



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

Armenian Studies Program News Service

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

Fall 2003

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June 2003-December 2003**

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Mirror-Spectator: Watertown, MA DATE: December 20, 2003
SUBJECT: Bozian to Teach Dance Class PAGE: 1 of 1

Bozian to Teach Armenian Dance Seminar at Fresno State

FRESNO, Calif. — Internationally recognized dance instructor Tom Bozian will teach a course, Armenian Studies 120T Armenian Dance, on Friday, January 30 and Saturday, January 31. The Friday session begins at 5 p.m. and continues until 10 p.m. in the South Gym, Room 134 on the Fresno State campus. Saturday's class runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Armenian Studies Program sponsors Bozian's dance seminar at Fresno State. Those interested in registering should contact the Armenian Studies Program to receive registration materials. The dance seminar is open to the public and is expected to fill quickly. There are no prerequisites for the course.

Bozian was born in Los Angeles to Armenian parents and he was raised and educated in Fresno, receiving his bachelor's degree in Russian Area Studies.

At the invitation of the Soviet Armenian government in the early 1970s, Bozian traveled to Yerevan, where he continued his classical and character dance training graduating from the State Choreographic School Sayat Nova in a three-year program. After returning to the US, Bozian devoted his career to the preservation, performance and

instruction of original Armenian song and dance.

Each year, Bozian travels to Armenia to continue his research working with various institutions and dance specialists, and at the same time, he visits target areas throughout Armenia for the purpose of drawing comparisons of original dances from both Armenia and the diaspora.

Bozian is particularly sought out for his extensive knowledge of Armenian dances from the pre-1915 period.

In addition to the dances of the pre-1915 period and the Caucasian Armenian dances,

Bozian specializes in new Armenian folk dances as well as choreography for stage presentation. He regularly tours the Orient and Europe teaching Armenian dance to international folk dance collectives and to groups within Armenian communities.

In 1975, Bozian founded the International Song and Dance Symposium and directed the one-week seminar for five years at the University of Hawaii Oahu campus and for 20 years at the University of California Santa Barbara campus. Many noted folk dance specialists presented their dance programs at these institutes.

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: Bozian to Teach Dance ClassDATE: December 18, 2003
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Tom Bozian Conducts Armenian Dance Seminar at CSUF

FRESNO - Internationally recognized dance instructor Tom Bozian will teach a course, Armenian Studies 120T-Armenian Dance, on January 30-31.

The Friday session begins at 5 PM and continues until 10 PM in the South Gym, Room 134 on the Fresno State campus. Saturday's class runs from 9 AM-5 PM. Bozian's dance seminar is sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.

There is a \$50 per person fee for the course and those interested in registering should contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669 to receive registration materials. The Dance Seminar is open to the public and is expected to fill quickly, so make sure to register early. There are no prerequisites for the course.

Bozian was born in Los Angeles to Armenian parents and he was raised and educated in Fresno, receiving his B. A. degree in Russian Area Studies.

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Bozian lives in Los Angeles where, today, the largest concentration of Armenians outside Armenia reside. He continues his classical dance training, studies musical arrangement and harmony. He also directs "Hye Bar Entertainment" (a DJ service). Bozian is fluent in English, Russian and Armenian.

For more information, contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Mirror-Spectator: Watertown, MA DATE: December 13, 2003
SUBJECT: All Things Armenian PAGE: 1 of 1

'All Things Armenian' Radio Show Premieres On KFSR 90.7

FRESNO – "All Things Armenian," a weekly, one-hour long radio program, produced by KFSR and the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, debuted Saturday November 1 at noon on KFSR 90.7 FM. The program is also available on the Internet, via the station's website at www.kfsr.org.

"All Things Armenian" is hosted by Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program. The program combines interviews with a variety of guests and the classical music of Armenian composers and artists. International, national and local news reports round out the program, as well as updates on campus Armenian studies activities and other local events. "All Things Armenian" airs immediately following "Hye Oozh," a three-hour long weekly program featuring contemporary Armenian music that has been a staple of KFSR's program lineup for many years.

The first edition of "All Things Armenian" aired on Saturday, November 1, and focused on the music and life of Armenian composer Aram Khachaturian. In addition to performances of several of Khachaturian's works, the program also featured an interview with pianist Sahan Arzuni, an internationally recognized pianist and authority on the composer's works. Arzuni performed at Fresno State earlier this fall, and is currently on a worldwide tour, celebrating the 100th anniversary of Khachaturian's birth.

The concept for "All Things Armenian" was developed by KFSR Station Manager Joe Moore and "Hye Oozh" host Sevag Tateosian. "We're excited about having the opportunity to collaborate with the Armenian Studies program here at Fresno State and showcase the exciting things going on here at the University and in the local Armenian community," says Moore. "We've had great success with the "Hye Oozh" program, and the idea came out of trying to do something new, to help complement that show, but with different music, prominent guests, and news, something that encompasses the whole of Armenian culture."

The second edition of "All Things Armenian" aired on Saturday, November 8, and featured an interview with Peter Balakian, author of the new book *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response*, which debuted in October in fourth place on the *New York Times* Best Seller list.



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SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: All Things Armenian

DATE: December 11, 2003
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"All Things Armenian" Radio Show Premieres on Fresno's KFSR 90.7

FRESNO - "All Things Armenian," a weekly, one hour long radio program, produced by KFSR and the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, debuted Nov. 1 at noon on KFSR 90.7 FM. The program is also available on the internet, via the station's website at www.kfsr.org.

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The second edition of "All Things Armenian" aired on Nov. 8, and featured an interview with Peter Balakian, author of the new book *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response*, which debuted in October #4 on the New York Times Best Seller list.



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SOURCE: The World and I: Washington , DC
SUBJECT: All Things Armenian

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CULTURE HERITAGE

Eden in the Valley

The Armenian Community in Fresno

Written and photographed by Alison Burke

Bordered on the east and west by the mighty Sierra Nevadas and the coastal hills, California's San Joaquin Valley is the Golden State's breadbasket. Here, in the vast central areas of the state, a bounty of crops is squeezed from arid land made fruitful by irrigation. This is the California





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of grape pickers, fig trees, almond groves, and blistering summers with no shade. It is the rural California made famous by John Steinbeck and the Armenian author William Saroyan.

Many Armenian immigrants made their home in the valley around 130 years ago. They rooted themselves to the land. Armenians were prominent in developing Fresno's fig industry, selling and exporting exotic varieties grown in their homeland. They also played a major role in the cultivation of bulgur (cracked wheat), grapes, and raisins.

The first wave of settlers came in the

1870s. Armenia was a vassal state of the Ottoman Empire, and the immigrants came in search of farming opportunities. The valley's landscape reminded them of home, and they soon brought more relatives to Fresno. The land they settled became known to them as Yettem, or "Garden of Eden." In the late 1890s, another wave of Armenians arrived. These people were refugees escaping pogroms at the hands of Ottoman Turkey. Protestant missionaries who worked in Armenia also helped bring settlers to the state in the early 1900s. The Turkish genocide of the Armenian people from

Left:
Enjoying
traditional
Armenian
dancing during
the annual
Blessing of the
Grapes festival
in Fresno.
Above: This
dramatic statue
of the folk hero
David of
Sassoun stands
on the lawn of
the city's
courthouse.

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A People of Faith

Armenia was the first Christian nation in the world, and its culture is a bastion of Christian identity. Armenians consider themselves descendants of Noah, the survivor of the biblical flood. The holy mountain of Ararat is located in the heart of the Armenian homeland. Present-day Armenia is bordered by Russia, Georgia, Turkey, Iran, and Azerbaijan. Throughout history, Armenians chafed under Assyrian, Persian, Roman, Greek, Arab, Turkish, and Russian dominance, with interludes of independence. As a result, the country's exotic and dramatic past reads like an epic tale, with warriors and princesses, tumult between pagans and Christians, unrequited love, poison, and slain virgins.

Apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew traveled through Armenia around A.D. 50 and gathered converts. They are revered as the country's first preachers of Christianity and the founders of the Armenian Apostolic church. The nation adopted Christianity in 301 as its sole religion.

The Armenian Church is headquartered in Yerevan, Armenia, and in Lebanon to cater to the Armenian diaspora population in the Middle East. In Fresno, Holy Trinity Apostolic Church was built in 1914 in the heart of Armenian Town, today's downtown. Its floor plan resembles an Armenian crucifix, like those of many ancient churches in the Asia Minor, and Holy Trinity was the first church built in the tradition of Armenian architecture in the United States.

When Protestant missionaries traveled to Armenia in the late nineteenth century, they left a formidable imprint on the religious preferences of the nation. What emerged were separate churches that splintered off from the main church. This religious diversity is represented in Fresno's numerous Armenian churches: Apostolic, Congregational, Evangelical, and Presbyterian, a variety that causes some divisions in the community but not to an extreme. —A.B.

1915 to 1923 caused another wave of immigrants to flee to California. Civil war in Lebanon and revolution in Iran sent more Armenians to the valley in the 1970s.

Today, although Los Angeles may be home to California's largest Armenian population, Fresno is where the Armenian presence is most apparent. The city is small enough to "feel" in part like an Armenian town. Armenian culture is still pervasive in the city, clearly visible in Fresno's churches, dairies, restaurants, groceries, markets, delis, and farms. Combined with other groups scattered throughout the county in smaller farm towns, the Armenian population centered in Fresno numbers over fifty thousand.

Perhaps the most public expression of Armenian heritage can be seen on the Fresno courthouse lawn. The Armenian folk hero David of Sassoun and his majestic steed Dzelali are immortalized in a dramatic sculpture by Yervand Kochar. Families have passed down the legend of "Sasuntsi Davit" for hundreds of years as a symbol of the Armenian nation. David had a sword of lightning, a belt of gold, an immortal flying horse, and a sacred cross. A benevolent hero, he traveled everywhere on Dzelali, his sword held ready to defend his people from foreign invaders. For many Armenians, David of Sassoun suggests both their struggle for independence and freedom and their strong Christian association.

Armenian Fresno

Fresno's downtown was once a vibrant center of Armenian culture. Pulitzer winner Saroyan, a playwright and novelist, grew up in this district and wrote about it. The original



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Armenian town, where the church was the center, covered around a dozen city blocks and thrived until the 1950s. In his book of semiautobiographical stories, *My Name Is Aram* (1937), Saroyan wrote that Fresno was "as good a town as any in the world for a writer to be born into, being neither too large nor too small, too urban or too rural, too progressive or too backward . . . too arid or too lush . . . and balanced as to give the spirit of the growing writer almost exactly the right proportions of severity and warmth."

Describing the countryside, Saroyan wrote: "That year we lived at the edge of town. . . . Behind our house was the country: vineyards, orchards, irrigation ditches, and country roads." Apparently, little has changed outside the city. Rows of grapevines still flourish and trucks make their way along the avenues among crops, stirring up clouds of dust. Yet

the old Armenian town is merely a vestige of its original self. The Armenian flatbread bakery and red brick Holy Trinity Church are just two of a few visible reminders of the days when the Armenians settled in one place, in a cohesive ethnic community.

Highways, industry, and resettlement dismantled the downtown of Saroyan's childhood and of many generations of Fresno's Armenians. Today, this district is trying to return to its roots as a center of Armenian business and culture. For the last several years, the Armenian Cultural Foundation has partnered with private developers and city officials to create a revamped downtown area totaling almost ten acres. The project area incorporates part of the original Armenian settlement where the Holy Trinity Church stands, along with a few other landmarks, an Armenian community center, and nine

■ The Armenian Church of St. Paul in downtown Fresno.



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residences that once belonged to Armenian families.

The plan for these homes is to relocate them to another downtown area and establish them as historic buildings. The time of completion is indefinite, but approval by the city council is expected in 2004. The city project manager of "Old Armenian Town," Richard Yee, explains the partnership's goal is "to take what is left of the downtown and preserve it."

Meanwhile, all parties are waiting for the creaky machinery of local government to move forward in the approval process.

The Armenian Cultural Foundation plans to build and fund its own cultural center with help from the community. The Armenian Cultural Center will house a new museum and community center. Meher Chekerdemian is on the board of directors and represents the group in dealings with the city and private developers.

The Diaspora

The Armenian diaspora dates back centuries, to the Ottoman takeover of Constantinople in 1453. At that time, Armenians fled the oppression of the Turks to Russia, Poland, and India. Those who stayed in Constantinople eventually established a prominent church center there.

In 1639, following a lengthy conflict between Persia and Ottoman Turkey, the two countries divided Armenia into western and eastern halves. Catherine the Great annexed parts of Armenia during her reign, and in 1828 more of eastern Armenia was brought into Russia. Western Armenia was still under the Ottomans, severe rulers who incited many uprisings following a trend through the empire in the 1820s. Turkish pogroms of Armenian villages began in the 1890s.

As the new opposition Party of the Young Turks rose in Turkey, violence toward Armenians was transformed into a government policy of extermination and persecution. The Turkish army began regular attacks and deported the remaining Armenians to the Syrian desert; most of them were murdered along the way and thrown into the Euphrates River. In effect, the Ottoman Empire succeeded in depopulating western Armenia. Armenians worldwide have unsuccessfully lobbied Turkey for official recognition of Ottoman crimes against their people, which reached an apex in 1915. The grievance remains unresolved.

In 1920, Armenia fell to the Bolsheviks and became a Soviet state, despite the recognition of its independence by the United States and other countries. In 1946, many Armenians living abroad decided to repatriate to their historical homeland to contribute to postwar restoration and help achieve the dream of independence. However, in 1948 and '49 Stalin launched a new campaign of terror, and thousands of Armenians were arrested and deported. From the early 1960s Armenians emigrated from the Soviet Union on a large scale. Many of Fresno's more recent Armenian settlers came to the United States by way of the Middle East.

Today, more Armenians live around the world than in Armenia proper. California is one focal point of this population, but during the last century the Middle East also received many Armenians fleeing the Turkish pogroms. Egypt, Syria, Greece, Lebanon, and Jordan were the primary recipients of these refugee populations. Use of the Armenian language is an important link to the sense of history and identity in all countries where Armenians live (including the United States). Armenian forms an independent branch of the Indo-European language family, but is most closely related to Greek, Pashto, and Farsi. Modern western Armenian, from the areas of Turkey that was once part of Armenia, is now spoken by the diaspora worldwide, especially in the Middle East.

—A.B.



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Says Chekerdemian, "The community on the whole is happy with the arrangement. We would like to have our cultural center there near the church, in the historic area where Fresno Armenians lived." Expectations are largely positive about this project, although doubts remain.

