



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

Armenian Studies Program News Service

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

Spring 2012

**Vol. 27 Release #96
January 2012-June 2012**



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Collegian; Fresno, CASUBJECT: Student Works to Keep Armenian Culture AliveDATE: May 4, 2012PAGE: 1 of 1

Student works to keep Armenian culture alive

By Taylor Gonzalez
The Collegian

As president of the Armenian Students Organization (ASO), Vartush Mesropyan takes pride in helping educate students about her culture.

"As I was growing up, I had always wanted to get involved with a group of Armenians that had the strength and determination to keep the Armenian culture, history and language alive," Mesropyan said.

Throughout her time in school, Mesropyan has been involved in both multicultural clubs and Armenian clubs. Communication and involvement with other Armenians is something she has made a priority.

Mesropyan was raised in an Armenian community, went to an Armenian school, and has many Armenian friends. This motivated Mesropyan to become involved in ASO, where she now is president.

"I just want to keep going and keep being involved so I don't forget who I am, and so I could pass on what I know to my own children one day," Mesropyan said.

ASO was established in 1977 and its purpose is to give students the opportunity to get more familiar with the

"I just want to keep going and keep being involved so I don't forget who I am and so I could pass on what I know to my own children one day."

— Vartush Mesropyan,
Armenian Students Organization President



Photo courtesy of Vartush Mesropyan

Aside from being president of ASO, Vartush Mesropyan is also a DJ for KFSR every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon where she hosts an Armenian radio show called "Hye Oozh."

Armenian language, culture and history.

"It is my duty to make this organization grow with its activities and participation, because as young Armenians, we are the future to all new generations," Mesropyan said.

Alongside Barlow Der Mugrdechian, coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program, ASO sponsors different kinds of lectures for students to come and learn about Armenia and its people.

"We coordinate Armenian singing

and dancing workshops, spread awareness on campus about our history (typically about the Armenian Genocide), volunteer in the Armenian community and just do as much as we can," Mesropyan said.

Last week, ASO held an event commemorating the Armenian Genocide in the Free Speech Area, where many came out and participated in the events. Students read poems, memoirs, and sang songs. Hygo Ogannesian was the keynote speaker, and students from the Charlie Keyan Armenian School

and Arax Dancers participated as well.

To conclude the events, students and community members placed flowers on the Armenian Martyrs Monument. There was also a silent march on campus, where students taped their mouths with red tape with the word "denial" on it.

This was done in remembrance of the Armenians killed in the Genocide, and the 97 years of denial. Mesropyan said the purpose of these events were for other students on campus to recognize and understand the Armenian history.

The Armenian Genocide is something that Armenians keep very close to their heart.

On April 24, 1915, 1.5 million Armenians were killed by the Ottoman Empire.

"The young Turks wanted to destroy Armenia in order to eliminate a Christian nation and a powerful race," Mesropyan said. "Armenian men, women and children were captured, massacred and deported."

For 97 years, Turkey has denied the genocide, causing it to be rarely recognized. This is why Mesropyan and members of ASO make every effort to recognize it.

"Sometimes I ask myself, 'why?' but God knows why because until this day Armenians stand strong and they are still growing in a strong nation," Mesropyan said. "We live with hope and strength that the day will come for the Turks [to] recognize what they have done."



COMMENT: The Collegian is a forum for student expression.
<http://collegian.csufresno.edu>



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Nor Gyank; Glendale, CA

DATE: April 26, 2012

SUBJECT: Prof. Astourian to Speak on The Path to the Armenian Genocide

PAGE: 1 of 1

**Armenian Studies Program
California State University, Fresno****Prof. Stephan Astourian to Speak on
“The Path to the Armenian Genocide”**

Dr. Stephan Astourian, Executive Director of the Armenian Studies Program at the University of California, Berkeley, will speak on “The Path to the Armenian Genocide” at 7:30 PM on Monday, April 30, 2012, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Rm. 191, on the Fresno State campus.

The lecture is part of the Armenian Studies Program Spring Lecture Series and is supported by the Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation.

This lecture will deal with the complex cultural, social, economic, and demographic process of polarization between Muslim (Turks and Kurds) Ottomans and Armenian Ottomans that paved the way to the Armenian Genocide. The speaker will argue that while this process laid the background for genocide, it was wartime conditions and specific events and institutions resulting from those conditions that precipitated the decision to exterminate the Armenians.

Dr. Stephan Astourian is the Executive Director of the Armenian Studies Program at the University of California, Berkeley. He is also the William Saroyan Adjunct Assistant Professor in Armenian and Caucasian history in the Department of History of that university. Astourian received his Licence (B.A.) from the University of Paris I (Sorbonne). He then pursued his graduate education there and earned a Maîtrise (M.A.) and D.E.A. (Diplôme d’Etudes Approfondies), both summa cum laude. His interest in modern Armenian history led him to move to U.C.L.A., where he earned a second M.A. and a C.Phil. with distinction. He completed his Ph.D. in Modern Armenian and Caucasian History in 1996.

Professor Astourian served as editor-in-chief of *Jusur: The UCLA Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* (1988-1990), edited *MemorIkon* (Los Angeles: Arvest Publishing, 1997) and has authored some twenty articles and essays on modern Armenian, Ottoman, and Azerbaijani history and on post-Soviet Caucasian politics.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Relaxed parking will be available in the UBC (University Business Center) parking lot after 7:00 PM the night of the lecture. For more information on the lecture please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier; Glendale, CASUBJECT: Prof. Astourian to Speak at CSUF on April 30DATE: April 26, 2012PAGE: 1 of 1

Prof. Stephan Astourian to Speak at Cal State Fresno, on April 30

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

2012

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Collegian; Fresno, CA

DATE: April 23, 2012

SUBJECT: Commemorating The 97th Anniversary of Armenian Genocide PAGE: 1 of 1

COMMEMORATING THE 97TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

MONDAY, APRIL 23 • 11:00AM

Campus Activity

Free Speech Area

TUESDAY, APRIL 24 • 12:15PM

Armenian Genocide

Commemoration and March

Free Speech Area - Platform

(By Henry Madden Library)

Guest Speaker: Hygo Ohannessian

Presentations by ASO members, Arax Dancers,
and Keyan Armenian Community School

THURSDAY, APRIL 26 • 6:30PM

Screening of "The Lark Farm"

Followed by Night Vigil

Industrial Technology Building Rm. 101

(Cedar and Barstow)

**Sponsored by Fresno State's Armenian Students Organization
and Armenian Studies Program**

Partially Funded by



For more information contact Vartush Mesropyan 559.916.0074



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2013

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Collegian; Fresno, CA

SUBJECT: Events Commemorate Armenian Genocide

DATE: April 23, 2012

PAGE: 1 of 1

Students commemorate anniversary of 97th Armenian Genocide

By University Communications

To commemorate the 97th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide on Tuesday, the Armenian Students Organization of Fresno State will hold several events including a talk that day by Hygo Ohannessian, chair of the Armenian National Committee of America.

