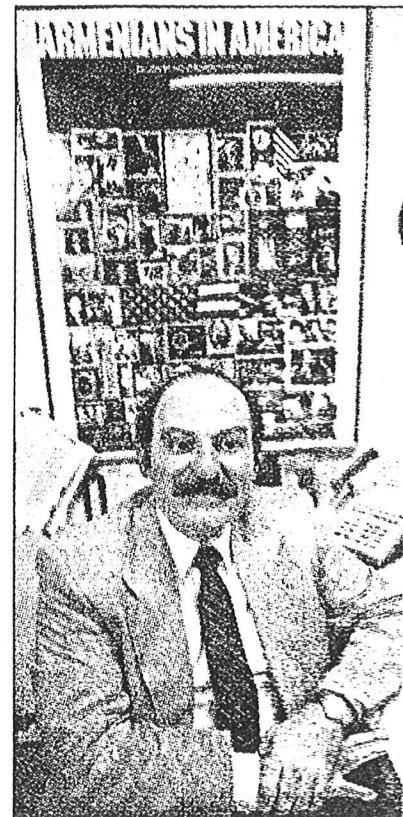
They have little in common, save a competing interest in some faraway countries. Though their match-up seems incongruous, the 81-year-old Manselian and the 68-year-old, well-connected Eagleburger are opposite numbers in a high-stakes, intensely political contest involving big oil, ethnic politics and lobbying galore.

It's not yet clear who holds the upper hand. Manselian and other San Joaquin Valley Armenian-Americans so far have won key battles. Eagleburger, a former acting secretary of state who's now a registered agent for Azerbaijan, is scrambling to catch up.

The lumber dealer and the foreign policy maven are tangling, remotely, over U.S. aid to Azerbaijan. Manselian and several of the other roughly 45,000 Armenian-Americans living in the Valley insist the United States withhold aid from the country that Armenia fought in the early 1990s. The war ended in a troubled peace; Armenia occupies Azerbaijan territory, and Azerbaijan blockades its Armenian border.

"This aid given to Azerbaijan, we're against it,"

Please see **Aid**, Page B2



RICHARD DARBY — THE FRESNO BEE  
Barlow der Mugrdechian, professor of Armenian Studies, says Armenians are making themselves known politically.

# Aid: Debate brewing over Azerbaijan help

Continued from Page B1

Manselian said. "We really attack that quite a bit."

Nor is blocking aid to Azerbaijan the sole priority of the Valley's sometimes formidable, sometimes outgunned Armenian-Americans.

They've helped make Armenia, a country of 4 million, a major recipient of U.S. aid. Less successfully, they've tried persuading Congress to discipline Turkey or to formally commemorate the Armenian genocide in which some 1.5 million Armenians died between 1915 and 1923. Even when they fail, they've earned a reputation for political involvement.

"There are Armenians who are in key positions throughout the Valley," noted Barlow der Mugrdechian, a professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno, "and the lobbying groups in Washington provide backup."

With so many Armenian-Americans living in the Valley, political support for their favored causes tends to become automatic and cross party lines. Republicans George Radanovich of Mariposa and Bill Thomas of Bakersfield and Democrats Cal Dooley of Hanford and Gary Condit of Ceres generally speak with one voice on Armenian issues.

"They've all been so receptive to supporting Armenian-American interests," said Varoujan der Simonian, president of the nonprofit, Fresno-based Armenian Technology Group. "They've been very, very good; they're very sensitive."

In part because of Armenian issues, Radanovich this year took a seat on the House International Relations Committee. He's the Valley's first House member in years to serve on the

"There are Armenians who are in key positions throughout the Valley and the lobbying groups in Washington provide backup."

— Barlow der Mugrdechian, a professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno

foreign relations panel, which tends to be quiet legislatively but attracts lawmakers who need a forum.

At a recent committee hearing, for instance, Radanovich pressed Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to "urge the Turkish government to come to terms" with the Armenian genocide issue. The Armenian National Committee immediately praised Radanovich. It's a more complicated issue for the State Department, which considers Turkey a valued NATO ally and home to an airbase from which U.S. warplanes are flying missions over Iraq.

But then, Valley residents and diplomats have clashed before.

Manselian, president of Fresno-based Farmers Lumber, makes his passions known. Like a number of Valley Armenian-Americans, he's a campaign contributor to Radanovich, giving \$500 last fall. Radanovich collected more than \$7,000 from Armenian-Americans last September and October.

Since his 1994 election, Radanovich has fought to curtail U.S. aid to Azerbaijan. Over State Department objections, Radanovich and his allies have retained anti-Azerbaijan restrictions in the annual foreign aid

bill. The provision, called Section 907, has since 1992 banned direct U.S. aid to the Azerbaijani government, on the grounds that Azerbaijan is refusing to allow goods into Armenia.

"It makes sense morally," Radanovich said. "Any country that receives aid from this country shouldn't block aid from going to another."

Albright said last year that the aid cutoff "damages U.S. national interests." One of her top advisers added that the measure "has done nothing to bring us to a lasting peace" in the region. Jewish lobbying groups, moreover, have weighed in against the aid ban because Israel wants closer ties with both Turkey and Azerbaijan.

A largely Muslim nation of 7.8 million residents, Azerbaijan has compiled a woeful record on human rights. Thus, the U.S. ban on direct government aid is sometimes cast as a human-rights issue.

But Armenia also falls short of U.S. standards. The State Department noted in an annual report that members of the Armenian security forces "routinely beat detainees during arrest and interrogation, [and] made arbitrary arrests and detentions without warrants." Armenian forces, supplied with MiG war-

planes and other equipment from Russia, occupy about one-fifth of Azerbaijan territory.

An estimated 800,000 hungry refugees crowd Azerbaijan, a country the size of Maine.

"What makes me sad is that the Armenian lobby is more concerned with making Azerbaijanis suffer," said Elin Suleymanov, spokesman for the Azerbaijan Embassy. "The most insulting thing about this is that it punishes the victim."

Without grass-roots support, the Azerbaijan government has turned to the next best thing: Washington-based lobbyists. Last September, Justice Department records show, Azerbaijan hired Eagleburger and former Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker. Eagleburger served as President Bush's second secretary of state after a long career as a foreign service officer.

Eagleburger and Baker are paid by the hour, though totals haven't been reported. Azerbaijan also hired two additional lobbying firms that were paid more than \$54,000 last year and whose members reported meeting with staffers for Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and others.

"Azerbaijan is developing its further effort for a more objective presentation of information," Suleymanov said.

The country has won some exceptions to the aid ban and will press again this year to have it eliminated. It hopes to be aided by U.S. energy companies, eager for a piece of an oil field that Azerbaijani officials estimate could be worth \$200 billion.

"Of course," der Simonian said, "Azerbaijan is using its potential oil production for clout in Congress."

SOURCE

The Armenian Observer; Los Angeles, CA

- ARCHIVE -

DATE March 10, 1999

SUBJECT

Saroyan Conference Featured at Fresno State

PAGE 1 of 1

## Saroyan at 90: A Conference and Celebration in Fresno, March 20

FRESNO - On Saturday, March 20, 1999, the Armenian Studies Program at CSU Fresno, and the William Saroyan Society will present a day-long conference to celebrate the life, the literature and the legacy of Fresno's own Pulitzer-Prize winning author and playwright, William Saroyan.

Guest speaker and scholars, including many who walked and talked with Saroyan during his lifetime, will illuminate the man who crafted such vivid pictures of the Valley's people and environment during his creative career.

The conference will be divided into two sessions, the morning about Saroyan the man, and the afternoon, Saroyan the writer. Featured speakers include Mr. Aram J. Kevorkian, Saroyan's lawyer from Paris. Mr. Kevorkian will be traveling from France to share memories and insights about his dear friend. From Hollywood, Saroyan's nephew, filmmaker, producer, Hank Saroyan will share his private musings in a presentation entitled, "Saroyan, the Boy within the Man at Sixty."

Other speakers during the morning session include poet/writer Brenda Najimian-Magarity and her presentation, "Slow Drive, Sweet Saroyan," followed by long-time friend and confidant of Saroyan's, Ed Hagopian, and his presentation, "Three Good Stories About Bill." Mrs. Roxie Moradian, local arts patron and friend of Saroyan's for over forty years will talk about "Saroyan in Love, Marriage, and Divorce." The festivities will include Armenian musical entertainment and an outdoor luncheon of chicken kebab, for \$7.00, at noon.

The afternoon session is devoted to the literature of William Saroyan, including scholarly presentations by masters and doctoral students. Michael Kloster from Berkeley will present his paper, "Saroyan, Joyce, and Every Man," followed by Deanna Garabedian of Fresno, with "Saroyan and the Armenian-American Identity," followed by Michael Krekorian from San Diego, with



"Armenian Trauma and 'The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse.'" Micah Jendian, also from San Diego will present "Saroyan and the Question of Authentic Selfhood," and Michael Kovacs of Las Vegas, with Saroyan's Expressionist Quest: An Exploration of His Early Writings."

The conference will close with a presentation by renowned Saroyan scholar and the Haig and Isabelle Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies and Director of the Meline and Sarkis Kalfaian Center for Armenian Studies at CSUF, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, and his presentation, "Who Reads Saroyan Today?"

The conference begins at 8:45 AM, with conference opening by Dr. John Welty, President, California State University, Fresno. All sessions will take place in Room 101, Industrial Technology Building at CSUF. The conference is free, a luncheon of chicken kebab is \$7.00.

For more information, contact the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF, (559) 278-2669 or the William Saroyan Society at (559) 221-1441.

SOURCE

- ARCHIVE -  
The California Courier; Glendale, CA

DATE March 11, 1999

SUBJECT

ASP Hosts Saroyan Conference

PAGE

1 of 1

## March 20 Conference at CSU Fresno Will Celebrate Saroyan's Life and Legacy

FRESNO - The Armenian Studies Program at CSU Fresno and the William Saroyan Society will present a day-long conference on March 20 to celebrate the life, the literature, and the legacy of Fresno's own Pulitzer Prize-winning author and playwright, William Saroyan.

Guest speakers and scholars, including many who walked and talked with Saroyan, will illuminate the man who crafted such vivid pictures of the Valley's people and environment during his career.

The conference will be divided into two sessions. The morning will feature Saroyan, the man, and the afternoon, Saroyan, the writer. Featured speakers are Aram J. Kevorkian, Saroyan's lawyer from Paris, and Saroyan's nephew, Hollywood filmmaker and producer Hank Saroyan, who will share his private musings in a presentation entitled, "Saroyan, the Boy within the Man at Sixty."

Other speakers during the morning session include poet/writer Brenda Najimyan-Magarity, and her presentation, "Slow Drive, Sweet Saroyan," followed by long-time friend and confidant of Saroyan's, Ed Hagopian, and his presentation, "Three Good Stories About Bill." Roxie Moradian, local arts patron and friend of Saroyan's for over 40 years will talk about "Saroyan in Love, Marriage and Divorce."

The festivities will include Armenian musical entertainment and an outdoor luncheon of chicken kebab, for \$7, at noon.

The afternoon session is devoted to the literature of William Saroyan, including scholarly presentations by masters and doctoral

students. Michael Kloster from Berkeley will present his paper, "Saroyan, Joyce and Everyman," followed by Deanna Garabedian of Fresno, with "Saroyan and the Armenian-American Identity." Michael Krekorian from San Diego will follow with "American Trauma and 'The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse.'" Micah Jendian, also of San Diego, will present "Saroyan and the Question of Authentic Selfhood," and Michael Kovacs of Las Vegas, with "Saroyan's Expressionist Quest: An Exploration of His Early Writings."

The conference will close with a presentation by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, a renowned Saroyan scholar and the Haig and Isabelle Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies and Director of the Meline and Sarkis Kalfian Center for Armenian Studies at CSUF, and his presentation, "Who Reads Saroyan Today?"

The conference begins at 8:45 AM with conference opening remarks by CSUF President Dr. John Welty. All sessions will take place in Room 101, Industrial Technology Building at CSUF. The conference is free.

A special dinner in honor of the invited speakers and guests will be held at the Downtown Club in Fresno the evening preceding the conference at 7 p.m. Hank Saroyan and Aram Kevorkian will be the keynote speakers. Reservations at \$30 per person, with checks made out to the William Saroyan Society, should be sent to 920 E. Yale, Fresno, CA 93704.

For more information, call the Armenian Studies Program, (559) 278-2669.

SOURCE

The Armenian Mirror-Spectator

- ARCHIVE -

DATE

March 13, 1999

SUBJECT

ASP Hoste Saroyan Conference

PAGE

1 of 1

# Saroyan at Ninety: *A Conference & Celebration*

FRESNO, Calif. — On March 20, the Armenian Studies Program at California State University (CSUF) Fresno and the William Saroyan Society will present a day-long conference to celebrate the life, the literature and the legacy of Fresno's own Pulitzer-Prize winning author and playwright, William Saroyan.

Guest speakers and scholars, including many who talked with Saroyan during his lifetime, will illuminate the man who created such vivid pictures of the Valley's people and environment during his creative career.

The conference will be divided into both the morning session about Saroyan the man, and the afternoon session about Saroyan the writer. Featured speakers include Aram J. Kevorkian, Saroyan's lawyer from Paris. Kevorkian will be traveling from France to share memories and insights about his friend. From Hollywood, Saroyan's nephew, the film-maker and producer Hank Saroyan, will share his private musings in a presentation entitled "Saroyan, the Boy Within the Man at Sixty."

Other speakers during the morning session include poet/writer Brenda Najimian-Magarity and her presentation, "Slow Drive, Sweet Saroyan," followed by long-time friend and confidant of Saroyan's, Ed Hagopian, and his presentation, "Saroyan in Grief." Roxie Moradian, local arts patron and friend of Saroyan's for over 40 years, will talk about "Saroyan in Love."

The festivities will include Armenian musical entertainment and an outdoor luncheon at noon.

The afternoon session, devoted to the literature of William Saroyan, will include scholarly presentations by graduate students and young professors. Michael Kloster from Berkeley will present his paper "Saroyan, Joyce and Every Man"; Deanna Garabedian of Fresno will discuss "Saroyan and the Armenian-American Identity"; Michael Krekorian from Fresno State will present "American Trauma and 'The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse'"; Micah Jendian from San Diego will present "Saroyan and the Question of Authentic Selfhood"; and Michael Kovacs of Las Vegas will discuss "Saroyan's Expressionist Quest: An Exploration of His Early Writings."

The conference will close with a presentation by Saroyan scholar and the Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at CSUF, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, and his presentation "Who Reads Saroyan Today?"

The conference begins at 8:45 a.m., and all sessions will take place in Room 101, in the Industrial Technology Building at CSUF. The conference is free, and the luncheon is seven dollars. Further information is available from the Armenian Studies Program.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE

Massis; Glendale, CA

DATE March 13, 1999

SUBJECT

ASP Hosts Saroyan Conference

PAGE 1 of 1

## Saroyan At Ninety: A Conference

Armenian Studies Program, California State University, Fresno and the William Saroyan Society of Fresno invite you to participate in a commemoration of William Saroyan's 90th Birthday entitled:

### SAROYAN AT NINETY: A CONFERENCE AND CELEBRATION

Saturday, March 20, 1999, CSUF Campus 8:45 Conference Opening: Dr. John Welty, President, California State University, Fresno  
9-12:15 Morning Session: Saroyan the Man Panel I. Chair: Stephen Barile Brenda Magarity (Fresno), "Slow Drive, Sweet Chariot" Ed Hagopian (Fresno), "Saroyan in Grief"

Break

Panel II. Chair: Dickran Kouymjian Aram Kevorkian (Paris), "Saroyan and Paris" Roxie Moradian (Fresno), "Saroyan in Love: Marriage and Divorce" Hank Saroyan (Los Angeles), "Saroyan, the Boy within the Man at Sixty"

Luncheon (chicken kebab dinner on campus, reservations the morning of the conference)

2-5 PM Afternoon Session: Saroyan the Writer Panel III. Chair. Barlow Der Mugrdechian Michael Kloster (Berkeley), "Saroyan, Joyce, and 'Everyman'" Deanna Garabedian (Fresno), "Saroyan and the Armenian American Identity" Michael Krekorian (Fresno), "American Trauma and the Summer of the Beautiful White Horse"

Panel IV. Chair. Isabel Kaprielian Micah Jendian (San Diego), "Saroyan and the Question of Authentic Selfhood" Michael Kovacs (Los Vegas), "Saroyan's Expressionist Quest: An Exploration of His Early Writings" Dickran Kouymjian (Fresno), "Who Reads Saroyan Today?"

The Conference is free and open to the public. There is a small cover charge for the luncheon. All sessions will take place in room 101 Industrial Technology Building, on Barstow near Cedar on the CSU Fresno campus.

Meet the speakers: On Friday March 19 at 7 PM there will be a special dinner in honor of the invited speakers and guests at the Downtown Club, Fresno. Keynote speakers will be Hank Saroyan and Aram Kevorkian. Reservations (call for fees) with checks made out to the William Saroyan Society should be sent to 920 E. Yale, Fresno, CA 93704.

For further information: the Armenian Studies Program: (559) 278-2669.

Dickran Kouymjian Haig & Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies Armenian Studies Program California State University, Fresno 5245 N. Backer PB4 Fresno, CA 93740-8001

Tel. 559-278-2669

Fax 559-278-2129

dickrank@csufresno.edu

Visit our web site at <http://www.csufresno.edu/ArmenianStudies/> on which is posted the "Arts of Armenia" with 300 color slides for browsing.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE

The Armenian Reporter Int'l

DATE

March 13, 1999

SUBJECT

Saroyan Conference Featured at FSU

PAGE

1 of 1

## *Saroyan at Ninety: A Conference and Celebration*

FRESNO, CA - On March 20, 1999, the Armenian Studies Program at CSU Fresno, and the William Saroyan Society will present a daylong conference to celebrate the life, the literature and the legacy of Fresno's own Pulitzer Prize-winning author and playwright, William Saroyan.

Guest speakers and scholars, including many who walked and talked with Saroyan during his lifetime, will illuminate the man who created such vivid pictures of the Valley's people and environment during his creative career.

The conference will be divided into two sessions: the morning, about Saroyan the man, and the afternoon, Saroyan the writer. Featured speakers include Mr. Aram J. Kevorkian, Saroyan's lawyer from Paris. Mr. Kevorkian will be traveling from France to share memories and insights about his dear friend. From Hollywood, Saroyan's nephew, film-maker and producer Hank Saroyan will share his private musings in a presentation entitled, "Saroyan, the Boy within the Man at Sixty."

Other speakers during the morning session include poet/writer Brenda Najimian-Magarity and her presentation, "Slow Drive, Sweet Saroyan," followed by Saroyan's longtime friend and confidant, Ed Hagopian, and his presentation, "Saroyan in Grief." Mrs. Roxie Moradian, local arts patron and friend of Saroyan for over forty

years, will talk about "Saroyan in Love."

The festivities will include Armenian musical entertainment and an outdoor luncheon of chicken kebab, at noon.

The afternoon session, devoted to the literature of William Saroyan, will include scholarly presentations by graduate students and young professors, most in their twenties. Michael Klosters from Berkeley will present his paper, "Saroyan, Joyce and Every Man," followed by Deanna Garabedian of Fresno, with "Saroyan and the Armenian-American Identity," and by Michael Krekorian from Fresno State, with "American Trauma and 'The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse.'" Micah Jendian, from San Diego, will present "Saroyan and the Question of Authentic Selfhood," and Michael Kovas, of Las Vegas, with "Saroyan's Expressionist Quest: An Exploration of His Early Writings."

The conference will close with a presentation by Saroyan scholar and the Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at CSUF, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, entitled "Who Reads Saroyan Today?"

The conference begins at 8:45 a.m. and all sessions will take place in Room 101, Industrial Technology Building at CSUF. The conference is free, the luncheon is seven dollars. More information may be obtained by contacting the Armenian Studies Program at (559) 278-2669.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE

The Armenian Observer; Los Angeles, CA

DATE

March 17, 1999

SUBJECT

Avakian Introduces New Book

PAGE

1 of 1

## Author Arra Avakian to Speak on New Book: "Armenia: A Journey Through History" Friday, March 26 in Fresno

FRESNO - On Friday, March 26, 1999, Arra S. Avakian, Sc.D., author, scientist, educator, will be speaking at St. Paul Armenian Church, Haig Berberian hall located at the corner of Dakota and First Streets in Fresno, California.