Dickran Kouymjian directs the Armenian studies program at California State University, Fresno. He teaches the literature of Saroyan, has published a book of the author's plays, and writes extensively on Armenian culture and history. "Trying to immortalize a geographical area as Armenian Town without Armenians living there is in some respects artificial," Kouymjian comments. "If it is intended to pay tribute to an immigrant community that succeeded in making the American dream come true, it will be hard [to achieve] through upscale development.

"The catchy sound of Armenian Town makes every Armenian excited," he says. "But what the new development project will offer in terms of preserving a historical or cultural sense of that extraordinary breeding ground of sorrow and joy, success and ambition, and also prejudice and fear, is not as clear as one would like."

An active presence

From the late nineteenth century forward, the downtown community was tightly knit and based on timeless bonds of family and a shared culture. Today, the community is dispersed throughout the city but more than ever a striking presence in Fresno. The churches and fraternal societies serve as meet-



ing centers, as does the Armenian studies program.

In Saroyan's novel, Aram's uncle comments, "For the most part, we are an agricultural people, although we have had our brilliant men, too." In Fresno, the agricultural people are also some of the brilliant ones. Armenians have been notable among major produce distributors and farming conglomerates. The Armenians are civic minded, and their organizations abound nationwide, along with schools, nursing homes, churches, and businesses of all kinds.

For example, the Armenian Community School of Fresno has been a fixture

■ Holy Trinity, another Armenian church, located in the area designated for redevelopment as "Old Armenian Town."

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■ *Above: A traditional meal of chicken kabobs and rice, as served in Koko's Restaurant, one of Fresno's best-known Armenian eating places. Right: A welcoming menu entices visitors to stop by an outdoor food booth at the Blessing of the Grapes festival.*

since the 1950s. Community groups unified to create a school that served various needs without narrowing due to political or religious persuasion. Today, its religious instruction incorporates something from each Armenian denomination in Fresno. The bilingual curriculum educates students to be "model American citizens with an understanding and appreciation of their Armenian heritage [and] Christian values."

Armenian studies are a major emphasis, with language, literature, culture, and history taught to all students. Students learn to read, write, and speak in Armenian or reinforce what they have learned at home. Core classes are in English, and other subjects (such as culture, language, and history) are taught in Armenian with two forty-five-minute classes a day. In June 2003, the theme of the school's cultural festival was an Armenian wedding. Children dressed in traditional costumes made by their parents and performed songs, dances, and skits. Each year during Easter vacation seventh- and eighth-grade students have the opportunity to visit Armenia. A

group of students and teachers visited in 2003 to commemorate the seventeen hundredth anniversary of the homeland's conversion to Christianity.

The Armenian studies department at California State University, Fresno, has been another popular center of Armenian culture in the city since the early 1960s. A minor in Armenian studies is offered, along with individual courses for interested students. Also, students take advantage of an exchange program with Yerevan University, and the program has visiting scholars from around the world.

Throughout Fresno and California, connections to the Republic of Armenia abound in the form of humanitarian and technical assistance. Relatives, friends, and strangers in Armenia receive help by way of various nonprofit companies. The





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Armenian Technology Group (ATG) in Fresno started after the earthquake of 1988, when people from the valley and San Francisco Bay area organized to help the republic. "We put people together and make connections between families here and there," says Varoujan Der Simonian. After Armenia's formal independence by referendum in 1991, the group helped farmers move from a centralized Soviet economy to the private sector. A private nonprofit volunteer organization, ATG works with USAID and helped write the laws to privatize the Armenian economy. The San Joaquin Valley's legacy of agriculture is another means of assistance. A local nursery donated grape plants to send to Armenia to help revive the centuries-old but flagging wine industry.

Many Fresno Armenians, though several generations removed from their first immigrant ancestor, maintain a strong rapport with more recent arrivals. Church, cultural, and recreational groups

meet constantly, often with long tables of traditional Armenian food and Middle Eastern specialties. There are picnics, the Blessing of the Grapes event at the churches every August, and other ongoing festivals and banquets, mainly in connection with the churches. The Armenians are in large part a faith community that celebrates life's major moments, Armenian Independence Day, the commemoration of the Armenian genocide, and church holidays. Artur Tashchian of Nina's Bakery sells Armenian bread, *lahmajoon* (a flatbread specialty), and pastries. He runs the store, a frequent meeting place for Armenians, with his parents, aunt, and sister. A recent immigrant to the United States from Armenia, he declares with pride that "Armenians and their spirit are a part of Fresno." ■

■ Women serving tabouli (a vegetable and bulgur salad mix) enjoy their efforts to support the festival.

Alison Burke is a freelance writer based in Lemoore, California.



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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Fresno State Bulldog Power: Fresno, CA
SUBJECT: Avakian Donates Books to Fresno State

DATE: Winter, 2003
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BOOK DONATION

It's not every day you can pull from a library shelf an Armenian-Latin dictionary printed in Constantinople or the first English edition of "The Forty Days of Musa Dagh."

But it will be possible in the university's Henry Madden Library because of a donation by Dr. Arra S. Avakian, a retired professor of Armenian Studies at Fresno State. He gave his personal library — an estimated 3,000 books and pamphlets of Armenian materials — to the Madden collection as "a way for a lasting association with the university."

Avakian began collecting 60 years ago, buying books about church architecture, the Armenian language and Armenian music.

"This is a historic Armenian community, and our collections reflect that," says Michael Gorman, Fresno State's dean of Library Services.



Arra S. Avakian

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Fresno State News.com: Fresno, CA
SUBJECT: _____DATE: November 2003
PAGE: 1 of 1**KFSR Adds 'All Things Armenian'**

"All Things Armenian," a weekly, one-hour radio program produced by KFSR and the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, is on the air every Saturday at noon on KFSR 90.7 FM. The program, which debuted Nov. 1, also is available on the Internet, via the station's Web site at KFSR 90.7 FM - Fresno.

Hosted by Armenian Studies professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian, the program combines interviews with a variety of guests and the classical music of Armenian composers and artists. News reports from around the world and updates on campus Armenian Studies activities and other local events will be included.

This week's program features an interview with Peter Balakian, author of the best selling book "The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response," who spoke at Fresno State on Nov. 2. The program also will feature the music of noted Armenian-American composer Alan Hovness.

The inaugural show (Nov. 1) focused on the music and life of Armenian composer Aram Khatchatourian. In addition to performances of several of Khatchatourian's works, the program also featured an interview with pianist Sahan Arzuni, an internationally recognized pianist and authority on the composer's works. Arzuni, who performed at Fresno State earlier this fall, is on a worldwide tour, celebrating the 100th anniversary of Khatchatourian's birth.

"All Things Armenian" airs immediately following "Hey Oozh," a three-hour weekly program featuring contemporary Armenian music that has been a staple of KFSR's program lineup for more than 12 years.

The concept for "All Things Armenian" was developed by KFSR Station Manager Joe Moore, and "Hey Oozh" host Sevag Tateosian.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Collegian: Fresno, CA
SUBJECT: _____DATE: November 17, 2003
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Visiting professor teaches Armenian Studies from first-hand experience in Armenia, Beirut

By Daniel Kenney

The Collegian

The Henry Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor position in the Fresno State Armenian Studies department has yielded a well-traveled addition to the campus' part-time staff.

Ara Sanjian is teaching Armenian Studies T20T, "Armenia in the Soviet Period, 1920-1991," as well as Armenian Studies 108T, a survey course, this semester.

Sanjian is also slated to give three public lectures on "Mountainous Karabagh in the Soviet Era." Two of those lectures have already been given.

He is also the author of two books, and numerous articles concerning Armenian culture and history.

A native of Beirut, Lebanon who lived there for 27 years, he is the first non-American who has been selected for the Khanzadian Kazan program.

Sanjian said Fresno is a great place for Armenian Studies.

"Fresno is known worldwide throughout the Armenian community," Sanjian said. "Most Armenians who have had some education know of Fresno, California."

Sanjian said a lot of first-generation Armenian immigrants who settled in Fresno wrote a wealth of literature concerning their experiences here and that many of these writings are in Armenian

textbooks. He also said the works of arguably Fresno's most famous writer, William Saroyan, were also required reading in Armenian schools.

"When I read literature during my studies, one of the books required was the Human Comedy, translated into Armenian, as Saroyan wrote in English."

Although many Armenians worldwide may not know where Fresno is, Sanjian said that, due to its strong Armenian presence throughout history, Fresno is a well-known place.

Although a native of Beirut, Sanjian is an ethnic Armenian. His ancestors settled in Lebanon as a result of the Armenian Genocide of 1915. He has lived there most of his life, not counting his college years.

Sanjian will return to Lebanon after his time here, for which he took a four-month leave of absence from Haigazian.

Sanjian is taking advantage of his part-time status here to do research for various projects and to visit Los Angeles, which has a high Lebanese immigrant population.

Sanjian said he has enjoyed his time in Fresno so far.

"The weather is very similar to my home is Lebanon, as it is like the Mediterranean climate," Sanjian said. "This is a very peaceful town, and the (Fresno State) library is very helpful in my research. I look forward to the future."

-ARA SANJIAN

Henry Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor



Ara Sanjian, who is serving as the Henry Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor in the Armenian Studies department this semester, was born in Beirut, Lebanon and lived in Armenia for many years. Photo by Miki Koshikawa



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Collegian: Fresno, CA
SUBJECT: _____DATE: November 14, 2003
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Students appeal to AS for Collegian funding

By Dana Parker-McClain

The Collegian

USU room 312 was alive with the voices of more than 60 students, teachers, alumni and professionals during Thursday night's AS meeting.

Because of an atypical turnout, every seat was filled, and those without a seat lined the back wall and peeked through the door.

The issue at hand?

AS funding of The Collegian.

"The reason that a little more than about 60 people are here today is because we are concerned about a decision made by the previous senate to cap the funding of The Collegian and continue to reduce it over an eight year period to zero," Collegian News Editor Adrian Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez said he believes that a 1989 referendum existed that guaranteed every student pay \$1.50 per semester in student fees for The Collegian.

Documentation for the 1989 referendum is, at this point, missing.

Michelle Jurkovich, AS vice president of finance, said that if the document was found it could possibly change the situation.

She said that a 1996 referendum that passed didn't list a

specific funding allocation for The Collegian and wasn't sure if that referendum could supersede the 1989 referendum.

Without documentation of the 1989 referendum, funding for The Collegian will be allocated based on the needs of students, Jurkovich said.

Rodriguez said the senate should put together a committee to look into the issue, as funding cuts will negatively affect both The Collegian and the ethnic supplements that run in the newspaper twice a semester.

The four supplements include Hye Sharhoom, Asian Pacific Review, La Voz de Atzlan and Uhuru na Umoja.

Maurice Ndole, editor of Uhuru na Umoja, said the supplements provide an important service to readers and to stop funding would stifle the ethnic voice of the campus.

"The ethnic supplements were formed in the '60s to address the racial issues of the time and they now represent the ethnic diversity of our campus," he said.

Rodriguez also said the current situation puts The Collegian in a tough spot when covering certain campus news.

"Some of the people here today are concerned that the ASI intentionally removed our freedom to independently



Student Lorrie Person, president of the Fresno State Advertising Club, appeals to the Associated Students Inc. concerning The Collegian's budget at Thursday night's meeting. Photo by Jeff Criesl

and impartially report the news about the campus," he said.

"If we can't have a dissenting view of the student government, then our purpose is eroded."

Rodriguez said that The Collegian and the AS both exist to serve students and to watch out for their well-being.

Jurkovich said the only purpose of the AS is to serve students by distributing student funds where students want

them to go.

The people who passed the 1989 referendum aren't the people at Fresno State right now and the main focus should be what students currently want, Jurkovich said.

The problem will be finding a way to monitor the wants and needs of students, she said.

Sevag Tateosian, editor of Hye Sharhoom, said he sees people reading The Collegian every day in his classes.

"If you put a survey in The

Collegian, the only people that are going to see it are the people that read The Collegian," Jurkovich said. "Nobody responds to surveys in the mail, and there isn't any voter turnout."

Jurkovich said the best bet would be for senators to ask the students in their classes what they think about The Collegian so that they may have a better idea of how important the paper and its funding are to the campus.

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Armenian Reporter Int'l: Paramus, NJ DATE: October 25, 2003
SUBJECT: _____ PAGE: 1 of 1

Peter Balakian to Speak on New Book, "The Burning Tigris: America's Response to the Armenian Genocide"

FRESNO, CA- Noted author Peter Balakian will read from and discuss his new book, *The Burning Tigris: America's Response to the Armenian Genocide*, on Sunday, November 2, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wahlberg Room of the Music Building on the Fresno State campus.

The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response (HarperCollins) tells the history of the more than 1 million Armenians who were killed in 1915 under the cover of World War I, as well as the story of the many unsung heroes here in America who helped launch America's first international human rights movement.

As previously reported, *The Burning Tigris* has already achieved a major milestone, opening at number four on the New York Times Bestseller's list.

The talk is co-sponsored by the Fresno State Armenian Studies Program, the College of Arts and Humanities Lecture Series, and the Armenian National Committee of Central California. A reception and book signing will follow the event.

Parking will be available in Lot C of the campus for no charge. For more information of directions call the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669.

**ARCHIVE**SOURCE: University Journal, CSU Fresno: Fresno, CADATE: November 4, 2003

SUBJECT: _____

PAGE: _____

1 of 1**Kazan lecture Nov. 19**

Dr. Ara Sanjian, the Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies, for the fall semester, will present the final lecture in a series of three on Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Alice Peters Auditorium, room 191 of the University Business Center. His topic is "The Armenian Church in Mountainous Karabagh under Soviet Rule."

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information call the Armenian Studies Program 8-2669.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA
SUBJECT: _____DATE: October 30, 2003
PAGE: 1 of 1

Author to detail history of Armenian massacre

BY GUY KEELER

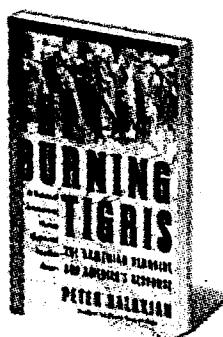
THE FRESNO BEE

The horror that swept the Armenian people to the brink of extinction during World War I is captured with chilling power in a new book from

Peter Balakian, award-winning author and professor of humanities at Colgate University.

"The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and Ameri-

ca's Response" (HarperCollins, \$26.95), tells how 200,000 Armenians lost their lives in 1894-96 and more than 1 million died during World War I at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. The book also contains a comprehensive account of how U.S. citizens came to the aid of the Armenians and



IF YOU GO

- **What:** Peter Balakian lecture.
- **When:** 7 p.m. Sunday.
- **Where:** Wahlberg Recital Hall, California State University, Fresno.
- **Admission:** Free.
- **For more info:** Call 278-2669.

helped launch America's first international human-rights movement.

Balakian will be at California State University, Fresno, this weekend to discuss the major issues he addresses in "The Burning Tigris" and read excerpts from the book. His appearance is part of the College of Arts and Humanities Lecture Series and is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program.

