



**California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program
5245 N. Backer Ave. M/S PB 4
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**Armenian Studies Program
News Service**

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

Fall 2009

**Vol. 25 Release #91
July-December 2009**

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: [Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Watertown, MA](#)
SUBJECT: [Sergio La Porta Joins Armenian Studies Program](#)

DATE: December 26, 2009
PAGE: 1 of 1

Sergio La Porta Joins Armenian Studies Program At Fresno State

FRESNO, Calif. — The world may have recently become flat for some, but Armenians have longstanding connections to the nations of the world, according to Dr. Sergio La Porta, the new Haig and Isabel Berberian endowed chair in Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno.

"Armenians have always been part of the fabric of the world," said La Porta. "They are one of the few cultures still around after 3,000 years. There are not many cultures that can say that they have had a continuous presence and continuous cultural production for that length of time."

La Porta arrived at Fresno State this fall after teaching since 2009 at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. He joins the Armenian Studies program, which is coordinated by Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

One reason La Porta considered Fresno State is because of the Armenian presence in the Valley.

"I think Armenian studies programs are really dependant on community support, it enriches the program when you have that interaction,"

said La Porta. "There is a strong Armenian community here and this program is a way for them to be a voice in the university, as well as a way for the university to give back to the Armenian community in recognition of everything the community has given to the Central Valley."



Sergio La Porta

Collaboration and development of graduate level courses that use an interdisciplinary approach are part of La Porta's vision for the Armenian Studies Program.

"You can't just study Armenian studies in isolation," said La Porta.

"It should be studied within a multidisciplinary framework that is able to go beyond borders, beyond languages to get at more universal developments in culture and the humanities."

With an English, Dutch and Italian heritage, La Porta may seem an unlikely match for Armenian studies. However his life is very intertwined with the culture to which he has devoted his career.

"I wish that I could say I fell in love with my wife and then decided on Armenian studies," says La Porta. "It's actually the opposite. I chose Armenian studies, which then allowed me to meet my wife. Now my daughter attends the Armenian school here in Fresno. Armenian culture is part of every aspect of my life."

La Porta holds a PhD in Armenian studies from Harvard University and a bachelor's degree in Indology and Middle Eastern Studies from Columbia University.

He studied Second Temple Judaism and early Christianity at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel and Sanskrit, Pali and Tibetan during a year abroad at Oxford University.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: California Courier: Glendale, CADATE: December 17, 2009SUBJECT: Sergio La Porta Joins Armenian Studies ProgramPAGE: 1 of 1

Dr. Sergio La Porta Joins Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State

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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: JSAS Publishes New Volume

DATE: December 3, 2009
PAGE: 1 of 1

JSAS Publishes New Volume

The latest issue of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*, Vol. 18, No. 1, has just been released and includes eight original essays covering a wide range of subjects as well as a most interesting research note and a commentary article.

Robert W. Thomson's contribution, "Armenian Biblical Commentaries: The State of Research," which was first delivered at the SAS 35th Anniversary Conference at UCLA in March 2009, is accompanied by a detailed bibliography that will greatly facilitate additional research on this critical topic. Another paper first delivered at the Anniversary Conference is by Tamara Tonoyan on "HIV/AIDS in Armenia: Migration as a Socio-Economic and Cultural Component of Women's Risk Settings," which incorporates fresh materials seldom available in print. Both Ohannes Geukjian, with an essay titled "Armenian Political Parties in Lebanon After the 1989 Ta'if Accord," and Kari Neely with her "Lebanese Literary Reflections of Soviet Armenian Repatriation," add to our knowledge of Armenian political parties in Lebanon and how literary reflections of Soviet Armenian repatriation were perceived in that Middle Eastern state.

This issue of the *JSAS* includes the four remaining papers of the project "A Century of Armenians in America: New Social Science Research," a collection that is the result of Anny Bakalian's initiative. Previously-published papers in the series by Knarik Avakian, Claudia Der-Martirosian, Margaret Manoogian, Ani Yazedjian, and Ben Alexander are now supplemented by critical essays by Ani C. Moughamian, "Talking About our Culture: Understanding Traditions, Identity, Community, and Schooling Through Armenian-American Children's Narratives; Matthew Ari Jendian, "Intermarriage Among Armenian-Americans: Implications for Armenian-American Communities and Churches"; Talin Sesetyan, "Intermarriage Among Armenian-Americans in New York City and North-

Tara Yaralian, Aghop Der-Karabedian, and Tomas Martinez, "Acculturation, Ethnic Identity, and Psychological Functioning Among Armenian-American Young Adults." Together these contributions shed important light on the state of Armenians in the United States and raise important questions to ponder. The *Journal* also includes a research note by Editor Joseph Kéchichian on the enigmatic figure of T.E. Lawrence and his mixed views of Armenians with several excerpts from his extensive writings.

This issue of *JSAS* also inaugurates a Commentary section, which includes a think piece by Bedross Der Matossian titled "Looming Dangers. Turkey and Armenia: Opening Minds, Opening Borders" that will hopefully become a trailblazer. Such short reflective pieces on issues of current concern will add value to ongoing academic debates.