The evening's program held in conjunction with the publishing debut of *ARMENIA: A Journey Through History*, Dr. Avakian's newest book, will begin at 7:00 p.m. and focus on Armenian historical events, personalities, and places. Ara John Movsesian, poet, architect, will be reciting several poetry selections that are included in the book.

The lecture is co-sponsored by St. Paul Armenian Church and the Armenian Studies Program of CSU Fresno.

Dr. Avakian has, during almost all of his adult life, dedicated himself to writing, giving public lectures, and teaching in the classroom about nearly 3,000 years of Armenia's cultural and political history. He was the first Professor of Armenian Studies at CSU Fresno and has led many tours of Historic Arme-

nia. Dr. Avakian, a deacon of the Armenian Church, has held leadership positions, both locally and nationally, in various Armenian community organizations.

For most people of Armenian, both young and old, there has always been a pressing need to learn about their cultural heritage; their legacy as an ancient people with a highly advanced culture. "Armenia: A Journey Through History" answers that need. In it, Dr. Avakian presents the reader a wealth of information about the Armenian people, their history, their significant events, their important places, and individuals

who did much to make the Armenian nation what it is. The information is given in well over 100 separate stories, each one complete in itself, concise, and easy to read and understand. Illustrations accompanying many of the profiles lend extra vitality to the telling.

Copies will be available for sale and autographing by the author prior to and following the program.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For further information, contact St. Paul Church, at 226-6343 or the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Fresno Bee; Fresno, CADATE March 18, 1999SUBJECT ASO Sponsors Dance and Music FestivalPAGE 1 of 1

## Armenian festival to be Friday

The Armenian Students Organization at California State University, Fresno, will hold an Armenian International Dance & Music Festival at 7 p.m. Friday at the Satellite Student Union.

This event is free of charge, and open to the public.

Relaxed parking has been designated for Parking Lot P.

This event is sponsored by the ASO at Fresno State and the University Student Union Diversity Awareness Program.

Details: 432-8959, 222-2155.

**CSU****ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM****CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740****- ARCHIVE -****SOURCE** The California Courier; Glendale, CA**DATE** March 18, 1999**SUBJECT** Avakian Introduces New Book**PAGE** 1 of 1

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**Dr. Avakian Will  
Speak on Newest  
Book, March 26**

FRESNO -- Author Dr. Arra S. Avakian will speak March 26 at St. Paul Armenian Church, Haig Berberian Hall on his newest book, "Armenia: A Journey Through History."

The 7 p.m. program will focus on Armenian historical events, personalities, and places. Ara John Movsesian, a poet and architect, will be reciting several poetry selections that are included in the book.

The lecture is co-sponsored by St. Paul Armenian Church and the Armenian Studies Program of CSU Fresno.

During most of his adult life, Dr. Avakian has dedicated himself to writing, giving public lectures, and teaching in the classroom about the nearly 3,000 years of Armenia's cultural and political history. He was the first Professor of Armenian Studies at CSUF, and has led many historic tours of historic Armenia.

Copies of "Armenia: A Journey Through History" will be available for sale and autographing by the author prior to and following the program.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, call St. Paul Church at (559) 226-6343, or the Armenian Studies Program at (559) 278-2669

**CSUF****ARMENIAN STUDIES****PROGRAM**

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

**- ARCHIVE -****SOURCE** The California Courier, Glendale, CA**DATE**

March 25, 1999

**SUBJECT** Spring Lecture Series with Hovannisian**PAGE**

1 of 1

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**Dr. Hovannisian,  
Kaiser Will Speak  
At CSUF in April**

FRESNO -- The Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization of California State University Fresno are co-sponsoring two lecture presentations in April on the Armenian Genocide by renowned scholars.

The first lecture on April 8, will feature Dr. Richard Hovannisian, AEF Professor of Modern Armenian History at UCLA, who will speak on the occasion of the publication of his latest book, "Remembrance and Denial: The Case of the Armenian Genocide."

The presentation will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Alice Peters Auditorium, University Business Center, CSUF.

The second lecture, on April 12, at 8 p.m., will feature Hilmar Kaiser, scholar in residence at the University of Michigan, Dearborn.

He will address "The Adana Massacre of 1909," at the McLane Hall, also on campus.

Admission is free for both presentations. For more information call, 559-278-2669.

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SOURCE The Armenian Reporter Int; Fresh Meadows, NY DATE March 27, 1999  
SUBJECT Der Mugrdechian Teaches Course on Armenia PAGE 1 of 1

**CALIFORNIA NEWS - CALIFORNIA NEWS***Der Mugrdechian to  
Teach Course on  
"Armenia Today"*

FRESNO, CA - Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program will be teaching a one-unit weekend course, Armenia Studies 120T-Armenia Today, on Friday, April 9 and Saturday, April 10. The class begins at 5:00 p.m. in the Industrial Technology Building, Room 123.

The course will give students a detailed look at how the Republic of Armenia attained independence on September 21, 1991. A historical background will be presented, examining the period of the first Armenian Republic of 1918. The issue of Karabagh will also be discussed, both in a historical and contemporary context.

*Der Mugrdechian to Teach Course on  
"Armenia Today" - Continued from p. 19*

Recent slides and videos from Armenia will illustrate the current economic and social conditions in Armenia.

Der Mugrdechian, a frequent visitor to Armenia, was most recently there in 1997 and 1998. He teaches Armenian Studies and Language for the Armenia Studies Program at Fresno State.

The course is open to the public for a non-credit fee of \$40. The course may also be taken for credit through Extended Education at Fresno State.

For more information on the course, interested individuals should contact the Armenian Studies Program at (559) 278-2669.

## CALIFORNIA NEWS

**ARMENIAN STUDIES SPRING LECTURE  
SERIES FEATURES RICHARD G.  
HOVANNISIAN AND HILMAR KAISER**

FRESNO, CA - Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian, holder of the AEF Chair of Modern Armenian History at UCLA, will speak on the occasion of the publication of his latest book, *Remembrance and Denial: The Case of the Armenian Genocide*, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 8, 1999 in the Alice Peters Auditorium, University Business Center, on the CSU Fresno campus. Dr. Hovannisian is Professor of Armenian and Near Eastern History at UCLA. The talk is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization of CSU Fresno.

**Remembrance and Denial**, edited by Professor Hovannisian, squarely confronts the denial of the Armenian Genocide by the Turkish government. The latter has expended considerable political and financial resources to suppress the facts surrounding this crime against humanity and has even enlisted American and European academics to rationalize this issue.

In the book, fourteen leading scholars from the United States, Canada, France, England, Germany, and Israel examine the Armenian Genocide from a variety of perspectives to refute those efforts and to show how remembrance and denial have shaped perceptions of the event.

Hovannisian is the author of the four-volume *The Republic of Armenia* and has edited numerous other books dealing with Armenian history and the Armenian Genocide. In 1987, he was appointed the first holder of the Armenian Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Armenian History at UCLA. He has been honored by His Holiness

Karekin I with the Medal of St. Mesrop Mashtots for his contributions to Armenian Studies. In 1990, he was elected to the Armenian Academy of Sciences, becoming the first social scientist living abroad to be so honored. He was the recipient of an honorary doctorate degree from Yerevan State University in 1994.

Copies of *Remembrance and Denial: The Case of the Armenian Genocide* will be on sale for a special price after the talk.

On Monday, April 12, Hilmar Kaiser will speak on "The Adana Massacre of 1909" at 8:00 p.m. in McLane Hall, Room 162 on the Fresno State campus. 1999 is the 90th anniversary of the Adana Massacre, which was a precursor of the 1915 Armenian Genocide.

Kaiser, a doctoral candidate at the European University Institute (Florence, Italy), is a specialist on German-Ottoman relations and the Armenian Genocide and presented a startling talk at CSUF last fall on his experience in the Turkish Archives. He has done extensive archival research in Europe, the Middle East and

the United States and is currently scholar-in-residence at the Armenian Research Center, University of Michigan at Dearborn.

Kaiser has made an important contribution to the study of late Ottoman history, with his book *Imperialism, Racism, and Development Theories: The Construction of a Dominant Paradigm on Ottoman Armenians*, which traces the sources of stereotypical portrayals of Armenians in various schools of Ottoman history-writing.

Both lecture's are free and open to the public. For more information on the lectures or about parking on campus, interested persons should contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Asbarez Daily; Glendale, CA

DATE March 27, 1999

SUBJECT ASP Spring Lecture Series

PAGE 1 of 1

## CSUF Lectures Feature Hovannisian and Kaiser

Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian, holder of the AEF Chair of Modern Armenian History at UCLA, will speak on the occasion of the publication of his latest book, *Remembrance and Denial: The Case of the Armenian Genocide*, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 8 in the Alice Peters Auditorium, University Business Center, on the CSU Fresno campus. Dr. Hovannisian is Professor of Armenian and Near Eastern History at UCLA. The talk is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization of CSU Fresno.

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Kaiser has made an important contribution to the study of late Ottoman history, with his book *Imperialism, Racism, and Development Theories: The Construction of a Dominant Paradigm on Ottoman Armenians*, which traces the sources of stereotypical portrayals of Armenians in various schools of Ottoman history-writing.

Both lectures are free and open to the public. For more information on the lectures or about parking on campus, please contact the Armenian Studies Program at (559)278-2669.

Hovannisian will also give a public lecture in Watertown, Mass. on Saturday, April 17 at 8 p.m. at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center organized by the Tekeyan and Hamazkayin cultural associations. He will be discussing his book in English and in Armenian. Refreshments will be served. The public is cordially invited. Admission is free.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Observer; Los Angeles, CA

DATE March 31, 1999

SUBJECT Saroyan Conference at Fresno State

PAGE 1 of 1

## Saroyan at 90: A Conference and Celebration

By Y. Stephan Bulbulian

FRESNO - William Saroyan, the man and the writer, on his nineteenth year, was celebrated in a daylong conference at California State University, Fresno, on Saturday, March 20, 1999. The William Saroyan Society, and the Armenian Studies Program at the University sponsored the event that featured the writer's nephew, Hollywood producer and director, Hank Saroyan. Another featured speaker was Saroyan's lawyer from Paris, Mr. Aram J. Kevorkian.

The morning session, about Saroyan the man, chaired by Stephen Barile, chairman of the William Saroyan Society, began with Fresno Poet, Brenda Najimian Magarity. She discussed her experiences as Saroyan's chauffeur in the streets of Fresno, in her presentation, "Slow Drive, Sweet Saroyan." Najimian ended her portion by reading her acclaimed poem, "Exit Saroyan."

Ed Hagopian, writer, actor and longtime friend of Saroyan, recounted stories of his exploits with the writer in Paris and Fresno. He talked fondly of their excursion to visit the grave of General Antranik, at a cemetery in Paris.

Kevorkian, both lawyer and friend talked of the tragedies behind the comic mask worn by Saroyan in his life. In his insightful revelations, Kevorkian cautioned the audience to focus on Saroyan the human being, and less on his eccentricities.

### Nephew Hank Saroyan

Mrs. Roxie Moradian, wife of Saroyan's boyhood chum, and herself a forty-year friend spoke fondly of the love the writer felt for his wife and his desire to be a patriarch of an Armenian family. Sadly, she related the pain he suffered in his two divorces from the same woman. She shared many letters written by Saroyan to her and her late husband, Frank.

Nephew, Hank Saroyan divulged many humorous stories from the summer in 1974, when he visited his uncle in Paris. He brought the audience to tears as he told of



writings, focusing on four specific novels

From San Diego, author-lecturer Michael Krikorian analyzed the many parallels reflected in Saroyan's short-stories, in the delivery of his paper, "American Trauma and the 'Summer of the Beautiful White Horse,'" from the book, "My Name is Aram."

The conference reconvened after a short break for the next panel chaired by Isabel Kaprielian, professor of Modern Armenian and Immigration History at CSU Fresno. Micah Jendian, a Master's Student at San Diego State University gave his presentation, an exploration of Saroyan's disdain for manufactured culture, entitled "Having the Time of Your Life."

Michael Kovacs, a lecturer of literature at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, presented his paper, "Saroyan's Expressionist Quest: An Exploration of His Early Writings." Kovac's discussion compared the young writer to other expressionists, Whitman, Kerouac and Ginsberg.

### Emmy Award Winning "The Parsley Garden"

The afternoon session ended with a fitting presentation by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, the Haig and Isabel Berberian Endowed Chair of Armenian Studies and Director of the Armenian Studies Program at CSU Fresno, and his acclaimed paper, "Who Reads Saroyan Today?" In his frank assessment, Kouymjian cast doubt on the appeal of Saroyan's literary achievement and appeal.

The conference ended with the showing of the Emmy award-winning video from William Saroyan's short-story, "The Parsley Garden," directed by Hank Saroyan and filmed in Fresno. As a special treat, the seldom-seen MGM 1942 eleven-minute black and white film short, "The Good Job," written and directed by William Saroyan was shown.

A once-in-ten year conference ended with many satisfied attendees celebrating William Saroyan, the man and the writer.

### Gender Issue in Saroyan's Works

Deanna Mosakhani Garabedian of Fowler, CA, an English teacher at Reedley College gave a detailed presentation entitled, "Saroyan and the Armenian-American Identity: A Reinterpretation of Language and Religion." Her presentation also examined gender issues in Saroyan's

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE

The California Courier; Glendale, CA

DATE April 1, 1999

SUBJECT

ASP Hosts Saroyan Conference

PAGE

1 of 1

## Saroyan's 80th Year Celebrated at CSU, Fresno Conference

By Y. Stephan Bulbulian

FRESNO - William Saroyan, the man and the writer, on his ninetieth year, was celebrated in a daylong conference at California State University, Fresno on March 20. The William Saroyan Society and the Armenian Studies Program at the university sponsored the event that featured the writer's nephew, Hollywood producer and director, Hank Saroyan. Another featured speaker was Saroyan's lawyer from Paris, Aram J. Kevorkian.

The morning session, about Saroyan the man, chaired by Stephen Barile, chairman of the Saroyan Society, began with Fresno poet, Brenda Najimian Magarity. She discuss her experiences as Saroyan's chauffeur in the streets of Fresno, in her presentation, "Slow Drive, Sweet Saroyan."

Ed Hagopian, writer, actor, and longtime friend of Saroyan, recounted stories of his exploits with the writer in Paris and Fresno. He talked fondly of their excursion to visit the grave of General Antranik, at a Paris cemetery.

Kevorkian, both lawyer and friend, talked of the tragedies behind the comic masks worn by Saroyan. In his insightful revelations, Kevorkian cautioned the audience to focus on Saroyan the human being, and less on his eccentricities.

Rosie Moradian, wife of Saroyan's boyhood chum, Frank, and herself a 40-year friend, spoke of the love the writer felt for his wife and his desire to be a patriarch of an Armenian family. Sadly, she related the pain he suffered in his two divorces from the same women. She shared many letters written by Saroyan to her and her late husband.

Nephew Hank Saroyan divulged many humorous stories from the summer in 1974, when he visited his uncle in Paris. He brought the audience to tears as he told of a visit in 1981 to Saroyan's home in Fresno, when the writer was near death. The second panel was chaired by Dickran Kouymjian.

After an outdoor chicken-kebob lunch, sponsored by the Society at the university's O'Neill Park, the afternoon session was held.

Chaired by Barlow Der Mugrdechian, lecturer in the Armenian Studies Program, the session was devoted to Saroyan, the writer, and featured four young Saroyan scholars, all under the age of 30.

The first presenter were Michael Kloster from Berkeley, who drew parallels between Saroyan Joyce and Everyman. The second presenter was Deanna Moosakhanian Garabedian of Fowler, an English teacher at Reedley College, who spoke about "Saroyan and the Armenian-American Iden-

tity: A Reinterpretation of Language and Religion. From San Diego, author-lecturer Michael Krekorian delivered "American Trauma and the 'Summer of the Beautiful White Horse' from the book, "My Name is Aram."

The conference's next panel was chaired by Isabel Kaprielian, professor of Modern Armenian and Immigration History at CSUF. Micah Jencian, a graduate student at San Diego State University, presented "Having the Time of Your Life." Michael Kovacs, a lecturer of literature at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, addressed "Saroyan's Expressionist Quest: An Exploration of His Early Writings."

The afternoon session ended with a fitting presentation by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, the Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies and Director of the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF, and his paper, "Who Reads Saroyan Today?"

The conference ended with the showing of the Emmy-award winning video from William Saroyan's short-story, "The Parsley Garden," directed by Hank Saroyan and filmed in Fresno. As a special treat, the seldom-seen MGM 1942 11-minute black and white film short, "The Good Job," written and directed by William Saroyan, was shown.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE University Journal; CSU Fresno

DATE April 5, 1999

SUBJECT ASO Hosts Dance and Music Festival

PAGE 1 of 1



**Music and dance** combined in a cultural mix at the Armenian International Dance and Music Festival March 19. Dressed in Armenian costumes, the Anoush Armenian Dance Group and the Arax Dancers performed various dances from line dancing to solo ballet. After the dance exhibitions, the Richard Hagopian Ensemble demonstrated different instruments and explained the origins of many variations in Armenian music. Audience members had an opportunity to dance while the ensemble played; the dancing continued while Hy Oozh D.J.s played contemporary Armenian music.

SOURCE

The Armenian Mirror-Spectator; Watertown, MA

- ARCHIVE -

DATE

SUBJECT

Saroyan Conference at Fresno State

PAGE

1 of 1

## Fresno Conference Explores the Tragedies Behind William Saroyan's Comic Mask

By Y. Stephan Bulbulian

FRESNO, Calif. — William Saroyan, the man and the writer, was celebrated on the 90th anniversary of his birth at a daylong conference at California State University, Fresno on March 20.

The William Saroyan Society and the Armenian Studies Program at the university sponsored the event that featured the writer's nephew, Hollywood producer and director Hank Saroyan, and Saroyan's lawyer from Paris, Aram J. Kevorkian.

The morning session, about Saroyan the man, was chaired by Stephen Barile, chairman of the Saroyan Society. It began with Fresno poet Brenda Najimian Magarity, who discussed her experiences as Saroyan's chauffeur on the streets of Fresno in her presentation, "Slow Drive, Sweet Saroyan."

Ed Hagopian, writer, actor and longtime friend of Saroyan, recounted stories of his exploits with the writer in Paris and Fresno. He talked fondly of their excursion to visit the grave of General Antranik at a Paris cemetery.

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by Saroyan to her and her late husband.

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The afternoon session was chaired by Barlow Der Mugrdechian, lecturer in the Armenian Studies Program. The session was devoted to Saroyan, the writer, and featured four young Saroyan scholars, all under the age of 30.

Michael Kloster from Berkeley drew parallels between Saroyan, Joyce and Everyman. The second presenter was Deanna Moosakhanian Garabedian of Fowler, an English teacher at Reedley College, who spoke about "Saroyan and the Armenian-American Identity: A Reinterpretation of Language and Religion." From San Diego, author-lecturer Michael Krekorian delivered "American Trauma and the 'Summer of the Beautiful White Horse' from the book, *My Name is Aram*.

The conference's next panel was chaired by Isabel Kaprielian, professor of Modern Armenian and Immigration History at CSUF. Micah Jendian, a graduate student at San Diego State University, presented "Having the Time of Your Life." Michael Kovacs, a lecturer of literature at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, addressed "Saroyan's Expressionist Quest: An Exploration of His Early Writings."

The afternoon session ended with a presentation by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, director of the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF, on the topic "Who Reads Saroyan Today?"

The conference ended with the showing of the Emmy-award winning video based on William Saroyan's short story, "The Parsley Garden," directed by Hank Saroyan and filmed in Fresno. As a special treat, the seldom-seen MGM 11-minute black-and-white film short, "The Good Job," written and directed by William Saroyan in 1942, was shown.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Fresno Bee; Fresno, CA

DATE April 11, 1999

SUBJECT Hilmar Kaiser to Speak at Fresno State

PAGE

1 of 1

## Armenian scholar at college

Hilmar Kaiser will speak on "The Adana Massacre of 1909" at 8 p.m. Monday in Room 162 at McLane Hall at California State University, Fresno.

