

California State University, Fresno



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM
Fresno, California 93740

NEWS SERVICE



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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

Release #16

February 1986

SOURCE ABAKA; Canada

DATE January 13, 1986

SUBJECT CSUF Armenian Studies Program and
Leon Peters Business Building

PAGE 1 of 1

Leon Peters building to be erected on Fresno State Campus

Ground breaking for the latest addition to the Fresno State campus, the Leon S. Peters Business Building, is expected to take place as scheduled in early 1986. Completion of the \$13,000,000 project is set for mid-1988. Due to the financial crisis of recent years, it is the first major addition to the university's master plan in a decade.

The Business complex will have two separately funded components, integrated in terms of construction and ultimate use. The six-story main structure will include 11 lecture rooms, 10 teaching laboratories, graduate research space, 211 faculty offices and related department spaces. It will house not only the CSUF School of Business and Administrative Sciences, but the School of Humanities as well. The Trustees of The California State University approved the \$9,772,000 budget last November.

The other, smaller wing - 10,480 square feet versus the 84,344 of the main building - will be the single-story Valley Business Center with two 40 seat meeting rooms, a 125 person capacity theatre, a multi-purpose room with computer instruction capabilities, and a large exhibition foyer. The \$2,300,000 Center will be entirely funded through corporate and community contributions.

The Board of Trustees in naming what will become the largest and most impressive building on campus after the late Leon Peters, has paid tribute to one of Fresno's most remarkable Armenian native sons, a tireless worker whose industry and modesty contributed so much to the well being of the community in which he lived. The designation of the building after Peters is one of the highest tributes paid to an Armenian in the State



Leon S. Peters

of California.

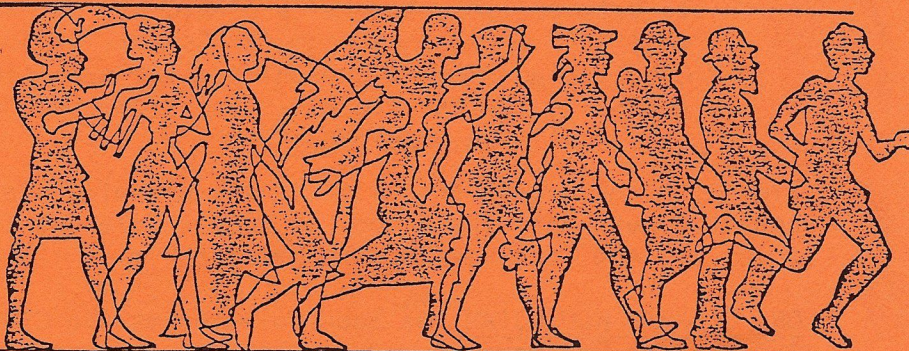
Leon Peters was more than just a successful businessman and admired philanthropist, he was committed to education, a person who over the years served in leadership capacities on the University President's Advisory Board, the CSUF Foundation Board of Governors, Co-Chairman of the Stadium Fund Drive, the University's Agricultural Foundation Board, and the Advisory Board of the School of Business. He was also, along with his wife, Alice, a patron of the arts as attested to by the Leon and Alice Peters Gallery in Fresno's Metropolitan Museum and his position as member of the Board of the William Saroyan Foundation. As a Trustee of the Armenian Assembly, Mr. Peters gave more than just his time and money, he gave his experience, his balanced and reasoned advice at very critical moments in the organization's history. His final donation of \$200,000 to the Armenian Assembly endowment fund quietly asserted his faith in the future of Armenian life in America.



California State University, Fresno

School of Social Sciences

Peter J. Klassen, Dean
San Ramon 4 Bldg., Room 250
(209) 294-3013



NEWSLETTER

DR. DICKRAN KOUYMJIAN has been selected as the CSUF nominee for the Outstanding Professor Award for 1985/86. Congratulations for being so honored by your colleagues at CSUF!