Starting with this issue of the *JSAS*, the Society for Armenian Studies adopts a semiannual schedule, to further facilitate the dissemination of its work. *JSAS* 18:2 is scheduled for publication in the next few weeks. Such a pace will allow for a more regular publication schedule that should further encourage authors to accelerate their research and see their work in print in a refereed publication. Edited by Dr. Joseph A. Kéchichian, the *Journal* follows a straightforward policy with respect to submitted essays, as each is read by three referees; two outside experts who are not given the author's name, as well as by the editor.

Subscriptions to *JSAS* may be placed with the SAS Secretariat: Barlow Der Mugrdechian, telephone, 559-278-2669 or by email at barlowd@csufresno.edu. Individual volumes of the *JSAS* and back copies of volumes 1-17 are also available for purchase.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Watertown, MA
SUBJECT: Fresno Establishes Sister City with Echmiadzin

DATE: November 21, 2009
PAGE: 1 of 2

Fresno Establishes Sister City Relationship with the City of Echmiadzin

FRESNO — Mayor Ashley Swearengin and Council member Andreas Borgeas held a press conference in front of the City Hall Council Chambers on Friday, October 30, to announce the formation of its newest Sister City partnership between Fresno and the City of Echmiadzin, Armenia.

Pauline Basmajian and Migran Kutnerian represented the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party (ADL) and Tekeyan Cultural Association, respectively of Fresno, joined Sister City committee members and representatives of some 20 religious, political and cultural organizations to welcome the news, including Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Fresno, St. Paul Armenian Church of Fresno, St. Gregory Armenian Church of Fowler, St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettem, the Armenian American Citizen League (AACL), the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), the Armenian National Committee (ANC), the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF), the Armenian Relief Society (ARS), the Armenian Technology Group, the Daughters of Vartan, the Knights of Vartan, Homenetmen, Hamazkayin Cultural Association and the Triple X Fraternity Fresno & Selma Chapters.

"The City of Fresno is blessed with a vibrant and robust Armenian community that has contributed so much to our way of life here in Fresno and throughout the entire San Joaquin Valley," said Swearengin, adding, "I am proud of the efforts

see FRESNO, page 7



Fr. Vahan Gosdanian, Holy Trinity; Fr. Yeghia Hairabedian, St. Gregory, Fowler; Council member Blong Xiong; a representative; Council member Andreas Borgeas, founding chair and first vice chair, finance; Sevag Tateosian, SCC member; Vahagn Bznouni, SCC Chair; Fr. Vartan Kasparian, St. Mary, Yettem; Mary Alice Kaloostian, SCC member; Fr. Arshen Avazian, St. Paul, Fresno; Pauline Basmajian, ADL, Allan Jendian, SCC secretary-treasurer; Anton Kismelian, KV; Nishan Der Kalousdian, SCC member and a representative. (Photo Credit: Howard K. Watkins)



Front row, from left, Vahagn Bznouni, Councilmember Andreas Borgeas, Mayor Ashley Swearengin; (second row, from left) Allan Jendian, Mary Alice Kaloostian; (third row, from left) Hygo Ohanessian, Nishan Der Kalousdian, Barlow Der Mugrdechian (Photo Credit: Howard K. Watkins)



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Watertown, MA
SUBJECT: Fresno Establishes Sister City with Echmiadzin

DATE: November 21, 2009
PAGE: 2 of 2

Fresno Establishes Sister City Relationship with Echmiadzin

FRESNO, from page 6

of the Fresno-Armenia Sister City Committee and I am excited to welcome the City of Echmiadzin to our sister city family." The mayor was presented with an agreement between the two cities that both she and Echmiadzin Mayor Karen Grigoryan signed.

Founder and chairman of the Fresno-Armenia Sister City Committee, Council member Borgeas stated: "Today is a great day of pride as we celebrate our city's Armenian culture and identity by establishing this long-anticipated sister city relationship with the



ADL & Tekeyan Representatives at the Press Conference - [from left] Allan Yeghia Jendian; a Tekeyan representative; Vahagn Bznouni, SCC chair; and Pauline Basmajian, ADL representative [Photo Credit: Howard K. Watkins]

City of Echmiadzin. Due to the efforts of our committee members, Fresno and Echmiadzin will enjoy a host of new business, trade, travel, cultural arts and educational opportunities."

The Fresno-Armenia Sister City Committee has met regularly over the past year to establish a sister city with Armenia. The selection of the City of Echmiadzin came after much thought and discussion. "The Fresno-Echmiadzin relationship fits the needs of each city well; both cities present mutually beneficial opportunities in agriculture, education and business exchanges," stated incoming Chair of the Fresno-Armenia Committee



First row, from left, Maral Kismetian, DV; Michael Devejian, AGBU; Allan Jendian, SCC Secretary-Treasurer; Council member Andreas Borgeas, Founding Chair and First Vice Chair Finance; Mayor Ashley Swearengin; Vahagn Bznouni, SCC Second Vice Chair; Hygo Ohanessian, SCC second V Chair Programs; a representative, Nishan Der Kaloudian, SCC member; a representative; Bedros Khderian, ARF; [back row, from left] Rosie Bedrosian, ARS; a representative; Fr. Yeghia Hairebedian, St. Gregory, Fowler; partial-a representative; Mary Ekmalian, AACI; partial - Mary Alice Kaloostian, SCC member; Pauline Basmajian, ADL; a representative; partial - Migran Kutnerian, Tekeyan; Varoujan Der Simonian, Technology Group; Barlow Der Mugrdechian, SCC member. [Photo Credit: Howard K. Watkins]

Vahagn Bznouni. Bznouni recently traveled to Echmiadzin as a representative to execute the agreement with Mayor Grigoryan. He acknowledged the 12-member committee: Councilman Borgeas, Anna Borgeas, Nishan

Der Kaloudian, Mary Alice Kaloostian, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Allan Yeghia Jendian, Charles Garabedian, Yeghig Keshishian, Hygo Ohanessian, Sevag Tateosian and Philip Tavlian.