Kaiser, a doctoral candidate at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, is a specialist on German-Ottoman relations and the Armenian genocide. He has done extensive archival research in Europe, the Middle East and the United States and is scholar-in-residence at the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan.

A book by Kaiser — "Imperialism, Racism and Development Theories: The Construction of a Dominant Paradigm on Ottoman Armenians" — traces the sources of stereotypical portrayals of Armenians in various schools of Ottoman history-writing.

The lecture is free and open to the public.  
Details: 278-2669.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE University Journal; CSU Fresno, CADATE April 19, 1999SUBJECT Kouymjian Wins Provost's AwardPAGE 1 of 1**Winners of 1999  
Provost's Awards announced**

As this issue of the *Journal* went to press, the winners of the 1999 Provost's Awards for Excellence in Teaching were announced. Winner of the top award, in the category of Teaching Excellence, is Dr. Albert I. McLeod, professor of sociology. Other winners named are Dr. Elizabeth (Sam) Wilkerson, professor of nursing, for use of Educational Technology; Dr. Sudarshan Kapoor, professor of social work education, for Faculty Service; Dr. Diane M. Yerkes, professor of educational research, administration and foundations, for Graduate Teaching and Mentoring; and Dr. Dickran K. Kouymjian, coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program, for Distinguished Achievement in Research. ♦

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The California Courier; Glendale, CA

DATE April 22, 1999

SUBJECT ASO to Hold Genocide Rally at FSU

PAGE 1 of 1

## CSUF Students Will Host Genocide Rally on April 23

FRESNO - The California State University, Fresno, Armenian Students Organization, in conjunction with the Armenian Studies Program will hold its annual rally and demonstration on April 23 to commemorate the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923.

Activities will begin at 12 noon in the Free Speech Area on campus. The keynote speaker is Fresno Mayor Jim Patterson. The rally will also feature student speakers, faculty remarks and a commemoration ceremony.

Students have constructed a replica of the Armenian Martyrs Monument in Yerevan. The monument will be in the free speech area the entire week, beginning April 19.

The rally is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to participate.

For more details, call Arakel Arisian, ASO-President, (559) 432-8959, Matthew Maroot, ASO Vice President, (559) 222-2155, or Barlow Der Mugrdechian, ASO Advisor, (559) 278-4930, or (559) 278-2669.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE

The Fresno Bee; Fresno, CA

DATE

April 23, 1999

SUBJECT

ASO Genocide Event at Fresno State

PAGE

1 of 1

## Armenian genocide events begin

Beginning today, several events will be held to commemorate the Armenian genocide of 1915-1923:

■ Today: Annual rally and demonstration at Fresno State University, free speech area. Sponsored by Armenian Students Organization, with the Armenian Studies Program.

Activities will begin at noon. Fresno Mayor Jim Patterson and Council Member Tom Boyajian are among the featured speakers. Students have constructed a replica of the Armenian Martyr's Monument in Yerevan, Armenia. The rally is open to the public.

■ Saturday: First Armenian Presbyterian Church, 430 S. First St. Events includes a 6 p.m. ecumenical service in the church sanctuary followed by a 7 p.m. civic observance and program.

Dr. Carolann S. Najarian of Cambridge, Mass., is among the guest speakers at the commemoration. Other activities include an Armenian-language keynote address by Fresno physician Berj Kalamkarian; musical program by acclaimed mezzo-soprano Edna Garabedian; dramatic recitation by Jbit Chepkinian; and an Armenian art exhibition by students of the Fresno Art Institute. Events are open to the public.

■ Sunday: Genocide commemoration, 1 to 3 p.m., Ararat-Massis Cemetery, 1925 W. Belmont Ave. Sponsored by Fresno Armenian community. Speakers include Rep. George Radanovich, R-Mariposa, Steve Samuelian and Edward Megercichian. Requiem services for the victims will be conducted by the Rev. Vahan Gosdanian. The procession will be provided by Homenetmen Sassoon Chapter of Fresno and the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church choir. Admission is free.

SUB

ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

SOURCE

- ARCHIVE -  
The Armenian Reporter Int'l; NY

DATE

April 24, 1999

SUBJECT

Genocide Rally at Fresno State

PAGE

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## Armenian Genocide Rally and Commemoration at Fresno State

FRESNO, CA - On Friday, April 23, the California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Organization (ASO), in conjunction with the Armenian Studies Program, will hold its annual rally and demonstration to commemorate the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923.

Activities will begin at 12:00 p.m. in the Free Speech Area on the C.S.U.F. campus. The keynote speaker is Fresno Mayor Jim Patterson. The rally will also feature student speakers, faculty remarks and a commemoration ceremony.

Students have constructed a replica of the Armenian Martyr's Monument in Yerevan, Armenia. The monument will be in the free speech area the entire week, be-

ginning Monday, April 19.

April 24 is the International Day of Remembrance for the victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923. During that time, more than 1.5 million Armenians were massacred by the Ottoman Turkish government. Still today, the Turkish Government denies responsibility for the Armenian Genocide.

The rally is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to participate.

Any further questions can be directed to: Arakel Arisian, ASO President: (559) 432-8959; Matthew Maroot, ASO Vice President: (559) 222-2155; Barlow Der Mugrdechian, ASO Advisor: (559) 278-2669.

# Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Honored at Cal State Program

By Matthew Maroot

Hye Sharzhoon Staff Writer

FRESNO, Calif. — Over 350 honored guests, faculty, distinguished community members and students gathered on the evening of December 10 to attend the California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program's thirteenth annual banquet.

The guest of honor was Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem. This year, the evening began with a reception celebrating the exhibit in the Lyles Gallery of the John Wright Theatre by Ara F. "Corky" Normart, Jr. titled, "The Dome of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem." Normart, a Fresno resident, designed the newly restored dome of what is the holiest site in all of Christendom.

The original dome, constructed in the mid-1800s, was double-walled and of Russian design. Through the years, earthquakes, fires and warfare left the dome severely damaged. Then in 1970, the outer and inner walls of the dome were removed in anticipation of its restoration. The original framework was found to be still intact and structurally sound. Financed by an individual

from New York, the restoration project took two and a half years to complete.

After the reception, the attendees moved to the Satellite Student Union where they were greeted by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian professor of Armenian Studies and director of the Armenian Studies Program. Following an invocation by Father Sasoon Vartabed Zumrookhdian, pastor of Saint Paul Armenian Church, guests viewed a slide show titled, "Jerusalem: The Holy City," prepared by Arlene Srabian, of the Armenian Studies Program Advisory Board and also by Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program.

While the guests enjoyed a dinner prepared by University Catering and guest chef Stanley

see MANOOGIAN, page 8



Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, director of California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program, left, with honored guest Archbishop Torkom Manoogian of the program's 13th annual banquet.

## Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Honored at Cal State Program

MANOOGIAN, from page 7

Kouymjian, Steve Samuelian, district director for Congressman George Radanovich, introduced several of the distinguished guests present at the banquet including: State Senator Chuck Poochigian, Fresno Mayor Jim Patterson, Fresno City Councilmen Carry Bredefeld, Dan Ronquillo, Sal Quintero, and Fresno County Sheriff Richard Pierce. In addition, Samuelian thanked the benefactors and patrons of the Armenian Studies Program for their generous support and extended a special token of gratitude to Kouymjian, who for 22 years has worked

to bring the Armenian Studies Program the success that it enjoys today.

"We are the largest Armenian Studies Program in the United States. We have three full-time faculty members, more than any other university. And we have and always have had the largest number of students to teach. Therefore, on the map of Armenian academics, Fresno State is number one in terms of the size of the program," Kouymjian said.

Dr. Sasan Rahmatian, professor of information systems at Fresno State, provided musical entertainment for the evening on the piano,

and the Armenian Community School of Fresno Choir performed under the direction of music teacher Shoghakat Papoyan.

Fresno State President Dr. John Welty also spoke at the banquet. In addressing Archbishop Manoogian, Welty declared, "This is one of the most significant nights in the history of our university. Your presence here at the 13th annual banquet signifies not only to this program, but to the university, the importance of the work we do here."

In his address, Archbishop Manoogian said, "It is difficult to talk about Armenians in

Jerusalem in a brief time. However, I will limit myself by saying that the education, the cultural work that is being done in this college, in Fresno, is an expression of the spirit that we call the Armenian spirit." His Beatitude spoke of the history of the Armenian Church and its place in the history of Christianity. He also underlined the ability of the Armenian people to uphold their religion in the face of adversity.

Fresno Mayor Jim Patterson expressed his appreciation to Archbishop Manoogian for his visit and presented him with an official "Key to the City."

# University notes promotion, awards

BY JOHN G. TAYLOR  
THE FRESNO BEE

One key appointment and several major awards have been announced as graduation season nears at California State University, Fresno.

■ J. Michael Ortiz has been appointed formally as provost and vice president of academic affairs, after serving in that position on an interim basis for nearly two years.

Ortiz oversees academic policies and personnel. It's the No. 2 post at the college. Ortiz will serve as acting university leader in the absence of President John D. Welty.

Ortiz, 51, was one of three finalists after a national search. He replaces Alexander Gonzalez, who was appointed president of CSU San Marcos.

Ortiz joined Fresno State as associate provost in 1996. Previously, he was interim provost at the University of Southern Colorado.

■ California Secretary of State Bill Jones has been

named 1999 Distinguished Alumnus.

Jones will be honored at the Fresno State commencement May 22 in Bulldog Stadium. A public reception in his honor will be held at 4:30 p.m. May 21 at the university Foundation board room, 4910 N. Chestnut.

He graduated from then-Fresno State College in 1971 with a degree in agricultural business. He was also student body president.

Jones, a Mendota rancher, has gained recognition in Sacramento for boosting the "Three Strikes and You're Out" law.

Daniel Bartell, dean of the Fresno State School of Agriculture, said Jones "has spent much of his career working to ensure the industry in which he grew up remains a vibrant part of the California economy."

■ At the same commencement at which Jones is honored, Fresno State will bestow honorary doctoral degrees on Fresnan Hugo Morales, founder and director of Radio Bilingue,

and Paul O'Neill of Pittsburgh, chairman of the board of Alcoa.

Harvard-educated Morales is a former La Raza Studies program lecturer at Fresno State. He runs the nation's only Spanish-language public-radio network.

O'Neill received his bachelor's degree in economics from Fresno State in 1961. He has served on numerous corporate boards and community institutions.

■ Five Fresno State instructors have been selected for Awards for Excellence in Teaching, the university's highest academic honor for faculty.

The recipients are Albert McLeod, professor of sociology; Elizabeth H. Wilkerson, professor of nursing; Diane Yerkes, professor of educational research; Sudarshan Kapoor, professor of social work education; and Dickran Kouymjian, professor of Armenian studies.

The awards, which include a cash prize, will be presented May 13 by Ortiz.

**SUB****ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FR  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Mirror-Spectator; Watertown, MADATE May 1, 1999SUBJECT Kouymjians Speak on Mississippi CruisePAGE 1 of 2

# *Hayr Mer* On the Mississippi

By Mary Terzian

We were steamboating on the third Armenian Heritage Cruise, aboard "The American Queen," to get a glimpse of the South and our own Armenian roots. Our group of 80 included mature couples and individuals, with the exception of one family who had brought their teenaged children as well.

We all had Armenian ties, congregating from the East and West Coast and a few states in between — imported or born in America — with political and religious inclinations as diverse as our origins. We had come to rest from daily pressures and to socialize in a congenial environment.

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian of California State University, Fresno, and his wife, Angele, with

their extensive knowledge of Armenian and Middle Eastern history, kept us immersed in our Armenian heritage. We enjoyed lectures on manuscripts, book bindings, rugs, Simeon Lehatsi of Bolis and the formation of the Ottoman Empire, supplemented with visual aids. Armen Aroyan, the organizer and catalyst who started the cruise tradition, provided a supply of films and books on Armenian themes, including the "Wall of Silence." Samples of Armenian embroidery were displayed and commented upon by Rosemarie Kalemkiarian. "How to Select a Wine" by Paul Kalemkiarian from Julian, whetted our appetites for lunch. Berge Bulbulian expounded on Fresno Armenians while we paddled along.

As we grew to know each other around the dinner tables and in the cozy lounges, conversation flowed in a patois of English, Western and Eastern Armenian, with a spattering of Turkish and Arabic. *Tavloo* or backgammon, bridge, Scrabble and exchanges of jokes, represented our various concepts for entertainment.

Palm Sunday loomed close in between the antebellum homes, the plantations of the South and the battlefield of Vicksburg. No one was prepared to handle the celebration but, in our tradition of stubborn followers of Vartan, we would not be intimidated, even by the mighty Mississippi, to celebrate Mass when it was due.

Word ran through the group that we would meet in the Engine Room Bar, at 8:30 a.m. on



Attendees at Mass on "The American Queen."

# ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

# ARMENIAN STUDIES

# PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Mirror-Spectator; Watertown, MA

DATE May 1, 1999

SUBJECT Kouymjians Speak on Mississippi Cruise

PAGE 2 of 2

Sunday morning, the only location available on the ship at that time for group activity, Armen Aroyan, Richard Darmanian, Mary Hogikian, Beatrice Klijian, Hagop Kurdoghlian and Sonya Manjikian made up the choir, following the lead of pianist Annig Zindarsian. Bedros Kaprielian served as deacon and John Vosbigian's sermon won a better valuation "than our parish priest, between you and me," according to one cruiser. The "kiss" of peace circulated during this Armenian ecumenical service, culminating in a *Hayr Mer* sung by all.

Through the help of the purser's office, Bedros Kaprielian and Hagop Kurdoghlian had contacted St. Mary's Catholic Church at Vicksburg, in search of palm or olive branches. The church graciously provided the palm leaves for free. Our ingenious ladies — Shaki Atchian, Alice Garabedian, Mary Hogikyan and Hrantouhi Kaprielian — made crosses out of palm branches which they distributed to the worshippers.

Our trip was more than a cruise. It was nourishment for the soul, an emotional revival.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Mirror-Spectator; Watertown, MA

DATE

May 1, 1999

SUBJECT Author Kricorian Speaks on New Book

PAGE

1 of 1

## Kricorian Goes Beneath Surface With *Zabelle*

**By Matthew Maroot**

PRESNO, Calif. — Nancy Kricorian, poet and author, presented her latest work titled *Zabelle* earlier this month at St. Paul Armenian Church here. This stop on Kricorian's current book tour was presented by St. Paul Armenian Church and the California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program.

Kricorian graduated magna cum laude with a degree in comparative literature from Dartmouth University before earning a master's degree in the writing at Columbia University.

She then went on to teach at Columbia University and a number of other prestigious universities, including Yale and Rutgers.

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, director of the CSU Armenian Studies Program described the unique perspective that poets and their work bring to their literary audiences.

"It is usually through the words of the poet that we find out where we've been and where we're going. It is through the poet that we understand a little better what life ought to mean to us," Kouymjian said.

Kricorian said she turned to fiction to express things that are sometimes hard to compress into poetry. She chose for her first novel, a story about a very strong woman, Zabelle Chahasbanian.

It took Kricorian six years to complete this novel while juggling her marriage, two small children and her own business. Kricorian operated a scouting business, representing European publishers but recently closed it to focus on her writing career.

Kricorian was enthusiastic about stopping in Fresno.

"I wanted to come to Fresno because I've always thought of Fresno as a sister city to Watertown. All of the Armenians came to Watertown to the factories and they came to Fresno to the fields," Kricorian said.

In response to audience inquiry regarding a possible film version of the book, Kricorian deferred the question to a comment her husband James Schamus, a New York film producer, made to a *San Francisco Chronicle* book reviewer.

"She has written a book that resists the logic of late capitalist film production," Schamus said.

"You can't make a movie out of this. I wasn't looking for a movie deal anyway," Kricorian said.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter Int.; Fresh Meadows, NY DATE May 1, 1999SUBJECT Armenian Studies Program Annual FundPAGE 1 of 1

## ***ANNUAL FUND DRIVE GOAL AT CSUF ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM WITHIN REACH***

FRESNO, CA - Director of the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF, Prof. Dickran Kouymjian reported on alumni response to the Annual Fund Drive which began in October of 1998. Donations in the amount of \$20,500 have been received, which is two-thirds of the way to the goal of #30,000. "Your gift is important to our students and the Armenian Studies Program," he tells supporters.

"Many of you attended our Annual Banquet last December

with special guest, His Beatitude Torkom Manoogian, Patriarch of Jerusalem. Since then, the Armenian Studies Program, as an heir to the estate of the Fresno artist Varaz Samuelian, has acquired the largest part of his artistic legacy.

In December and January, Barlow, Der Mugrdechian and Prof. Kouymjian, with the assistance of members of the Armenian Studies Organization, moved the art from San Francisco and Samuelian's home into commercial storage in Fresno. It

awaits conservation and a proper home and has already cost the Program some \$4,000.

"Though the inventory is still incomplete, there are about 500 paintings, several thousand drawings, sketchbooks, lithographs, engravings, and nearly 100 sculptures, which will require both time and additional money to be catalogued and preserved," says Kouymjian.

The Program's primary purpose is, of course, teaching Armenian studies. He reports that enrollment is up to 160 students in this spring semester, spread over ten courses taught by a faculty of four: Isabel Kaprielian, Barlow, Der Mugrdechian, Michael Krekorian, and himself. The members represent both the largest faculty teaching Armenian studies in the United States and by far, the largest number of students enrolled in Armenian courses on the university level. Without the public's continuing support, this simply would not be possible.

Donors may write c/o Armenian Studies Program, Leon S. Peters Building, 5245 North Backer Ave. M/S PB4, Fresno, CA 93740-8001.



Rouben Mamoulian

## Cal State, Fresno Professor Remembers Rouben Mamoulian

By Matthew Maroot

FRESNO, Calif. — When discussing prominent motion picture directors in today's day and age we often hear names like Steven Spielberg, Francis

Ford Coppola or Martin Scorsese. Take that discussion back a few decades and you're likely to hear names such as Ernst Lubitsch, Fritz Lang and Rouben Mamoulian.

To honor the centenary of Mamoulian's birth, the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, offered a course titled "Armenian Studies 120T: The Films of Rouben Mamoulian," as a tribute to the career of this magnificent director. In this course, taught by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, students watched 15 of Mamoulian's films, each a masterpiece in its own right.

Dr. Kouymjian was invited to Yerevan in October 1997 by the Armenian Ministry of Culture and the American University of Armenia to present a 10-day film festival on Mamoulian on the occasion of his centenary. "The excitement engendered by the 12 Mamoulian feature films shown in the cinema house in the Armenian capital was more than even the organizers expected. Audiences averaged 300 a showing and for many days there were after screenings at the AUA auditorium," said Kouymjian. On his decision to teach a film course strictly devoted to Mamoulian's films, he noted, "Mamoulian's 100th anniversary has passed essentially unremarked in the US; by the Armenians and the American film industry, it seemed important and natural that I devoted my film course to Mamoulian this year."

Born on October 8, 1898 in Tiflis, Mamoulian began his early studies at the Universities of Moscow and London, as well as the Vakhtangov Studio of the Moscow Art Theatre. After arriving in America in 1923, Mamoulian began what would become a successful directing career, eventually working on Broadway. "Mamoulian was called to Rochester, N.Y. by George Eastman, the founder of Kodak, to head up his American Opera Theatre. Not yet 25 years old, Mamoulian directed 12 operas in three years, then went on to a Broadway career, directing again a dozen plays in the following three years," said Kouymjian.

After establishing himself as a successful Broadway director, Mamoulian was lured to the big screen in 1929 by Jesse Lasky and Walter Wanger of Paramount Studios. "The advent of "talkies" created a big push for directors, and Mamoulian's immense talents also made him a top choice. According to Kouymjian, Mamoulian's experience working with actors and the theatre was impressive, thus enabling him to apply what he had learned in the theatre to film."

