



**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 2012**

**Vol. 28 Release #97  
July 2012-December 2012**



## ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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

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### ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer; Los Angeles, CA

DATE: December 26, 2012

SUBJECT: CSUF ASP Receives \$65,000 in Donations

PAGE: 1 of 1

## CSUF Armenian Studies Receives \$65,000 in Donations from Kooyumjian and Leon S. Peters Foundations

FRESNO – The Armenian Studies Program at California State University in Fresno received \$65,000 gifts from two sources: -

The Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation donated \$35,500 for scholarships, special conferences and outreach activities.

The Leon S. Peters Foundation's gift is \$35,000 for similar purposes including Armenia Summer Study trips. The Leon S. Peters Foundation has made several substantial donations to the California State University of Fresno; the Administration named the Le-

on S. Peters Business Building and the Auditorium of the University Business Center named after Mrs. Alice Peters.

The Peters have made oth-

er donations in the San Joaquin Valley area, including the San Joaquin College of Law, Valley Public Television





## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Mirror Spectator; Watertown, MASUBJECT: Dr. La Porta Presents Armenian Identity LectureDATE: December 22, 2013

PAGE: 1 of 1

# Dr. La Porta Presents Armenian Identity Lecture

**By Taleen Babayan**

NEW YORK – Dr. Sergio La Porta delivered a lecture on Armenian identity in the Middle Ages on Friday, November 30.

Hosted by the Armenian Center at Columbia University, the lecture, titled "Networks of Knowledge: Communication and Identity in 12th-14th century Armenia," took place at the university's Faculty House.

Welcoming La Porta back to his alma mater, Mark Momjian, chair of the Armenian Center Board at Columbia University, highlighted La Porta's achievements in Middle Eastern studies, including his undergraduate degree from Columbia College and his PhD at Harvard University in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations as well as his subsequent research and teaching positions. La Porta, a specialist in medieval Armenia, is currently the Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno.

"The students at Fresno State consistently rank Dr. La Porta as among their favorite professors," said Momjian before welcoming La Porta to begin his evening's presentation. "They love the enthusiasm he brings to his lectures and the way he engages class discussion."

Providing a historical backdrop of Armenia during the 12th to 14th centuries, La Porta touched upon Armenian dispersion and political fragmentation in the region at that time. Because of Armenian emigration, other groups of people took the opportunity to come into the area, resulting in cultural integration among the Armenians and the neighboring Georgians, Turks and Kurds.

While they were not the dominant culture in the region, La Porta pointed out that Armenians were able to both adapt to their changed environment and create a sense of community to keep the country together during a time of cultural hybridity, especially one without the modern technologies that exist today. In reaction to this cultural hybridity, La Porta noted that "borders of barriers" were created that emphasized differences between these groups of people in relation to racial, economic, religious and dietary restrictions. "By denigrating the other, we get a clear distinction between who we are and who they are," said La Porta.

Focusing his attention on the three significant reasons as to why Armenians were able to maintain their community during this time, La Porta said that the trade routes, the development of a cultic community and the formation of a textual community, were integral to Armenian cohesion at the time.

The trade routes that passed through Armenia, including the Mediterranean transit

route, the Mongol silk route and the Levantine route, were important in sharing ideas across Armenia and helping Armenians create social contact among the scholars, pilgrims, merchants and soldiers who traveled these routes. The trade routes also helped bolster the Armenian economy.

"In the 13th century, we witness increased economic prosperity," said La Porta. "How come at a time when there's political fragmentation and destruction, the economic situation doesn't seem to be as negatively affected? Part of the reason is you have all this capital moving through Armenia, which is advantageous for the cities, especially in eastern Armenia."

Aside from trade routes, Armenia's monastic centers also served as a bridge among the peo-

The development of a cultic community also helped in forming connections by certain saints and special sacred areas that held Armenians together, especially the idea of pilgrimage sites, in particular, Jerusalem.

"Pilgrimage sites served as points of communication and exchange," said La Porta. "You have Armenians from all over converging on these holy sites."

Although Armenians were able to maintain a sense of community under difficult circumstances, La Porta pointed out that there were challenges threatening this unity, in particular from missionaries during the Middle Ages who traveled the trade routes near Armenia. Franciscans and Dominicans friars converted

tens of thousands of Armenians to Roman Catholicism during this time and while Armenians kept their language, those who converted were in communion with Rome and recognized supremacy of the Pope. In response to these attempts at conversion, the Armenian Apostolic Church fought against the Latinization of the Armenian Church and knew the textual community was, according to La Porta, "essential for the success of this response."

Concluding his presentation, La Porta remarked that there was "a new definition of Armenian communal identity through the creation of shared communal and sacral boundaries and of an intellectual elite built around a common textual

corpus."

He noted there was a significance beyond this period and the cultural boundary markers that distinguished Armenians from those around them, including religion and language, were essential to the construction of an Armenian 'national identity' in the eighteenth to nineteenth centuries.

"There are still ways Armenians are able to connect to other Armenians even though they don't live in one place," said La Porta. "It makes it capable for us to speak of an Armenian community that extends from Glendale, Calif., to Yerevan, Armenia."

