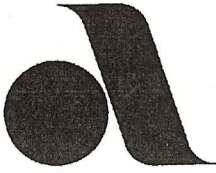




California State University, Fresno

**Armenian Studies Program
Spring 1993**



**California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program
Fresno, California 93740-0004**

Armenian Studies Program News Service

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

**Vol. 8 Release #57
January-July 1993**

SF Contemporary Music Players Premiere "David of Sassoun"

SAN FRANCISCO — The world premiere of Michelle Ekizian's opera David of Sassoun will be presented in its concert version by the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players on Monday, February 8, 1993. Arthur Jarvinen's Philiphor Honeycombed with Childishness and Aaron Copland's classic Sextet will also be performed. The concert will take place in the Veterans Building Green Room, 401 Van Ness Avenue at McAllister in San Francisco. There will be a preconcert discussion at 7 P.M. with SFCMP Music Director Stephen Mosko, composers Arthur Jarvinen and Michelle Ekizian, and Dickran Kouymjian, Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno. The concert begins at 8 P.M.

An Armenian American, Ms. Ekizian often takes her inspiration from her heritage — recently she was commissioned to write a major work for the Brooklyn Philharmonic commemorating the 1894 genocide of Armenians. The subject of her chamber opera David of Sassoun (for four singers and nine instrumentalists) is a story central to the Armenian oral epic tradition, an ancient parable of the struggle for freedom. Ekizian writes: "The libretto of David of Sassoun is taken from (English) translations of the epic patterned after the traditional storytelling style passed on by ancient

Armenian minstrels and bards." The featured singers are tenor Richard Walker as David, soprano Barbara Ann Martin as Kourkig Jalaly (a magical flying horse), mezzo-soprano Maro Partamian as the Old Widow, and baritone Hector Vasquez as the tyrant King Msrah Melik.

Ms. Ekizian's decision to set this epic has created a great deal of excitement in the Armenian American community, and indeed the presentation of this premiere has been made possible in part by donations from interested Armenian Americans throughout the country.

Composer and new music percussionist Arthur Jarvinen has performed with such composers as Steve Reich and Frank Zappa, and is a member of the California E.A.R. Unit. The title of his piece, Philiphor Honeycombed With Childishness, comes from a chapter in Witold Gombrowicz's novel *Ferdynand*.

The Sextet of Aaron Copland can be seen as a bridge between two style periods in his output—the early one angular and modernistic and the later one more populist and neoclassical. Written in 1937, the Sextet is a sumptuous combination of both elements.

Concert tickets (\$14/\$10 seniors and students) are also good for the pre-concert discussion at 7 P. M. For tickets and information, call (415) 252-6235.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

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

DATE Jan '93

SUBJECT 7th Annual Banquet of Armenian Studies

PAGE 1 of 1

7th Annual Banquet of the Armenian Studies Program

FRESNO, CA - Dr. Louis D. Volpp, President of the Haigazian University College Graduate School of Management in Yerevan, Armenia, will

be the special guest at the 7th Annual Banquet of the Armenian Studies Program and the Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies to

be held on Sunday, January 31. Dr. Volpp will speak on "An American Business School in the Republic of Armenia: Education and the Move Toward a Market Economy."

Dr. Volpp is a former Vice-President of Academic Affairs at California State University, Fresno and professor in the School of Business. He was appointed President in late October and is visiting Fresno over the winter break. He will return to Yerevan in February for the start of the spring semester.

Student recipients of Armenian Studies Program scholarships will be recognized for their achievements at the banquet. More than thirty students received scholarships/grants for the 1992-1993 academic year.

Tickets for the dinner are \$30.00 per person and are available from the Armenian Studies Program office. A social hour will begin at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the Resident Dining Facility on campus. For reservations or more information call the Armenian Studies Program office at (209)278-2669.

Fresno's Doctor Heads Graduate School in Armenia

YEREVAN—The newly founded Haigazian University College Graduate School of Management in Yerevan has appointed as its first President, Dr. Louis Volpp, recently retired professor of Management from the California State University of Fresno.

Volpp has served 15 years at CSUF, first as Vice President for Academic Affairs and then as professor in the School of Business. Previously he had been Dean of the Graduate School of Business at Columbia University in New York and occupied the same post earlier at Duke University.

The Haigazian Graduate School of Management is in its second year preparing accepted students with proper language skills to begin classes in English.

Along with Volpp is his wife Holly, a graduate of the Nursing School at the University of Iowa, who will be working to improve the health care in Armenia. Later this year, Volpp's son, Bryan, a doctor specializing in infectious diseases, will go to Armenia on a special assignment for the Ministry of Health.

Haigazian is the second American University to be set up in Armenia.

The following is an excerpt from an interview with Dr. Louis Volpp conducted by long-time friend and colleague, Dr. Dickran Kouyoumjian.

DK: Dr. Volpp, what made you accept a post in a former Soviet Republic that you had never visited so soon after retiring from a long career as professor and administrator?

LV: I have always wanted to serve society, especially by serving students, the future of any nation. I had been fascinated by the events that swept the Soviet Union, its disintegration, and the attempt being made by the newly-independent Republics to establish market economies in place of the former state run ones. Haigazian University's newly formed graduate business program in Armenia seemed an extraordinarily fortuitous chance to make a direct impact on the future managers of a new country.

But why Armenia and why so quickly?

We have known Armenians most of our lives, and of course especially since Holly and I came to Fresno. The former pastor of our Presbyterian church was Bill Antablian, himself an Armenian. He and his wife Florence were instrumental in putting me in direct contact with the administration of Haigazian University College. Though I had never been to Armenia, I knew a lot about it from Armenian friends, colleagues, and students at CSUF. Armenia seemed like a perfect choice.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Asbarez; Glendale, CA

DATE Jan 2, 1993

SUBJECT CSUE Prof. in Armenian Heads College

PAGE 2 of 2

Yet you certainly knew that Armenia was in a virtually undeclared war with Azerbaijan over the former Armenian territory of the Mountainous Karabakh, now part of Azerbaijan. And you were informed about the shortages in electricity, the Azeri blockade of Armenia which prevents any fuel and even food supplies from reaching the country, the mounting inflation of nearly 400 percent since the breakup of the Soviet Union, the devastation of the earthquake of 1988, and the hundreds of thousands of Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan vying to simply keep life and limb together. In the face of these catastrophic conditions how were you able to make a positive decision so quickly?

For twenty years, my wife and I have talked about what we wanted to do after retirement to help others. We had considered missionary aid work with our church. We had thought of the Peace Corps, or similar activity, that would allow us to put our accumulated talents to the best use. When I heard about Haigazian University's venture in Armenia and saw the chance to make a difference in the future direction and management of a new country, it seemed to fit in well with our desires and what the two of us had prepared for all our lives: teaching and leading.

What specific plans do you have as the President of a new Graduate School in a new country?

I would like to build the Haigazian Graduate School of Management into an institution that can educate young Armenian professionals in the modern practice of management. Additionally, as a complement to that program, I will work to develop at the school a program in political economy so that the environment of business practices in a Republic moving towards a market economy be as congenial as possible. Management cannot be taught in a vacuum; those learning business practices must also appreciate the workings of international politics and how they relate to a global economy.

Have you had previous experience in working and teaching your specialty abroad?

I've taught an executive program in Hong Kong, been a consultant for a European university consortium on the design of graduate business programs, an American program advisor for a French school, and a consultant for the United Nations in Egypt. My wife and I have lived and travelled abroad quite a bit and we are looking forward to the challenging assignment in Armenia.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Observer: Hollywood, CA

DATE Jan 13, 1993

SUBJECT 7th Annual Banquet of Armenian Studies

PAGE 1 of 1

7th Annual Banquet of Fresno's Armenian Studies Program, Jan. 31

FRESNO — Dr. Louis D. Volpp, President of the Hai-gazian University College Graduate School of Management in Yerevan, Armenia, will be the special guest at the 7th Annual Banquet of the Armenian Studies Program and the Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies to be held on Sunday, January 31, 1993.

Dr. Volpp will speak on "An American Business School in the Republic of Armenia: Education and the Move Toward a Market Economy."

Dr. Volpp is a former Vice President of Academic Affairs at California State University, Fresno, and professor in the School of Business. He was appointed President in late Oc-

tober and is visiting Fresno over the winter break. He will return to Yerevan in February for the start of the Spring semester.

Student recipients of Armenian Studies Program scholarships will be recognized for their achievements at the banquet. More than 30 students received scholarships/grants for the 1992-1993 academic year.

Tickets for the dinner are \$30.00 per person and are available from the Armenian Studies Program office.

A social hour will begin at 5:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the Residence Dining Facility on campus.

For reservations or more information call the Armenian Studies Program office at (209) 278-2669.

Dr. Volpp Will be Keynote Speaker At CSUF Armenian Studies Banquet

FRESNO - Dr. Louis D. Volpp, President of the Haigazian University College Graduate School of Management in Yerevan, will be the keynote speaker at the 7th annual banquet of the Armenian Studies Program and the Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies in Fresno on Jan. 31.

The banquet will be held at the California State University, Fresno Residence Dining Facility at 6 p.m. A social hour will begin at 5 p.m.

Dr. Volpp, a former Vice-President of Academic Affairs at CSUF, and professor in the School of Business, was appointed President of the Haigazian School of

Management in late October, and is visiting Fresno over the winter break. He will return to Yerevan in February for the start of the spring semester.

Dr. Volpp's banquet address will focus on "An American Business School in the Republic of Armenia: Education and the Move Toward a Market Economy."

The Jan. 31 banquet will also recognize the recipients of Armenian Studies Program scholarships. More than 30 students received scholarships/grants for the 1992-1993 academic year.

Banquet tickets are \$30 per person and are available from the Armenian Studies Program office, by calling (209) 278-2669.

'David of Sassoun' opera to premiere

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—The world premiere of Michelle Ekizian's opera *David of Sassoun* will be presented in its concert version by the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players (SFCMP) on Monday, February 8. Arthur Jarvinen's *Philifor Honeycombed With Childishness* and Aaron Copland's classic *Sextet* will also be performed. The concert will take place in the Veterans Building Green Room, 401 Van Ness Avenue at McAllister in San Francisco, at 8 pm.

A pre-concert discussion will begin at 7 pm, with SFCMP music director Stephen Mosko, composers Arthur Jarvinen and Michelle Ekizian, and Dickran Kouymjian, Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno.

An Armenian-American, Ekizian often takes her inspiration from her heritage. Recently she was commissioned to write a major work for the Brooklyn Philharmonic, commemorating the genocide of Armenians. The subject of her chamber opera *David of Sassoun* (for four singers and nine instrumentalists) is a story central to the Armenian oral epic tradition, an ancient

parable of the struggle for freedom. Ekizian writes: "The libretto of *David of Sassoun* is taken from [English] translations of the epic patterned after the traditional storytelling style passed on by ancient Armenian minstrels and bards."

The featured singers are tenor Richard Walker as David, soprano Barbara Ann Martin as Kourkig Jalaly (a magical flying horse), mezzo-soprano Maro Partamian as the Old Widow, and baritone Hector Vasquez as the tyrant King Msrah Melik.

Ekizian's decision to set this epic has created a great deal of excitement in the Armenian-American community, and indeed the presentation of this premiere has been made possible in part by donations from interested Armenian-Americans throughout the country.