SOME PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS that have been brought to our attention are
Professor DICKRAN KOUYMJIAN has been providing a bulletin of News Stories which feature Dr. Kouymjian and the ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM at CSUF. The Program, together with the Armenian Students Organization of CSUF, have made an initial pledge of \$5,000 towards the construction of the new Leon S. Peters Business Building which will house the planned Center for Armenian Studies on our campus...Professor JOEL BEST (Sociology) and GERALD HORICHI had their paper, "The Razor Blade in the Apple: The Social Construction of Urban Legends" published in the June 1985 issue of Social Problems; Professor BEST had his article, "The Myth of the Halloween Sadist", included in Psychology Today (November, 1985). Professor Best made a guest appearance on the TODAY SHOW in New York City to discuss the article....Professor EPHRAIM SMITH (History) had his article, "A Question From Which We Could Not Escape: William McKinley and the Decision to Acquire the Philippine Islands", included in the Fall 1985 issue of Diplomatic History....Professor FRANKLIN NG (Anthropology) had his essay, "Asian and Pacific Americans: The East in the American Mosaic", included in Joseph Collier, ed., Unity and Diversity (American Studies, 1985). He also authored a brochure, The Chinese in Fresno (1985) for the Chinese exhibit in the Fresno Centennial Celebration.....

43**ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM**

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Observer, Los AngelesDATE February 12, 1986SUBJECT Armenian Saturday Courses offered at
CSU FresnoPAGE 1 of 1

THE ARMENIAN OBSERVER

CSUF Offers 1986 Saturday Classes

FRESNO — "Armenians in Fresno" is the first of two one credit Saturday classes offered by the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno, in the Spring 1986 semester. The class will meet February 22 and March 1, 1986, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (with an hour for lunch) in

Social Science 104 of the CSU, Fresno campus.

Highlighting the history of the Armenians in Fresno and California, the course will offer an overview of Armenian immigration to America and life in Fresno supplemented with slides and films. Armenian Studies Program Acting Coordinator Barlow Der Mugrdechian will conduct the course.

The second class will study

the 20th century's first Genocide and the political efforts of Armenians in pursuit of the Armenian Case.

Enrollment is open to all. Contact the Armenian Studies Program (tel. 294-2669) or the University Division of Extended Education (tel. 294-2524).

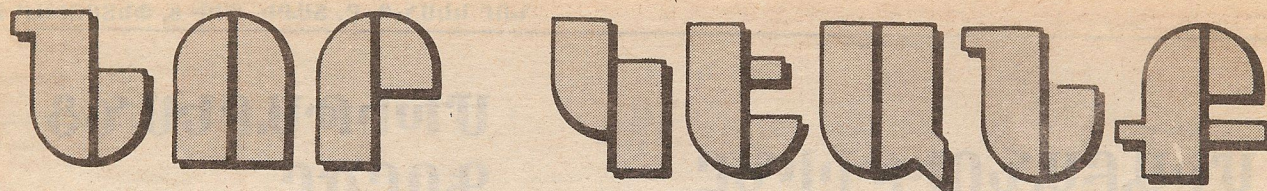
The fee for those not currently enrolled in the university is \$54.00, for each one credit course.

SOURCE Nor Gyank - New Life Weekly; Los Angeles

DATE February 13, 1986

SUBJECT Armenian Saturday Courses offered
at CSUF

PAGE 1 of 1



CSUF Schedules Saturday Classes For Spring

FRESNO—"Armenians in Fresno" is the first of two one-credit Saturday classes offered by the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno, in the Spring 1986 semester. The class will meet February 22 and March 1, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (with an hour for lunch) in Social Science 104 on the CSU, Fresno campus.

Highlighting the history of the Armenians in Fresno and California, the course will offer an overview of Armenian immigration to America. Guest speakers will explore such issues and topics as: The Protestant Armenian Community in Fresno, Inter-marriage in the Armenian community, How it Feels to be a recent Armenian immigrant to the United

States, and a look at the present condition of the Armenian community of Fresno. Rare footage of Armenians at picnics and at family gatherings from the early period of Fresno will be viewed. Armenian Studies Program's Acting Coordinator Barlow Der Mugrdechian will conduct the course.

The second class will study the 20th Century's first genocide, the Armenian Genocide. Entitled "Genocide" the course will study its roots and effects on Armenians today. Also to be studied, the political efforts of Armenians in pursuit of the Armenian Case. The class will be held April 12 and 19.