Jendian, the current secretary-treasurer for the committee, and a past vice chair of Tekeyan, stated, "As a member of the diaspora I am excited to welcome the City of

fondly reflected upon as their new Fatherland."

Consul General Grigor Hovhannessian of the Republic of Armenia, who was unable to attend the press conference, congratulated everyone "on this special occasion," adding that "This new sister city relationship is very important for Armenians, taking into consideration the unique historical and cultural fea-



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CA
SUBJECT: JSAS 18:1 Journal is Out

DATE: November 18, 2009
PAGE: 1 of 1

Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies JSAS 18:1 is Out

The latest issue of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*, Vol. 18, No. 1, has just been released and includes eight original essays covering a wide range of subjects as well as a most interesting research note and a commentary article.

Robert W. Thomson's contribution, "Armenian Biblical Commentaries: The State of Research," which was first delivered at the SAS 35th Anniversary Conference at UCLA in March 2009, is accompanied by a detailed bibliography that will greatly facilitate additional research on this critical topic. Another paper first delivered at the Anniversary Conference is by Tamara Tonoyan on "HIV/AIDS in Armenia: Migration as a Socio-Economic and Cultural Component of Women's Risk Settings," which incorporates fresh materials seldom available in print. Both Ohannes Geukjian, with an essay titled "Armenian Political Parties in Lebanon After the 1989 Ta'if Accord," and Kari Neely with her "Lebanese Literary Reflections of Soviet Armenian Repatriation," add to our knowledge of Armenian political parties in Lebanon and how literary reflections of Soviet Armenian repatriation were perceived in that Middle Eastern state.

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Together these contributions shed important light on the state of Armenians in the United States and raise important questions to ponder. The *Journal* also includes a research note by Editor Joseph Kéchichian on the enigmatic figure of T.E. Lawrence and his mixed views of Armenians with several excerpts from his extensive writings.

This issue of *JSAS* also inaugurates a Commentary section, which includes a think piece by Bedross Der Matossian titled "Looming Dangers. *Turkey and Armenia: Opening Minds, Opening Borders*" that will hopefully become a trailblazer. Such short reflective pieces on issues of current concern will add value to ongoing academic debates.

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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: California Courier: Glendale, CASUBJECT: Fresno Establishes Sister City With EtchmiadzinDATE: November 12, 2009PAGE: 1 of 2

Fresno Establishes Sister Relationship With Etchmiadzin

FRESNO - Mayor Ashley Swarenengin and Councilmember Andreas Borgeas held a press conference in front of the City Hall Council Chambers on October 30, to announce the formation of its newest Sister City partnership between Fresno and the City of Etchmiadzin, Armenia.

Yeghig Keshishian, Western Region Director for the Armenian Assembly of America and a member of the Sister City Committee, joined fellow committee members and representatives of some 20 religious, political and cultural organizations to welcome the news, including Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Fresno, St. Paul Armenian Church of Fresno, St. Gregory Armenian Church of Fowler, St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettem, Armenian Democratic Liberal Party (ADL), Armenian American Citizen League (AACL), Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), Armenian National Committee (ANC), Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF), Armenian Relief Society (ARS), Armenian Technology Group, Daughters of Vartan, Knights of Vartan, Homenetmen, Hamazkayeen Cultural Association, Tekeyan Cultural Association, and the Triple X Fraternity Fresno &



Fresno Mayor Ashley Swarenengin flanked by Councilman Andreas Borgeas (left) and SCC Chair Vahagn Bznouni.

Selma Chapters.

“The City of Fresno is blessed with a vibrant and robust Armenian community that has contributed so much to our way of life here in Fresno and throughout the entire San Joaquin Valley,” said Mayor Swarenengin, and “I am proud of the efforts of the Fresno-Armenia Sister City Committee and I am excited to welcome the City of Etchmiadzin to our sister city family.” The Mayor was presented with an agreement between the two cities that was signed by herself and Etchmiadzin Mayor Karen Grigoryan.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: California Courier: Glendale, CADATE: November 12, 2009SUBJECT: Fresno Establishes Sister City With EtchmiadzinPAGE: 2 of 2

Fresno - especially given Fresno's affiliation of being a town which early Armenian immigrants, and noted Fresno born author William Saroyan, fondly reflected upon as their new Fatherland."

"The Assembly looks forward to supporting the Sister City relationship between Fresno and Etchmiadzin as it strengthens the existing bonds between America and Armenia," stated Keshishian. "As a voice for the Diaspora on matters pertaining to political affairs, we commend the vision and leadership of Mayor Swearengin, Councilmember Borgeas and the Committee for their due diligence and commitment."

Armenian Consul General Grigor Hovhannessian, who was unable to be present for the press conference, congratulated everyone "on this special occasion," adding that "This new sister city relationship is very important for Armenians taking into consideration the unique historical and cultural features of the City of Etchmiadzin and the fact that Fresno is home to the oldest Armenian-American community in California with a rich spiritual and cultural heritage."

