



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

## **Armenian Studies Program News Service**

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

**Fall 1993**

**Vol. 9 Release #58  
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## Shugarian Visits Armenian Studies Program at CSUF

More than 80 guests were in attendance at a special reception on Wednesday, May 19, co-hosted by the Armenian Studies Program and the Office of International Programs of California State University, Fresno in honor of the Ambassador of Armenia to the United States, Rouben Shugarian.

Professor Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at CSU Fresno formally welcomed Ambassador Shugarian and his delegation to the campus. Dr. Kouymjian outlined the Ambassador's mission to Fresno which included a strong desire to continue to expand educational ties between Armenia and the United States. Dr. Kouymjian presented the Ambassador with a book containing the last two of William Saroyan's plays, "Warsaw Visitor and Tales from the Vienna Streets," mentioning the Ambassador's own strong interest in American literature, especially the works of Fresno native William Saroyan.

Dr. Alex Gonzalez, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs greeted the honored guests on behalf of the university and noted the close tie between CSUF and Yerevan State University which was formalized last year in an agreement signed by CSUF President Dr. John Welty and YSU Rector Dr. Norair Arakelian.

Ambassador Shugarian, a graduate of Yerevan State University expressed his

pleasure at the growing links between the two universities. He stated that both universities have much to offer each other, both in terms of faculty and student exchange. The Ambassador looked to the continuing relationship between Armenia and the large Armenian community of the Central Valley.

Dr. Peter Klassen, Director of the International Programs Office and Dean of the School of Social Sciences announced that the university was making a special commitment to Yerevan State University by making a limited number of tuition waivers available for qualified students to study in Fresno. This coming academic year, one student has already been accepted for study at CSUF.

University faculty and administration were joined by the Advisory Board of the Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies and members of the Armenian Community Council of the San Joaquin Valley.

The Ambassador, joined by Deputy Chief of Mission Garnik Nanagulian Press Secretary Carole Karabashian, was in Fresno at the invitation of the Armenian Community Council. The Chairman of the Armenian Community Council is Barlow Der Mugrdchian, who is also a lecturer in the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF.

The reception was held in the Gottschalk Gallery of the University Business Center on the CSUF campus. ■

### Dr. Vartan Gregorian Will Address CSUF Annual Banquet on Sept. 10

FRESNO - Dr. Vartan Gregorian, President of Brown University in Rhode Island, will be the keynote speaker at the eighth annual banquet of the California University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program on Sept. 10. The announcement was made last week by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at CSUF.

Members of the Advisory Board of the Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies, led by Chairman Sarkis Kalfayan, are planning the event.

Dr. Gregorian became the 16th president of Brown University in 1989 following a successful tenure as head of the New York Public Library.

The Iranian-born educator assumed the presidency of the Library in 1981, and for the next eight years he oversaw the rebuilding and restoring the library, ushering numerous cultural and educational programs, and successfully completing a \$326 million campaign for the library.

During his tenure in NY, Gregory was named University Professor of History at the New School for Social Research and professor of history and Near Eastern Studies at New York University (1984-89), and served on the boards of numerous civic and non-profit associations, organizations, and institutions.

A graduate of the Hamazkayin's Nshan Palandjian High School in

Beirut, Lebanon, Gregorian received his Ph.D from Stanford University in history and humanities. He has taught at numerous universities across the United States. He later became professor of history and Tarzian Professor of Armenian and Caucasian History and professor of South Asian history at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1974 he became the first dean of the University's faculty of arts and sciences, and in 1978 was named Provost and chief academic officer.

Gregorian has received more than 30 honorary degrees and has been decorated by the French, Italian, and Austrian governments, and honored by several U.S. cities and states. In 1986, Dr. Gregorian was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and in 1989 the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters' Gold Medal for Service to the Arts.

Author of *The Emergence of Modern Afghanistan*, Dr. Gregorian has written extensively on various aspects of Armenian history and culture.



## Armenian Culture Featured at 1993 LA Arts Festival

Among 600 artists and at over 40 sites, the cultural heritage and artistry of Armenian peoples will be celebrated at the upcoming city-wide Los Angeles Festival, beginning on Aug. 20 and continuing through Sept. 19.

According to Festival artistic director Peter Sellars, "The 1993 Los Angeles Festival represents a further evolution towards a new type of cultural entity that can begin to reflect the scope of a great city. This year, as the Festival focuses on Middle Eastern, African, and African American cultural expressions and diasporas, we've taken the theme of 'Home, Place and Memory' as a way of linking the human drama manifest in cultural survival."

### Films and Features

The UCLA Film and Television Archive in cooperation with the LA Festival will present "1993 Los Angeles Festival Film and Video," from Aug. 20 through Aug. 29 in UCLA's Melnitz Theater, which will include many films produced by Armenians.

The series, which includes programs of features and short subjects, will examine the issues of cultural survival, personal spirituality and liberation and the reclamation of one's individual history. The dramatic increase of residents from various parts of the world has had a major impact on American music, fashion, food and literature. Consequently, this cross-cultural exchange merits a cinematic exploration and celebration, which will be evidenced at the Festival as well.

In the Melnitz Theater, Arby Ovanessian's "The Stream" will be featured, on Aug. 21, at 7:30 p.m. The story takes place in a town where high walls separate neighbor from neighbor, where two lovers dare to cross the divide between Christian and Muslim. It is a powerful and evocative film transgressing conventional social boundaries in the name of passion.

In the same theatre, Vigen Chldranyan's "The Voice in the Wilderness" will be presented on Aug. 23, at 7:30 p.m. Set in the early 20th century in Armenia, this is a beautiful film that tells the story of Martiros, a man tormented by the mass genocide, cruelty and destruction by foreign powers of Armenia, realizes that it is the purpose of his soul to call on from the top of the holy mountain Ararat, until the reunification of the lost state of Armenia becomes a reality once more. Short films, such as Pelechian's "The Seasons," from Armenia will also be included in this program.