Enrollment for the two Armenian Studies courses, Armenian 120T:Armenians in Fresno and Armenian 120T:Genocide, is open to all. To sign up, contact the Armenian Studies Program (209) 294-2669 or the University Division of Extended Education (209) 294-2524. The fee for those not currently enrolled in the university is \$54.00, for each one-credit course. For further information, contact the Armenian Studies Program. ■

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter; New YorkDATE February 13, 1986SUBJECT Armenian Saturday Courses offered at
CSU FresnoPAGE 1 of 1

Saturday Classes Featured for Spring 1986 at California State University, Fresno

FRESNO, Calif. - **Armenians in Fresno** is the first of two one-credit Saturday classes offered by the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno, in the spring 1986 semester. The class will meet February 22 and March 1, 1986, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (with an hour for lunch) in Social Science 104 on the CSU, Fresno campus.

Highlighting the history of the Armenians in Fresno and California, the course will offer an overview of Armenian immigration to America. Guest speakers will explore such issues and topics as: the Protestant Armenian community in Fresno, intermarriage in the Armenian community, how it feels to be a recent Armenian immigrant to the United States, and a look at the present condition of the Armenian community of Fresno. Rare footage of Armenians at picnics and Armenians at family gatherings from the early period of Fresno will be viewed. Armenian

Studies Program Acting Coordinator Barlow Der Mugrdchian will conduct the course.

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Enrollment for the two Armenian Studies courses, Armenian 120T: Armenians in Fresno, and Armenian 120T: Genocide, is open to all. To sign up, contact the Armenian Studies Program (tel. 294-2669) or the University Division of Extended Education (tel. 294-2524). The fee for those not currently enrolled in the university is \$54.00 for each one-credit course. For further information contact the Armenian Studies Program.

SOURCE Armenian Life Weekly; Los Angeles

DATE February 14, 1986

SUBJECT Armenian Saturday Courses offered
at CSUF

PAGE 1 of 1



Cal. State Fresno to Feature Saturday Classes

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SOURCE Asbarez Daily; Los Angeles DATE February 15, 1986
SUBJECT Armenian Saturday Courses offered at PAGE 1 of 1
CSU Fresno

Asbarez

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78th Year, Volume N° 7726

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at CSUF

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Sahatdjians Donate \$25,000 to Peters Building

FRESNO — The California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program announces the donation of \$25,000 to the Leon S. Peters Business Building and Valley Business Center fund drive by Victor Packing Co. of Madera. Founders Sarkis and Haig Sahatdjian serve as treasurer and chairman of the board of directors respectively while Sarkis's sons Victor is president of the company.

The library of the Center for Armenian Studies which will be housed in the new Leon S. Peters Business Building will be dedicated in name of Vagharshag and Makrouhi Sahatdjian, parents of Sarkis and Haig.

Natives of Erzerum, the Sahatdjian family survived the forced deportation from their home and reached Constantinople, where Sarkis and Haig

were born. Losing over 100 members on both sides of the family, the Sahatdjians were fortunate that both father and mother survived the Genocide.



SAHATDJIAN BROTHERS: Haig, Victor, and Sarkis, left to right.

The family immigrated to the U.S. in 1924, through Ellis Island, and settled in Fresno some time later working as migrant workers. Sarkis didn't have enough money to go to college but he served in the Navy and later during World War II in the Air Force. Following the war he returned to the family farm.

In 1963 the family went into the raisin business. Haig left his job with a bank to join the new family venture. "It wasn't an easy business to crash into, but we've progressed," said Sarkis, "I think everyone should do this (give to Armenian schools and such). . . to perpetuate our culture."

In Erzerum Sarkis and Haig's father Vagharshag, a wealthy man, donated a school for Armenians so that Armenian children wouldn't have to walk through the Turkish sector of town and be stoned. "We've been supportive of schools because we believe in education," said Sarkis.

During the deportations Vagharshag was the only one of 200 males to survive from his area. Both parents were grateful to live in America. The logo of Victor Packing is the Liberty Bell. "We grew up hearing what a beautiful country we live in, and it is," says Haig.

Indeed the Sahatdjian family has contributed generously in the past to various schools and charities. The Armenian Studies Program of CSU Fresno thanks the Sahatdjian family for again demonstrating their support of education with this major donation to the fund drive for the Leon S. Peters Business Building and Valley Business Center. Those interested in more information on the project, contact the Armenian Studies Program, (294-2669/2832.)