The commemorative event, scheduled 12:15 to 2 p.m. in the Free Speech Area, will include presentations of poems,

songs, dances and reading of Genocide memoirs by club members. Students of the Charlie Keyan Armenian School and the Arax Dancers also will participate.

It will culminate with a march through campus.

This and the other events remember the 1.5 million Genocide victims and their surviving families, many of whom fled to the United States and other places far away from Armenians' traditional west Asia homeland.

• **Monday, April 23, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.** An information table in the Free Speech Area, with posters and brochures available for students to learn more about the Armenian Genocide.

• **Wednesday, April 25 4 p.m.** In University Student Union, Room 312-314, the Associated Students Inc., will issue a proclamation recognizing April 23-27 as a week of remembrance.

• **Thursday, April 26 6:30 p.m.** The Armenian Students Organization will host a screening of the movie "Lark Farm" in Industrial Technology Building, Room 101, followed by a vigil at the Free Speech Area.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Mirror Spectator; Watertown, MA
SUBJECT: ASP Banquet Celebrates 35th Anniversary

DATE: April 22, 2012
PAGE: 1 of 2

Armenian Studies Program Banquet Celebrates 35th Anniversary

*Dr. Richard Hovannisian
Honored for More than 50 Years
Of Teaching, Research and
Service in Armenian Studies*

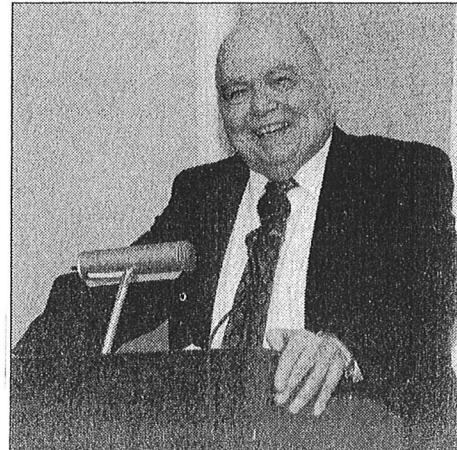
FRESNO — The Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, held its gala 24th anniversary banquet, on Sunday, March 11, in the banquet hall of the Fort Washington Golf and Country Club.

More than 260 community members joined with Fresno State President Dr. John Welty, College of Arts and Humanities Dean Dr. Vida Samiian and faculty, students and friends of the Armenian Studies Program to mark the special occasion.

Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, director of the Armenian Studies Program, welcomed guests on behalf of the program and gave a brief message on the program's activities in the 2011-2012 academic year. This year marked the 35th anniversary of the establishment of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.

Prof. Sergio La Porta, Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, spoke about the program and about its growth in recent years.

Dr. Richard Hovannisian, AEF Professor Emeritus of Modern Armenian History at UCLA, was the honored guest at the banquet and the keynote speaker for the evening. He was recognized with several proclamations, including one from the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, bestowed in person by Debbie



Dr. Richard Hovannisian

Poochigian, chairman of the Board of Supervisors. The Fresno City Council also declared March 11 as "Dr. Richard Hovannisian Day" in Fresno, thanks to the efforts of Councilman Andreas Borgeas. Valley legislators recognized Hovannisian with a proclamation lauding his years of teaching and research, due to Mary Alice Kaloostian, district director for California state Sen. Tom Berryhill.

Welty awarded Hovannisian with the President's Medal of Distinction, the highest non-degree award presented by California State University, Fresno. It is presented to citizens of the region, state or nation whose contribution in the area of professional achievements or public service are of national or international significance or represent a contribution of great significance to the university.

Hovannisian, gave an inspiring speech as he reflected on a long academic career. He was the first to teach Armenian courses at Fresno State in 1960-1962, when he taught several extension courses. While teaching those Armenian courses, he also learned more about Armenian history, rediscovering his own roots.

Hovannisian reflected on his childhood and the role his grandparents and parents had in shaping his life. His childhood on the family



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Judge Chuck Poochigian, Dr. Richard Hovannian, Prof. Barlow Der Mugdechian and Fresno County Board of Supervisors Chairman Debbie Poochigian

Armenian Studies Program Banquet Celebrates 35th Anniversary

FRESNO, from page 5

farm affected him greatly and he emphasized the most important lesson he had gained, which was the idea that change was possible for everyone, slowly but surely.

Following the keynote address, student recipients of Armenian Studies Program scholarships received a congratulatory letter from Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), and a gift of the book, *Follow*, written by William Saroyan, from the Armenian Studies Program. More than 40 students were recognized for receiving the scholarships and for graduating with a minor in Armenian Studies.



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2012

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee; Fresno, CA

SUBJECT: Events Commemorate Armenian Genocide

DATE: April 21, 2012

PAGE: 1 of 1

Events commemorate Armenian Genocide

A commemoration service — marking the 97th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide — will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, 2226 Ventura Ave.

After the service, a program will be held in the church's social hall. Sergio La Porta, professor in Armenian Studies at Fresno State, is the speaker. Details: (559) 486-1141.

■ Also, a commemorative event — featuring the presentation of poems, songs, dances and reading of Genocide memoirs — will be offered 12:15-2 p.m. Tuesday at the Free Speech area at Fresno State.

Members of the Armenian Students Organization and students of the Charlie Keyan Armenian School will read the memoirs. Hygo Ohannessian is a speaker. Details: (559) 278-2669.



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2012

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: USA Armenian Life; Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: Dr. Hovannisian Honored at ASP Banquet

DATE: April 20, 2012
PAGE: 1 of 1

HOVANNISIAN HONORED AT FRESNO ARMENIAN STUDIES ANNIVERSARY EVENT

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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Nor Gyank; Glendale, CA

DATE: April 19, 2012

SUBJECT: ASP Banquet Celebrates 35th Anniversary

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**ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM BANQUET
CELEBRATES 35TH ANNIVERSARY
Dr. Richard Hovannisian Honored for more than
50 Years of Teaching, Research, and Service
in Armenian Studies**



**Judge Chuck Poochigian, Dr. Richard Hovannisian, Prof. Barlow Der Mugdechian,
Fresno County Board of Supervisor Chairman Debbie Poochigian**

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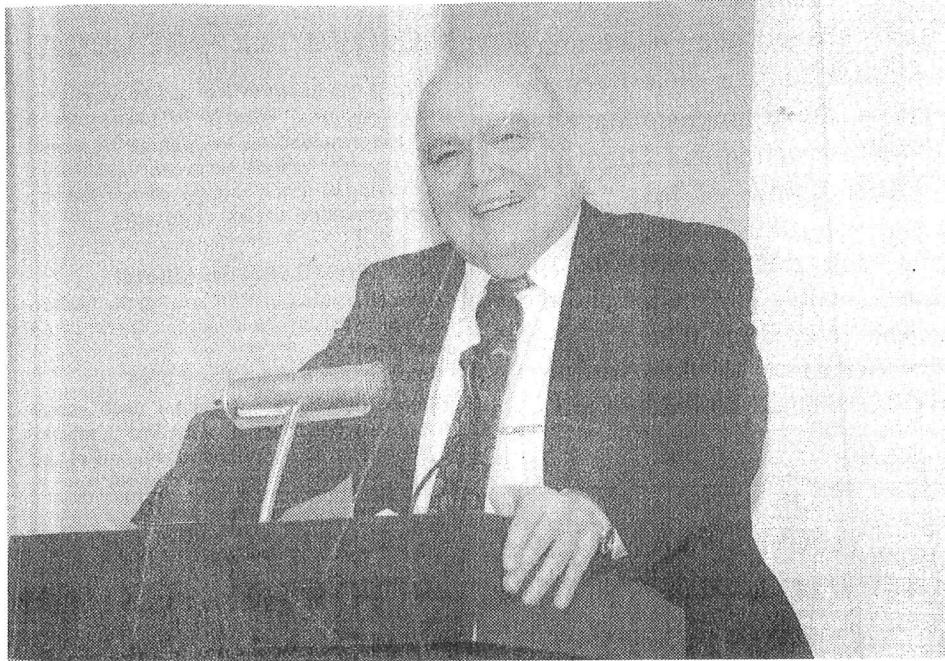
ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Nor Gyank; Glendale, CA