Therefore in 1929, Mamoulian began production on what would be his first major motion picture, and one of America's first "talkies," *Applause*. The film was produced and directed at Paramount's Astoria Studios in New York and starred Helen Morgan as Kitty Darling, an aging burlesque star attempting to raise her daughter in a proper environment. In this film, he contributed much to the future of cinematography. It was one of the first sound musicals and was shot with a great deal of realism, one aspect that was common to many of Mamoulian's films. In addition, Mamoulian chose to film many scenes outdoors and on location, no easy task given the cumbersome filming equipment used in the 1920s.

see TRIBUTE, page 13

# Provost cites outstanding faculty

by Mary Lisa Russell

Five Fresno State faculty members last week were selected for the Provost's Awards for Excellence in Teaching — the university's highest academic honors for faculty.

Dr. Albert McLeod, professor of sociology; Dr. Elizabeth H. Wilkerson, professor of nursing; Dr. Sudarshan Kapoor, professor of social work education; Dr. Diane Yerkes, professor of educational research, administration, and foundations; and Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, professor of Armenian studies, will be honored for their contributions to Fresno State this year.

The awards will be presented by Dr. J. Michael Ortiz, provost and vice president for academic affairs, on Thursday, May 13. Each professor will receive a cash award as part of the citation.

McLeod, who has been with the university since 1968, will receive the overall Excellence in Teaching Award and \$2,000. He earned his B.A. degree from Evangel College, his M.A. from the University of Omaha, and his Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska.

Noted for his popular course "Interpersonal Relationships," McLeod says he thinks of his classroom as a "learning field." Colleagues say his unconventional methods of teaching and grading students have earned him respect and admiration.

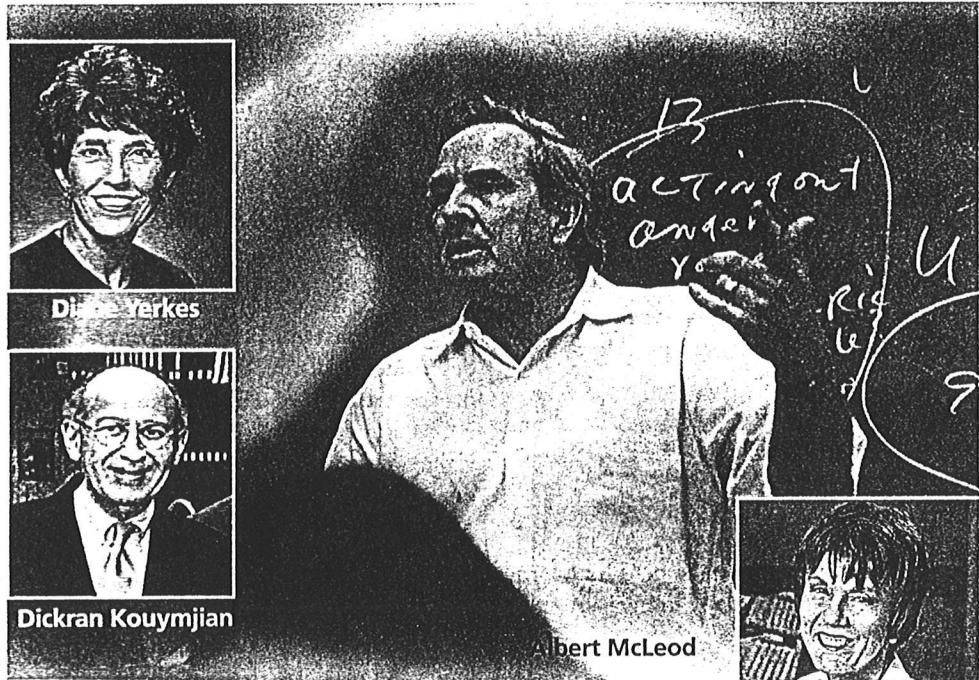


Photo by Eusebio Arias

"Professor McLeod's classes were the best of the best," said former student Pamela Alexander. She said McLeod encourages his students to continually experiment and challenge themselves.

Other former students who supported him in his nomination said that McLeod doesn't just lecture about learning, but awakens their ability to think more critically and thoroughly.

McLeod encourages his students to pay attention to their "whole" selves — spirit, body, mind, and environment. Helping

*As a means to recognize outstanding and talented faculty, the Provost's Awards for Excellence in Teaching were first presented during the 1993-94 academic year. Given in five categories, the awards are considered the university's highest faculty honors.*



Sudarshan Kapoor

*Continued on page 2*

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE

University Journal; CSU Fresno

DATE

May 3, 1999

SUBJECT

Kouymjian Recognized for Provost's Award

PAGE

2 of 2

*Continued from cover*

## Provost's Awards

students grow and develop, what he terms "emotional intelligence," besides just educating them, is an important accomplishment, said McLeod.

Kapoor, a faculty member since 1967, will receive \$1,000 for the Excellence in Teaching Award for Faculty Service. An internationally recognized peace advocate, Kapoor is also responsible for initiating the Peace Garden on campus. He earned his B.A. from DAV College (India), an M.A. from Delhi School of Social Work, and his master of social work and doctor of philosophy degrees from Florida State University.

Yerkes, who arrived at Fresno State in 1990, will receive \$1,000 for the Excellence in Teaching Award for Graduate Teaching and Mentoring. Well known for using the portfolio assessment approach, Yerkes is also noted for her devotion to her students. She earned her B.A. degree from the University of Kentucky, her M.A. from San Diego State University, and Ed.D. from the United States International University.

Wilkerson will receive \$1,000 for the Excellence in Teaching Award for Educational Technology. She has been a member of the faculty since 1986. An innovator in the use of computers and technology to enhance teaching and learning, Wilkerson is also known for her expertise in critical care and pathophysiology. She earned her B.S. in nursing from Fresno State and her Ph.D. from the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

Kouymjian is the recipient of \$1,000 for the Excellence in Teaching Award for Distinguished Achievement in Research — the first time an award in this category has been given. An international expert in Armenian studies, Kouymjian also holds the Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair in Armenian Studies. He received his B.S. from the University of Wisconsin, his M.A. from the American University of Beirut, and his Ph.D. from Columbia University.

The Provost's Awards for Excellence in Teaching recipients are selected by a committee composed of representatives from the university community. ♦

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Nor Gyank; Glendale, CADATE May 6, 1999SUBJECT Dr. Kouymjian on Mississippi CruisePAGE 1 of 3

## Mississippi River Cruise on the American Queen Blends Histories of Confederacy and Armenia

By Seda G. Marootian



Participants in the third Armenian cultural legacy cruise

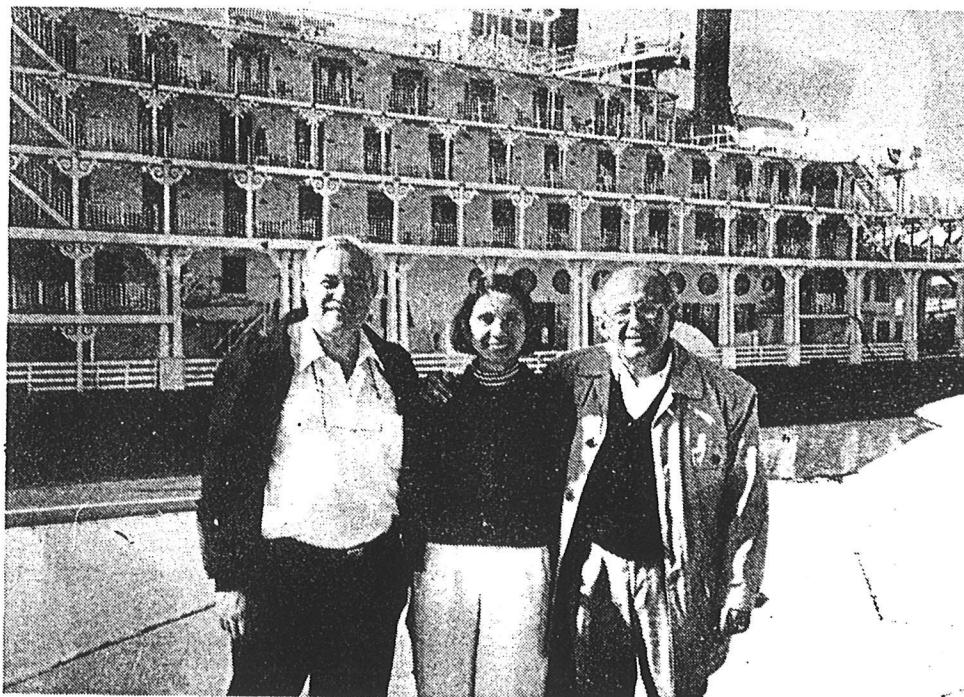
Aboard the Mississippi River American Queen steamboat during the last week in March, tour director Armen Aroyan of Monrovia, California, with 74 passengers of Armenian descent from eight states, celebrated the Third Armenian cultural Legacy Cruise of the Armenian Heritage Society. Forty-four passengers were repeaters, having cruised with Aroyan to the Caribbean/Panama Canal, and the Mexican Riviera in past years.

The week-long trip beginning in New Orleans, and terminating in Memphis, Tennessee, featured on-board seminars led by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian of Fresno State

University, who addressed several topics like "The Art and Craft of Armenian Manuscripts," "Armenian Textiles Encompassing Inscribed Carpets, Embroidery and Liturgical Vestments," and "Armenian Claims." His wife, Dr. Angele Kouymjian of Paris, presented portions of her dissertation on Constantinople in 1608-09.

The steamboat's theatre on the Texas Deck was also the setting for a number of film screenings, including the Academy Award winner, Atom Egoyan's "the Sweet Hereafter," "The Calendar" and "The Wall of Silence" a documentary on Armenian historian Vahakn Dadrian and Turkish his-

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Nor Gyank, Glendale, CADATE May 6, 1999SUBJECT Dr. Kouymjian on Mississippi CruisePAGE 2 of 3

Left to right, Armen Aroyan, Angele Kouymjian and Dr. Dickran Kouymjian

torian Taner Akcam, produced and directed by Dorothee Erma of the Humanist Broadcasting Foundation in the Netherlands. The 53-minute documentary focused on Akcam who is the first reputable Turkish historian to acknowledge the Genocide. On a lighter side, the late/movie director Rouben Mamoulian's "Silk Stockings" starring Fred Astaire and Cyd Charisse was shown on the final night of the cruise.

Tour director Aroyan had also brought a video of his last year's pilgrimage to the village of Shepig near Arapkir, historical Armenia, which had an emotional impact on the audience viewing the Armenian-

Americans returning to the homeland only to find traces of their ancestors in a barren, hostile country.

The majestic American Queen, built in 1995, laden with the richness of America's Victorian era, is the largest paddlewheeler ever constructed. For a week, it was home to the nearly 400 passengers cruising at eight miles an hour up the mighty and muddy Mississippi. Azaleas, magnolias, wisteria and dogwoods were in full bloom gracing the preserved antebellum mansions which were opened to visitors during the Spring Pilgrimage.

Continued on Page 26

## Mississippi River Cruise

Continued from Page 23

In Natchez, Mississippi, docents from the Natchez Garden Club dressed in hoop-skirted gowns reminiscent of Scarlet O'Hara were gracious hostesses exuding southern hospitality.

Palm Sunday was not forgotten as Aroyan arranged for services in the Engine Room Bar of the American Queen. Following an abbreviated badarak conducted by Bedros Kaprielian of Daly City, and piano accompaniment by Annig Zindasian of San Francisco, a Palm Sunday message was delivered by John Vosbigian of Los Angeles.

Following the services, Berge Bulbulian of Fresno recapped highlights of his soon-to-be-published book, "The History of the Fresno Armenians." The work covers early immigration in the sixteen hundreds and a study of the first Armenian settlers in the eighteen hundreds. The pioneer families mentioned include Mardiros Yanikian (Frank Normart), the Seropians from Marsovan and the Sarkis Minassians. Other chapters describe Fresno Armenians in business, politics, education, churches, and agriculture among others.

The presence of the Armenian Heritage Society was evident in the Grand Saloon Ballroom when Chuck Easterling and the Steamboat Syncopators caught on the Armenian tunes and accompanied the line dancers. Gathering around the grand piano in the foyer was also a popular activity for the group singing all the old popular songs from the '30s on.

Vicksburg, Mississippi, next to the last port, proved to be another history lesson on the Civil War. A visit to the Vicksburg National Military Park was a grim reminder of the casualties. After General Ulysses S. Grant's siege, and Admiral Porter's gunboats cut off communications and blasted the city from the river, the city officially surrendered to the Union on July 4, 1863.

Thus, from American history of the South and the Civil War to the seminars of Dickran and Angele Kouymjian, film, videos, and a lecture on wine and Armenian embroidery by Paul and Rosemary Kalemkarian, respectively, the week ended in Memphis, all too soon. Dining in the elegant Victorian hall, enjoying musical shows each night on board, visiting port cities of St. Francisville, Natchez and Vicksburg, would all be memories of a unique vacation. It was an opportunity to meet Armenians from different regions of the country, and also enjoy the company of Armenians one knows casually but never has found the time to relax and visit.

At the Memphis air terminal, Society participants were asking tour director Aroyan where next year's cruise would take place. Alaska, Black Sea, the Mediterranean, the Volga River? Is it possible to cruise Lake Sevan? Needless to say, wherever the next cruise will be, it is bound to be fulfilling, educational and fun.

SOURCE Nor Gyank; Glendale, CA

PAGE 1 of 1

SUBJECT Nancy Kricorian Lectures at CSU Fresno

## Nancy Kricorian In Fresno

By Matthew Maroot  
Hye Sharzhoom Staff Writer

FRESNO, CA- Nancy Kricorian, poet and author, presented her latest work titled "Zabelle" earlier this month at St. Paul Armenian Church in Fresno, California.

This stop on Kricorian's current book tour was presented by St. Paul Armenian Church and the California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program.

Kricorian began her educational career at Dartmouth University where she graduated magna cum laude with a degree in comparative literature before earning a Master of Fine Arts degree in the writing program at Columbia University.

She then went on to teach at Columbia

University and a number of other prestigious universities including Yale and Rutgers.

Kricorian has taught a number of university courses including composition, introduction to literature, and poetry and creative writing seminars. Kricorian's own early literary work consisted largely of poetry. In introducing Nancy Kricorian, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Director of the C.S.U.F. Armenian Studies Program described the unique perspective that poets and their work bring to their literary audiences.

"It is usually through the words of the poet that we find out where we've been and where we're going. It is through the poet that we understand a little better what life ought to mean to us," Kouymjian said.

Continued on page 26

## Nancy Kricorian In Fresno

Continued from page 24

A widely published and award-winning poet, Kricorian's poetry has been published in various publications including Ararat magazine. She has received a number of literary prizes including the Ararat Short Story Award in 1997, and she is the latest recipient of the Columbia University Advisory Board \$5,000 Award.

Kricorian said she turned to fiction to express things that are sometimes hard to compress into poetry. She chose for her first novel, a story about a very strong woman, Zabelle Chahasbanian.

"Zabelle" is an elegantly written first-person story of one woman's life and times, beginning with her childhood in Hadjin, Turkey to her death in Watertown, Massachusetts.

It took Kricorian six years to complete this novel while juggling her marriage, two

small children and her own business. Kricorian operated a scouting business representing European publishers but recently closed it to focus on her writing career.

Kricorian was enthusiastic about stopping in Fresno as part of her West Coast paperback tour.

"I wanted to come to Fresno because I've always thought of Fresno as a sister city to Watertown, "All the Armenians came to Watertown to the factories and they came to Fresno to the fields," Kricorian said.

One reason Kricorian gives for writing "Zabelle" is that she sought to expand her appeal to a broader audience by writing something longer since poetry has such a small following.

Perhaps Kricorian's greatest influence to write "Zabelle" came from her grandmother's death. In fact, Kricorian took details from her grandmother's life and the lives of other Armenian women to

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Dr. Hovannisian Featured Speaker at FSU

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## Dr. Richard Hovannisian: Tireless Fighter for Genocide Remembrance and Recognition

FRESNO, CA - One of the world's foremost experts on Armenian History, Dr. Richard Hovannisian, spoke on Thursday, April 8, 1999 on the occasion of the publication of his latest work, *Remembrance and Denial: The Case of the Armenian Genocide*.

Dr. Hovannisian holds the AEF Chair of Modern Armenian History at UCLA where he has taught for over 35 years. "Richard Hovannisian has shown us what ought to be done and what can be done with the study of Armenian History," Dr. Dickran

Kouymjian said. "He has been a tireless champion of bringing the truth forward, on the Genocide and on fighting against the denial and the negation of the Genocide," Dr. Kouymjian said.

According to Wayne State University Press, the publisher of Dr. Hovannisian's lastest work, *Remembrance and Denial* "squarely confronts the denial of the Armenian Genocide by the Turkish government, which has expended considerable political and financial resources to repress the facts surrounding this event and even enlisted Armenian and European pseudo-academics to neutralize the issue."

Among the many contributors to this volume are Stepan Astourian, Ara Sarafian, Hilmar Kaiser and Levon Marashlian, all active participants in the study of Armenian Genocide.

Hovannisian's work details the Armenian Genocide in a new light by revealing many issues surrounding the Genocide which have gone largely unpublished. Hovannisian draws a strong comparison with the Holocaust in his latest volume, in addition to an extensive discussion which explores the denial of the Armenian Genocide by the Turkish government, quite possibly the most damaging wound left by the Genocide of 1915-1923.

"We are in what I would say the struggle of remembrance against forgetting," Dr.

By Matthew Maroot  
Hye Sharzhoom Staff Writer

Hovannisian said. "The way to keep the battle going is through remembrance because as long as you remember and as long as you can make other people remember, then the struggle of the battle goes on."

Dr. Hovannisian states that the study and the openness in speaking about the Genocide only began in the mid-1960s, some 50 years after the massacres took place. He believed this is because the Armenians who experienced the Genocide firsthand internalized much of their grief as they spent all of their energy on putting their lives back together. Thus, it was not only until the children of the victims came of age that the Genocide discussion became more prominent and political activity on this issue began.

Another factor for the internalization of the terrors of the Genocide came from what Dr.

Hovannisian called a rush to assimilation. As Armenians fled their homeland and settled throughout the world, they were forced to repress their heritage, culture and history in order to become more quickly assimilated into their new cultures.

Dr. Hovannisian's work provides a firm platform on which Armenians can continue their undying quest to gain recognition for the heinous events of 1915-1923. More than 1.5 million Armenians lost their lives in the first Genocide of the twentieth century yet many, including the Turkish government, continue to deny its very occurrence. Fortunately, however, the work of Dr. Richard Hovannisian has helped keep the Genocide on the minds and in the hearts of those who remember its horrors all too well. But more importantly, his work serves as a powerful reminder to those who have heretofore ignored the Genocide or failed to honor its victims.

SOURCE

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Saroyan Conference

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## CSUF Conference Celebrates Saroyan at 90: His Profound Attachment to All Humankind and Distinct Individualism

FRESNO, CA - Eleven speakers in six hours delivered a rich mix on William Saroyan, the man and the writer (who would have turned 91 on May 18). Well over 100 people attended the March 20 event here on the Cal State campus. In his welcome, coordinator Dickran Kouymjian of the Armenian Studies Program reviewed the writer's campus visits, mostly to his collections and the Theater Arts Department. Although Saroyan had met with University officials at his Griffith Way houses and told Dr. Hack, "All this is for the University," ultimately 90% of his collections went first to UC Berkeley for 15 years ("where it was properly catalogued") and then to Stanford University.

CSUF President Dr. John Welty shared his pride in both Saroyan and the Armenian Studies Program. "It identifies us all over the world." He said CSUF has 18,000 students and 2,000 professors and staff.

Co-coordinator Stephen Barile, William Saroyan Society president, vice chair of Fresno Free College Foundation and artistic director of the San Benito Street Radio Players, chaired Panel I with Brenda Najimian-Magarity and Ed Hagopian, both of Fresno.

Magarity, founder of the Armenian Poetry Collective, has taught high school English since 1971. She recounted her growing friendship with Saroyan from early CSUF student days, library summer job, and her father's dry cleaning business. She felt honored to be his occasional chauffeur: "He'd talk in the car about his kids, wife...I kept asking him to visit my kids at Madera High." Finally, in 1976, after his return from Armenia, he was ready and spoke to four of her classes. Someone commented that Saroyan had mentioned her and listed some of the 400 students' names in chapter 17 of his book *Obituaries*. "To

us, he was a great hero...using Armenian names was a great break through here for us." She read her poem, "Exit Saroyan," published in the 1984 Spring Ararat Quarterly.