Concert tickets (\$14, \$10 for senior citizens and students) are also good for the pre-concert discussion. For tickets and information, call 415-252-6235.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

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

DATE Jan 16, 1993

SUBJECT ASP 7th Annual Banquet

PAGE 1 of 1

7th Annual Banquet of the Armenian Studies Program

FRESNO, CA - Dr. Louis D. Volpp, President of the Haigazian University College Graduate School of Management in Yerevan, Armenia, will

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SOURCE The Armenian Reporter; Fresh Meadows, N.Y. DATE Jan 16, 1993
SUBJECT ASP 1993 Spring Courses PAGE 1 of 1

CSU Offers Armenian Studies Program for 1993 Spring Semester

FRESNO, CA - The Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno announces its Spring 1993 semester courses. The courses offered provide students with the opportunity to study many different facets of the Armenian people. Armenian language (1A and 1B), Armenian architecture, William Saroyan, Armenian history, and a general introductory course in Armenian Studies are being offered. Students completing

23-24 units of Armenian Studies courses receive a Minor in Armenian Studies. Instruction begins on January 25 for the Spring semester. For more information call (209)278-2669 or FAX (209)278-2129.

Armenia Studies courses are open to the community (students not regularly enrolled) through the Open Registration program. For information and fees please contact the Division of Extended Education at CSU Fresno.

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter; Fresh Meadows, N.Y. DATE Jan 16, 1993

SUBJECT Kouymjian Introduces David of Sasoun Opera PAGE 1 of 1

S.F. Contemporary Music Players Premiere Armenian Epic Opera

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - The world premiere of Michelle Ekizian's opera **David of Sasoun** will be presented in its concert version by the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players on Monday, February 8. Arthur Jarvinen's **Philifor Honeycombed With Childishness** and Aaron Copland's classic **Sextet** will also be performed. The concert will take place in the Veterans Building Green Room, 401 Van Ness Avenue at McAllister here. There will be a preconcert discussion at 7 p.m. with SFCMP Music Director Stephen Mosko, composers Arthur Jarvinen and Michelle Ekizian, and Dickran Kouymjian, Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno. The concert begins at 8:00 p.m.

An Armenian American, Ms. Ekizian often takes her inspiration from her heritage -- recently she was commissioned to write a major work for the Brooklyn Philharmonic commemorating the genocide of the Armenians. The subject of her chamber opera **David of Sasoun** (for four singers and nine

instrumentalists) is a story central to the Armenian oral epic tradition, an ancient parable of the struggle for freedom. Ekizian writes: "The libretto of **David of Sassoun** is taken from (English) translations of the epic patterned after the traditional storytelling style passed on by ancient Armenian minstrels and bards." The featured singers are tenor Richard Walker as David, soprano Barbara Ann Martin as Kourkig Jalaly (a magical flyinghorse), mezzo-soprano Maro Partamian as the Old Widow, and baritone Hector Vasquez as the tyrant King Msrah Melik.

Ms. Ekizian's decision to set this epic has created a great deal of excitement in the Armenian-American community, and indeed the presentation of this premiere has been made possible in part by donations from interested Armenian Americans throughout the country.

Concert tickets (\$14/\$10 seniors and students) are also good for the pre-concert discussion at 7:00 p.m. For tickets and information, call (415)252-6235.

Concert Version of Ekizian's Opera David of Sassoun Will Premiere

SAN FRANCISCO - The world premiere of Michelle Ekizian's opera "David of Sassoun" will be presented in its concert version by the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players on Feb. 8. The concert will be held in the Veterans Building Green Room, 401 Van Ness Avenue at McAllister in San Francisco.

Other performances that evening will include Arthur Jarvinen's "Philifor Honeycombed with Childishness" and Aaron Copeland's "Sextet."

A pre-concert discussion at 7 p.m., will include Ekizian, Jarvinen and Dickran Kouymjian, Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno. The concert starts at 8 p.m.

Ekizian often takes her inspiration from her heritage. Recently she was commissioned to write a major work for the Brooklyn Philharmonic commemorating the genocide of the Armenians. The subject of her chamber opera, "David of Sassoun" (for four singers and nine instrumentalists) is a story central to the Armenian oral epic tradition, an ancient parable of the struggle for freedom.

"The libretto of *David of Sassoun* is taken from English translations of the epic patterned after the traditional story telling style passed on by ancient Armenian minstrels and bards," Ekizian said.

The featured singers for the Feb. 8 premiere are tenor Richard Walker as David, soprano Barbara Ann Martin as Kourkig Jalali (a magical flying horse), mezzo-soprano Maro Partamian as the Old Widow, and baritone Hector Vasquez as the tyrant King Msrah Melik.

The presentation of this premiere has been made possible in

part by donations from interested Armenian-Americans throughout the country, said San Francisco Contemporary Music Players spokesman Adam Frey.

Concert tickets (\$14/\$10, seniors and students) are also good for the pre-concert discussion at 7 p.m. For tickets and information, call (415) 252-6235.

CSU

ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE

The Fresno Bee; Fresno, CA

DATE

Jan 22, 1993

SUBJECT

Armenian Studies Courses at CSU Fresno

PAGE

1 of 1

FSU offers Armenian studies class

Classes in Armenian studies are available during the spring semester at **Fresno State University**.

Courses range from Armenian architecture and history to William Saroyan and the Armenian language.

Instruction begins Monday. Details: 278-2669.

Armenian studies courses are also available to the community through the open university program. Details: the Division of Extended Education, 278-2524.



SOURCE The Fresno Bee; Fresno, CA DATE Jan 27, 1993
SUBJECT Armenian Studies 7th Annual Banquet PAGE 1 of 1

Ex-Fresno State professor, Volpp, to speak at dinner

The Fresno Bee

Louis D. Volpp, president of the Haigazian University College Graduate School of Management in Yerevan, Armenia, will speak Sunday at the seventh annual banquet for the Armenian Studies program at Fresno State University.

Volpp will discuss "An American Business School in the Republic of Armenia: Education and the Move Toward a Market Economy."

Volpp is a former vice president for academic affairs and business professor at FSU. He was appointed to his current post in October.

Also at the banquet, student recipients of Armenian Studies program scholarships will be recognized. More than 30 students received scholarships or grants for 1992-93.

A social hour begins at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m. in the university's Residence Dining Hall. Tickets are \$30 per person. Details: 278-2669.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Fresno Bee; Fresno

DATE Feb 6. 1993

SUBJECT Der Mugrdechian Elected Comm. Council Chair

PAGE 1 of 1

SPECTRUM

CELEBRATION — Beginning Sunday, a month-long series of events will be held to celebrate the 111th anniversary of Carter Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church, 115 U St. Details: 266-3429 or 251-8373.

REVIVAL — 7 p.m. Friday at Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, 207 E. San Joaquin St. The Junior Women's Auxiliary of St. John Missionary Baptist Association will sponsor a one-night revival with choirs and a guest speaker, the Rev. Jeffrey Fines, youth minister of the church.

ELECTED — Barlow Der Mugrdechian has been elected chairman of the Armenian Community Council of the San Joaquin Valley.

DINNER-DANCE — 7 p.m. Friday at the social hall of Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, Ventura and M streets. The youth association will hold a St. Valentine's dinner-dance. Tickets/details: 486-1141.

S.F. Contemporary Music Players Premier Armenian Epic Opera

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The "Sextet" of Aaron Copland can be seen as a bridge between two style periods in his output -- the early one angular and modernistic, and the later one more populist and neoclassical. Written in 1937, the "Sextet" is a sumptuous combination of both elements.

Concert tickets (\$14/\$10 seniors and students) are also good for the pre-concert discussion at 7 p.m. For tickets and information, call (415)252-6235.

BREAKING THE ICE

OPERATION WINTER RESCUE ATTEMPTS TO SAVE ARMENIA FROM FREEZING TO DEATH

ANDREA MEADE

A local organization, the Armenian Community Council-Operation Rescue has joined a "call to action" by the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia and the Fund for Democracy and Development for the success of "Operation Winter Rescue." Special financing from the U.S. government has made it possible for the emergency campaign to be organized. The Armenian government is very grateful, stated Charge d'Affaires of the Armenian Embassy and Armenia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Alexander Arzoumanian, "The United States has distinguished itself as the leader in the West in recognizing the crisis in Armenia and taking extraordinary action to help bring food, medicine, and other items to our people."

The first of three ships being provided by the United States Government carrying up to seven hundred 35,000 pound containers has arrived in Georgia. Two additional shipments are scheduled - one for 7 March and one for 7 April 1993. The U.N. has sent a study group and France has, for the past year sent study groups and material aid to the devastated country. But it is not enough.

Food and medical supplies are scarce; hospitals and public health facilities are operating at 50 percent or less of capacity in deplorably unsanitary conditions. They lack blankets, bandages, oxygen, antibiotics and most primary necessities. Newborn babies are dying because undernourished mothers are unable to supply the necessary milk. Cancer, tuberculosis, and other diseases associated with malnutrition have increased substantially.

A fragile new republic roughly the size of Maryland, formed after the fall of the Soviet Union, Armenia has been devastated by a five-year food and fuel blockade imposed on it by the neighboring Republic of Azerbaijan. The blockade was imposed by the Azaris as punishment to the Armenians in the autonomous region of the Mountainous Karabagh, inhabited by Armenians, but in the territory of Azerbaijan. The government of Azerbaijan is angry because the Armenians of Karabagh want to join Armenia and leave Azerbaijan.

The Medzamor nuclear plant is a Chernobyl waiting to happen...

In 1988, a major earthquake killed at least 50,000 and left 160,000 victims without shelter. With below freezing temperatures - one of the bitterest winters in its history, forests are being cut down and valuable books are being sacrificed to supply much needed fuel, according to the Very Reverend Muron Aznikian, Dean of the Holy Trinity Church Armenian Apostolic Church in Fresno. It is also reported that families tear up floorboards and have stripped city parks in search of firewood. In Yerevan, police track hungry stray dogs and one was observed attacking a man crossing the street - all has reverted to satisfying primal needs.

On 23 January 1993, the latest disaster, a single remaining fuel pipeline which had been supplying Armenia's only source of natural gas was destroyed by an explosion in the Azari-populated region of Marneulia in Georgia. The interruption of fuel due to the destroyed pipeline has plunged the capital of Yerevan, home to 1.7 million people, into darkness. The metro and electric trolley buses are stopped and telephones and radios are silent. The lack of power has forced schools, factories and public transportation to close.

Virtually every facet of daily life in Armenia has come to a halt.

SOURCE Metronews; Fresno, CA

DATE Mar 3, 1993

SUBJECT "Breaking the Ice"

PAGE 2 of 3

The 17-year-old Medzamor nuclear power plant was closed after the 1988 earthquake, partly because of earthquake damage, partly because of exorbitant operation costs, and partly because it was ill kept during the Communist regime. The plant may have to be opened in order to provide energy,

according to the Armenian clergyman. The plant still depends on outside power for its safety systems to continue cooling nuclear waste which is stored in the plant. "They may be forced to re-open the plant" Reverend Aznikian stated, "and there is spreading fear that this could develop a dangerous radioactive leak affecting not only Armenia, but its surrounding countries." The Medzamor nuclear power plant can be compared to the fragile Chernobyl Nuclear Plant.

Armenia is a landlocked nation dependent on transit corridors through the neighboring Republics of Georgia, Azerbaijan, Iran and Turkey to fill its most basic energy requirements.

This landlocked country has been caught between empires, on the dividing line between Christian and Muslim worlds, hemmed in by ancient enemies on one side and unruly neighbors on the other. Many will recall the 1915-1920 genocide of the Armenian people by the Ottoman Turks. "The Armenians have never been an aggressive people," Reverend Aznikian states. "They adopted Christianity in the fourth century A.D. and have since been lone Christians surrounded by Muslims and Turks. They are an island of Indo-European people who have adopted a westernized tradition."