Sahatdjian Brothers Donate \$25,000 to Leon S. Peters Building Fund at CSU

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The family immigrated to the U.S. in 1924, through Ellis Island, and settled in Fresno some time later, making a living as migrant workers. Sarkis didn't have enough money to go to college but he served in the Navy and later during World War II in the Air Force. Following the war, he returned to the family farm.

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the raisin business. Haig left his job with a bank to join the new family venture. "It wasn't an easy business to crash into, but we've progressed," said Sarkis. "I think everyone should do this (give to Armenian schools and such) ... to perpetuate our culture."

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BENEFACTORS. The Sahatdjian brothers, (from the left) Haig, Victor, and Sarkis, owners of Victor Packing Co., made a generous \$25,000 donation to the Leon S. Peters Building Fund.

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SOURCE The Armenian Reporter; New York

DATE February 20, 1986

SUBJECT Hye Sharzhoom

PAGE 2 of 2

Hye Sharzhoom Circulation Still Increasing

FRESNO, Calif. - The latest issue of the **Hye Sharzhoom-Armenian Action**, the official newspaper of the California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization, is now being distributed nationally and internationally. **Hye Sharzhoom** has a readership of over 6,000 families throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and South America as well as in Soviet Armenia and the Middle East.

Contained in this issue are several essays which address such topics as Armenian church unity and apathy among young Armenians as well as critiques of a U.S. State Department report concerning the Armenian Question. Also included is a historical account of the heroic stance of Musa Dagh.

Hye Sharzhoom is the only student newspaper in the United States. The paper is sent free. All interested persons can send their addresses to: Armenian Studies Program, California State University-Fresno, Fresno, Calif. 93740.

Sahatdjians Donate \$25,000 To Leon S. Peters Fund

Fresno, CA— The California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program announced the donation of \$25,000 to the Leon S. Peters Business Building and Valley Business Center fund drive by Victor Packing Co. of Madera. Founders Sarkis and Haig Sahatdjian

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The library of the Center for Armenian Studies which will be housed in the new Leon S. Peters Business Building will be dedicated



L. to R.— Haig, Victor, Sarkis Sahatdjian.

in the name of Vagharshag and Makrouhi Sahatdjian, parents of Sarkis and Haig.

Natives of Erzerum, the Sahatdjian family survived the forced deportation from their home and reached Constantinople, where Sarkis and Haig were born. Losing over 100 members on both sides of the family, the Sahatdjians were fortunate that both father and mother survived the Genocide.

The family immigrated to the U.S. in 1924, through Ellis Island, and settled in Fresno some time later working as migrant workers.

In 1963 the family went into the raisin business. Haig left his job with a bank to join the new family venture. "It wasn't an easy business to crash into, but we've

progressed," said Sarkis, "I think everyone should do this (give to Armenian schools and such)... to perpetuate our culture."

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Madera's Victor Packing Co. Donates \$25,000 to CSUF Fund Raising Drive



THE SAHATDJIAN FAMILY - From left to right: Haig, Victor, and Sarkis.

FRESNO - The California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program announced the donation of \$25,000 to the Leon S. Peters Business Building fund drive by the Victor Packing Co., of Madera.

Founders Sarkis and Haig Sahatdjian serve as treasurer and chairman of the board of directors respectively while Sarkis' son Victor is president of the company.

The Library of the Center for Armenian Studies to be housed in the new building will be dedicated in the name of Vagharshag and Makrouhi Sahatdjian, Sarkis and Haig's parents.

Natives of Erzerum, the Sahatdjian family survived the forced deportation from their home and reached Constantinople, where Sarkis and Haig were born. Losing over 100 members on both sides of the family, the Sahatdjians were fortunate that

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The family immigrated to the U.S. in 1924, through Ellis Island, and settled in Fresno, working as migrant workers. During World War II, Sarkis served in the Air Force. After the war ended, he returned to the family farm.

In 1963, the family went into the raisin business. Haig left his job with

a bank to join the new family venture.

"It wasn't an easy business to go into, but we've progressed," said Sarkis.

"I think everyone should do this (give to Armenian schools and such)... to perpetuate our culture."

In Erzerum, their father, a wealthy man had donated a school for Armenians so that Armenian children wouldn't have to walk through the Turkish sector of town and be harassed by the local residents.