SUBJECT: ASP Banquet Celebrates 35th Anniversary

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Dr. Hovannisian reflected on his childhood and the role his grandparents and parents had in shaping his life. His childhood on the family farm affected

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The 24th Annual Armenian Studies Program Banquet was a great success. It was an occasion to reflect on the past years and to look forward to the future.



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CSUF Armenian Studies Program Banquet Celebrates 35th Anniversary

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ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM CELEBRATION BANQUET - *From left, Judge Chuck Poochigian, Dr. Richard Hovannisian, Prof. Barlow Der Mugdechian, Fresno County Board of Supervisor Chairperson Debbie Poochigian.*



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer; Los Angeles, CADATE: April 18, 2012SUBJECT: Dr. Hovannisian Honored for More Than 50 Years of ServicePAGE: 1 of 2

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From left: Judge Chuck Poochigian, Dr. Richard Hovannisian, Prof. Barlow Der Mugdechian, Fresno County Board of Supervisor Chairman Debbie Poochigian

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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Mirror Spectator; Watertown, MA
SUBJECT: Dr. Hovannisian to Speak at CSUF

DATE: April 14, 2012
PAGE: 1 of 1

Richard Hovannisian to Speak on Changing Landscape of Historic Western Armenia

FRESNO — Richard G. Hovannisian, A.E.F. Professor Emeritus of Modern Armenian history at UCLA, will speak on "The Changing Landscape of Historic Western Armenia: Reflections on a Journey Into the Past" on Thursday, April 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the Leon S. and Peter P. Peters Educational Center Auditorium, Save Mart Center.

The lecture is part of the Armenian Studies Program Spring Lecture Series and is co-sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization at Fresno State.

The landscape of Historic Western Armenia is ever changing. The mystical names of the villages, towns and provinces of a now-vanished generation remain deeply imbedded in the minds and hearts of many descendants. But how similar are the imagined homeland and the existing landscape?

After many years of hesitation, Hovannisian set out on a quest to reconcile the "imagined" with the "real." His travels took him through a part of the historic provinces from Trebizon and Samsun on the Black Sea to Baiburt, Erzerum, Kemakh, Agn, Sebastia, Amasia, Kharpert, Mush, Diarbekir, Bitlis, Van, Kars, and Ani. He will present his impressions in an illustrated presentation in this special event for the San Joaquin Valley audience.

Hovannisian is the author of the four-volume history *The Republic of Armenia, Armenia on the Road to Independence*, and has edited and contributed to more than twenty books including *The Armenian Image in History and Literature*, *The Armenian Genocide in Perspective*, *The Armenian People from Ancient to Modern Times*, *Remembrance and Denial, Looking Backward, Moving Forward*, and eleven volumes on historic Armenian cities and provinces, the most recent of which is *Armenian Kars and Ani*.

A reception will immediately follow the program, hosted by the Knights of Vartan.

Many of Hovannisian's available titles will be available for signing before and after the presentation.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

**ARCHIVE**SOURCE: The California Courier; Glendale, CADATE: April 12, 2012SUBJECT: Prof. Hovannisian to Speak at CSUF on April 19PAGE: 1 of 1

Prof. Hovannisian to Speak at CSUF on April 19

FRESNO - Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian, A.E.F. Professor Emeritus of Modern Armenian history at UCLA, will speak on "The Changing Landscape of Historic Western Armenia: Reflections on a Journey Into the Past" at 7:30 PM on April 19, in the Leon S. and Peter P. Peters Educational Center Auditorium, Save Mart Center, on the Fresno State campus.

The lecture is part of the Armenian Studies Program Spring Lecture Series and is co-sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization at Fresno State.

The landscape of Historic Western Armenia is ever changing. The mystical names of the villages, towns, and provinces of a now-vanished generation remain deeply imbedded in the minds and hearts of many descendants. But how similar are the imagined homeland and the existing landscape?

After many years of hesitation, Dr. Richard Hovannisian set out on a quest to reconcile the "imagined" with the "real." His travels took him through a part of the historic provinces from Trebizond and Samsun on the Black Sea to Baiburt, Erzurum, Kemakh, Agn, Sebastia, Amasia, Kharpert, Mush, Diarbekir, Bitlis, Van, Kars, and Ani. He will present his impressions in an illustrated presentation in this special

event for the San Joaquin Valley audience.

A reception will immediately follow the program, hosted by the Knights of Vartan.

Many of Prof. Hovannisian's available titles will be available for signing before and after the presentation.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Parking will be available in the Save Mart Center parking lot, in Lot A, and in Lot V (except in reserved spaces). All cars require a one night parking permit, available by using coupon code 17130013 at the kiosk on Woodrow Ave. in front of the auditorium.

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



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Mirror Spectator; Watertown, MA
SUBJECT: Peter Balakian to Speak in Fresno

DATE: April 7, 2012
PAGE: 1 of 1

Peter Balakian to Speak in Fresno

FRESNO — Peter Balakian, the 2012 recipient of the Alice and Clifford Spendlove Prize in Social Justice, Diplomacy and Tolerance, awarded by the University of California, Merced, will be honored in Fresno at a special lecture and reception on Friday, April 13.

The Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State and the University of California, Merced, are co-hosting Balakian's visit, which begins at 6:15 p.m. with a talk by Balakian, followed by a reception at 7 p.m. The event will take place at the UC Merced, Fresno Center, 550 East Shaw Ave., Fresno.

The Spendlove Prize was established through a gift to the university from Sherrie Spendlove in honor of her parents, lifelong Merced residents Alice and Clifford Spendlove. Every year the prize honors an individual who exemplifies the delivery of social justice, diplomacy and tolerance in his or her work.

Balakian is the author of the memoir *Black Dog of Fate*, winner of the PEN/Albrand Prize

for memoir and a *New York Times* Notable Book. In *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response*, Balakian chronicles the massacres of the Armenians in the 1890s and the Genocide in 1915 at the hands of the Ottoman Turks.

The book won the 2005 Raphael Lemkin Prize and was a *New York Times* Notable Book and a *New York Times* bestseller.