Founding Chairman of the Fresno-Armenia Sister City Committee, Councilmember Andreas Borgeas stated: "Today is a great day of pride as we celebrate our City's Armenian culture and identity by establishing this long-anticipated sister city relationship with the City of Etchmiadzin. Due to the efforts of our committee members, Fresno and Etchmiadzin will enjoy a host of new business, trade, travel, cultural arts and educational opportunities."

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Bznouni recently traveled to Etchmiadzin as a representative to execute the agreement with Mayor Grigoryan. He acknowledged the 12-member committee: Councilman Borgeas, Anna Borgeas, Nisan Der Kaloudian, Mary Alice Kaloostian, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Allan Jendian, Charles Garabedian, Yeghig Keshishian, Hugo Ohanessian, Sevag Tateosian and Philip Tavlian.

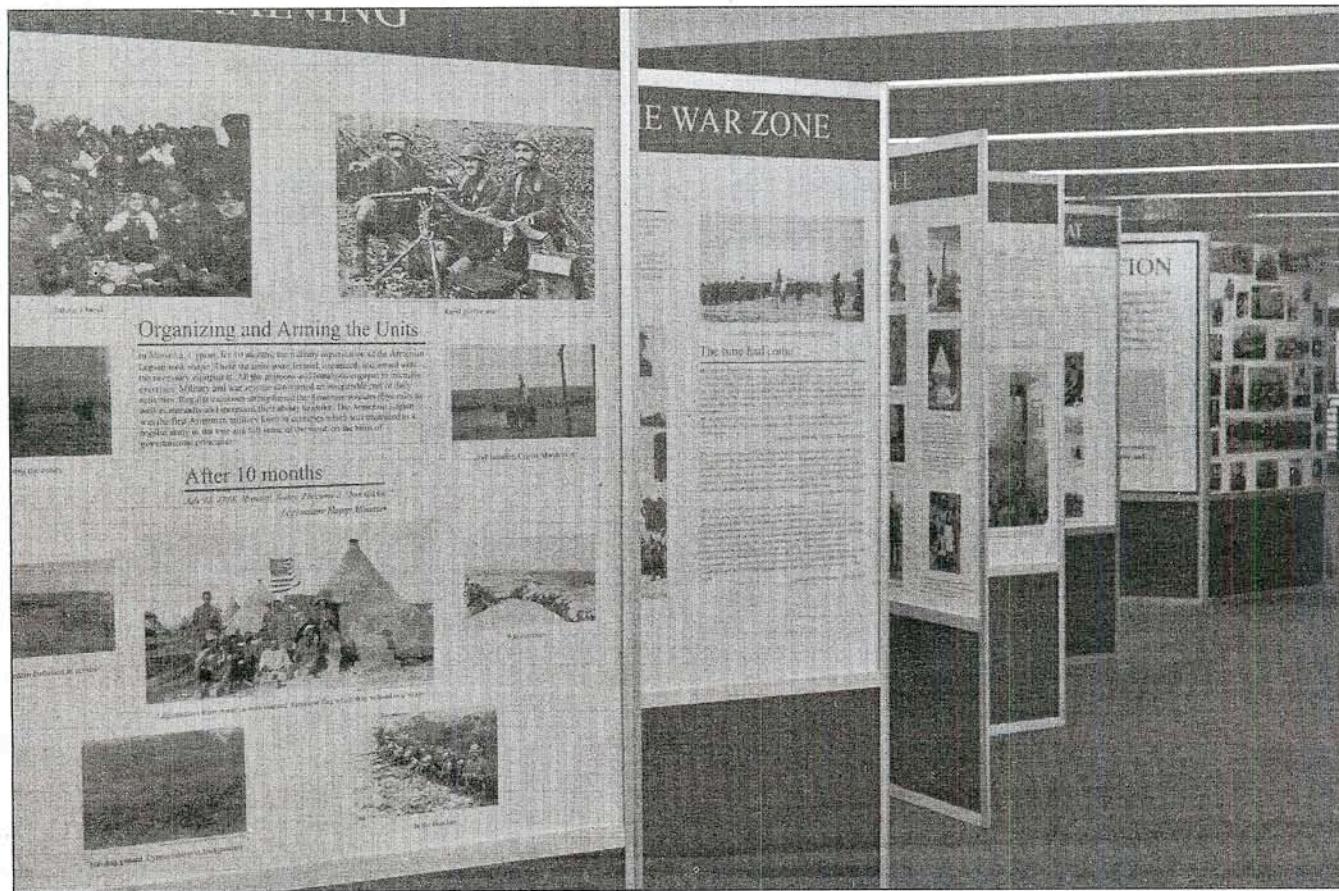
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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Collegian: Fresno, CADATE: November 4, 2009SUBJECT: Armenian Studies Program Postwar Exhibit In Library PAGE: 1 of 1

Armenian Studies Program postwar exhibit in library



Brianna Campbell / The Collegian

The Armenian Studies Program will sponsor three events in November. The program started with the opening of "Légion Arménienne: The Armenian Legion and Its Heroism in the Middle East" on Nov. 1. The exhibit is on the second floor of the Henry Madden Library and will be on display through Nov. 20. The Armenian Library and Museum of America developed the exhibit to honor the Legionnaires for their devotion. The exhibit emphasizes the formation, training, military action and postwar activities of World War I through narratives and photographs.

