



**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.**

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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Watertown, MA

DATE: June 21, 2008

SUBJECT: Fresno State Armenian Studies Program Offers Scholarship

PAGE: 1 of 1

Fresno State Armenian Studies Program Offers Scholarships

FRESNO, Calif. — The Armenian Studies Program announces that applications are now being accepted for scholarships and research grants for the 2008-2009 academic year, beginning this August.

Last year more than \$70,000 was awarded from 16 scholarship funds to more than 50 students. These scholarships encourage students to pursue minors in Armenian studies as well as

other course offerings. First-time students applying for the fall semester at California State University, Fresno are especially encouraged to apply.

Students and supporters are encouraged to let their network of family and friends know about the Armenian Studies Scholarship program and encourage them to apply.

Applying has become simplified and is avail-

able online through the program website at <http://armenianstudies.csufresno.edu> and the university website at <https://scholarship.csufresno.edu/>.

Only students who are enrolled at Fresno State are eligible to receive the scholarships. High school seniors planning to attend Fresno State in the fall semester may also apply.

For more information, call the Armenian Studies Program office.

Students working toward a minor or simply enrolling in Armenian courses are eligible for scholarships administered by the program.

The following are a list of funds from which scholarships and grants are awarded: Nerces and Ruth Azadian Memorial Scholarship; Kirkor and Mary Bedoian Memorial

Scholarship; Norma and Bob Der Mugrdchian Armenian Studies Endowed Scholarship; Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation Scholarship Fund; Albert and Isabelle Kabrielian Scholarship for Armenian Studies; Koren and Alice Odian Kasparian Scholarship; Charlie Keyan Endowed Scholarship; Yervant, Rose, and Hovannes Levonian Educational Grant; John and Lucile Melkonian Scholarship; Mary Nalchajian Scholarship; Charles K. and Pansy Pategian Zlokovich Scholarship; Pete P. Peters Endowment Scholarships; Haig Tashjian Memorial Scholarship; Genevieve Tatoian Scholarship; Telfeyan Evangelical Fund, Inc. Scholarship; Harry and Mary Topoozian Armenian Studies Merit Scholarship Fund.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: Will Saroyan's Literary Legacy Be Lost?

DATE: June 12, 2008
PAGE: 1 of 3

Will Saroyan's Literary Legacy be Lost?

By Guy Keeler
Fresno Bee

William Saroyan was a comet in the literary sky from 1934 through the mid-1940s. Before his light began to fade, he was compared to the brightest stars.

At the height of his fame, Saroyan was depicted in a cartoon, sitting on a teeter-totter with George Bernard Shaw and vying for the title of "World's Greatest Writer." As a short-story writer, beginning with "The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze" in 1934, and playwright, with works such as his 1939 Pulitzer Prize-winning play "The Time of Your Life," he was as well-known as Ernest Hemingway and John Steinbeck.

"In 1942, he was No. 1 in readership and name recognition," said Dickran Kouymjian, a friend of Saroyan and retired chairman of the Armenian studies program at California State University, Fresno.

But things changed for Saroyan after World War II. His light dimmed, leaving future generations to ponder what happened and to wonder whether that light might ever return.

Experts see no simple reason for Saroyan's flagging popularity. He didn't retire, nor did he flame out. He remained a writer to the end, which makes his long fade-out as fascinating as his rapid rise.

Saroyan rose to prominence by being ahead of his time, said David Calonne, a lecturer in the English department at Eastern Michigan University and the author of "William Saroyan: My Real Work Is Being." His stories were kettles of ethnic stew long before multiculturalism was popular. Not only did he write about Armenians, he also worked Mexicans, Filipinos, Italians and members of other ethnic groups into his tales.

"He also was way ahead of his time in terms of style," Calonne added. "His work was very lyrical and poetic, with a Walt Whitmanlike line that was new in American prose."

Saroyan's creative energy helped fuel his rapid rise. After breaking into print in 1934, he wrote, by his own account, 100 short stories a year for five years. His work appeared before television took over American homes and short stories fell out of fashion.

Saroyan came on the national scene during the Great Depression, and readers often saw themselves in his stories, which gave them hope that the human spirit could survive.

Another trait that set Saroyan apart was his ability to cross genres as a writer, said Michael Kovacs, who teaches English and creative writing at Gavilan College in Gilroy. He began as a master of the short story, saw his plays produced on Broadway, wrote song lyrics and novels and, toward the end of his life, reflected on the past through memoirs.

Saroyan's personality also helped keep him in the public eye. When he refused the \$1,000 Pulitzer Prize money for "The Time of Your Life," he cast himself, intentionally or not, as anti-establishment.

"He didn't come out of Harvard or Yale," Kovacs said. "He taught himself to write."

Jack Kerouac and the other Beat Generation writers were influenced by Saroyan.

"The beats were reading Saroyan for his message and his experiments with writing," he said.

In his book, Calonne calls Saroyan a "literary godfather" to the Beat Generation:

"In his early prose, Saroyan was a true innovator, spawning a fresh new style — a fusion of jazz, Whitman, the quick tempi of American life, popular songs and the oral tradition of Armenian literature. It is precisely this oral, musical dimension of Saroyan's prose-poetry,



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along with its emphasis on immediate, passionate experience, which appealed so powerfully to the Beats: his words are meant to be heard."

Paul Marion, in his introduction to "Atop an Underwood," a collection of 60 unpublished works by Kerouac, tells of a poem Kerouac wrote at age 18 in which he said he would "nibble at some sweet Saroyan" for dessert when he fed his head with books.

But Saroyan's legacy suffers because he has no great novels to his credit, said Fresno journalist and writer Mark Arax, who knew Saroyan.

"He was spontaneous," Arax said. "He wrote in these incredible bursts of energy and creativity. That kind of talent served him best in short stories. I think he found the writing of the great American novel, and all the character development you have to do, a little tedious."

With no serious novels they could celebrate, critics could easily write Saroyan off as simply a Depression-era writer of lovely short stories, Arax said.

Several other explanations have been offered for Saroyan's declining popularity after World War II.

"Some people say he was too sentimental," Calonne observed. "They saw him as this sweet Santa Claus figure from the 1930s who was speaking to a different mood in the post-nuclear age."

A new generation of critics trashed Saroyan's writing style and faulted him for not addressing social issues in his work, said Saroyan scholar Micah Jendian, a Fresno native who teaches English at Grossmont College in El Cajon.

The literary establishment believed stories should have structure, but Saroyan was a native storyteller who didn't always use conventional plot techniques.

Kouymjian, who addressed this conflict in an essay entitled "Who Reads Saroyan Today?" believes critics found Saroyan's unorthodox style difficult to categorize and failed to understand that he was using imagination as the form for his plays.

Saroyan's ego, which manifested itself in a stubborn refusal to revise his work or to take criticism lightly, also contributed to his ebbing status.

Rather than accept editorial changes, Saroyan found it easier to change publishers.

Random House published Saroyan's first collection of short stories but refused to include everything he submitted for his second anthology, "Inhale and Exhale." The disagreement caused Saroyan to cut his ties with Random House after the second book came out.

"Saroyan didn't want to work on revisions, so he went to a different publisher," Kouymjian said, noting that learning to work with editors might have extended his period of popularity.

Saroyan's voice as a writer also got in the way.

"He had such an incredible voice," Arax said. "The problem was it became his gift and curse. He never moved beyond his voice. It was so booming and so Godlike, from the sky, he was constrained by it. He never developed characters that had other voices. All his characters were Saroyan. I think that explains why he made a mark in literature, but it also explains why critics today see him as one-dimensional."

Saroyan's ultimate place in American literature is open to question. Some doubt he will ever regain the stature he once enjoyed. Others believe he may be rediscovered someday.

"Right now, there isn't much of a place for him in American literature," Kovacs said. "Saroyan is not studied in school, and unless he is taught, he won't be in the literary canon."

Saroyan's works are not required reading in the Fresno and Clovis school districts, although teachers are free to incorporate them into lit-



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SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CA
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erature classes.

The Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State offers a course on Saroyan, but the English Department does not, even though department Chairman James Walton admires the writer.

Walton said professors tend to teach what they studied in graduate school, which may be one reason why interest in Saroyan is lagging.

"I don't recall ever seeing a presentation on Saroyan at a meeting of the Modern Language Association of America," he said, referring to the nation's foremost association of language and literary scholars.

Saroyan short stories have started to reappear in anthologies, Calonne said. That exposure could gain Saroyan a new generation of fans, he added, but it may not be enough to generate the kind of critical reappraisal needed to elevate his stature.

"What is needed is for some well-known critics to take up the cause," Calonne said.

Jendian believes critics will rediscover Saroyan.

"I see it coming," he said. "In

Saroyan, you have a writer who was dedicated to artistic integrity. A closer examination of his work will yield that kind of relevance."

Forgotten writers have been rediscovered before, he said, citing Zora Neale Hurston as an example. Hurston was a folklorist and writer who died in obscurity in 1960. Interest in her work was renewed in 1975 when African-American novelist Alice Walker wrote an article "In Search of Zora Neale Hurston" for Ms. magazine.

The 20 years when Saroyan was at the top of his game are worth looking at, Kovacs said. That productive period, plus Saroyan's influence on writers such as Kerouac, could revive critical interest, he said.

"The literary stock market goes up and down," said Aram Saroyan, son of William Saroyan. "It's capricious. My father's standing right now is unclear. He once said to me that a writer is remembered for his best stuff, not his worst stuff. The highest level of my father's work stands with anyone in his literary generation."



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CA

DATE: June 12, 2008

SUBJECT: CSUF ASP Announces Scholarships for 2008-2009

PAGE: 1 of 1

CSUF ASP Announces Scholarships & Grants Available for 2008-2009

FRESNO - The Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno reported that applications are now being accepted for scholarships and research grants for the 2008-2009 academic year, beginning August 2008.

Last year more than \$70,000 was awarded from 16 scholarship funds to more than fifty students. These scholarships encourage students to pursue minors in Armenian Studies and to enroll in the various course offerings. First time students (Fall 2008) at Fresno State are especially encouraged to apply.

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Only students who are enrolled at Fresno State are eligible to receive the scholarships. High school seniors planning to attend Fresno State in the Fall 2008 semester, may also apply.

For more information please call the Armenian Studies Program office at 559-278-2669.

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1) Nerces and Ruth Azadian Memorial Scholarship

2) Kirkor and Mary Bedoian Memorial Scholarship

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5) Albert and Isabelle Kabrielian Scholarship for Armenian Studies

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10) Mary Nalchajian Scholarship

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12) Pete P. Peters Endowment Scholarships

13) Haig Tashjian Memorial Scholarship

14) Genevieve Tatoian Scholarship

15) Telfeyan Evangelical Fund, Inc. Scholarship

Harry and Mary Topoozian Armenian Studies Merit Scholarship Fund



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CADATE: June 12, 2008SUBJECT: Photographer of Historic Armenian Churches in Turkey diesPAGE: 1 of 1**Photographer of Historic Armenian Churches in Turkey Dies in California**

He was a lawyer who photographed historic Armenian churches in Turkey.