Ed Hagopian, Saroyan's close friend in Paris, described their many adventures, encounters at favorite restaurants in Paris and New York, a foray to General Andranik's gravesite which Hagopian photographed, incredible walks ending at his seven-story apartment, stories which included colorful Parisian history. As to his habits of sampling food at open markets or pocketing cracker bread at restaurants to eat later on, Hagopian observed, "He always worried about food." There was the doleful as well as the humorous, and Hagopian's quotes rang true. He'd say to him, "If I depended on the people of Fresno or the Armenians to buy my books, I'd starve." Listeners to Hagopian's recollections, besides intelligence and vivacity, could feel Saroyan's humanity.

After a coffee break accompanied by Armenian delicacies, Panel II began with Paris attorney Aram Kevorkian. His parents published *Groong* in Philadelphia for 43 years. Today Kevorkian writes books and acclaimed newsletters.

"I didn't come here to recount Saroyan anecdotes. We tend to forget ...the reality of Bill was a long way from comic," alluding to anecdotes with comments on his eccentricities. "He was a tremendous writer and a tremendous sufferer."

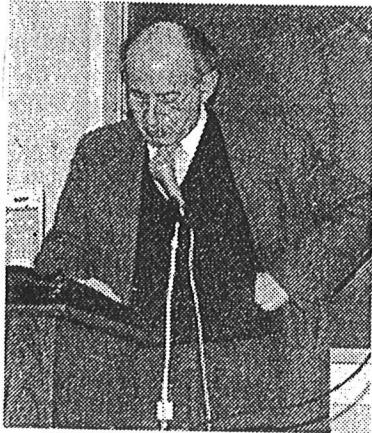
Kevorkian, who met Saroyan in April 1961, pointed to two tragedies: his father's death at 37 when Saroyan was three which led to a five-year stay in an orphanage and a divorce. "Behind that comic mask, he was a tragic figure all his life," explained Kevorkian with a powerful clarity. He quoted Saroyan's comments to him when he was to re-

turn: "We were despised, miserable, teachers made fun of us ... I distilled the best moments." Kevorkian admonished listeners: "No Fresnoan should beguile himself, he made beautiful flowers out of weeds ...I hope some student will cover his literary work during the Paris years, memoirs of substance. Little by little, he lets one see the pain he had ... this was the days and nights of the moon."

It was left to Roxie Moradian of Fresno to highlight the happy details of Saroyan's marriage, the mutual love between a husband and wife at cross purposes -- a young woman seeking stardom as an actress and a man wanting a traditional Armenian wife. Moradian's husband "Yep" was a school chum of the author and over their 40-year friendship they shared his many celebrity moments. She shuffled through notes and letters from Saroyan and held one dated Jan. 1, 1929 which he never sent from his trip to New York City: "My temperature's 104, no friends here, too homesick, for days dreaming of the old days..." Its long flowing series of images are in the style of his first book, Kouymjian commented.

Saroyan's brother finished college and became a professional. His son Hank Saroyan, like his uncle, had early success as a producer. His most recent work is the 1999 Prism Awards show to be televised in June. "I am older and more cognizant now and growing up with William Saroyan's brother every day, you were aware of that horrendous orphanage and the separation of the kids who had to hunt for each other." His father, he said, was beaten every day as a "lestie" and forced to write with his right hand. "William Saroyan steps out of that muck and mire of life and delights us ... he was an alive vivid person, a mythological character even while you were

By Janet Samuelian  
 Exclusive to TAR Int'l



**Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, CSUF, concluding the March 20 Conference with "Who Reads Saroyan Today?"**

talking to him. He'd pose the question, how alive can you be in the next 60 seconds?" His nephew admits inheriting "this Saroyan compulsion to be amazing at all times." His description of his last visit with Saroyan brought tears from listeners: "It's all okay..I came here in one piece and I'll leave in one piece when it's done." His uncle signed books and said, "Promise me, you'll never sell them! Give them away to friends, but don't sell them."

With four minutes left to the morning session, Kouymjian introduced Jacqueline Kazarian, a niece of Saroyan. She presented a silver letter opener with the Saroyan signature engraved on it to a surprised Kouymjian and remarked on the need to start a movement to revive Saroyan, "We must each be an apostle of Saroyan." To which Kouymjian replied, "Recent Saroyan enterprises are coming together, and our office phone never stops ringing with people requesting his manuscripts."

After a delicious outdoor lunch hosted by the William Saroyan Society, Panel III participants were introduced by Barlow Dcr Mugrdechian of the CSUF Armenian Studies Program. Michael Kloster of Berkeley presented his paper, "Saroyan, Joyce, and 'Everyman'". In it he compared the two authors and their quest to define a nation. Joyce, born in an occupied country, Ireland, wrote as he imagined it with fictive characters in 1904 Dublin. Saroyan, born here, was yet affected by the genocide of his nation. "He believed in the truth of the moment and realized that you got truth instantly ... he spouts actual spontaneous prose, quickly written and unplanned." Joyce's prose, he said, seems spontaneous and is artificial. "Saroyan chooses to become Everyman while Joyce created Everyman," he emphasized.

Deanna Moosakhanian Garabedian, in "Saroyan and the Armenian-American Identity: A Reinterpretation of Language and Religion," studied in particular the novels of Saroyan that reflect the struggles to maintain identity in the New World. She compared the two types of women in his novels: non-ethnic young women with no spiritual centers and Armenian grandmothers who represent life and preservation of language and religion. She protests at Saroyan writing, "Teach your son language" -- but never your daughter! Enthusiastic and forthright, she brought up provocative issues, the infallibility of Armenian male discourse that excludes others. Kouymjian noted that recent American-Armenian writers do better on modern Armenian women. Garabedian both teaches English at Reedley College and CSUF and is a writing tutor.

Michael Krekorian has taught literature, creative writing and film courses for more than two decades at UC San Diego, Riverside, and San Diego State, and currently at CSUF. The author of two books,

he received a 1995 Plover Novola Award. His paper, "American Trauma and the Summer of the Beautiful White Horse," examines the fading of old country values by young immigrant characters who must learn assertiveness, action and motion as exemplified in the famous Saroyan short story. He noted Saroyan's homage to the Armenian folk tales he knew well, and reminded the audience that 2000 A.D. will be the 60th year of *My Name Is Aram*.

After a break, Panel IV, chaired by Isabel Kaprielian of CSUF, began with Micah Jendian of SDSU, "Having the Time of Your Life." He analyzed several Saroyan short stories where some characters are unable to find authentic selfhood, where commercial culture diminishes identity and imagination. The author believed that art fails if it doesn't improve the world's behavior, that humane values become oppressed by competitiveness. "I want to restore man to himself." Quite a bit of audience discussion ensued. A sociologist commented on parallels to Marxist ideas, both promoting selfhood. Kouymjian interjected that Saroyan was a populist, but that one trip to Soviet Armenia had disillusioned him about the Marxist system. "He was appalled at the misapplication of Marxist ideology."

The last of the youthful scholars presenting papers was Michael Kovacs who currently teaches literature at the University of Nevada. He followed his BA in English at UC Berkeley with an MA in American Literature from Stanford University. In "Saroyan's Expressionist Quest: An Exploration of His Early Writings," he found a writer using language to be free, to rebel, to look behind appearances from the inner man, searching for a man's life within the material world. Kovacs said, "Saroyan believes in a universal community, he chooses to love the world. Writing for him is living...he wrote excitedly, swiftly, as natural as breathing." Like Walt Whitman before him and Kerouac

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after, said Kovacs, Saroyan used literature as a vehicle to liberate his human perceptions, feelings, and expressions from the straightjacket of contemporary society...composing a body of work unparalleled in American Letters.

In the last talk, Prof. Kouymjian drew on his experience with budding academics at UCB and CSUF and admitted that his early pessimism had given way to optimism. "Who reads Saroyan Today?" was his topic. He said Saroyan saw reading as the great adventure of his life. "Discovering his own father's unpublished poems, he decided to write for a living...unrestrained. From the beginning, he resisted trends, yet during school he was a near perfect speller. He was shocked by its rigidity and conformity, discouraging of imagination. . . He was passionate, free, would not flatter to advance his career. He never tempered his disdain towards the establishment."

He cited the present neglect of Saroyan, commenting that until Samuel Beckett, Saroyan was not well understood. "He used imagination as form, was a performer too. He wrote two books a year...had the audacity to tell critics what they lacked...he was fearless." He said non-English-speaking readers revere him, "in Japan they love him," and pointed to signs suggesting a revival of Saroyan is in the making. As a final gift, the conference closed with a showing of Hank Saroyan's film of a Saroyan story, *The Parsley Garden*, for which he won a Best Director Emmy.



Panel IV with Micah Jendian of San Diego, Chair Isabel Kaprielian, Dickran Kouymjian, missing Michael Kovacs of Las Vegas.



Brenda Najimian-Magarity recalling Saroyan of the 1970s in "Slow Drive, Sweet Saroyan" during Panel I - missing Ed Hagopian.



Dr. Kouymjian receiving gift from Jacqueline Kazarian of the San Francisco-based William Saroyan Int'l Literary Foundation at close of morning panel with Aram Kevorkian, Paris Roxie Moradian, Fresno, and Henk Saroyan, Los Angeles.

## Professor Isabel Kaprielian preserves Armenian history

by Kim Watkins

**D**r. Isabel Kaprielian's eyes light up and a smile creeps across her face as she pulls out a 1933 Armenian directory for California. Its pages slightly discolored from age, the small book listing the immigrants from Armenia is what Kaprielian considers a "real treasure."

Kaprielian, a professor of history and Armenian studies, holds the Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Professor of Modern Armenian and Immigration History. One of her projects has been collecting books and documents for an Armenian archive that she hopes will be housed under the Armenian Studies Program.

Kaprielian's "precious pieces" include photos, letters, diaries, handwritten minutes of various Armenian organizations, Armenian school texts and report cards, and newspaper clippings from various Armenian and non-Armenian publications.

Some of her favorite items include traditional recipes, prayers, and songs "carefully handwritten and lovingly preserved."

"I've scoured attics, basements and garages. It's quite astounding what treasures are hiding, just waiting to be unearthed and cherished," chuckled Kaprielian.

Considering that Armenians started to settle in the Central Valley in the early 1880s, Kaprielian said it is important to collect documents reflecting their settlement and adaptation, partly as an aspect of Armenian history and partly as an aspect of American history.

Rich in Armenian culture and history, the Valley has one of the largest populations of Armenians in the United States, said her colleague Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

"We don't always appreciate the significance of old papers and artifacts, but they really are very crucial primary sources for historical research and writing," said Kaprielian. "And I hope people won't throw them away, even if they're damaged by water or termites."

The documents that Kaprielian has collected are mostly donations from people who want to preserve a part of history, or who don't have storage space. Some items, however, such as



To illustrate the scope of the collection, Kaprielian mentioned correspondence between a young immigrant and his parents, still in the old country. In one letter, an aging father remarks how he wept when all the other village boys returned home from school for the summer holidays, but his son was not among them.

In another letter, the parents caution their son about the pitfalls and temptations lure a young and innocent boy who is in America. Kaprielian said it is touching to read how his parents looked forward to each of his letters and were sick with worry when a letter was late.

Kaprielian described how the boy's parents yearned to see him once more before they died. The letters to the boy abruptly ended in 1915. The young man never saw his parents again, as they were murdered during the Armenian genocide.

"These letters give us a window into the past and let us enter the intimate world of family separated by land, sea, society and culture," concluded Kaprielian.

Kaprielian hopes in the near future an archive location can be designated. She encourages anyone who has a document or artifact to be shared or preserved to call her at ext. 8-6493. ♦

Dr. Isabel Kaprielian displays her "treasures" found in unusual places.

the Armenian Directory of 1933, are on loan and will be returned after it has been copied.

Kaprielian says a future archive would be open to scholars and to members of the community who wish to delve into their ancestors' past. Because of the large Armenian community in the Valley, Fresno State would be an ideal location to house such an archive and museum.

### Shadow Day

Honor student Scott Garza (third from left) spent Friday, April 30, being "shadowed" by three new Smittcamp Family Honors students. Scott was happy to introduce Alia Yahya, Eric Contente and Sabina Robinson to registrar Tina Beddall (second from right). Other stops in the Joyal Administration Building included the Public Contact windows, where the students spoke to Michael Olivarez (who explained the trail of paper they would soon need to leave



Photo by Eusebio Arias

with him) and Career Services, where Manuel Olglin explained the functions of that office. Donna Mills in Student Affairs gave the new students the assurance of help from her office, and Chris Fiorentino spoke to them about Service Learning. ♦

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SOURCE Nor Gyank; Glendale, CA

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## Armenian Art At Fresno State University

By Matthew Maroot  
Hye Sharzhoon Staff Writer



The students of Armenian Studies 121 Armenian Painting

For three consecutive weekends beginning Friday, February 26, 1999, 35 Fresno State students undertook an intensive study of one of the most cherished aspects of the Armenian culture, Armenian miniature painting.

In this three-unit-course titled, Armenian Studies 121: Armenian Miniature Painting, taught by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, students had the opportunity to gain an in-depth knowledge of Armenian painting through the presentation of hundreds of color slide illustrations of miniature paintings, also known as illuminated manuscripts.

Many students took advantage of this weekend course to gain a greater appreciation of Armenian art. In fact, enrollment far surpassed that of previous offerings of this specialized upper-division course. "I was pleased but also surprised. Why all of the sudden were there 35 students in an upper-division specialized three-credit course in medieval Armenian miniature painting?" asked Dr. Kouymjian.

While the answer to that question may not have been obvious, student appreciation for the study of Armenian painting certainly was. Through quick, yet thorough explanation, Dr. Kouymjian covered the development of Armenian miniature paint-

ing from its beginnings in the sixth century up through its Golden Age and beyond the eighteenth century. In addition, he also made numerous comparisons to other contemporary works along the way including examples in Byzantine, Syrian, Islamic and Western art.

Dr. Kouymjian's ability to explain the topic of Armenian art to students with relatively little background in art history was remarkable. By the end of the three-week session, students not only gained a greater understanding of Armenian art, but a working knowledge of the study of art history as well.

In addition to studying the iconographical elements of various illuminated manuscripts, students also learned how a manuscript is copied and bound and how its contents are arranged. Dr. Kouymjian also spoke extensively about the major repositories of Armenian manuscripts throughout the world including the Matenadaran in Yerevan, and other centers such as the Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the Mekhitarist Brotherhood in Venice. "This information will prove valuable when they [students] visit the great museums of the world and come before medieval Italian and Renaissance paintings, whose subject matter is predominantly Christian," Dr. Kouymjian said.

With Armenian Studies 20: The Arts of Armenia, a lower division course dealing with all the arts (though not a prerequisite for Armenian Studies 121), becoming par-

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of the Fresno State revised General Education Program, interest in Armenian art will undoubtedly grow. It may also influence what Dr. Kouymjian describes as a growing interest in this area of study.

"No one taught Armenian art in this country when I began doing it upon my arrival from Paris in 1977. Now we have an endowed chair in Armenian art at Tufts University headed by Professor Lucy Der Manuelian, and for more than a decade Professor Thomas Mathews has been teaching Armenian iconography at the Art Institute of New York University and has seen some excellent younger scholars through their PhD in art history with an emphasis on Armenian art," Dr. Kouymjian said.

"When I started art was much neglected, now there is a greater interest in it and publications have been flowing from scholars in Europe and the United States as well as from Yerevan. The important thing is to bring an awareness of an incredible cultural legacy to students who simply did not know of its very existence" Dr. Kouymjian observed.

Dr. Kouymjian recognizes the complexities in teaching a subject about which most students have very little prior knowledge. However, he takes that challenge in stride. "Though they could probably recognize an eleventh century Armenian primitive or a painting by Toros Roslin [a

famous thirteenth century Armenian painter] pretty easily, the irony is that most students have never had another art history course and probably couldn't tell a Duccio from a Rubens. Yet, they can identify the subjects these latter painters used in their works," Dr. Kouymjian emphasized.

While students who do not pursue any further study in the area of Armenian art may not remember all of the manuscripts they viewed over this three-weekend course, Dr. Kouymjian is confident that they will remember many other valuable lessons.

"In short, through Armenian miniature painting, students have learned the language and content of all Christian painting," Dr. Kouymjian said.

"What is certain is that they will know forever that Armenians had a rich and complex tradition of manuscript painting, that such information is available through monographic studies and exhibition catalogues and that Armenian art is extremely important to the early history of Christian art," Dr. Kouymjian said.

## Despite Passage of Time, Cinematic Achievements Of Late Director Rouben Mamoulian are Appreciated

By Matthew Maroot  
Hye Sharzhoon Staff Writer

When discussing prominent motion picture directors in today's day and age we often hear names like Steven Spielberg, Francis Ford Coppola, or Martin Scorsese. Take that discussion back several decades and the conversation quickly changes. You're like to hear names such as Ernst Lubitsch, Fritz Lang, and undoubtedly, Rouben Mamoulian.

To honor the centenary of Mamoulian's birth, the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, offered a course entitled "*The Films of Rouben Mamoulian*," as a tribute to the career of this director.

In this course, taught by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, students watched 15 of Mamoulian's films, each and every one a masterpiece in its own right.

Born on Oct. 8, 1898 in Tiflis, Mamoulian began his studies at the University of Moscow and London, as well as the Vakhtangov Studio of the Moscow Art Theater. After arriving in America in 1923, Mamoulian began what would become a successful directing career,



Rouben Mamoulian

eventually on Broadway.

"Mamoulian was called to Rochester, New York, by George Eastman, the founder of Kodak, to head up his American Opera Theater," Kouymjian said. "Not yet 25 years old, Mamoulian directed 12 operas in three years, then went on to a Broadway career, directing a dozen plays in the following three years."

After establishing himself as a successful director, Mamoulian was lured to the big screen in 1929 by Jesse Lasky and Walter Langer of Paramount Studios. The advent of sound in the movie industry or "talkies" as they came to be called, created a big push for directors. Mamoulian's talents also made him a top choice.

So, in 1929, Mamoulian began production on what would be his first major motion picture, and one of America's very first "talkies," *Applause*.

The film was produced and directed at Paramount's Astoria Studios in New York, starring Helen Morgan as Kitty Darling, an aging burlesque star attempting to raise her daughter in a proper environment. In his first film, Mamoulian contributed much to the future of cinematography. It was one of the first sound musicals, and was shot with a great deal of realism, one aspect that was common to many of Mamoulian's films. In addition, Mamoulian chose to film many scenes outdoors and on location,

something that was no easy task given the cumbersome filming equipment used in the 1920s.

After filming his first motion picture in New York, Mamoulian's career shifted west to Hollywood, where he would make many lasting contributions to American cinema. Throughout the next few decades, Mamoulian rose to prominence in the film industry, directing blockbuster movies. Working with such studios as Paramount, MGM, and 20th Century Fox, Mamoulian directed "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" (1931), "Love Me Tonight" (1932), "Song of Songs" (1933), "The Mark of Zorro," (1940), "Blood and Sand" (1941), and "Silk Stockings" (1957), just to name a few. He also directed some of the most famous actors of the period including Maurice Chevalier, Jeanette MacDonald, Greta Garbo, Frederic March, Barbara Stanwick, Tyrone Power, Rita Hayworth, and Marlene Dietrich, among many others.

Mamoulian's cinematic achievements speak volumes for his talents as a director. His films are wide-ranging in scope, varying from horror to musicals. In addition, Mamoulian had a flare for cinematic technique, each of his films possessing a unique quality, whether it be his impressionistic use of lighting, a captivating sense of realism, or dramatic special effect. Mamoulian's films were certainly ahead of their time.

Rouben Mamoulian, one of America's most dynamic film directors, passed away in 1987 in Beverly Hills.

"It is quite amazing how quickly Rouben Mamoulian has passed out of the public's imagination," Dr. Kouymjian said. "It's been more than 10 years since his death, and except for the various articles last year in the press in Armenia, little has been done to mark either his 100th anniversary or his memory. Mamoulian's films are such a pleasure to look at."