"My life has been deeply shaped by the facts of this history and the trauma that has been transmitted across generations to me," says Balakian, whose grandmother was a death march survivor.

The Turkish government's steadfast refusal to acknowledge the genocide

Please see BOOK, Page E2

Continued from Page E1
continues to haunt Armenians.

"The denial affects all of us because it keeps the wound open," says Balakian.

Despite this frustration, Balakian refuses to stay locked in the past.

"I don't feel that as a writer I'm just looking back when I deal with the history of 1915," he says. "I always look forward as we are forced to struggle for complete recognition. We have a special mission to work for human rights for all people being subjected to this kind of barbarism."

Balakian finds it astonishing that the government of Turkey has not recognized the good that could come from acknowledging the past.

"Their own efforts to join Europe and come closer to the West would be enhanced," he says. "But Turkey has created a nondemocratic culture propelled by hyperbolic nationalism that disallows any self-scrutiny or critical inquiry."

Attitudes are different in the United States.

"One of the things we value is a free and open culture," says Balakian. "We criticize the past so we can make the future

better."

From 1894 into the 1920s, Americans sent more than \$100 million in aid to the Armenians. The relief effort was led by such people as Julia Ward Howe, Stephen Crane, H.L. Mencken, Theodore Roosevelt, Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Clara Barton, Charlotte Perkins Gilman and Rabbi Stephen Wise.

Balakian says the seeds that produced this effort were sown during the Civil War.

"I think abolitionism was an important context and background for many of the reformers. The moral discourse from the Civil War created the discourse for the kind of moral crusade that the Armenian relief effort became."

But Balakian says American efforts to help the Armenians were ultimately blunted by a national foreign policy that made access to oil the top concern.

"I think the failure to achieve justice for Armenians after World War I tells us a lot about U.S. priorities and values."

► The reporter can be reached at gkeeler@fresnobee.com or 441-6383.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA
SUBJECT: _____

DATE: October 28, 2003
PAGE: 1 of 1



JOHN WALKER — THE FRESNO BEE
Bill Eryian, shown with a map of Armenia, is executive director of the Armenian Agribusiness Education Fund, a nonprofit based at Fresno State. The nonprofit raises money to pay for agribusiness education in Armenia.

Seeds of Education

Nonprofit raises money for agribusiness studies in Armenia.

By DENNIS POLLICK
THE FRESNO BEE

Vahan Papyan is in sales, something that is no great surprise given that he is studying for a master of business administration at California State University, Fresno.

But some may be surprised at what he is selling — agricultural education in the country where he was born, raised and schooled: Armenia.

The 21-year-old Papyan is an intern working with Bill Eryian, executive director of the Armenian Agribusiness Education Fund, a nonprofit based at Fresno State that raises money to pay for agribusiness education in Armenia.

Papyan's chief focus is his own education as he pursues an MBA degree. But he is also helping Eryian on strategic planning and by telling the story of his own education at the Agribusiness Teaching Center in Yerevan, Armenia.

Eryian said center graduates like Papyan are the best advertisements for teaching efforts aimed at modernizing the education of students in Armenia as the country continues its transformation into a free market economy.

"The Agribusiness Teaching Center is an American-style education," said Papyan, "totally different than other studies where the professors were old

and the courses were not updated."

In classes conducted in English, Papyan and other students learn a new way to approach agribusiness in the country that gained its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. When he completes his graduate studies at Fresno State, Papyan plans to return to Armenia.

Eryian said Armenia is hungry for "young minds developed with Western teaching, not the Soviet style ... These young minds will assume responsibility for developing that nation's economy and bringing a new enthusiasm."

Please see ARMENIA, Page C6

Continued from Page C1

From a small office at Fresno State, Eryian casts a wide net as he seeks to raise money to sustain agriculture education efforts in Armenia, a country where agribusiness generates 42% of its income.

The connection between Fresno State and Armenia has been longstanding, and direct federal aid to Armenia has totaled millions of dollars in a little more than a decade. "There is about \$80 million in U.S. aid annually," said Eryian.

Eryian said U.S. Department of Agriculture funding for the Armenian Agribusiness Education Fund's expenses is sustaining U.S. outreach efforts "by transferring some of the monetary responsibility to the private sector." He has sought to raise money across the nation and abroad, most recently traveling to New York City to seek help from Armenia Fund USA.

Though significant donations

come from Armenians outside Armenia — and some from within — some money is donated by non-Armenian groups that have included the Eurasia Foundation.

"This is all part of the process of building open societies and market economies in the former Soviet Union," Eryian said.

Eryian said the education fund has raised nearly \$500,000 in a little over a year. The fund is overseen by a board of directors headed by Harold Haak, former president at Fresno State, and includes representatives of Texas A&M University and the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.

In 1996, Fresno State played a lead role in the marketing assistance project, working with the Armenian Agricultural Academy. Texas A&M took the lead in 1998 and the Agribusiness Training Center was established in 2000.

► The reporter can be reached at dpollack@fresnobee.com or 4411-6364.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA
SUBJECT: DATE: October 23, 2003
PAGE: 1 of 1

Armenian-Americans seek access to records

BY MICHAEL DOYLE
BEE WASHINGTON
BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Mariposa Republican George Radanovich is pushing legislation that would open insurance companies' Holocaust-era records, which a Supreme Court decision allowed to remain sealed.

Armenian-Americans, including several in the San Joaquin Valley, want to crack the books to see whether they are heirs to insurance policies never honored in the old Ottoman Empire, when countless Armenians were slaughtered. Legally, the bill offsets a Supreme Court decision that struck down a California law requiring insurance companies to open up their Holocaust-era records.

"Thinking Armenians know that eventually, the millions in insurance money, now worth billions, not paid to heirs ... because death certificates were not produced and other excuses, will one day be given over to Armenians," said Dickran Kouymjian, director of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno.

Symbolically, the bill marks the latest effort by lawmakers with large Armenian-American constituencies to attend to the bloody period between 1915 and 1923.

"It's a way of keeping the Armenian genocide issue alive now," Radanovich said. "It keeps the issue out there, without using the 'G' word."

Another audience could be listening, as well. A lawsuit filed to open up the Ottoman Empire-era records of New York Life Insurance Co. is under way.

The legislation permits states to enact laws that require insurance companies to divulge information on policies written in the Ottoman Empire between 1875 and 1923.

Introduced late last week, the bill so far has attracted only three House supporters. While that's certain to grow, as the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues claims 119 members, potent resistance is likely on several fronts.

Insurance companies are famous for their political activism.

Insurance industry officials and political action committees contributed \$37 million to federal candidates in 2001 and 2002, according to reports tallied by the Center for Responsive Politics.

The Bush administration, moreover, doesn't want states involved in foreign policy. When California pressed its state law requiring disclosure of Holocaust-era claims, the White House successfully resisted.

"Such state laws directly interfere with the national government's authority over foreign affairs and foreign commerce," acting Solicitor General Paul Clement warned the Supreme Court in a legal brief.

The administration's specific claim then was that diplomatic efforts had already established an international commission handling the Holocaust-era claims. There's no comparable commission handling Ottoman Empire-era claims.

Jacob Toumayan, legal affairs director for the Armenian Assembly of America, acknowledged that "it has been a challenge" to press such efforts on mandatory insurance policy disclosure, but he said it was still important to try.

The Supreme Court overturned the California insurance-disclosure law by a 5-4 margin, citing both the president's pre-eminence in foreign policy and the failure of Congress to express any prior opinion on how the insurance claims should be handled.

"There is no question that at some point, an exercise of state power that touches on foreign relations must yield to the national government's policy," Justice David Souter wrote for the court's majority.

The new legislation addresses one Supreme Court concern by explicitly stating that Congress disapproves of any presidential effort that "pre-empts" state disclosure requirements. It does not, however, necessarily swing the constitutional balance away from the presidential authority to which justices often defer.

► The reporter can be reached at mdoyle@mcclatchydc.com or (202) 383-0006.

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CA DATE: October 22, 2003
SUBJECT: _____ PAGE: 1 of 1

Peter Balakian in Fresno Nov. 2

FRESNO - Peter Balakian will speak on his new book: "The Burning of Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response" on Sunday, November 2, 2003 7:00pm in Wahlberg Hall, Music Building, California State University, Fresno. The event is co-sponsored by Armenian Studies Program and College of Arts and Humanities Lecture Series.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: California Courier: Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: _____

DATE: October 16, 2003
PAGE: 1 of 1

Author Hayden Herrera to Speak on Arshile Gorky: His Life and Work

FRESNO - New York author Hayden Herrera will speak about her newly published biography, "Arshile Gorky: His Life and Work," as part of the Armenian Studies Program Fall Lecture Series. The talk will take place at 7:30 PM on Oct. 22, in the Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191 of the University Business Center on the Fresno State Campus.

Hayden Herrera is the god-daughter of Gorky's wife "Mougouch" (Agnes Magruder), and so is uniquely able to write a book on Arshile Gorky. Gorky, born Vosdanig Adoian in Van, in 1900, immigrated to America and became a vanguard of abstract expressionism. His use of colors and shapes were based on his memories of his early childhood in Armenia. Andre Breton called Gorky "the most important painter in American history."

The 688-page book, published by Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, is a comprehensive look at Gorky's life. Herrera chronicles every aspect of Gorky's life, particularly his relationships and the despair that led him to suicide in 1945, at age 45. Beginning in 1946 he had endured a devastating studio fire, cancer, a car accident that left him with a broken neck and his painting arm paralyzed, and a marriage which had collapsed.

Herrera's penetrating portrayal perceptively covers the Gorky's early childhood, his sur-

vival of the Armenian Genocide, and its impact on his work. She utilizes letters from Mougouch to Gorky to illustrate her work and to portray an interesting insight into the artist's life. As Mougouch wrote in one letter, "The country was a great inspiration to Gorky. He was again a small child, not having been to the country for any length of time since he was 6 years old. He was able to discover himself and what he has done is to create a world of his own but a world, equal to nature."

Arshile Gorky: His Life and Work, is the third biography on the life of Gorky following Matthew Spender's *From a High Place: A Life of Arshile Gorky* (1999) and Nouritza Matossian's *The Life of Arshile Gorky* (2000).

Herrera has lectured widely, curated several exhibitions of art, taught Latin American art at New York University and has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship. She is the author of numerous articles and reviews for such publications as *Art in America*, *Art Forum*, *Connoisseur*, and *The New York Times*, among others. Her books include *Frida: A Biography of Frida Kahlo*, *Frida Kahlo: The Paintings*, *Mary Frank and Matisse: A Portrait*.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Parking restrictions will be relaxed in Lots A and J.

For more information on the lectures, call the Armenian Studies Program, at 559-278-2669.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: MosaixDATE: FALL 2003SUBJECT: Kouymjian Given Heritage AwardPAGE: 1 of 1

Heritage Award Presented

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, the Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno, has been named the recipient of the Arthur H. Dadian Armenian Heritage Award in recognition of his outstanding efforts to preserve the rich Armenian culture and present it to the world.

The Armenian Students Association of America presented Kouymjian the award at a ceremony in Providence, R.I.

Kouymjian, who has been teaching at Fresno State since 1977, is also the director of the Center for Armenian Studies, which was established at the university in 1991.

A native of Romania, Kouymjian received his doctorate in 1969 from Columbia University in Armenian studies, the first Ph.D. from awarded by an Armenian Studies program in the United States. He also has taught at the University of California at Berkeley, Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (INALCO) at the University of Paris III, Yerevan State University, American University of Beirut, American University in Paris, American University in Cairo and Haigazian College.

In 2001, he was visiting professor at the Oriental Institute at the University of Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium and in 2003 a Michael Dukakis Fellow at the American College in Thessaloniki, Greece. He has published widely in many different journals, with more than 100 academic articles and 15 edited or jointly prepared volumes.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA
SUBJECT: Genocide Heirs to Get Settlement

DATE: FALL 2003
PAGE: 1 of 1

Armenian genocide heirs to get \$20m

BY HENRY WEINSTEIN

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES — New York Life Insurance Co. has agreed to pay \$20 million to settle a lawsuit filed in Los Angeles by heirs of Armenian genocide victims who accused the company of failing to honor valid claims.

The company and lawyers for the heirs said the pact would resolve claims on more than 2,000 policies issued to Armenians in the Ottoman Empire before 1915.

From 1915 to 1923, about 1.5 million Armenians died at the hands of the Turks, and tens of thousands were deported in what some historians have described as the first genocide of the 20th century.

As part of the settlement, New York Life will contribute \$3 million to nine Armenian civic organizations.

State Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi, who played a role in the negotiations, said many of the potential beneficiaries are California residents. Others live across the United States and abroad, according to attorney Brian Kabateck, who, like two of the other lawyers who worked on

the case, has Armenian roots.

Individual claims will be evaluated by a board appointed by Garamendi. The typical award is expected to be in the range of \$10,000 to \$15,000, Kabateck said.

The settlement helps prove the contention of Armenians about a genocide, said Barlow Der Mugrdechian, an Armenian studies lecturer at California State University, Fresno.

"I think it's definitely a great first step for justice toward the Armenian genocide," he said. "It validates the survivors for their experiences, and it opens the door, I think, to other insurance companies that should settle similar types of suits with plaintiffs."

Der Mugrdechian also said the settlement should encourage others who have evidence of relatives' insurance policies during that period to consider legal action.

The suit was filed in November 1999 by Martin Marootian of La Cañada Flintridge, Calif., who is now 88, and 12 other plaintiffs, including one from the Republic of Armenia, which is on Turkey's northeastern border.

"I am pleased that after all these years the heirs of New York Life Insurance policyholders who perished in the genocide will finally be compensated," Marootian said.

In an earlier interview with the Los Angeles Times, Marootian said his mother originally tried in 1923 to collect on a 3,000-franc policy purchased by his uncle, Setrak Cheytanian, in 1910. "My uncle, his wife and two kids, they were all massacred," Marootian said.

U.S. District Judge Christina A. Snyder in Los Angeles has supervised the settlement talks and is expected to approve the agreement at a Feb. 15 hearing.

The killings are commemorated every year on April 24, which has come to be known as Armenian Martyrs Day.

New York Life first sought to have the lawsuit dismissed. The company contended that the case should be moved to France because a number of the policies contained language stating that any disputes had to be resolved in French courts.

But Snyder ruled in 2001 that with hundreds of thousands of ethnic Armenians living in California, enforcing such a requirement "would be fundamentally unfair."

In the process, Snyder upheld a California law that allows heirs of Armenian genocide victims to use California courts to try to collect on the policies.

The legislation extended the statute of limitations on such claims to 2010.

■ The Fresno Bee contributed to this report.