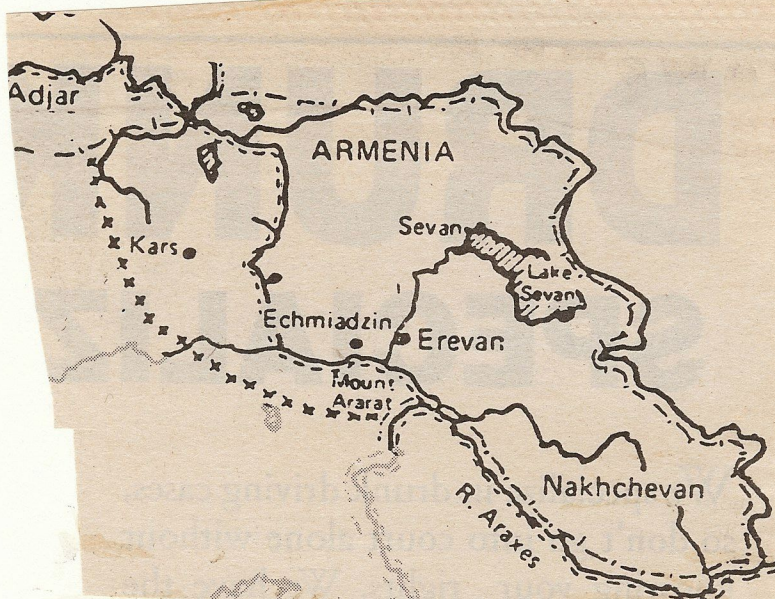
Packs of stray dogs roam the streets and attack humans...

The very survival of these desperate people depends on the charity of Westerners. Food, clothing, and medical supplies are of utmost urgency. But Reverend Aznikian also hopes that the western world will look to Armenia as a country for potential development. The Armenian church leader is hopeful that exchanges with the West are forthcoming. "If the West can find a way to cooperate in humanitarian assistance, they will find an industrious, intelligent, cooperative people who would welcome their

assistance. The people of Armenia would welcome the exploration of their many natural resources - zinc, gold, and other minerals and international exchanges in agriculture and other amenities of the Western world."

According to California State University professor of Armenian Studies Dickran Kouymjian, "The relief operation undertaken by the U.S. Government would have been very simple if the State Department and the Administration

had put some pressure on the government of Turkey to allow American and European relief convoys to enter Armenia over the best overland route. Unfortunately, Turkey has taken the side of Azerbaijan in the struggle over Karabagh and thus far has done everything possible to obstruct the relief supplies from arriving in Armenia. We hope Turkey will change its position. Lives should take precedence over politics."



HOW YOU CAN HELP.

To launch "Operation Winter Rescue" Fresno City Councilman Tom Bohigian will hold a news conference with representatives of the Armenian Community Council and Temple Beth Israel on the second floor lobby of City Hall at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, 4 March 1993.

Items urgently needed are

- Warm winter clothing for men, women and children, both new and like new. Suggested clothing include: overcoats, hats and woolen caps, gloves, scarves, long underwear, and socks.

- Blankets and sleeping bags.
- Medical and hospital

supplies (expiration dates of at least six months).

- Food (non-perishable) of almost any kind, in any size packaging. Suggested food items include: bulgur, sugar, pasta, beans, instant soup, powdered milk, powdered eggs, canned meats, canned nuts, hard candy, nuts, dried fruits and raisins.

- Monetary donations will be accepted for purchase of large quantities of food, clothing and medical supplies. Checks can be made payable to your CHURCH and earmarked - "Operation Rescue", or mailed to the Armenian Community Council - Operation Rescue P.O. Box 11844 Fresno, Ca. 93775

Collection Sites are as follows:

Fresno:

Pilgrim Armenian Congregation Church

3673 N. First St.

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (excl 12-1)
229-2915

Holy Trinity Armenian Church
2226 Ventura, at "M" St.

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
486-1141

First Armenian Presb. Church
430 S. First St., at Huntington

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
237-6638

St. Paul Armenian Church
3767 N. First St., at Dakota

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
226-6343

Armenian Community School
1940 N. Fresno St. at Weldon

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
233-1800

A.G.B.U. Center
1740 Fulton St.

12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.
233-5626

Fowler:

St. Gregory Armenian Church
229 S. Third St.

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
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BREAKING THE ICE

OPERATION WINTER RESCUE ATTEMPTS TO SAVE ARMENIA FROM FREEZING TO DEATH

ANDREA MEADE

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The first of three ships being provided by the United States Government carrying up to seven hundred 35,000 pound containers has arrived in Georgia. Two additional shipments are scheduled - one for 7 March and one for 7 April 1993. The U.N. has sent a study group and France has, for the past year sent study groups and material aid to the devastated country. But it is not enough.

Food and medical supplies are scarce; hospitals and public health facilities are operating at 50 percent or less of capacity in deplorably unsanitary conditions. They lack blankets, bandages, oxygen, antibiotics and most primary necessities. Newborn babies are dying because undernourished mothers are unable to supply the necessary milk. Cancer, tuberculosis, and other diseases associated with malnutrition have increased substantially.

A fragile new republic roughly the size of Maryland, formed after the fall of the Soviet Union, Armenia has been devastated by a five-year food and fuel blockade imposed on it by the neighboring Republic of Azerbaijan. The blockade was imposed by the Azaris as punishment to the Armenians in the autonomous region of the Mountainous Karabagh, inhabited by Armenians, but in the territory of Azerbaijan. The government of Azerbaijan is angry because the Armenians of Karabagh want to join Armenia and leave Azerbaijan.

The Medzamor nuclear plant is a Chernobyl waiting to happen...

In 1988, a major earthquake killed at least 50,000 and left 160,000 victims without shelter. With below freezing temperatures - one of the bitterest winters in its history, forests are being cut down and valuable books are being sacrificed to supply much needed fuel, according to the Very Reverend Muron Aznikian, Dean of the Holy Trinity Church Armenian Apostolic Church in Fresno. It is also reported that families tear up floorboards and have stripped city parks in search of firewood. In Yerevan, police track hungry stray dogs and one was observed attacking a man crossing the street - all has reverted to satisfying primal needs.

On 23 January 1993, the latest disaster, a single remaining fuel pipeline which had been supplying Armenia's only source of natural gas was destroyed by an explosion in the Azari-populated region of Marneuli in Georgia. The interruption of fuel due to the destroyed pipeline has plunged the capital of Yerevan, home to 1.7 million people, into darkness. The metro and electric trolley buses are stopped and telephones and radios are silent. The lack of power has forced schools, factories and public transportation to close.

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This landlocked country has been caught between empires, on the dividing line between Christian and Muslim worlds, hemmed in by ancient enemies on one side and unruly neighbors on the other. Many will recall the 1915-1920 genocide of the Armenian people by the Ottoman Turks. "The Armenians have never been an aggressive people," Reverend Aznikian states. "They adopted Christianity in the fourth century A.D. and have since been lone Christians surrounded by Muslims and Turks. They are an island of Indo-European people who have adopted a westernized tradition."

Packs of stray dogs roam the streets and attack humans...

The very survival of these desperate people depends on the charity of Westerners. Food, clothing, and medical supplies are of utmost urgency. But Reverend Aznikian also hopes that the western world will look to Armenia as a country for potential development. The Armenian church leader is hopeful that exchanges with the West are forthcoming. "If the West can find a way to cooperate in humanitarian assistance, they will find an industrious, intelligent, cooperative people who would welcome their

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According to California State University professor of Armenian Studies Dickran Kouymjian, "The relief operation undertaken by the U.S. Government would have been very simple if the State Department and the Administration

had put some pressure on the government of Turkey to allow American and European relief convoys to enter Armenia over the best overland route. Unfortunately, Turkey has taken the side of Azerbaijan in the struggle over Karabagh and thus far has done everything possible to obstruct the relief supplies from arriving in Armenia. We hope Turkey will change its position. Lives should take precedence over politics."



HOW YOU CAN HELP.

To launch "Operation Winter Rescue" Fresno City Councilman Tom Bohigian will hold a news conference with representatives of the Armenian Community Council and Temple Beth Israel on the second floor lobby of City Hall at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, 4 March 1993.

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- Warm winter clothing for men, women and children, both new and like new. Suggested clothing include: overcoats, hats and woolen caps, gloves, scarves, long underwear, and socks.

- Blankets and sleeping bags.

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SEN. BARBARA BOXER MEETS WITH ARMENIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

Senator Barbara Boxer (D-California) was a guest of the executive board of the Armenian Community Council of the San Joaquin Valley at a meeting held on Tuesday, February 9, 1993 in Fresno. Senator Boxer was invited to meet with the community leaders to discuss the issue of the current crisis in Armenia and ways to resolve the situation. Armenian Community Council Chairman Barlow Der Mugrdechian said, "the meeting was called to discuss how to lift the four-year blockade of Armenia. Senator Boxer has to consult with fellow senators to immediately explore the possibilities of lifting the blockade. Senator Boxer's initia-

tive is urgent and timely."

Senator Boxer traveled to Armenia in the summer of 1991 and was impressed by the efforts of the Armenians to initiate a democratic government in the former Soviet Republic. The recently elected Senator has worked closely with the Armenian community during the last two years familiarizing herself with issues vital to the Armenian community.

The current status of "Operation Winter Rescue" was also discussed during the meeting. Senator Boxer will look into arranging for additional U.S. government aid to Armenia during the winter.



Executive Board Members of the Armenian Community Council of the San Joaquin Valley with Senator Barbara Boxer of California. From left to Right: Bob Der Mugrdechian, Rev. Karl Avakian, Senator Barbara Boxer, Council Chairman Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Richard Darmanian, and Very Rev. Fr. Muron Aznikian.

Senator Boxer meets with San Joaquin valley Armenians



Sen. Barbara Boxer flanked by Executive Board members of the Armenian Community Council of San Joaquin Valley

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—Hye Sharzhoom news release

CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program achieves record enrollment

FRESNO, CA—On a university campus the size of CSU Fresno, sometimes smaller programs can easily be overlooked by the majority of the student population. However, the Armenian Studies Program is trying to change this.

Since 1979, students at CSUF have been able to take a variety of courses that deal with Armenian history and culture, according to Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies and coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program.

According to Kouymjian, this semester the program has experienced its highest enrollment ever. Some 125 students are taking courses and nearly half of the students are non-Armenian. More than 25 students are enrolled in beginning and intermediate Armenian courses, 50 students are enrolled in Armenian studies, nearly 20 students are enrolled in Armenian literature, and another 30 students taking Armenian architecture, Armenian history, and a course on William Saroyan.

There are several Armenian Studies programs set up in universities in the United States. They include Harvard, Columbia, the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and UCLA. Some of these have been suffering from enrollment and staffing problems. According to Kouymjian, the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF probably is the most consistent in the variety and regularity of its course offerings. The other programs do, however, offer graduate courses in Armenian Studies. CSUF's Armenian Studies has been strictly undergraduate.

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in teaching a variety of classes including classes in Armenian studies, modern and ancient Armenian history, William Saroyan, Armenian literature, Armenian architecture, and Armenian language.

Richard Ishimaru, a graduate student going for his second B.A. in history, is a student in Kouymjian's modern Armenian history class. He said about the class, "I came here not knowing what to expect and I'm very interested now." He also noted, "I knew there was a large Armenian population and it influenced my taking the class. He (Kouymjian) puts a lot of heart and soul into it."

Anna Carrillo, a senior History major, is another student in Kouymjian's modern Armenian history class. She said she took the class "because I didn't know anything about the Armenian people. I really enjoy the class because he (Kouymjian) gives a lot of information. He's really devoted to the subject. He makes me want to know more."

Carrillo also thought she looked at Armenian history in a different way because she is not Armenian. "Because I'm not an Armenian, I have a different outlook, but I can still relate. I can really sympathize with what the Armenians are going through."

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knew about the money."