The evening concluded with a question-and-answer session followed by a gift presentation – a rare book on Armenian illuminated manuscripts by Frederic Macler, a pioneer in the field of Armenian Studies, to La Porta as a show of gratitude from the Armenian Board at Columbia University.

A reception gave guests the opportunity to ask La Porta further questions about his

research and Armenian history.

"Coming back to Columbia was a moving experience for me," said La Porta. "My undergraduate experience has been essential for my continued studies and research. To come back as a professor and speak to former and current students was absolutely wonderful and brought back many fond memories."

"Dr. La Porta's lecture on the extensive trade and cultural exchanges involving Armenians in the Middle Ages was a tour de force," commented Momjian. "Dr. La Porta is a rising star in the field of Armenian Studies, and everyone privileged to hear his captivating talk at faculty house left asking when he was going to come speak at Columbia again."

Echoing Momjian's sentiments, Dr. Nicole Vartanian, Vice-Chair of the Armenian Center Board, said La Porta's lecture "demonstrated his breadth and depth as a scholar and educator."

"His presentation was simultaneously ambitious yet accessible, and the audience response was effusive. It was a great source of joy for the Armenian Center to have hosted a room full of engaged attendees—a range of Armenian and non-Armenian students, alumni, board members, and community members."

Students, including Maxwell Rowles and John Doyle-Raso, who are both candidates in the dual Master's degree program in International and World History program at Columbia University and The London School of Economics, were impressed with the evening's presentation as well.

"Dr. La Porta's lecture provided profound insights into Armenian history and identity from the twelfth to fourteenth century," said Rowles. "I particularly appreciated the precision of his approach and the ways in which he made 'old' history fun, new and interesting. Economics, language, politics, race and religion were all remade and transformed in Armenia during these years, and I am very grateful to Professor La Porta for exposing this past to me."

"I was impressed by Dr. La Porta's enthusiasm and ability to communicate a large amount of information so clearly," said Doyle-Raso. "His expertise is obviously far-reaching – I asked a question that was outside the scope of the presentation, and he was able to provide an interesting answer. I hope he will be back again."

Upcoming activity for the Armenian Center at Columbia University includes a course titled "Memories – The Armenian Genocide" planned for the spring in Columbia's Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African studies (MESAAS), which will be taught by board member Dr. Armen Masrobian, chair of the Philosophy Department at Southern Connecticut State University.



Dr. Sergio La Porta

ple. During the 12th to 13th centuries, Cilicia was the center of Armenian intellectual activity, which housed monastic centers and created an intellectual group coming out of this region. "Armenians traditionally were not in urban cities," said La Porta. "They preferred hunting and feasting and fighting in the beautiful countryside that is Armenia and that is where most of their monasteries were set up. These centers served as important centers of cultural interaction and definition."

According to La Porta, scholars from Greater Armenia traveled to Cilicia to enhance their education.

"These schools become primary centers of education for the cultural and religious elite of Armenia," he said, noting that there wasn't a great degree of centralization among Armenians and each monastery had its own traditions and its own rules. "A trans-regional connection and a core curriculum were developed based on books, sacred spaces and on certain texts, such as the Cappadocian Fathers, Philo and Aristotle."





## ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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### ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CA

DATE: November 7, 2012

SUBJECT: Prof Der Mugrdechian To Speak on Historic Armenia PAGE: 1 of 1

## Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian to Speak in Fresno on "Historic Armenia: Memories and Images", Nov. 14

FRESNO - Armenian Studies Program Coordinator Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian will present an illustrated lecture on "Historic Armenia: Memories and Images" at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, November 14, 2012, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus.

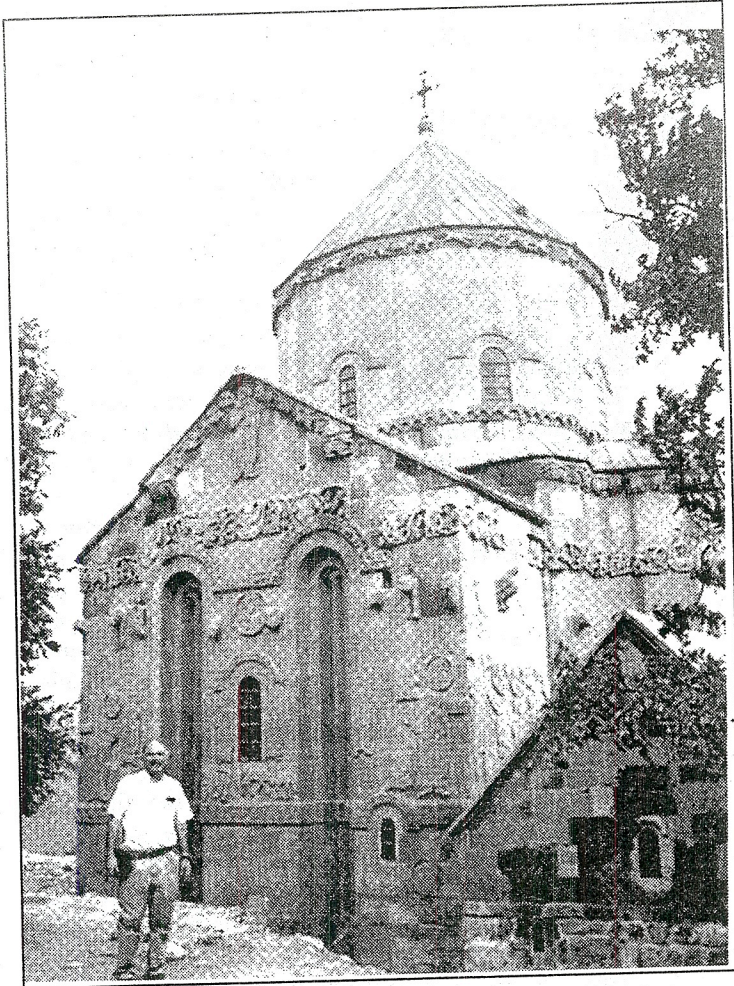
This lecture is part of the Armenian Studies Program Fall 2012 Lecture Series and is co-sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization.