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA
SUBJECT: _____DATE: September 30, 2003
PAGE: 1 of 1

Armenian Americans look to book to boost debate

By MICHAEL DOYLE
BEE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Armenian American activists hope the publication of a much anticipated new book today will become a lever for moving Congress.

The activists, including a number in the San Joaquin Valley, want congressional recognition of what they call, in legislation, the "Armenian genocide."

Frustrated for years, the activists now see the new book, "The Burning Tigris," as their latest lobbying tool.

"The Armenian genocide is a landmark event in world history," book author Peter Balakian said in an interview Monday. "It's beyond the realm of the absurd to think there is any dispute about it."

Disputes at the highest political levels, nonetheless, still hound the genocide issue. This is where Balakian's 475-page book could come in, as Armenian American organizations actively promote it and Balakian embarks on a nationwide tour that includes a Nov. 2 appearance in Fresno.

"The Armenian genocide is a landmark event in world history. It's beyond the realm of the absurd to think there is any dispute about it."

— Author Peter Balakian

no.

"I see this book as having very important political consequences," said Barlow Der Mugrdechian, lecturer in Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno. "I am sure the official Turkish reaction will be one of denial. But books such as Balakian's will make the denial

seem even more transparent and ludicrous."

Balakian is a 52-year-old poet and humanities professor at Colgate University in upstate New York. He said he began serious work on his new book, subtitled "The Armenian Genocide and America's Response," following publication of his successful 1997 memoir, "Black Dog of Fate."

The director of Fresno State's Armenian Studies program, Dickran Kouymjian, added that Balakian's latest work has the potential to reach "tens of thousands of non-Armenians, most of them never exposed to a literate and absorbing account of the first genocide for the 20th century."

The Armenian National Committee of America and Armenian Assembly of America have both been urging members to pre-order the book before its official release today. The organizations want "The Burning Tigris" on the best-sellers list, where it can influence the contemporary political debate.

This dispute involves how to characterize what happened under Ottoman Turk rule starting in 1915. Balakian and other Armenian Americans say more than 1 million Armenians were killed in a genocidal campaign. Turkish officials say the death toll was lower.

The Turkish government, Bush administration officials and key congressional leaders all oppose any legislation that uses the phrase "Armenian genocide."

Though Mariposa Republican George Radanovich collected 110 co-sponsors for his latest genocide recognition bill, it has stalled since winning House Judiciary Committee approval four months ago.

A Senate version introduced three months ago, with the support of 34 senators including California Democrats Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, has likewise stalled. Both House and Senate bills would reaffirm support for the Geneva Convention outlawing genocide.

The serious political fight, though, is over the legislation using the term "Armenian genocide" along with references to

genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda and during World War II.

"Were this wording adopted, it would complicate our efforts to bring stability to the Caucasus and to our ongoing attempts to bring about Armenian reconciliation," the department cautioned in its response to Radanovich's bill. "Such decisions nothing to help the process."

It's into this perennial fight that Balakian's book now comes, exploring the slaughter of Armenians between 1890s and the 1920s, as well as the response.

"This was America's first human rights movement," said Balakian, who through State Department memo,ish military records, letters and diaries during his research. "Living with these texts and the testimonies, and reliving myself in them, was deeply, deeply affecting, and devastating in many ways."

► The reporter can be reached at mdoyle@mccatchydc.com or (202) 383-0006.

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA

DATE: September 28, 2003

SUBJECT:

PAGE: 1 of 1

Pianist has a connection with Khatchaturian

BY DONALD MUNRO

THE FRESNO BEE

Sahan Arzruni has a passion for music, written by Armenian composers — so much that he's the official representative of the Armenian government in the diaspora to promote music of Aram Khatchaturian.

Through the composer's star faded since his glory days in the 1930s and '40s, as one of the Soviet Union's most celebrated composers, the centenary anniversary of Khatchaturian's birth once again is shining the light on the accessible melodies, rousing folk-ethnic inspiration and crowd-friendly "socialist realism" style of his works.

For Arzruni, who performs Friday in a special nonsubscription Keyboard Concerts series program devoted to Khatchaturian, this centenary year is a chance to remind audiences of the composer's legacy. And there are personal memories wrapped



Sahan Arzruni

up in the experience as well. As a young student at Juilliard in 1972, Arzruni was in the process of making an album of Khatchaturian

works, and he welcomed the composer to his Manhattan apartment to listen to him play — so that the recordings "would be the way he would want them."

Question: What did Khatchaturian say when he saw your apartment?

Answer: All I had was an upright piano. He made a comment about it and I told him I was just a student and couldn't afford a grand piano. He said, "Well, that means you are not a good enough pianist. Otherwise the government would have given you a grand piano."

What do you remember most

about that morning? I was nervous. He was a huge, burly man. He scared me. It was early on a Sunday morning, and when he walked into my apartment he said it was very hot and asked me to open all the windows. Which meant not only the neighbors in the building could hear the music, but also the entire street. That made me even more nervous. But then he took off his jacket and vest and rolled up his sleeves, and suddenly this huge guy was

transformed.

Do you feel you connected with him?

It turned out to be a seminal experience for me. He had some very definite ideas on how his pieces should be played. In a way I feel I reflect his aesthetic thinking as far as his music is concerned. It's as close to his wishes as I can make it.

Khatchaturian was a star composer in his time — as well known as Prokofiev and some say even better known than Shostakovich. But those two composers were known for struggling against the government, while Khatchaturian was more of a loyalist. Is that why his music fell out of fashion?

I think so, especially in this country. He was poster boy for the Soviet regime. Even in 1948 when he was chastised by the Communist Party and exiled, he apologized and went on writing music the way he was asked to do it.

Khatchaturian was born in Georgia — he was neither born

nor raised in Armenia. Is he Armenian composer?

Yes — because first of all my parents were Armenian. I was born in Turkey — but I'm not a Turkish pianist. I'm an Armenian pianist. With Armenians and Jews it's a different story — the idea of the diaspora.

In 1969, Khatchaturian was asked what he considered himself. He said he was a Soviet composer. That is technically correct, because Armenia was part of the Soviet Union.

Did his music ever really go away?

No. I don't think there's anyone who has never heard his music, even if they don't know it. Everyone has heard "Saber Dance," The Violin Concerto, one of the great concertos of the 20th century. The Piano Concerto is gorgeous, as is the ballet "Spartacus" — there are some immortal melodies there. They are centerpieces in his repertoire that will live forever.

► The reporter can be reached at dmunro@fresnobee.com or 442-

IF YOU GO

- What: Sahan Arzruni in works by Aram Khatchaturian, joined by musicians Miles Ishigaki, David Margets and Matthew Mazzoni.
- When: 8 p.m. Friday.
- Where: California State University, Fresno, Concert Hall.
- Tickets: \$12.50 general, \$7 seniors, \$5 students.
- For more info: www.keyboardconcerts.com or 278-2337.

about that morning?

I was nervous. He was a huge, burly man. He scared me. It was early on a Sunday morning, and when he walked into my apartment he said it was very hot and asked me to open all the windows. Which meant not only the neighbors in the building could hear the music, but also the entire street. That made me even more nervous. But then he took off his jacket and vest and rolled up his sleeves, and suddenly this huge guy was



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: California Courier: Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: _____

DATE: September 25, 2003
PAGE: 1 of 1

CSUF Plans Workshop On Armenian Church

FRESNO - The Division of Continuing and Global Education at California State University, Fresno is offering a two-day workshop on the Armenian Church. This course will examine the history of the Armenian Church, its customs, traditions, and rites as the oldest Christian Church in the world.

The class will be held on Oct. 10, from 5 - 10 p.m., and Oct. 11, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. The instructor is Barlow Der Mugrdechian, lecturer in the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State. The fee for the course is \$50 non-credit.

For additional information and registration forms, contact the Division of Continuing and Global Education at 559-278-0333. Pre-registration is recommended as class size is limited.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: California Courier: Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: _____DATE: September 18, 2003
PAGE: 1 of 1

Sarafian Will Lecture Sept. 30 at CSUF on New Survivor Book

FRESNO - Ara Sarafian of the Gomidas Institute and of Sterndale Classics (London), will present a lecture on a new English translation of Vahram Dadrian's book *To the Desert: Pages from my Diaries* at 7:30 PM on, Sept. 30, in the Alice Peters Auditorium, Rm. 191 of the University Business Center on the Fresno State campus.

The lecture is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization of Fresno State.

Vahram Dadrian (1900-1948) started writing his diaries on 24 May 1915 because of the calamitous events facing Armenians on the horizon. This was the period when Ottoman authorities began the vilification of Armenians, as a precursor to mass deportations and massacres. The Armenians of Chorum, where the Dadrians lived, fared no differently than other communities. They were deported to Aleppo, and then on to Jeresh (Jordan), where they remained until the end of WWI. Surviving members of the family returned to Constantinople (Istanbul) in 1919, where Vahram composed his diary-notes for publication. His account was first printed as a book

in the Armenian original in 1945. This is the first English translation of that work.

Dadrian's work is a somewhat unusual narrative written by a child survivor of the Armenian Genocide. Vahram relates the fate of thousands of Armenians who were not sent to Der Zor in 1915, but to the wastelands south of Aleppo, as far as Maan and Es Salt in Jordan. Vahram relates his family's de-portation, survival strategy, and luck throughout this period. He also notes the condition of other deportees on the way. Though the Dadrian family did not experience a general massacre like so many other Armenians, they still lost half of their members by 1919.

Dadrian was born in Chorum in 1900 and lived through the Armenian Genocide in Jeresh (Jordan) between 1915-1919. Surviving members of his family moved to Constantinople (Istanbul) in 1919, where Vahram had to work to support his mother and younger siblings. He also attended night school to become a writer. He left Turkey for Germany in 1936 and settled in the United States in 1937. He soon became part of the Armenian literary scene in New York, where

he worked with Gotchnag Press and co-hosted an Armenian radio program. He died in Fresno, Calif., in 1948. His literary works (all in Armenian) include others than his diaries, historical novels, detective stories, plays, as well as satirical works.

Sarafian is an archival historian specializing on the late Ottoman Empire and modern Armenian history. He is currently editor of Gomidas Institute Books and co-editor of *Armenian Forum: A Journal of Contemporary Affairs*. He has extensive experience doing research in the archives of Armenia, in London, Boston, Athens, in the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and also in the Prime Ministry Archives of Istanbul. He currently resides in Reading, England.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Relaxed parking will be available in Lots A and J after 7:00 PM the night of the lecture. For more information on the lecture contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter Int'l: Paramus, NJ
SUBJECT: _____DATE: September 13, 2003
PAGE: 1 of 1***Dr. Ara Sanjian to Give Fourth Annual
Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Lectures
in Armenian Studies***

FRESNO, CA - Dr. Ara Sanjian, Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies at Fresno State for the Fall 2003 semester, will address the topic of "The Armenian Quest for Mountainous Karabagh Under Soviet Rule, 1923-1987" in a series of three lectures, which are part of the Fourth Annual Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Lectures in Armenian Studies.

Very little was known about the Soviet-era history of Mountainous Karabagh when the current conflict in the region burst onto the world stage in February 1988. Western works published in 1988 and soon thereafter made frequent reference to earlier publications on this issue by Ronald G. Suny, Claire Mouradian and others. A number of books and numerous articles on the Mountainous Karabagh conflict have been published in Western Europe and North America since 1988, but they have concentrated as a rule on developments since 1988. Researchers in the West have tended to largely overlook the new evidence that has come out in recent years, both in Armenia and Mountainous Karabagh on the pre-1988, Soviet period of Karabagh's history.

The lecture series aims at piecing together into a single narrative and then analyzing the newly accessible archival evidence, the secondary literature and various references (long or short) to the problem of Mountainous Karabagh in recently published memoirs by Soviet Armenian Communist Party leaders, high-ranking government officials and intellectuals.

The series will also identify certain aspects of Karabagh's Soviet-era history that need to be further explored to attain more adequate knowledge not only on the history of the Autonomous Region of Mountainous Karabagh (formally established in 1923) but also political dynamics within the Soviet Republic of Armenia as well as the intricacies of nationality policies within the Soviet Union in general. The narrative will cover the period from the formal founding of the Mountainous Karabagh Autonomous Oblast in 1923 to the dismissal of the powerful Azerbaijani politician, Heydar Aliev, from the Communist Party Politburo in 1987. A deeper understanding of the legacy of the Soviet period will undoubtedly also help politicians develop a fair and sustainable solution to the protracted Karabagh conflict that has taken the lives of tens of thousands of Armenians and Azerbaijanis and has forced about one million people from their homes.

Dr. Sanjian's first lecture on "The Question of Mountainous Karabagh in Soviet Armenian Politics, 1923-1987," will be presented on Wednesday, September 24 at 7:30 p.m.

The first lecture covers developments in both Soviet Armenia and the Mountainous Karabagh Autonomous Region, with emphasis on successive efforts to unite the autonomous region with the neighboring Armenian Soviet republic. The lecture will analyze the positions taken by various actors (Yerevan, Stepanakert, Moscow and Baku) in this continuing struggle and the way the nature of the struggle changed in light of political changes in the Soviet capital.

His second lecture, "The Armenian Quest for Mountainous Karabagh and the Diaspora: 1923-1987," will be given on Wednesday, October 15, at 7:30 p.m. The second lecture ana-

lyzes the interest shown in the Armenian Diaspora towards the struggle in Mountainous Karabagh to annex the region to Soviet Armenia. The ideological positions adopted by each of the three Armenian political parties (Dashnaks, Ramkavars and Hunchakians) towards this quest will be discussed and the actions each of these groupings individually took in this regard will be outlined. The lecture will also cover the activities of certain Diasporan individuals working outside the three-party framework, who also carried out propaganda to keep the issue of Karabagh alive in the Diaspora.

Prof. Sanjian's third lecture, "The Armenian Church in Mountainous Karabagh under Soviet Rule," will be presented on Wednesday, November 19, at 7:30 p.m.

The third lecture deals with the

persecution against the Armenian Church and other religious institutions and communities in Mountainous Karabagh during the first two decades of Soviet rule in the autonomous region. It also covers the attempts by Catholicos Gevorg VI (1945-54) and Vazgen I (1955-94) to revive Armenian Church activity in the region and help the struggle to annex Karabagh to Soviet Armenia. It concludes with the revival of Armenian Christian life in Karabagh in the dying days of the Soviet Union.

Dr. Sanjian received his Ph.D. in modern Middle East history from the School of Oriental and African Studies, the University of London. His doctoral dissertation was on "Turkey and Her Arab Neighbors, 1954-1958." He received an M.A. in Armenian History from the Faculty of History at Yerevan State University. For

the past seven years Dr. Sanjian has taught a variety of courses at Haigazian University, including "History of the Armenian People," "Armenia in the Twentieth Century," "Middle Eastern Politics," and "Government and Politics in Armenia." He is currently Chair of the Department of Armenian Studies.