"We've been supportive of schools because we believe in education," Sarkis said.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Asbarez Daily ; Los Angeles

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SUBJECT Hye Sharzhoom

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Fresno Students Newspaper Issued

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Hye Sharzhoom is the only Armenian student newspaper in the United States on the university level. The paper is sent free.

Armenian Families Make Major Donation to New Fresno State Building



From left to right, Haig, Victor, and Sarkis Sahatdjian.



From left to right, J. Kenneth, Ernest A., Krikor Y. Bedrosian. Sitting Mrs. Bedrosian.

The California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program announced that two major donations to the Leon S. Peters Business Building and Valley Business Center fund were made, each in the amount of \$25,000. The first made by Victor Packing Company of Madera (Calif.).

Founder Sarkis and Haig Sahatdjian serve as treasurer and chairman of the board of directors respectively while Sarkis' son Victor is president of the company.

The library of the Center for Armenian Studies which will be housed in the new Leon S. Peters Business Building will be dedicated in the name of

Vagharshag and Makrouhi Sahatdjian, parents of Sarkis and Haig.

The second \$25,000 donation was made by the brothers Bedrosian, Ernest A., Krikor Y., and J. Kenneth of the National Raisin Company. Their mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Bedrosian is also contributing to the fund.

In honor of this generous gift, the conference room near the offices of the Center for Armenian Studies will carry the Bedrosian name.

The Bedrosian family story is also one of a hard-working family making it in America while at the same time maintaining their Armenian identity.

Father Mourad Bedrosian was born in Moush. He survived the Genocide of 1915 by working as a virtual slave for the Turks, meanwhile losing all of his relatives. He escaped by selling himself to a Kurdish caravan. He travelled through Baghdad, Marseilles, and Veracruz, Mexico before finally being brought to America by Alex Pilibos.

After arriving in America the Bedrosians saved enough money to buy a farm in the early 1920's in the Fresno-Parlier area. Later they bought a 100 acre vineyard in Fowler, paying off the mortgage in one year.

It was in 1969 that the family decided to enter the raisin industry. The National Raisin Company was born as the Bedrosians began to pack raisins as well as continue to grow grapes. Now a major processor of raisins, National Raisin Co. produces raisins under the Champion label.

Ernest Bedrosian was instrumental in the formation of the Raisin Bargaining Association. Brothers Krikor and Kenneth play key roles in the continued operation of National Raisin Co. in its rise to

innovative leadership in the field.

Mourad Bedrosian had no formal education but was self-educated. His strong religious faith sustained him during his many adventures. Ernest said about his parents, "They had no money, not a cent when they came to America. And they didn't receive a nickel's worth of welfare. You had to work to survive."

The Bedrosian Brothers all graduated from Cal. State Univ., Fresno. "Educating Armenian youth is a necessity so that they learn about their background, heritage, and about the persecutions that they survived. Through education Armenians will be better

SOURCE The Armenian Weekly; Watertown, Mass.DATE February 22, 1986SUBJECT CSUF Armenian Studies Program and
Leon Peters Business BuildingPAGE 2 of 2

(cont. on p. 11)

Armenians, and thus better Americans. We are proud that God made us Armenians," says Ernest.

Inspired to make a substantial donation, the Bedrosian family of Fowler hopes other Armenians will follow suit so that Armenians continue to be educated.

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The family immigrated to the U.S. in 1924, through Ellis

Island, and settled in Fresno some time later working as migrant workers. Sarkis didn't have enough money to go to college but he served in the Navy and later during World War II in the Air Force. Following the war he returned to the family farm.

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Indeed the Sahatdjian family has contributed generously in the past to various schools and charities.

The Armenian Studies Program at CSU Fresno thanks the Sahatdjian and Bedrosian for demonstrating their support of education with these major donations to the fund drive for the Leon S. Peters Business Building and Valley Business Center.

Bedrosian Family Donate \$25,000 to CSUF Peters Building

FRESNO — The California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program is pleased to

announce a major donation to the Leon S. Peters Business Building and Valley Business



Standing, l. to r., J. Kenneth, Ernest A, Krikor Y. Bedrosian. Seated, Mrs. Bedrosian.