Richard A. Elbrecht expressed his concern for others with a firm grasp of the law, a passion for preserving cultural treasures and tireless dedication.

He championed the rights of consumers and small businesses as a lawyer, including 27 years heading the legal services unit at the California Department of Consumer Affairs. Although officially retired in 2003, he continued working as a state annuitant to update a handbook for small-claims court judges and consumer advocates.

He spent two decades with his wife photographing historic Armenian churches and cathedrals in eastern Turkey. During nine trips, they captured images of the rich heritage of a nation nearly destroyed by 20th-century genocide. In December, the couple agreed to donate the collection of 157 prints to the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno.

Elbrecht was in Fresno to meet with CSU officials about creating a Web page for the project when he died Monday of heart arrhythmia at his hotel, said his wife, Anne. He was 74.

"This collection is an invaluable gift," said Armenian studies lecturer Barlow Der Mugardechian at CSU, Fresno. "It will make the program the foremost archive of these historic churches anywhere in the world and accessible to everyone on the Internet."

During a vacation trip to Turkey in 1987, Elbrecht and his wife learned many Armenian churches had been abandoned since the 1915 genocide. The couple began a mission to document the ancient religious monuments, traveling back roads without guides to photograph churches built as early as the 7th

century.

The images were widely exhibited at Armenian churches in California and during international conferences of scholars on historic Armenia at UCLA.

Elbrecht devoted his life to helping others. He spent six years as a lawyer at the Legal Aid Society in San Jose and became deputy director of the National Consumer Law Center in Boston in 1970. He wrote manuals on federal consumer law and helped draft the Wisconsin Consumer Act.

He returned after two years to private practice in California and was recruited in 1976 to create and lead the legal services unit of the state Consumer Affairs Department.

Richard Allen Elbrecht was born in 1933 in Cleveland. He grew up with a younger sister in Lyndhurst, Ohio, where their father was mayor for 25 years.

He was a sports photographer for the campus newspaper at Yale University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in economics in 1955. He served two years in the Navy, earned a law degree from the University of Michigan in 1960 and moved to San Jose. He spent six years in private practice before joining the Legal Aid Society.

A 22-year marriage ended in divorce. He married Anne Elbrecht in 1983.

"Richard was an extroverted, super-high-energy person," Anne Elbrecht said. "He wanted to start back into photography, and this was a project we decided to do. It was a way to help others."

Her is survived by his wife Anne, of Davis; sons, Brian, of Sacramento, and Steven, of Long Beach, and sister, Marilyn Zimmann, of Salem, Ohio.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, 5245 N. Backer Ave., M/S PB4, Fresno, CA 93740-8001.



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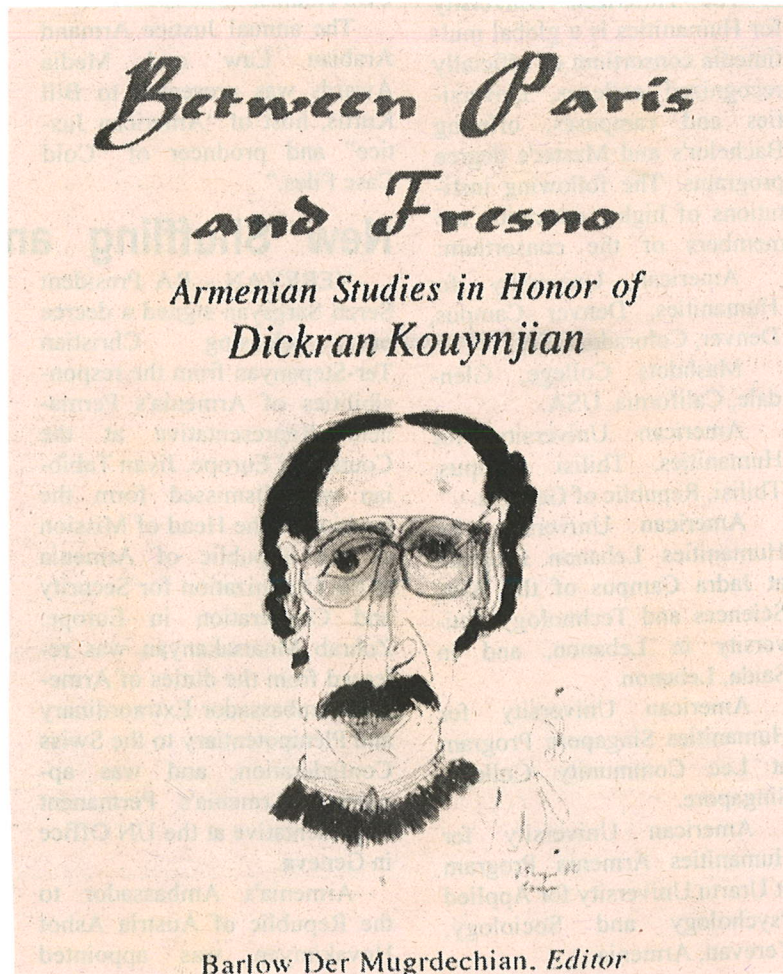
SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CA

DATE: June 11, 2008

SUBJECT: Honoring Dickran Kouymjian

PAGE: 1 of 2

Festschrift in Honor of Dickran Kouymjian: Between Paris and Fresno: Armenian Studies in Honor of Dickran Kouymjian



**ARCHIVE****SOURCE:** The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CA**SUBJECT:** Honoring Dickran Kouymjian**DATE:** June 11, 2008**PAGE:** 2 of 2

Mazda Publishers of Costa Mesa, California announces the April 2008 publication of *Between Paris and Fresno: Armenian Studies in Honor of Dickran Kouymjian*, which pays tribute to the distinguished academic career of Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies and Director of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.

Edited by Barlow Der Mugrdechian, a long-time colleague of Kouymjian's in the Armenian Studies Program, the articles included in the 816 page *Festschrift* underline the broad spectrum of Kouymjian's interests in Armenian, Islamic, Classical, and Byzantine history and art, the humanities, literature, film, genocide, and Saroyan studies.

The official languages of *Between Paris and Fresno* are English and French, with thirty-seven articles in English and nine in French. The forty-six contributors are from such diverse countries as Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Ireland, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the United States.

The contributors, who are among the top scholars in the world, include: Rouben Adalian, Joseph Alexanian, Sebouh Aslanian, Artsvi Bakhchinyan, Peter Balakian, George Bournoutian, Azat Bozoyan, Marco Brambilla, Helmut Buschhausen, David Calonne, Levon Chookaszian, James Clackson, Peter Cowe, Claude Cox, Yolande Crowe, Gérard Dé-déyan, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Roberta Ervine, Eric Hamp, Richard Hovannisian, Micah Jendian, Harry Keyishian, Michael Kovacs, Henning Lehmann, Christina Maranci, Marielle Martiniani-Reber, Vartan Matiossian, Barbara Merguerian, Claude Mutfian, Mikael Nchanian, Hilary Richardson, Vahram Shemmasian, Lorne Shirinian, Michael Stone, Ronald Suny, Yves Terson, Robert Thomson, Giusto Traina, Gabriella Uluhogian, Edda Vardanyan, Bert Vaux, Aram Veaser, Christopher Walker, Jos Weitenberg, Christopher Young, and Boghos Levon Vardapet Zekian.

The idea of preparing a *Festschrift* was formulated in late 2003 and a first announcement and solicitation for articles began early in 2004, coinciding with several significant milestones in Dr. Kouymjian's life:

his seventieth birthday (1934-2004); his forty-fifth year as a university teacher (1959-2004); and his fifteenth year as holder of the Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies (1989-2004).

In addition to serving as Coordinator-Director of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, for the last thirty-one years, Professor Kouymjian has, since 1989, been the holder of the Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies.

Between Paris and Fresno: Armenian Studies in Honor of Dickran Kouymjian will be a lasting tribute to Dr. Kouymjian.

The Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund (New York) provided a generous subvention, which made publication of this *Festschrift* possible.

Between Paris and Fresno is available through the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State for a special price of \$40 per volume, plus \$5 shipping and handling in the United States. This price will be good only through June 30, 2008. Please email barlowd@csufresno.edu for ordering information.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: California Courier: Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: Armenian Recall Valley Prejudice

DATE: June 5, 2008
PAGE: 1 of 3

Armenians Recall Valley Prejudice

By Doug Hoagland
The Fresno Bee

Sam Kalfayan angrily grabbed the real estate salesman by the tie.

Kalfayan's chest tightened beneath the U.S. Army uniform he still wore after returning from World War II. Kalfayan had risked his life for his country, but now he was being told he couldn't buy a house in a Fresno neighborhood because he was Armenian.

"I was so goddamned mad I could have killed the bastard," recalled Kalfayan, now 97.

He felt as if he had been sucker-punched that summer day in 1945. Yet the property restriction was nothing new. For decades, deeds barred Armenians from some Fresno Prejudice and discrimination greeted Armenians as surely as the Valley's mild weather and towering mountains in the distance reminded them of their homeland.

Early-day Armenians, including author William Saroyan, adjusted. But they didn't forget.

Saroyan's previously unpublished novella, "Follow" — written about 1930 and now being serialized in *The Bee* — touches on prejudice.

In chapter four, protagonist Aram Diranian of Fresno scrawls "American" on an application form when asked to describe his nationality. "My people are Armenians," he acknowledges to an employment-agency clerk who questions this answer.

But he silently thinks: "It would be good to get away from this town. Here he would always be an Armenian, there would never be any escape from that, but in the outer world no one would care what he was, no one would dare look down upon him as an inferior."

Today, the discrimination is illegal and the prejudice has faded.

Many Valley residents know nothing about it. And some older Armenians don't like talking about those dark days.

While young Armenians such as 21-year-old Knar Mekhitarian of Fresno have heard stories of prejudice and discrimination from family members, their lives have been different.

"I don't feel discriminated against, and that's a good feeling," Mekhitarian said.

Yet some older Armenians offer poignant reminders.

"Just being what I am, I feel unclean," said 88-year-old Bob Der Mugrdechian of Clovis, his voice quavering with emotion.

Prejudice "dies hard," and still exists, though subtly, said Dickran Kouymjian, professor emeritus and just-retired director of the Armenian studies program at California State University, Fresno. "It's just gone underground. The great majority of Fresno has no prejudice toward the Armenians. But there is a residual something. I don't know what you call it. Maybe suspicion."

Some think the fact that many Armenians prospered — doing better than some established Fresno — inflamed passions against them. But their prosperity ultimately led to their acceptance in a society where — as Saroyan once wrote — people respect money.

"That damn money did it," said 95-year-old Susie Baboian Hedges, a Fresno Armenian who married an odor — a non-Armenian. "You can swing your weight around when you have moola."