Other events taking place are a performance of Armenian music on Nov. 8 at 8 p.m. in the Fresno State Concert Hall and a lecture from Armenian studies professor Dr. Sergio La Porta on Nov. 12 in the Alice Peter's Auditorium. For more information contact the Armenian studies program at 559-278-2669.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Azbarez Daily: Glendale, CA
 SUBJECT: Armenian Literary Conference

DATE: October 28, 2009
 PAGE: 1 of 1

Օտարագիր Հայ Գրողներու UCLAի Համաժողովը՝ Նոյեմբեր 6-8ին

ՈՒԽՍԹՈՒԽԻԾ.- Հանրութիւնը հրաւիրուած է ներկայ գտնուելու օտարագիր Հայ գրողներու երրորդ Համաժողովին, որ պիտի կայանայ Քալիֆորնիոյ Համալսարանի Լոս Անձելոսի մասնաճիւղին (UCLA) «Շէօնպրրկ» սրահին մէջ, Նոյեմբեր 6-7: Նշենք, որ նախորդ երկու Համաժողովները կայացած էին երեւանի մէջ (2004ին և 2006ին): Համաժողովը կազմակերպուած է Հայաստանի գրողներու միութեան կողմէ, մասնակցութեամբ UCLAի «Նարեկացի» Հայագիտական ամպիոնին, Համանախագահութեամբ Լեւոն Անանեանի և Փիթրը Քառիի:

Նկատի առնուած նիւթերն են՝ օտարագիր Հայ գրողներու նորագոյն հրատարկութիւնները և անոնց թարգմանութիւնը՝ Հայերէնի, ընտանիքի գերը իբրև ակունք և ներշնչման աղբիւր՝ գրական ստեղծագործութեանց Համար, Ցեղասպանութեան և յիշողութեան աղղեցութիւնը գրականութեան վրայ, Հայրենիքի գաղափարին և ինքնութեան Հարցերու գանազան անդրադարձները գրականութեան մէջ:

Ելոյթներ պիտի ունենան փրոփէ-սէօրներ *Տէյվիտ Քալոն, Պարլօ Տէր Մկրտիչեան, Էլըն Ռւաթհորն, ինչ-*

պէս նաեւ գրողներ՝ Տայանա Տէր Յովհաննէսեան, Փիթրը Սուրեան, Ալիսիա Կիրակոսեան, Մարք Արաքս եւ շրջանէն երիտասարդ բանաստեղծներ:

Զեկոյցներուն կողքին տեղի պիտի ունենայ նաեւ Սարոյեանի «Hungerers» թատրերգութեան ներկայացումը (Նոյեմբեր 6ին) եւ արդի դասական երաժշտութեան նուիրուած ձեռնարկ մը (Նոյեմբեր 7ին): Երկու ձեռնարկներու պարագային ալ մուտքի սակը 10 տոլար է:

Ասոնց զուգահեռ, Համալսարանին «Քէրքովի» ցուցադրասրացին մէջ տեղի պիտի ունենայ Քալիֆորնիայ երիտասարդ արուեստագէտներու ցուցահանդէս մը, կազմակերուպութեամբ Վաղգէն Բրուտեանի: Տեղի պիտի ունենայ նաեւ գիրքերու ցուցադրութիւն, կազմակերպութեամբ «Ապրիլ» գրատան:

Կազմակերպման ծախսերը մասսամբ կը Հոգայ Ռուսահայերու միութեան նախագահ Արա Արահամեան, որ ներկայ պիտի ըլլայ ձեռնարկին:

Ցաւելեալ տեղեկութեանց Համար դիմել փրոփ. Օչին Քէշիւեանին (osheen@glendale.edu) կամ փրոփ. Փիթրը Քառիին (cowe@humnet.ucla.edu):



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CA
SUBJECT: Conference on Armenian Writers

DATE: October 28, 2009
PAGE: 1 of 1

Conference on Armenian Writers

At UCLA

November 6 to 8, 2009

Popper Auditorium in Schoenberg Hall, UCLA

Organized by the Ministry of Culture of Armenia, Writers Union of Armenia
and Friends of UCLA Armenian Language and Culture Studies

November 6 and 7 – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - November 8 – 2 to 5 p.m.

**Speakers and Panels on Issues and Achievements
of Armenian Authors Writing in Languages other
than Armenian (Otaragir Groghner)**

Participants: A delegation of writers and translators from Armenia

Participating Writers: Diana Der Hovanessian, Peter Sourian, Alicia Ghiragossian,

Mark Arax, Kay Mouradian, Ken Janjigian and others.

Literary Presentations by David Calonne, Peter Cowe, Barlow Der Mugrdechian,
Alan Whitehorn, Osheen Keshishian, Hagop Gulludjian, and others.

Also:

NOVEMBER 6 – Exhibition OF Art Works at Kerckhoff Gallery, UCLA. Opening
2:30 p.m. Will run during the conference.

- **William Saroyan's** play "The Hungerers", Jan Popper Auditorium, UCLA, 8 p.m.
For tickets call (310) 825-2101

NOVEMBER 7 – **Concert** of Contemporary and Modern Armenian Music,
Schoenberg Hall, 8 p.m. – Donation \$10.00 Call (818) 986-0718

NOVEMBER 8 – **Presentation** of Natella Paronian's "Ellipsis" poetry book at
Glendale Public Library, 222 E. Harvard, Glendale, 6 p.m.

