

California State University, Fresno

original



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM
Fresno, California 93740



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CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program activities as
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ARMENIAN STUDIES

PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

— ARCHIVE —

SOURCE The Armenian Life Weekly; Pasadena, CA DATE 29 January 1988
 SUBJECT Teaching and Learning in Soviet Armenian PAGE 1 of 3



Teaching And Learning In Soviet Armenia

CSUF Professor Recalls Fulbright Visit



Dr. Kouymjian with film director Sergei Paradjanov.

University students in Soviet Armenia are "little different" from American students and, indeed, from some CSUF students, according to the lament of Professor Dickran Kouymjian. "They read little, work little, lack intellectual curiosity and are attracted to the same leisure time activities as American students — that is, television, dressing being together," Kouymjian said.

Kouymjian, CSU, Fresno's Outstanding Professor for 1986, traveled to the Armenian republic's capital last February to teach American literature as a Fulbright Senior lecturer at Erevan State University during the spring semester. The trip was Kouymjian's fifth to the Soviet Union and his fourth to Soviet Armenia.

Since he came to Fresno State in 1977, Kouymjian has been the head of the Armenian Studies Program. He is fluent in three languages and has traveled and taught throughout the world.

While Kouymjian was in the small republic located in the southern Caucasian area of the Soviet Union, he gave public lectures; met with writers, in-

SOURCE The Armenian Life Weekly; Pasadena, CA DATE 29 January 1988
SUBJECT Teaching and Learning in Soviet Armenia PAGE 2 of 3

Intellectuals and scholars; wrote articles for several Soviet journals; worked on a film and researched materials for several articles and a "possible future book on the filmmaker Sergei Paradjanov"; and, of course, taught six units at Erevan State.

"I, perhaps pretentiously, expected to instruct students in the foreign literatures department (at Erevan State) about the unpublished works of William Saroyan (a Fresnoan and a national hero in Armenia)," Kouymjian said. "I was confronted with much curiosity and even fascination for biographical details of his life and relationships with his wife, family and the Armenians, but less interest in the literary analysis of his work or anything that required excessive thinking or reflection," he said.

In spite of this, Kouymjian said, the students that he had contact with were better versed in literature as a whole than students at CSUF.

"I found that there the students are, generally speaking, better informed about literature. That is, you can make references to Classical or

Renaissance literature in a lecture and be understood," Kouymjian said.

Kouymjian said that Soviet universities are quite different from their American counterparts in how the curriculum is set up.

"Their undergraduate program is a five-year one in letters, and all courses are required for all students in each of the programs. There are no electives."

The program contains heavy doses of American and English literature, as well as Russian and, of course, Armenian. There are courses in French, German, other European literature, Indian, and Far Eastern literature, he said.

There is a striking difference on the part of Soviet students in the degree of openness displayed in class and in their attitudes toward authority.

"Students stand when you (the professor) walk into the room; they sit only when you motion for them to do so," Kouymjian said. "They are reluctant to ask questions in class," he said.

"The students are not as open as they are in America. But that is not a good indication of how curious they are. I notice that as the semester continued and I tried to get them to open up, they adapted themselves to discussion and, at times, even argued with me in class," he said.

Kouymjian said that his colleagues in the foreign literatures department were "well-plugged-into the current intellectual movements outside, as well as inside, the Soviet Union." Most of them had received their higher education in Armenia. "One or two had gone to Moscow or Leningrad and received their advanced degrees in non-Armenian areas," he said.

"The group (within the faculty) that I had the most contact with were the farthest from the (Communist) Party atmosphere," Kouymjian said. "When I first got there, there were a few who were quick to make ideological statements to me, and with them my relations always remained formal," he said.

The 53-year-old scholar found that surprisingly little control was exercised over his activities and he said, in fact, that he "would have appreciated more concern on the part of the local faculty over what I was doing."

"I never felt any controls over what I did, said or might have threatened to say," he said.

Apart from his direct involvement with teaching at Erevan State, Kouymjian also gave public lectures on the life and works of William Saroyan.

"Once in April and again in May, I gave a formal lecture to the Armenian Writers Union... The first time, over 500 people crowded into a large auditorium for 400 before they were forced to lock the doors," Kouymjian said.

"These lectures were enthusiastically received and were reported in the local press," he said.

Kouymjian also did research "on the Soviet-Armenian-Georgian film director, Sergei Paradjanov. I accumulated a vast archive of oral and written testimony and biographical and photographic documents on his life and works."