Der Mugrdechian traveled to historic Armenia in summer of 2012, visiting Kars, Ani, Van, Aghtamar, Bitlis, Moush, and Erzerum. These regions are rich in the cultural history of Armenia. The Monastery of Varag and the Arakelots Monastery of Moush were among the historic and moving sites that he visited. He will present his impressions about the trip and discuss the changes that are taking place in Turkey regarding Armenian monuments and churches.

Der Mugrdechian is Coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State and has been teaching Armenian language, art, history, and culture course for more than twenty-seven years.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

Parking: Parking rules



**Barlow Der Mugrdechian in front of the Church of Akhtamar**

have changed for the university. Parking is available in Lots A or J on campus, only if a free parking pass is obtained by using parking code 273303 in any of the campus kiosks.





ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Mirror Spectator; Watertown, MA

DATE: October 27, 2012

SUBJECT: Margaret Ajemian Ahnert to Speak on Her Book at CSUF

PAGE: 1 of 1

## Margaret Ajemian Ahnert to Speak On her book *The Knock at the Door*

FRESNO — Author Margaret Ajemian Ahnert, will speak on her book, *The Knock at the Door*, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 1, at the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus.

This Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation lecture is part of the Armenian Studies Program Fall 2012 Lecture Series and is co-sponsored by the Armenian General Benevolent Union, Greater Fresno Chapter.

In *The Knock at the Door*, Ahnert relates her mother Ester's terrifying experiences as a young woman during the Armenian Genocide. Ester was separated from her foster family at the age of 15, during a forced march away from her birth town of Amasia. She narrowly avoided kidnapping, faced unspeakable horrors at the hands of soldiers and was forcibly married to an abusive Turkish wagon-driver. Throughout her ordeal, she reminded herself that "this, too, will pass," a mantra which enabled her to survive these nightmarish experiences. Eventually, she escaped captivity and was able to make her way to America.

The book has been translated into Armenian, Turkish, Spanish, Italian and French, with Russian, German and Polish translations in the works. It was named the Best Historical Memoir of 2008 at the New York Book Festival, as well as one of the Best Books of 2007 by USA Book News.

Ahnert received the Distinguished Humanitarian Award in 2009 and the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 2011. In July 2010, she established the Margaret Ajemian Ahnert Scholarship Program that aims to support and empower female journalists in Armenia.

Copies of *The Knock at the Door* will be available for purchase after the lecture.

The lecture is free and open to the public.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Nor Gyank; Glendale, CA

DATE: October 25, 2012

SUBJECT: Margaret Ajemian Ahnert to Speak on Her Book at CSUF

PAGE: 1 of 1

## **Margaret Ajemian Ahnert to Speak on her book "The Knock at the Door"**

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Margaret Ahnert has a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Non-Fiction degree from Goucher College and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Goddard College, and is a graduate of the Barnes Foundation. She received the Distinguished Humanitarian Award in 2009 and the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 2011. In July 2010, she established the Margaret Ajemian Ahnert Scholarship Program that aims to support and empower female journalists in Armenia.

Copies of *The Knock at the Door* will be available for purchase after the lecture.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

Parking: Parking rules have changed for the university. Parking is available in Lots A or J on campus, only if a free parking pass is obtained by using parking code 273302 in any of the campus kiosks.

For more information on the lecture please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.





ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier; Glendale, CA

DATE: October 25, 2012

SUBJECT: Margaret Ajemian Ahnert to Speak on Her Book at CSUF

PAGE: 1 of 1

## Margaret Ajemian Ahnert to Speak On Her Book at CSUF on Nov. 1

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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Collegian; Fresno, CA

DATE: October 17, 2012

SUBJECT: 500th Anniversary of Armenian Print Celebrated

PAGE: 1 of 2

# 500th anniversary of Armenian print celebrated

By Evelyn Demirchian  
The Collegian

The Armenian Studies Program and College of Arts of Humanities held a reception and lecture in honor of the 500th anniversary of Armenian printing on Sunday in the Henry Madden Library during Armenian Cultural Month.