- **BANQUET** at Kalaydjian Hall of the Western Diocese, 3325 N Glenoaks Blvd.,
Burbank, 8 p.m.

Book Exhibit by Abril Bookstore

Major Funding by Ara Abrahamyan, President of the Union of Armenians of Russia

UCLA Parking available
At Parking Structure 2
Hilgard and Westholme

All are Welcome

For further information
Contact (818) 986-0718
or cwe@humnet.ucla.edu



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Watertown, MA
SUBJECT: Ara Sarafian To Speak On Adana Massacres

DATE: October 3, 2009
PAGE: 1 of 1

Ara Sarafian to Speak on Adana Massacres

FRESNO — Ara Sarafian of the Gomidas Institute in London will deliver a lecture titled “Remembering Adana” on Monday, October 12 at 7:30 p.m., in the Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191 of the University Business Center on the Fresno State campus. The lecture is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization of Fresno State.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of one of the most horrific chapters in modern Armenian and Turkish history. The Adana Massacres of 1909 claimed the lives of over 20,000 Armenians, resulted in massive material losses (the Armenian quarters of Adana city and elsewhere were burned down), and heralded the genocide of Armenians only six years later in 1915.

In his talk, Sarafian will give a power-point presentation showing images of the city of Adana, before and after the massacres of 1909. He will also discuss the historiography surrounding the Adana events, with particular reference to Hagop Terzian, who wrote a devastating documentary account of the events in question. Terzian’s work has just come out in an abridged translation into English from the Gomidas Institute.

The lecture will end with the release of Hagop Terzian’s, *Cilicia, 1909: the Massacre of Armenians*, translated by Ara Melkonian and edited by Sarafian, (Gomidas Institute, 2009).

Sarafian is an archival historian specializing on late Ottoman history. He is the director of the Gomidas Institute, a leading research and publication center related to modern Armenian history. The Gomidas Institute is also a main sponsor of a conference in Istanbul, Turkey, on November 5-6, dedicated to the Adana massacres of 1909.

The lecture is free and open to the public.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: California Courier: Glendale, CASUBJECT: Ara Sarafian To Speak On Adana MassacresDATE: October 1, 2009PAGE: 1 of 1

Scholar Ara Sarafian to Speak Oct. 12 At CSUF on 'Remembering Adana'

FRESNO - Ara Sarafian of the Gomidas Institute (London) will present a lecture "Remembering Adana" at 7:30 PM on October 12, in the Alice Peters Auditorium, Rm. 191 of the University Business Center on the Fresno State campus.

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

This year marks the 100th anniversary of one of the most horrific chapters in modern Armenian and Turkish history. The Adana massacres of 1909 claimed the lives of over 20,000 Armenians, resulted in massive material losses (the Armenian quarters of Adana city and elsewhere were burned down), and heralded the genocide of Armenians only six years later in 1915.

In his talk, Sarafian will give a power-point presentation showing images of the city of Adana, before and after the massacres of 1909. He will also discuss the historiography surrounding the Adana events, with particular reference to Hagop Terzian, who wrote a devastating documentary account of the events in question.

Terzian's narrative soon became a master narrative of the Adana massacres, and his work has just come out in an abridged translation into English from the Gomidas Institute.

The lecture will end with the release of Terzian's *Cilicia, 1909: the Massacre of Armenians*, translated by Ara Melkonian and edited by Ara Sarafian, (Gomidas Institute, 2009).

Ara Sarafian is an archival historian specializing on late Ottoman history. He is the director of the

Gomidas Institute, which is a leading research and publication center related to modern Armenian history. In June 2009 the Gomidas Institute released, in Ankara (Turkey), the Turkish edition of a British parliamentary blue book on the Armenian Genocide. The Institute is also a main sponsor of a conference in Istanbul (Turkey) on November 5-6, 2009 dedicated to the Adana massacres of 1909.

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 Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA
SUBJECT: Armenian Pianist Plays In Fresno

DATE: September 18, 2009
PAGE: 1 of 1

Armenian pianist plays in Fresno

By Donald Munro

The Fresno Bee

This is called planning ahead: Almost 10 years ago, Andreas Werz — the artistic director of the Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concerts series — traveled to Yerevan, Armenia. There he hung out with Aram Gharabekian, conductor of the Armenian Chamber Orchestra, who asked Werz whether he'd like to tag along at an audition of an astounding young pianist.

Werz agreed, and after listening to the 12-year-old girl play, he was impressed. Her name: Nareh Arghamanyan.

"That's how I heard her for the first time," Werz says.

Fast forward to today. Arghamanyan, now 20, is the opening artist for the new season of the highly regarded Keyboard Concerts series at California State University, Fresno.

CONCERT INFO

Nareh Arghamanyan, 8 p.m. today, Fresno State Concert Hall. **Tickets:** \$18, \$12 seniors, \$5 student. **Details:** keyboardconcerts.com, (559) 278-2337.

In 2008, Arghamanyan was the first-prize winner at the 2008 Montreal International Music Competition.

When Werz heard about the honor, he knew she'd be a great pianist to bring in for the series, which prides itself both on presenting well-known veteran performers and up-and-coming artists.