Balakian, the Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor of the Humanities in the department of English at Colgate University, is the recipient of many awards and prizes and civic citations.

The Spendlove Prize Selection Committee is chaired by Aldenderfer and includes a representative from the Spendlove family or a designee, an undergraduate student, a graduate student, a faculty member and representatives from the UC Merced community.

RSVP by sending an email to chow2@ucmerced.edu.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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

CSU

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Nor Gyank; Glendale, CA

SUBJECT: Armenian Genocide Commemoration Week at CSUF

DATE: April 7, 2012

PAGE: 1 of 1

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE COMMEMORATION WEEK 97TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Armenian Students Organization and Armenian Studies Program
keep alive the memory of the Armenian Genocide

Fresno, CA April, 2012 - April 24th marks the 97th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. To commemorate this tragic event and honor the 1.5million victims, their families, and the survivors of the atrocities committed by the Turkish government, the Armenian Students Organization of Fresno State will hold several events.

Thursday April 19th, 7:30pm

"The Changing Landscape of Historic Western Armenia: Reflections on a Journey into the Past." Dr. Richard Hovannisian, Professor Emeritus of Modern Armenia History at UCLA

The landscape of Historic Western Armenia is ever changing. The mystical names of the villages, towns, and provinces of a now-vanished generation remain deeply imbedded in the minds and hearts of many descendants. But how similar are the imagined homeland and the existing landscape?

Peters Educational Center Auditorium, Save Mart Center, Fresno State

Monday April 23rd, 11am to 1pm

ASO will have a table with informative posters and brochures available for students to learn more about the Armenian Genocide.

Free Speech area, Fresno State

Tuesday, April 24th, 12:15 to 2pm

A commemorative event will be held, featuring presentations of poems, songs, dances, and reading of Genocide memoirs by ASO members, students of the Charlie Keyan Armenian School, the Arax Dancers, and guest speaker Hygo Ohannessian.

Immediately following the event all will be invited to join ASO in a campus wide march.

Free Speech area, Fresno State

Wednesday, April 25th, 4:00pm

The Associated Students at Fresno State will issue a proclamation recognizing the week of April 23-27, 2012 as the week of Remembrance of the 97th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. University Student Union, room 312-314

Thursday, April 26th, 6:30pm

Armenian Students Organization will host a screening of the movie "Lark Farm" followed by a Night Vigil at the Free Speech area.

Industrial Technology Building, Room 101, Fresno State

All students, faculty, and staff are urged to join in the activities being held on campus and in the community.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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

2012

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier; Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: Peter Balakian to Speak in Fresno

DATE: April 5, 2012
PAGE: 1 of 1

Peter Balakian to Speak in Fresno

FRESNO - Peter Balakian, the 2012 recipient of the Alice and Clifford Spendlove Prize in Social Justice, Diplomacy and Tolerance, awarded by UC Merced, will be honored in Fresno at a special lecture and reception on April 13.

The Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State and the University of California, Merced, are co-hosting Balakian's visit, which begins at 6:15PM with a talk by Balakian, followed by a reception at 7:00PM. The event will take place at the UC Merced, Fresno Center, 550 East Shaw Avenue, in Fresno.

Please RSVP by calling (209) 228-7843 or by sending an email to chowe2@ucmerced.edu.

The Spendlove Prize was established through a generous gift to the university from Sherrie Spendlove in honor of her parents, lifelong Merced residents Alice and Clifford Spendlove. Every year the prize honors an individual who exemplifies the delivery of social justice, diplomacy and tolerance in his or her work.

Balakian is the author of the memoir "Black Dog of Fate," winner of the PEN/Albrand Prize for memoir and a New York Times Notable Book.

In "The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response," Balakian chronicles the massacres of the Armenians in the 1890s and Genocide in 1915 at the hands of the Ottoman Turks.

The book won the 2005 Raphael Lemkin Prize and was a *New York Times* Notable Book and *New York Times* best seller.

Balakian, the Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor of the Humanities in the department of English at Colgate University, is the recipient of many awards and prizes and civic citations.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Nor Gyank; Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: Peter Balakian to Speak in Fresno

DATE: April 5, 2012
PAGE: 1 of 1

Peter Balakian to Speak in Fresno

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Balakian, the Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor of the Humanities in the department of English at Colgate University, is the recipient of many awards and prizes and civic citations.

The Spendlove Prize Selection Committee is chaired by Aldenderfer and includes a representative from the Spendlove family or a designee; an undergraduate student; a graduate student; a faculty member; and representatives from the UC Merced community.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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

2012

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer; Los Angeles, CA
SUBJECT: Peter Balakian to Speak in Fresno, April 13

DATE: April 4, 2012
PAGE: 1 of 1

Peter Balakian to Speak in Fresno, April 13

Peter Balakian, the 2012 recipient of the Alice and Clifford Spendlove Prize in Social Justice, Diplomacy and Tolerance, awarded by UC Merced, will be honored in Fresno at a special lecture and reception on Friday, April 13.

The Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State and the University of California, Merced, are co-hosting Balakian's visit, which begins at

6:15PM with a talk by Balakian, followed by a reception at 7:00PM. The event will take place at the UC Merced, Fresno Center, 550 East Shaw Avenue, in Fresno.

Balakian is the author of the remarkable memoir "Black Dog of Fate," winner of the PEN/Albrand Prize for memoir and a *New York Times* Notable Book. In "The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response," Balakian chronicles the massacres of the Armenians in the 1890s and Genocide in 1915 at the hands of the Ottoman Turks.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer; Los Angeles, CA

SUBJECT: Kooyumjian Family Foundation Donates \$35000 to ASP

DATE: April 4, 2012

PAGE: 1 of 1

Kooyumjian Family Foundation Donates \$35,000 to CSUF Armenian Studies Program

FRESNO — The Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation has donated \$35,000 to the Armenian Studies Program and the Center for Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno.

Armenian Studies Coordinator Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian announced that the donation is for the 2011-2012 academic year. He also

announced that the gift will be used for a variety of activities, including outreach activities, special conferences, and scholarships.

This is the third year of support from the Foundation.

This year, the 13th Annual Armenian Film Festival was supported in part by the Kooyumjian Family Foundation.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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CSU

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Nor Gyank; Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: Dr. La Porta to Speak at CSUF

DATE: March 22, 2012
PAGE: 1 of 1

Armenian Studies Program California State University Fresno

Dr. Sergio La Porta, holder of the Haig & Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies at Fresno State will speak on "Knowledge, Heresy, and Inquisition: The Armenian Reaction to Latin Missionaries in the 14th century" at 7:30 PM on Thursday, March 22, 2012, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Rm. 191, on the Fresno State campus.

The lecture is part of the Armenian Studies Program Spring Lecture Series and is co-sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization at Fresno State.