Faculty and students of the Armenian Studies Program were on hand with university President John Welty, Provost William Covino, Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities Vida Samiian, and guest speaker Kevork Bardakjian Marie Manoogian Professor of Armenian Language and Literature of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

The reception was held on the second floor next to the Leon S. Peter's Ellipse Gallery where there's an exhibit of Armenian literature, including pieces from the Matenadaran, Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts in

Yerevan. Featured prominently in the exhibit is the Codex Etchmiadzin, which features four miniature paintings dating to the 6th century bound at the end of the book.

While Saint Mesrop Mashtots created the Armenian alphabet in the year 405 A.D., Armenians did not begin publishing books until the mid-16th century, nearly 200 years after Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press.

Dr. Welty, a longtime supporter of the Armenian Studies Program, spoke a few words in honor of the exhibit.

"Today is a great example of what a difference private support makes to a university and the fact that we enjoy this exhibit and get to learn and reflect upon years and years and years of history is a great tribute to those who have supported the university."

Sergio La Porta, the Haig and Isabel Berberian chair in the Armenian Studies Program, remarked upon the intellectual progress over the centuries by Armenians and





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### ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Collegian; Fresno, CA

SUBJECT: 500th Anniversary of Armenian Print Celebrated

DATE: October 17, 2012

PAGE: 2 of 2



Photo courtesy of Nabil Sakib

The Codex Etchmiadzin is the featured piece of the Armenian print anniversary celebration exhibit, located on the second floor of the Henry Madden Library.

their utilization of technology despite being so small in numbers.

"Looking on this wonderful collection of books, and also looking at the screen and what's being done electronically, it reminds me of how Armenians have always been forward-thinking in how they've approached their life and their culture," La Porta said.

Armenians were one of the

first to develop printing in the Middle East and the first to develop photography in Jerusalem. They're currently at the head of digital technologies in the area and are put to special work archiving histories.

"I think the printed book exhibit here today is a wonderful testament to that forward thinking and that vision of how Armenians see their culture, not only as a mark of

their past, but as a guidepost to their future," La Porta said.

Dean Samiian, another strong supporter of the Armenian Studies Program on campus, commented on the full turnout of the event.

"It is really a pleasure to see what our small Armenian studies, with only two faculty members, can do."

"When I think about what the Armenian studies has done over the last 30 years, it has been the most engaged program."

Following the reception, Bardakjian gave a special lecture in honor of the event entitled, "The Impact of the Armenian Script and Printing on Armenian Identity and Letters."

The 500th anniversary of Armenian printing also carries special significance as this year Yerevan was chosen as the 12th World Book Capital by UNESCO.

The exhibit will be open for viewing on the second floor of Henry Madden Library until the end of October.



## ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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### ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee; Fresno, CA

SUBJECT: Armenian Printing Exhibit at University

DATE: OCTOBER 11, 2012

PAGE: 1 of 1

#### **Armenian printing exhibit at university**

Fresno State will host an exhibit of Armenian printing that includes several rare books and early manuscripts Sunday in the Henry Madden Library.

Fresno State President John Welty will join Provost William Covino, Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities Vida Samiian, and guest speaker Kevork Bardakjian from the University of Michigan at the opening of "The 500th Anniversary of Armenian Printing" exhibit. The event is open to the public and runs from 2-5 p.m.





ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CA

DATE: September 27, 2012

SUBJECT: Anniversary of Armenian Printing on October 14, 2012

PAGE: 1 of 1

## CSUF Marks 'Anniversary of Armenian Printing' With Oct.14 Lecture by Dr. Kevork Bardakjian

FRESNO - Armenian Studies Program Director Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian announced the opening on September 17 of an exhibit on "The 500th Anniversary of Armenian Printing" on the second floor of the Fresno State Henry Madden Library.

The Armenian Studies Program will host a special reception from 2-5PM on October 14, on the second floor of the Henry Madden Library, to mark the official opening of the exhibit. The reception is free and open to the public and refreshments will be served.

The exhibit is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program, the College of Arts and Humanities, and the Henry Madden Library.

Special guest speaker for the day will be Dr. Kevork Bardakjian, Marie Manoogian Professor of Modern Armenian Language and Literature at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, who will speak on "The Impact of the Armenian Script and Printing on Armenian Identity and Letters." Fresno State President Dr. John Welty, Provost Dr. William Covino, and Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, Dr. Vida Samiian, will also speak at the afternoon reception.

The exhibit features rare printed books and several examples of earlier manuscripts from the Armenian Studies Program collection. The majority of the printed works are from the Parnay Collection of rare books, 300 early printed works, the majority published by the Armenian

Mkhitarist congregation of Venice, but which includes books from Constantinople, Tiflis and elsewhere, now part of the Armenian Studies Program. Mr. Ray Parnay donated the collection, once belonging to his late father Mardig and late uncle Serope Y. Parnay (Yedi-Kardashian), in 2006.