Kouymjian said the program is currently pursuing some of its future goals, such as integrating more of the classes into the general education program. If this is done, it will make it easier for students to pursue a minor in Armenian Studies while fulfilling General Education requirements. The program also wants to maintain two full-time tenure-track faculty members and hire a secretary which the university has not had funds for.

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BY KIMBERLY N. SMITH (*Hye Sharzhoom*)

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Hye Sharzhoom
Staff Writer

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CSU Fresno Arm. Studies Program

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Michelle Ekizian's 'David of Sassoun' Receives Premiere

Due to the overwhelming success of the recent world premiere of the concert version of Michelle Ekizian's chamber opera *David of Sassoun* by the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, the work has just been nominated for this year's Pulitzer Prize in Music. The award, given annually by Columbia University for a distinguished composition premiered during the year of the prize, will be determined in late April. Commissioned by the National Endowment for the Arts, *David of Sassoun* received its concert premiere on February 8, 1993 at San Francisco's War Memorial Veterans Building.

An intricately crafted musical portrayal of a section from the ancient Armenian epic of the same name, Ekizian's *David of Sassoun* is a parable for our time's post-communist struggle for national identities. The work is bound with a high-impact drama that is exhilarating from beginning to end. Throughout the work, Ms. Ekizian weaves in her own adaptation of an old Armenian folk song, "Oh Wind," to suggest that the desire for freedom and independence is as natural to the Armenian people as is the wind to the Armenian highlands.

The premiere was met enthusiastically by a full capacity audience including a portion of San Francisco's Armenian com-

munity with a sizeable representation from the Knights of Vartan. Also attending was one of Armenia's foremost composers, Tigran Mansurian, director of the Gomidas Conservatory at Yerevan. On hand for the pre-concert discussion and providing insightful commentary on Armenia's national epic, was Prof. Dickran Kouymjian, chairman of Armenian Studies at California State University at Fresno.

The concert's first half consisted of instrumental chamber works by Aaron Copland and Art Jarvinen conducted by the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players' music director Stephen L. Mosko. For the second half of the program, four vocal soloists joined Maestro Mosko and the virtuoso instrumentalists of the SFCMP for a dazzling rendition of *David of Sassoun*. Performing the female vocal parts with verve and finesse were two long time collaborators of Ms. Ekizian's: the mezzo-soprano Maro Partamian as the wise old widow and soprano Barbara Ann Sulahian Martin as Kourkig Jalaly (a flying horse). The roles of David and King Msrah Melik, performed with equal intensity, were portrayed respectively by two artists from the San Francisco Opera: tenor Richard Walker and baritone Hector Vasquez. The concert was taped for broadcast by Public Radio.



FIRST SECRETARY ARRIVES -- Armenian Embassy First Secretary Garnik Nanagoulian, left, is welcomed to Fresno by Barlow Der Mugrdechian, chairman of the Armenian Community Council; Dr. Art Margosian, Victory editor; and Karl Dishian, State President of the Armenian-American Citizens' League. Photo by Charlotte Dishian.

First Secretary of Hye Embassy Visits Fresno

by Dr. Art Margosian
Editor

FRESNO - A special visitor to Fresno, hosted by the Armenian Community Council, gave two talks, answered a number of sensitive questions and left this writer with a concern for and admiration of the yearling Republic of Armenia Embassy in Washington.

A handsome, articulate Garnik A. Nanagoulian, First Secretary of the Embassy, described the then "current situation" in Armenia, Operation Winter Rescue and Fresno's ties to Armenia (and the Embassy). He was introduced at evening and breakfast sessions (March 26th and 27th) at St. Paul Armenian Church by Barlow Der Mugrdechian, council president.

A former career diplomat for the Soviet Union, Nanagoulian was the first official visitor of the Armenian Embassy to Fresno, and he thanked those in the Valley who have made donations and have given of themselves to help the Republic and

expressed "great pleasure in being here." Nanagoulian is married, has one daughter and is one of two full-time members of the Embassy Diplomatic Staff. He promised that the recently named Ambassador to the United States, Rouben Shugarian will visit the central valley soon (the Ambassador, Nanagoulian and two other non-diplomats comprised the entire Embassy staff at the time of Nanagoulian's visit).

In discussing the situation in Armenia, he noted the difficulty in describing a nation that presented "a bright picture only a few years ago" -- a republic with a great future. And today it is a country in misery with the breakdown of its economy (the shutdown of its industries, schools and other institutions), and with drastic shortages of medical supplies, energy and food. Nanagoulian said the most important cause of the problems is the conflict in Karabagh and the vicious violence and oppression by Azerbaijan in a war he label-

Embassy

ed a "full-scale war with sophisticated weapons," and as a result, a total stoppage of truck and other transportation between the two republics.

He said the economic blockade by the Azeris and its associated problems, and the lack of a strong, unified government in neighboring Georgia were contributing to the miseries in Armenia. The Georgian leaders had little control of events several miles outside of Tiflisi. He commented on the explosions of bridges -- one the day he spoke in Fresno -- and the resultant further cutoff of needed fuel and other supplies to Armenia. He said the US government, Armenian officials and the Georgians were already at work building an alternative to the bridge -- vital in moving even the goods offered by Californians who gave to Operation Winter Rescue.

Nanagoulian promised that the goods would get to the people of Armenia. He said, "the bridges, from now on, will be guarded by Georgian and Armenian troops." There will be alternative routes developed to get the goods to our people. Nanagoulian stressed the commitment of the US government to get Operation Winter Rescue shipments delivered to Armenia. (He noted that the Fund for Democracy and Development's aim is to get

humanitarian shipments to former USSR republics). Nanagoulian said that people in Europe, including Great Britain, France, Italy, Spain and Germany, have joined US citizens in participating in the rescue effort.

Nanagoulian said he is already working with US officials in the planning of Operation Winter Rescue II. It could start as early as this summer.

He focused on the success of Operation Rescue "1", praising groups such as the Armenian Community Council for their leadership. "Your assistance has saved lives. Operation Rescue, in addition to helping our people, demonstrated to the US government that the Armenian community in the United States is strong and well-organized," Nanagoulian said, "Operation Rescue also showed Armenia that it has support from Armenians in the diaspora."

Commenting on the Embassy in Washington, Nanagoulian discussed misconceptions of its role. "We sometimes get calls asking what the Embassy is doing to help demonstrations in Washington?" he said. "We must act within the framework of International Law, and obey laws here in the United States" meaning that the Embassy cannot participate in demonstrations.

He said the Embassy is one of the most important for the Republic, because "it provides a major contact with the only major super

power in the world and that it is important for a young democracy in the world to be in Washington, the site of the oldest democracy of the world."

Nanagoulian said one of the Embassy's major accomplishments in its first year was to become the first former Soviet republic to sign a "Most Favored Nation Trade Treaty" with the United States.

The First Secretary also said:

- We have stressed to the US government that **we want humanitarian assistance from the US, only until the political environment in Armenia improves.**

- **We (Armenia)** started economic reforms in 1991, but we became the only Republic to move to Privatization successfully, without the loss of lives.

- Armenia does not have the funds to hire a "high-powered" public relations firm to get its message to major media (and other target audiences) in the US. (Azerbaijan recently hired a PR firm, at \$30,000 a month, to favorably promote it in the media and with other institutions and governmental bodies.)

- We learned that there are more Armenian organizations in the US than there are official governmental bodies.

- We are trying to work

with and thereby tap the potential of all organizations.

- **The Embassy enjoys friendly relations with the Armenian National Committee and the Armenian Assembly -- "both are willing to help us at any time."**

- Second on our Washington agenda is relations with Congress. Congressman Lehman is "one of our good friends." The US government spent \$160 million in 1992 to help Armenia.

- There is **not** a movement from privatization of farms back to collectives in Armenia.

- **We will have to use the Medzamor Nuclear Power Plant if we do not find alternative energy sources by July or August.**

- Questions regarding information about relatives in Armenia and their coming to the US need to be addressed to the US Immigration and Naturalization Service -- not to the Armenian Embassy.

- **We use our diplomatic presence in Washington to contact other nations, where we cannot afford to establish an Embassy.**

- We will be moving (our Embassy) into larger, more suitable quarters, where we will be able to have better access to the "decision-makers."

Saroyan Radio Drama Series To Air

The Fresno Free College Foundation and the William Saroyan Festival Committee are co-sponsoring the production of William Saroyan, *An American Trilogy*, three plays by Saroyan, for broadcast on KFCF-FM (88.1 MHz) during the William Saroyan Festival in May. The plays, adapted for radio will be produced by the San Benito Street Radio Players, a local radio actors troupe.

The trilogy includes plays written by Saroyan late in his life, and includes *Armenians*, *Bitlis*, and *Haratch*. The works were compiled and edited by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, a professor in the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno. The stories have been published by The Press at CSUF. The three plays deal with the issues of Armenians in exile from their native homeland.

The William Saroyan Festival is an annual series of events held in May to highlight the literary works of the Fresno-born Pulitzer Prize winning author and playwright

The plays will be broadcast on KFCF on Saturday evenings, starting with *Armenians* on May 15th, *Bitlis* on May 22 and concluding with *Haratch* on May 29, 1993.

The plays were originally written for stage production, but have been adapted for radio by the San Benito Street Radio Players. The radio players consist of local actors and musicians, who in conjunction with the festival, volunteer their efforts annually to produce the many plays written by Saroyan. The Fresno Free College Foundation was the original sponsoring organization of the William Saroyan Festival when it began in 1985, and owns and operates KFCF.

Saroyan Festival Takes Center Stage in May

FRESNO - The colorful life and poignant times of one of Fresno's most famous native sons will come alive during the Ninth Annual William Saroyan Festival in Fresno during the month of May.

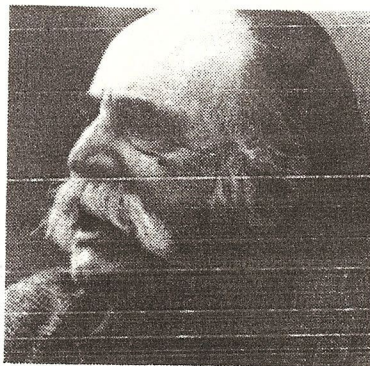
Writer William Saroyan was an American original. For over half a century he wrote in a uniquely individual style that resulted in an extensive catalog of published material.

Through his writing, Saroyan created a fictional identity for Fresno that was rooted in his experience growing up here. It was from Fresno that Saroyan found his writer's voice.

New this year is Marcel Nunis, a professional story teller, who will visit classrooms, grades 4 to 8, in the city and county schools, tell the children about Saroyan, and then tell a Saroyan story. He will end each session with tips on how to write a story.

Saroyan, who died in 1981, was known affectionately as Bill or Willy by even the most casual acquaintances. Saroyan often rode his bicycle through the Tower District, hat all but blowing off and coat caught up in the wind. He enjoyed being asked to talk to school children.

The events this year are:
Saturday, May 1 - SAROYAN ARMENIAN HISTORICAL WALK. Plan to meet in front of the William Saroyan Theater at



8:30 AM (parking meters are not enforced on Saturdays). This event is free and tour will last about one and one-half hours. The tour will start at 9 AM. The guide will show where Saroyan was born and many other places in Old Armenian Town.

Saturday May 1 - SYMPOSIUM: "HOW I REMEMBER WILLY" at CSUF, 2 to 5 PM in the University Student Union, rooms 312-314. Admission is free. There will be relaxed parking. (For information, call Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, 278-2669.)

Sunday, May 2 - DEDICATION OF THE SAROYAN MONUMENT, sculpted by Varaz Samuelian at The Varaz Museum, 1331 R Street. An art show will follow the dedication. Refreshments will be served.

Saturday, May 15 - THE ANNUAL SAROYAN BICYCLE ROAD RACE in Clovis. Registration starts at 6:45 AM at Wild Water Adventure, 11413 E. Shaw Ave. Register early at Valley

Sports. For information call (209) 435-1671.