Center fund by the National Raisin Company of Fowler. The gift is in the amount of \$25,000 and in honor of this, a conference room near the offices of the Center for Armenian Studies will carry the Bedrosian name. National Raisin Company is owned by brothers Ernest A., Krikor Y., and J. Kenneth Bedrosian. Mrs. Elizabeth Bedrosian, mother of the Bedrosian brothers, is also contributing to the fund drive.

This is the second major donation to be announced recently, following the announcement of a similar donation by Victor Packing Co. of Madera. The Bedrosian family story is also one of a hard-working family making it in America while at the same time maintaining their Armenian identity.

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Mourad Bedrosian had no formal education but was self-educated. His strong religious faith sustained him during his many adventures. Ernest said about his parents, "They had no money, not a cent when they came to America. And they did not receive a nickel's worth of welfare. They had to work to survive."

The Bedrosian brothers all graduated from Cal. State Univ., Fresno. "Educating Armenian youth is a necessity so that they learn about their background, heritage, and about the persecutions that they survived.

Inspired to make a substantial donation, the Bedrosian family of Fowler hopes other Armenians will follow suit so that Armenians continue to be educated. The Armenian Studies Program appreciates that dedication to California State University, Fresno, and thanks the National Raisin Company of Fowler for their contribution.

Fresno

\$50,000 DONATED TO LEON S. PETERS BLDG.

FRESNO—The California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program has announced two donations of \$25,000 each to the Leon S. Peters Building and Valley Business Center fund drive.

The donations were made by two Armenian-owned Fresno County companies: Victor Packing Co. of Madera and the National Raisin Co. of Fowler.

Victor packing Co. founders Sarkis and Haig Sahatjian serve as treasurer and chairman of the board of directors, respectively, while Sarkis' son Victor is president of the company.

The library of the Center for Armenian Studies, which will be housed in the new Leon S. Peters Business Building, will be dedicated in the name of Vagharshag and Makrouhi Sahadjian, parents of Sarkis and Haig.

The Sahatdjian family has contributed generously in the past to various schools and charities.

National Raisin Company is owned by brothers Ernest A., Krikor Y., and J. Kenneth Bedrosian. Mrs. Elizabeth Bedrosian, mother of the Bedrosian brothers, is also contributing to the fund drive. A conference room near the offices of the Center for Armenian Studies will carry the Bedrosian name.

Inspired to make a substantial donation, the Bedrosian family of Fowler hopes other Armenians will follow suit so that Armenians continue to be educated.

Those interested in more information on the project may contact the Armenian Studies Program at (209) 294-2669 or (209) 294-2832.



Haig, Victor and Sarkis Sahatdjians



Mrs. Bedrosian surrounded by sons Kenneth, Ernest and Krikor (left to right)

Two Families Donate \$50,000 To Fresno State University Center

FRESNO — The Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno, revealed that contributions by Armenians for the Leon S. Peters Business Building and the adjacent Valley Business Center have soared over the \$100,000 mark.

Two separate donors, Victor Packing and National Raisin Company have contributed \$25,000 each.

Victor Packing is owned by the Sahatdjian family of Madera. Founders Sarkis and Haig serve as treasurer and chairman of the board of directors, respectively, while Sarkis's son, Victor Sahatdjian is president of the company.

The library of the Center for Armenian Studies, which will be housed in the new Leon S. Peters Business Building, will be dedicated in the name of Vagharshag and Makrouhi Sahatdjian, parents of Sarkis and Haig.

Natives of Erzerum, the Sahatdjian family survived the forced deportation from their home and reached Constantinople, where Sarkis and Haig were born. The Sahatdjians lost over 100 members on both sides of the family.

The family immigrated to the U.S. in 1914, through Ellis Island, and settled in Fresno working as migrant workers. Sarkis served in the Navy and

later during World War II in the air Force. Following the war, he returned to the family farm.

In 1963, the family went into the raisin business. Haig left his job with a bank to join the family venture.

The National Raisin Company of Fowler is owned by Ernest A. Krikor Y. and J. Kenneth Bedrosian. In honor of their donation, a conference room near the offices of the Center for Armenian Studies will carry the Bedrosian name.