The most glaring prejudice and discrimination against Armenians in Fresno occurred from the 1890s to the 1940s, and one of the first documented cases took place in — of all places — a house of worship, according to historical accounts.

In the 1890s, Congregational minister J.H. Collins demanded that Armenians sit by themselves in church. He also removed hymnals and Bibles from their seats and announced he wanted to rid his congregation of Armenian parishioners. He even came down from the pulpit during one Sunday service to supervise the expulsion of an Armenian from a restricted pew.

Church officials eventually censured Collins, but the Armenians started their own Congregational church. Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church, now on First Street, still exists.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: California Courier: Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: Armenian Recall Valley Prejudice

DATE: June 5, 2008
PAGE: 2 of 3

Businesses discriminated, too. In 1899, The Traders Insurance Company of Chicago sent its Fresno agent a letter instructing him to cancel the policies of Armenians.

They were considered too risky and a "hazard" because they had enemies in the community, the letter read.

Many insurance companies wouldn't sell to Armenians because they were suspected of buying policies on their businesses and then committing arson, said Bill Secrest Jr., local history librarian at the Fresno County Library.

One historian looked into the allegations but found no evidence to support them, Secrest said.

Armenians also faced barriers in housing.

By 1920, most lived near Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, at M and Ventura avenues, in what was called Armenian Town. Neighborhoods in the "exclusive" Fig Garden, Huntington Boulevard and Sunnyside areas were off-limits to Armenian families, first by tacit understanding among sellers and then by restrictive clauses in deeds, Secrest said.

One property deed from the 1920s says that for 15 years no person of "Negro or Mongolian origin, nor any subject or former subject of the Turkish Empire" could live on the property, except as a household worker.

Armenians had lived in the Ottoman Empire and genocide there killed 1.5 million of them between 1915 and 1923. The nation of Tur-

key emerged from the empire's collapse in World War I.

Many Armenians came to Fresno as political refugees.

Fresno had never before experienced a big influx of non-European immigrants other than Chinese and Japanese.

The poor felt threatened by the hard-working Armenian merchants and farmers, while the powerful disliked the Armenians' ambition, Kouymjian said.

People, it seemed, felt free to openly express their anti-Armenian prejudice.

"Why encourage this decadent parasitic race to emigrate here when there are millions of the finest stock in England, Scandinavia, Germany and France ready to come here?" a Fresno doctor told Stanford University doctoral student Richard LaPiere in the late 1920s. LaPiere, who was writing a dissertation about Fresno Armenians, did not name the people he interviewed.

A teacher asked LaPiere: "Why should we try to assimilate these peoples and disturb the otherwise smooth equilibrium of our race. I believe in race purity and the pride of all peoples in keeping their race pure."

Armenians drew on their own pride to help sustain them, Kouymjian said. They knew their history — how their kings had battled the mighty Roman Empire and how Armenia was the first Christian nation.

"There was an innate self-confidence," Kouymjian said. "Our history told us we had been valiant, famous and wealthy once and it could be that way again."

Armenians also had learned to live as second-class citizens in the Ottoman Empire, Kouymjian said, and many could handle the early-day hostility in Fresno.

Yet some Armenians were so stung by the prejudice in the Valley that they changed their last names — eliminating the i-a-n, a telltale sign of Armenian parentage.

Celebrated San Francisco defense attorney Charles Garry was born Garabed Garabedian and grew up in Selma from 1914 to 1929.

He earned top grades at Selma High and should have been a candidate to give the valedictory speech at graduation. But his principal said that was impossible because he was Armenian, Garry told Fresno journalist Roger Tatarian years later.

"... of course you understand," the principal told the Garabedians.

Garry changed his name and didn't return to the Valley for decades. At his 1979 homecoming, according to news accounts, he told a banquet of the Armenian General Benevolent Union in Fresno:

"I hate this place. I hate Fresno County. I hate every part of it, because I have sensed and felt racism to its highest intent. I learned what racism is. I learned what it is to be a member of a minority. I learned



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: California Courier: Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: Armenian Recall Valley Prejudice

DATE: June 5, 2008
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what it is to be scorned upon, despised and hated."

Garry — who defended anti-establishment activists and militant radicals like Huey Newton and Eldridge Cleaver — died in 1991.

Some families pragmatically accepted changing their names.

"I didn't think nothing [of it] at all because of the prejudice we had here," said 101-year-old Arthur Rustigan, a retired Fresno restaurateur, who was born a Rustigian. His oldest brother changed the name around 1920, part of a trend that was most common in the 1920s and 1930s.

While Rustigan knew the sting of prejudice — he didn't feel welcome at high school dances and games in the 1920s — he said it's painful to dredge up the details. "That doesn't set right with me," he said.

The evolution of prejudice in Fresno is seen in the stories told by Rustigan's son, Jack.

He fought with new classmates in elementary school who taunted him after the family moved from Armenian Town to then-north Fresno at McKinley and Blackstone avenues in the mid-1940s. Jack Rustigan, now 70 and a pharmacist, was called a "black Armenian" — an insult apparently based on some Armenians' olive complexion turning darker after a summer in the Valley sun.

But by junior high school, Jack Rustigan said, he was accepted and he was elected class president at Fresno High School in the early 1950s.

In the 1980s, Jack Rustigan got angry when his then-teenage son — who felt no prejudice — wanted to wear a badge to school that read, "Armenian Power."

"I didn't want him to get whacked or yelled at," Rustigan said. "I flashed back to the old days when there was prejudice against us and you didn't flaunt that you were Armenian."

While it might seem odd today when civil rights movements of all kinds flourish, a movement for Armenians never sprung up in Fresno. Kouymjian said he doesn't know why, but believes that Armenians had one advantage over blacks and Hispanics: "They didn't have the strike of color against them."

Fresno author Berge Bulbulian ("The Fresno Armenians: History of a Diaspora Community") said it wasn't in the Armenian nature to take to the streets in protest.

"They were making their lives," he said. "They were happy living in Armenian Town. They could become professionals. They just let it go and it cured itself. Protesting wasn't their way of doing things."

Instead, a generation of people like Sam Kalfayan went to school, got jobs and raised families. After World War II, Kalfayan earned several degrees, including master's degrees in agricultural economics and public administration, and he worked as a manager for several California cities.

A long life has left him with many memories. None seems more vivid than the day in 1945 when he was a war veteran and he wanted to put down \$5,000 for a house in southeast Fresno. After being rejected as an Armenian, Kalfayan stormed off to the district attorney's office for assistance.

"My friend and my hero," the district attorney told him, "I'm sorry. I can't help you because this is not a criminal matter. It's a civil matter."

Kalfayan decided not to sue, because he believed a lawyer would only take his money and nothing would change — though eventually the government did outlaw housing discrimination.

Progress doesn't take away pain, however.

"Some things you don't accept," Kalfayan said, sobs mixing with his words. "That was an insult I couldn't take."



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Watertown, MA
SUBJECT: Honoring Dickran Kouymjian

DATE: May 31, 2008
PAGE: 1 of 1

Book of Essays Honors Dickran Kouymjian

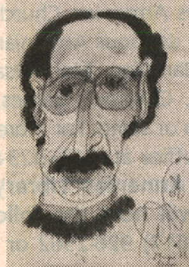
FRESNO, Calif. — Mazda Publishers of Costa Mesa, Calif., announces the publication of *Between Paris and Fresno: Armenian Studies in Honor of Dickran Kouymjian*, which pays tribute to the career of Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies and director of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State. Edited by Barlow Der Mugrdechian, a longtime colleague of Kouymjian's in the Armenian Studies Program, the articles included in the 816-page *Festschrift* (or collection of essays honoring an academic) underline the broad spectrum of Kouymjian's interests in Armenian, Islamic, Classical and Byzantine history and art, the humanities, literature, film, genocide and Saroyan studies.

The official languages of *Between Paris and Fresno* are English and French, with 37 articles in English and nine in French. The 46 contributors are from such diverse countries as Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Ireland, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States.

The contributors, who are among the top scholars in the world, include: Rouben Adalian, Joseph Alexanian, Sebouh Aslanian, Artsvi Bakhchinyan, Peter Balakian, George Bournoutian, Azat Bozoyan, Marco Brambilla,

Helmut Buschhausen, David Calonne, Levon Chookaszian, James Clackson, Peter Cowe, Claude Cox, Yolande Crowe, Gérard Dédéyan, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Roberta Ervine, Eric Hamp, Richard Hovannisian, Micah Jendian, Harry Keyishian, Michael Kovacs, Henning Lehmann, Christina Maranci, Marielle Martiniani-Reber, Vartan Matiossian, Barbara Merguerian, Claude Mutafian, Mikaël Nchanian, Hilary Richardson, Vahram Shemmassian, Lorne Shirinian, Michael Stone, Ronald Suny, Yves Ternon, Robert Thomson, Giusto Traina, Gabriella Uluhogian, Edda Vardanyan, Bert Vaux, Aram Veaser, Christopher Walker, Jos Weitenberg, Christopher Young and Boghos Levon Vardapet Zekian.

Between Paris and Fresno Armenian Studies in Honor of Dickran Kouymjian



Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Editor

The idea of preparing this book was formulated in late 2003 and a first announcement and solicitation for articles began early in 2004, coinciding with several significant milestones in Kouymjian's life: his 70th birthday, his 45th year as a university teacher and his 15th year as holder of the Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies (1989-2004).

A donation from the Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund (New York) made the publication of this book possible.

For inquiries about purchasing the book, e-mail barlowd@csufresno.edu.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CA

DATE: May 22, 2008

SUBJECT: Between Paris and Fresno: In honor of Dr. Kouymjian PAGE: 1 of 1

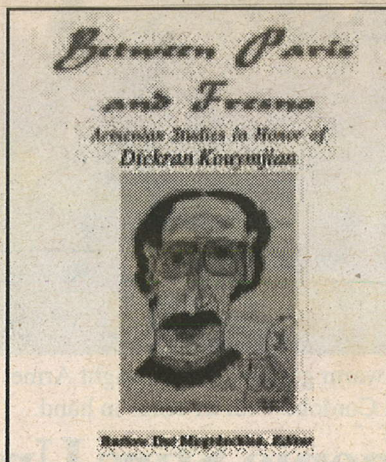
Between Paris and Fresno: Armenian Studies in Honor of Dickran Kouymjian

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Uluhogian, Edda Vardanyan, Bert Vaux, Aram Veaser, Christopher Walker, Jos Weitenberg, Christopher Young, and Boghos Levon Vardapet Zekian.

The idea of preparing a *Festschrift* was formulated in late 2003 and a first announcement and solicitation for articles began early in 2004, coinciding with several significant milestones in Dr. Kouymjian's life: his seventieth birthday (1934-2004); his forty-fifth year as a university teacher

(1959-2004); and his fifteenth year as holder of the Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies (1989-2004).

In addition to serving as Coordinator-Director of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, for the last thirty-one years, Professor Kouymjian has, since 1989, been the holder of the Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies.