## Fresno State Students Delve Into Armenian Miniature Painting

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While students who do not pursue any further study in the area of Armenian art may not remember all of the manuscripts they viewed over this three-weekend course, Dr. Kouymjian is confident that they will remember many other valuable lessons.

"In short, through Armenian miniature painting, students have learned the language and content of all Christian painting," Dr. Kouymjian said.

"What is certain is that they will know forever that Armenians had a rich and complex tradition of manuscript painting, that such information is available through monographic studies and exhibition catalogues and that Armenian art is extremely important to the early history of Christian art," Dr. Kouymjian said.

SOURCE Nor Gyank; Glendale CA

- ARCHIVE -

DATE May 27, 1999

SUBJECT Saroyan Conference

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## Saroyan at Ninety: A Conference and Celebration

By Matthew Maroot  
Hye Sharzhoor Staff Writer



**Saroyan Conference Participants.** Back row (L to R): Stephen Barile, Hank Saroyan, Michael Kloster, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Aram Kevorkian, Dr. Isabel Kaprielian, Michael Krikorian, Deanna Moosakhanian-Garabedian. Front Row (L to R): Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Micah Jendian, Michael Kovacs, Brenda Najimian-Magarity, Ed Hagopian.

Writers, scholars and distinguished community members gathered the weekend of March 19-20, 1999 to honor and celebrate one of the most magnificent and prolific writers the San Joaquin Valley and the world have ever known.

His hundreds of short stories, plays, novels and essays entertained millions and continue to do so today. His name was William Saroyan.

In celebrating the 90th anniversary of Saroyan's birth, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at Fresno State and Stephen Barile, president of the William Saroyan Society, organized the event called: Saroyan at Ninety: A Conference and Celebration.

The desire to hold a conference didn't come solely from the occasion of Saroyan's 90th birthday as Dr. Kouymjian pointed out. "The idea of celebrating Saroyan is linked closely with the need to keep his image alive and up-to-date," Dr. Kouymjian said. Dr. Kouymjian also had a very personal reason for organizing and hosting the conference. "At the end of his life, those last years, he also entrusted me with a good deal of responsibility, and I guess I still feel that I have a mission to carry out in the best way I can," Dr. Kouymjian said.

In organizing the international weekend conference and celebration, coordinators invited several scholars, professors and relatives of Saroyan, all of whom spoke of Saroyan not only in terms of his literary accomplishments, but in terms of his personal attributes as well.

William Saroyan, the world renowned author, playwright and humanitarian was born in Fresno on August 31, 1908 and grew up on the streets of old "Armenian Town." And it was Saroyan's colorful childhood that served as the basis for so many of his best-loved writings.

Fresno State President, Dr. John Welty, opened the conference by speaking of Saroyan as a man of the world whose works have transcended space and time.

The morning session consisted of two panels, the first of which was chaired by Stephen Barile, president of the William Saroyan Society. Barile, of Fowler, Calif., has produced and directed eight William Saroyan plays for stage and radio and is currently working on a radio production of Saroyan's "The Cave Dwellers," set to air in May, 1999.

Brenda Najimian-Magarity, a Fresno poet and English teacher at Madera High School spoke of her experiences getting to know Saroyan in her presentation titled, "Slow Drive, Sweet Saroyan. Magarity spoke of her journeys throughout Fresno as

Saroyan's driver, a task she performed for three years.

The next speaker of the first session, Ed Hagopian, was born and raised in Whitinsville, Mass. Hagopian, who studied at the Sorbonne and has worked with such actors as Kirk Douglas, Burt Lancaster and Eddie Constantine, wrote a screenplay with William Saroyan titled, "Merry-Go-Round-the-World" for Darryl Zanuck in 1960. In his remembrance of Saroyan titled, "Saroyan in Grief," Hagopian shared many heartfelt stories of the years he spent with Saroyan both in Paris and in the United States.

Chair of the second panel was Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, who like many others, was first touched by Saroyan through reading his stories in his high school classes in Chicago and in Racine, Wis. Dr. Kouymjian was a close friend to William Saroyan, part of the reason why he has chaired and organized several William Saroyan conferences.

"Though I spoke at a celebration for Saroyan's 90th birthday in Pasadena last December, I really didn't think I would be able to once again organize a major event in Fresno. But thanks to the insistence of Stephen Barile I agreed. No one I invited turned me down. People love Saroyan," Dr. Kouymjian said.

The first speaker of the second panel was Aram Kevorkian, a writer and attorney from Paris who met Saroyan in 1961 and became his lawyer. In his contribution titled, "Saroyan and Paris," he spoke of Saroyan at a time when he was broke and saddened by a failed marriage and a career that had drifted out of the spotlight. Saroyan eventually pulled himself out of this state of dejection and completed some of his best work.

"Saroyan in Love: Marriage and Divorce," was the title of the next memoir, given by Roxie Moradian, a lifelong resident of Fresno and the Valley. Moradian shared her experiences in entertaining Saroyan in her home with her husband Frank. She maintained a 40-year relationship with Saroyan through which she closely experienced a personal side of Saroyan seen only by a few of his closest companions.

Perhaps the most poignant memories of time spent with Saroyan came in the recollections offered by Hank Saroyan, son of William's older brother Henry, in his offering titled, "Saroyan, the Boy Within the

Many at Sixty." Hank Saroyan is a Emmy-award winning producer and director from Los Angeles. Hank Saroyan shared several intimate encounters he had with his uncle while he visited him in Paris in 1974 and toward the end of his life in Fresno.

In the afternoon conference session dedicated to "Saroyan the Writer," Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Fresno State Armenian Studies Program led a discussion by three writers, all of whom have studied Saroyan's work extensively.

In "Saroyan, Joyce and 'Everyman,'" Michael Kloster, a writer with a degree in English Literature from the University of California, Berkeley, shared his findings on the similarities between the works of William Saroyan and James Joyce, particularly through the stream-of-consciousness technique that presents the flow of thoughts and images through the minds of the main characters, a pattern common in the work of both writers.

Deanna Garabedian, also a Berkeley graduate, shared the findings of her Master's thesis titled, "William Saroyan and the Armenian-American identity." Garabedian analyzed the ways through which Saroyan dealt with the topics of language and religion in his writing. She found that Saroyan created a new identity in his writing, that of the Armenian-American. She went on to explain how he also demonstrated the conflict of the old-world and the new-world values and their effects on this new identity.

Michael Krekorian, poet and author, shared his interpretations of Saroyan's writing in "American Trauma and the Summer of the Beautiful White Horse." In his discussion, Krekorian, who currently teaches Armenian Studies and Armenian literature at Fresno State, examined Saroyan's short story, "The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse," through what he called, "The point of intersection between the fading influence of the old country values and the evolving realization by the younger immigrant characters that the values of assertiveness, action and motion must be learned in order to emerge from the overwhelming trauma of the Armenian Genocide."

In the fourth and final panel of the conference, chaired by Dr. Isabel Kaprielian, holder of the Henry S. K. Kazan Professorship of Modern Armenian and Immigration History at Fresno State, three scholars shared their thoughts on Saroyan's work and its place in the literary world today.

Micah Jendian, who is currently completing a Master's Degree in English at San Diego State University, shared his findings in a session titled, "Having the Time of Your Life." Jendian who brings a philosophical approach to Saroyan's work offered a fresh viewpoint on Saroyan's writings based on his thesis titled, "You Yourself Are Supposed to Do Your Living: William Saroyan and the Culture Industry."

According to Jendian, "Saroyan recognized commercial culture as a threat to authentic selfhood because it offers false notions of reality, projects fantastic personalities/lifestyles for emulation, and blunts awareness and imagination."

"Hoping to restore man to himself, Saroyan presents characters whose 'good performances' of themselves are thwarted by the commercial culture," Jendian said. He went on to state that Saroyan's observations anticipated critiques that emerged in the mid-40s and are prevalent today.

The second speaker of the final panel, Michael Kovacs, is teaching literature as a lecturer at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Kovacs, also a Berkeley graduate, spoke of "Saroyan's Expressionist Quest: An Exploration of His Early Writings."

"Saroyan, like Walt Whitman before him and Jack Kerouac after, uses literature and language as a vehicle that freely exercises human passion and imagination in order to develop a vision and method of composition which liberates human perception, feeling and most importantly expression, from the straightjacket of contemporary society," Kovacs said. He went on to add, "He searches behind the veil of appearances and writes about the inner and spiritual side of man."

The final speaker of the afternoon was Dr. Dickran Kouymjian who led a discussion titled, "Who Reads Saroyan Today?" Dr. Kouymjian has worked extensively to keep the work of Saroyan alive, organizing a major international conference in 1981 after Saroyan's death as part of a three-week Saroyan Celebration held on the Fresno State campus, followed by another gathering in 1993 in celebration of Saroyan's 85th birthday.

Dr. Kouymjian's fascination with Saroyan began at an early age. "I was lucky enough to get two of his books dedicated to me when I was a teenager from my California Aunt and Uncle Varsen and Archie Calusdian who knew Saroyan. After meeting Saroyan in Beirut in 1972, I was completely taken by his personality and a sort of relationship developed especially after I came to Fresno in 1977 and found myself coming and going between Paris and Fresno like Saroyan," Dr. Kouymjian said.

Dr. Kouymjian noted that Saroyan's work is not often taught in American classrooms, however, he believes there is presently a window of opportunity to reassess Saroyan's true literary achievement. "Recently, evaluations of Saroyan now make clear that he was a performer too, perhaps as much a performer as he was a passionate author. Writing became for him a spontaneous act of creation requiring daily rehearsals," Dr. Kouymjian said.

Dr. Kouymjian noted that Saroyan's work must once again enter the mainstream literary world in order to achieve a revival and once again become fashionable.

"Perhaps in the coming century we will be able to answer the question, 'Who reads Saroyan?' in the same way it was answered in the 1930s, '40s and '50s, when everybody read Saroyan," Dr. Kouymjian said.

Those who attended the conference were also treated to a special presentation of Hank Saroyan's film, *The Parsley Garden*, based on the William Saroyan story, for which Hank Saroyan won the Best Director Emmy. Dr. Kouymjian also shared a brilliant example of William Saroyan's own directorial talents in the 11-minute film, produced and directed at MGM Studios in 1942, titled, *The Good Job*.

"He always thought filmmaking would be a perfect medium for him, but he really never got the chance. For a while he thought working at the Armenian Hye Film studio in Yerevan would be possible, but he saw that there were hurdles as great in the Soviet bloc as in Hollywood. He had a good eye, clearly proven directing talents and a very engaging way with actors," Dr. Kouymjian said.

William Saroyan was truly a dynamic character. Through his writing and his being, he gave international recognition not only to the Armenian experience, but to the human experience as well. In the last book published during his lifetime, *Obituaries*, Saroyan wrote, "My work is writing, but my real work is being."

William Saroyan died in Fresno on May 18, 1981 at the age of 72. "Everybody has got to die," Saroyan once said. "But I always believed an exception would be made in my case."

SOURCE

Armenian Reporter; Fresh Meadows, NJ

- ARCHIVE -

DATE

June 5, 1999

SUBJECT

Kouymjian Teaches Course on Mamoulian

PAGE

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## Centenary of R. Mamoulian's Birth Marked by Course on His Films at CSUF

FRESNO, CA - When discussing prominent motion picture directors in this day and age, we often hear names like Steven Spielberg, Francis Ford Coppola, or Martin Scorsese. Take that discussion back several decades and the conversation quickly changes. You're likely to hear names such as Ernst Lubitsch, Fritz Lang and, undoubtedly, Rouben Mamoulian.

To honor the centenary of Mamoulian's birth, the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, offered a course entitled Armenian Studies 12OT: The Films of Rouben Mamoulian, as a tribute to the career of this magnificent director. In this course, taught by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, students watched fifteen of Mamoulian's films, each and every one a masterpiece in its own right.

Dr. Kouymjian was invited to Yerevan in October of 1997

by the Armenian Ministry of Culture and the American University of Armenia to present a ten-day film festival on Rouben Mamoulian on the occasion of his centenary. "The excitement engendered by the twelve Mamoulian feature films shown in the Cinema House in the Armenian capital

was more than even the organizers expected. Audiences averaged 300 a showing and for many days there were after screenings at the AUA auditorium," said Dr. Kouymjian.

On his decision to teach a film course strictly devoted to Mamoulian's films, Dr. Kouymjian noted, "Mamoulian's 100th

By Matthew Maroot



Rouben Mamoulian

anniversary has passed essentially unmarked in the U.S., by Armenians and the American film industry, so it seemed important and natural that I devoted my film course to Mamoulian this year."

Born on October 8, 1898 in Tiflis, Mamoulian began his early studies at the Universities of Moscow and well as the Vakhtangov Studio of the Moscow Art Theatre. After arriving in America in 1923, Mamoulian began what would become a successful directing career, eventually on Broadway. "Mamoulian was called to Rochester, New York by George Eastman, the founder of Kodak, to head up his

American Opera Theatre. Not yet 25 years old, Mamoulian directed twelve operas in three years, then went on to a Broadway career, directing again a dozen plays in the following three years," said Dr. Kouymjian.

After establishing himself as a successful Broadway director, Mamoulian was lured to the big screen in 1929 by Jesse Lasky and Walter Wanger of Paramount Studios. The advent of sound in the movie industry, or "talkies" as they came to be called, created a big push for directors, and Mamoulian's immense talents also made him a top choice. According to Dr. Kouymjian, Mamoulian's experience working with actors and the theatre was impressive, thus enabling him to simply apply what he had learned in the theatre to film.

So, in 1929, Mamoulian began production on what would be his first major motion picture, and one of America's

*Continued on p. 15*

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Armenian Reporter; Fresh Meadows NY

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SUBJECT Kouymjian Teaches Course on Mamoulian

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## Centenary of R. Mamoulian's Birth Marked by Course on His Films at CSUF

Continued from p. 14

very first "talkies," *Applause*. The film was produced and directed at Paramount's Astoria Studios in New York and starred Helen Morgan as Kitty Darling, an aging burlesque star attempting to raise her daughter in a proper environment. In this film, only Mamoulian's first, he contributed much to the future of cinematography. It was one of the first sound musicals and was shot with a great deal of realism, one aspect that was common to many of Mamoulian's films. In addition, Mamoulian chose to film many scenes outdoors and on location, something that was no easy task given the cumbersome filming equipment used in the 1920's.

After Mamoulian filmed his first motion picture in New York with Paramount Studios, his career shifted west to Hollywood where he would make many lasting contributions to American cinema. Throughout the next two decades, Mamoulian rose to prominence in the film industry, constantly directing blockbuster films. He worked with such studios as Paramount, MGM, and 20th Century Fox.

Included in Mamoulian's body of work are such hits as *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1931), *Love Me Tonight* (1932), *Song of Songs* (1933), *The Mark of Zorro* (1940), *Blood and Sand* (1941), and *Silk Stockings* (1957), just to name a few. Rouben Mamoulian also directed some of the most famous actors of the twentieth century, including Maurice Chevalier,

Jeanette MacDonald, Greta Garbo, Frederic March, Barbara Stanwyck, Tyrone Power, Rita Hayworth, and Marlene Dietrich, among many others.

Though Rouben Mamoulian is responsible for directing some of the most renowned actors and actresses in the history of cinema, it is surprising to realize that so few people remember him today. "It is quite amazing how quickly Rouben Mamoulian has passed out of the public imagination. It's been almost ten years since his death, and except for the various articles last year in the press in Armenia, little has been done to mark either his 100th anniversary or his memory. Mamoulian's films are such a pleasure to look at," said Dr. Kouymjian.

Mamoulian's cinematic achievements speak volumes for his talents as a director. His films are wide-ranging in scope, varying from horror to musicals. In addition, Mamoulian had a flare for cinematic technique. Each of his films possesses a certain unique quality; whether it be his impressionistic use of lighting, a captivating sense of realism, or dramatic special effects, Mamoulian's films were certainly ahead of their time. And when considering all of the technology at the disposal of directors today, one can come to appreciate Mamoulian's accomplishments even more. Rouben Mamoulian, one of America's most dynamic film directors, passed away in 1987, in Beverly Hills.

# Centennial of filmmaker Rouben Mamoulian's birth celebrated at CSU-Fresno

BY MATTHEW MAROOT

When discussing prominent motion picture directors in today's day and age, we often hear names like Steven Spielberg, Francis Ford Coppola, or Martin Scorsese. Take that discussion back several decades and the conversation quickly changes. You're likely to hear names such as Ernst Lubitsch, Fritz Lang, and undoubtedly, Rouben Mamoulian.

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Dr. Kouymjian was invited to Yerevan in October of 1997 by the Armenian Ministry of Culture and the American University of Armenia to present a 10-day film festival on Rouben Mamoulian on the occasion of his centenary.

"The excitement engendered by the 12 Mamoulian feature films shown in the Cinema House in the Armenian capital was more than even the organizers expected.

Audiences averaged 300 a showing, and for many days there were afterscreenings at the AUA auditorium," said Dr. Kouymjian.

On his decision to teach a film course strictly devoted to Mamoulian's films, Dr. Kouymjian noted, "Mamoulian's 100th anniversary has passed essentially unremarked



Left: Filmmaker Rouben Mamoulian, the anniversary of whose birth was commemorated at Cal State-Fresno recently. Right: A poster from Mamoulian's best-known film.

in the United States by Armenians and the American film industry. It seemed important and natural that I devoted my film course to Mamoulian this year."

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gia, Mamoulian began his early studies at the Universities of Moscow and London, as well as the Vakhtangov Studio of the Moscow Art Theatre. After arriving in America in 1923, Mamoulian began what would become a successful directing career on Broadway.

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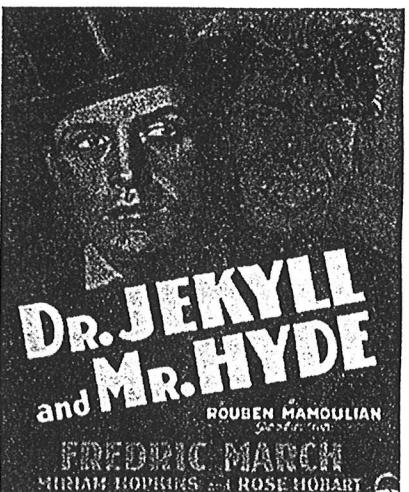
After filming his first motion picture in New York with Paramount Studios, Mamoulian's career shifted West to Hollywood where he would make many lasting contributions to American cinema. Throughout the next two decades, Mamoulian rose to prominence in the film industry, constantly directing blockbusters. He worked with such studios as Paramount, MGM, and 20th Century Fox. Included in Mamoulian's body of work are such hits as *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1931), *Love Me Tonight* (1932), *Song of Songs* (1933), *The Mark of Zorro* (1940), *Blood and Sand* (1941), and *Silk Stocking* (1957), just to name a few.

Rouben Mamoulian also directed some of the most famous actors of the 20th century, including Maurice Chevalier, Jeanette MacDonald, Greta Garbo, Frederic March, Barbara Stanwyck, Tyrone Power, Rita Hayworth, and Marlene Dietrich. Though Rouben Mamoulian is responsible for directing some of the most renowned actors and actresses in the history of cinema, it is surprising to realize that so few people remember him today.

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DR. JEKYLL  
and MR. HYDE  
ROUBEN MAMOULIAN

FREDERIC MARCH  
MIRIAM HOPKINS and ROSE HORNABURG

SUBJECT Kouymjian Teaches on Mississippi Cruise

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**Mississippi River Cruise on the American Queen Blends Histories of the Confederacy and Armenia**

By Seda G. Marootian

MONROVIA, CA - Aboard the Mississippi River American Queen steamboat during the last week in March, tour director Armen Aroyan of Monrovia, CA, with 74 passengers of Armenian descent from eight states of the United States, celebrated the Third Armenian Cultural Legacy Cruise of the Armenian Heritage Society. Forty-four passengers were repeaters, having cruised with Aroyan to the Caribbean/Panama Canal and the Mexican Riviera in past years.

The weeklong trip beginning in New Orleans, Louisiana, and terminating in Memphis, Tennessee, featured on-board seminars led by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian of Fresno State University. His topics covered "The Art and Craft of Armenian Manuscripts," "Armenian Textiles Encompassing Inscribed Carpets, Embroidery and Liturgical Vestments," and "Armenian Claims." His wife, Dr. Angele Kouymjian of Paris, France, presented portions of her dissertation on "Constantinople in 1608-1609 as Seen Through the Eyes of Simeon Lehatsi of Poland."