In addition to work on these projects, Kouymjian was asked by "a young Armenian film director to be the principal advisor on a short film (approximately 31 minutes) he was making based on William Saroyan's short story 'The Coldest Winter Since 1854,'" Kouymjian said.

Kouymjian ended up producing a script for the film, as well as assisting the director in finding people to dub the voices in English for it. "We first tried with students from a local English school (where English is the primary language of instruction), and then ended up using English-speaking American students at the university and members of their families," Kouymjian said.

Of the 15 republics that make up the USSR, Soviet Armenia has the highest percentage of its own ethnic population (about 90 percent) residing within its borders, Kouymjian said.

"All speak Armenian; it is the

SOURCE The Armenian Life Weekly; Pasadena, CA DATE 29 January 1988
SUBJECT Teaching and Learning in Soviet Armenia PAGE 3 of 3

language of the marketplace and the street. But in other areas it is not. In the sciences and in medicine, for example, Russian is the main form of communication," Kouymjian said.

Kouymjian said that even in Soviet Armenia many are concerned about the dangers of Armenians losing their heritage, especially the nearly two million ethnic Armenians living in other parts of the Soviet Union. "Armenians are very sensitive about losing themselves (their culture) through 'the white genocide' of inter-marriage or through assimilation... We have already lost (historic) Armenia in a genocide," he said.

Kouymjian said that while there were signs of *glasnost* and *perestroika* (the new catchwords in Soviet politics that translate as *transparency* and *restructuring of the Communist system*), when he left the Soviet Union on June 1, "They were still making jokes about 'when *perestroika* and *glasnost* will make it over the Caucasian mountains to Armenia.'"

Kouymjian said that he also found that "everyone (in Soviet Armenia) is interested in America. There is a real desire to know about it; it is the thing

they want to model. I never experienced any animosity towards the United States, none of that deep-seated animosity that exists in this country toward the Soviet Union."

"I loved my five months in Armenia (SSR)," said Kouymjian. "The people were very warm and hospitable; they seemed to devote much more time to family and personal relations (than people in the U.S.). The tempo and concerns of life seem more human, even though their society is less open than our own," he said.

But Kouymjian expressed dismay at the degree of assimilation and the possible further loss of contact by Armenians with their history, literature and culture.

"Armenians, both inside and outside of Armenia, have a very strong sense of nation. But I also felt there was a certain blindness, a refusal to believe that the Armenian language could be just as threatened in the Armenian SSR as it is in the western Diaspora," Kouymjian said.

"There is a sense of complacency there that as long as there is Armenia, there will always be Armenian," Kouymjian said. ■

SOURCE The Armenian Observer; Hollywood, CA DATE 3 February 1988
SUBJECT Cultural Perspectives on Armenian Society PAGE 1 of 1

THE ARMENIAN OBSERVER

Cultural Perspectives on Armenian Society

FRESNO — Dr. Aram A. Yengoyan, Professor of Anthropology from the University of Michigan, will speak on "Cultural perspectives on Armenian society: an anthropological interpretation" at 12:00 noon on Monday, February 8, 1988 in the CSUF College Union Room 309. His presentation is sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization and Armenian Studies Program of CSUF and funded by the Associated Students.

Dr. Yengoyan is currently on a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship for the 1987-1988 year at the University of California, Davis. He is a native of Fresno, having graduated from Fresno State College in 1956. He received his M.A. from UCLA and his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Chicago. He has taught at various universities, and since 1963 has been a professor at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Yengoyan is a member of the Association for Asian Studies and is a fellow of the

American Anthropological Association and the Royal Anthropological Institute. In 1968 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award for Teaching at the University of Michigan. During the past 25 years he has traveled extensively in the Phillipines and Australia conducting field

investigations.

He is the author of numerous scholarly articles which have appeared in the pages of *American Anthropologist*, *The Journal of Asian Studies*, and *Man* to name a few.

Admission to the lecture is free and the public is invited.