All of the lectures will be held in the Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191 of the University Business Center on the Fresno State Campus.

The Kazan Lectures are free and open to the public. Parking restrictions will be relaxed in Lots A and J, near the University Business Center. For more information on the lectures, interested persons should call the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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

2003

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Watertown, MA
SUBJECT: _____

DATE: September 13, 2003
PAGE: 1 of 1

Fresno State Professor Wins National Armenian Heritage Award

FRESNO, Calif. (AScribe Newswire) — Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, the Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno, has been named the recipient of the Arthur H. Dadian Armenian Heritage Award in recognition of his outstanding efforts to preserve the rich Armenian culture and present it to the world.

The Armenian Students Association of America presented Kouymjian with the award at a ceremony September 6 in Providence, RI. Established in 1985, the Dadian Award has become a symbol of achievement and prestige in the Armenian world.



Dickran Kouymjian

Kouymjian, who has been teaching at Fresno State since 1977, is also the director of the Center for Armenian Studies, which was established at the university in 1991.

A native of Romania, Kouymjian received his doctorate in 1969 from Columbia University in Armenian Studies, the

first PhD awarded by an Armenian Studies program in the United States. He also has taught at the University of California at Berkeley, Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO) at the University of Paris, Yerevan State University, American University of Beirut, American University in Paris, American University in Cairo and Haigazian College.

In 2001, he was visiting professor at the Oriental Institute at the University of Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium and in 2003 a Michael Dukakis Fellow at the American College in Thessaloniki, Greece. He has published widely in many different journals, with more than 100 academic articles and 15 edited or jointly prepared volumes.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: California Courier: Glendale, CA
SUBJECT:DATE: September 11, 2003
PAGE: 1 of 1

Dr. Sanjian to Give 4th Annual Khanzadian Kazan Lectures in Armenian Studies at CSUF

FRESNO - Dr. Ara Sanjian, Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies at Fresno State for the Fall 2003 semester, will address the topic of "The Armenian Quest for Mountainous Karabagh Under Soviet Rule, 1923-1987" in a series of three lectures, which are part of the Fourth Annual Kazan Lectures.

Very little was known about the Soviet-era history of Mountainous Karabagh when the current conflict on the region burst onto the world stage in February 1988. Western works published in 1988 and soon thereafter made frequent reference to earlier publications on this issue by Ronald G. Suny, Claire Mouradian and others. A number of books and numerous articles on the Karabagh conflict have been published in Western Europe and North America since 1988, but they have concentrated as a rule on developments since 1988. Researchers in the West have tended to largely overlook the new evidence that has come out in recent years both in Armenia and Karabagh on the pre-1988, Soviet period of Karabagh's history.

The lecture series aims at piecing together into a single narrative and then analyzing the newly accessible archival evidence, the secondary literature and various references (long or short) to the problem of Karabagh in recently published memoirs by Soviet Armenian Communist Party leaders, high-ranking government officials and intellectuals.

The series will also identify certain aspects of Karabagh's So-

viet-era history that need to be further explored to attain more adequate knowledge not only on the history of the Autonomous Region of Mountainous Karabagh (formally established in 1923) but also political dynamics within Armenia as well as the intricacies of nationalities policies within the Soviet Union in general.

Dr. Sanjian's first lecture on "The Question of Mountainous Karabagh in Soviet Armenian Politics, 1923-1987," will be presented on Sept. 24 at 7:30 PM.

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The second lecture analyzes the interest shown in the Armenian Diaspora towards the struggle in Mountainous Karabagh to annex the region to Soviet Armenia. The ideological positions adopted by each of the three Armenian political parties (Dashnaks, Ramkavars and Hunchakians) towards this quest will be discussed and the actions each of these groupings individually took in this regard will be outlined. The lecture will also cover the activities of certain Diasporan individuals working outside the three-party framework, who also carried out propaganda to keep the issue of Karabagh alive in the Diaspora.

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The third lecture deals with the persecution against the Armenian Church and other religious

institutions and communities in Mountainous Karabagh during first two decades of Soviet rule in the autonomous region. It also covers the attempts by Catholicos Gevorg VI (1945-54) and Vazgen I (1955-94) to revive Armenian Church activity in the region and help the struggle to annex Karabagh to Soviet Armenia. It concludes with the revival of Armenian Christian life in Karabagh in the dying days of the Soviet Union.

Dr. Sanjian received his Ph.D. in modern Middle East history from the School of Oriental and African Studies, the University of London. His doctoral dissertation was on "Turkey and Her Arab Neighbors, 1954-1958." He received an M.A. in Armenian History from the Faculty of History at Yerevan State University.

For the past seven years Dr. Sanjian has taught a variety of courses at Haigazian University including "History of the Armenian People," "Armenia in the Twentieth Century," "Middle Eastern Politics," and "Government and Politics in Armenia." He is currently Chair of the Department of Armenian Studies.

All of the lectures will be held in the Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191 of the University Business Center on the Fresno State Campus.

The Kazan Lectures are free and open to the public. Parking restrictions will be relaxed in Lots A and J, near the University Business Center.

For more information on the lectures, call the Armenian Studies Program, at 559-278-2669.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: California Courier: Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: _____DATE: September 4, 2003
PAGE: 1 of 1

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian Wins Arthur H. Dadian Armenian Heritage Award

FRESNO (AScribe News-wire)—Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, the Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno, has been named the recipient of the Arthur H. Dadian Armenian Heritage Award in recognition of his outstanding efforts to preserve the rich Armenian culture and present it to the world.

The Armenian Students Association of America will present Kouymjian the award at a ceremony Sept. 6 in Providence, R.I. Established in 1985, the Dadian Award has become a symbol of achievement and prestige in the Armenian world.

Kouymjian, who has been teaching at Fresno State since 1977, is also the director of the Center for Armenian Studies, which was established at the university in 1991.

A native of Romania, Kouy-

mian received his doctorate in 1969 from Columbia University in Armenian studies, the first Ph.D. from awarded by an Armenian Studies program in the United States. He also has taught at the University of California at Berkeley, Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (INALCO) at the University of Paris III, Yerevan State University, American University of Beirut, American University in Paris, American University in Cairo and Haigazian College.

In 2001, he was visiting professor at the Oriental Institute at the University of Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium and in 2003 a Michael Dukakis Fellow at the American College in Thessaloniki, Greece. He has published widely in many different journals, with more than 100 academic articles and 15 edited or jointly prepared volumes.

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: CSU Fresno University Journal
SUBJECT: _____DATE: September 3, 2003
PAGE: 1 of 1

Beirut Professor Ara Sanjian Named Kazan Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies

Dr. Ara Sanjian, assistant professor of Armenian History at Haigazian University in Beirut, Lebanon, has been appointed for the fall 2003 semester as the Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno.

Sanjian will be teaching a three-unit course, Armenian Studies 120T, "Armenia in the Soviet Period, 1920-1991." Students in the course will study important Armenian historical issues in the Soviet period, including the background to Soviet rule of Armenia, the rise to power of Stalin and its implications for the USSR and Soviet Armenia, relations between Soviet Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora, the Armenian repatriation of 1946-47, the Karabagh movement, and the emergence of a new Armenian Republic in 1991.

In addition, Sanjian also will give three public lectures on "Mountainous Karabagh in the Soviet Era." The lectures will be published as a monograph.

Sanjian received his Ph.D. in modern Middle East history from the School of Oriental and African Studies, the University of London. His doctoral dissertation was on "Turkey and Her Arab Neighbors, 1954-1958." He received a master's degree in Armenian History from the Faculty of History at Yerevan State University in Armenia.

For the past seven years Sanjian has taught a variety of courses at Haigazian University. He is currently chair of the Department of Armenian Studies.

Sanjian is the author of two books, "Turkey and Her Arab Neighbors, 1953-1958: A Study in the Origins and Failure of the Baghdad Pact" (2001) and "The Negotiation of 'The Contract of the Century' and the Political Background to the Revival of Azerbaijan's Oil Industry," (1997) as well as numerous articles on a variety of topics in the area of Armenian history and culture. He is fluent in Armenian, Arabic, English, Turkish, Russian and French.

Sanjian is on the Editorial Board of Armenian Forum and Haigazian Armenological Review. He has lectured and presented papers both in the United States and abroad and has traveled throughout the world in his studies and research.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: CSU Fresno University Journal
SUBJECT: _____DATE: September 3, 2003
PAGE: 1 of 1**Dickran Kouymjian**

(Armenian Studies) was named 17th recipient of the Arthur H. Dadian Armenian Heritage Award in recognition of his outstanding efforts to preserve the rich Armenian culture and present it to the world. He will receive the award at the Armenian Students Association of America Awards Ceremony on Sept. 6 in Providence, R.I. During the summer he presented a paper on "The Decoration of Armenian Manuscript Bindings" at an international conference on medieval manuscripts and their bindings at the Institut de France in Paris. He was among 30 specialists from 10 countries and the only non-European specialist invited.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Watertown, MA
SUBJECT: _____DATE: August 30, 2003
PAGE: 1 of 3

Dr. Vartan Gregorian Talk and Book Signing at Holy Trinity Church

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Holy Trinity Armenian Church is hosting a talk and book signing on the occasion of Dr. Vartan Gregorian's recently published memoir, *The Road to Home: My Life and Times*, on Sunday, September 14 at 4 p.m. at Holy Trinity Armenian Church in the Charles and Nevart Talianian Cultural Hall, 145 Brattle St.

A reception will follow and copies of Gregorian's book will be available for sale. The afternoon celebration opens *Celebrate! Armenian Cultural Heritage*, an annual series of programs and concerts at Holy Trinity Armenian Church.

The Road to Home is a literate, funny and poignant memoir of one life's remarkable turns. Gregorian, an esteemed educator and philanthropist with the talents of a missionary and a showman, reminds us that learning does not lie

only in books, rich as they may be, but in ardent openness to love and to life.

President of Carnegie Corporation of New York, Gregorian has been hailed throughout his life as a great teacher and scholar, a fundraiser par excellence, a cultural impresario and a high-society icon. He restored the New

York Public Library to its rightful place as one of the crown jewels of New York City and the nation, raised Brown University to new levels of prominence, received honorary degrees from some 50 universities and was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Clinton. Yet Gregorian's personal journey, which carried him from an impoverished childhood in a provincial Iranian town to the heights of cultural and academic life, is perhaps even more compelling than his public achievements. With the exuberance, wit and passion for which he has become well known, Gregorian tells how he strived to understand and then helped to lead the broader world he first read about in borrowed books, in *The Road to Home: My Life and Times*.



Dr. Vartan Gregorian

Of Pain and Possibilities

Born in 1934 in Tabriz, Iran, Gregorian's early years were difficult: his grandfather died in jail, his mother died when he was 6 and his father was emotionally and often physically distant. The center of his family life was his extraordinary maternal grandmother, who raised him and his younger sister. Through the tales of his illiterate grandmother, he was introduced to a world of mythology, magic and fantasy. She taught him that what endures are good deeds, one's name and, above all, one's dignity.

Troubled by a strained relationship with his father and stepmother, Gregorian was sustained by his adventures with his friends in Tabriz's intricate streets and exotic bazaar, by the exquisite liturgies of the Armenian Church, and by hours spent watching American movies like "The Adventures of Flash Gordon," "Tarzan" and Westerns starring John Wayne. It was books lent to him by well-to-do friends, however, that provided the ultimate escape. "Books freed me from my prison," Gregorian writes, "transported me far away to a wonderful realm of possibilities, to a life of beauty, compassion, generosity, excitement, justice, intense passion, incessant action and fun. I lived vicariously the lives of such protagonists as Robinson Crusoe, Jean Valjean, the Count of Monte Cristo, the Three Musketeers, Romeo, Werther, Sinbad, Kim, various Armenian princes, kings and modern-day revolutionaries, and many, many others. I traveled with them, cried with them, laughed with them, fought along with them, undertook dangerous journeys, discovered new lands, fell in love."

An excellent student, Gregorian came to the attention of the French vice-consul in Tabriz, who became his mentor and benefactor. At 15, Gregorian set off alone on his first plane ride from Tehran to Beirut, where he enrolled in an Armenian-French lycée. With very little money, Gregorian often went without food, sometimes working in restaurants for meals. He had to learn French, English and Arabic in one year in order to remain at the school. He graduated as valedictorian and became the personal assistant to the school's director, Simon Vratzian, who had served as the last prime minister of the independent Republic of Armenia (1918-1920). He also suffered a romantic heartbreak that jeopardized his health.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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2003

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Watertown, MA
SUBJECT:

DATE: August 30, 2003
PAGE: 2 of 3

To America

With the help of Vratzian and others, Gregorian was accepted at Stanford University in California, where he completed his bachelor's degree in two years and immediately entered a PhD program in Middle Eastern and European history. Gregorian also met his wife, Clare, at Stanford.

In the early 1960s, Gregorian took a teaching position in the history department at San Francisco State College. Gregorian quickly won tenure at San Francisco State, where he was prepared to spend the rest of his professional life. But his wife astonished him by asking whether that was his ultimate ambition, after all he had gone through. Before and during his tenure at San Francisco State, Gregorian, the recipient of three prestigious fellowships, (Ford, ACLS, and SSRC), did research in the Middle East, Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. His book *The Emergence of Modern Afghanistan: Politics of Reform and Modernization, 1880-1946*, was published in 1969 and was well-received in scholarly circles. In the same year, he was one of 10 recipients of the E.H. Harbison Distinguished Teaching Award for the Danforth Foundation and was recruited to join the faculty at the University of Texas at Austin. Gregorian became a full professor of history at the age of 35, as well as a player in high-level academic and state politics. John Silber, who wanted to move aggressively to bolster the university's academic standing, made him head of the undergraduate honors program. Gregorian publicly opposed the school's powerful Board of Regents, who put the brakes on Silber's program, and was hailed as "the conscience of the faculty" by his fellow professors.

Impressed by Gregorian's reputation as an innovative administrator, top officials at the

University of Pennsylvania brought him to Philadelphia in the early 1970s where he became founding dean of the university's Faculty of Arts and Sciences and then chief academic officer of the university. Gregorian streamlined and invigorated the distinguished but hidebound Ivy League institution. In 1979, he turned down an offer to become the chancellor of the University of California at Berkeley - the only job he had always dreamed of. Gregorian felt an obligation to see through a major fundraising campaign at Penn, and understood that he would be a leading - though not assured - candidate for the school's presidency. When a few hostile trustees sabotaged his candidacy, Gregorian was stunned and felt personally humiliated. One trustee even told him, "Several of us don't think you have the social graces to be president of the University of Pennsylvania." Gregorian writes, "I was not a Mr. Magoo. If somebody spits at me, I cannot pretend it is a raindrop." He resigned, but not before the university met its \$255 million campaign goal.