Between Paris and Fresno: Armenian Studies in Honor of Dickran Kouymjian will be a lasting tribute to Dr. Kouymjian.

The Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund (New York) provided a generous subvention, which made publication of this *Festschrift* possible.

Between Paris and Fresno is available through the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State for a special price of \$40 per volume, plus \$5 shipping and handling in the United States. This price will be good only through June 30, 2008.

For ordering information, email barlowd@csufresno.edu.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: Dr. Kouymjian Recalls Visit with Dalai Lama

DATE: May 15, 2008
PAGE: 1 of 2

Chance Meeting

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian Recalls Visit with Dalai Lama

By Doug Hoagland
The Fresno Bee

Retiring professor Dickran Kouymjian met the Dalai Lama almost 50 years ago, when both men were in their 20s.

Fresno State professor Dickran Kouymjian met with the exiled Dalai Lama of Tibet long before the famous spiritual leader rocketed into the news on the shouts of protestors worldwide.

Thousands of angry people, including many in San Francisco last month, have railed against China's crackdown in Tibet.

These events stirred memories for Kouymjian, whose trek across the Middle East in green Bermuda shorts brought him face to face with the Dalai Lama nearly 50 years ago. The young Armenian-American carried in his rucksack a blue-and-white seersucker suit that he would wear during their brief meeting in 1959 in India. The Dalai Lama, a Buddhist monk who is both the exiled political and spiritual leader of Tibet, wore burgundy robes.

Both men were in their 20s. "It was an adventure, and yes, yes, yes, I wanted it," Kouymjian said of his trip. "I wanted to see things. I wanted to be in the action."

The Dalai Lama, who fled Tibet a few months before Kouymjian met him, had taken up exile in India, where he lives today. He had yet to become a figure who regularly confers with popes and presidents and a Nobel Peace Prize winner.

But even in 1959, the Dalai Lama emanated a peace and tranquillity that today is associated with his public persona, Kouymjian said. "I thought to myself, 'This is what they mean when they say idealist. This man is either a true spiritualist or terribly naïve,'" Kouymjian said. Tibetans believe the Dalai Lamas are "enlightened beings" who choose reincarnation to serve humanity, according to the Web site. Dalai means "ocean" in Mongolian, and lama in Tibetan often is translated as "spiritual teacher." The title means a teacher who is as spiritually deep as an ocean.

After China's invasion of Tibet in 1949, the current Dalai Lama assumed political power and negotiated with Chinese leaders, but fled to India in 1959 when China put down a Tibetan uprising, the Web site says.

The Dalai Lama's nonviolent philosophy is at odds with some youthful followers, Kouymjian said.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: Dr. Kouymjian Recalls Visit with Dalai Lama

DATE: May 15, 2008
PAGE: 2 of 2

"He's trying to control all these young Tibetans who expect him to be as militant as they are. They're not talking about peace and Buddhist messages of love and brotherhood. They want action."

Protests in San Francisco — and London and Paris, before that, which were tied to the upcoming Olympics in China — have helped focus world attention on the plight of the Tibetans, Kouymjian said: "It is important for Western leaders to know people are concerned about this."

Kouymjian, who grew up in the Midwest, was working as a freelance journalist when he met the Dalai Lama. After graduating from college, he had gone to Europe in 1958 to report on the World's Fair in Belgium. Next stop: Lebanon, where he worked on a master's degree. He later earned a doctorate. While living in Lebanon, he and his friend Andre Dirlik, now a retired professor from Canada's Royal Military College, made an overland trip to India.

The two men hitchhiked and rode buses and trains from Lebanon across Syria, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan and India. Officials in the Indian capital of Delhi didn't give Kouymjian much hope of meeting with the Dalai Lama, but he persisted.

Kouymjian said he called the Dalai Lama's representative and was granted an appointment after saying he had a friend who knew the Dalai Lama's childhood tutor — an Austrian.

The Dalai Lama told Kouymjian that despite China's occupation of Tibet, he could not hate the Chinese because he needed to love his fellow man: "The long and short of it, he was trying to give me a moral lesson about love."

Kouymjian's traveling companion remembers the meeting with the Dalai Lama less significantly, calling it a lark.

"You just try your luck, and it worked," Dirlik said. The Dalai Lama was courteous but not terribly charismatic, and the conversation wasn't profound, Dirlik said from his Montreal home. The meeting lasted about an hour. Dirlik said he took a photo of Kouymjian and the Dalai Lama.

Kouymjian, 73, found a copy of that photo as he recently packed up his office. Thirty-two years after starting the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, Kouymjian is retiring and returning to Paris, where he has lived part time since the mid-1970s.

He savors his memory of the Dalai Lama.

"I thought it was a great privilege to see him," Kouymjian said, "and he let us believe he had passed a very pleasant hour with us."



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA
SUBJECT: Chance Meeting

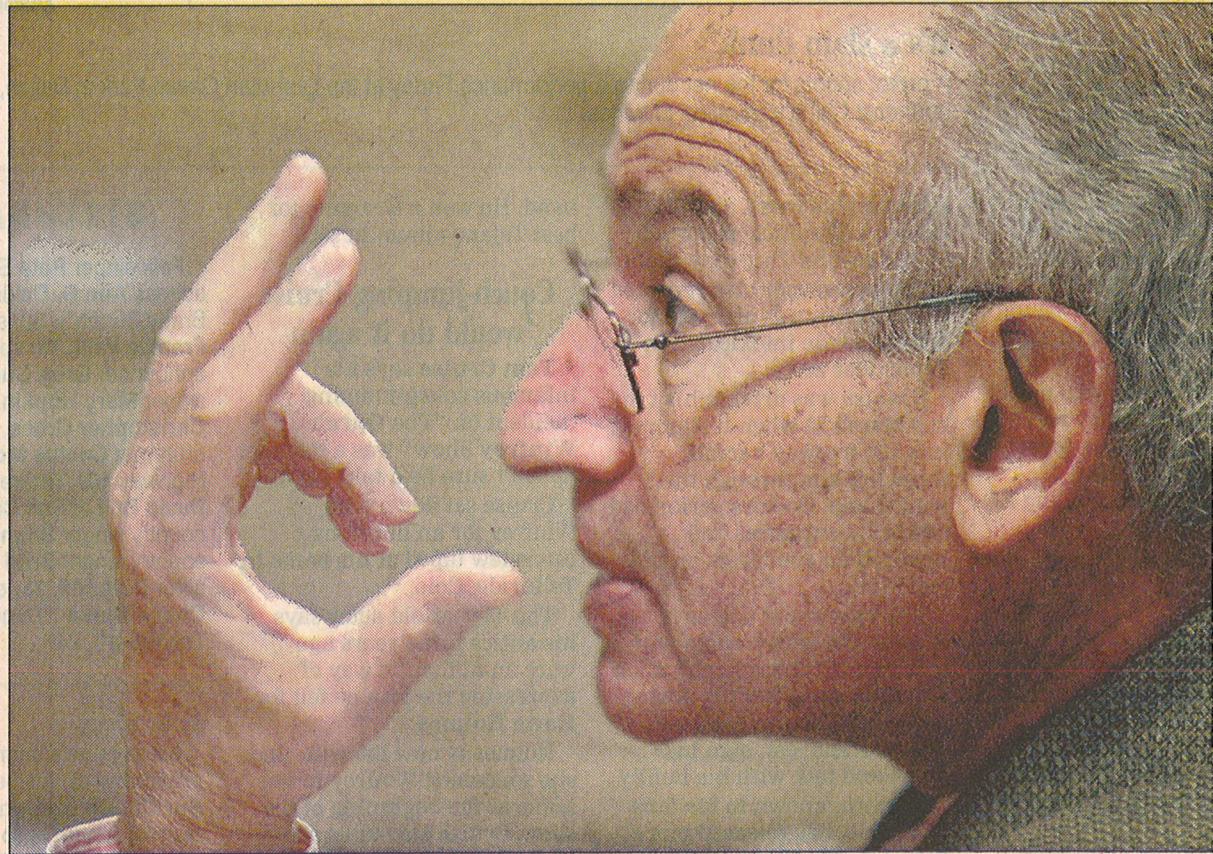
DATE: May 3, 2008
PAGE: 1 of 3

FAITH & VALUES

Chance meeting



Kouymjian's traveling companion took a photo of Kouymjian, left, and the Dalai Lama during the 1959 meeting that took place in India.



A Fresno State professor recalls his long-ago visit with the Dalai Lama.

By Doug Hoagland
The Fresno Bee

Fresno State professor Dickran Kouymjian met with the exiled Dalai Lama of Tibet long before the famous spiritual leader rocketed into the news on the shouts of protestors world-wide.

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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA
SUBJECT: Chance Meeting

DATE: May 3, 2008
PAGE: 2 of 3

Retiring professor Dickran Kouymjian met the Dalai Lama almost 50 years ago when both men were in their 20s.

Kouymjian said. "I thought to myself, 'This is what they mean when they say idealist. This man is either a true spiritualist or terribly naïve.' But he absolutely believed it was possible through love, communication and dialogue to resolve international crises."

While the Dalai Lama might be "overly optimistic" about the power of love in international politics, Kouymjian said, he's helpless to react any other way because he's "a victim of his deeply held convictions."

The Dalai Lama, born in 1935 to a farming family in a Tibetan village, was recognized at 2 as the reincarnation of the 13th Dalai

Lama, according to the Dalai Lama's Web site. Tibetans believe the Dalai Lamas are "enlightened beings" who choose reincarnation to serve humanity, according to the Web site. Dalai means "ocean" in Mongolian, and lama in Tibetan often is translated as "spiritual teacher." The title means a teacher who is as spiritually deep as an ocean.

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Chinese authorities blame the

Dalai Lama for recent protests in Tibet. He says a "cultural genocide" is occurring in his homeland.

The Dalai Lama's nonviolent philosophy is at odds with some youthful followers, Kouymjian said. "He's trying to control all these young Tibetans who expect him to be as militant as they are. They're not talking about peace and Buddhist messages of love and brotherhood. They want action."

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See **MEETING**, Page E4

"He's trying to control all these young Tibetans who expect him to be as militant as they are. They're not talking about peace and Buddhist messages of love and brotherhood. They want action."

— Dickran Kouymjian,

referring to how the Dalai Lama's nonviolent philosophy is at odds with some youthful followers

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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA

SUBJECT: Chance Meeting

DATE: May 3, 2008

PAGE: 3 of 3

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► The reporter can be reached at dhoagland@fresnobee.com or (559) 441-6354.