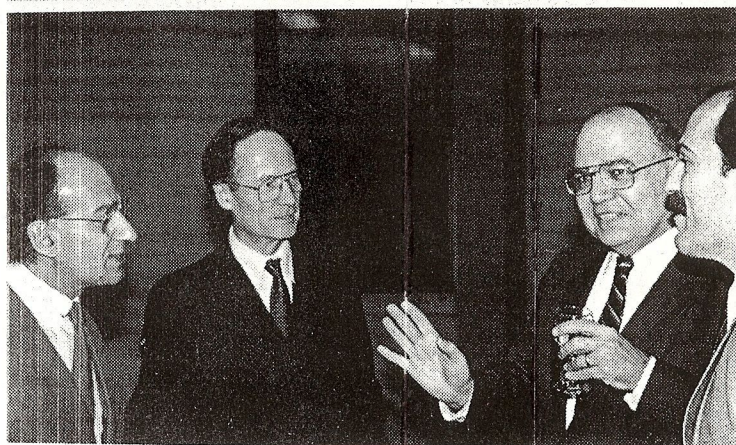
Armenian Studies Annual Banquet Held

FRESNO — The annual banquet of the California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program was held on Sunday, December 6, 1987 in the Haig Berberian Social Hall of the St. Paul Armenian Church. CSUF President Dr. Harold Haak, Academic Vice-President Dr. Judith Kuipers, and the Dean of the School of Social Sciences, Dr. Peter Klassen joined ASP Director Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, and ASP Lecturer Barlow Der Mugerdechian in welcoming guests during the social hour.

The festive evening began with a delicious Armenian mezza while Christine Garabedian of the Armenian Students Organization entertained with musical selections on the piano.

Dr. Richard Hovannisian, Professor of Armenian History at UCLA was the keynote speaker for the evening. His remarks centered on his experience as an Armenian growing up in the San Joaquin Valley. Dr. Hovannisian emphasized the importance of Armenian Studies in Armenian life today and the importance of the Endowed Chair Drive in Armenian Studies at CSUF, citing the numbers of Endowed Chairs in Armenian Studies established at other universities throughout the country. Dr. Hovannisian, a native of Tulare, noted the large Armenian population of the Valley and the ideal location of Fresno as a center for Armenian Studies.

The banquet highlighted the donors to the Armenian Studies Program over the past several years. Outstanding Donor of the Year plaques were awarded to the Bedrosian Family (1985), the Sahatdjian Family (1985), to Mr. and Mrs. Arnie Avedian (1986), and to Mr. M.K. Mirigian (1987). Donors to the Leon S. Peters Business Building were also honored with plaques and certificates, which were awarded by Dr. Haak and Dr. Kouymjian.



TOP: from left, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, ASP Director; Dr. Harold Haak, CSUF President; Astghig Ohannessian, ASO Presidnet; and Barlow Der Mugerdechian, instructor in ASP. BOTTOM: from left, Dr. Kouymjian, Dr. Peter Klassen, Dean of the School of Social Sciences; Dr. Richard Hovannisian, keynote speaker and professor of history at UCLA; and Barlow Der Mugerdechian.

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ARMENIAN STUDIES

PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Observer; Hollywood, CA DATE 11 February 1988

SUBJECT Armenian Studies Annual Banquet PAGE 2 of 2
Held

The shish kebab dinner was served by students from CSUF. The ASO has already shown its support with a generous donation to the Endowed Chair

fund drive and earlier to the Leon S. Peters Business Building.

Gerald Papasian and Nora Armani of Los Angeles, having returned from Yerevan to America a night before, performed a selection of Armenian poems in English translation. The artists kept the rapt attention of the audience as they evoked the Armenian spirit with their performance.

Many of the CSUF faculty friends of the Armenian Studies Program enjoyed the evening, including representatives from the Chicano-Latino Studies Program, the Ethnic Studies Program, the Music Department, the Native American Studies Program, the School

of Business and the Women's Studies Department.

Dr. Kouymjian concluded the program with an explanation of the activities of the Armenian Studies Program and the goals for the immediate future, the three year plan to endow a Chair in Armenian Studies. Proceeds of the Banquet went to the Endowment Fund and recently over \$50,000 has been raised by the Program towards a goal of \$300,000.