In the Museum of Flying, two experimental films, "Visions" by Garine Torosian and "Oyster Bar" by Tina Bastajian, will begin the evening of Aug. 24 with wry humor, at 7:30 p.m. In addition, Ovanessian's "How My Mother's Apron Unfolds in My Life" will be presented, exploring with depth and beauty the topics of memory and the canonization of the past. This film is co-presented by Filmforum. Peter Brook calls this film "an exquisite mosaic, each detail is lovingly polished as Ovanessian invites the viewer to join him in an act of contemplation."

Back in the Melnitz Theater, "The Pink Elephant," by Ara Madzunian will be featured at 1 p.m. on Aug. 29. This film is set in the midst of the civil war in Lebanon, where the members of a theatrical company ignore the real world in order to meet the deadline of their play. When they are forced to take refuge in a bomb shelter, their personal differences come to the surface and their fragile unity is threatened. There will be a personal appearance by Ara Madzunian.



Also at Melnitz, Nigol Bezjian's "ChickPeas" will be presented the same day, dealing with three young Armenian Lebanese men in search of the American Dream who end up investing their savings in a thousand cans of chickpeas. The film deals with the changing relationship between them, simultaneously revealing the wider issues of assimilation and cultural differences. The film will be shown at 5:30 p.m., followed by a panel discussion and a personal appearance from Bezjian at 8 p.m.

Sylvette Artinian's "Waiting for Mary" is about a newly arrived immigrant family realizing the necessity of placing their father in an old-age home. The film is followed by a personal appearance from Artinian, as well as a reading of short stories by Adrienne Rich. All these will take place in the Norris Theater, USC on Sept. 5, at 7:30 p.m.

On Sept. 5, The Hamazkayin Armenian Cultural Association's Zvardnotz Dance Ensemble, under the direction of Harout Manoukian and Vartan Aghajanian, will perform traditional Armenian Dance in a cross-cultural program. The free program will be offered at the Hollywood Framers' Market on Ivar Street between Sunset and Hollywood Boulevards starting from 9:30 a.m.

In the Museum of Tolerance, Pea Holmquist's "Back to Ararat," from Stories of Survival, will be shown on Sept. 7, at 7:30 p.m. This entails an extraordinary documentary on the Armenian diaspora.

On Sept. 9, Bing Theater of the LA County Museum of Art will present Asher Talian's "All the Lonely People: Beber," at 7:30 p.m.

On Sept. 11 a short film on the recent Armenian earthquake titled "Requiem" will be shown at the Museum of Tolerance at 8 p.m.

In Raleigh Studios in Hollywood also on Sept. 11, noted critic, writer and curator Dickran Kouymjian will introduce a very special evening of Armenian films cosponsored with the Armenian Film Society. This programs will commence at 7 p.m. with Atom Egoyan's "Calender," which is about a Canadian-Armenian photographer assigned to shoot 12 images for a calender, who travelling with his wife who acts as the translator between himself and a guide, photographs stunning historic sites around Armenia, and who returns to Canada with the 12 images, but without his wife. Two short films will follow at 8 p.m.: "The Good Job" by William Saroyan, depicting the memories of a man whose first job was tending a story, and Artavazd Pelechian's "Our Century," which is a meditation on the "conquest of space" under the guns that go nowhere, which is also Icarus' dream encapsulated by the Russians and Americans.

On Sept. 14, the Bing Theater of the LA County Museum of Art will screen an Exile Cinema titled "Winds of Emptiness" by Haroutiun Katchatrian, depicting travels of an Armenian folk singer and his terminally ill friend through the former Soviet Republics.



# ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter; Fresh Meadows, N.Y.

DATE Aug 22, 1992

SUBJECT B. Der Mugrdechian reports on Armenain

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## *B. Der Mugrdechian to Report on Situation in Armenia*

FRESNO, CA. - Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno will give a slide presentation on the current situation in Armenia at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 27, at the Haig Berberian Hall of St. Paul

Armenian Church.

Der Mugrdechian returned from Armenia on July 20 after spending a month in Yerevan working with officials at Yerevan State University. While in Armenia he was able to assess the current political and economic situation. Following the

slide presentation, a question-and-answer period will be held.

The program is co-sponsored by the CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program and the St. Paul Armenian Church Parish Mission Program.

Admission is free and refreshments will be served.



## Dr. Avedis Aznavurian University President In Mexican Capital

FRESNO -- He is a 50-year-old scientist, specializing in genetics and animal behavior. He is president of one of the newer, yet major public universities in Mexico City. **But he is of Armenian descent -- one of two Armenians who heads public universities in Mexico's capital. He is Dr. Avedis Aznavurian, Rector (President) of Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana -- Xochimilco.**

**Dr. Aznavurian was in Fresno in late July as a special guest of the CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program.** He heads the youngest university in Mexico City focusing on the study of the problems of health. (A busy man, however, while serving as a university president, he is working for a second doctorate -- a Ph.D. degree in the philosophy of science.)

The other main university in Mexico City



**FRESNO VISITOR -- Dr. Avedis Aznavurian, Rector (President) of the Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana--Xochimilco (University in Mexico City), left, visited with representatives of the CSUF Armenian Studies Program. Sarkis Sahatdjian, a member of the Armenian Studies Program Advisory Board (center) welcomed the Rector and his son, Pablo (right).**



# ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE California Victory; Fresno, CA

DATE Aug 25, 1993

SUBJECT Dr. Avedis Aznavurian - University Pres.

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is the University of Mexico. His University is one of the Metropolitan Universities. There is also a National Polytechnic Institute, responsible for educating engineers. There are about 20 private universities in Mexico, some affiliated with the Catholic Church, and each of the 32 States (in Mexico) maintains at least one public university.