A 1782 "Guidebook to the Holy Places of Jerusalem" is the oldest book on display. Other works include a translation of Homer's *Iliad* (1843), an 1859 *History of Vartan and the Armenian Wars* by Yeghishe, and *A Geography of Place Names of Greater Armenia* (1855) by Very Rev. Fr. Ghevond Alishan.

On display also is a special facsimile reproduction of the 9th century "Etchmiadzin Gospel" (Codex Etchmiadzin) on loan from the collection of Arminee Shishmanian and the late Dr. Leo Shishmanian of Fresno. The Etchmiadzin Gospel contains the "Final Four Miniatures," the earliest known Armenian miniature paintings, dated to the late 6th century.

The exhibit can be viewed during regular Henry Madden Library hours, from October 1-31. Go to the Madden Library website for specific information <http://www.fresnostate.edu/library/>. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

For more information on the reception and exhibit please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer; Los Angeles, CA  
SUBJECT: Dr. Hovannisian to Speak on Smyrna in Fresno

DATE: September 26, 2012  
PAGE: 1 of 1

## **Prof. Richard Hovannisian to Speak on Smyrna in Fresno, Oct. 5**

FRESNO -- Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian, Professor of Armenian and Near Eastern history at UCLA, will speak on "The 90th Anniversary of the Burning of Smyrna" at 7:30 PM on Friday, October 5, 2012, in the Industrial Technology Building, Room 101 auditorium, on the Fresno State campus (corner of Barstow and Campus Drive).

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the Smyrna Catastrophe when much of the city, the second largest in the Ottoman Empire, was destroyed by fire during the final phase of the Greco-Turkish War.

The calamity marked the end of a strong Christian presence in the historic Aegean coastal regions and turned hundreds of thousands of Greeks and Armenians into refugees.

In this illustrated lecture, Prof. Richard Hovannisian will discuss the important role of Smyrna (Izmir) in modern Armenian history and the inferno that engulfed the city in September 1922.

Hovannisian is the editor of the recently published Armenian Smyrna/Izmir, the eleventh volume of 23 proceedings from the UCLA conference series "Historic Armenian Cities and Provinces." He also traveled to Izmir and environs in June 2012 as the historian-guide for a NAASR Armenian Heritage Tour led by Armen Aroyan.

Hovannisian is the author of Armenia on the Road to Independence, the four-volume history The Republic of Armenia, and has edited and contributed to more than twenty-five books including The Armenian Genocide in Perspective; The Armenian People from Ancient to Modern Times, and others.

Armenian Smyrna/Izmir as well as many other titles from

the "Historic Armenian Cities and Provinces" series will be available for purchase and signing by Prof. Hovannisian.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Free parking, no permit necessary, is available in Lots K, L, and Q, adjacent to the Industrial Arts building.

For more information on the lecture please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.





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### ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee; Fresno, CA

SUBJECT: Lecture on Smyrna Set At Fresno State

DATE: September 23, 2012

PAGE: 1 of 1

#### **Lecture on Smyrna set at Fresno State**

A UCLA professor is set to speak on the 90th anniversary of the Burning of Smyrna at Fresno State on Oct. 5.

Richard Hovannisian, professor of Armenian and Near Eastern history, will discuss the Smyrna catastrophe — the inferno that engulfed and destroyed much of the city in the Greco-Turkish War.

The lecture is free and will take place in the Industrial Technology Building, Room 101, at 7:30 p.m. Free parking is available in Lots K, L, and Q, adjacent to the Industrial Arts building.

Details: Armenian Studies Program at (559) 278-2669.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee; Fresno, CA

DATE: September 16, 2012

SUBJECT: Author From Fresno Explores 1992 L.A. Riots

PAGE: 1 of 2

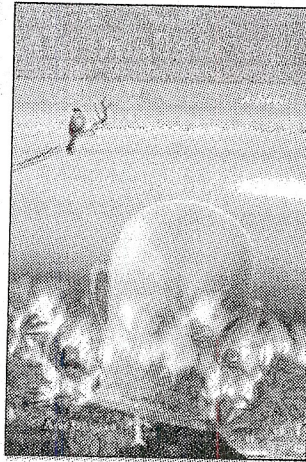
# Author from Fresno explores 1992 L.A. riots

**By Rick Bentley**

The Fresno Bee

Bullard High School graduate Aris Janigian was inspired to write by Fresno's William Saroyan. But it was what he saw while living in Los Angeles that inspired him to write about the 1992 Los Angeles riots.

Those observations, and what he was able to learn about what became the biggest riots in United States history, serve as the backdrop for his new book, "This Angelic Land" (West of West, \$18.95).



Janigian, who recalls growing up in Fresno's Armenia town and seeing Saroyan riding his bicycle, says Saroyan was a big influence on him because

he wrote about everyday people who ended up having international significance.

That structure is used in "This Angelic Land," a story that follows a 27-year-old bar owner during the six days the city was in chaos.

"My idea was to write a novel that would recreate the events of the riots and use that to make sense of what happened. I have been wanting to write about the riots for many years, but I didn't feel like I had the chops to pull it off," Janigian says. "About two and a half years ago I decided to go at it."