Mourad Bedrosian was born in Moush and married Elizabeth Engoyan of Kharpert and together they raised three sons: Ernest, Krikor and Kenneth. Mourad survived the Genocide of 1915 by working as a virtual slave for the Turks, meanwhile losing all of his relatives. He escaped by selling himself to a Kurdish caravan. He traveled through Baghdad, Marseilles, and Veracruz, Mexico before finally being brought to America by Alex Pilibos.

After arriving in America, the Bedrosians saved enough money to buy a farm in the early 1920s in the Fresno-Parlier area. Later they bought a 100-acre vineyard in Fowler.

As the children grew they aided their father in the running of the farm. After Ernest graduated from college and served in the Army, he took over the operation of the farm. It was in 1969 that the family decided to enter the raisin industry. The National Raisin Company was born as the Bedrosians began to pack raisins as well as continue to grow grapes. Now a major processor of raisins, National Raisin Co. produces raisins under the Champion label.



BEDROSIAN FAMILY — Left to right, brothers J. Kenneth, Ernest A. and Krikor Y. Their mother, Elizabeth Bedrosian, is seated in front.



The Sahatdjians: Left to right, Haig, Victor and Sarkis (Victor's father)

Dickran Kouymjian Named CSUF Outstanding Professor

FRESNO — Dr. Dickran K. Kouymjian, professor of ethnic studies and coordinator of Armenian Studies, has been named Outstanding Professor for 1986 at California State University, Fresno.

He will be the university's candidate for statewide honors awarded by the Board of Trustees of the California State University system. The Board annually selects two CSU faculty members for the Outstanding Professor of the Year award.

Dr. Kouymjian was born to Armenian American parents in Romania, but grew up in Chicago and in Racine, Wisc. He earned a B.A. degree in European cultural history from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, a master's degree in Arab Studies at American University in Beirut, Lebanon, and a Ph.D. degree in Armenian Studies at Columbia University, New York. Dr. Kouymjian said he earned the first doctorate in Armenian Studies ever granted in the U.S.

For the past 25 years, Dr. Kouymjian has been teaching Near Eastern and Armenian history and art as well as western humanities at universities in this country and abroad including Columbia University, the American University of Beirut, the American University in Cairo, the American College in Paris, Haigazian College in Beirut and CSU, Fresno.

In 1976 Professor Kouymjian was sent to the Libyan Arabic Republic by UNESCO in Paris to advise the Libyan Department of Antiquities on the cleaning, preservation and study of ancient and medieval coins. In 1978, among the 150 international scholars who participated in the Second International Symposium of Armenian Art in Yerevan, Armenian S.S.R., he was the only one to be personally invited as the guest of Vasken I, the Catholicos of All Armenians.

In 1979, Dr. Kouymjian was named the first American scholar to present the Distinguished Kevorkian Lectureship in Near Eastern Art and Civilization by New York University's Center for Near Eastern Studies.

Currently, the CSUF Outstanding Professor nominee is working at his home in Paris on several historical and literary publications. In addition to writing historical works on Armenian iconography and architecture as well as a bibliography of art and architecture, he is correcting the final proofs of three books including "Etudes Armeniennes/Armenian Studies; In Memoriam Haig Berberian," in honor of the late editor of *Revue des Etudes Armeniennes*; "The History of Armenia by Chazar P' arpetsi," a re-edition of the critical text from the work of the 5th century historian; and "William Saroyan, An Armenian Trilogy: Three Plays on the Armenians," a book to be published by The Press at CSUF.

The CSUF professor is noted for his concern for students and learning. One student said, "He has a vast knowledge of his subject and gives a very clear and precise presentation. He is well organized and very interested in communicating his knowledge to the students." Another student described him as "the best teacher I have ever had."

Dr. Robert S. Mikell, coordinator of the Ethnic Studies Program, said Dr. Kouymjian's classroom effectiveness is rated as superior. Twice, while at the American University in Cairo, he was awarded certificates of excellence in teaching by the Student Senate.

A member of the CSU, Fresno faculty since 1977, Dr. Kouymjian has devoted a great amount of time and effort in making the Armenian segment of the campus

an active and positive force in the life of the university. He is the advisor to the Armenian Students Organization, one of the more active student groups on campus.

In addition to his teaching duties and scholarly pursuits, he has served as a member of the CSUF Academic Senate and as a member of several faculty committees, including the General Education Committee.

Dr. Kouymjian is married to the former Angele Kapoian, a teacher, research scholar and author from Gentilly, France.