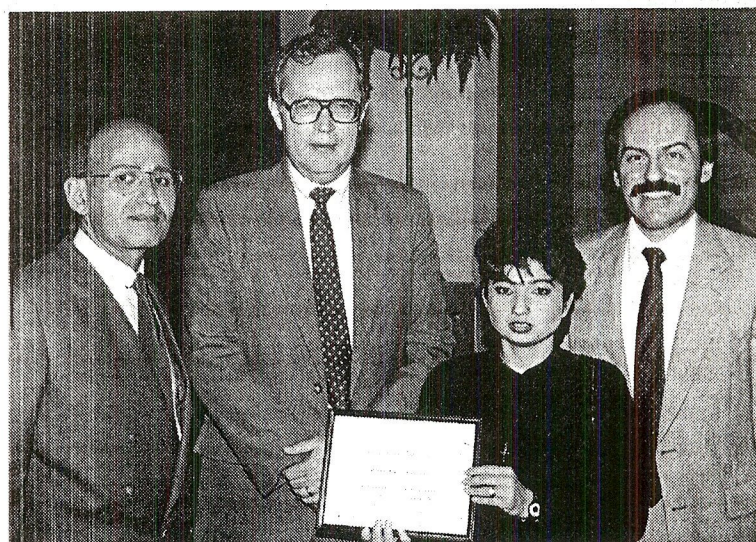
The annual Banquet of the Armenian Studies Program was made possible by many generous sponsors and patrons as well as business friends who donated their time and products to make this a successful event.

CSUF's Armenian Studies Program Hosts Banquet

FRESNO - Dr. Richard Hovannisian, Professor of Armenian History at UCLA was the keynote speaker at the annual banquet of the California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program held recently in the St. Paul Armenian Church Hall.

Also attending the event was CSUF President Dr. Harold Haak, Academic vice-president Dr. Judith Kuipers. Dean of the School of Social Sciences Dr. Peter Klassen joined ASP Director Dr. Dickran Kouymjian and ASP Lecturer Barlow der Mugrdechian in welcoming guests during the social hour.

During his main address, Dr. Hovannisian, a native of Tulare, spoke on his experiences as an Armenian growing up in the San Joaquin Valley. He emphasized the importance of Armenian studies in Armenian life today. Recently named the chairholder of the newly endowed Chair of Modern Armenian History at UCLA, Dr. Hovannisian cited the increasing numbers of endow-



ANNUAL CSUF BANQUET - L. to r. Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, ASP Director; Dr. Harold Haak, CSUF President; Astghig Ohannessian, ASPO President; Barlow Der Mugrdechian, ASP Instructor.

ed chairs in Armenian Studies. A drive is currently underway at CSUF to endow a chair in Armenian Studies. The speaker noted the large Armenian population in the Valley and the ideal location of Fresno as a center for Armenian studies.

Donors to the Armenian Studies Program over the past few years were honored with a plaque awarded by Dr. Haak and Dr. Kouymjian. The honorees included the Bedrosian family (1985), the Sahatdjian family (1985), Mr. and Mrs. Arnie Avedian (1986), and M.K. Mirigian (1987). Donors to the Leon S. Peters Business Building were also honored with plaques and certificates.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The California Courier; Glendale, CA DATE 11 February 1988

SUBJECT CSUF's Armenian Studies Program PAGE 2 of 2
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Faculty friends of the Armenian Studies Program also attended the banquet, representing the Chicano-Latino Studies Program, the Ethnic Studies Program, the Music Dept., the Native American Studies Program, the School of Business and the Women's Studies Dept.

SOURCE The Armenian Life Weekly; Pasadena, CA DATE 12 February 1988
SUBJECT Dr. Yengoyan to Speak on Anthro- PAGE 1 of 1
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Culture

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He is the author of numerous scholarly articles which have appeared in the pages of **American Anthropologist**, **The Journal of Asian Studies**, and **Man** to name a few.

Admission to the lecture is free and the public is invited. ■

1987 Varoujan Award Winner Announced

The New England Poetry Club board of directors has announced the winners of its annual contests conducted in 1987. Stuart Dischell, poet and English professor at Boston University won the \$500 Daniel Varoujan prize for a poem worthy of the Armenian poet killed by the Turks in 1915. The judge was Jennifer Rose, 1986 winner of the contest. The contest is endowed by Diana Der-Hovanesian's royalties from the Anthology

of Armenian Poetry, and is open every year to any poet writing in English.

The winner of the annual Golden Rose was announced last month, when Derek Walcott received the award, one of the oldest literary prizes in the country, and gave a reading following the ceremony. The winners of the Ruth Berrien Fox prizes for high school age poets were announced at the same meeting. ■

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian Discusses Teaching Experience In Armenia

University students in Soviet Armenia are "little different" from American students, according to the lament of Professor Dickran Kouymjian. "They read little, work little, lack intellectual curiosity and are attracted to the same leisure time activities as American students — that is, television, dressing, being together," Kouymjian said.