Though similar to Universities in this country, Dr. Aznavurian's campus has financial problems, he appeared very pleased to note that 85 per cent of the funds for the University come from the Government and that the tuition or fee for students is only a "symbolic" \$50 a year.

**Students must have attained a C plus average to even apply for the Metropolitan University. Of the 22,000 who apply each year, however, only 6,000 are admitted. The University makes the final choice in the admissions area.**

The president said his campus focuses on undergraduate programs including preparation for 17 careers. The University does confer doctorates in social sciences in seven areas and master's degrees in four

major fields. He was proud to note that the University will start a Ph.D. program in the biological sciences in 1994.

Dr. Aznavurian singled out his University's keeping up with technology -- his campus has in 19 years been able to accomplish what others took up to 50 years to do in the computer and other technically advanced areas. Each department has its own computers.

Asked to comment on the population served by the University, he said his campus and the other universities and colleges serve a nation of 85 million "youngsters." **Seventy-five per cent of the population is 1 day to 17 years. And more than 90 percent of the population is of Mexican descent, a sharp difference from what one would find in a study of the population served by California's higher education system.**

Responding to other questions, President Aznavurian said:

- One of the major problems his University has is the limited ability of its students in using language -- speaking and writing -- and their ability to use information critically and analytically.

- There are only about 300 Armenians in his city. There are no Armenian churches or schools and intermarriage is common.



### ACC Raises \$15,000 for D.C. Embassy

FRESNO -- More than \$15,000 in cash and pledges were raised during the Fresno visit of Ambassador Rouben Shugarian to assist the Embassy of Armenia in Washington, D.C.

The Armenian Community Council (ACC) of the San Joaquin Valley coordinated a successful dinner and reception in May. The Fresno visit was the Ambassador's first to the oldest Armenian community in California.

Ambassador Shugarian was the keynote speaker at the dinner, and those attending responded generously to the needs of the Embassy by making the donations.

The Ambassador had a busy schedule during the one-day visit, meeting with **The Fresno Bee** editorial board, other area media, business leaders and members of the Armenian-American community.

He addressed a business luncheon co-sponsored by the Council, the International Business Committee of the Fresno Chamber of Commerce and the CSUF University Business Center.

The Armenian Studies Program and the CSUF International Programs Office



**ACC WELCOME -- The ACC Executive body greeted the Ambassador. From left: Richard Darmanian, vice chair; Bob Der Mugrdechian, treasurer; Barlow Der Mugrdechian, chair; Ambassador Shugarian; Rev. Father Vartan Kasparian, advisor; and Allan Jendian, secretary.**

sponsored a reception for the Ambassador with faculty and staff of the University.

Donations and/or pledges were made by the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, the National Raisin Company of Fowler, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Peloian, Haig Sahatdjian, John Stephens, Berge and Alice Bulbulian, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hagopian, Dr. and Mrs. Dickran Kouymjian, Mrs. Harold Manselian, Mr. and Mrs. Vatche Sghomonian, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Avazian, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Manselian, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Achki, Mr. and Mrs. Neshan Tabibian, Mr. and Mrs. Ramzi Khachadourian, Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Shamlan, Mr. and Mrs. A. Zantontian, Mr. and Mrs. Don Arakelian, Martin and Chris Krikorian, Tim Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Bedrosian, Mr. and Mrs. Ara Berberian, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Chool-

jian, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Der Mugrdechian, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hokokian, Mr. and Mrs. Al Kabrielian, Mr. and Mrs. Levon Karakashian, Mr. and Mrs. Hagop Krioghlian, Andranic Margossian, Avedis Matewosian, Mr. and Mrs. John Kasaian, Mr. and Mrs. Ara Movsesian, Dr. and Mrs. M. Papazian, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sanoian, Mr. and Mrs. Grigor Tamamian, Mr. and Mrs. George Wallet, Rev. and Mrs. Karl Avakian, Arman Noradian, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Saghdejian, Mr. and Mrs. Mardig Yepremian, Mr. and Mrs. Nubar Tokatian, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Bohigian, Rev. and Mrs. Bernard Guekguezian, Mr. and Mrs. Movses Karkazian, Mr. and Mrs. Marty Minasian, Harry Topoozian, Mr. and Mrs. Haig Varoujean, Mrs. Sarah Hovannisian and Ms. Pauline Ohanesian.



### *CSUF Armenian Studies To Honor Scholarship Winners, Host President Gregorian*

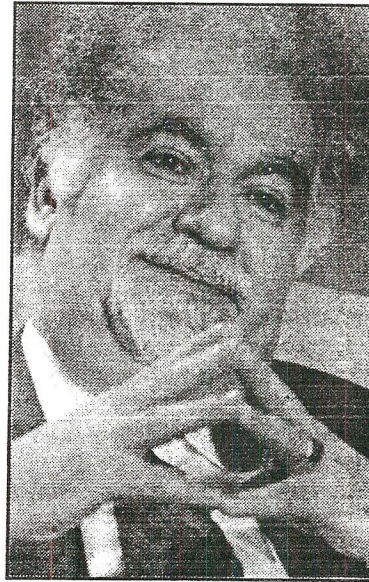
FRESNO -- Decorated by the German, French, and Italian governments and the recipient of more than 30 honorary degrees, Brown University President Vartan Gregorian will speak at the CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program's 8th Annual Banquet Friday, Sept. 10th.

Invitations have been sent to supporters of the Armenian Studies Program and other interested parties to attend the banquet in the University Residence Dining Facility starting with a social hour at 6:30 PM.

**Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, chair of the program and professor of Armenian studies, said that recipients of the Armenian Studies Scholarships will be recognized at the banquet.**

The Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies Advisory Board, under the direction of Sarkis (Sam) Kalfayan, is planning the annual banquet, which attracts several hundred people to the University in support of Armenian Studies.

**Several years ago, the**



**Dr. Vartan Gregorian**

**American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters awarded Dr. Gregorian the Gold Medal for Service to the Arts. And in 1986 he received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. He has been honored by several U.S. cities and states.**

Dr. Gregorian, who has been president of the prestigious Ivy League University since 1989, earn-  
**See Gregorian on page 4**





# ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE California Victory: Fresno, CA

DATE aug 25, 1993

SUBJECT Gregorian Speaks at CSUF Banquet

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ed national recognition during his eight-year tenure as president of the New York Public Library. He directed the rebuilding and restoration of the library and helped bring about successful completion of the \$326 million campaign for the institution.

While president of the Library, he served as University Professor of History at the New York University's New School for Social Research and as professor of history and Near Eastern Studies, also at NYU from 1984 to 1989.

Dr. Gregorian earned his Ph.D. degree in history and the humanities at Stanford University. He served as Tarzian Professor of Armenian

and Caucasian History and professor of South Asian history at the University of Pennsylvania and became its first dean of the faculty of arts and sciences in 1974. Four years later he became the University's 23rd Provost and Chief Academic Officer.

The well known historian and respected administrator has written extensively on various aspects of Armenian history and culture.

Tickets for the banquet, priced at \$35 per person, should be reserved by Sept. 3rd. Additional information about the dinner may be obtained by calling 278-2669.



*Sergei Babayan*

8:00 p.m.  
Wahlberg Recital Hall

**Philip Lorenz Keyboard Concerts**

presents its first concert of the season with **Sergei Babayan**, and will feature works by Beethoven, Schumann, Ravel, Chopin, and Liszt.

After two highly successful appearances as soloist with the Fresno Philharmonic in recent years this is his first solo recital in Fresno. The young Armenian pianist won the 1989 Robert Casadesus International Competition and is praised for his *"spectacular technique with interpretive ideas"* (New York Times).

This event is co-sponsored by CSUF's Armenian Studies Department and The Sarkis and Meliné Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies.

The price for the 7 concerts of the 1993-94 Philip Lorenz Keyboard Concert Series is \$70 general and \$50 for students and seniors.

Individual concert tickets are \$12.50 general and \$8.50 for students and seniors. (*Insider's Passport and Entertainment Book coupons cannot be used for Keyboard Concert presentations*).

Tickets can be purchased at the Music Department Office or by calling 278-2337.



### Pianist Babayan to Open Keyboard Concert Series, Sept. 17, in Fresno

FRESNO - Pianist Sergei Babayan will be the opening performer in the Philip Lorenz Keyboard Concert Series at the Wahlberg Hall of the California State University, Fresno at 8 p.m. Sept. 17. Babayan's performance is being sponsored by CSUF, Fresno Armenian Studies Program and The Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies.

The Leninakan-born Babayan made his New York debut at Alice Tully Hall in March, 1990 to great critical acclaim, only one year after he came to the United States. He is a First Prize winner of the Robert Casadesus International Piano Competition, the Palm Beach International Piano Competition, and was the First Prize winner of the 1991 international Hamamatsu Competition in Japan.

In 1992, Babayan also won First Prize in the Glasgow, Scotland International Competition.

Beginning his musical studies at the age of six at Yerevan's Sayat Nova Music School, Babayan entered the Tchaikovsky School nine years later. At 19, he went to the Moscow Conservatory to study with Michael Pletnev, and completed post-graduate work there



Sergei Babayan

prior to coming to the United States in 1989.

Babayan recently completed a four-month tour during which he performed in Japan, France, Germany and Russia.

Tickets for the performance at CSUF are \$12.50, general admission, and \$8.50 for students and seniors. There will be a reception immediately following the performance in the Gallery. For information, call (209) 323-0195, or (209) 278-2337.



## Leading educator will speak at Armenian event

### The Fresno Bee

Vartan Gregorian, one of the country's leading educators and president of the New York Public Library during its renaissance in the 1980s, will speak tonight at Fresno State University.

Gregorian will be the keynote speaker at the annual banquet of the Armenian Studies Program at 6:30 p.m. in the University Restaurant.

Pianist Naira Shahsuvardian, an Armenian emigre, will perform. Winners of Armenian Studies scholarships will receive their awards.

Gregorian, a Iranian native of Armenian extraction, has been in this country since the 1950s when he entered Stanford University as a student of history and humanities.

He has taught at a number of American universities including the University of Pennsylvania, where he was the first dean of the faculty of arts and sciences and professor of history and Near Eastern studies at New York University.

Winner of countless awards (including at least 30 honorary degrees), Gregorian is best known for his work as president of the New York Public Library.

During his tenure in the 1980s, a fund-raising campaign netted \$400 million for renovation and expansion. Among other things, the refurbishment added numerous cultural and educational programs, \$75 million in collections and doubled the library's endowment.

Gregorian also has written extensively on aspects of Armenian history and culture. He is the author of the book, "The Modern Afghanistan."

The University Restaurant is across the plaza from the Student Union. For information, contact Dickran K. Kouymjian, director Armenian Studies, at 278-2669.



SOURCE The Armenian Observer; Los Angeles, CADATE Sept. 15, 1993SUBJECT Second Anniv. of Armenia IndependencePAGE 1 of 1

## San Joaquin Valley to Note Second Anniversary of Armenia

FRESNO — The second anniversary of the independence of the new Republic of Armenia will be celebrated at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 19, 1993 on the grounds of the California Armenian Home, 6720 E. Kings Canyon Road in Fresno.

The Armenian Community Council of the San Joaquin Valley is organizing the event in cooperation with local churches and organizations.