In the first quarter of the fourteenth century, Latin missionaries began to penetrate areas of Greater Armenia. Along with these missionaries came a repository of Latin books. Very soon after their arrival, these books were translated into Armenian and an intense intellectual dialogue ensued between Armenians and Latins as well as amongst the Armenians themselves. Some Armenians accepted Roman Catholicism; others fought hard to prevent Armenians from leaving the Apostolic Church. One of the main reasons for the attraction of Armenians to Roman Catholicism was intellectual, and, in particular, the availability of new Aristotelian works. For the rest of the century, pro- and anti-Latin Armenian factions battled to control the future of Armenia's intellectual tradition. While this struggle was sometimes violent and deadly, it also helped shape a period of intellectual dynamism and innovation.

Dr. La Porta is Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at Fresno State and teaches a variety of Armenian Studies courses. He earned his Ph.D. from Harvard University and wrote his thesis on the third volume of Grigor Tat'ewac'i's *Book of Questions*. His most recent publications include a three-volume study of the earliest Armenian commentaries on the *Heavenly Hierarchy* attributed to Dionysius the Areopagite (Peeters, 2008); a volume co-edited with Prof. Shulman on *The Poetics of Grammar and the Metaphysics of Sound and Sign* (Brill, 2007); and several articles on medieval Armenian political, religious, and intellectual history. His current areas of interest include apocalyptic literature in the Armenian tradition; the history of Greater Armenia between the Seljuk and Mongol invasions; and the influence of the works attributed to Dionysius the Areopagite on Armenian spirituality and theology.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Relaxed parking will be available in the UBC (University Business Center) parking lot after 7:00 PM the night of the lecture. For more information on the lecture please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278 2669.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee; Fresno, CADATE: March 22, 2012SUBJECT: Armenian Lecture Set at Fresno StatePAGE: 1 of 1**Armenian lecture set
at Fresno State**

Fresno State's Armenian Studies Program is holding its latest public lecture as part of the Spring Lecture series tonight.

Dr. Sergio La Porta, the Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair of the Armenian Studies program, will speak on "Knowledge, Heresy and Inquisition: The Armenian Reaction to Latin Missionaries in the 14th Century" at the Alice Peters Auditorium at 7:30 p.m., university spokesman Tom Uribe said.

Free parking will be available at the parking lot near the University Business Center after 7 p.m., he said. For more information, call (559) 278-2669.

**ARCHIVE**

SOURCE: The Armenian Mirror Spectator; Watertown, MA
SUBJECT: Prof La Porta to Speak at CSUf

DATE: March 17, 2012
PAGE: 1 of 1

Prof. Sergio La Porta To Speak on Armenian Reaction to Latin Missionaries in the 14th Century

FRESNO – Dr. Sergio La Porta, holder of the Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies at Fresno State, will speak on “Knowledge, Heresy, and Inquisition: The Armenian Reaction to Latin Missionaries in the 14th century,” at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 22, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus.

The lecture is part of the Armenian Studies Program Spring Lecture Series and is co-sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization at Fresno State.

In the first quarter of the 14th century, Latin missionaries began to penetrate areas of Greater Armenia. Along with these missionaries came a repository of Latin books. Soon after their arrival, these books were translated into Armenian and an intense intellectual dialogue ensued between Armenians and Latins as well as amongst the Armenians themselves. Some Armenians accepted Roman Catholicism, others fought hard to prevent Armenians from leaving the Apostolic Church. One of the main reasons for the attraction of Armenians to Roman Catholicism was intellectual, in particular, the availability of new Aristotelian works. For the rest of the century, pro- and anti-Latin Armenian factions battled to control the future of Armenia’s intellectual tradition. While this struggle was sometimes violent and deadly, it also helped shape a period of intellectual dynamism and innovation.

La Porta is Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at Fresno State and teaches a variety of Armenian Studies courses. He earned his PhD from Harvard University and wrote his thesis on the third volume of Grigor Tat'ewac'i's *Book of Questions*. His most recent publications include a three-volume study of the earliest Armenian commentaries on the *Heavenly Hierarchy* attributed to Dionysius the Areopagite (Peeters, 2008); a volume co-edited with Professor Shulman on *The Poetics of Grammar and the Metaphysics of Sound and Sign* (Brill, 2007) and several articles on medieval Armenian political, religious and intellectual history. His current areas of interest include apocalyptic literature in the Armenian tradition; the history of Greater Armenia between the Seljuk and Mongol invasions and the influence of the works attributed to Dionysius the Areopagite on Armenian spirituality and theology.

**ARCHIVE**

SOURCE: The California Courier; Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: La Porta to Speak at CSUF

DATE: March 15, 2012
PAGE: 1 of 1

Prof. La Porta to Address Armenian Reaction To 14th Century Latin Missionaries at CSUF

FRESNO - Dr. Sergio La Porta, holder of the Haig & Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies at Fresno State will speak on "Knowledge, Heresy, and Inquisition: The Armenian Reaction to Latin Missionaries in the 14th century" at 7:30 PM on March 22, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Rm. 191, on the Fresno State campus.

The lecture is part of the Armenian Studies Program Spring Lecture Series and is co-sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization at Fresno State.

In the first quarter of the fourteenth century, Latin missionaries began to penetrate areas of Greater Armenia. Along with these missionaries came a repository of Latin books. Very soon after their arrival, these books were translated into Armenian and an intense intellectual dialogue ensued between Armenians and Latins as well as amongst the Armenians themselves. Some Armenians accepted Roman Catholicism; others fought hard to prevent Armenians from leaving the Apostolic Church. One of the main reasons for the attraction of Armenians to Roman Catholicism was intellectual, and, in particular, the availability of new Aristotelian works. For the rest of the century, pro- and anti-Latin Armenian factions battled to control the future of Armenia's intellectual tradition. While this strug-

gle was sometimes violent and deadly, it also helped shape a period of intellectual dynamism and innovation.

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The lecture is free and open to the public. Relaxed parking will be available in the UBC (University Business Center) parking lot after 7:00 PM the night of the lecture. For more information on the lecture please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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

CSU

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer; Los Angeles, CA
SUBJECT: Prof La Porta to Speak on March 22 at CSUF

DATE: March 14, 2012
PAGE: 1 of 1

Prof. Sergio La Porta to Speak on "Knowledge, Heresy, and Inquisition: The Armenian Reaction to Latin Missionaries in the 14th century"

FRESNO - Dr. Sergio La Porta, holder of the Haig & Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies at Fresno State will speak on "Knowledge, Heresy, and Inquisition: The Armenian Reaction to Latin Missionaries in the 14th century" at 7:30 PM on Thursday, March 22, 2012, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Rm. 191, on the Fresno State campus.

The lecture is part of the Armenian Studies Program Spring Lecture Series and is co-sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization at Fresno State.

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Armenians accepted Roman Catholicism; others fought hard to prevent Armenians from leaving the Apostolic Church.

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ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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

2012

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Mirror Spectator; Watertown, MA
SUBJECT: ASP to Hold 24th Annual Banquet

DATE: February 25, 2012
PAGE: 1 of 1

Armenian Studies Program At Fresno State to Hold 24th Annual Banquet

FRESNO — The Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno, will hold its 24th Annual Banquet on Sunday, March 11, at the Fort Washington Golf and Country Club.