Arghamanyan is a graduate of the esteemed Vienna Music Conservatory and has already appeared in major venues in the United States, Russia, Germany, France and Switzerland. A recent review in the Salt Lake Tribune declared that she "is destined to have a major international career."



Nareh Arghamanyan

Her performance is co-sponsored by Fresno State's Armenian Studies Program.

Arghamanyan will perform works by Mendelssohn, Schumann, Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky/Pletnev.

For Werz, the concert will remind him of a talented girl that he heard a long time ago, half a world away.

"I wasn't going to forget her," he says.

► The reporter can be reached at dmunro@fresnobee.com or (559) 441-6373. Read his blog at fresnobeehive.com/author/donald_munro.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA

SUBJECT: Turkish Group Makes Gesture to Students

DATE: September 15, 2009PAGE: 1 of 1

Turkish group makes gesture to students

By Michael Doyle

Bee Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — New scholarships will enable Armenian-American students to study in Turkey, a gesture prompted by diplomatic progress made by two long-feuding countries.

The scholarships for 100 American students of Armenian descent will finance a semester at any Turkish or Turkish Cypriot university. The Turkish Coalition of America is offering the \$2,000 scholarships in hopes of changing minds.

"We hope to encourage dialogue between Turks and Armenians, so that future generations won't have the burden of this animosity," coalition president Lincoln McCurdy said Monday. "The shared history of both cultures has been overshadowed by hostility for far too long."

The scholarships could prove particularly enticing in regions like the San Joaquin Valley, home to tens of thousands of Armenians.



ian-Americans. California State University, Fresno, hosts both an Armenian Studies Program and the nationwide Society for Armenian Studies, which spans many campuses.

Each year, roughly 10 Fresno State students graduate with a minor in Armenian Studies, and dozens more take history, arts and language courses through the program.

But the new scholarships also provoke questions in some Armenian-American circles, as do the broader talks now under way between Turkey and Armenia.

The two countries have

See **STUDY**, Page A5

STUDY

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been at odds for nearly a century over events between 1915 and 1923, when by some estimates upward of 1.5 million Armenians died during the final years of the Ottoman Empire before Turkey was founded. The Turkish government blames the deaths on civil war. Armenians call the deaths genocide.

"There's always skepticism, because of Turkey's attitude in the past," noted Barlow Der Mugrdechian, director of the Fresno State Armenian Studies Program. "Until Turkey recognizes the [Armenian] genocide, there's always going to be skepticism."

Der Mugrdechian said he would need to learn more about the scholarship's details before he could evaluate it.

More broadly, though, he noted that San Joaquin Valley Armenian-Americans have concerns that the Turkish-Armenian diplomatic breakthrough announced recently was accomplished in part through trading away a formal Armenian genocide recognition.

On Aug. 31, following negotiations brokered by Swiss go-betweens, Turkey and Armenia unveiled a roadmap toward mutual diplomatic recognition. This includes six weeks for parliamentary consideration, followed by opening of the Turkey-Armenia border within two months.

The protocols include establishing a joint historical commission that will presumably be genocide-oriented, though it is described in a round-about way.

Armenian-American organizations and their Capitol Hill allies have long pushed for an explicit con-

Armenia and Turkey have been at odds for nearly

a century over events between 1915 and 1923, when by some estimates upward of 1.5 million Armenians died during the final years of the Ottoman Empire before Turkey was founded.

The Turkish government blames the deaths on civil war. Armenians call the deaths genocide.

gressional Armenian genocide resolution.

With the help of successive U.S. presidents, fearful of the diplomatic consequences, Turkish officials have resisted the genocide resolution efforts.

The Turkish Coalition of America was founded in 2007. It sponsors educational and other programs boosting Turkey, including the trips to Turkey sponsored for members of Congress and staff and scholarships for students.

The Coalition offers more information at www.turkishcoalition.org/.

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



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: California Courier: Glendale, CA

SUBJECT: Pianist Arghamanyan to Perform at CSUF

DATE: September 3, 2009PAGE: 1 of 1

Pianist Nareh Arghamanyan to Perform In Sept. 18 Concert at Fresno State

FRESNO - Award winning pianist Nareh Arghamanyan will perform in the opening recital of the Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concert Series at Fresno State. The concert will be held at 8 p.m. on September 18 in the Concert Hall on the Fresno State campus.

The concert is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program of Fresno State.

Arghamanyan will be performing works by Mendelssohn, Schumann, Tchaikovsky/Pletnev, and Rachmaninoff.

Arghamanyan is the first-prize winner of the 2008 Montreal International Music Competition and "is destined to have a major international career." (The Salt Lake Tribune). She is a graduate of the Vi-

enna Music conservatory and recipient of the prestigious Herbert von Karajan Scholarship. She has appeared in major venues in the United States, Russia, Germany, France, and Switzerland.

General tickets for the concert are available for \$18 per person; seniors tickets are \$12 per person, and tickets for students are \$5., per person.

Ticket reservations for the concert may be made by calling 278-2337. Relaxed parking will be available in Lots C and V after 7 p.m. the night of the lecture. Hospitality following the lecture will be provided by the Knights and Daughters of Vartan, Fresno chapters.