Saturday, May 15 - WORLD PREMIERE - THREE SAROYAN PLAYS on radio.

ARMENIANS, Saturday, May 15, KFCF FM 88.1 at 7 PM.

BITLIS, Saturday, May 22, KFCF FM 88.1 at 7 PM.

HARATCH, Saturday, May 29, KFCF FM 88.1 at 7 PM.

The plays were edited by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, professor of Armenian Studies at CSUF and published after Saroyan's death. This book is called "An Armenian Trilogy."

Sunday, May 16 - THE ANNUAL SAROYAN CRITERIUM BICYCLE RACE. It starts behind the William Saroyan Theatre at 8 AM. Racers may register at Valley Sports. This is free to the public.

Monday, May 24 - HOMAGE TO SAROYAN. There will be a reading of winning story entries of the Saroyan Writing Contest over KFCF FM 88.1 by Ed Markman from 11 AM to 12 Noon.

On June 21 the SAROYAN-IN-THE-PARK BAND CONCERT sponsored by Channel 24 TV. Admission to Woodward Park and the concert is free after 6 PM. The concert starts with Armenian music and dancing at 6:30 PM. During the intermission prizes will be awarded to winners of the Saroyan Writing Contest.

Plans Completed for Annual Saroyan Festival

By Ben Amirkhanian

FRESNO, Ca - The colorful life and poignant times of one of Fresno's most famous native sons will come alive during the Ninth Annual William Saroyan Festival in Fresno during the month of May.

Writer William Saroyan was an American original. For over half a century he wrote in a uniquely individual style that resulted in an extensive catalog of published material -- short stories, plays, books -- as well as an extensive unpublished collection of manuscripts, journals and letters.

Through his writing, Saroyan created a fictional identity for Fresno that was rooted in his experience growing up here. It was from Fresno that Saroyan found his writer's voice.

New this year is Marcel Numis, a professional story teller, who goes to classrooms in the city and county schools,

Through his writing, Saroyan created a fictional identity for Fresno that was rooted in his experience growing up here. It was from Fresno that Saroyan found his writer's voice.

New this year is Marcel Numis, a professional story teller, who goes to classrooms in the city and county schools, grades 4 to 8, tells the children about Saroyan, and then tells a Saroyan story. He ends each session with tips on how to write a story. Nunis has been booked by 162 classes in 42 schools reaching 5038 students. This ties in well with the Annual Saroyan Writing Contest.

Saroyan, who died in 1981, was known affectionately as "Bill" or "Willy" by even the most casual acquaintances. Saroyan often rode his bicycle through the Tower District, hat all but blowing off and coat caught up in the wind. He enjoyed being asked to talk to school children. Sometimes he would drop into a classroom unannounced and speak to the students on whatever subject came to mind.

These are the events coming up this year:

Saturday, May 1, 1993 - Saroyan Armenian Historical Walk. Plan to meet in front of The William Saroyan Theatre at 8:30 a.m. Parking meters are not enforced on Saturdays. This event is free and tour will last about one and a half hours. The tour will start at 9:00 a.m. The guide will show you where Saroyan was born and many other places in Old Armenian Town.

Saturday, May 1, 1993 - Symposium: "How I Remember Willy" at CSUF, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the University Student Union, rooms 312-314. Admission is free. There will be relaxed parking. For information, call Prof. Dickran Kouymjian, 278-2669.

Sunday, May 2, 1993 at 3:00

p.m. - Dedication of the Saroyan Monument, sculpted by Varaz Samuelian at The Varaz Museum, 1331 R Street. An art show will follow the dedication. Refreshments will be served.

Saturday, May 15, 1993 -

The Annual Saroyan Bicycle Road Race is in Clovis. Registration starts at 6:45 a.m. at Wild Water Adventure, 11413 E. Shaw Ave. One may register early at Valley Sports. For information, call (209)435-1671.

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Monday, June 21 - Saroyan-in-the-Park Band Concert. This concert at Woodward Park is sponsored by Channel 24 TV. Admission to the park and to the concert is free after 6 p.m. The concert starts with Armenian music and dancing at 6:30 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to winner of the Saroyan Writing Contest during the intermission.

CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program Achieves Record Enrollment

Fresno — On a university campus the size of CSU Fresno, sometimes smaller programs can easily be overlooked by the majority of the student population. However, the Armenian Studies Program is trying to change this.

Since 1979, students at CSUF have been able to take a variety of courses that deal with Armenian history and culture, according to Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies and coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program.

According to Kouymjian, this semester the program has experienced its highest enrollment ever. Some 125 students are taking courses and nearly half of them are non-Armenian. More than 25 students are enrolled in beginning and intermediate Armenian courses, 50 students are enrolled in Armenian studies, nearly 20 students are enrolled in Armenian literature, and another

30 are taking Armenian architecture, Armenian history, and a course on William Saroyan.

There are several Armenian studies programs set up in universities in the United States. They include Harvard, Columbia, the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and UCLA. Some of these have been suffering from enrollment and staffing problems. According to Kouymjian, the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF probably is the most consistent in the variety and regularity of its course offerings. The other programs do, however, offer graduate courses in Armenian studies. CSUF's has been strictly undergraduate.

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, lecturer in Armenian studies, assists in teaching a variety of classes including classes in Armenian studies, modern and ancient Armenian history, William Saroyan, Armenian literature, architecture, and language.

Richard Ishimaru, a graduate student going for his second BA in history is a student in Kouymjian's modern Armenian history class. He said, "I came in here not knowing what to expect and I'm very interested now. I knew there was a large Armenian population and it influenced my taking the class. He (Kouymjian) puts a lot of his heart and soul into it."

Anna Carrillo, a senior history major, is another student in Kouymjian's modern Armenian history class. She said she took the class "because I didn't know anything about the Armenian

people. I really enjoy the class because Kouymjian gives a lot of information. He's really devoted to the subject. He makes me want to know more."

Carrillo also thought she looked at Armenian history in a different way because she is not Armenian. "Because I'm not Armenian, I have a different outlook but I can still relate. I can really sympathize with what the Armenians are going through."

For students interested in taking Armenian studies classes, a total of \$20,000 in scholarships are available. Kouymjian said a lot of students could get some

kind of money by taking a class through the program and added, "I wish more students knew about the money."

Kouymjian said the program is currently pursuing some of its future goals such as integrating more of the classes into the general education program. If this is done, it will make it easier for students to pursue a minor in Armenian studies while fulfilling general education requirements. The program also wants to maintain two full-time tenure-track faculty members and hire a secretary, which the university has not had funds for.

Kimberly N. Smith
Hye Sharzhoom Newspaper



At concert premiere of "David of Sassoun," from left, Dickran Kouymjian, Barbara Ann Sulahian Martin, Tigran Mansurian, composer Michelle Ekizian, and Maro Partamian

Ekizian's 'David of Sassoun' nominated for Pulitzer Prize in music

NEW YORK—Due to the overwhelming success of the recent world premiere of the concert version of Michelle Ekizian's chamber opera, "David of Sassoun," by the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players (SFCMP), the work has just been nominated for this year's Pulitzer Prize in Music. The award, given annually by Columbia University for a distinguished composition premiered during the year of the prize, will be determined in late April.

Commissioned by the National Endowment for the Arts, "David of Sassoun" received its concert premiere on February 8, 1993, at San Francisco's War Memorial Veterans Building.

An intricately crafted musical portrayal of a section from the ancient Armenian epic of the same name, Ekizian's "David of Sassoun" is a parable for our time's post-communist struggle for national identity. The work is bound with a high-impact drama that is exhilarating from beginning to end.

Throughout the work, Ekizian

weaves in her own adaptation of an old Armenian folk song, "Oh, Wind," to suggest that the desire for freedom and independence is as natural to the Armenian people as is the wind to the Armenian highlands.

The premiere was met enthusiastically by a full capacity audience that included members of the San Francisco Armenian community. Also attending was one of Armenia's foremost composers, Prof. Tigran Mansurian, director of the Komitas Conservatory in Yerevan. On hand for the pre-concert discussion, and providing insightful commentary on Armenia's national epic, was Prof. Dickran Kouymjian, Chairman of Armenian Studies at California State at Fresno.

The concert's first half consisted of instrumental chamber works by Aaron Copeland and Art Jarvinen, conducted by San Francisco Contemporary Music Players music director Stephen L. Mosko. For the second half of the program, four vocal soloists joined Maestro

Mosko and the virtuoso instrumentalists of the SFCMP for a dazzling rendition of "David of Sassoun."

Performing the female vocal parts with verve and finesse were two long time collaborators of Ekizian: mezzo-soprano Maro Partamian, as the wise old widow; and soprano Barbara Ann Sulahian Martin, as Kourkig Jalaly (a flying horse). The roles of David and King Msrah Melik, performed with equal intensity, were portrayed, respectively, by two artists from the San Francisco Opera, tenor Richard Walker and baritone Hector Vasquez.

The concert was taped for broadcast by Public Radio.

Plans for expansion of the chamber opera into a full evening-length work are underway, as are negotiations for performances of the existing version with American, European, and Russian ensembles.

—American Composers Alliance
news release



AT SAN FRANCISCO PREMIERE - From left to right, CSUF Professor Dickran Kouymjian, soprano Barbara Ann Sulahian Martin, Gomidas Conservatory Director, Tigran Mansurian, composer Michelle Ekizian, and mezzo-soprano Maro Partamian.

Ekizian's 'David of Sassoun' Receives Nomination for Pulitzer Prize in Music

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The award, given annually by Columbia University for a composition premiered during the year of the prize, will be determined in late April. Commissioned by the National Endowment for the Arts, "David of Sassoun" received its concert premiere on Feb. 8 in San Francisco.

The premiere was attended by one of Armenia's foremost composers, Professor Tigran Mansurian, director of the world-renowned Gomidas Conservatory of Yerevan. Also on hand for the pre-concert discussion and providing a commentary on Armenia's national epic, was Prof. Dickran Kouymjian, chairman of Armenian Studies at California

State University, Fresno, and an eminent scholar of the "Sassoun" epic.

An intricately crafted musical portrayal of a section from the ancient Armenian epic, Ekizian's "David of Sassoun" is a parable for the present's struggle for national identities.

Performing the female vocal parts were mezzo-soprano Maro Partamian, and soprano Barbara Ann Sulahian Martin.

The concert was taped for a future broadcast by the National Public Radio.

Plans for expansion of the chamber opera into a full evening-length work are already underway, as are negotiations for performances of the existing version with American, European and Russian ensembles.

Composer Michelle Ekizian's "David of Sassoun" Receives Premiere in San Francisco

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The concert's first half consisted of instrumental chamber works by Aaron Copland and Art Jarvinen conducted by the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players' music di-

rector Stephen L. Mosko. For the second half of the program, four vocal soloists joined Maestro Mosko and the virtuoso instrumentalists of the SFCMP for a dazzling rendition of "David of Sassoun."

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Plans for expansion of the chamber opera into a full evening-length work are already underway, as are negotiations for performances of the existing version with American, European, and Russian ensembles.



At the concert premiere of David of Sassoun from left to right: Dickran Kouymjian, Barbara Ann Sulahian Martin, Tigran Mansurian, composer Michelle Ekizian and Maro Partamian.

Armenia: A Trip You'll Never Forget

By Aram Sarkissian

How would you feel if your parents asked you if you'd be willing to take a trip to Armenia this summer? Would you go? Why or why not? Would you rather go on a trip to Mexico, Hawaii, Europe? Or would you like to see, hear, feel, and learn about our motherland, to explore it and meet our people? Well, when I asked Christine Caprelian, a senior at Fresno State University, she said, "Yes, I would like to visit Armenia because I have always wanted to see and explore the cultural aspects of the day-to-day life. I'm very interested in all of the churches and I also want to visit the towns and villages that my family is from." Janice Caprelian said, "Yes, I would also go because I want to see my homeland and speak the language. I would like to meet people, see the historical sights, and be able to go there to help rebuild the destroyed buildings from the 1988 earthquake." Another student at Fresno State commented, "I wouldn't go at this point in my life because I feel my education is more important right now, but I'll probably go in the future."