Kouymjian, of California State University/Fresno, traveled to the Armenian republic's capital last February to teach American literature as a Fulbright Senior Lecturer at Yerevan State University during the spring semester. The trip was Kouymjian's fifth to the Soviet Union and his fourth to Soviet Armenia.

Since he came to Fresno State in 1977, Kouymjian has been the head of the Armenian Studies Program. He is fluent in three languages and has traveled and taught throughout the world.

While Kouymjian was in the republic located in the southern Caucasian area of the Soviet Union, he gave public lectures; met with writers, intellectuals and scholars; wrote articles for several Soviet journals; worked on a film and researched materials for several articles and "a possible future book on the film-maker Sergei Paradjanov," and, of course, taught six units at Yerevan State.

"I, perhaps pretentiously, expected to instruct students in the foreign literatures department [at Yerevan State] about the unpublished works of William Saroyan," Kouymjian said. "I was confronted with much curiosity and even fascination for biographical details of his life and relationships with his wife, family, and the Armenians, but less interest in the literary analysis of his work or anything that required excessive thinking or reflection," he said.

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American counterparts in how their curriculum is set up.

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Dr. Dickran Kouymjian with Sergei Paradjanov.

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There is a striking difference on the part of Soviet students in the degree of openness dis-

played in class and in their attitudes toward authority.

"Students stand when the professor walks into the room; they sit only when you motion for them to do so," Kouymjian said. "They are reluctant to ask

questions in class," he said.

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SOURCE The Armenian Mirror-SpectatorDATE 13 February 1988SUBJECT Watertown, MASUBJECT Dr. Dickran Kouymjian Discusses
Teaching Experience In ArmeniaPAGE 2 of 2

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"The group [within the faculty] that I had the most contact with were the farthest from the [Communist] Party atmosphere," Kouymjian said. "When I first got there, there were a few who were quick to make ideological statements to me, and with them my relations always remained formal," he said.

The 53-year-old scholar found that surprisingly little control was exercised over his activities and he said, in fact, that he "would have appreciated more concern on the part of the local faculty over what I was doing."

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"All speak Armenian; it is the language of the marketplace and the street. But in other areas it is not. In the sciences and in medicine, for example, Russian is the main form of communication," Kouymjian said.

With the exception "of some older people and some living in remote villages, all Armenians are bilingual," and many others are multilingual, Kouymjian said.

"More parents are sending their children to Russian schools [where Russian is the main language used in instruction] as they perceive it as a way for greater opportunity for their children," Kouymjian said.

Kouymjian said that even in Soviet Armenia many are concerned about the dangers of Armenians losing their heritage, especially the nearly two million ethnic Armenians living in other parts of the Soviet

Union. "Armenians are very sensitive about losing themselves [their culture] through 'the white genocide' of intermarriage or through assimilation ... We have already lost [historic] Armenia in a Genocide," he said.

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But Kouymjian expressed dismay at the degree of assimilation and the possible further loss of contact by Armenians with their history, literature and culture.

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"There is a sense of complacency there that as long as there is Armenia, there will always be Armenian," Kouymjian said.

SOURCE The Armenian Observer; Hollywood, CA DATE 17 February 1988SUBJECT "Sojourn at Ararat" in Fresno PAGE 1 of 1

"Sojourn at Ararat" in Fresno

FRESNO — The award winning dramatization "Sojourn at Ararat", starring Gerald Papasian and Nora Armani of Los Angeles, will be staged in its Fresno premiere on Sunday, March 6, 1988 at 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon in the Fresno Memorial Auditorium. Papasian and Armani recently were awarded the prestigious **Drama-Logue** Award for Outstanding Achievement in Theater for their performance in "Sojourn at Ararat."

Papasian and Armani were most recently in Fresno, on December 6, 1987 when they performed a reading of Armenian poems in English translation

for the Armenian Studies Annual Banquet. They recently returned from a tour of Armenia where they were enthusiastically welcomed. "Sojourn at Ararat" has achieved international acclaim in its performances throughout the world.

Tickets for this special Fresno engagement are available through members of the CSUF Armenian Students Organization or through the CSUF Armenian Studies Program. There is limited seating so make sure to purchase your tickets in advance. For more information contact the ASP at 294-2669 or 294-2832.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The California Courier; Glendale, CA DATE 18 February 1988

SUBJECT "Sojourn at Ararat" in Fresno PAGE 1 of 1
March 6

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 6 - Sunday, "Sojourn at Ararat," Fresno Memorial Auditorium, 3 p.m. For ticket or information, call 294-2669.