Rescuing the New York Public Library

Gregorian's next challenge, as president of the New York Public Library, was one that many friends advised him not to take on. Although a grand institution, the NYPL was in desperate straits in 1981. Through relentless work, unflagging enthusiasm and boundless personal charm, Gregorian pulled the NYPL back from the brink of disaster, reestablishing its central educational, civic and cultural pre-eminence in New York and the country. Some of his principal partners in this endeavor were Andrew Heiskell, Richard Salomon and, of course, Brooke Astor, the legendary socialite and philanthropist. Together, Gregorian and Astor approached figures from David Rockefeller to Donald Trump. During his eight years at the NYPL, Gregorian presided over a campaign that raised \$327 million in private and public funds, as well as \$70 million in gifts-in-kind from various collectors and benefactors. During his tenure, the library's endowment increased from \$93 million to \$175 million.

In 1989, Gregorian happily returned to academia as the president of Brown University. Under his popular leadership, the university made enormous progress. By the time he left in 1997, more than \$1 billion had been raised, the endowment had increased by 260 percent, some 270 faculty members had been hired and Brown was ranked among the top eight universities in the United States.

From academia to philanthropy

In his years as an academic and cultural administrator, Gregorian learned a great deal about wealth - especially how to ask for it and how to use it. But he never imagined that in 1997 he would get the opportunity to give wealth away by leading a major national foundation like Carnegie Corporation of New York. Dr. Gregorian is the winner of countless awards, decorations and honorary degrees, including the highest award of the American Library Association (Honorary Membership). He lives in New York with his wife Clare. They have three sons, Vahé, Raffi and Daren.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno BEE
SUBJECT: _____

DATE: August 28, 2003
PAGE: 1 of 1

EDUCATION

Fresno State professor wins an Armenian cultural award

Professor Dikran Kouymjian, director of Fresno State's Center for Armenian Studies, has won the national Arthur H. Dadian Armenian Heritage Award.

The Armenian Students Association will present the award during a Sept. 6 ceremony in Providence, R.I. The Dadian Award was established in 1985 and represents achievement and prestige in the Armenian culture worldwide.

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: California Courier: Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: _____DATE: August 24, 2003
PAGE: 1 of 1

CSUF ASO, ASP Plan Observances At CSUF Campus

FRESNO - The Armenian Students Organization and Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno will be jointly be sponsoring two on-campus events, in commemoration of the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

At 7PM on April 23, two films will be screened: Roger Kupelian's "Dark Forest," and Denise Gentilini's "The Handjian Family." Following the screening there will be a candle-light vigil on campus. Local Armenian clergy will participate in the vigil. The films will be shown in McLane Hall, Room 162.

At noon on April 24, there will be a commemorative event held in the Free Speech area of Fresno State. ASO President Sevag Tateosian will be the master-of-ceremonies for the activity, which will include poetry recitations by students, and presentations by local civic leaders. ASO students will gather around the Armenian Martyr's Monument which was constructed based on the model located in Yerevan, Armenia. Following the formal program, participants will place flowers at the base of the Monument.

Both commemorative events are open to the public at no charge.

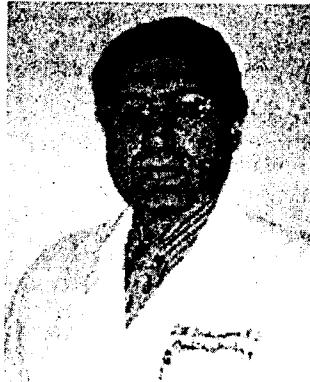
For more information, contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter Int'l: Paramus, NJ
SUBJECT: _____DATE: August, 23 2003
PAGE: 1 of 3**Armenian Students' Association to Honor Theodore Bogosian, Russell Gasparian, Dickran Kouymjian and Sarkis Soukiasian in Awards Ceremony in Providence**

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian



Dr. Sarkis Soukiasian



Russell Gasparian

PROVIDENCE, RI - As part of its ongoing mission, the Armenian Students' Association of America (ASA) recognizes professional and civic achievement through its award programs. This year, the ASA will confer four awards at its upcoming Award Ceremony at the Egavian Cultural Center at Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church on Saturday, September 6, 2003 here.

The honorees are as follows. Theodore (Ted) Bogosian will receive the Ara S. Boyan Award for Arts and Humanities. Russell Gasparian will be presented the Haig G Sarafian Award for Good Citizenship. Dr. Dickran Kouymjian will receive the Dadian Heritage Award. Dr. Sarkis Soukiasian will be given the Kabakjian Award for Science.

Ted Bogosian, Emmy Award-winning producer, will present the awards and highlight each recipient in a one-on-one interview format. Bogosian performed as emcee at the two most recent ASA Awards Ceremony in New York City and Providence, and his expertise as an interviewer set the stage to celebrate the achievements of each of the award recipients.

The evening's ceremony will be hosted by Azarig Kooloian, Jr., who will play a dual role this year. Kooloian will also enter into the role of interviewer and will hold an onstage conversation with Ted Bogosian when he is presented the Boyan Award. The following is information about each of the awardees.

TED BOGOSIAN-BOYAN AWARD

Ted Bogosian's career as a writer, producer, and director of documentary films and studio-based television programs spans more than twenty-five years. He is Writer, Director, Producer, Executive Producer and President of Bogosian Productions, Inc.

His film credits are numerous. He wrote, produced, and directed the twice Emmy-nominated "Anatomy of a Homicide: Life on the Street," a two-hour documentary and drama featuring the award-winning NBC police series broadcast on PBS November 4, 1998.

He has served as executive producer for the PBS broadcast specials "Lost Treasures of Christianity," "Running Mate," and "War in the Wind." Bogosian was series producer of the 6-hour PBS series "Space Age," a co-production of WQED-Pittsburgh and NHK/Japan in association with the National Academy of Sciences.

In 1990, Bogosian created, wrote and produced the pilot for "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?" From 1978-85, he was a film producer for WGBH's award-winning Nova science series. He has also reported for "Good Morning America" and "The McNeil-Lehrer NewsHour."

Bogosian's programs have won several important national and international awards, including national and local Emmys, a Writer's Guild of America Award, a Chicago Film Festival Gold Plaque, the 2002 National Press Club Rowse Prize for Press Criticism, the 2002 White House Photographers Association Prize for Best Political Cinematography.

His documentary, "The Press Secretary," a PBS production about three days inside the Clinton White House, including the first Oval Office access for a documentary since the Kennedy Administration, was broadcast in 2001 and won him the DoubleTake Roland House High Definition Prize.

Also noteworthy is his first-person documentary exploring the Armenian Genocide, "An Armenian Journey," broadcast on PBS in April 1988.

Bogosian received a Master of Public Policy degree from Harvard University and a Bachelor of Arts from Duke University. He was an ASA scholarship recipient as an undergraduate student. Bogosian and his wife, Lily Gulian-Bogosian, have twin sons, Harrison Hugo and Elliott Oscar, born in 1997.

The Ara S. Boyan Award in Humanities is given to an Armenian-American who has been outstanding in the field of Humanities—the Living Arts. Mr. Boyan, a graduate of City College of New York, served the Armenian Students' Association for over forty years.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter Int'l: Paramus, NJ
SUBJECT: _____

**RUSSELL GASPARIAN-
SARAFIAN AWARD**

"Heritage, culture, tradition; Armenians are proud of it and wherever Armenian songs are heard, there Armenia lives..." These words have been repeated thousands of times by Russell Gasparian in his 56-year radio career. The Armenian Radio Hour has been on the air longer than any other radio or television program in Southeastern New England.

Without formal training, Mr. Gasparian was fascinated with show business since childhood. He became well known for plays he wrote, directed and in which he performed. In July 1947, when independent daytime radio stations were being established, Gasparian began the Armenian Radio Hour on station WRIB in the old Narragansett Hotel in Providence.

The Armenian Radio Hour is Gasparian's relaxation. The bilingual program is successful for the service it renders to the Armenian community in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts. It is estimated that about 60,000 people make up his listening audience.

Gasparian arrived in this country by a rather circuitous route. He was born Razmig Allenby Gasparian in Aleppo, Syria in 1918. His middle name, Allenby, was given in recognition of General Edmund Allenby, the British liberator of Syria during World War I. His family lived in Constantinople, Corfu and Marseilles before immigrating to the US in 1927.

He is married to the former Elizabeth Mooradian. They have three children, George, Florene and Sonya. His youngest daughter co-hosts the radio program with him.

Gasparian has received many accolades from the Armenian community for his selfless dedication, including the Medal of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob, and he was honored as "Armenian of the Year" by the Armenian Masonic Degree Team of Rhode Island for his outstanding dedication in perpetuating Armenian heritage and culture.

The Sarafian Award was established for an individual of Armenian descent, who has been outstanding in the field of good citizenship. Haig G Sarafian, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for many years, took the lead in keeping this challenge dynamically before the "students." To honor his memory, the Sarafian Award for Good Citizenship was established in 1960 and is bestowed upon Armenians who have made exceptional contributions to community life.

**DR. DICKRAN
KOUYMIJIAN-DADIAN
HERITAGEAWARD**

Dickran Kouymjian, Ph.D. is the Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno, where he has been teaching since 1977, and the Director of the Center for Armenian Studies since its establishment in 1991. The Fresno program is one of the largest and oldest undergraduate programs in Armenian studies in the United States.

Born in Rumania, Dr. Kouymjian received his doctorate in 1969 from Columbia University in Armenian studies, having written about numismatic history. This was the first Ph.D. from an American-Armenian studies program. He also studied at Harvard, American University of Beirut, and the University of Wisconsin.

In addition to Fresno, Dr. Kouymjian has taught at the University of California-Berkeley, the University of Paris, Yerevan State University, American University in Paris, American University in Cairo, American University of Beirut, Haigazian College, University of Louvain-la-

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Neuve, Belgium and the American College in Thessaloniki, Greece. He has taught about Armenian, Islamic, Classical, and Byzantine history and art, Western and Oriental humanities, film, genocide, and Saroyan studies. He is a founding member of the Society for Armenian Studies.

Dr. Kouymjian has published more than 100 academic articles and 15 edited or jointly prepared volumes. His most recent volumes include: *Album of Armenian Paleography*, with Henning Lehmann and Michael Stone (2002) and *Moïse de Khorène et l'historiographie arménienne des origines* (2000).

He has been intimately involved in Saroyan studies, receiving a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to inventory and move William Saroyan's archives from Paris to Fresno and Berkeley, publishing some of Saroyan's hitherto unpublished works, serving on the board of the William Saroyan Foundation, and even taking Saroyan's ashes to Soviet Armenia. He has served on the boards of the Ararat Literary quarterly, the Armenian Review, *Revue des Etudes Armeniennes*, the Armenian Film Foundation, the Zoryan Institute, and many other institutions.

Dr. Kouymjian has received Fulbright, Carnegie Endowment, National Endowment for the Humanities, Rockefeller Foundation, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, and Alex Marioogian Cultural Fund grants and fellowships. He has been awarded encyclicals and medals from the catholicos of Etchmiadzin and Cilicia. He is married to Angèle Kapoian, also a scholar and teacher.

The Dadian Heritage Award was established in 1985 through the generosity of Arthur H. Dadian, a graduate of Harvard College, Harvard Business School, and Georgetown School of Law. Born in Caesaria, Turkey, Mr. Dadian came to the U.S. in 1920 and settled in Watertown, MA. A great believer in continuing education, he was active in the ASA for many years, as a founder and past president of the Washington, DC branch and also as president of the ASA Central Executive Committee.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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

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DR. SARKIS SOUKIASIAN - KABAKJIAN SCIENCE AWARD

Sarkis Soukiasian, MD was born in Yerevan, Armenia and immigrated to the United States with his family at the age of eight. He attended Tufts University School of Medicine, followed by completion of residency programs in both Internal Medicine (Chicago) and then in Ophthalmology (Boston), with board certification in both specialties. This was followed by research and clinical fellowship training in Ocular Immunology and Uveitis and Cornea and External Diseases at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary/Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Soukiasian is currently Director of the Vision Correction Center, the Ocular Inflammation and Uveitis, and Cornea and External Diseases Services at the Lahey Clinic. He is the Chairman of the Institutional Review Board as well as the Research Committee at Lahey. He is a member of numerous professional medical societies and is Associate Clinical Professor at Tufts University School of Medicine.

Dr. Soukiasian is the author of numerous peer-reviewed medical articles, book chapters and abstracts and is a reviewer of major ophthalmic journals. He has lectured and given scientific presentations regionally and nationally. He was named amongst the "Top Doctors" by Boston Magazine in 2003.

Beginning in the early 1990's, Dr. Soukiasian participated in volunteer medical missions to rural El Salvador with the Association for Rural Health in El Salvador (ASAPROSAR) where he performed the first corneal transplant in Santa Ana. Dr. Soukiasian has also made numerous medical trips to Armenia, initially at the request of the Armenian Health Ministry and then with the Armenian Eye Care Project.

Dr. Soukiasian currently lives in Watertown with his wife Linda and children Deanna and Aram. He is active in the St. James Armenian Church and is on the Board of Directors of the St. James Saturday Armenian School and the Mesrob Mashtots Armenian Language School.

The Kabakjian Award was created in 1948 in commemoration of Professor Dicran H. Kabakjian, head of the Physics Department of the University of Pennsylvania and the Chairman of the ASA Board of Trustees for many years. Presentations are made to an Armenian-American who has been outstanding in the field of science.

AWARDS CEREMONY

The ASA Awards Ceremony will take place on September 6 at 7:30 p.m. Admission to the event is free. There will be a cash bar and mezza served.

Earlier in the evening, a dinner will be held at Saints Sahag and Mesrob Church at 6 p.m. The cost is \$35 per person. Interested persons should make reservations by sending a check made payable to the ASA, 333 Atlantic Avenue, Warwick, RI 02888. Reservations must be received by August 29.

Saints Sahag and Mesrob Church is located at 70 Jefferson Street in Providence, Rhode Island. More information is available by contacting the ASA office at (401) 461-6114.

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SOURCE: Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Watertown, MA
SUBJECT: _____DATE: August 9, 2003
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Ara Sanjian Appointed Kazan

Visiting Professor at Fresno State

FRESNO, Calif. — Dr. Ara Sanjian, assistant professor of Armenian History at Haigazian University in Beirut, Lebanon, has been appointed for the Fall 2003 semester as the Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies at Fresno State.

Sanjian will be teaching a three-unit course, Armenian Studies 120T, "Armenia in the Soviet Period, 1920-1991." The fall 2003 semester begins on Monday, August 25.