Los Angeles Review of





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### ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee; Fresno, CA

SUBJECT: Author From Fresno Explores 1992 L.A. Riots

DATE: September 16, 2012

PAGE: 2 of 2

Books critic D.J. Waldie calls the novel "today's necessary book."

Janigian will read from and discuss the book at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Fresno Art Museum's Bonner Auditorium, 2233 N. First St. Admission is free. The event is presented by Fresno State's Armenian Studies Program and the Fresno Art Museum.

Janigian says he decided to write about the riots as a work of fiction because there's an "immediacy and emotional richness" to a novel that an author can't create in a work of nonfiction. The fictional approach allowed him to

find the answers to his own questions about the riots and to work that information into a hypothesis that he then addresses.

This is Janigian's fourth book. Two of his books — "Bloodvine" and "Riverbig" — deal with farming in the Central Valley. He plans to wait a few months before tackling his next book, which will likely focus on farming to give him a trilogy.

He has hands-on experience in farming. When he's not writing, Janigian returns to Fresno to work in his family's wine grape business. From 1993 to 2005 he was senior

professor of humanities at the Southern California Institute of Architecture.

For more information, contact the Fresno Art Museum at (559) 441-4221 or the Armenian Studies Program at (559) 278-2669.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Mirror Spectator; Watertown, MA

DATE: September 15, 2012

SUBJECT: Janigian to Present His New Novel in Fresno

PAGE: 1 of 1

## Author Aris Janigian To Present His New Novel in Fresno

FRESNO — Author Aris Janigian will read from and discuss his new novel, *This Angelic Land*, Wednesday, September 19, at 7 p.m., in the Bonner Auditorium of the Fresno Art Museum.

Janigian's presentation is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and the Fresno Art Museum. Admission is free to the event.

In *This Angelic Land*, Janigian tells the story of Adam Derderian, a hip, 27-year-old bar owner, during his six-day journey through the surreal heart of Los Angeles and one of the city's darkest episodes.

Seeming to carry scant memory of Lebanon's civil war, from which Derderian had fled while still a boy, the landscape of the riots now finds him revisiting the world he thought he had escaped. Derderian engages with Armenian gangsters, members of the Nation of Islam, a Hancock Park playboy and others as he watches his adopted city ransacked and set ablaze.

Janigian is the author of *Bloodvine* and *Riverbig*, and the co-author, with April Greiman, of *Something for Nothing*. From 1993 to 2005 he was senior professor of humanities at Southern California Institute of Architecture. He was a contributing writer to *West*, the *Los Angeles Times Sunday Magazine*, a finalist for the William Saroyan Fiction Prize, and the recipient of the Anahid Literary Award from Columbia University. He is a contributing writer to thenervousbreak-down.com.

Copies of *This Angelic Land* will be on sale at the presentation.





ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier; Glendale, CA  
SUBJECT: Janigian to Present His New Novel in Fresno

DATE: September 13, 2012  
PAGE: 1 of 1

## Author Aris Janigian Will Present Latest Novel Sept. 19 in Fresno

FRESNO - Author Aris Janigian will read and discuss his new novel, "*This Angelic Place*," on Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. in the Bonner Auditorium of the Fresno Art Museum, 2233 N. First Street, Fresno.

Janigian's presentation is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and the Fresno Art Museum. Admission is free to the event.

In *This Angelic Land*, Janigian tells the story of Adam Derderian, a

hip, twenty-seven year old bar owner, during his six-day journey through the surreal heart of Los Angeles and one of the city's darkest episodes.

Seeming to carry scant memory of Lebanon's civil war, from which Derderian had fled while still a boy, the landscape of the riots now finds him revisiting the world he thought he had escaped. Derderian engages with Armenian gangsters, members of the Nation of Islam, a Hancock Park playboy, and a Kurdish scenic artists as he watches his adopted city ransacked and set ablaze.

Janigian is the author of *Bloodvine*, and *Riverbig*, and the co-author, with April Greiman, of *Something for Nothing*. From 1993 to 2005 he was senior professor of Humanities at Southern California Institute of Architecture. He was a contributing writer to *West*, the *Los Angeles Times Sunday Magazine*, a finalist for the William Saroyan Fiction Prize, and the recipient of the Anahid Literary Award from Columbia University. He is a contributing writer to [thenervousbreakdown.com](http://thenervousbreakdown.com).

Copies of *This Angelic Place* will be on sale at the presentation.

For more information, tact the Armenian Studies Program, 278-2669, for more information.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer; Los Angeles, CA  
SUBJECT: Janigian to Present His New Novel

DATE: September 12, 2012  
PAGE: 1 of 1

## Aris Janigian to Present His New Novel-*This Angelic Place*, Sept. 19

FRESNO - Author Aris Janigian will read and discuss his new novel, "*This Angelic Place*," at 7:00PM on Wednesday, September 19, 2012, in the Bonner Auditorium of the Fresno Art Museum, 2233 N. First Street in Fresno.