'Sojourn at Ararat' Premieres in Fresno

FRESNO - The award-winning dramatization "Sojourn at Ararat," starring Gerald Papasian and Nora Armani of Los Angeles, will be staged in its Fresno premiere in the Fresno Memorial Auditorium, March 6 at 3 p.m..

Papasian and Armani recently were awarded the "Drama-Logue" Award for Outstanding Achievement in Theater for their performance in "Sojourn at Ararat."

The play, which is performed in English, begins in pre-Christian Armenia at Mt. Ararat and travels in time to current Soviet Armenia. The couple witness the Genocide at the hands of the Turks in 1915. It is a somber piece filled with great emotion.

The performance is as enthralling for non-Armenians as it is for Armenians, introducing them into a different world.

Tickets for this special Fresno engagement are available through members of the CSUF Armenian Students Organization or through the CSUF Armenian Studies Program, 294-2669 or 294-2832.

Fresno Premiere Of "Sojourn At Ararat" On March 5

The award winning dramatization **"Sojourn at Ararat"**, starring Gerald Papasian and Nora Armani of Los Angeles, will be staged in its Fresno premiere on Sunday, March 6, 1988 at 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon in the Fresno Memorial Auditorium. Papasian and Armani recently were awarded the prestigious **Drama-Logue Award for Outstanding Achievement in Theater** for their performance in **"Sojourn at Ararat."**

Drama-Logue said, "Two absolutely superb, exquisite and vituoso performances highlight **'Sojourn at Ararat'**, a dramatization of more than three dozen Armenian poems that become a narrative of the philosophy and struggle that comprise the culture and tradition of Armenia. Gerald Papasian and Nora Armani, in a short 70 minutes, manage to convey the hurt and humour and dignity of their people to such an extreme, that it is a great emotional involvement for some in the audience; for others, it is a tremendous awakening. No one leaves unaffected."

"The play begins in pre-Christian Armenia at Mt. Ararat (where Noah landed) and travels in time to current Soviet Armenia. The couple witness the Genocide at the hands of the Turks

in 1915. It is a somber piece filled with great joy and emotion. Armenians, it is understood are survivors and according to **"Sojourn at Ararat"**, no matter what their downfall, they will flourish again."

Papasian and Armani were most recently in Fresno, on December 6, 1988 when they performed a reading of Armenian poems in English translation for the Armenian Studies Annual Banquet. They recently returned from a tour of Armenia where they were enthusiastically welcomed. **"Sojourn at Ararat"** has achieved international acclaim in its performances throughout the world.

Perhaps most interesting of all the performance is as interesting for non-Armenians as for Armenians, introducing them into a different world. Tickets for this special Fresno engagement are available through members of the CSUF Armenian Students Organization or through the CSUF Armenian Studies Program. There is limited seating so make sure to purchase your tickets in advance. For more information contact the ASP at 294-2669 or 294-2832. ■



SOURCE Asbarez; Glendale, CA

DATE 20 February 1988

SUBJECT "Sojourn at Ararat" In Fresno
Premiere

PAGE 1 of 1

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Papasian and Armani recently were awarded the prestigious *Drama-Logue* Award for Outstanding Achievement in Theater for their performance in "*Sojourn at Ararat*."

Drama-Logue said, "The play begins in pre-Christian Armenia at Mt. Ararat (where Noah landed) and travels in time to current Soviet Armenia. The couple witness the Genocide at the hands of the Turks in 1915. It is a somber piece filled with great joy and emotion. Armenians, it is understood, are survivors and according to "*Sojourn at Ararat*," no matter what their downfall, they will flourish again."

Papasian and Armani were most recently in Fresno, on December 6, when they performed a reading of Armenian poems in English translation for the Armenian Studies Annual Banquet. They recently returned from a tour of Armenia where they were enthusiastically welcomed.

"*Sojourn at Ararat*" has achieved international acclaim in its performances throughout the world. Perhaps most interesting of all, the performance is as interesting for non-Armenians as for Armenians, introducing them into a different world.