Are these the same feelings you have or are they quite different?

I have been to Armenia twice, once in 1987 and again in 1990 and I wouldn't trade the experiences I had there for anything in the world. They were the most inspirational, educational, and moving trips I have ever taken. Everyone must go and see Armenia for what it really is.

The reason I say that is because our only knowledge of Armenia is from our parents, grandparents, books, newspapers, and television. We, the younger generation, are not able to really associate with our brothers and sisters who live in Armenia. We feel as if we're detached from Armenia and therefore go on living our lives only remembering important days like April 24th, May 28th, and September 21st. But do those dates mean much if you haven't been there?

Some may argue yes, and I agree; however, you will never completely understand them unless you see the faces of the people in Armenia. Television and newspapers can't do it. You must go, like I have,

and see firsthand the mothers waiting in line for bread and cheese, the children doing their homework by candlelight, and the fedayees (Armenian freedom fighters) fighting only with pistols against enemies with more advanced weapons. For example, when you are there, looking from Khorvirab over the horizon towards Mt. Ararat in Turkey, you will feel something inside that says "This land is ours, not theirs, and it rightfully belongs to us" and then you can and you will understand why April 24th is so very important.

AMAZING EXPERIENCE

The cultural experience gained from visiting Armenia is also amazing. Take a tour to the Mayr Hayastan (Mother Armenia) statue and take a look at majestic Yerevan, see it and feel it. Go to the statue of David of Sasoon. Walk to the Opera House and see where the demonstrations took place. When you are standing there, imagine that there's a half a million people beside you yelling, screaming, and chanting for our freedom. Then go to the Center Square where the fountain is located. Watch the little children swim and play right next to where an enormous statue of Lenin used to stand. Then see Dzidzernagapert (the monument in memory of the martyrs of the 1915 Genocide). Walk around it, inside it, touch it and try to imagine the importance of it. One and a half million people, our own people. Think about it! When I was there the first time, the eternal flame was burning, but in 1990 after the earthquake, the flame was out because of the energy and gas blockade. It's events such as this that make me so enraged and want to do anything I can to help prevent them. Which leads me to my next point -- getting involved!

This is a very intense subject for me because I feel very strongly about Armenians in the diaspora getting involved with the events of Armenia. Do you realize that in Armenia right now, telephone poles and all of the beautiful trees in the city parks are being chopped down?

Do you know why?...

Do you care?...

This tragedy is happening because there is no fuel. Because of the energy blockade, people don't have the ability to warm their homes during the harsh winter and therefore are burning the trees and telephone poles. Yes, it has become that bad. By getting involved in your community and in any of the different organizations such as the ACYO, ACC, AYP, ARF, ADL, and ANC, you can get in touch with the current events of Armenia and help. The Armenian media is also a very good source for information. Horizon (the Armenian television hour) and the Asbarez (the Armenian daily newspaper) are just a few. Right now Armenia needs everyone's help and participation in "Operation Winter Rescue." Please, bring all your unwanted articles of clothing to any of the Armenian churches in your local community. We cannot let this continue! !!!

Going to Armenia in 1987 and then with my A.Y.F. group in 1990 was an experience I will never forget. I recommend going very strongly because Armenia needs people to see, firsthand, the devastation and turmoil that's going on. We need people to help here in the diaspora to do everything imaginable to make the lives of our brothers and sisters a better one.

Hye Sharzhoom

Fresno, CA

SOURCE The Fresno Bee, Fresno

DATE April 25, 1993

SUBJECT Saroyan Festival Events

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NINTH ANNUAL

Saroyan

FESTIVAL EVENTS



CLIP & SAVE
FOR REFERENCE

<p>Saturday, May 1, 1993 SYMPOSIUM: "HOW I REMEMBER WILLY:" At CSUF, 2 to 5 PM, University Student Union, room 312-314. Admission free, relaxed parking. Info. Call Dickran Kouymjian, 278-2669. You are invited to tell us of your experience with Saroyan.</p> <p>Saturday, May 1, 1993 SAROYAN ARMENIAN HISTORICAL WALK Meet in front of the William Saroyan Theater at 8:30 AM to register. Cost if free. The tour leaves at 9:00 AM.</p> <p>Sunday, May 2, 1993 DEDICATION OF THE SAROYAN MONUMENT Varaz Art Museum, 1331 R Street at 3 PM. A dessert reception and art show will follow. Free admission.</p> <p>Saturday, May 15, 1993 ANNUAL SAROYAN BICYCLE ROAD RACE In Clovis, registration starts 6:45 AM at Wild Water Adventure, 11413 E. Shaw Ave. Information call (209) 435-1671. Register Early at Valley Sports - Save \$5.00.</p> <p>Saturday, May 15, 1993 WORLD PREMIER - SAROYAN PLAYS. KFCF 88.1 FM RADIO ARMENIANS, Saturday, May 15, 1993. 7:00 PM BITLIS, Saturday, May 22, 1993. 7:00 PM HARATCH, Saturday, May 29, 1993. 7:00 PM By the San Benito Street Radio Players sponsored by The Fresno Free College Foundation and the Saroyan Festival.</p>	<p>Sunday, May 16, 1993 ANNUAL SAROYAN CRITERIUM BICYCLE RACE Starts behind the William Saroyan Theater, 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM. Call, (209) 435-1671. Register Early at Valley Sports</p> <p>Monday, May 24, 1993 HOMAGE TO SAROYAN Reading of stories written by the winners of the Saroyan Writing Contest by Ed Markmann over KPFA in Berkeley and over KFCF-FM 88.1 in Fresno from 11 AM to noon. Information (209) 221-1441.</p> <p>Monday, June 21, 1993 SAROYAN-IN-THE-PARK BAND CONCERT In cooperation with Channel 24 TV at Woodward Park 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Free admission to the park and the concert Armenian music and Armenian dancing plus the regular band concert. Saroyan Writing Contest prizes will be awarded during the intermission.</p> <p>NEW STORY TELLING PROJECT: Professional story teller, Marcel Nunis, is visiting 162 classes in 42 schools county wide involving 5039 students. He talks about William Saroyan, tells a story and gives tips on how to write a story. Two Saroyan books are donated to each school library. Call Marcel, 222-0674 if interested.</p> <p>SAROYAN WRITING CONTEST: For all students, first grade through college. Deadline, May 4, 1993. For information call John Kallenberg. (209) 488-3185.</p>
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To be on our mailing list, write: Saroyan Festival, Box 4606,
Fresno, CA 93744 or phone 221-1441.

SPOTLIGHT 6

Sunday, April 25, 1993

THE FRESNO BEE

Armenian-Americans struggle to preserve traditions, identity

❖ *The Armenian Orthodox Church expresses concern over loss of culture.*

By Shari Vee Kazarian
Staff Writer

Armenians, like many other ethnic groups, are faced with the struggle of preserving their culture and language outside of their home land.

On one hand there are the second- and third-generation Armenian-Americans who, although proud of their heritage, have drifted away from the Armenian culture. On the other hand there are those who are passionate about preserving the culture.

In the play "Armenians," by Fresno author William Saroyan, the character Father Kasparian, the priest of the Red Brick Armenian Apostolic Church (actually a reference to Fresno's Holy Trinity), discusses cultural changes with the Reverend Papazian, minister of the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church.

Father Kasparian said: "There is the matter of our boys and girls growing up unable to read and write Armenian. And many marry members of other nationalities. And of course many of our young people either refuse to come to this church, or even to yours, and if they do come, they are bored, and they even tell jokes to one another during the services."

The setting of the play is 1921, yet in 1993 the same issues remain for many Armenians living in diaspora (out of their country).

Father Kevork Arakelian, the priest at St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church in Fowler, said that in the 40's and 50's English was slowly implemented into the sermon and , Badarak (the Divine Liturgy) because the congregation was made up of some members that didn't speak Armenian. The members he is referring to usually consisted of second generation Armenian-Americans whose parents came to America during the Armenian Genocide of 1915, the Turkish attempt to eliminate Armenians, and drive them from their homeland.

Though some English has been integrated into the sermons, all the hymns are still in Armenian, and will continue to be, said Arakelian.

Arakelian said that a large part of St. Gregory's congregation is third generation, and are almost all English speaking people.

Arakelian said only a few of the older members of the church disagreed with using English, but as time has gone on, using some English has not brought any recent complaints from the congregation.

"We are a non-immigrant parish, but we would go back to using all Armenian if the congregation spoke only Armenian. The church needs to change for new surroundings," said Arakelian.

Unlike the Fowler's St. Gregory church, Fresno's Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic church (The red brick church on the corner of Ventura and M. Street.) has a large immigrant congregation.

Father Hrant Serabian, the priest at Holy Trinity, said, "We have a bilingual congregation. They speak both Armenian and English."

He said most of the congregation has knowledge of both languages. For those who do not know Armenian, the sermons can become hard to follow. To keep the entire congregation better in tune with the sermon, the Armenian sermon is read and then the same sermon is given in English.

The Badarak at Holy Trinity is still 100 percent Armenian, Serabian said. "We have no right to touch that," said Serabian.

Hakop Adjinian, a recent immigrant from Yerevan, said he is a member at Holy Trinity church, and he sometimes goes to St. Paul's church. St. Paul's church has implemented some English into its Badarak similar to St. Gregory.

Adjinian, a first year Business student at CSUF, said the only differences he noticed from his church in Yerevan and the Armenian churches in America was that English was sometimes used.

Another conflict for many Arme-

nian-Americans is the issue of marrying non-Armenians. Intermarriages are occurring more frequently than Armenians marrying Armenians.

Adjinian predicted that "The Armenians should be around at least another 150 years with all these intermarriages." He also said, "I would prefer to marry an

Armenian, and so would my parents, but I can't guarantee anything."

He said that nine out of 10 times he sees parents pressure their children to marry other Armenians.

Since 1980, the majority of the weddings at St. Gregory have been intermarriages. Arakelian said it's no loss to the church if the a member marries a non-Armenian. If the Armenian was

***"The Armenians should be around for at least another 150 years with all these inter-marriages. I would prefer to marry an American, and so would my parents, but I can't guarantee anything."
-Hakop Adjinian***

Arakelian stressed the church's commitment to its ethnicity is the commitment to Christ. In other words, the church will always be Armenian, but its foundation is of Jesus Christ.

"The church would flourish with any members, but the church will still be Ar-

menian," said Arakelian.

Kouymjian said, "The Armenian diaspora is getting stronger." He said the Armenians have survived for this long, so they should be around for many more years.

Serabian agreed that the Armenians are strong and should be around for many more years.

He said that Holy Trinity in 1992

involved in the church before marriage, then he or she will probably still be involved in the church, and the spouse may also become involved, Arakelian said. But those who were not involved with the church prior to the intermarriage probably will still not be involved and there is no loss to the church, he explained.

Advantages to marrying an Armenian, according to Arakelian, were that both spouses would have the same faith, similar backgrounds and interests. He said it seems to be easier for the couples to cope and manage with the transition of marriage if both are from the same background.

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, director of the Armenian studies program at CSUF, said, "It is unfortunate our parents and their parents felt so strongly that we should marry only Armenians." He said that Armenians should not feel compelled to marry only Armenians, but that the Armenians should not go out of their way not to marry other Armenians.

had 11 weddings, 41 funerals and 42 baptisms. He stressed that the 42 baptisms are a good sign for the Armenian church. These baptisms represent another generation with strong ties to the Armenian church.