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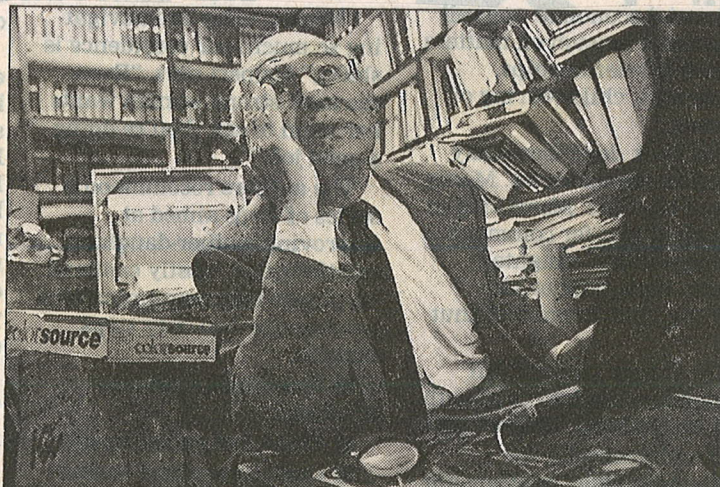
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ERIC PAUL ZAMORA/THE FRESNO BEE

Behind Dickran Kouymjian is a sample of the documents, books, and artwork the Armenian studies department has acquired.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Watertown, MADATE: May 3, 2008SUBJECT: As Armenian Survivors Age, Recog. Grows More UrgentPAGE: 1 of 1

As Armenian Survivors Age, Recognition Grows More Urgent

FRESNO, Calif. (*Fresno Bee*) — Lucy Jamgotchian of Fresno lived through the panic and peril of the Armenian Genocide. The tears she shed as a 6-year-old caused her mother to briefly abandon her as the family fled, fearful that her cries would cost them their lives.

But at age 98, her memories of the seminal event in Armenian history have largely faded. And many other survivors have died.

That worries a younger generation of Armenians. They fear their efforts to pressure the United States to formally recognize the Genocide will weaken without the emotional testimony of its survivors. Even more, they fear the residents who lived through the Genocide won't live to see it recognized by their adopted homeland.

"I can't imagine any Armenian who went through who isn't tremendously disappointed for the country they became citizens and pledged their allegiance to but didn't recognize it," said Alan Yengoyan, a Fresno County deputy district attorney whose mother, a genocide survivor, died in 1997.

On the 93rd anniversary of a day recognized as the start of the Genocide, fewer than a dozen survivors remain in California — and only an estimated 50 are still living nationwide, according to the Armenian National Committee, Western Region (ANC-WR), an Armenian-American advocacy organization.

For decades, congressional resolutions to formally recognize the event with the term "genocide" have stalled because of Turkey's strong opposition. The most recent attempt failed last year when President Bush warned that a genocide resolution would harm relations with Turkey, a US ally bordering Iraq and Iran.

The failure of Congress — and Turkey — to recognize the Genocide disappoints one of its survivors, Melena Boghosian of Fresno. At 102, she is one of the oldest survivors still living in the Fresno area.

"I want to see [genocide recognized] before I die," Boghosian said in Armenian. Her daughter, Jessy Shahbazian, interpreted for her.

Boghosian became an orphan when she was about 8 after Turks killed her parents, she said. Her aunt, who carried Boghosian as they traveled through the desert to Syria, also died.

Boghosian immigrated to the United States as an adult in the 1920s, eventually settling in Fresno.

About 60,000 residents of Armenian descent

live in Fresno County. Although Armenians began settling here in the 1880s, their numbers grew dramatically after the start of the Genocide.

Jamgotchian was a child when she traveled with her mother in a caravan fleeing the village of Van in August 1915, according to a written account by her younger brother, Bob Der Mugrdechian, who was born in Fresno.

Jamgotchian and her mother battled hunger and thirst and saw thousands of refugees die before they reached Tiflis, Georgia, according to Der Mugrdechian's book.

At one point, Jamgotchian cried so much that her mother was pressured by their group to leave her behind a boulder because her cries could alert the Turks to find them. Her mother couldn't bear leaving her behind and soon returned for her.

Jamgotchian's own recollections are hazy.

"We were suppose to hide away so we wouldn't be killed," she said holding a black-and-white photo of her family taken in Georgia in 1916. But asked for details, she replies: "I don't remember."

The fading memories of survivors like Jamgotchian add urgency to the effort to get Congress to recognize the Genocide, said Andrew Kzirian, executive director for the ANC-WR.

"It paints a very tragic story how justice will continue to be denied. It speaks volumes how it's important to recognize the Genocide [now] more than ever," he said.

Liebe Geft, director of the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, said survivors of the Jewish Holocaust are facing similar challenges as their numbers dwindle.

"There is nothing more powerful than the personal testimony of an eyewitness account," Geft said. "It makes a profound impression on everyone, young and old alike."

She added, "Because it's so personal, it's not easily forgotten."

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno, and a nephew of Jamgotchian, said he remains hopeful that the United States eventually will recognize the Genocide, but he is doubtful that it will happen soon.

"Even if none of the Genocide survivors lives to see that day, their stories will never die. It will be a case of having to depend on other evidence," Der Mugrdechian said. "The information is there if people wish to see it."



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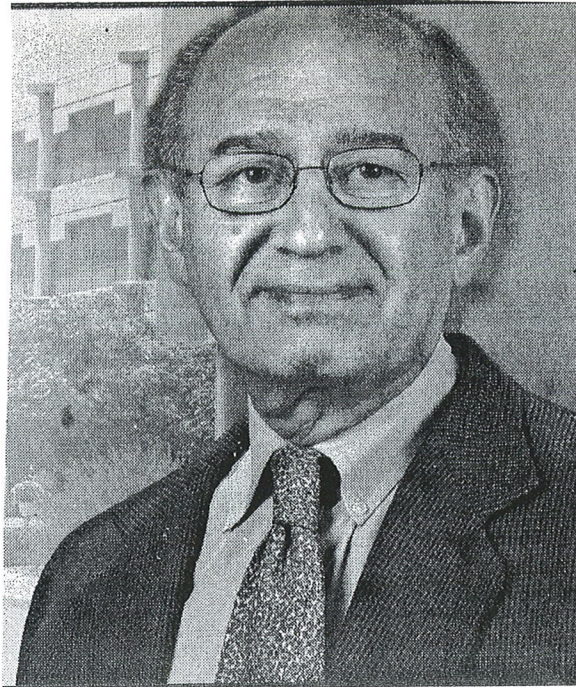
ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA

SUBJECT: Celebrating Cultures

DATE: April 21, 2008

PAGE: 1 of 1



Celebrating Cultures

Armenians are among the valley's most prominent and oldest immigrant groups. For more than 30 years, Fresno State has been a national leader in exploring the history and culture of a people with ancient roots.

Under Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, director of the university's Armenian studies program, the campus has become home to a large and active Armenian student community. Fresno State hosts numerous conferences, concerts and art exhibits, including two major international conferences on author William Saroyan.

We're also home to what is believed to be the nation's only Armenian student newspaper. At Fresno State, we bring the world to the classroom.



FRESNO STATE
POWERING THE NEW CALIFORNIA

More information at www.FresnoStateNews.com

On Campus

Wednesday, April 23 - 7 p.m.

"Authors and the Children of Authors"
Satellite Student Union

**ARCHIVE**SOURCE: The Collegian: Fresno, CADATE: April 14., 2008SUBJECT: 93rd Commemoration of the Armenian GenocidePAGE: 1 of 2**1915****2008**

93rd Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide

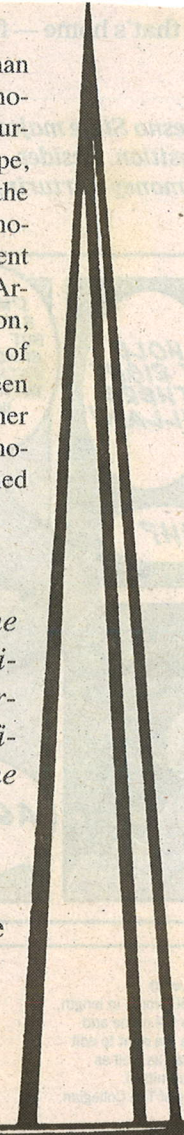
*Sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program
and the Armenian Students Organization of California State University Fresno*

The Armenian Genocide

The atrocities committed against the Armenian people of the Ottoman Empire during the period of 1915-1923 are called the Armenian Genocide. Genocide is the organized killing of a people for the express purpose of putting an end to their collective existence. Because of its scope, genocide is the quintessential state crime as only a government has the resources to carry out such a scheme of destruction. The Armenian Genocide was centrally planned and administered by the Turkish government against the entire Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire. The Armenian people were subjected to deportation, expropriation, abduction, torture, massacre, and starvation. After only a little more than a year of calm at the end of World War I, the atrocities were renewed between 1920 and 1923, and the remaining Armenians were subjected to further massacres and expulsions. In 1915, thirty-three years before the UN Genocide Convention was adopted, the Armenian Genocide was condemned by the international community as a crime against humanity.

"I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915."

Henry Morgenthau, Sr.
US Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire



Left: Armenian Martyrs Monument, Glendale, California.
Center and Right: Armenian Martyrs Monument, Yerevan, Armenia



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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Collegian: Fresno, CA

DATE: April 14., 2008

SUBJECT: 93rd Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide

PAGE: 2 of 2

Screening of the movie *Screamers*

with director Carla Garapedian
featuring the music of

System Of A Down

CNN -- "A brilliant film. Everyone should see it." (Larry King)

New York Times -- "... this invigorating and articulate film unfold at the sensitive intersection of entertainment and politics-the harrowing reminiscences of the lead singer Serj Tankian's grandfather, one of the few remaining Armenian eyewitness make the suffering personal." (Jeanette Catsoulis, 1/25/07)

Wednesday, April 16, 2008 • 7:30 p.m.

Save Mart Center

Leon and Pete Peters Educational Center

Free Admission

Genocide Commemoration

Thursday, April 24, 2008

11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Free Speech Area - Fresno State

Speakers and music

For more information or directions, contact the
Armenian Studies Program: 278-2669

funded by



Associated Students

California State University, Fresno

**ARCHIVE**SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter Int'l: Paramus, NJDATE: March 29, 2008SUBJECT: Dr. Kouymjian to be feted on Retirement from CSUFPAGE: 1 of 2

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian to be feted on retirement from CSU-Fresno

by Nyrie Karkazian

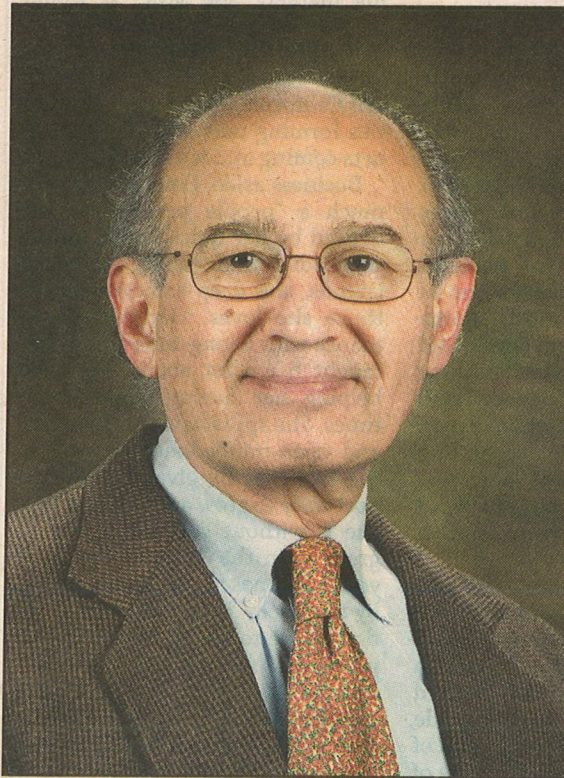
FRESNO, Calif. ♣ – To some he is an advisor, to others a scholar, to some a world traveler and others still, a friend. Whatever form Dr. Dickran Kouymjian may take, there is no doubt that he is and always will be a teacher, an educator and a legend who will be remembered for years to come.