For more information on the concert, contact the Armenian Studies Program at (559) 278-2669.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CA
SUBJECT: Pianist Arghamanyan to Perform at CSUF

DATE: September 2, 2009
PAGE: 1 of 1

Pianist Nareh Arghamanyan to Perform in Philip Lorenz Keyboard Concert at FS

FRESNO - Award winning pianist Nareh Arghamanyan will perform in the opening recital of the Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concert Series at Fresno State. The concert will be held at 8:00 PM on Friday, September 18 in the Concert Hall on the Fresno State campus.

The concert is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program of Fresno State. Arghamanyan will be performing works by Mendelssohn, Schumann, Tchaikovsky/Pletnev, and Rachmaninoff.

Arghamanyan is the first-prize winner of the 2008 Montreal International Music Competition and "is destined to have a major international career." (The Salt Lake Tribune). She is a graduate of the esteemed Vienna Music conservatory and recipient of the prestigious Herbert von Karajan Scholarship. She has appeared in major venues in the United States, Russia, Germany, France, and Switzerland.

General tickets for the concert are available for \$18 per



Nareh Arghamanyan

person; seniors tickets are \$12 per person, and tickets for students are \$5.00 per person. Ticket reservations for the concert may be made by calling 278-2337. Relaxed parking will be available in Lots C and V after 7:00 PM the night of the lecture. Hospitality following the lecture will be provided by the Knights and Daughters of Vartan, Fresno chapters.

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

ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA
 SUBJECT: Armenia, Turkey Talk Deal to Heal

DATE: September 1, 2009
 PAGE: 1 of 2

Armenia, Turkey talk deal to heal

By Paula Lloyd
 The Fresno Bee

As Armenia and Turkey announced they've agreed in principle to establish diplomatic relations, Valley Armenians on Monday warned that the two nations will have to deal with the genocide if they're going to heal their rift.

Valley Armenians say the talks give Turkey a chance to admit to the World War I-era killing of 1.5 million Armenians. The Turkish government blames the deaths on civil war.

"I think it would be good if they began talking. But Armenia won't do anything if the genocide isn't discussed," said Roger Minassian, of Fresno, retired director of Hope Now for Youth, a gang prevention program.

Armenia and Turkey, bitter foes for a century, took a step toward reconciliation Monday by announcing they would launch final talks aimed at establishing diplomatic ties. But they won't

ARMENIA

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discuss the deepest source of their enmity — the killing of Armenians under Ottoman rule.

The joint statement released by the Armenian and Turkish foreign ministries Monday said the two countries would start consultations to sign two protocols — one to establish diplomatic ties, the other to develop relations. The talks, with continued mediation by Switzerland, are to last six weeks.

The talks still face pitfalls, and will follow months of inactivity after signs of promise earlier in the year when President Barack Obama appealed for reconciliation during a visit to Turkey.

The parliaments of the two countries must ratify a deal on diplomatic normalization.

Armenian President Serge Sarkisian indicated the dispute over the genocide would not be a deal-breaker between the two neighbors.

"It's important that historical justice be restored. It's important that our nations are able to establish normal relations," Sarkisian said in an interview published Monday by the BBC Russian service. "But we do not regard a recognition of genocide as a preliminary condition for establishing relations."

Turkey was one of the first countries to recognize Armenia's independence in 1991, but the two countries never established diplomatic relations and their joint border has been closed since 1993.

In agreeing to move to-



THE FRESNO BEE

ward normalized relations, landlocked Armenia is eager for a reopening of the border and the trade opportunities it would bring. The border was closed after Armenian forces took control of the Azerbaijan region of Nagorno-Karabakh. The Turkish population shares close cultural and linguistic relations with Azerbaijan, which is pressing Turkey for help in recovering its land.

Monday's announcement was greeted cautiously by Valley Armenians. Some questioned Turkey's motives, and said they did not want to see Armenia yield on an array of issues that went beyond recognition of the genocide.

Phil Tavlian of Fresno said the Valley's Armenian community will closely watch the talks, but observers should not expect an easy fix to disputes that go back centuries.

"These are two ancient nations. Talks will evolve in a very slow, deliberate and thoughtful process," Tavlian said.

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, coordinator of the Armenian Studies program at California State University, Fresno, called the talks positive, but added that relations between the two nations are "very complex."

He said Armenia and Turkey are at odds over many

issues, including reopening the border between them and the status of Karabakh. While he hopes that the genocide will be part of the talks, he's not optimistic.

"I don't see that Turkey has conceded anything on the genocide," he said.

On Capitol Hill, the diplomatic breakthrough is almost certain to take the air out of long-standing efforts to pass an Armenian genocide resolution.

While supporters could easily keep introducing the resolution, on-the-fence lawmakers now have another compelling reason to oppose it.

"I think the rapprochement will likely make a resolution seem unproductive," predicted Gunay Evinach, president of the Alliance of Turkish American Associations. "It will pretty much put it on the sidelines."

Even if the Armenian genocide resolution stalls in Congress, memories of the genocide remain a raw spot for Valley Armenians.

Hygo Ohannessian, who chairs the Armenian National Committee of Central California, said diplomacy "is always good, but I sincerely hope the Armenian government does not, ever, compromise on any issue concerning the genocide."

She added that the genocide left "a whole generation of Armenians who grew up without grandparents."

► Michael Doyle of The Bee's Washington Bureau and The Associated Press contributed to this report. The reporter can be reached at plloyd@fresnobee.com or at (559) 441-6756.