Students in the course will study important Armenian historical issues in the Soviet period, including the background to Soviet rule of Armenia, the rise to power of Stalin and its implications for the USSR and Soviet Armenia, relations between Soviet Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora, the Armenian repatriation of 1946-47, the Karabagh movement and the emergence of a new Armenian Republic in 1991.

In addition to the one course, Sanjian will give three public lectures on "Mountainous Karabagh in the Soviet Era." The lectures will be published as a monograph.

The appointment of Sanjian as Kazan Visiting Professor, follows that of Dr. Richard Hovannisian, AEF Professor of Modern Armenian history, UCLA, (Fall 2000), Dr. Robert Hewsen, Rowan University (Fall 2001) and Dr. Barbara Merguerian (Fall 2002).

Sanjian received his Ph.D. in modern Middle East history from the School of Oriental and African Studies, the University of London. His doctoral dissertation was on

"Turkey and Her Arab Neighbors, 1954-1958." He received a master's degree in Armenian history from the Faculty of History at Yerevan State University.

For the past seven years, Sanjian has taught a variety of courses at Haigazian University including "History of the Armenian People," "Armenia in the Twentieth Century," "Middle Eastern Politics," and "Government and Politics in Armenia." He is currently chair of the Department of Armenian Studies.

Sanjian is the author of two books: *Turkey and Her Arab Neighbors, 1953-1958: A Study in the Origins and Failure of the Baghdad Pact* (2001) and *The Negotiation of 'The Contract of the Century' and the Political Background to the Revival of Azerbaijan's Oil*

Industry (1997) as well as numerous articles on a variety of topics in the area of Armenian history and culture. He is fluent in Armenian, Arabic, English, Turkish, Russian and French.

Sanjian is on the editorial board of *Armenian Forum* and *Haigazian Armenological Review*. He has lectured and presented papers both in the United States and abroad and has traveled throughout the world in his studies and research.

The course is open to regularly matriculating students and 60-plus program participants. Community members can also audit the course for a fee, through the Division of Continuing and Global Education. For more information on the course, please contact the Armenian Studies Program office.



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SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter Int'l: Paramus, NJ DATE: August 9, 2003
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**Dr. Ara Sanjian Chosen as
Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting
Professor at Fresno State for Fall 2003**

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The course is open to regularly matriculating students and sixty-plus program participants. Community members can also audit the course for a fee, through the Division of Continuing and Global Education, 559-278-0333. For more information on the course, interested persons should contact the Armenian Studies Program office at 559-278-2669.

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: California Courier: Glendale, CA DATE: August 7, 2003
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Dr. Sanjian Chosen as CSUF Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor For Fall 2003

FRESNO - Dr. Ara Sanjian, Assistant Professor of Armenian History at Haigazian University in Beirut, has been appointed for the Fall 2003 semester as the Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies at Fresno State.

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For more information on the course, contact the Armenian Studies Program office at 559-278-2669.



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SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CADATE: August 6, 2003

SUBJECT: _____

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Dr. Ara Sanjian Chosen as Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor at CSUF for Fall 2003

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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Watertown, MADATE: August 2, 2003

SUBJECT: _____

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Volume 12 of Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies Released

FRESNO, Calif. — Barlow Der Mugrdechian, president of the Society for Armenian Studies announced the release of volume 12 of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*. Four articles, 25 book reviews and a communication are part of JSAS 12, which also contains information about the Society for Armenian Studies and its publications.

Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, was editor of JSAS 12, leading a collaborative effort to publish the volume.

Vartan Matiossian has contributed an incisive analysis of the Armenian community of Argentina, "The Future Is Not Coming, the Past Is Gone: Some Notes About the Armenian Reality in Argentina." The article examines how that community has changed over the past few

years. In particular he analyzes the role of identity and the effects of assimilation, bringing much-needed attention to this South American diaspora community.

S. Peter Cowe has contributed an article, "T'lgadint'si as Ideologue of the Regional Movement in Armenian Literature." T'lgadint'si was a Western Armenian writer, whose role in literature has been under-appreciated. Cowe focuses on T'lgadint'si's contribution to Armenian literature as a regional writer, who for the most part lived and worked in Western Armenia. The transliteration system for this article maintains the Western Armenian form.

Lynn Jones discusses Armenian identity as it relates to the relics of the True Cross in medieval times in her article "Medieval Armenian Identity and Relics of the True

Cross (9th-11th Centuries)." Her article explores how relics of the True Cross have been utilized by Armenian royal families as visible and sacred symbols in a period when such symbols had great importance. The relics symbolized the piety of the Armenian rulers and reflected an emulation of Byzantine expressions of pious rulership.

Robert Hewsen has offered an essay by the late Cyril Toumanoff, "Origin or Function: The Two Fundamental Concepts of the Princely Rank," which sheds light on the role of the *nakharars* in Armenian history. Toumanoff's erudite discussion of the two fundamental concepts of the princely rank provides an insight into the function of the *nakharars* in Armenian life.

see JOURNAL, page 16

JOURNAL, frompage 12

The book reviews included in JSAS 12 indicate the broad spectrum of works with some connection to Armenian studies which have been produced in the past few years. Whether the books relate directly or indirectly to the field, the reviews provide a concise overview of the contents and their evaluation.

Artsvi Bakhchinyan of Armenia concludes the volume with a communication, "Arthur Magnusson's Letter to the Publishing House of the Armenian Academy," culled from his research into Swedish-Armenian relations. The letter from noted Swedish writer Arthur Magnusson to the Publishing House of the Armenian Academy, expresses Magnusson's interest in the rich literature of the Armenian people.

The Society for Armenian Studies established the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies* in 1984 under the editorship of the late Avedis Sanjian of UCLA. Under his leadership, volumes 1-5 of the JSAS were produced and JSAS was soon recognized for its excellence by being named as "The Best New Journal" in 1985 by the Conference of Editors of Learned Journals.

In late 1994, Dennis Papazian took over the reins as editor of JSAS, and with the assistance of Gerald Ottenbreit, produced volumes 6-11. Their efforts continued the excellent work of the earlier volumes and many articles, book reviews, communications, and review essays have filled the pages of JSAS.

Peter Cowe of UCLA served as book review

editor for JSAS 12. His efforts have been demonstrated with the 25 reviews which appear. Dickran Kouymjian, Richard Hovannissian, Robert Hewsen, Dennis Papazian and Gerald Ottenbreit also provided their experience and expertise in answering numerous questions regarding the production of JSAS 12.

The SAS Executive Council appointed John Greppin, in late 2002, as the new editor of JSAS for the next three years, beginning with JSAS 13. Cowe has accepted to continue as book review editor and has also accepted the position of co-editor of JSAS.

SAS members may make their contribution to the JSAS through the submission of articles, book reviews, review essays and communications. JSAS has a valuable and continuing role to play in the dissemination of Armenian studies throughout the academic world. JSAS reflects the scholarship of its members and is a window to the world of Armenian studies.

The Society thanks the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno, directed by Dickran Kouymjian for providing partial subvention of the costs of producing the *Journal* and also thanks Peter Cowe, Narekatsi Chair of Armenian Studies at UCLA for partially offsetting costs associated with book reviews.

For information on how to obtain a copy of volume 12 of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*, or back issues, contact the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State University.

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Watertown, MA
SUBJECT: _____DATE: August 2, 2003
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accounting for Gorky's change. In particular, Motherwell claimed, it was through Surrealists — and above all Roberto Matta — that Gorky shifted from "copying *Cahiers d'Art* to a full-blown development of his own." But that development took place, as Mougouch recognized, among the grass and weeds of a natural setting.

There is no underestimating the role Matta played in redirecting many future Abstract Expressionists, including Motherwell and Pollock. He taught them spontaneity. He persuaded Gorky to thin his pigment with turpentine and to loosen his brushwork. Gorky deployed brilliant biomorphic forms in shallow spaces, like visionary gardens, and gave them poetic rather than literal titles.

Herrera is Mougouch's goddaughter and has been able to use Mougouch's letters and diaries to help tell the story in *Arshile Gorky*. Mougouch is a wonderfully vivid writer and a spirited and intelligent woman, younger than her husband by 20 years. There was great love on both sides, and I have no reason to question Herrera's claim that it was not just the sojourn in the country and the nudging of Matta in 1942 that moved Gorky to apply paint to canvas with a greater confidence. The change in Gorky's work came also from his contentment and security in his marriage. His love for Mougouch, his anticipation of fatherhood, and his delight in her appreciation of his work freed his hand and heart.

Love, memory and a new philosophy of paint reconfigured what Gorky had internalized because of his "chronic diffidence in the face of Parisian art," to produce a body of strikingly original works that at the same time looked familiarly Modernist.

In the last few years of Gorky's life, he underwent a series of personal catastrophes. Until this cascade of disasters, it can be said that, despite the horrors he had experienced during his Armenian childhood, he was a fairly happy man. He was tall and slender, with dark good looks, and deeply attractive to women. People found him charming and charismatic. He was poor, but that was a condition he shared with most artists and indeed most Americans in the Depression. He had an expansive personality with engaging mannerisms. What happened to him came from outside and was mostly a matter of undeserved bad luck.

In 1946, a Connecticut barn that Gorky used as his studio went up in flames, destroying much of his work. Initially Gorky felt somewhat liberated. "It's all right," he told Mougouch. "I've got it all inside me. I can go on painting." Indeed, he could and did. But a few months after the fire, he was diagnosed with cancer of the colon and underwent a colostomy. This left him with an abiding fear of recurrence, but the psychological damage was far greater than that.

"His manhood was so terribly assaulted by the operation," Mougouch wrote, "and his jealous temperament became intolerable." Gorky's mood from this point on was increasingly volatile. And painting, though always a charged activity for him took on a special urgency, because it was the only thing that gave him relief and brought tranquillity to his

household.

Mougouch tried to be the perfect artist's wife, but their relations were increasingly strained. Then in 1948, the painting ran dry. Their relationship became hellish. In June, Mougouch bolted, to spend two days with Matta.

"It was perhaps the worst thing I ever did, but I did it. The affair with Matta ruined my life in one zip."

The streak of bad luck did not end there. A few days later, Gorky visited his dealer, Julian Levy, who drove him home afterward. There was an accident, in which Gorky's neck was broken. He lost the use of his right arm. It was as if the power to make art and the power to make love had abandoned him at once. Gorky had reached the limits of self-control.

On July 21, he hanged himself. He chalked "Goodbye all my loved" on a wooden box. He was 45, but no one is entirely certain when in

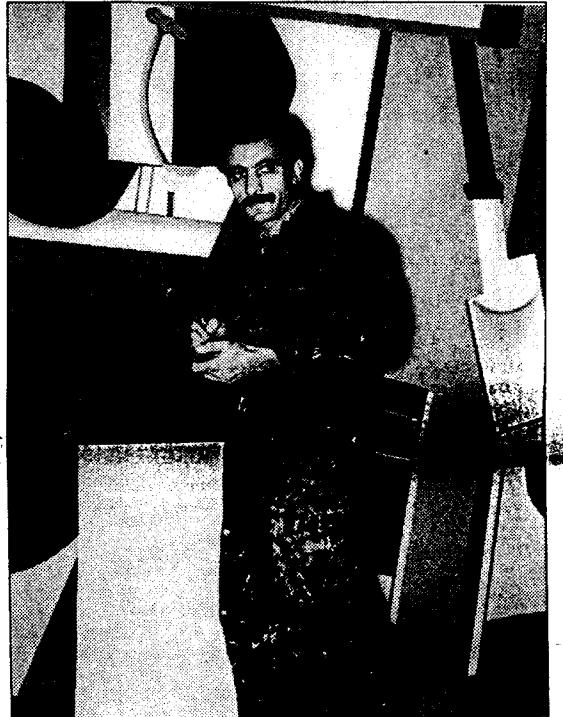
fact he was born. He gave his birth date as October 25 — "No doubt," Herrera writes, "because that is Picasso's birthday."

Had it not been for the accident, it is not unreasonable to suppose that the dry streak would have ended, with Gorky finding it possible to paint again. Whether the marriage could have survived the infidelity is hard to say, given Gorky's jealous nature and his views on the duties of a wife.

His work might have deepened, might have become more beautiful through the '50s, but breakthroughs generally come one to a lifetime, if they come at all. Gorky was immensely encouraged by his reception from the Surrealists, especially Breton, but Surrealism began to cloy after the war, and Gorky's work still awaits criticism — Greenberg's words notwithstanding — that will give it new life.

As for the life, it is hard to imagine that Herrera's study will soon be superseded. I don't suppose Mougouch, as she continues to call herself — almost certainly in tribute to her gifted and tortured husband — will write a book, but her side of things will now always be available, and I for one am glad to have gotten to know her through her wonderful letters and memoirs. To have had a wife like her, Gorky was a lucky man.

(Arthur S. Danto, emeritus Johnsonian professor of philosophy at Columbia University, is art critic for The Nation and author of numerous works, including Encounters and Reflections: Art in the Historical Present, a collection of art criticism that won the 1990 National Book Critics Circle Prize for criticism.)



Arshile Gorky



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Watertown, MA
SUBJECT:DATE: August 2, 2003
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Inside the Tortured Mind of a Modern Art Revolutionary

By Arthur C. Danto

LOS ANGELES (Los Angeles Times) — The world of the Modernist artist in America in the 1930s and '40s had the two-tiered structure of the universe according to Plato. The bright upper tier was Paris, where "real" art was being made, and the lower tier — the cave — was America, which learned about the real world mainly through grainy black-and-white reproductions in periodicals such as *Cahiers d'Art*.

Venues for real art were sparse: the Gallatin Collection at New York University, known as the Museum of Living Art, and the not entirely satisfactory collection at the Museum of Modern Art, founded in 1929.

It was only on the basis of infrequent periodicals that American artists could form some sense of what was happening in art, even if they had to guess what the paintings looked like in full color. These committed Modernists lived by the aesthetic imperatives of the School of Paris until the New York School became a reality in the early 1950s.

It is ironic that almost the first painter to have broken into the new aesthetic should have been Arshile Gorky, who so identified himself with the School of Paris that he was widely dismissed by critics and colleagues as a hopelessly unoriginal figure in the New York art scene — a "blatant imitator," as the unforgiving critic Emily Genauer wrote after his death in 1951.

Alfred H. Barr, the director of the Museum of Modern Art, commented on Gorky's dependence on European style during the Depression, but, "In spite of his derivative style one felt grateful for his studies of abstract and semi-abstract painting during a decade given over largely to Social Realism and the American scene."

As late as 1943, art dealer Samuel Kootz wrote about him with a kind of despairing admiration: "Gorky has genuine talent; he is definitely intelligent about his art, his painting is superb, and he has great sensibility. But somehow he has never jelled those talents, at one moment pursuing Cezanne, at another

hot footing after Picasso or Miro or Leger. He has been too busy to become Gorky." Something was felt to be missing.