Bedrosians Donate \$25,000 to Leon S. Peters Bldg. Fund



L. to R.— (standing) J. Kenneth, Ernest A., Krikor Y. Bedrosian.
(seated), Mrs. Bedrosian.

The California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program is pleased to announce a major donation to the Leon S. Peters Business Building and Valley Business Center fund by the National Raisin Company of Fowler. The gift is in the amount of \$25,000, and in honor of this, a conference room near the offices of the Center for Armenian Studies will carry the Bedrosian name. National Raisin Company is owned by brothers Ernest A., Krikor Y., and J. Kenneth Bedrosian. Mrs. Elizabeth Bedrosian, mother of the Bedrosian brothers, is also contributing to the fund drive.

This is the second major donation to be announced recently, following the announcement of a similar donation by Victor Packing Co. of Madera. The Bedrosian family story is also one of a hard-working family making it in America while at the same time maintaining their Armenian identity.

Father Mourad Bedrosian was born in Moush. He survived the Genocide of 1915 by working as a virtual slave for the Turks, meanwhile losing all of his relatives. He escaped by selling himself to a Kurdish caravan. He travelled through Baghdad, Marseilles, and Velacruz, Mexico before finally being brought to America by Alex Pilibos.

After arriving in America the Bedrosians saved enough money to buy a farm in the early 1920's in the Fresno-Parlier area. Later they bought a 100 acre vineyard in Fowler, paying off the mortgage in one year.

It was in 1969 that the family decided to enter the raisin industry. The National Raisin Company was born as the Bedrosians began to pack raisins as well as continue to grow grapes. Now a major processor of raisins, National Raisin Co. produces raisins under the Champion label.

Mourad Bedrosian had no formal education but was self-educated. His strong religious faith sustained him during his many adventures. Ernest said about his parents, "They had no money, not a cent when they came to America. And they didn't receive a nickel's worth of welfare. You had to work to survive."

The Bedrosian brothers all graduated from Cal. State Univ., Fresno. "Educating Armenian youth is a necessity so that they learn about their background, heritage, and about the persecutions that they survived. Through education Armenians will be better Armenians, and thus better Americans. We are proud that God made us Armenians," says Ernest.

Inspired to make a substantial donation, the Bedrosian family of Fowler hopes other Armenians will follow suit so that Armenians continue to be educated. ■

Nat'l Raisin Co. Donates Substantially to the Leon S. Peters Building Fund

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BENEFACTORS. The members of the Bedrosian family posed for a picture recently after their donation to the Leon S. Peters Business Building and Valley Business Center. Shown with their mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Bedrosian, are, l. to r., Ernest, Krikor, and Kenneth Bedrosian.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Weekly, Watertown, Mass.

DATE March 1, 1986

SUBJECT Hye Sharzhoom

PAGE 1 of 1

Latest Issue of Fresno State's Armenian Students' Newspaper Distributed Nationally

The latest issue of *Hye Sharzhoom/Armenian Action*, the official newspaper of the California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization, is now being distributed nationally and internationally. *Hye Sharzhoom* has a readership of over 6,000 families throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and South America as well as in Soviet Armenia and the Middle East.

Contained in this issue are several essays which address

such topics as Armenian church unity and apathy among young Armenians, as well as critiques of a U.S. State Department report concerning the Armenian Question. Also included is a historical account of the heroic stance at Musa Dagh.

Hye Sharzhoom is the only student newspaper in the United States. The paper is sent free. All interested persons can send their addresses to: Armenian Studies Program, California State University, Fresno, Fresno, Calif. 93740.

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ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

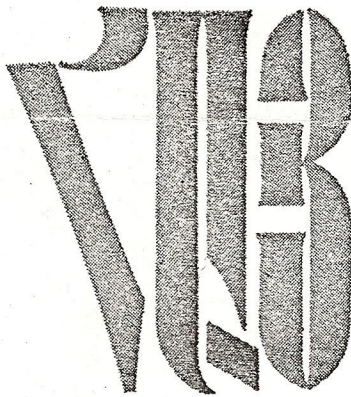
- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Armenian Periodical Press; Beirut

DATE 1984

SUBJECT Hye Sharzhoom

PAGE 1 of 1



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1967—1981

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