An ecumenical service and blessing of the Armenian flag will take place at 4:00 p.m., at the flagpole on the Armenian

Home grounds, followed by the flag raising ceremony.

The Armenian Community Council has coordinated several community-wide events throughout the year. Their last event was the hosting of the Fresno visit of Ambassador Rouben Shugarian, of the Embassy of Armenia in Washington, D.C. in May of 1993.

Upcoming events include marking October as Armenian Cultural month in Fresno as community organizations plan a variety of educational and cultural activities.

## Sergei Babayan to Open Keyboard Concert Series

FRESNO — Pianist Sergei Babayan will be the opening performer in the Philip Lorenz Keyboard Concert Series at California State University, Fresno at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, September 17, 1993. The California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program and The Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies are co-sponsoring Babayan's performance which will take place in the Wahlberg Recital Hall at CSUF. Babayan will be playing a medley of works by Beethoven, Schumann, Ravel, Chopin, and Liszt.

Babayan made his New York debut at Alice Tully Hall on March 17, 1990 to great critical acclaim. The *New York Times* said of his recital: "Mr. Babayan combined a spectacular technique, some theatrical interpretive ideas and a seeming fondness for the Technicolor timbre."

*Le Figaro*, Paris, commenting on Babayan's performance said, "An unequaled touch, perfectly harmonious phrasing, and breathing virtuosity."

Babayan came to the United States in 1989 and won first prize in the Robert Casadesus International Piano Competition. Shortly thereafter he won the First Prize in the Palm Beach (Florida) International Piano Competition and in 1991 was the First Prize winner of the International Hamamatsu Compe-

tition in Japan.

In September 1992, Babayan won First Prize in the International Piano competition held in Glasgow, Scotland. His winning performance of the Liszt Piano Concerto No. 1. with the BBC Scottish Symphony was broadcast live on BBC television. He recently completed a four month world tour during which he performed in Japan, France, Germany, and Russia.

Sergei Babayan, a pianist of extraordinary talent was born in Gumri, Armenia and began his musical studies at the age of 6 at the Sayat-Nova Mus-

Yerevan, under the tutelage of Luisa Markaryan. When he was 15 he entered Yerevan's Tchaikovsky School of Music where he studies with Professor Georgi Saradjev. He continued his studies with Michael Pletnev at the Moscow Conservatory at the age of 19 and completed post-graduate work there in 1989.

Tickets for Mr. Babayan's performance are \$12.50 general and \$8.50 for students and seniors. There will be a reception immediately following the performance in the Gallery. For information please call (209) 323-0195 or (209) 278-2337.



## He came, he saw, he stayed

■ Armenian pianist Sergei Babayan says America looked pretty good after his Moscow training.

By David Hale  
The Fresno Bee

When Armenian pianist Sergei Babayan first visited the United States in 1989, it was to enter and win his first international competition, the one in Cleveland named for Robert Casadesus. The resulting publicity kept him in the United States for months longer, filling engagements for a bundle of concerts, including a date with the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra.

### Under way

You might say that personally and professionally, he has scarcely looked back since. His Americanization and his career, including another first prize in an international competition in Scotland and a recent four-month tour through Japan, France, Germany and Russia, have proceeded apace.

"Just a few weeks ago, I got this permanent residence card," he said during an interview about his season-opening recital for Keyboard Concerts. "Only it's not green anymore, it's pink."

Babayan was born in a musical family in Gumri, Armenia, and spent more than a decade studying piano in Moscow. He could speak little English when he first came to the United States. His knowledge of this country was mostly confined, he said, to "all this propaganda we had in school."

"I learned that America was different in every way," said Babayan, who calls New York home and hesitates only occasionally over "the right word" in English. "People were warm and friendly and very helpful to learn the language."



Sergei Babayan will open the Keyboard Concerts season on Friday.

### Quality instruments

Babayan also confirmed the description that older, well-traveled colleagues had given of America: "Here there were many concert halls with quality pianos and audiences."

"In Russia, audiences are very educated and sophisticated, but the pianos and the personal management is a very different thing," he said. "After the competition I had many concerts, so I had an obligation to stay. But for me, even when I first came, there was no doubt I had to stay in this country."

Babayan, who often talks with his father in Yerevan by phone, said his feelings about America were reinforced by a visit a year ago to his homeland.

"It [Armenia] was very different when I was growing up," he said. "Now, it is very hard — no water, no electricity. Everyday life is so difficult. Geographically it is in such a bad neighborhood I don't think it can survive independent."

Moscow is like New York, he said: "crowded and noisy." But Babayan won't belabor the point by talking about hard times.

"I got my education in Moscow," he said. "The conservatory is one of the best piano schools in the world. I was studying by 6 years [old] in Yerevan but it was only when I was 19 or 20 [in the conservatory] that I started to practice smart."

Babayan has heard the stories: that the Soviet school of pianism, which has produced a seemingly endless army of young virtuosos over the past 40 years, is in danger with the end of the Communist system.

"As much as I know, from talking to my friends, it [the Moscow Conservatory] is not the same," Babayan said. "Many people who were teaching then have left because it paid so little. They're teaching in the West. [I like to think] the school will still be strong, because of the tradition."

### Personal advances

How would he describe the progress of his pianism since the Casadesus contest, when the critic for the Cleveland Plain Dealer, reviewing a winners' recital, praised him for his "superior musicality and ... incredible endowment of sheer technique"?

"I don't want to talk about that," Babayan said. "My colleagues, they could tell you."

"What I would say is that I am independent in every way. I don't study any more with my teacher; I study to play concerts. When I am not practicing new music, I think about music, trying to find something new and

### Sergei Babayan

Keyboard Concerts, 8 tonight,  
Wahlberg Hall, Fresno State University. \$8.50 and \$12.50. Information:  
278-2337.

making my own mistakes. Most of all I want to perform. The stage is only place an artist can develop."