This year's banquet will recognize and honor Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian, AEF Professor Emeritus of Modern Armenian History at UCLA. Hovannisian has a career of more than 50 years in the field of Armenian Studies, excelling in scholarship, teaching and community service. He is a founding member of the Society for Armenian Studies.

The Armenian Studies Program will also be celebrating its 35th anniversary at the Banquet. Armenian courses have been taught at Fresno State since the 1960s, but Dr. Dickran Kouymjian established the modern program in 1976-1977.

More than 50 student recipients of Armenian Studies scholarships and grants for 2011-2012 will be recognized at the banquet, as well as students who are graduating this year with a minor in Armenian Studies.

The Armenian Studies Banquet brings together Fresno State students, faculty, administrators and the community, to celebrate the achievements of the program and its students.

The reception will begin at 5 p.m. followed by the banquet at 6 p.m.

For more information about the banquet, contact the Armenian Studies Program.

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Mirror Spectator; Watertown, MA
 SUBJECT: Karabians to Speak on Aivazovsky at CSUF

DATE: February 25, 2012
 PAGE: 1 of 1

Walter and Laurel Karabian to Speak On Ivan Aivazovsky

FRESNO — Attorney Walter Karabian and his wife Laurel will present an illustrated talk on Hovhannes Aivazian/ Ivan Aivazovsky, at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 2, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus.

The Karabians own the largest and finest collection of Aivazovsky paintings in the Western United States, many acquired from the two greatest collectors worldwide, Antranig Shahinian and Andreas Roubian. They will discuss the life and career of the Armenian artist. In a first for Fresno, the Karabians will display four works from their private collection and show slides of other dramatic Aivazovsky paintings they own. A reception will precede the lecture.

The presentation is part of the Spring 2012 Armenian Studies Program Lecture Series and is co-sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization at Fresno State.

Aivazovsky was a world-renowned painter of Armenian descent, living and working in the Crimea during the 19th century. He is most famous for his seascapes, which constitute more than half of his paintings. Aivazovsky is widely considered one of the greatest seascapes painters of all time.

Aivazovsky gained international fame at the age of 25 and was elected to five European Academies and was awarded the medal of the French Legion of Honor. Eugene Delacroix referred to him in reverence, and William Turner called him a genius. According to V. Adasov, "Perhaps no one in Europe has painted the extraordinary beauty of the sea with so much feeling and expressiveness as Aivazovsky."

Walter Karabian served in the State Assembly from 1966-1974 championing various issues, including his emphasis on opening the doors of politics to young Latinos, his commitment to his Armenian heritage and various legislative contributions such as the Species Preservation Act, the Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and the California Invasion of Privacy Act.

He was born in Fresno. The Karabian family arrived in Fresno in 1896 from Bitlis led by his great-great-uncle, Krikor Karabian, who was accompanied by his nephew, Hovsep Karabian, who was Walter Karabian's grandfather. His grandmother was Haiganoush Simonian, also from Bitlis, Turkish occupied Armenia.

After graduating from Roosevelt High School, Karabian attended the University of Southern California where he served as student body president. He also earned his law degree and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California. He became a deputy district attorney for Los Angeles County in 1965 before winning a seat in the California State Assembly in 1966 at the age of 28.

By the time he left the Assembly in 1974, he had served as the youngest majority leader in the history of the State Assembly.

Laurel Karabian graduated with honors from Pomona College and earned her MBA from the University of California at Los Angeles. She is a management consultant for various arts, education and humanitarian organizations; a member and past-president of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and serves on the boards of several charities, including the Armenian Library and Museum of America.

The Karabians reside in Los Angeles, where he practices law.

Admission to the lecture is free.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Nor Gyank: Glendale, CA

SUBJECT: Karabians to Speak on Artist Aivazovsky

DATE: February 23, 2012

PAGE: 1 of 2

Walter and Laurel Karabian to speak on The Greatest Armenian Artist Ivan Aivazovsky (Hovhannes Aivazian)

Former Fresnan Walter Karabian and his wife Laurel will present an illustrated talk on "The Noted Artist Hovhannes Aivazian, known to the world as Ivan Aivazovsky," at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, March 2, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus.

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The presentation is part of the Spring, 2012 Armenian Studies Program Lecture Series and is co-sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization at Fresno State.

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ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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CSU

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Nor Gyank; Glendale, CA

SUBJECT: Karabians to Speak on Artist Aivazovsky

DATE: February 23, 2012

PAGE: 2 of 2

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After graduating from Roosevelt High School, Karabian attended the University of Southern California where he served as student body president. He also earned his Law degree and a Master's degree in Public Administration from USC. He became a Deputy District Attorney for Los Angeles County in 1965 before winning a seat in the California State Assembly in 1966 at the age of 28!

By the time he left the Assembly in 1974, he had served as the youngest Majority Leader in the history of the State Assembly.

The Karabians reside in Los Angeles, where he practices law. Laurel Karabian graduated with honors from Pomona College and earned her MBA from UCLA. Mrs. Karabian is a management consultant for various arts, education and humanitarian organizations. She is a member and Past-President of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, and serves on the Boards of several charities, including the Armenian Library and

Museum of America.

A large attendance is expected to see these great paintings. Admission is free to the lecture. Free parking is available in the University Business Center Parking Lot after 6:30 p.m. For more information please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559/278-2669.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer; Los Angeles, CA
SUBJECT: Walter & Laurel Karabian To Present Lecture

DATE: February 22, 2012
PAGE: 1 of 1

Walter and Laurel Karabian to Present a Lecture on Armenian Artist Ivan Aivazovsky

FRESNO -- Former Fresnan Walter Karabian and his wife Laurel will present an illustrated talk on "The Noted Artist Hovhannes Aivazian, known to the world as Ivan Aivazovsky," at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, March 2, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus.

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The presentation is part of the Spring, 2012 Armenian Studies Program Lecture Series and is co-sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization at Fresno State.

Aivazovsky was a world-renowned painter of Armenian descent, living and working in the Crimea during the 19th century. He is most famous for his seascapes, which constitute more than half of his paintings. Aivazovsky is widely considered one of the greatest seascapes painters of all time.

Aivazovsky gained international fame at the age of 25 and was elected to five European Academies and was awarded the medal of the French Legion of Honor. Delacroix referred to him in reverence and Turner called him a genius. According to V. Adasov, "Perhaps no one in Europe has painted the ex-



Ivan Aivazovsky View of Odessa by Moonlight 1846

traordinary beauty of the sea with so much feeling and expressiveness as Aivazovsky."

Mr. Karabian served in the State Assembly from 1966-1974 championing various issues, including his emphasis on opening the doors of politics to young educated Latinos, his commitment to his Armenian heritage, and various legislative contributions such as the Species Preservation Act, the Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, and the California Invasion of Privacy Act.

Walter Karabian was born in Fresno. The Karabian family arrived in Fresno in 1896 from Bitlis led by Walter Karabian's great-great-uncle, Krikor Karabian. Krikor was accompanied by his nephew, Hovsep Karabian, who was Walter Karabian's grandfather. His grandmother was Haiganoush Simonian, also from Bitlis, Turkish occupied Armenia.