Hayden Herrera's book is the fascinating story of how Gorky overcame his influences and became an artist of singular originality and beauty.

The characteristic biography of the Abstract Expressionist painter pivots around the moment when he — and it was a movement dominated by men — broke through a barrier that became visible only when it was shattered and became possessed of a stunningly novel style.

None seemed more than modestly talented until the moment Jackson Pollock began to drip paint onto canvases on the floor, or Willem De Kooning to slather strokes with wide brushes across surfaces, or Mark Rothko to float dilating rectangles on fields of color, or Franz Kline to lay heavy black strokes across white spaces, or Barnett Newman, using masking tape, to segment his surfaces with wavering vertical bars he was to call "zips."

Gorky was more accomplished than any of them, in part because of his prolonged apprenticeship. Sadly, the fact that he had done something extraordinary was hardly visible to those who had formed their image of Gorky as an emulative artist with nothing of his own to say. To them, he seemed a mere footnote to Modernism.

In the summer of 1943, while painting outdoors on a farm that belonged to his in-laws, Gorky produced a drawing that looked different from anything he had done before. When he showed it to his wife, Agnes, whom he fondly called "Moungouch," he asked, "Will anybody understand this? What do you think it is? Do you think I'm mad? Does it look like a drawing to you?" (I have read of a comparable moment that took place when Pollock showed his wife, Lee Krasner, the first of his so-called drip paintings and asked whether it was really painting, and they walked back to their house, arms over one another's shoulders.)

It would be harder to see that a new era had begun, that he had broken through to a vision peculiarly his. While critic Clement Greenberg was able to say that Gorky's 1947 "The Calendars" was the best painting in that year's Whitney Annual and "one of the best pictures ever done by an American," not every critic was as farsighted as he and able to discern at that early date what was to happen in American painting over the next decade. The concluding irony of Gorky's achievement is that someone so narrowly identified with French artistic values should have been so instrumental in New York's eclipse of the School of Paris.

Books

Arshile Gorky: His Life and Work. By Hayden Herrera. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 768 pp. \$45.

Breakthroughs are difficult to explain. To this day no one quite understands what made Pollock revolutionize the technique of painting. As for Gorky, perhaps we can find a key in a letter that Moungouch wrote. "The country was a great inspiration to Gorky. He was again a small child, not having been to the country for any length of time since he was 6 years old ... He was able to discover himself and what he has done is to create a world of his own but a world equal to nature."

What she did not know, because Gorky kept his real past hidden, was that his childhood was spent in Armenia, near Lake Van. His wife discovered a decade after his death that his real name was Vosdanig Adoian. "Gorky" was a part of a myth he created. He claimed to be Russian, to have grown up in the Caucasus, kin to famous writer Maxim Gorky.

He had lived through the Armenian Genocide and experienced the death of his beloved mother. But despite the horrors he witnessed, he saw his early childhood in idyllic terms, and there must have been some deep resonance between the landscape of Virginia and Armenia as he had experienced it.

Robert Motherwell invoked the Surrealist idea of "the original creative principle" in



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Nor Gyank: Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: _____DATE: July 3, 2003
PAGE: 1 of 1**PICASSO MUSEUM,
ANTIBES FEATURES
SARIAN AND SARKIS****BY DICKRAN KOUYMJIAN**

PARIS, 22 JUNE, IPS: Along with the major exhibit of the Martiros Sarian, arguably the greatest painter produced on Armenian soil in the 20th century, a smaller exhibit of the French artist Sarkis will complement showing to run from 28 June to 5 October in one of France's most famous museum. Located in the Château Grimaldi in Antibes-Juan-les-Pins, just 15 miles west of Nice on the famous Côte de'Azure, Sarkis's show is entitled L'Atterrissage (Landing), Adagio.

A native of Istanbul, Sarkis (Zabounyan) is regarded one of France's greatest conceptual artists, though he does not like the word "conceptual." His exhibition comprises two art works that invoke nostalgia and memory. One is an eight foot long dress suspended from the ceiling sewn by the stylist Domenika in 2000. It is a highly charged and colorful affair made up of many smaller robes and objects.

The other creation is a complex structure featuring a television screen that plays a 37 minute film shot in Sarkis's studio in 1990. The TV monitor is "dressed" with an enormous 15 foot Anatolian kilim. The film shows a large loud speaker in the artist's Paris studio on top of which is a large amorphous terra cotta statue vaguely representing a female figure. It is encrusted in Paradjanov style with an enormous variety of "objets trouvés," discarded items: film, candle, matchbox, canisters, basket, and so forth. There is a single legend on the lower part of the statue, Kriegsschatz, "war treasure," one of Sarkis's favorite notions. In the film and in the exhibit too, because the dancing woman is in the Antibes exhibit placed on a turntable on top of the TV monitor. She dances, that is moves, to the music of Dimitri Shostakovitch's

15th Quartet, which is the soundtrack of the film.

During the exhibition, the Picasso Museum is also hosting a "Workshop of Watercolor Painting in Water," conceived by Sarkis a few years ago for children and presented in a number of museums in France and other European countries. Large white ceramic bowls of Chinese inspiration are filled with water and placed on long wooden tables. Next to each is a paint brush and water colors. With the some initial guidance from adults, the young artists are let to mix colors drop by drop and watch their slow diffusion in the transparent liquid.

Together, space, watercolor, music, the hallmarks of Sarkis are a pendant to the extraordinary explosion of color characteristic of Sarian's great oil paintings. With the blue Mediterranean and the southern sun, the double "S" Armenian art exhibit promises to be a unique event.

International Press Service 22 June 2003

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: California Courier: Glendale, CA DATE: July 2003
SUBJECT: PAGE: 1 of 1

CSUF's Prof. Kouymjian Will Speak on Chinese Motifs in Armenian Art at LACMA Symposium

FRESNO - On June 14, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig & Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno will present the Armenian involvement with the Mongols through an analysis of certain Chinese artistic motifs, especially dragons and phoenixes, that made their way into Armenian painting in the 1280s.

Dr. Kouymjian's presentation is part of the exhibition "The Legacy of Genghis Khan, Courtly Art and Culture in Western Asia, 1256-353," organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, June 13-15 at LACMA's Leo S. Bing Theater.

The title of Dr. Kouymjian's paper is "Chinese Motifs in 13th-century Armenian Art: The Mon-

gol Connection" and it will be presented in the panel "The Arts in Ilkhanid Iran and Neighboring States" June 14, between 2 and 5 p.m.

The three-day symposium is the first to explore the important artistic developments of the Iranian world as a result of the Mongol conquest of both western and eastern Asia.

The scholarly gathering will provide a forum for discussion and debate on a variety of topics, representing multiple disciplines such as history of art and architecture; archaeology, history, and history of science. It is open to the public, free of charge.

For more information contact Sarah Sherman at (323) 857-6011 or ssherman@lacma.org.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Armenian -Mirror Spectator: Watertown, MA DATE: June 28, 2003
SUBJECT: PAGE: 1 of 1

Picasso Museum in Antibes Features Sarian and Sarkis

By Dickran Kouymjian

PARIS (IPS) — Along with the major exhibit of the Martiros Sarian, arguably the greatest painter produced on Armenian soil in the 20th century, a smaller exhibit of the French artist Sarkis will complement the showing to run from June 28 to October 5 in one of France's most famous museums. Located in the Château Grimaldi in Antibes-Juan-les-Pins, just 15 miles west of Nice, Sarkis's show is titled "L'Atterrissage (Landing), Adagio."

A native of Istanbul, Sarkis (Zabounyan) is regarded one of France's greatest conceptual artists, though he does not like the word "conceptual." His exhibition comprises two art works that invoke nostalgia and memory. One is an eight foot long dress suspended from the ceiling sewn by the stylist Domenika in 2000. It is a highly charged and colorful affair made up of many smaller robes and objects.

The other creation is a complex structure featuring a television screen that plays a 37-minute film shot in Sarkis's studio in 1990. The TV monitor is "dressed" with an enormous 15 foot Anatolian kilim. The film shows a large loud speaker in the artist's Paris studio on top of which is a large

amorphous terra cotta statue vaguely representing a female figure. It is encrusted in Paradjanov style with an enormous variety of "objets trouvés," discarded items: film, candle, matchbox, canisters, baskets and so forth. There is a single legend on the lower part of the statue, Kriegsschatz, "war treasure," one of Sarkis's favorite notions. The dancing woman is in the Antibes exhibit placed on a turntable on top of the TV monitor. She dances, that is moves, to the music of Dimitri Shostakovich's *15th Quartet*, which is the soundtrack of the film.

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Together, space, watercolor and music, the hallmarks of Sarkis are a pendant to the extraordinary explosion of color characteristic of Sarian's great oil paintings. With the blue Mediterranean and the southern sun, the double "S" Armenian art exhibit promises to be a unique event.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter Int'l: Paramus, NJ
SUBJECT: _____DATE: June 28, 2003
PAGE: 1 of 1

Picasso Museum in Antibes Features Sarian and Sarkis, Two Armenians on the Côte d'Azur

BY DICKRAN KOUYMJIAN

-PARIS, June 22 (IPS) - Along with the major exhibit of Martiros Sarian, arguably the greatest painter produced on Armenian soil in the 20th century, a smaller exhibit of the French artist Sarkis will complement the showing to run from June 28 to October 5, 2003 in one of France's most famous museums. Located in the Château Grimaldi in Antibes-Juan-les-Pins, just 15 miles west of Nice on the famous Côte de'Azur, Sarkis's show is entitled "L'Atterrissage (Landing), Adagio."

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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA
SUBJECT: _____DATE: June 12, 2003
PAGE: 1 of 1

Turkish diplomat rouses skeptics

Armenian-Americans suspicious of effort at dialogue.

By MICHAEL DOYLE

WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Turkish diplomat Ecvet Tezcan wants to talk, but some Armenian-Americans aren't buying.

In a vivid illustration of the enduring ethnic tensions that reach deeply into California's Central Valley, Tezcan has been meeting privately with leading Armenian-Americans. Turkish officials describe this as a unique effort to replace enmity with dialogue.

"This is a new step, to establish an exchange of views with the Armenian community," Turkish Embassy spokesman Tuluy Tanc said, adding that the goal "is simply to talk to whoever wants to talk."

One sensitive meeting occurred Wednesday afternoon, when Tezcan sat down for 80 minutes with leaders of the Armenian Assembly of America.

But there's been nothing simple about the high-level diplomatic effort, which soon will reach California. While the Armenian Assembly leaders talked, other

Armenian-American groups were warning of subterranean political trickery.

"I don't think that the Turkish representative will have much success in initiating meaningful dialogue," predicted Matthew Jendian, a sociology professor at California State University, Fresno.

"The motivation for his seeking dialogue is extremely suspect."

Jendian, whose doctoral dissertation examined the assimilation of Armenian-Americans in the Central Valley, said he has "seen mostly reservation on the part of Armenian-American organizations" to the Turkish outreach effort. Such reservations may be particularly heartfelt in the Valley, with an Armenian-American population estimated at 50,000 or more.

"The response we've received," Tanc conceded, "has been mixed."

Nonetheless, three top officials with the Armenian Assembly met with Tezcan and Turkish Consul General Omer Ohon on Wednesday afternoon in New York City. They sipped Turkish coffee

and talked in what Armenian Assembly executive director Ross Vartian described as a "calm and professional" way.

The Armenian Assembly's willingness to confer contrasted sharply with the views of the Armenian National Committee of America, which urged a boycott of the meetings and beseeched allies to "remain vigilant against such transparent Turkish initiatives aimed at manipulating our community."

Specifically, activists contend the diplomatic outreach is a ploy to distract attention from confronting what happened between 1915 and 1923.

Armenian-Americans say 1.5 million Armenians died through a deliberate policy of genocide conducted by the Ottoman Empire. Turkish officials say far fewer people died, on what was a highly chaotic wartime front.

"I don't see any chance at success," Barlow Der Mugrdechian, lecturer in Armenian Studies at Fresno State, said of the new dialogue efforts. "No individual or group can speak for all Armenians. Therefore, dialogue is not a possibility until Turkey recognizes the Armenian genocide."



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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

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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA
SUBJECT: _____

DATE: June 8, 2003
PAGE: 1 of 1

ARTS ROUNDUP

Fresno prof will speak at museum

The art world in the Valley might be cooling down for the summer months, but there still are some hot happenings. Here is a sampling:

■ Dr. Dickran Kouymjian of California State University, Fresno, will participate Saturday in a discussion on Armenians and the Mongols at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The museum has an exhibit titled "The Legacy of Genghis Khan: Courtly Art and Culture in Western Asia, 1256-1353" that runs through July 27.

A three-day symposium about the exhibit is being held next weekend. At a panel discussion, Kouymjian will present a paper titled "Chinese Motifs in 13th-Century Armenian Art: The Mongol Connection." His free presentation is scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday in the museum's Leo S. Bing Theater.

Kouymjian is the Haig & Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at the Fresno State. He has studied certain Chinese artistic motifs, especially dragons and phoenixes that made their way into Armenian paintings in the 1280s.

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art is at 5905 Wilshire Blvd. Info: 323-857-6011.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CA
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DATE: June 4, 2003
PAGE: 1 of 1

International Conference: **Kouymjian to Speak at "Beyond the Legacy of Genghis Khan," Symposium Los Angeles, June 13-15**

LOS ANGELES - The exhibition The Legacy of Genghis Khan, Courtly Art and Culture in Western Asia, 1256-1353, organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, is the first to explore the important artistic developments that occurred in the Iranian world as a result of the Mongol conquest of both western and eastern Asia. The Legacy of Genghis Khan focuses on the period of Ilkhanid rule—an era that witnessed extraordinary achievements within the sphere of Persian art and culture. The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, which will present the exhibition from April 13 through July 27, 2003, will host a special international symposium that will build upon the exhibition and move beyond the scope of the exhibition catalogue.

On Saturday afternoon, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig & Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at California

State University, Fresno will present the Armenian involvement with the Mongols through an analysis of certain Chinese artistic motifs, especially dragons and phoenixes, that made their way into Armenian painting in the 1280s. The title of his paper is "Chinese Motifs in 13th-century Armenian Art: The Mongol Connection" and it will be presented in the panel "The Arts in Ilkhanid Iran and Neighboring States" on Saturday, June 14, 2003, between 2:00 and 5:00 PM.

The three-day symposium will provide a forum for discussion and debate on a variety of topics, representing multiple disciplines such as history of art and architecture, archaeology, history, and history of science. It will be held in LACMA's Leo S. Bing Theater and is open to the public, free of charge. For further information contact Sarah Sherman at (323) 857-6011 or ssherman@lacma.org