His premise for the Fresno recital is the same one he adopts for all of his programs: "I just play the pieces with which I am now in love," he said.

That means Keyboard Concert subscribers will hear Beethoven's "Thirty-two Variations on an Original Theme in C Minor," Schumann's "Bunte Blatter, Opus 90," Ravel's "Gaspard de la nuit," Chopin's "Nocturne in B Flat minor, Opus 9, No. 1" and Liszt's "Reminiscences de Norma."

His interest is in continuing to do concerts and recordings and to learn more music. Babayan's second album of Liszt, Prokofiev and Ravel is due out next month on the Connoisseur Society label.

Someday he'd like to do one of those blockbuster recordings like Beethoven's 32 sonatas or Bach's preludes and fugues, but at 32, he has time.

He wants, simply, to be "an artist." Like who? Well, two pianists tower above all. He admires Glenn Gould for his extraordinary dedication to the music. "He doesn't save himself, he burns completely," Babayan said.

### Heroic piece

But his ultimate hero is Sergei Rachmaninoff.

"He is the reason for me to be a pianist," Babayan said. "I decided when I was 14. I heard his second concerto. That concerto! That was it for me."

He can't exactly find the words to explain it. "Find a recording of it. Listen to it — the first movement — several times. Then we will talk."

In the Keyboard Concerts season, Babayan will be followed by Francois Killian, Oct. 7; Dmitri Ratser, Nov. 18; Adam Nieman, Jan. 11; Santiago Rodriguez, Feb. 10; James Tocco, March 24; and Uwe Gellert, April 11.



## NEWS

# Pianist Sergei Babayan initiates Steinway with lots of romance

By Larry Warkentin  
The Fresno Bee

Sergei Babayan, a native of Armenia, was among friends as he opened the season for the Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concerts. His recital was co-sponsored by the CSUF Armenian

Studies Program and the Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies. Many

members of Fresno's Armenian-American community were among the audience that packed Wahlberg Hall.

The newly refurbished hall proved to be an ideal place for this event. And Sergei Babayan was an impressive artist to initiate the new Steinway instrument.

Babayan was trained in Moscow where he developed a 19th century interpretative style and an incredible technique. Given those skills, it is not surprising that his program included not a single note written within the last seventy years.

The evening began with Beethoven's thirty-two variations in c minor. This set of continuous,

chaconne-like variations was written near the end of Beethoven's life.

Historians have had some difficulty deciding whether to call Beethoven a Classicist or a Romanticist since his life spanned both eras. Babayan left little doubt that he saw Beethoven as a Romanticist. The abundant use of the damper pedal and the somewhat inappropriate use of the *una corda* pedal made the variations sound more like Schumann than Beethoven.

Robert Schumann's collection of 14 short, yet difficult, pieces titled "Colored Leaves" suited Babayan's style better. This is music for the unapologetic romantic, and Babayan took full advantage of the shifting moods and extremes of dynamics.

Before intermission he played the pivotal piece of his program, "Gaspard de la Nuit" by Maurice Ravel. This challenging tryptic is based on poems by the 18th century poet, Aloysius Bertrand. The first movement describes the sea sprite, Ondine.

Babayan handled the swirls of ever-changing textures with great confidence. The second

movement describes the brooding scene of a public hanging. He controlled the repeated bell-like octaves effectively and created an introspective mood that was almost disturbing.

The final movement illustrates a fantastic ogre named Scarbo. Babayan flew through the difficult passages of this sinister *scherzo* as if pursued by Scarbo himself.

The second half of the program was devoted to Nocturne in b-flat minor and Baracrolle by Chopin. The performance of these works was pleasant but seemed to lack depth of emotion.

The same could be said of the "Reminiscences of the opera, Norma" by Franz Liszt, which concluded the evening. This is an over-inflated exercise in pianistic fireworks which has little to say in the first place.

It was impressive in Babayan's hands only because of the number of notes, leaps and chords that have to be played.

# ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Mirror Spectator; Watertown, MA

DATE Sept. 25, 1993

SUBJECT Sergei Babayan Opens Concert Series

PAGE 1 of 1

## Armenian Pianist Opens Concert Series

FRESNO, CA — Pianist Sergei Babayan opened the Philip Lorenz Concert Series at California State University in Fresno on Friday, September 16, with a medley of works by Beethoven, Schumann, Ravel, Chopin and Liszt.

Babayan was born in Gumri, Armenia and began his musical studies at the age of six. He came to the United States in 1989 where he has won numerous competitions. He has played in theatres throughout the country, including a debut performance in New York in 1990.

He recently completed a tour, performing in Japan, France, Germany and Russia.



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# ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE THE FRESNO BEE; FRESNO, CA.

DATE OCT. 4-1993

SUBJECT ARMENIAN STUDIES STUDENTS EARN  
SCHOLARSHIP

PAGE 1 Of 1

## Armenian studies students earn scholarships

The Armenian Studies Program Scholarship Committee at Fresno State University has announced the recipients of the 1993-94 Armenian Studies Program scholarships at its eighth annual banquet, held in September.

This year, 37 students were honored and recognized for their scholastic achievements and university activities. They received scholarships and grants totaling more than \$18,000.

Recipients must demonstrate an interest in Armenian studies by enrolling in the various courses offered by the program.

Following are the funding sources and the names of the 1993-94 recipients. The Yervant, Rose, and Hovannes Levonian Educational Grant: Carlos Acosta, Janice Caprelian, Artak Darinian, Manik Kazarian, Ted M. Kismet, Shant A. Ohanian, Ronald A. Papazian and Brent L. Tahajian.

The Charles K. Pategian and Pansy Pategian Zlokovich Scholarships: Eliz Adjinian, Jill Ahronian, Don-

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The Nerces and Ruth Azadian Memorial Scholarship: Lara Demerjian.