"I have always tried to do my job here perfectly, in fact, more than perfectly," Dr. Kouymjian said.

Dr. Kouymjian's work will be celebrated on Saturday, April 5 at the 20th annual banquet of the Armenian Studies Program. The banquet is appropriately entitled "An Evening with Dr. Dickran Kouymjian."

The banquet was organized after the professor's announcement of his retirement from California State University, Fresno and will be a commemoration of Dr. Kouymjian's 31 years as Director of the Armenian Studies Program.

Dr. Kouymjian came to teach at Fresno State in spring of 1977. He went home to Paris in the summer and came back once again that year for the fall semester. He was also teaching at the American College of Paris at the time, but eventually left the College and decided to sign on as a full time Fresno State faculty member.



Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, who is retiring after 31 years at CSU-Fresno. See also the editorial on page A10.

"My goal at Fresno State was clear since the moment I got here," said Dr. Kouymjian. "I was charged by President Baxter [president of the University at the time] to establish a vital Armenian studies program."

Before Dr. Kouymjian ever came to the University there was a professor by the name of Louise Na-

lbandian who taught in the History department for ten years and in 1967 taught the first Armenian course at Fresno State called Armenian History.

Nalbandian, who was a pioneer in the Armenian Studies journey and set up a rudimentary program, tragically died in a highway

car crash in 1974. At her funeral President Baxter said that he was determined to establish a real program of Armenian Studies in her memory.

"From the beginning I had one goal and that was to institutionalize Armenian Studies at the University so that no matter what happened there would be courses that would have to be taught," Dr. Kouymjian said.

During his stay, Dr. Kouymjian began a campaign and raised money to institute the first endowed chair at Fresno State which would lock in the program so that the University would have to have Armenian Studies courses. The Haig and Isabel Berberian chair of the Armenian Studies Program was the very first endowed chair in all 23 campuses of the University system.

Dr. Kouymjian became the chair coordinator and has been the chair holder for the last 20 years.

The commencement of the chair led to many courses in general education including courses in language, literature, art and history. According to Dr. Kouymjian this accelerated the visibility of the program remarkably.

In 1979 Dr. Kouymjian began to gather students in hope of starting an Armenian newspaper run by the students of the program.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter Int'l: Paramus, NJ

DATE: March 29, 2008

SUBJECT: Dr. Kouymjian to be feted on Retirement from CSUF

PAGE: 2 of 2

A newspaper was eventually produced called the *Hye Sharzhoom*.

Dr. Kouymjian also embarked on a lecture series as well as revitalizing the Armenian Students Organization on the way.

"Time came for me to think about my retirement, not that I was tired, but I live in Paris, it's a long commute," Dr. Kouymjian said.

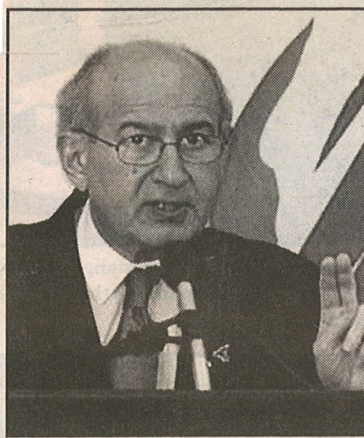
He signed on for the early retirement program which allowed him to continue teaching for five years, one semester each year. Although he knew very well that he would be retiring this year he was surprised by the fact that the banquet is in honor of him.

Dr. Kouymjian said that he is truly touched that Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program has decided to prepare a volume of scholarly articles in his honor by his colleagues.

Some scholars receive a book like this toward the end of their career, but the number of people who obtain such a great gift are rare. The book is often called a Festschrift, or Festival Book, in German.

A few years earlier Der Mugrdechian decided to prepare such a book for Dr. Kouymjian, but Dr. Kouymjian told him that it was not necessary.

"I'm neither Haig Berberian nor George Miles, I'm just a simple guy who ended up in Fresno," said Dr. Kouymjian, who made Festschrift's for both Berberian and Miles in the past.



Dr. Dickran Kouymjian.

Der Mugrdechian has been working on the project since then and has collected almost 50 articles from 10 or 12 countries. The book will be about 800 pages long and a copy will hopefully be present at the banquet.

The hard bound book is entitled *Between Paris and Fresno: Armenian Studies in Honor of Dr. Dickran Kouymjian* and can be found on Amazon.com.

"That's really a tribute, I feel honored by that; it means something to me," Dr. Kouymjian said.

Dr. Kouymjian will be leaving for Paris after the end of the semester. "I will miss the many close ties my wife and I have established among students, present and past, those among the faculty and administration who have been particularly close to the work of the Armenian Studies Program, and our

many, many Armenian community friends, individuals and entire families alike, who have given us support and affection," he said.

When asked what he will miss the most about the Armenian Studies Program, Dr. Kouymjian said teaching the students.

Dr. Kouymjian was sent an official letter from the President of Fresno State Dr. John Welty in which the University has bestowed upon him the title of Endowed Chair Emeritus of the Armenian Studies Program.

"In many ways I feel whatever mission I was charged with when appointed 32 years ago to establish a vital Armenian studies program at Fresno State, I have accomplished by institutionalizing this discipline at our University. The greatest satisfaction I can have is to see the program flourish in the coming years and decades under new leadership combined with continuity. My hope is that the Program and its resources will be exploited more and more in the domain of research, attracting with it our current and future holding scholars," said Dr. Kouymjian in his thank you letter to President Welty.

The banquet will be held on Fresno State's campus at the Residents Dining Hall; reception at 6p.m. dinner at 7p.m. Scholarship recipients of the Armenian Studies Program will also be recognized during the program. The cost of the event is \$30 for adults and \$20 for students.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter Int'l: Paramus, NJDATE: March 29, 2008SUBJECT: Armenian Studies Role Model: Dr. KouymjianPAGE: 1 of 1

Armenian studies role model: Dickran Kouymjian

Professor Dickran Kouymjian, who has announced his retirement from California State University, Fresno, will be feted on April 5 at the 20th annual banquet of the university's Armenian Studies Program. Dr. Kouymjian has served as the director of the program for 31 years.

We join the Fresno community in paying our respects to Dr. Kouymjian.

He initially made a name for himself in numismatics, and more specifically the study of medieval coins. His scholarly work since has extended to various aspects of medieval Armenian Christian art. Beyond that, Dr. Kouymjian is widely respected as an expert on William Saroyan. He edited and wrote the introduction to *William Saroyan: An Armenian Trilogy* (1986), and has organized conferences on Saroyan.

On arriving at Fresno in 1976, Dr. Kouymjian set out to restart an Armenian Studies Program that had faded away. He realized that the key to long-term success was to institutionalize the program: to make Armenian studies an accepted, formal, and integrated part of the university curriculum, preferably with its own endowments. In this he has definitely succeeded.


CSU-Fresno has by far the largest undergraduate program in Armenian studies in the United States. Two full-time faculty members and an annual visiting professor teach between 100 and 200 students every semester. About half are Armenian-American. Courses include Armenian language, literature, history, art and architecture, film, music, and genocide studies. The program also has a newspaper, *Hye Sharzhoun*, published since 1978.

Dr. Kouymjian has taken the idea of institutionalizing Armenian studies beyond Fresno. He was one of the founders of the Society for Armenian Studies (1974) and of the Association internationale des études arméniennes (1982).

Having grown up in the Midwest and attended the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Dr. Kouymjian started out as a freelance journalist (with *Down Beat*, the jazz magazine); he later started a press service, and found himself in Lebanon, covering events like the revolution in Iraq. While there, he attended the American University of Beirut as a graduate student of Arab studies. He later started a literary agency in New York, a restaurant and music club in Greenwich Village (George Mgrdichian, the famous oud player, got his start there), and earned a Ph.D. at Columbia University.

It is perhaps this varied background that made him a popular teacher and community figure. Rather than isolating himself in the ivory tower, Dr. Kouymjian has been where community concerns and scholarship meet.

Rereading a 1998 article of his, "Confiscation and Destruction" (*Armenian Forum* 1:3), the analysis and the practical recommendations appear as relevant now as they were 10 years ago. The Ottoman Treasury, he wrote, received detailed inventories of assets, including bank accounts, seized from Armenians. These inventories are not available to the community now. But the Armenian Church maintained detailed accounts of its lands and buildings. Available is a list of 2,538 churches, 451 monasteries, and 1,996 schools. Outside of Istanbul today, Armenians possess six churches, no monasteries, and no schools. After looking at the mechanisms of confiscation and the value of this property today, Dr. Kouymjian explores avenues to pursue compensation or return of properties: "Why should Aghtamar and the Cathedral of Ani not be administered by the Armenian church?" he asks reasonably.

When we think of Armenian studies as a community, Dickran Kouymjian is one of the main role models who come to mind: a distinguished scholar who makes the effort caringly to educate generation after generation of students, applies his talents to issues of deep concern to the community, and builds institutions that will last well beyond his retirement. It's very hard work, and Dr. Kouymjian has done it admirably for 31 years. *Vartzkd gadar*, Dr. K. 



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CA

DATE: March 27, 2008

SUBJECT: CSUF ASF to Hold Annual Banquet, April 5 in Fresno PAGE: 1 of 1

CSUF ASF to Hold Hold Annual Banquet, April 5 in Fresno

FRESNO - The Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno, will hold its 20th Annual Banquet, "An Evening with Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, on April 5, at the Residence Dining Hall, on the Fresno State campus.

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies and Director of the Armenian Studies Program will be honored for his 31 years of service to the university and the community. He is retiring after an exceptional career as a scholar and teacher.

During the Banquet, student recipients of Armenian Studies scholarships and grants will be recognized.

A reception will begin at 6 PM followed by the banquet at 7 PM.

Tickets are \$30 per person, with a special price of \$20 for FSU students. Reservations should be made by Monday, March 31.