Some Armenian-Americans have expressed concern about new generations not learning the Armenian language.

"The Jewish people have been without language for over 2,000 years," said Kouymjian, "and they still exist."

In other words, if the Jews can survive without using Hebrew out of their country, though Hebrew is the official language of Israel, as is Armenian in Armenia, the Armenians may also be able to survive with new generations not learning the language, Kouymjian said.

The character from Bitlis Armenia, in the play "Armenians" said, "Armenia may be coming to an end—the Russians in the seat of Government in Armenia where Armenia is, and the rest of us faraway learning new languages and living among new people and forgetting how to read and write our own language, changing our names, marrying outsiders, letting it go, letting it all go. That is what is making it sorrowful."

Some Armenian-Americans have expressed concern that Armenian-American children are not speaking Armenian and the preservation of the Armenian language may be lost.

Matthew Jendian, a graduate student in sociology at University of Southern California, said he found in several studies of intermarriage the phenomenon known as the "mother-tongue shift."

Jendian noted in his research he found that 66 percent of children whose parents shared a non-English first language speak only English, while over 90 percent of children with linguistically heterogamous backgrounds speak only English.

"Thus, non-English languages are disappearing through mother-tongue shift in large part because of ethnic intermarriage," said Jendian.

By the second generation, the use of Armenian as the frequently spoken language in the home decreases by 50 percent, Jendian found in his research.

Jendian has also found that intermarriages are occurring more frequently and that there seems to be less participation by Armenian-Americans in Armenian activities in the community.

Jendian said that in 1990, approximately 90 percent of the marriages in Fresno County of Armenians born in America were to non-Armenians.

He said Armenian couples in general bring with them different degrees of ethnic identification and participation.

"There are some hard-core, U.S.-born Armenians who constantly get involved in Armenian community activities," Jendian said. "There are others who are proud of being Armenian but really don't have much interest or are too busy with their real lives to participate in the Armenian community on a regular basis."

In "Armenians" Saroyan saw the struggle the Armenian-American people were facing then and are still facing. He wrote in the program note to the play: "It's hopeless and we know it, but not so hopeless that we don't want to find out how hopeless it is."



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE

Fresno BEe; Fresno

DATE

April 30, 1993

SUBJECT

Saroyan Festival Events

PAGE

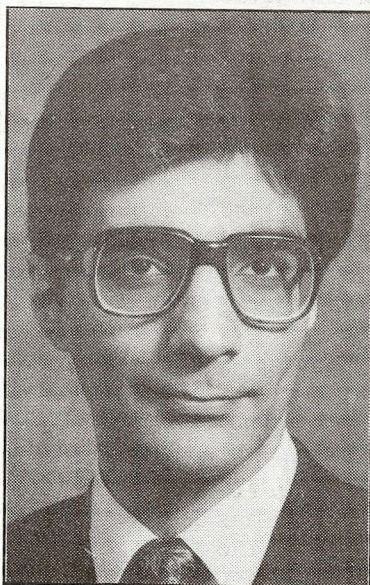
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■ Three events will kick off the ninth annual William Saroyan Festival Saturday and Sunday. Those who wish to take a historical walk of the author's haunts can meet at 8:30 a.m. Saturday in front of the William Saroyan Theatre, 700 M St. The tour is free and lasts about an hour and a half.

Also scheduled from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday is a symposium titled "I Remember Willy." It will be held in the Fresno State University Student Union, Rooms 312-314. Admission is free.

The Saroyan monument sculpted by Varaz Samuelian will be dedicated at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Varaz Museum, 1331 R St. Refreshments will be served.

Ambassador Shugarian Labels Conditions 'Hopeful' in Armenia



Rouben Shugarian
Ambassador of Armenia

FRESNO -- In his first official visit outside of Washington, D.C., Rouben Shugarian, the Ambassador of Armenia, gave Armenian-Americans in the Central Valley a message of hope for the future of Armenia and hope for the end to the war in Nagorno-Karabagh.

Several hundred people met and heard the Ambassador during a day full of greetings at the airport, a formal Press Conference, a luncheon with the business community and other interested persons, a special reception and a banquet at St. Paul Armenian Church -- all arranged by the Armenian Community Council of the San Joaquin Valley.

From the warm greeting at the airport by children from the Armenian Community School of Fresno to a late evening goodbye at the banquet, Shugarian reassured his audiences that **Armenia -- having survived one of the most difficult periods in its history during the past winter -- will recover once the blockade and the war in Nagorno-Karabagh have been resolved peacefully and with an internationally-monitored agreement.**

He was joined by Garnik Nanagoulian, the Embassy's First Secretary who was on his second visit to Fresno; and Carole Long Karabashian, Press Secretary. Shugarian was questioned by the press on present conditions in Armenia, US

administration attitudes towards Armenia, the war in Nagorno-Karabagh, the extent of assistance from Russia, relations with Armenia's neighbors -- especially Turkey -- Georgia and Azerbaijan; the deaths caused by the harsh winter and even harsher blockades, and the immediate need for help from Armenians in this country.

People lined up twice to greet -- and have pictures taken with -- the Ambassador and/or his staff at the airport and banquet. He told the special luncheon audience that Armenia has been very receptive to outside investors and businesses and was the first of the old USSR republics to adopt the Western market-based economy.

Responding to reporters, he echoed Congressman Richard Lehman's comments, made upon his return from Armenia, that the solutions to the misery forced upon the people of Armenia and to the war in Nagorno-Karabagh include an immediate end to the war and an internationally supervised cease fire in Azerbaijan, and **negotiations to end the war, focused on getting the warring parties together with help from Russia, Turkey and**

the United States, all as mediators.

Shugarian said that "the war in Karabagh is the most important and most challenging problem faced

"We have a moral right to assist ethnic Armenians ... and to secure ... guarantees for peace"

-Shugarian

by Armenia and by other former Soviet republics in the area." He told one reporter that, "No," there are no Armenian Republic soldiers fighting in Karabagh. But, "Yes, we have sent humanitarian aid to Karabagh."

He repeated at several sessions that "negotiations to end the war in Nagorno-Karabagh are at their highest point since the fighting started in 1988." He stressed that although Armenia's economy has been damaged because of the blockade, the Republic of Armenia remains the most politically stable democracy of the nations created from the USSR.

He praised Central Valley residents and other Californians for their significant contributions -- sending relief supplies to Armenia

during the past winter. Central California residents have sent more than \$100,000 worth of goods to their homeland in addition to financial contributions.

Shugarian also repeated -- in Fresno and in formal press releases earlier -- that newspaper and television news accounts calling the war "an undeclared war between Azerbaijan and Armenia" were inaccurate, although the Azeris have spread the fighting with their shelling of towns on their border with Armenia.

"We have some influence on the independent Karabagh enclave, but we are not a party to the conflict," Shugarian stressed. "We have a moral right to assist ethnic Armenians in the enclave and to secure international guarantees for peace..."

Early this month Armenia gave conditional approval and Azerbaijan backed an international peace initiative, proposed by the US, Russia and Turkey. The proposal calls for withdrawal of Armenian troops from the Kelbajar region and a 60-day cessation of hostilities to be followed by talks. Shugarian said the US should take a more active and realistic role in the negotiations and should have checked more carefully before recently condemning the Armenian forces' "offensive" in May.

He said the reports were not balanced and were based on insufficient information.

Fresno Mayor Jim Patterson, at the evening banquet, presented Shugarian a key to the City and said that "his home would always be open to the Ambassador of Armenia."

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, professor of Armenia Studies at CSU Fresno and emcee, challenged the more than 200 people at the banquet to join others who had already made significant contributions to the Friends of the Embassy fund. He said the community council has established a \$50,000 goal for the area. Kouymjian said the financial problems of the Embassy, limited its effectiveness in dealing with the mass media and government itself on the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict and other issues.

Dr. Kouymjian urged everyone to give to the fund to help the Ambassador and his small staff now. The Ambassador had told the banquet audience that plans have been completed to establish an Armenian Consulate in Los Angeles in September to better serve the significant population of Armenians in California.

(Editor's Note: Additional coverage of Shugarian's visit will be in the June issue.)

CSUB

ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Fresno Bee ; Fresno

DATE May 17, 1993

SUBJECT Rouben Shugarian, ambassador to U.S.

PAGE 1 of 1

■ Rouben Shugarian, ambassador to the United States from the Republic of Armenia, will speak at a business luncheon at noon Wednesday in the Centre Plaza Holiday Inn on Trade and Business Opportunities in the New Re-



Rouben Shugarian

public of Armenia. The appearance is sponsored by the Armenian Community Council of the San Joaquin Valley, the International Trade Community of the Fresno Chamber of Commerce and the University Business Center. For reservations, due by noon Tuesday: Rose Saffarian, 244-6940.

On First Official Trip Outside Washington, DC, Ambassador Shugarian Is Welcomed by Californians

WASHINGTON, DC - At dozens of events held in six cities of southern and northern California from May 16-22, thousands of American Armenians welcomed and congratulated the first Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the United States.

Ambassador Rouben Shugarian, who arrived in the USA in early March, travelled to California for his first official trip outside the Washington, DC area to meet and establish closer contacts in the American-Armenian communities.

California boasts the largest such community in the United States, an estimated 500,000. The Ambassador met also with local and state officials to discuss the importance of economic and political ties between Armenia and the USA.

To underscore the significance of the California community, he announced that the Armenian government plans to open a consulate in Los Angeles later this year, probably in September.

The consulate would be responsible for handling legal documentation matters and visas for travel to Armenia; it would make political representations on behalf of the Armenian government to local officials. "This consulate would serve as a strong link between the California-Armenian community and the Embassy in Washington, and through the Embassy directly to the homeland," Shugarian said.

Among state and local officials who met with the Ambassador during his California trip were Governor Pete Wilson, Fresno Mayor Jim Patterson, Glendale Mayor Larry Zarian, Pasadena Mayor Rick Cole, Pasadena City Council member Bill Paparian, Milpitas Mayor Peter McHugh, and former Governor of California, George Deukmejian.

In Pasadena, Glendale and Fresno, Ambassador Shugarian was honored by the Mayors, each of whom presented him with a key to the city.

During their private meeting, Gov. Wilson praised Armenian Americans for their many contributions to the state and noted that at the same time they have been devoted to their homeland and provided it necessary assistance. He said, "Although this is your first trip to California, I hope it will not be your last."

Ambassador Shugarian, in turn, expressed his gratitude for the substantial amount of humanitarian and technical assistance extended to Armenia, both from public and private sources in California. In particular, he emphasized the importance of the aid organized and sent to Armenia under Operation Winter Rescue, a message which he also underscored in public speeches to the Armenian-American community in every city he visited.

"The food, clothing, medicine and other items sent to

Armenia this past winter were not only important in a material sense, but also psychologically, because the people of Armenia knew that they were not alone, that their brothers and sisters in the United States were ready to support them in every way," he said.

At public forums held in Los Angeles, Fresno, San Jose and San Francisco, Ambassador Shugarian took the opportunity to explain the history and rationale behind the events in Nagorno-Karabagh, to describe the impact of the conflict on Armenia, and to speak optimistically about the political stability in Armenia and the strong potential for economic growth in the near future.

To a capacity audience of some 250 people at a luncheon sponsored by the Los Angeles World Affairs Council, the Ambassador said Armenia is pushing forward with economic reforms and believes that economic ties among the former Soviet republics should be maintained.

"Since declaring its independence in September 1991, the Republic of Armenia has embarked on an ambitious program to establish democracy and a free market system," Shugarian said. "Nowhere among the newly independent states of the former USSR will you find democracy and free

enterprise flourishing more successfully."