## 37 CSUF Students Receive ASP Grants

FRESNO - The 37 recipients of scholarships by the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno, were announced at a Sept. 10 banquet.

Dr. Vartan Gregorian, president of Brown University of Rhode Island, was the keynote speaker at the banquet.

There are three sources of scholarships administered by the Scholarship committee. The sources and the names of 1993-94 recipients are:

Yervant, Rose, and Hovannes Levonian Educational Grant - Carlos Acosta, Janice Caprielian, Artak Darbinian, Manik Kazarian, Ted M. Kismet, Shant A. Ohanian, Ronald A. Papazian, Brent T. Tahajian;

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Nerces and Ruth Azadian Memorial Scholarship - Lara Demerjian.

The scholarships and grants totalled more than \$18,000.





SOURCE The Armenian Reporter; Fresh Meadows, NY

DATE Oct 9, 1993

SUBJECT Weekend courses offered by CSUF Arm. Stud.

PAGE 1 of 1

## **CSU Arm. Studies Offers Special Weekend Course**

FRESNO, CA - Armenia

Today is the topic for a one-unit weekend course, Armenian Studies 120T, offered by the Armenian Studies Program at CSU Fresno. The two-day course will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 8, and continue on Saturday, October 9, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Barlow Der Mugerdechian, a lecturer in the Armenian Studies Program, will teach the course. Der Mugerdechian last traveled to Armenia in 1992 and will incorporate his experiences there into the course. The history of the development of the Republic of Armenia, the seventy-one years of communist rule and the first Republic of Armenia will also be examined in the class. The course will also have discussions on the current status of the Karabagh question and other recent political developments in the region.

No prior knowledge of Armenian history is required for the course, which will utilize slides and video shot in Yerevan last summer. Non-regular students may enroll for the course through the Division of Extended Education or through the Armenian Studies Program. For more information please call (209)278-2669.



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Nerces and Ruth Azadian Memorial Scholarship - Lara Demerjian.

The scholarships and grants totalled more than \$18,000.



### CSU Fresno Arm. Studies Program's 37 Scholarship Recipients for '93-'94

FRESNO, CA - The Armenian Studies Program Scholarship Committee of California State University, Fresno announced the recipients of 1993-1994 Armenian Studies Program scholarships at the eighth annual banquet of the Armenian Studies Program, held on September 10, 1993. Dr. Vartan Gregorian, President of Brown University, was the keynote speaker at the banquet.

This year thirty-seven students were honored and recognized for their scholastic achievements and university activities and received scholarships and grants totaling more than \$18,000. Scholarship/grant recipients must demonstrate an interest in Armenian Studies by enrolling in the various courses offered by the Armenian Studies Program. Many students who are pursuing their minors in Armenian Studies also receive special grants.

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The scholarships and grants totalled more than \$18,000.

## 'Renowned Scholar Prof. Dadrian Will Speak in Fresno on Nov. 4

FRESNO - Renowned scholar and seminal researcher on the Armenian Genocide, Prof. Vahakn N. Dadrian, will deliver an address in Fresno on Nov. 4 on "Emerging Research in Europe and the Near East on the Turkish Genocide of the Armenians."

Sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Studies Organization at CSUF and the local unit of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), the talk will be held at the CSUF campus in lecture room 101 of the Industrial Technology Building, on Barstow Avenue. The session is open to the public and admission is free. Unrestricted parking will be available in lots L, K, and Q.

A prolific author and meticulous scholar, Prof. Dadrian has an enviable academic background. His studies, degrees, and teaching, in



Prof. Vahakn N. Dadrian

three languages, have involved Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Duke University, the Free University of Berlin, and Universities of Munich, Parma, Torino, Zurich, and Uppsala. He has been guest lecturer in a number of other universities.

Prof. Dadrian's field of specialization is genocide and victimology, in general, and the Armenian Genocide in particular. His findings and conclusions have appeared in an extensive list of publications, including several articles on the Jewish Holocaust and the victimization of American Indians. That research has been supported by two successive grants from the National Science Foundation.

After serving as Professor of Sociology at the State University of New York from 1970 to 1991, Dr. Dadrian shifted his academic activity to performing research full time on the Armenian Genocide. Since 1991, he has been engaged as Director of a Genocide Study Project sponsored by the H.F. Guggenheim Foundation.

Prof. Dadrian last addressed an Armenian audience in Fresno during an April 24 program sponsored by the United Armenian Commemorative Committee in 1983.

For more information on Dr. Dadrian's Nov. 4 presentation, call the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF, (209) 278-2669.



## *Prof. Dadrian to speak in Fresno*



FRESNO, CA—The Fresno unit of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), the Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization at California State University, Fresno, are co-sponsoring a presentation by Prof. Vahakn N. Dadrian, noted author and researcher on genocide.

Prof. Dadrian will speak Thursday evening, November 4, at 7:30 pm, on the subject, "Emerging Research in Europe and the Near East on the Turkish Genocide of the Armenians." The talk will take place on the CSUF campus in lecture room 101 of the Industrial Technology Building, on Barstow Avenue. The session is open to the public and admission is free.

A prolific author and meticulous scholar, Dadrian has an enviable academic background. His studies, degrees, and teaching, in three languages, have involved Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Duke University, the Free University of Berlin, and Universities of Munich, Parma, Torino, Zurich, and Upsala. He has been guest lecturer in a number of other universities.

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Prof. Dadrian is not new to Fresno audiences. He was the principal speaker at a Martyrs' Day Commemoration sponsored by the United Armenian Commemorative Committee held at the William Saroyan Theatre on April 25, 1993.