The steamboat's theatre on the Texas Deck was also the setting for a number of film showings. Academy Award winner The Sweet Hereafter, Atom Egoyan's movie The Calendar which was reviewed, discussed and analyzed as was The Wall of Silence, a documentary on Armenian historian Vahagn Dadrian and Turkish historian Taner Akcam, produced and directed by Dorothee Forma of the Humanist Broadcasting Foundation in the Netherlands. The 53-minute documentary focused on Akcam, who is the first reputable Turkish historian to acknowledge the Genocide. On a lighter side, the late movie director Rouben Mamoulian's Silk Stockings, starring Fred Astaire and Cyd Charisse, was shown on the final night of the cruise.

Tour director Aroyan had also brought a video of his last year's pilgrimage to the village of Shepig near Arapgil, Historical Armenia, which had an emotional impact on the audience viewing the Armenian-Americans returning to the homeland of their parents and grandparents only to find traces of their ancestors existing in a barren, hostile country.

The majestic American Queen, built in 1995, laden with the richness of America's Victorian era, is the largest genuine paddlewheeler ever



3rd Armenian Cultural Legacy Cruise participants

constructed. For a week it was home to the nearly 400 passengers cruising at eight miles an hour up the mighty and muddy Mississippi. Azaleas, magnolias, wisteria and dogwoods were in full bloom, gracing the preserved antebellum (before the Civil War) mansions which were opened to visitors during the Spring Pilgrimage.

In Natchez, Mississippi, do-cents from the Natchez Garden Club dressed in hoop-skirted gowns reminiscent of Scarlett O'Hara were gracious hostesses exuding Southern hospitality. That evening, at the City Auditorium, several hundred townsfolk staged a Confederate Pageant depicting the South in all its aristocratic splendor. The pageant covered a Spring festival, maypole, picnic, wedding, military ball and a fox hunt, dogs included. There was also a lot of Confederate flags waving which brought enthusiastic cheers from the locals.

Palm Sunday was not forgotten as Aroyan arranged for services in the Engine Room Bar of the American Queen. The room featured six large port-holes affording a grand view of the steamboat's brilliant red paddlewheel in motion. This was a dramatic background for the "Hayr Mer" sung by the congregation. Following an abbreviated Badarak conducted by Bedros Kaprielian of Daly City, and piano accompaniment by Annig Zindarsian of San Francisco, a Palm Sunday message was delivered by John Vosbigan of Los Angeles.

Following the services, Berge Bulbulian of Fresno recapped highlights of his soon-to-be-published book, The



(L to R) Armen Aroyan, Angele Kouymjian and Dr. Dickran Kouymjian

**History of the Fresno Armenians.** The work covers early immigrations in the 1600s and a study of the first Armenian settlers in the 1800s. The pioneer families mentioned include Mardiros Yanikian (Frank Normart), the Seropians from Marsovan and the Sarkis Minassians. Other chapters describe Fresno Armenians in business, politics, education, churches, and agriculture, among other fields.

The presence of the Armenian Heritage Society was evident in the Grand Saloon Ballroom when Chuck Easterling and the Steamboat Syncopators caught on to the Armenian tunes and accompanied the line dancers. Gathering around the grand piano in the foyer was also a popular activity for the group, which sang all the old popular songs from the '30s.

Vicksburg, Mississippi, the next-to-the-last port visited,

proved to be another history lesson on the Civil War. A visit to the Vicksburg National Military Park was a grim reminder of the casualties. The park ranger informed that Vicksburg posed a major obstacle to the Union in terms of its domination of the Mississippi River. President Lincoln called Vicksburg "The Key" and believed that "The war can never be brought to a close until that key is in our pocket." Grant's siege of the city and Admiral Porter's gunboats cut off communications and blasted the city from the river. Vicksburg officially surrendered on July 4, 1863.

Thus, from American History of the South and the Civil War to the seminars of Dickran and Angele Kouymjian, films, videos and a lecture on wine and Armenian embroidery by Paul and Rosemary Kalemkarian, respectively, the week ended in Memphis all too soon. Dining in the elegant Victorian hall, enjoying musical shows each night on board, visiting port cities of St. Francisville, Natchez and Vicksburg would all be memories of a unique vacation. It was an opportunity to meet Armenians from different regions of the country and also enjoy the company of Armenians one knows casually but never has found the time to relax and visit.

At the Memphis air terminal, Armenian Heritage Society participants were asking our director Aroyan the itinerary of next year's cruise. Alaska, Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the Volga River? Is it impossible to cruise Lake Sevan? Needless to say, wherever the next cruise will be, it is bound to be fulfilling, educational and fun.

## Award-Winning Nancy Kricorian in Fresno; Poet Turned to Fiction

Nancy Kricorian, poet and author, presented her latest work titled "Zabelle" earlier this month at St. Paul Armenian Church in Fresno, California.

This stop on Kricorian's current book tour was presented by St. Paul Armenian Church and the California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program.

Kricorian began her educational career at Dartmouth University where she graduated magna cum laude with a degree in comparative literature before earning a Master of Fine Arts degree in the writing program at Columbia University.

She then went on to teach at Columbia University and a number of other prestigious universities including Yale and Rutgers.

Kricorian has taught a number of university courses including composition, introduction to literature, and poetry and creative writing seminars. Kricorian's own early literary work consisted largely of poetry. In introducing Nancy Kricorian, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Director of the CSUF Armenian Studies Program described the unique perspective that poets and their work bring to their literary audiences.

"It is usually through the words of the poet that we find out where we've been and where we're going. It is through the poet that we understand a little better what life ought to mean to us," Kouymjian said.

A widely published and award-winning poet, Kricorian's poetry has been published in various publications including Ararat magazine. She has received a number of literary prizes including the Ararat Short Story Award in 1997, and she is the latest recipient of the Columbia University Advisory Board \$5,000 Award.

Kricorian said she turned to fiction to express things that are sometimes hard to compress into poetry. She chose for her first novel, a story about a very strong woman, Zabelle Chahasbanian.

"Zabelle" is an elegantly written first-person story of one woman's life and times, beginning with her childhood in

Hadjin, Turkey to her death in Watertown, Massachusetts.

It took Kricorian six years to complete this novel while juggling her marriage, two small children and her own business. Kricorian operated a scouting business representing European publishers but recently closed it to focus on her writing career.

Kricorian was enthusiastic about stopping in Fresno as part of her West Coast paperback tour.

"I wanted to come to Fresno because I've always thought of Fresno as a sister city to Watertown. "All the Armenians came to Watertown to the factories and they came to Fresno to the fields," Kricorian said.

One reason Kricorian gives for writing "Zabelle" is that she sought to expand her appeal to a broader audience by writing something longer since poetry has such a small following.

Perhaps Kricorian's greatest influence to write "Zabelle" came from her grandmother's death. In fact, Kricorian took details from her grandmother's life and the lives of other Armenian women to create the lead character in "Zabelle".

"I missed my grandmother so much, that by creating this character and writing this story, it was a way of keeping her with me," Kricorian said.

In response to audience inquiry regarding a possible film version of the book, Kricorian deferred the question to a comment her husband, James Schamus, a New York film producer, made to a San Francisco Chronicle book reviewer.

"She has written a book that resists the logic of late capitalist film production," Schamus said.

"You can't make a movie out of this. I wasn't looking for a movie deal anyway," Kricorian said.

Kricorian credits the Armenian community for large turnouts at her readings and the warm reception she has received throughout her book tour.

**"The Sultan and His People," by Khachadour Voskanian, was the first English written book by an Armenian American published in the United States in 1851.**

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Observer; Los Angeles CA

DATE June 9, 1999

SUBJECT Kouymjian on Cruise

PAGE 1 of 2

## Armenian Reports: "Hayr Mer" on the Mississippi

were steamboating happily on the third Armenian Cultural Legacy Cruise, aboard The American Queen, to get a glimpse of the South and our own Armenian roots. Our group of some eighty members included mature couples and individuals with the exception of one family who had brought in their teens as well. We all had Armenian ties, obviously still strong, congregating from the East and West Coast and a few states in between - imported or born in America - with political and religious inclinations as diverse as our origins. We had come to catch our breath from daily pressures and to socialize in a congenial environment. Age range extended from the mid forties through the early 90's and still going strong, survivor or not.

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian of California State University, Fresno, and his wife Angele, with their extensive knowledge of Armenian and Middle Eastern history, kept us strapped in our boots and immersed in our Armenian heritage. We enjoyed lectures on manuscripts, book bindings, rugs, Simeon Lehatsi on Bolis and the formation of the Ottoman Empire, supplemented with visual aids. Armen Aroyan - the organizer and catalyst who started the cruise tradition - provided full steam with a supply of films and books on Armenian themes, including the "Wall of Silence". Samples of Armenian embroidery were displayed and commented upon by Rosemarie Kalemkarian. "How to select a Wine" by Paul Kalemkarian from Julian, whetted our appetites for lunch. Berge Bulbulian expounded on Fresno Armenians while we paddled along.

As we grew to know each

other around the dinner tables and in the comfortable lounges, conversation flowed in a patois of English, American, Western and Eastern Armenian, with a spattering of Turkish and Arabic, a sort of Armenian "esperanto" lending itself of hilarious interpretations. Tavlo, with its ubiquitous presence, bridge, scrabble and exchanges of jokes, ethnic or otherwise, represented our various concepts for entertainment.

Palm Sunday loomed close in between the ante-bellum homes, the plantations of the South and the battlefield of Vicksburg. No one was prepared to handle the celebration but, in our tradition of stubborn followers of Vartan, we would not be intimidated, even by the mighty Mississippi, to celebrate Mass when it was due.

Word ran through the group that we would meet in the Engine Room Bar, at 8:30 a.m., on Sunday morning, the only location available on the ship at that time for group activity. The Armenian grapevine beats the best of e-mail systems. On Sunday morning attendance at this ecumenical service was higher than on a regular Lord's Day in most churches when "Sourp Asdvaz, sourp yev hezor..." rang out complete with music, choir and congregation on the sparkling waters of the river. Armen Aroyan, Richard Darmanian, Hagop Kurdoghlian and Sonya Manjikain made up the choir, following the lead of Annig Zindarsian, the organist (piano in this case). Bedros Kaprielian served as Deacon and John Vosbigian's "a propos" sermon won a better valuation "than our parish priest, between you and me", according to one cruiser. The kiss of peace circulated during this Armenian ecumenical service, culminating in a "Hayr Mer..." sung by all.

Through the help of the Purser's office, Bedros Kaprielian had contacted the St. Mary's Catholic Church at Vicksburg, in search of palm or olive branches. The church graciously provided the palm leaves f.o.b. (free on board), substantiating the famous Southern hospitality we had so much heard of. Our ingenious ladies - Shaki Atchian, Alice Garabedian, Mary Hogikyan and Hrantouhi Kaprielian - made crosses out of palm branches which they distributed to the worshippers following the service.

Our trip was more than a cruise. It was nourishment for the soul, an emotional revival, a contact with our roots, and an example of our complexity. It was also proof of our solidarity, on earth as it is in heaven - or rivers - delivering us from our wordly temptations to stop and thank God for our blessings, irrespective of political ideologies, religious inclinations or countries of origin. We were all in the same boat, Haig's descendants, a few generations removed.

Did Mark Twain ever dream that a strange rite called Armenian High Mass would ever be celebrated on his beloved Mississippi? Or did Nerves Shnorhali ever think that Armenian prayers would ever penetrate the deep South of an unknown land called America?

We proved that "Where two Armenians meet...", the invincible spirit that Saroyan so well depicted, is alive and well. Our uplifting religious as well as secular experience converted us into followers of Armen Aroyan's Cultural Tours wherever they might take us, Karabagh, Siberia or Timbuktu. All we need is a good "Hayr Mer" and "Mer Hayrenik" to turn any hospitable or hostile soil into homeland.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter; Fresh Meadows, NY

DATE June 12, 1999

SUBJECT Kouymjian Receives Provost's Award

PAGE 1

## Dr. Dickran Kouymjian Receives 1999 Provost's Award

FRESNO, CA - Dr. Michael Ortiz, Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Fresno State, announced that Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies, was chosen to receive the 1999 Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching-Distinguished Achievement in Research.

The award is one of five Provost's awards given annually to faculty. Winners were honored and formally recognized at a reception on May 13.

Dickran Kouymjian has a distinguished academic career of more than 40 years. After graduating from Columbia University with a Ph.D. in Armenian Studies (Near Eastern Languages and Cultures), he embarked on a prolific scholarly career.

He has edited or authored 12 books and monographs (three others are in press) and has published more than 100 scholarly articles. Over the past 40 years he has presented communications at more than 80 major international congresses and symposia, reflecting his interest in the broad arena of Armenian Studies. Those communications were ultimately transformed into articles and books.

His works have been noted both for the breadth of subject covered and for their penetrating insights into the specific area of study. These have been in the following subjects: oriental studies, numismatics, history, art history, literature, history of Armenian cinema, paleography, codicology and genocide studies. The diversity of domains is due to a certain restlessness and pervasive curiosity.

His efforts in research have also paid dividends in his teaching where he has attracted outstanding students and has directly involved them in his own research.

In his early career, he concentrated on works dealing with Armenian and Near Eastern history and numismatics and then continued with work in the area of Armenian Art and Armenian architecture. He later expanded his interests to include William Saroyan and the Armenian Diaspora.

This year Aarhus University Press in Denmark will publish the *Album of Armenian Paleography*, a book co-authored with Prof. Michael Stone of Jerusalem on the history and development of Armenian scripts. A massive study, it has been 10 years in the making, subsidized by a number of substantial international grants.

In all of his research there is an inclination to discover and report on areas until now understudied. Though there is some material he has not yet gotten into print, most of his preliminary articles try to encourage younger scholars to take up the leads he has suggested and to mine what is almost inexhaustible research material.

Between teaching and administering a very active Armenian Studies Program, he is engaged in two new, but related, fields of research. In the year 2001, the world will mark the 1700th anniversary of the founding of the Armenian Church, the oldest Christian church. He has been delegated by the Catholicos Karekin I of Etchmiadzin, Armenia and Aram I of Cilicia in Antelias, Lebanon, to organize a number of international conferences and art exhibits. Thus, he is preparing a catalogue for an exhibit on the "Treasures of the Cilician Catholicosate," to be held in Geneva, Aarhus and Beirut, and a catalogue on Armenian altar curtains for museums in Lyon, France and the United States. Both exhibitions involve research in Armenian liturgical vestments and textiles as

well as the history and craftsmanship of Armenian church vessels (chalices, censors, candle sticks, reliquaries, labellae, altar curtains and so forth.). These are virtually unexplored areas of research. In the spring he was able to work with his "Arts of Armenia" class (Armenian Studies 20, as a seminar) on a preliminary survey of the relationship between Armenian Church vessels and those of the neighboring Greek Orthodox and Catholic traditions. He hopes to repeat this experience next year, exposing studies to these objects of Christian worship while guiding them in the study and research of art and history.

For Dr. Kouymjian, research, like teaching, is a habit, a way of life. He tries to expand the vision of students, while teaching them the principles of investigative research and the classification of knowledge. In his view of things, this is what university teaching is all about.

### PHI KAPPA PHI

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi honored Dr. Dickran Kouymjian by presenting him with the University Scholar Award as part of their annual induction ceremony held April 20, 1999.

Dr. Kouymjian joined an elite group of individuals in receiving this award. Established by the Fresno State chapter of Phi Kappa Phi in 1996, the University Scholar Award was created to recognize those individuals, who, through their scholarly activities or their artistic accomplishments and endeavors, have brought national or international acclaim to the university. Dr. Kouymjian, who joined the Fresno State faculty in 1977, is an internationally known authority on Armenian art, history and literature. Dr. Kouymjian was named Fresno State's Outstanding Professor in 1986 and was awarded the Fulbright Senior Lectureship in 1987.

## Dr. Dickran Kouymjian Receives the 1999 Provost's Award

By Hye Sharzhoor Staff

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## Centenary of Rouben Mamoulian

By Matthew Maroot  
Hye Sharzhoor Staff Writer

When discussing prominent motion picture directors in today's day and age we often hear names like Steven Spielberg, Francis Ford Coppola, or Martin Scorsese. Take that discussion back several decades and the conversation quickly changes. You're likely to hear names such as Ernst Lubitsch, Fritz Lang, and undoubtedly, Rouben Mamoulian.

To honor the centenary of Mamoulian's birth, the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, offered a course entitled *Armenian Studies 120T: The Films of Rouben Mamoulian*, as a tribute to the career of this magnificent director. In this course, taught by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, students watched fifteen of Mamoulian's films, each and every one a masterpiece in its own right. Dr. Kouymjian was invited to Yerevan in October of 1997 by the Armenian Ministry of Culture and the American University of Armenia to present a ten-day film festival on Rouben Mamoulian on the occasion of his centenary. "The excitement engendered by the twelve Mamoulian feature films shown in the Cinema House in the Armenian capital was more than even the organizers expected. Audiences averaged 300 a showing and for many days there were after screenings at the AUA auditorium," said Dr. Kouymjian. On his decision to teach a film course strictly devoted to Mamoulian's films, Dr. Kouymjian noted, "Mamoulian's 100th anniversary has passed essentially

unremarked in the U.S., by Armenians and the American film industry, it seemed important and natural that I devoted my film course to Mamoulian this year."

Born on October 8, 1898 in Tiflis, Mamoulian began his early studies at the Universities of Moscow and London, as well as the Vakhtangov Studio of the Moscow Art Theatre. After arriving in America, in 1923, Mamoulian began what would become a successful directing career, eventually on Broadway. "Mamoulian was called to Rochester New York by George Eastman, the founder of Kodak, to head up his American Opera Theatre. Not yet 25 years old, Mamoulian directed twelve operas in three years, then went on to a Broadway career, directing again a dozen plays in the following three years," said Dr. Kouymjian. After establishing himself as a successful Broadway director, Mamoulian was lured to the big screen in 1929 by Jesse Lasky and Walter Wanger of Paramount Studios. The advent of sound in the movie industry or "talkies" as they

came to be called, created a big push for directors, Mamoulian's immense talents also made him a top choice. According to Dr. Kouymjian, Mamoulian's experience working with actors and the theatre was impressive, thus enabling him to simply apply what he had learned in the theatre to film.

So, in 1929, Mamoulian began production on what would be his first major motion picture, and one of America's very first "talkies," *Applause*. The film was produced and directed at Paramount's Astoria Studios in New York and starred Helen Morgan as Kitty Darling, an aging burlesque star attempting to raise her daughter in a proper environment. In this film, only Mamoulian's first, he contributed



Rouben Mamoulian

much to the future of cinematography. It was one of the first sound musicals and was shot with a great deal of realism, one aspect that was common to many of Mamoulian's films. In addition, Mamoulian chose to film many scenes outdoors and on location, something that was no easy task given the cumbersome filming equipment used in the 1920's.

After filming his first motion picture in New York with Paramount Studios, Mamoulian's career shifted West to Hollywood where he would make many lasting contributions to American cinema. Throughout the next two decades, Mamoulian rose to prominence in the film industry, constantly directing blockbuster films. He worked with such studios as

Paramount, MGM, and 20th Century Fox. Included in Mamoulian's body of work are such hits as *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1931), *Love Me Tonight* (1932), *Song of Songs* (1933), *The Mark of Zorro* (1940), *Blood and Sand* (1941), and *Silk Stockings* (1957), just to name a few. Rouben Mamoulian also directed some of the most famous actors of the twentieth century including Maurice Chavallier, Jeanette MacDonald, Greta Garbo, Frederic March, Barbara Stanwyck, Tyrone Power, Rita Hayworth, and Marlene Dietrich, among many others.

Though Rouben Mamoulian is responsible for directing some of the most renowned actors and actresses in the history of cinema, it is surprising to realize that so few people remember him today. "It is quite amazing how quickly Rouben Mamoulian has passed out of the public imagination. It's been almost ten years since his death, and except for the various articles last year in the press in Armenia, little has been done to mark either his 100th anniversary or his memory. Mamoulian's films are such a pleasure to look at," said Dr. Kouymjian.