Tickets for this special Fresno engagement are available through members of the CSUF Armenian Students Organization or through the CSUF Armenian Studies Program. There is limited seating so make sure to purchase your tickets in advance. For more information contact the ASP at 294-2669 or 294-2832. ☐

The ARMENIAN WEEKLY

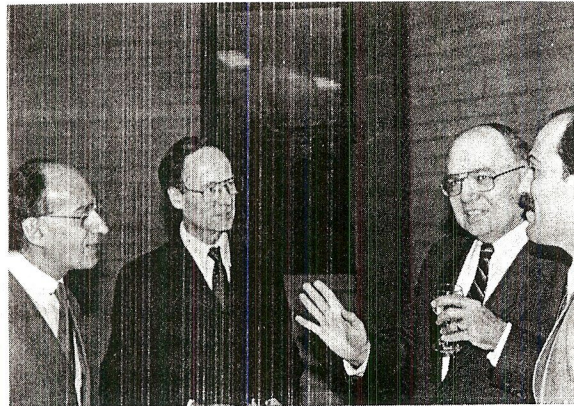
Annual Banquet of Armenian Studies Program Draws Large Crowd in Fresno

FRESNO, CA—The annual banquet of the California State University Fresno Armenian Studies Program was held on Sunday, December 6, 1987 in the Haig Berberian Social Hall of the St. Paul Armenian Church. CSUF President Harold Haak, Academic Vice-President Dr. Judith Kuipers, and Dean of the School of Social Sciences Dr. Peter Klassen joined ASP Director Dr. Dikran Kouymjian,

and ASP Lecturer Barlow Der Mugrdechian in welcoming guests during the social hour.

The festive evening began with a delicious Armenian mezza while Christine Garabedian of the Armenian Students Organization entertained with musical selections on the piano.

Dr. Richard Hovannisian, Professor of Armenian History at UCLA was the keynote speaker for the evening. His



Left to right: Dr. Dikran Kouymjian, ASP Director; Peter Klassen, Dean of School of Social Sciences; Richard Hovannisian; Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Instructor in Armenian Studies.

remarks centered on his experience as an Armenian growing up in the San Joaquin Valley. Dr. Hovannisian emphasized the importance of Armenian studies in Armenian life today and the importance of the Endowed Chair Drive in Armenian Studies at CSUF, citing the members of Endowed Chairs in Armenian Studies established at other universities throughout the country. Dr. Hovannisian, a native of Tulare, CA, noted the large Armenian population of the Valley and the ideal location of Fresno as a center for Armenian Studies.

The banquet highlighted the Donors to the Armenian Studies Program over the past several years. Outstanding Donor of the Year plaques were awarded to the Bedrosian Family (1985), to the Sahatdjian Family (1985), to Mr. and Mrs. Arnie Avedian (1986), and to Mr. M.K. Mirigian (1987). Donors to the Leon S. Peters Business Building were also honored with plaques and certificates, which were awarded by Dr. Haak and Dr. Kouymjian.

A shish kebab dinner was served by students from CSUF. The Armenian Students' Organization had already shown its support with a generous donation to the En-



Left to right: Mrs. Alice Peters; Dr. Judith Kuipers, Academic Vice President; Mrs. Sonia Keshishian; Dr. Richard Hovannisian, Prof. of Armenian History, UCLA.

dowed Chair fund drive and earlier to the Leon S. Peters Business Building.

Gerald Papasian and Nora Armani of Los Angeles, having returned from Yerevan to America the night before, performed a selection of Armenian poems in English translation. The artists kept the rapt attention of the audience as they evoked the Armenian spirit with their performance.

Many of the CSUF faculty and friends of the Armenian Studies Program enjoyed the evening, including representatives from the Chicano-Latino Studies Program, the Ethnic Studies Program, the

Music Department, the Native American Studies Program, the School of Business and the Women's Studies Department.

Dr. Kouymjian concluded the program with an explanation of the activities of the Armenian Studies Program and the goals for the immediate future, namely, the three year plan to endow a Chair in Armenian Studies. Proceeds of the Banquet went to the Endowed Fund and recently over \$50,000 has been raised by the Program towards a goal of \$300,000.

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Chair At CSU-Fresno

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From the left: Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Dr. Peter Klassen, Dr. Richard Hovannisian, and Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

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A Dramatization of the Armenian Spirit



GERALD PAPASIAN



NORA ARMANI

"Sojourn at Ararat"

Sunday, March 6, 1988

3:00 pm

Fresno Memorial Auditorium
2425 Fresno St.

For tickets call the ASP at 294-2669

Free Admission for CSUF Faculty, Staff, and Students

General Public - \$5.00 donation