SOURCE THE REPORTER

DATE OCT. 23-1993

SUBJECT PROF. VAHAKN DADRIAN TO SPEAK

PAGE 1 of 1

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Prof. Dadrian is not new to Fresno audiences. He was the principal speaker at a Martyrs' Day Commemoration sponsored by the United Armenian Commemorative Committee held at the William Saroyan Theatre on April 24, 1983.

Details about his upcoming talk may be obtained from the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF, telephone 278-2669.



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SOURCE The Fresno Bee; Fresno, CA

DATE Oct 25, 1993

SUBJECT Arm. genocide expert lecture at Fresno State

PAGE 1 of 1

## **AROUND THE VALLEY**

### **Armenian genocide expert to lecture at Fresno State**

Vahakn N. Dadrian, an author and researcher who has specialized in studying the Armenian genocide, will be in **Fresno** Nov. 4 for a lecture at Fresno State University.

Dadrian will speak on "Emerging Research in Europe and the Near East on the Turkish Genocide of the Armenians" at 7:30 p.m. in lecture Room 101 in the Industrial Technology Building. Admission is free.

His appearance is being sponsored by the Fresno unit of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, the Armenian Studies Program and the Armenian Students Organization at FSU.

Dadrian, a former university professor, is director of a genocide study project sponsored by the H.F. Guggenheim Foundation since 1991.

Details: 278-2669.

## Arm. Studies Society to Hold 19th Annual Panel Meetings & Workshops

DEARBORN, MI - The Society for Armenian Studies will hold its 19th annual meeting in conjunction with the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) in Research Triangle Park, near Raleigh, North Carolina, November 11-14, 1993. On Thursday evening, November 11, from 8 to 10 p.m. the Society's annual business meeting will be held in Crown Room B of the Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center, the official site of the conference.

Once again the Society will sponsor two panels of papers on Armenian subjects and a workshop. Additionally, four members or associates of the Society will participate in other panels. In all, some 15 scholars will take part by either presenting papers or chairing sessions on Armenian topics or related fields.

The Society was founded in Boston in 1974 as the pioneer professional organization for scholars working in Armenian studies. Presently, there are nearly 200 members. Next year the SAS will celebrate its 20th anniversary. Currently serving on its seven-member Executive Council are Rouben Adalian (Armenian Assembly), Vice President, George Bournoutian (Iona College), Richard Hovannisian (UCLA), Dickran Kouymjian (California State University, Fresno), President, Dennis Papazian (University of Michigan-Dearborn), Treasurer, James Russell (Harvard), Editor of the Society's **Journal** and Abraham Terian (Andrews University), Secretary. Barbara Merguerian is editor of the **Society Newsletter**.

**Armenian in the Period of the Ottoman-Safavid Wars** is the first SAS panel on Friday, November 12, from 8 to 10 a.m. Levon Avdovan of the

Library of Congress will chair the session of four papers: James J. Reid (Speros Vryonis Center), **Ottoman-Safavid Wars and Their Influence on Armenia, Kurdistan and Azerbaijan**; T.A. Sinclair (University of Nicosia, Cyprus), **The Administration of the Lake Van Region in the 16th and Early 17th Centuries**; Edmund Herzig (University of Manchester, England), **The Rise of the Julfa Merchants in the Late 16th and Early 17th Centuries**; Robert Hewsen (Rowan College, NJ), **The Administration of the Armenian Church in the 17th Century**. Discussant for the panel will be Dickran Kouymjian (Fresno State).

On Saturday, November 13 from 8 to 10 a.m. a special workshop entitled **The Caucasus at the Crossroads** will be chaired by its organizer, Richard Hovannisian (UCLA); Joseph Kechichian (Rand Corporation) will be the discussant. Participants are Shireen T. Hunter (Impact of Regional Politics), Stephen F. Jones (Georgia), Nora Dudwick (Armenia), and Farzin Sarabi (Azerbaijan).

Later on the same Saturday from 4 to 6 p.m., the second SAS-sponsored panel, **Armenians in Jerusalem**, organized and chaired by Barbara J. Merguerian, includes papers by Avedis K. Sanjian (UCLA), **The Armenians in Jerusalem: A Historical Perspective**, Abraham Terian (Andrews University), **Armenian Scholasticism in Medieval Jerusalem**, Roberta R. Ervine (Jerusalem), **The Historical Context of Inscribed Objects in the Monastery of St. James**, Jerusalem, Malcolm B. Russell (Andrews University), **From Jeru-**



**Arm. Studies Society Meets** Continued from p. 15

**saalem to Aleppo: Armenian Opinion at the Time of the King-Crane Commission;** the discussant will be Levon Avdoyan (Library of Congress).

Also of interest to the Society and Armenian Studies are the following papers in various panels: Houri Berberian (SAS, UCLA), **Armenian Participation in the Iranian Constitutional Revolution;** Thabit A.J. Abdullah, **Jewish-Armenian Rivalry in Eighteenth-Century Basra;** Garay Menicucci, **Radical Politics and the Armenian Refugee Community in Aleppo in the 1920's;** Ernest Tucker, **The Ottomans in Caucasus (1722-1750);** Aram Nigogosian (SAS, University of Pennsylvania), **From Insurgency to Interethnic Conflict;**

**How the Demirel-Inonu Government's Policy Choices Have Transformed Turkey's Kurdish Question;** Setrag Manoukian, **Short Descriptions: The Thofe-ye Sami by Sam Mirza Safavi;** and Eliz Sanasarian (SAS, University of Southern California) will chair a panel on Iran: **Life Cycle Conflicts within the Family.**

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend and participate in any of these panels and lectures by registering with MESA at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center where all proceedings will take place. For more information call Dr. D. Kouymjian (209)278-2669 or Dr. D. Papazian (313)593-5545.



## *CSU Fresno Armenian Studies program awards \$18,000 in scholarships and grants*

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