After graduating from Roosevelt High School, Karabian attended the University of Southern California where he served as student body president. He also earned his Law degree and a Master's degree in Public Administration from USC. He became a Deputy Dis-

trict Attorney for Los Angeles County in 1965 before winning a seat in the California State Assembly in 1966 at the age of 28!

By the time he left the Assembly in 1974, he had served as the youngest Majority Leader in the history of the State Assembly.

The Karabians reside in Los Angeles, where he practices law. Laurel Karabian

graduated with honors from Pomona College and earned her MBA from UCLA. Mrs. Karabian is a management consultant for various arts, education and humanitarian organizations. She is a member and Past-President of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, and serves on the Boards of several charities, including the Armenian Library and Museum of America.

A large attendance is expected to see these great paintings. Admission is free to the lecture. Free parking is available in the University Business Center Parking Lot after 6:30 p.m. For more information please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559/278-2669.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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

2012

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Massis Weekly; Pasadena, CA

SUBJECT: Prof. Hovannisian to be Honored at ASP Banquet

DATE: February 18, 2012

PAGE: 1 of 1

Prof. Richard Hovannisian to be Honored at Fresno State Armenian Studies Program Annual Banquet

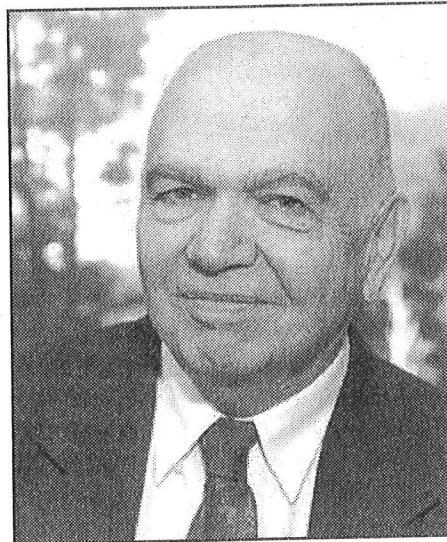
FRESNO -- The Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno, will hold its 24th Annual Banquet on Sunday, March 11, 2012 at the Fort Washington Golf and Country Club in Fresno.

This year's Banquet will recognize and honor Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian, AEF Professor Emeritus of Modern Armenian History at UCLA. Dr. Hovannisian has a career of more than fifty years in the field of Armenian Studies, excelling in scholarship, teaching, and community service. He is a founding member of the Society for Armenian Studies.

The Armenian Studies Program will also be celebrating its 35th anniversary at the Banquet. Armenian courses have been taught at Fresno State since the 1960's, but Dr. Dickran Kouymjian established the modern Program in 1976-1977.

More than fifty student recipients of Armenian Studies scholarships and grants for 2011-2012 will be recognized at the Banquet, as well as students who are graduating this year with a Minor in Armenian Studies.

The Armenian Studies Banquet brings together Fresno State stu-



dents, faculty, administrators, and the community, to celebrate the achievements of the Program and its students.

The reception will begin at 5:00PM followed by the Banquet at 6:00PM.

Tickets are available at \$50 per person, with a special price of \$25 for Fresno State students and Fresno State faculty. Reservations for tables of 10 are also being accepted.

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



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier; Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: ASP To Hold 24th Banquet, March 11

DATE: February 16, 2012
PAGE: 1 of 1

Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State To Hold 24th Annual Banquet, March 11

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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Mirror Spectator; Watertown, MA
SUBJECT: Mathews to Speak at CSUF

DATE: February 4, 2012
PAGE: 1 of 1

Mathews to Speak on 'The Mystery of *Gospel of King Gagik of Kars*'

FRESNO — Dr. Thomas Mathews will present an illustrated talk titled "The Mystery of the *Gospel of the King Gagik of Kars*," at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 8, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus.

The presentation is the first in the spring 2012 Armenian Studies Program Lecture Series and is co-sponsored by the Armenian General Benevolent Union, Greater Fresno Chapter.

The library of St. James in Jerusalem contains what was probably the most ambitious illuminated *Gospel* book of the entire Middle Ages. Commissioned by the last Armenian King before the Seljuks conquered Armenia in 1065,

the text is accompanied by pictures of colorful birds and flowers, but its greatest glory was an unparalleled set of 227 illuminations of the Life of Christ. A new project of study undertaken at Oxford University enables one to appreciate the profound spiritual meaning of the scenes and their importance to life in Armenia. Most striking is a unique portrait of Gagik's daughter, Marem, in rich silks, enthroned as the king's intended heir. She outlived her father and inherited his castle of Tsamandos in Cappadocia.

Mathews will present the latest research about this image of the King and about the manuscript.

Mathews is the John Langlois Loeb Professor of the History of Art Emeritus, Institute of Fine Arts, at New York University (NYU), holding advanced degrees in theology and the history of art (NYU, PhD).

Mathews has devoted himself to the interpretation of religious art of the Early Christian and Medieval world. His areas of study have included architecture and liturgy, manuscript illumination and exegesis and the cultic use of icons. His most well-known book, *The Clash of Gods* (Princeton University Press), excited considerable controversy by challenging traditional interpretations of Early Christian art.

Recipient of many fellowships and honors, he taught the history of art at NYU's Institute of Fine Arts for 30 years, and in 2010 he was a visiting professor at Oxford University's Oriental Institute, where he lectured on Armenian art.

In the history of Armenian art he has published numerous studies including *Armenian Gospel Iconography*, *The Tradition of the Glajor Gospel* (Washington, 1991) and *Treasures in Heaven, Armenian Illuminated Manuscripts* (The Pierpont Morgan Library, NY, 1994).



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee; Fresno, CADATE: February 4, 2012SUBJECT: Talk on Religious Art by Prof. MathewsPAGE: 1 of 1**Talk on religious art**

Thomas F. Matthews, the John Langloch Loeb professor emeritus in the History of Art for the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University, will give an illustrated talk on "The Mystery of the Gospel of the King Gagik of Kars" at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Alice Peters Auditorium at Fresno State.

Matthews is devoted to the interpretation of religious art of the early Christian and Medieval world.

The lecture is free. Parking in the University Business Center lot is free after 7 p.m. Details: (559) 278-2669.

► Ron Orozco covers religion for The Bee. He can be reached at rorozco@fresnobee.com or (559) 441-6304.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Mirror Spectator; Watertown, MA
SUBJECT: Diana Der Hovanessian: "I Write Almost Every Day"

DATE: January 28, 2012
PAGE: 1 of 2

Diana Der Hovanessian: 'I Write Almost Every Day'

By Artsvi Bakhchinyan

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Diana Der Hovanessian does not need to be introduced. This dynamic Armenian lady has been active in American literature, with writing and translating poetry. This year was very productive for her: three volumes by her have been published, both her writings and translations. This trinity of books was the reason for running an interview at Der Hovanessian's place in Cambridge, full of literature, arts and Armenian-ness.

Artsvi Bakhchinyan: This year you added three new books to your publications. How many does that make?

Diana Der Hovanessian: Fifteen of my own books and 10 volumes of translations.