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



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: Author Kemal Yalçin to Speak at CSUF

DATE: March 6, 2008
PAGE: 1 of 1

Author Kemal Yalçin to Speak at CSUF Armenian Studies Program on March 15

FRESNO - Author Kemal Yalçin will discuss his new book of poetry, *You Rejoice My Heart*, at 7:30 PM on March 15. The lecture, part of the Armenian Studies Program Spring 2008 Lecture Series, will be held in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus.

The lecture is co-sponsored with the Tekeyan Cultural Association and Armenian Students Organization at Fresno State.

Kemal Yalçin had to discover the truth about the Armenians for his book entitled *You Rejoice My Heart*. He writes in the introduction of his book: "I returned to Turkey in the summer of 1998. In order to plan my book, I had decided to travel to Amasya to interview the eyewitness survivors of 1915, the victims of the 1942 "wealth law" to punish Greeks, Armenians and Jews, and the survivors of Ashkale labor camps designed for the same minorities and to visit Ani and Aghtamar. All my relatives, except for my mother, discouraged me. The Armenian issue does not look like the Greek issue. You will be in trouble, they warned me." Heeding his mother's advice, Yalçin takes the proposed trip and completes the book, which is published by the Dogan Publishing House, which had released his previous novel.

One of the most compelling statements in the book is the follow-

ing passage in the introduction: "I bow to the memory of Armenians and Assyrians who lost their lives on the road of deportation through planned killings. That is the greatest pain of our century, the stigma on the face of humanity. Your pain is my pain. As a Turkish writer I beg forgiveness from you and from mankind."

Accompanying Yalçin will be Ara Sarafian of London, England, whose Gomidas Books published the English translation of *You Rejoice My Heart*.

Yalçin was born in the Honaz sub-district of Turkey's Denizli Province in 1952. In 1973 he graduated from the Çapa Advanced Teachers' College in Istanbul and the Philosophy Department of Istanbul University's Faculty of Literature. After that, he taught philosophy at the Kaman Lycée in Kırsehir and the Kabatas Lycée in Istanbul. He worked in journalism and publishing in the years 1978-1980 and in 1981 he came to Germany, where, since 1989, he has worked as a Turkish instructor in Bochum.

Copies of the new book will be available for purchase after the talk.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Relaxed parking is available in Lot J, after 7:00PM.

For more on the lecture please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669.



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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CA

DATE: March 5, 2008

SUBJECT: 9th Annual Armenian Film Festival at CSUF, March 7 PAGE: 1 of 1

9th Annual Armenian Film Festival at Fresno State, March 7

FRESNO - The Armenian Students Organization and Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno are co-sponsoring the 9th Annual Armenian Film Festival, from 7:00-10:00 PM on Friday, March 7, 2007. The Film Festival will take place in the Industrial Technology Building, Room 101 (at the southwest corner of Barstow Ave and Campus Drive) on the Fresno State campus.

One of the featured films for the Festival is *The People's Advocate: the Life and Times of Charles R. Garry* (United States), directed by Hrag Yedalian. *The People's Advocate* is a documentary on the noted defense lawyer Charles Garry. Director Yedalian will be at the Film Festival to discuss his film.

A short film by Nigol Bezjian, *Roads Full of Apricots* and Chris Shuklian's *Sacred Difference* will also be screened.

Admission to the 9th Annual Armenian Film Festival is free and film-goers will have the opportunity to discuss films after the screening of each film. The films, in English or Armenian, are all directed and produced by a new generation of Armenian film-makers.

This program is supported, in part, by funds of the Fresno State University Student Union Diversity Awareness Program.

The 9th Annual Armenian Film Festival is open to the public and admission is free. Parking restrictions are relaxed in all lots near the venue. For more information about the Film Festival, call the Armenian Studies Program office at 559-278-2669.

**ARCHIVE****SOURCE:** The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CA**DATE:** March 12, 2008**SUBJECT:** Mer Doon Holds Successful Concert**PAGE:** 1 of 1

Mer Doon Holds Successful Concert

VAN NUYS - On March 2, 2008, the Santa Barbara Choral Society and Orchestra conducted by renowned Armenian conductor Jo Anne Wasserman filled St. Peter Armenian Church sanctuary with the sounds of glorious music. More than 300 people were mesmerized for nearly two hours as 135 musicians performed Mozart's *Requiem Mass in D Minor*, Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*, Edgar Hovanesian's *Erevan Erebuni*, and *Hayr Mer*. The event was hosted by St. Peter Church in celebration of its 50th Anniversary.

Our Home-Mer Doon, Inc., led by Board President Adrienne Krikorian, held the event to raise awareness of its program in Armenia. Board members Tanya Paretchan from Philadelphia and Barlow Der Mugrdechian from Fresno also attended the event. Mer Doon provides transitional homes, education, life skills training, a family environment, and hope for the future for young women in Armenia who come from orphanages and disadvantaged life styles. The first home, which currently has ten residents, is located in Etchmiadzin.

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese, praised the efforts of the Mer Doon Board and the staff in Armenia, congratulated St. Peter on its 50th Anniversary, and warmly greeted guests who came to support Mer Doon. Following the Benediction by Fr. Shnork Demirjian and singing of *Hayr Mer*, guests mingled with the musicians in Karagozian Hall, enjoying a lavish buffet reception that was



From left to right Tanya Paretchan, Board member (Philadelphia), Adrienne Krikorian, Board President (Los Angeles), and Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Advisor (Fresno).

prepared by the many volunteers who helped make the event a success.

After the guests, many of whom traveled from all parts of California, listened to a greeting from the Mer Doon staff and residents in Armenia, Ms. Krikorian gave a short presentation about Mer Doon, introducing the Board's "Sponsor One Day at Mer Doon" fund raising campaign.

The cost of operating Mer Doon is approximately \$200 per day. Guests were invited to select one or more notable days in their lives and to annually sponsor those days at Mer Doon. The event was an overwhelming success thanks to the generosity of St. Peter Parish Council and organizations, the event sponsors, volunteers, Ms. Wasserman and the musicians, and the many people attended and supported Mer Doon.

Those interested in annually sponsoring one or more days' expenses at Mer Doon can get more information at Mer Doon's website www.mer-doon.org, or by calling Adrienne Krikorian at (818) 347-6107. Tax deductible contributions to Mer Doon should be made payable to Our Home-Mer Doon, Inc. and mailed to Mer Doon c/o Adrienne Krikorian, P.O. Box 8936, Calabasas, CA 91372-8936.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CA
SUBJECT: Poet Gregory Djanikian to Speak at CSUF

DATE: February 28, 2008
PAGE: 1 of 1

Poet Gregory Djanikian To Speak at Fresno State on March 12

FRESNO - Poet Gregory Djanikian will read from his latest book of poetry, *So I Will Till the Ground*, at 7:30 PM on March 12. The lecture, part of the Armenian Studies Program Spring 2008 Lecture Series, will be held in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus.

The lecture is co-sponsored with the Armenian Students Organization at Fresno State.

Djanikians' fifth published collection, *So I Will till the Ground*, published by Carnegie Mellon Press, deals with aspects of Armenian history and family life, the Genocide, the ensuing diaspora, and the emigration of the author and his family from Egypt to the United States.

Djanikian directs the creative writing department in the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. His poetry has appeared in leading American publications including *The American Poetry Review*, and *The American Scholar* among others.

He was the featured speaker on PBS' *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, during which he read from his collection of Armenian-themed poems.

Copies of Djanikian's new book will be available for purchase after the talk.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Relaxed parking is available in Lot J, after 7:00PM.

For more on the lecture please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669.



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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CA

DATE: February 27, 2008

SUBJECT: Poet Gregory Djanikian to Speak at Fresno State

PAGE: 1 of 1

Poet Gregory Djanikian to Speak at Fresno State on March 14

FRESNO - Poet Gregory Djanikian will read from his latest book of poetry, *So I Will Till the Ground*, at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, March 12, 2008.

The lecture, part of the Armenian Studies Program Spring 2008 Lecture Series, will be held in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus.

The lecture is co-sponsored with the Armenian Students Organization at Fresno State.

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Copies of the new book will be available for purchase after the talk.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Relaxed parking is available in Lot J, after 7:00PM.

For more on the lecture please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669.

Three days later, Turkish author Kemal Yalcin will speak in Fresno. (see article on this page in this newspaper).



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CADATE: February 27, 2008SUBJECT: Author Kemal Yalçın to Speak in FresnoPAGE: 1 of 1

Author Kemal Yalçın to Speak in Fresno, March 15, and in Los Angeles March 16

Author Kemal Yalçın will discuss his new book of poetry, *You Rejoice My Heart*, at 7:30 PM on Saturday, March 15, 2008. The lecture, part of the Armenian Studies Program Spring 2008 Lecture Series, will be held in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus.

The lecture is co-sponsored with the Tekeyan Cultural Association and Armenian Students Organization at Fresno State.

In Los Angeles, Yalçın will speak on Sunday, March 16, at Glendale Public Library, 22 E. Harvard, Glendale, at 6 p.m.

Kemal Yalçın had to discover the truth about the Armenians for his book entitled *You Rejoice My Heart*. He writes in the introduction of his book: "I returned to Turkey in the summer of 1998. In order to plan my book, I had decided to travel to Amasya to interview the eyewitness survivors of 1915, the victims of the 1942 "wealth law" to punish Greeks, Armenians and Jews, and the survivors of Ashkale labor camps designed for the same minorities and to visit Ani and Aghtamar. All my relatives, except for my mother, discouraged me. The Armenian issue does not look like the Greek issue. You will be in trouble, they warned me." Heeding his mother's advice Mr. Yalçın takes the proposed trip and completes the book, which is published by the Dogan Publishing House, which had released his previous novel.

One of the most compelling statements in the book is the following passage in the introduction: "I bow to the

memory of Armenian & Assyrians who lost their lives on their road of deportation through planned killings.

That is the greatest pain of our century, the stigma on the face of humanity. Your pain is my pain. As a Turkish writer I beg forgiveness from you and from mankind."

Accompanying Yalçın will be Ara Sarafian of London, England, whose Gomidas Books published the English translation of *You Rejoice My Heart*.

Yalçın was born in the



Honaz sub-district of Turkey's Denizli Province in 1952. In 1973 he graduated from the Çapa Advanced Teachers' College in Istanbul and the Philosophy Department of Istanbul University's Faculty of Literature. After that, he taught philosophy at the Kaman Lycée in Kırsehir and the Kabatas Lycée in Istanbul.

He worked in journalism and publishing in the years 1978-1980 and in 1981 he came to Germany, where, since 1989, he has worked as a Turkish instructor in Bochum.

Copies of the new book will be available for purchase after the talks.

The lectures are free and open to the public.

For more on the lecture in Fresno, please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669, for the Los Angeles event call, Abril Bookstore (818) 243-4112.