Mamoulian's cinematic achievements speak volumes for his talents as a director. His films are wide-ranging in scope varying from horror to musicals. In addition, Mamoulian had a flare for cinematic technique. Each of his films possesses a certain unique quality, whether it be his impressionistic use of lighting, a captivating sense of realism, or dramatic special effects, Mamoulian's films were certainly ahead of their time. And when considering all of the technology at the disposal of directors today, one can come to appreciate Mamoulian's accomplishments even more. Rouben Mamoulian, one of America's most dynamic film directors, passed away in 1987, in Beverly Hills.

SOURCE

The Armenian Int'l

- ARCHIVE -

SUBJECT

DATE December 12, 1998

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## Fourth in a Successful Series: UCLA Int'l Conference on Historic Karin/Erzerum

WESTWOOD, CA - The fourth free conference on historic Armenian cities and provinces was held here Nov. 14-15 in Dickson Hall. It was sponsored by the Armenian Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Armenian History, UCLA, in cooperation with the Grigor Narekatsi Chair in Armenian Studies, and organized by Richard G. Hovannisian, AEF Chairholder. Seventeen scholars participated, covering Armenian Karin/Erzerum from antiquity until this century. For the first time, their abstracts were made available to attendees, some 500 each day. Dr. Hovannisian summarized their remarks in Armenian and moderated six question-and-answer periods before each break. "The area's history is central to the Armenian people," he began, "and so rich in information that a day and a half could scarcely do it justice."

Robert H. Hewsen, Rowan University of New Jersey, was first with "The Historical Geography of Bartsr Hayk"; at present he is creating a historical atlas of Armenian history. "Upper or Greater Armenia" is a plateau with mountains, north and south, watered by the westward-flowing Euphrates River. The region included the royal land of Karin, district of the Armenian Arsacid kings, the principality of Sper with its gold mines, and three Armenian temple states: Ekegheats, Daranagi, and Derjan with its pagan shrine to Meer. Of continuous importance was the main road across the north of Armenia's plateau that connected the Roman-Byzantine Empire with that of the Persians.

Using his own map, Hewsen described the rivalry of the two brothers, princes Arshak on the west and Khosrov on the east. The two empires partitioned Armenia between the two, unified for the first time. At Arshak's death in 390 AD, his kingdom was made a province by the Roman-Byzantine Empire and its capital named for Emperor Theodosius I. Theodosiopolis, later Erzerum, served as fortress city to protect the Byzantine frontier. When Arabs captured it in the seventh century, they called it Arzunaran. It was sacked in 1048 by Seljuk Turks,



Richard Hovannisian welcoming a new audience on Sunday afternoon.

then passed to the Turkish Manjukakis, after to Mongols in the 13th century. It became Ottoman territory in the 16th century, a military governorship with Erzerum as its center. Throughout its turbulent history, Erzerum was Western Armenia's largest city and a religious and educational center.

Nina Garsoian, Columbia University, Emerita, was unable to attend. Her paper, "The Foundation of Theodosiopolis-Karin" was excerpted for listeners. Painstakingly delving into works by early historians such as Moses of Khoren and the Greek Procopius, Garsoian was able to establish the founding of the fortress city on the site of a former village by Theodosius I, later fortified by Emperor Justinian. An early Armenian church and famous natural springs were in Karin. More a military site than urban, it was meant to secure the newly acquired imperial territory, moving east across the Euphrates, and serving as a bulwark against the Persians.

Robert Thomson, Oxford University, and former Mashtots Professor at Harvard, was lauded by Hovannisian for his important translations, a contribution to non-Armenian-speaking scholars. In his topic "Armenian Views of Byzantine Aggression and Turkish Invasion," Thomson examined writers during the 11th-12th centuries, living under Moslem domination with differing traditions for writing history. In the chronicles of Vardapet Aristakes, sinful conduct is blamed for calamities, that a people devoted to luxury, profit and pride have spiritually gone backward. The inherent dangers of city life through corrupting trade with others and ensuring

By Janet Samuelian  
Exclusive to TAR Int'l

social transformation brought about suffering; his was a warning to do good works and penitence to restore peace. Thomson remarked on their all-too-common regret for the good old days of stability.

Lucy Der Manuelian, Tufts University, in "Medieval Karin/Erzerum: Churches, Castles, Carpets, Tombs and Trade," covered activities, traditions, monuments and history through the use of select slides. Her maps began with the region in 79 BC during the reign of Tigran the Great, to 67 AD, and 923 AD. Situated both on the Silk Road from China to Europe and also the military highway where mighty rulers successively competed for power, Erzerum was strategically significant. She showed its exports such as carpets which Armenians were permitted to sell in Belgium, its rich merchant Umek who sponsored manuscript production, aerial views of Armenian cathedrals near Erzerum; by describing historic personages from pilgrims, priests and theologians to military men, she brought color and vivacity to medieval times.

Dickran Kouymjian, California State University, Fresno, on "The Decline and Revival of Erzerum, 16th-18th Centuries," used manuscript colophons, Western travel accounts, and Turkish tax records to confirm statistical data. During the long wars between Ottoman Turks and Persian Safavids, the civil population dwindled until the enormous fortified city was almost empty. In 1540 the environment was religiously integrated, 66% Christian and 34% Moslem, and by century's end the city revived. Manuscript production increased, and after Constantinople and Smyrna, Erzerum was the most important trading center, "one of the greatest thoroughfares of Turkey." In 1692, a Catholic traveler called it "one of the best cities in the Ottoman Empire, great water, great air, and Armenians preferred to all other nations." By the 1800s the city continued to grow, though Armenians were no longer in the majority, in size second to Baghdad and opulent from trade. When the Russians



Originally from Lvov, guest Banchik Nadezhda arrived from San Jose, California - she has done a study of the Armenian and Jewish communities of Ukraine. There were also visitors from Montreal, Iran, Armenia and four eastern states.

briefly occupied Erzerum, and then left, nearly all the Christian population left with them. When Armenians gradually returned, there was a slow recovery in the last decades of the 19th century, but Erzerum never regained the prosperity and renown of the previous two centuries, he concluded.

Ashot Melkonyan, Institute of History, Academy of Sciences, Yerevan, was the morning's last speaker and spoke in Armenian. He was born in Akhalkalaki, Georgia from those 1820s Armenians who originated in Erzerum, who till now continue Erzerum traditions. The vital, fast speaker on "Demographic State of the Province of Erzerum (16th-20th Centuries)" charted the gradual introduction of Turks and Kurds among the Armenian inhabitants who had been the incontestable majority of the population. Through unbearable taxation, violence and forcible conversion, Armenians in all areas of Erzerum province diminished in population. In his table covering 1809-1909, Melkonyan enumerated the decline of populated areas, from 931 to 391 and the population reduced from 381,230 to 151,949. Thus, through several centuries up to the 1915 genocide, the process of ethnic genocide had already taken place in Western Armenia. His references came from German, Turkish, Russian, Armenian and Crimean archives, among others.

Rebecca Morris, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, "Armenian Migration from Erzerum 1829-1830," used the testimony of an American missionary, Eli Smith, to give a detailed view of Erzerum during the mass Armenian exodus after the Russo-Turkish War, along with a smaller number of Greeks and Armenian-speaking gypsies (Boshas). By mid-century, once most had returned, the city was thriving again -- yet the event had lasting impact, was a transfer of culture as well. Morris learned both Eastern and Western Armenian in three years, an impressive achievement.

James J. Reid, Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism, Sacramento, examined "Armenians of Erzerum Vilayet under Ottoman Rule 1836-78." He uncovered, he said, myriad personal accounts from Greek, English, French, Russian, German, Ottoman and even Polish sources serving during the Crimean and Russo-Turkish Wars. One eyewitness was Dr. Humphry Sandwith, Kars garrison director 1854-55 under the British who published in 1870 "How the Turks Ruled Armenia." Christians were increasingly oppressed by Ottoman government demands in "a systematic exorcism of the people." His colleague was Dr. Percy Zuhrab, Maltese Armenian and chief translator at the British Consulate in Erzerum. Telegrams described chronic atrocities, desecrated churches, by 175 militias. Armenians learned to avoid the main road and hide one's village in inaccessible places. Reid quoted the criticism of blatant corruption of Turkish commanders in Anatolia, gleaned from the memoirs of W.F. Williams, a British military officer sent to replace one such officer. Ultimately the incompetence and brutality of their generals created paranoia among soldiers who then attacked the nearest and weakest, Armenian peasants. Still the Persian caravan trade went on, and Reid sought to convey the rich Armenian cultural history in the region.

Pamela Nahabedian Young, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, as a graduate student in U of M School of Education, delved into "Making a People

Continued on p. 22

SOURCE

- ARCHIVE -  
The Armenian Reporter Int'l

DATE] December 12, 1998

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## Fourth in a Successful Series: UCLA Int'l Conference on Historic Karin/Erzerum - Continued from p. 22

report for his superiors on having seen 20-30,000 killed and said: "Any activity against Armenians was unjustified, and weakened supplies for the Third Army." An exceptional case, he went out of his way to collect intelligence on the death of Erzerum. "He demasks Talat's major lie that the Armenians were a threat to the Army." Kaiser emphasized its sound legal base for the future. Armenians were killed where danger to military existed, and they were deported where there was no danger to the military. Immediately after the genocide, the Ottoman secret service sent Anders, Lefik, and Arites to file false reports so local authorities produced propaganda materials stating what Muslims were massacred by Armenians. Muslims bragged about killing Armenians after Erzerum was emptied. "In the last 16 years of visiting Turkey, I experienced meeting local individuals who say exactly what happened, whether they are sorry or not!" This drew sustained applause.

[Some background on Hilmar Kaiser: His father was a baker, and Kaiser grew up in Germany in the same house as Turks, Greeks and Albanians. As a teenager he was invited to their homes and says, "The Turkish mentality is familiar to me, and I've been there often after 1982. I lived in Istanbul over a year." In 1985 he changed his major from anti-Fascist and anti-Semitic Studies to Turkish Studies at Bochum University. He was hired as student aide by Turkish Professor Fikret Adanir,

57, and saw his slides of destroyed Armenian churches in Vaspourakan. He spent time in the Turkish archives, learning firsthand about the Armenian Genocide. He relies on his own language skills and objectivity to find hard evidence].

Richard Hovannisian, UCLA, presented "Erzerum 1916-21: Andranik, Sevres, and Mustafa Kemal" -- a period of great change. He detailed the duplicity of tsarist officials and the military command and how the Bolshevik revolution a year later changed Armenia's prospects for autonomy. He gave a concise overview of the Paris Peace Conference in late 1918 where creation of a united, independent Armenia was debated. Finally no Allied Power would send armed forces to Western Armenia, and the US would not accept Woodrow Wilson's mandate for Armenia. He called the Treaty of Sevres "a very careful plan done with great cynicism." Turkish generals secretly got the support of Russia, who in the end took over what remained.

Hovannisian showed what Armenians gradually lost during 1917-21 when Armenia was not even consulted. He made clear, however, that Armenian claims not had not been farfetched and showed three 1919 versions of maps by British, French and Americans creating a free Armenian state, from sea to sea with ports in Cilicia.

David S. Calonne, in "William Saroyan and the Erzerum Connection," sought to end the Conference on an optimistic note and found many references to

Erzerum in Saroyan literature which he called "the birthplace of the wisdom of the West." As Saroyan weathered personal setbacks, he sought his tough Caucasian roots, descended towards Armenia within. During his family's exodus from Bitlis, they spent several months in Erzerum before reaching Trebizon and Marseilles. His brother Henry, called "Krikor" in Saroyan stories, whom he uses as a conduit to his own shadowy Armenian self, was born in Erzerum.

To Saroyan, St. Gregory Illuminator or Krikor, the light thrower, brought peace to one's soul... Calonne read an excerpt from "Traveling the World with General Grant": "So my father's dream became my brother's and my dream. I'll go to the cities of the world someday -- a man died, but the city lived on." Many times Saroyan mentions Erzerum as "a great city of our country." The writer mused in 1925, finding an Armenian directory, "Every Armenian is a story... More than history, they are literature. They are my people, gone but not forgotten!"

Dr. Hovannisian announced that the next Conference on the province of Pokr Hayk will take place May 14-15, 1999. Lesser Armenia includes Sebastia, Tokat, Amasia and Marsovan. There was hearty applause when he asked all the speakers from the day before to stand. In appreciation, the final standing ovation was for him.

## Fourth in a Successful Series: UCLA Int'l Conference on Historic Karin/Erzerum - Continued from p. 21

into a Nation: The Role of the Sanasarian Academy." Her research took her to London to trace the growth of national identity in 19th-century institutions. Early education in Erzerum changed from lay and religious to more formal instruction. By 1913 there were 211 community-sponsored schools (non-missionary) with over 14,000 students, and more women than men. She charted coursework, faculty training, and occupations of graduates. Sanasarians, she said, exemplified a hybrid national consciousness with study of Western subjects. She had several requests for her list of graduates' names from 1900-1910.

Reid, during a discussion about Erzerum trade, said that merchants, fearing confiscation of their funds, sent them to banks outside the Ottoman Empire, thus not enriching Erzerum. Ashot Melkonyan was asked to estimate the amount of Moslemized Armenians in Erzerum. He stated that there were 110,000 half-and-halves but many more from medieval times forward; "Ardahan, Kars, it is more than we can know or count. Even after 300 years, many have Armenian characteristics and are afraid to say they are Armenians."

Rubina Peroomian, UCLA, with "A Call Sounded from the Armenian Mountains of Erzerum," from the fedayee song "Tsayn me hunchets Erzrumi Hayots lerneran," gave a dense accounting of the development of political thought during harsh times, a period of self-realization and rise of determination to struggle against oppressive rule by Turks and harassment and exploitation by Kurds. "The 1890-95 period can be characterized by romanticism, unrealistic expectations, undoable plans, ideological disputes among the leadership, unprepared masses unable to meet challenges, the reluctance of the wealthy to finance a revolutionary movement..." After the 1895 massacres, there was a gradual upsurge of ARF activities; i.e., training in self-defense. Blaming activist students, Sanasarian trustees closed the school in 1912 and reopened it in Sivas. Then when Turkey entered the War in 1914 and ominous events unfolded, Armenian life in Erzerum became eradicated until, at war's end, Erzerum was entirely Turkish. Summoning further energy, Peroomian earnestly offered her own fine summation in Armenian.

Vartitter Kotcholosian Hovannian, Kaiser-Permanente Medical Group, was the day's last speaker on "Armenian Village Life in the Plain of Karin." Her father came from Tsitoghi, Karin village, and she said, citing a 10th-century Catholicos, "since antiquity Armenians have clung to Mother Earth at all costs. Credit for our oral history should go to the peasants up until 1915." She showed slides and diagrams de-



Most of the participating scholars, l. to r., Gia Aivazian, UCLA; organizer Richard Hovannian, UCLA; James Reid, Vryonis Center for Study of Hellenism; Vartitter Kotcholosian Hovannian, Kaiser-Permanente Medical Group; Rebecca Morris, Univ. of Michigan-Ann Arbor; Lucy Der Mananian, Tufts University; Robert Thomson, Oxford University; Dickran Kouymjian, Calif. State University, Fresno; Robert Hewsen, Rowan University of New Jersey; Ashot Melkonyan, Institute of History, Yerevan; Pamela Nahabedian Young, Univ. of Michigan-Ann Arbor; Hilmar Kaiser, European University Institute, Florence; Rubina Peroomian, UCLA; and David Calonne, Sienna Heights College, Ann Arbor. Missing: Nina Garsoian, Columbia University, Emerita; Isabel Kaprielian, Calif. State Univ., Fresno; and Krikor Beledian, National Inst. of Oriental Languages and Civilizations, Paris, Catholic University, Lyon.

scribing village life in Erzerum district and close socio-economic ties to monasteries and how communal cooperation evolved from the isolation of a six-month-long winter. The Plain with its Euphrates River and circling mountains to the west, was once called, "a sanctuary of flowers, a water wonderland," she said. She enumerated the remarkable resilience of peasants, the co-educational education, illustrious students from the monasteries, the social reawakening...until the ominous flight of the Europeans, followed by the Turkish master plan that removed them. The last slides were of present-day Erzerum and finally her father's village, ending on a warm, hopeful note that one day Armenians may be invited back to revitalize the region's eco-systems - "the first known cereal came from that land first populated by Armenians."

## PART II

Krikor Beledian, National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations, Paris, and Catholic University, Lyons, spoke in Armenian on "Karin: 'The Absent Land' in Armenian Literature," during the first afternoon presentation. He analyzed why a specific regional literature failed to emerge in Partser Hayk in the 19th and 20th centuries. He gave examples of minor writers and surmised that turbulent life disrupted creativity, and being distant from cultural areas like Tiflis or Constantinople also stifled intellectual life. "They had so little unity, the writers never discussed the 'genocide' together."

Gia Aivazian, UCLA, with "The UCLA Sachtleben Papers on Erzerum in the 1890s," relayed a spellbinding story about the fateful acquisition of a primary historical resource. A box of papers and photographs, rescued by chance from a bonfire in Texas 30 years ago by a curi-

ous passerby, was eventually given to UCLA library where librarian Aivazian has tracked down its origin. William Lewis Sachtleben was a journalist/photographer who wrote for American and English journals and recorded two trips he had made. The first was a two-year voyage from Constantinople to Peking during 1890-92 to record the adventure in a book, "Across Asia on a Bicycle" (1894) -- 15,044 miles via England, France, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Persia, Peking and San Francisco. Well known thereafter, he arrived in the town of Erzerum in the spring of 1895 to investigate the disappearance of American cyclist, Frank Lenz, who vanished on the plain of Alashgerd in May 1894. While Turkish authorities kept Sachtleben waiting for four months, he studied the customs, observed relationships, met with leading Turkish and European figures and wrote pieces about Sultan Abdul-Hamid, his reform scheme, the Kurds, the Armenians, etc.; finally in late September he accompanied the Turkish official and saw, by pre-arrangement, that the Turks had first lied about the lost traveler being in Persia. Only one Armenian farmer told the truth, that he had seen Lenz, who had been robbed and murdered." By then, Sachtleben thought of Turks and Kurds as "liars under oath, lazy users of others." In October 1895 he witnessed the Erzerum massacres, and photographed Armenian victims. Aivazian then showed some of the photos, the locale, prison, barracks, "Fascinating and gruesome," the materials contain 107 pages of closely written text, over 100 prints, some writing on the back, that will stand up in a court of law," since "we know who took them and where." Hovannian mentioned that children and grandchildren of missionaries have much material also.

Isabel Kaprielian, California State University, Fresno, reported on "Keghi and Keghi Compatriotic Societies and Their Impact on Home Villages before World War I." Keghi migrants from the southeast border area of Erzerum province arrived in Canada, America, and Mexico where they banded together to form educational associations designed to promote schooling in their villages. They worked with United Armenian Alliance to oversee curriculum, texts designs, pupil placement, school buildings, teacher salaries, and administrative advice. By 1911,

with 50 schools, literacy increased, and modernity brought villagers a broader perspective. The kith-and-kin network changed the villages from mountaintop hamlets to become a far-flung caravan moving men, money, and ideas from 1900-1914. Armenian history was taught also, but secretly without textbooks, she said.

Hilmar Kaiser, European University Institute, Florence, was introduced by Dr. Hovannian as a Ph.D. graduate student researcher in Turkish and German archives who this year is a resident fellow at U. of M. Armenian Research Center. Kaiser's paper, "Erzerum Province in 1915: The View from the German Consulate," came from vice-consular archives of Erzerum, diplomatic service, German military personnel, and private sources. The German goal was to remain an ally of Turkey whether Armenians died or not in order to penetrate the region economically. Unexpectedly, the German Consul was replaced in February of 1915 by an officer, not a diplomat. Kaiser expressed his surprise at finding a sensitive person who ended by opposing his own government. Scheubner Richter's telegrams describing the massacres and deportations contradicted Talat Pasha's misinformation to Germany. He sought to help Armenians, but was told to stay away. He kept telegramming accurate statistics on the carnage, going on horseback to see for himself. When no more Armenians were left, he wrote a long

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