AB: The new translations are called *Armenian Poetry of Our Time*. And the book starts with 20th-century greats such as Daniel Varoujan, Siamanto, Tekeyan and goes on to young contemporary poets such as Vahe Arsen. You've been working on this book a long time?

DDH: Yes, very long.

AB: Do you think of translating as part of your own work? Or do you consider it an obligation? Or is it a way of being a part of great poetry you admire?

DDH: I'll answer yes to all those questions. Translating isn't as much fun as creating something new and it has a lot of responsibilities attached. But I started because there was no contemporary anthology of Armenian poetry in English. Some individual poems had been translated by past poets, even Henry Longfellow. But in 1896, working from literal prose translations from Armenian scholars and friends Alice Stone Blackwell produced the first edition in English of *Armenian Poems*. Then in 1917, for Near East Relief, and to call attention to the murder of Armenian poets in 1915 and the Genocide, she added more poems and published another edition.

AB: Alice Stone Blackwell was a great friend of the Armenians and a humanist. But she was not a poet. Do you think her translations hold up?

DDH: Of course, they are dated. She uses 18th- and 19th-century phrases. For instance, she begins Bedros Tourian's "Little Lake." "Why dost thou lie in hushed surprise, Thou little lonely mere?" It's too bad that Julius Ward Howe who was also active (she was president of The Friends of Armenia) did not do some of the poems. She was a known poet.

AB: Alice Stone Blackwell's book was long out of print, I believe, was that why you started?

DDH: Before I had any book publications, but was publishing poetry in journals and newspapers, a Bulgarian poet asked me to work with him on an anthology of Bulgarian poetry. And I said, No, I can't do that...when there isn't a modern Armenian Anthology.

AB: And you began...

DDH: I started it with my father. We had already done a few translations together. The first were for a concert the Boston Pops was doing of Armenian sharagans for his friend the conductor Rouben Gregorian. And the second for a lecture on Daniel Varoujan my *Hayrig* was giving and wanted six poems in English for that program. I was publishing poems already in those days...and when I saw how the Varoujan turned out I sent them to one of my editors who surprised me by taking the whole batch.

AB: And that's how you started?

DDH: No. Actually another editor of mine invited me to lunch and said she was thinking of starting a page, at the Christian Science Monitor, of International Poems and wanted me to do some Armenian.

AB: And you did?

DDH: I told her I didn't know Armenian that well. This was a long time ago. And she looked at me, and said, "Well, you're young. Learn it!" So I did, I took every course offered at Harvard. And every course at Boston University. But, also, I had lots of help. After my father's death many friends sent me poems or read to me. And of course, my students in Armenia would run around gathering books. And poets of course would come to read to me. The only book I did all alone was the volume of Derian. I did it with a dictionary and then had it checked. The Kouchag too. Strangely enough, I didn't find Kouchag's dialect difficult. It sounded similar to the dialect my grandmother had spoken to me. But Sayat Nova was hard. And most intimidating was Narek, even though I worked from modern Armenian translations of the old



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2012

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Mirror Spectator; Watertown, MA

DATE: January 28, 2012

SUBJECT: Diana Der Hovanessian: "I Write Almost Every Day"

PAGE: 2 of 2

Diana Der Hovanessian: 'I Write Almost Every Day'

Krapar. For the first anthology I did the Narek with the help of Hayr Oshagan, a priest at Holy Trinity Church in Cambridge. And for the book of Narek, translations done with Tom Samuelian...he would send a driver every morning with word for word translations done by a priest, when I was in Yerevan on a Fulbright. And then when I returned to Boston, the rest were sent by email.

AB: How do you choose which poems to include in an anthology?

DDH: I think a translator often does a poem he wishes he could have written himself. Or else it is a very important poem, pivotal in some historic aspect, and must be done. For instance I had to translate Bedros Tourian for the first anthology because he was important historically...he was the first to use vernacular Armenian and write about personal themes.

AB: But you didn't like Tourian?

DDH: No, although he was my mother's favorite. He did have one great poem, "Drdounch." My rules for translating include three debts the translator owes. 1. The translator owes the reader the poem the original poet wrote. 2. The translator owes the original poet the best possible version in the second language. The original poet's reputation is in his hands. And 3. The translator owes the poem a vibrant second life in the second language.

AB: You did a large volume of Charents with M. Margossian. And some of those translations were used in a recent film made in Yerevan. Is Charents one of your favorite poets?

DDH: Not when I started. During the five years I was translating Charents I would dream about him. We would have arguments in these dreams. On my first trip to Armenia I was working on that book ... and met his daughters and spent a lot of time with Anahid.

AB: And remember during another trip I took you to meet late Regina Ghazaryan, a friend of Charents who had buried some of his papers.

DDH: Oh yes, yes, yes. That was a unforgettable meeting. It is important to meet people who personally know the authors you translate. I hope they remember Regina in Armenia.

AB: One of your new books is *Dancing At the Monastery*. It has a lot of prosy poems. Have you abandoned formal verse and rhyme?

DDH: No, my very newest manuscript has a larger share of sonnets and villanelles, etc.

AB: But the brand new book, just out this month, from Cervana Barva Press, *Now I See It*, is in the works.

DDH: Actually those poems are just published but were written a while ago. My editor at Sheep Meadow Press would also take out any light or humorous verse, any strange shapes. But in the last few books he allowed sections of light verse. By the way, I'm a great admirer of Charents's light and satiric verses. I enjoyed translating those.

AB: And you didn't have dreams then about arguing with him about those?

DDH: (laughing) No! But to get back to the shaped poems. In the 16th-century English, poet George Herbert did some religious poems in the shapes of altars and wings and more recently in the 1950s in Brazil and Germany some artists were combining strewn words on posters and art and calling the movement Concrete Poetry.

AB: Tell me a little bit about your writing habits. Do you write every day? Do you rewrite? Do you keep old versions? You did a recent program with an American poet, X. J. Kennedy called "Where Does a Poem Come From?" Did you two decide where poems come from?

DDH: We decided of course they come from poets: and they come to poets from the most unexpected places: a news item, a remembered conversation, someone else's poem you wish to answer, a dream. A lot of poems used to come to me when I was half asleep and I would get up to write them down. Now...I just ignore them. But I do write almost every day...mostly rewriting. And I throw most of it away or my house would be filled with paper. Even more than now! I do write on paper first. Then type it into the computer and keep changing it. What takes up most of my time is the New England Poetry Club: planning programs, finding judges for contests, introducing speakers, answering mail. I am hoping to retire from it soon. We have a good vice-president.

AB: I hope the Varoujan prize and programs on translations that you started will continue.

DDH: I hope so too.

AB: I have one last question I think you have often been asked. Have you thought of writing a memoir? After all you have known and worked with some of the biggest names, not only in Armenian poetry but world poetry:

AB: I have one last question I think you have often been asked. Have you thought of writing a memoir? After all you have known and worked with some of the biggest names, not only in Armenian poetry but world poetry: Andrey Voznesensky, Bella Akhmadulina, Tomas Tranströmer, Yevgeni Yevtushenko, Czeslaw Milosz, Seamus Heaney?

DDH: (laughs) Mmm.