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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA

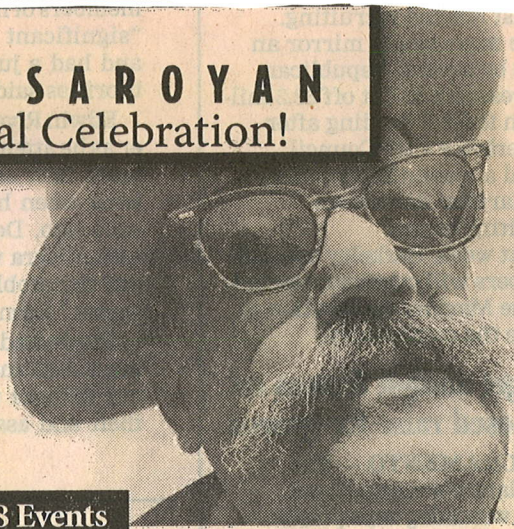
DATE: February 9, 2008

SUBJECT: William Saroyan Centennial Celebration Events

PAGE: 1 of 2

Join The WILLIAM SAROYAN Centennial Celebration!

The Saroyan Centennial will be a year-long celebration, highlighting one of Fresno's most colorful and talented people – William Saroyan (1908 – 2008). Visit www.saroyancentennial.org or call (559) 243-5880 for information on all events.



February 2008 Events

February 2008

Gallery 25 Celebrates The William Saroyan Centennial

660 Van Ness Ave., Fresno, California
Art Hop: Thursday, Feb. 7, 5 PM – 8 PM
Gallery Hours: Fri. – Sun., 1 PM – 4 PM
For more information, call (559) 264-4092.

February 2008

Fig Tree Gallery Celebrates The William Saroyan Centennial

644 Van Ness Ave., Fresno, California
Art Hop: Thursday, Feb. 7, 5 PM – 8 PM
Gallery Hours: Fri. – Sun., Noon – 4 PM
For more information, call (559) 486-0460.

Saturday, February 2

14th Annual Dinner Party A Lovely Way to Spend an Evening, Armenian-Style!

Tulare Historical Museum
444 West Tulare Avenue, Tulare, California
7 PM - 9 PM • Reservations \$65
For more information, call (559) 686-2074.

Friday, February 8

Letters of Intent due to FCOE

Young Authors' Faire and Reception
Submission to FCOE: Wednesday, Feb. 27
For more information, call (559) 265-3000.

Beginning Saturday, February 9

Radio Broadcast of "My Junkyard of Memories"

Valley Public Radio: 89.3 FM (Fresno),
and 89.1 FM (Bakersfield)
Broadcast Dates: February 2, 9, 16, 23
Airing at 12:06 PM

Saturday, February 9

Book Discussion Group of Essential Saroyan: A Selection of William Saroyan's Best Writings by William E. Justice

Tulare Historical Museum, Heritage Room,
444 West Tulare Avenue, Tulare, California
Book Discussion Group: 1 PM
Distribution of Book: Thursday, Jan. 3, 5:30-7 PM
For more information, call (559) 686-2074.

February 21 and February 28

"William Saroyan: Views on Ethnicity and Identity"

Course offered by Osher Life Long Learning
Institute and the Armenian Studies Program, CSUF
For more information on membership,
call (559) 278-0008.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA

SUBJECT: William Saroyan Centennial Celebration Events

DATE: February 9, 2008

PAGE: 2 of 2

Friday, February 22-March 30

Theatrical Production:

My Heart's in the Highlands

Luna Playhouse, Glendale, California

Fridays, Saturdays 8 PM

Sundays 2 PM

Tickets \$25

For more information visit

www.lunaplayhouse.com.

Saturday, February 25 - March 30

Saroyan Art Exhibition

Kings Art Center, Hanford, California

Tuesday through Sunday, 12:00 to 3 PM

Free Admission

For more information, call (559) 584-1065.

Tuesday, February 26

The Shoghaken Folk Ensemble of Armenia

California State University, Fresno,

Satellite Student Union, 8 PM

Tickets: Adults \$20 per person;

Students \$10 per person

For more information, call (559) 278-2669,
or (559) 431-5259.

Saroyan Centennial Donors:

Kaiser Permanente

Educational Employees Credit Union

The Ralph Ermoian Foundation

The Harry M. Ermoian Foundation

Bertha & John Garabedian

City of Fresno

Cohen Communications

Bennett Family Foundation Fund

Leon S. Peters Foundation

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Alliance for California Traditional Arts

Bonner Family Foundation

Ed and Jeanne Kashian

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Larry Balakian

Jane Kardashian & Vatche Soghomonian

Varoujan Der Simonian

Bud & Elaine Long

Anita M. Shanahan

Dr. & Mrs. Bernard Karian

In Loving Memory of Frank & Florence Caglia



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA
SUBJECT: Special Week for Local Armenians

DATE: February 26, 2008
PAGE: 1 of 1

Special week for local Armenians

Culture minister visits for folk ensemble and Saroyan celebration.

By Felicia Cousart Matlosz
The Fresno Bee

The vice minister of culture for Armenia is spending a few days in Fresno this week, drawn by a performance tonight of a renowned Armenian folk ensemble and the centennial celebration of William Saroyan's birth in Fresno.

Karine Khoudikyan will attend this evening's presentation by The Shoghaken Folk Ensemble of Armenia at Fresno State. The group, founded in 1991, is considered one of the preeminent traditional music ensembles in Armenia. The musicians use only traditional Arme-

If you go

- **What:** The Shoghaken Folk Ensemble of Armenia
- **When:** 8 p.m. today
- **Where:** Satellite Student Union at Fresno State, Shaw and Cedar avenues
- **Cost:** \$20; \$10 for students
- **Details:** (559) 278-2669 or (559) 431-5259

nian instruments to maintain an authentic sound. They are currently on a tour through the United States and Canada, including a performance last month in Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York.

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, a lecturer in the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, says



BEE FILE PHOTO

An Armenian culture minister is in town to learn about events honoring William Saroyan, above.

the vice minister wanted to see the program as well as learn more about the Saroyan centennial festivities scheduled this year in Fresno and the Central Valley.

Saroyan — famous for works as "The Human Comedy" and "My Name is Aram" — was born in Fresno in 1908 and died in the city in 1981. During his life, he visited his ancestors' homeland in Armenia.

The writer, who earned awards that included the Pulitzer Prize and an Academy Award, still is much revered in Armenia. Der Mugrdechian says centennial events honoring Saroyan are planned in that country.

"He's very big. He's very popular," Der Mugrdechian says. "People really know and respect him."

The vice minister arrived this weekend and is scheduled to stay through Satur-

day. During her visit, Der Mugrdechian says she will meet with different groups and check out other Saroyan-related activities. Tonight's performance is presented by the Armenian Studies Program in cooperation with the Knights and Daughters of Vartan and the Fresno chapter of the Armenian General Benevolent Union.

As Der Mugrdechian says, "I think it's important that she sees the place where William Saroyan was born and lived the majority of his life."

► The reporter can be reached at fmattlosz@fresnobee.com or (559) 441-6428.



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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter Int'l: Paramus, NJ
SUBJECT: Shoghaken Ensemble to Perform In Fresno Feb. 26

DATE: January 26, 2008
PAGE: 1 of 1



Members of the Shoghaken Ensemble at the Theatre de la Ville in Paris.

Shoghaken Ensemble to Perform In Fresno February 26

FRESNO – The Shoghaken Armenian Folk Ensemble will perform in concert in Fresno as part of its 22-city United States tour. The concert will be on Tuesday, February 26, in the Satellite Student Union at Fresno State at 8 p.m.

The concert is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State, the Knights and Daughters of Vartan and the Armenian General Benevolent Union.

The ensemble has become one of the preem-

known throughout Armenia, the former Soviet Union and Europe for their unique interpretation of Armenian folk and *ashoughagan* (troubadour) music. The ensemble recorded the soundtrack for Atom Egoyan's film "Ararat" and in 2002 was invited by cellist Yo-Yo Ma to perform at the Silk Road Festival in Washington, DC.

In 2003 their CD "Armenian Anthology" (Traditional Crossroads CD 4311) won the NARM Award for "Best World Recording of the

Armenian music."

Jon Pareles of the *New York Times* said, "There may be no instrument that can sound as richly inconsolable as the *duduk*...exuberance tempered by tearful memories."

The Shoghaken Folk Ensemble performed to a standing-room only audience in their Fresno State concert held in 2004.

For tickets and information call the Armenian Studies Program.



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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA

SUBJECT: Lecturer is part of book about Armenian Bible

DATE: January 26, 2008

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Lecturer is part of book about Armenian Bible

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, a lecturer in Armenian studies at Fresno State, is a contributing writer in a newly published book, "The Armenian Bible: A Symposium Celebrating the 1,600th Anniversary of the Discovery of the Armenian Alphabet and the Translation of the Bible into Armenian."

Der Mugrdechian wrote a chapter, "The Bible and Armenian Culture," and the book's foreword.

► Items should be sent 14 days before publication to Ron Orozco, The Fresno Bee, Fresno, CA 93786; faxed to (559) 441-6457; or e-mailed to features@fresnobee.com.



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Shoghaken Armenian Folk Ensemble Concert in Fresno Set for Feb. 26

FRESNO - The internationally recognized Shoghaken Armenian Folk Ensemble will perform in concert in Fresno as part of its 22-city United States tour, at 8 PM, on February 26, in the Satellite Student Union at Fresno State.

The concert is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State, the Knights and Daughters of Vartan, and the Armenian General Benevolent Union.

The eight-member Ensemble was founded in 1991 by *dudukist* Gevorg Dabaghyan in Yerevan and has become one of the preeminent traditional music ensembles in Armenian. The group uses only traditional Armenian instruments, maintaining an authentic sound with the *duduk*, *zurna*, *dhol*, *kanon*, *kaman-cha*, *shvi*, and other instruments. Singers Hasmik Harutyunyan and Aleksan Harutyunyan are known throughout Armenia, the former Soviet Union, and Europe for their unique interpretation of Armenian folk and *ashoughagan* (troubadour) music.

The ensemble recorded the soundtrack for Atom Egoyan's film *Ararat* and in 2002 was invited by acclaimed cellist Yo-Yo Ma to perform at the "Silk Road Festival," in

Washington D.C.

In 2003 their CD *Armenian Anthology* (Traditional Crossroads CD 4311) won the NARM Award for "Best World Recording of the Year." With an extraordinary ancient tradition of exhilarating folk dances, haunting love songs and lullabies, Shoghaken has mesmerized audiences far beyond the Caucasus mountains, where Armenians have lived for centuries.

The *Chicago Reader* said about Shoghaken, "There isn't a better introduction to traditional Armenian music."

Jon Pareles of the *NY Times* said, "There may be no instrument that can sound as richly inconsolable as the *duduk*...exuberance tempered by a tearful memories."

The Shoghaken Folk Ensemble performed to a standing room only audience in their Fresno State concert held in 2004.

Tickets are \$20 per person for general admission and \$10 per person for students.

For tickets and information call the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669; AGBU-Zar at 559-431-5259; or Knights of Vartan-Gerald-439-7910. In the South Valley call Gerry -896-2785