Janigian's presentation is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and the Fresno Art Museum. Admission is free to the event.

In *This Angelic Land*, Janigian tells the story of Adam Derderian, a hip, twenty-seven year old bar owner, during his six-day journey through the surreal heart of Los Angeles and one of the city's darkest episodes.

Seeming to carry scant memory of Lebanon's civil war, from which Derderian had fled while still a boy, the landscape of the riots now finds him revisiting the world he thought he had escaped. Derderian engages with Armenian gangsters, members of the Nation of Islam, a Hancock Park playboy, and a Kurdish scenic artists as he watches his adopted city ransacked and set ablaze.

Aris Janigian is the author of *Bloodvine*, and *Riverbig*, and the co-author, with April Greiman, of *Something for Nothing*.



From 1993 to 2005 he was senior professor of Humanities at Southern California Institute of Architecture. He was a contributing writer to *West*, the *Los Angeles Times Sunday Magazine*, a finalist for the William Saroyan Fiction Prize, and the recipient of the Anahid Literary Award from Columbia University. He is a contributing writer to [thenervousbreakdown.com](http://thenervousbreakdown.com).

Copies of *This Angelic Place* will be on sale at the presentation.

Contact the Armenian Studies Program, 278-2669, for more information.





ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Mirror Spectator; Watertown, MA

DATE: September 1, 2012

SUBJECT: Paul Ignatius to Speak on His New Book

PAGE: 1 of 1

## Paul Ignatius to Speak on *Now I Know in Part*

FRESNO – Paul R. Ignatius, former US secretary of the navy and assistant secretary of defense, will speak on his new book, *Now I Know in Part: An Armenian-American Reflects on his Life and Times*, at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 12, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium.

The lecture is part of the Armenian Studies Program Fall 2012 Lecture Series and is co-sponsored by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR).

Ignatius' *Now I Know in Part*, a substantially

revised and expanded edition of a memoir that was first published privately in 2000, was issued in late 2011 by NAASR's Armenian Heritage Press.

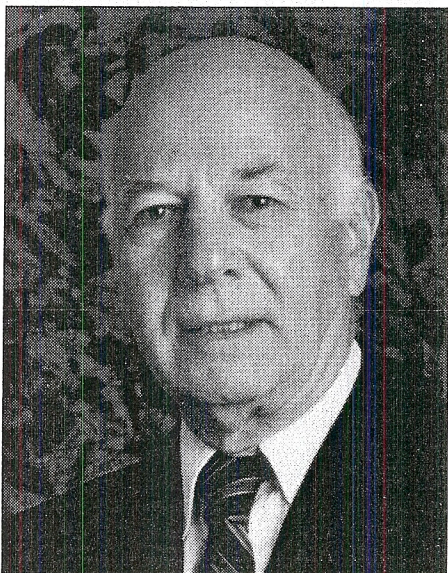
In *Now I Know in Part*, Ignatius looks back on family history, childhood in Glendale (before it had a major Armenian community), colorful characters (famous and obscure), Hollywood brushes with greatness, military service during World War II, a memorable journey to Historic Armenia with NAASR in 2006 and more.

A descendant of Armenian parents from the Kharpert region of historic Armenia, Ignatius is a graduate of the University of Southern California. He earned an MBA from Harvard University after serving as a naval officer in World War II. He is also the author of *On Board: My Life in the Navy, Government, and Business* (Naval Institute Press, 2006).

Ignatius served for eight years in the presidential administrations of John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, first as an assistant secretary of the army, then as undersecretary of the army and assistant secretary of defense, and finally in 1967 as secretary of the navy. Following his government service, he was president of the *Washington Post* for two years and president of the Air Transport Association for 15 years. He is the recipient of the Army Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award, and the Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Award.

Copies of *Now I Know in Part* will be available for purchase after the lecture.

The lecture is free and open to the public.



Paul R. Ignatius





ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer; Los Angeles, CA  
SUBJECT: Paul Ignatius to Speak on His New Book

DATE: August 29, 2012  
PAGE: 1 of 1

## ***Paul Ignatius to Speak on His New Book on Sept. 12 in Fresno***

FRESNO - Paul R. Ignatius, former U. S. Secretary of the Navy and Assistant Secretary of Defense, will speak on his new book *Now I Know in Part: An Armenian-American Reflects on his Life and Times* at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, September 12, 2012, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus.

The lecture is part of the Armenian Studies Program Fall 2012 Lecture Series and is co-sponsored by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research.

Paul R. Ignatius' *Now I Know in Part*, a substantially revised and expanded edition of a memoir that was first published privately in 2000, was issued in late 2011 by NAASR's Armenian Heritage Press.

In *Now I Know in Part*, Ignatius looks back on family history, childhood in Glendale (long before it had a major Armenian community), colorful characters (famous and obscure), Hollywood brushes with greatness, military service during World War II, a memorable journey to Historic Armenia with NAASR in 2006, and more.

A descendant of Armenian parents from the Kharpert region of historic Armenia, Ignatius is a native of Glendale,

California, and a graduate of the University of Southern California. He earned an MBA from Harvard University after serving as a naval officer in World War II. He is also the author of *On Board: My Life in the Navy, Government, and Business* (Naval Institute Press, 2006).

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Copies of *Now I Know in Part* will be available for purchase after the lecture.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

Parking: Parking rules have changed for the university. Parking is available in Lots A or J on campus, only if a free parking pass is obtained by using parking code 273301 in any of the campus kiosks.

For more information on the lecture please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Mirror Spectator; Watertown, MADATE: July 21, 2012SUBJECT: Opera Stars to Help Celebrate Der-Hovanessian's Poetry Book PAGE: 1 of 1

## Opera Stars to Help Celebrate Der-Hovanessian's 25th Book of Poetry

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Two Armenian opera stars, Victoria Avetisyan and Yeghishe Manucharyan, will join Cambridge poet Diana Der-Hovanessian on July 22 at 4 p.m. at the Longfellow National Historic Site, 105 Brattle St., to celebrate the publication of Der-Hovanessian's 25th book of poetry, Armenian Poetry of Our Time, from the Press at California State University.

Many of the poems will be sung and then read in English translation by the translator and several poets from New England Poetry Club.

Reviewing her first volume of translations in 1980, *The London Times Literary Supplement* called Der-Hovanessian "a brilliant poet who has opened up the book of her people to the English speaking world." She has gone on to translate 13 other books of Armenian poetry including *The Other Voice*, poems by Armenian women, as well as volumes by Yeghishe Charents, Sayat Nova, Gevorg Emin, Vahan Tekeyan and Vahan Derian.

For her own poetry she has won the Paterson Prize, plus awards from American Scholar, Prairie Schooner, NEA, Poetry Society of America and from Columbia University both Armand Erpf Award and the Anahid prize. During the post-earthquake years, she and Michael Kermoyan, singer-actor, and later Vahan Khanzadian, tenor, toured many universities with a musical play written by Der-Hovanessian, "The Secret Of Survival," for earthquake relief. This last year, two new books appeared, *Now I See It* and *Dancing at the Monastery*, from Sheep Meadow Press.



Diana Der-Hovanessian

Singing many of the poems will be two of the most sought after soloists in this country, tenor Manucharyan and mezzo soprano Avetisyan who won the Young Artist Award at her Kennedy Center debut. Both artists were born in Yerevan, Armenia. Avetisyan graduated with a master's degree in vocal performance from Komitas State University and began her career at the National Opera.

She made her American debut with the Boston Lyric Opera where she appears frequently. Manucharyan made his debut at Carnegie Hall followed by joining the Metropolitan Opera Company. *NewsDay* has praised the "purity, power and flexibility of his voice." He graduated from the Tchaikovsky Central Music School and Komitas State Conservatory of Music.

The Friends of Longfellow and New England Poetry Club are making the program possible. It is free and open to the public.

The July 22 reading and concert is free and will be followed by a book signing.





## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: USA Armenian Life; Gelndale, CADATE: July 13, 2012SUBJECT: Armenian Poetry In CelebrationPAGE: 1 of 1

## ARMENIAN POETRY IN CELEBRATION

Two famous Armenian opera stars, Victoria Avetisyan and Yeghishe Manucharyan, will join poet Diana Der-Hovanessian at the Longfellow National Historic Site in Cambridge, Mass., to celebrate the publication of her 25th book of poetry, Armenian Poetry of Our Time, from the Press at California State University.

Many of the poems will be sung and then read in English by Der-Hovanessian and several poets from the New England Poetry Club. Singing many of the poems will be two of the most sought after soloists in this country, tenor Yeghishe Manucharyan and mezzo soprano Victoria Avetisyan who won the Young Artist Award at her Kennedy Center debut. Both artists were born in Yerevan, Armenia. Avetisyan graduated with a master's degree in vocal performance from Komitas State University and began her career at the National Opera. She made her American debut with the Boston Lyric Opera, where she appears frequently. Manucharyan made his debut at Carnegie Hall followed by joining the Metropolitan Opera Company.

New York's NewsDay has praised the "purity, power and flexibility of his voice". He graduated from the Tchaikovsky Central Music School and Komitas State Conservatory of Music. In a review of Der-Hovanessian's first volume of translations in 1980, The London Times Literary Supplement called her "a brilliant poet who has opened up the book of her people to the English speaking world."

She has gone on to translate 13 other books of Armenian poetry, including *The Other Voice*, poems by Armenian women, and volumes by Yeghishe Charents, Sayat Nova, Gevorg Emin, Vahan Tekeyan, and Vahan Derian. For her own poetry she has won the Paterson Prize and awards from American Scholar, Prairie Schooner, NEA, PSA, and Columbia University.

During the post-earthquake years she and singer/actor Michael Kermoyan, and later tenor Vahan Khanzadian toured universities with a musical play—*The Secret Of Survival*—she wrote for earthquake relief. The reading and concert begins at 4 p.m. at 105 Brattle St. in Cambridge, Mass. The Friends of Longfellow and New England Poetry Club are making the program possible. It is free and open to the public, and will be followed by a book signing.