"At the same time," he said, "clouds have darkened Armenia's horizon during the past year and a half," citing specifically the conflict between Nagorno-Karabagh and Azerbaijan. "It has been the consistent policy of the Armenian government that Armenians of Nagorno-Karabagh have the right to self-determination and should have a voice in determining the status of their territory. Armenia has also extended humanitarian aid to Nagorno-Karabagh, and has paid a heavy price for this action. Azerbaijan has imposed a full blockade of rail, road and pipelines into Armenia that has devastated its economy."

Shugarian asserted that the circumstances today in the region present the best opportunity for a peaceful solution to the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict.

"As for the solution to the conflict, we see it as occurring in two stages. First, a durable cease-fire backed up by effective international guarantees, must be secured. Second, all legal questions regarding the status of Nagorno-Karabagh should be discussed at the Minsk Conference of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE)."

Shugarian said the Armenian government supports the

peace efforts of the CSCE, but that any solution reached within this forum must be guided by two basic principles -- respect for territorial integrity and recognition of the rights of the people to self-determination.

SAN FRANCISCO

In San Francisco the Ambassador was invited to speak about the economic opportunities in Armenia at the Commonwealth Club. There, and also in a speech to the World Forum of Silicon Valley, he invited businesspeople in the audience to go to Armenia to explore investment and trade opportunities. "Armenia was the first republic in the former Soviet Union to make the transition from Communism to common sense because we never lost that spirit of enterprise," Shugarian said.

He outlined several spheres of Armenia's economy that are good prospects for investment -- machine-building, radio-electronic and electro-technical, chemical, light industry, especially the manufacture of clothing and shoes, food industry including the production of dried fruits, Armenian brandy, wines and mineral waters, and tourism.

"Armenia needs foreign investment in all of these areas and we are ready to provide all the necessary favorable conditions to stimulate the investment of foreign capital in our economy," he said.

There were other opportunities for the Ambassador to address Armenian Americans at several forums and banquets held in his honor in Los Angeles, Pasadena, San Francisco, Glendale and Fresno.

In Los Angeles a joint committee made up of representatives of all the local churches, as well as community, cultural, professional and political groups, organized a public rally on May 16th where over 500 people had the chance to hear the Ambassador speak as well as ask him questions. The committee also organized a breakfast May 18th with Armenian community leaders representing over 30 organizations, which was hosted by the Armenian Society of Los Angeles. That same evening nearly 300 guests attended a banquet in his honor, the proceeds of which are to be donated to the Embassy to support its activities. Mayor Larry Zarian of Glendale served as Master of Ceremonies, and former California Governor George Deukmejian introduced Ambassador Shugarian, noting that he was impressed by the Ambassador's knowledge and insight and that he was "confident that he would serve Armenia's interests well in Washington."

In remarks at the banquet, Shugarian saluted the community for coming together to jointly plan his visit and encouraged them to continue working cooperatively for the benefit of Armenia. He thank-

ed Mr. Parsegh Kartalian of the AGBU and Dr. Sahag Baghdassarian of the ANC for their efforts as co-chairmen of the organizing committee.

In Fresno the one-day visit May 19th was organized by the Armenian Community Council of the San Joaquin Valley, chaired by Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdchian. Some 400 locals, as well as members of the diplomatic corps, attended a banquet in the Ambassador's honor to help raise funds for the Armenian Embassy. Dr. Dikran Kouymjian was Master of Ceremonies.

Earlier, nearly 100 people from the business community attended a luncheon sponsored by the International Trade Committee of the Fresno Chamber of Commerce and Cal State Fresno's Business Center. A smaller group of professors gathered for a reception on the Cal State Fresno campus to salute the educational and cultural ties that are being developed between faculty and students in the United States and Armenia. Cal State Fresno has already established an exchange program with Yerevan State University and it was announced at the reception that it will be offering tuition deferrals to selected students from Armenia next year.

Ambassador Shugarian's last three days in California were spent in the Bay Area, and he participated in a variety of events, from visiting with students and teachers at the Krouzian-Zekarian-Vasbouragan Armenian School to meeting with scholars and researchers at Stanford University's Hoover Institute. The Northern California Coordinating Council, chaired by Charles Janigian, organized his visit.

Over 400 community members attended a Bay Area banquet to honor the Ambassador, and during the program Master of Ceremonies Bruce Janigian and Flo Snyder, Deukmejian appointee, read messages of greeting and congratulations from Gov. Pete Wilson, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, San Francisco Mayor Frank Jordan, California Assembly speaker Willie Brown, State Senator Milton Marks, and Bishop Anthony of San Francisco. West coast representatives of the diplomatic community were also present.

Ambassador Shugarian encouraged the Armenian-American community to continue supporting Armenia and to be optimistic about the future.

"Armenia is the most politically stable country in the ex-USSR, stable because we have learned from our history. We have learned from our experience that we must look to the future, and what we see in the future is a strong Armenia. You need a strong Armenia, and Armenia needs a strong Diaspora." He continued, "It

Armenia's Ambassador's First Official Trip to California

Continued from page 14

will take a few years, but I am sure Armenia will again be proud, again be dignified, and will be secure in its future."

In each city he also spoke about Armenia's and Karabagh's current situations for news, TV and radio interviews, targeted to both Armenian and non-Armenian communities.

In the greater Los Angeles area he held press conferences with not only Armenian-American media, but also met the editorial board at the **Los Angeles Times** and was interviewed by the **Glendale News Press** and the **Pasadena Star News**. His commentary following a press conference at the L.A. World Affairs Council was carried on KNX-AM radio.

In Fresno at an airport press conference he answered questions for Associated Press, local TV and local radio. Later, he was interviewed by Channel 13 and appeared live on Channel 30's 6:00 p.m. news. Members of the editorial board of the **Fresno Bee** met with the Ambassador, and **Bee** reporter John Cramer, who travelled to Nagorno-Karabagh early this year, covered several of the events featuring Shugarian.

News coverage continued in San Francisco where he met with the **San Francisco Chronicle** editorial board and discussed peace prospects and the conflict's impact on the entire Transcaucasus region. He urged them to publish more articles concerning Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh, as several locals had expressed their concern about lack of coverage.

He was also interviewed on KCBS radio in San Francisco.

A one-day trip to San Jose ended his California tour. He addressed the economic opportunities for investment in Armenia once again to the World Forum of Silicon Valley and it was videotaped for later airing on public TV. His Commonwealth Club speech in San Francisco had also been taped for later radio play.



Ambassador Rouben Shugarian meets with California Governor Pete Wilson during his first official trip outside Washington, DC in mid-May. Photo by Hrair Eulmessekian.



Ambassador Rouben Shugarian discusses the economic and investment opportunities in Armenia May 20 at the World Forum of Silicon Valley. Pictured from left are: Charles Janigian, Ambassador Shugarian, Nancy Szymanski of the World Forum, Papken Der-Torosian, and Father Vazken Movsesian. Photo by Hrair Eulmessekian.

Armenian Art Focus of Weekend Class

By Armen Aghishian

On three separate weekends in March, the California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program sponsored a three-unit course on Armenian Miniature Painting covering painting in Armenia from the 6th to the 17th centuries.

The class was taught by Prof. Dikran Kouymjian.

The first course began with an overview of Pre-Christian art and the origins and development of Christian art and iconography up to the 6th century.

In referring to these formative years, Kouymjian stated that "for many centuries, Armenian painting was characterized almost exclusively by illustrations in Armenian manuscripts," financed by rich citizens. Often, these patrons would appear in the miniature illustrations, Kouymjian said.

The scribes and illustrators of the manuscripts were, for the most part, anonymous members of the clergy. Dating of the manuscripts is made easier by analyzing colophons left by the scribes.

One of the oldest known manuscripts is the Etchmiadzin Gospel. The oldest complete Armenian manuscript is an artistic creation of the ninth century — the Queen Mlké Gospel, at the Mekhitarist Congregation in San Lazzaro, Venice.

In the 13th century, Armenian manuscript illustration attained

its high point, hallmarked by the distinguished accomplishments of the miniaturist Toros Rosslin, who headed the scriptorium at the Catholicosate of Hromkla, Cilicia. A scribe as well as an artist, Roslin had a distinct style characterized by detailed backgrounds and vivid yet smooth colors. Only seven of his signed manuscripts have survived.

The 17th century denotes the decline in manuscript painting as book printing had already begun in the early 16th century.

Armenian manuscript illumination, one of the oldest art forms, spans more than a millennium. Thousands of manuscripts are in existence and can be seen in institutions such as UCLA and the Madenataran in Yerevan.

SOURCE The Armenian Mirror-Spectator: Watertown, MA DATE June 6, 1992

SUBJECT Armenian art course PAGE 2 of 2



Raising of Lazarus. Gospel, illustrated in 1268 by Toros Roslin.

Ambassador Rouben Shugarian in the Bay Area and Fresno

SAN FRANCISCO — In San Francisco, Ambassador Rouben Shugarian was invited to speak about the economic opportunities in Armenia at the Commonwealth Club. In this forum, and also in a speech to the World Forum of Silicon Valley, the Ambassador invited businesspeople in the audience to go to Armenia to explore investment and trade opportunities.

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He outlined several spheres of Armenia's economy that are good prospects for investment — the machine building industry, the radio electronic and electro-technical industry, the chemical industry, light industry, especially the manufacturing of shoes and clothing, the food industry, including the production of dried fruits, Armenian brandy and wines, and mineral waters, and tourism.

"Armenia needs foreign investment in all of these areas and we are ready to provide all the necessary favorable conditions to stimulate the investment of foreign capital in our economy," Shugarian said.

In Fresno, the Ambassador's one-day visit on May 19 was organized by the Armenian Community Council of the San Joaquin Valley, under the chairmanship of Professor Barlow Der Mugerdechian. Some 400 people from the Armenian-American community, as well as members of the diplomatic corps, attended a banquet in honor of the Ambassador, which also aimed to help raise funds for the Embassy, Dr. Dikran Kouymjian served as the Master of Ceremonies.

Earlier in the day, nearly 100 people from the business community attended a luncheon

sponsored by the International Trade Committee of the Fresno Chamber of Commerce and Cal State Fresno's Business Center. A smaller group of professors gathered for a reception on the campus of Cal State Fresno to salute the educational and cultural ties that are being developed between faculty and students in the United States and Armenia. Cal State Fresno has already established an exchange program with Yerevan State University and announced at the reception that it will be offering tuition deferrals to selected students from Armenia next year.

The Ambassador spent the final three days of his California trip in the Bay Area, where he participated in a variety of events, from visiting with students and teachers at the Krouzian-Zekarian-Vasbouragan Armenian School to meeting with scholars and researchers at Stanford University's Hoover Institute. His visit was organized by the Northern California Coordinating Council, under the chairmanship of Charles Janigian.

Over 400 people from the Armenian-American community attended a banquet in honor of the Ambassador, and during the program, the Master of Ceremonies, Bruce Janigian, and Flo Snyder, read messages of greeting and congratulations from Governor Pete Wilson, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, San Francisco Mayor Frank Jordan, Speaker of the California Assembly Willy Brown, State Senator Milton Marks, and Bishop Anthony of San Francisco. Representatives of the diplomatic community who are based on the West Coast were also present at the banquet.

Ambassador Shugarian encouraged the Armenian-American community to continue supporting Armenia and to be optimistic about the future.

"Armenia is the most politi-

cally stable country in the ex-USSR," Shugarian said. "We are stable because we have learned from our history, we have learned from our experience that we must look to the future and what we see in the future is a strong Armenia. You need a strong Armenia and Armenia needs a strong Diaspora."

"It will take a few years, but I am sure Armenia will again be proud, will again be dignified, and will be secure in its future," Shugarian said.

In every major city he visited, the Ambassador also took the opportunity to talk about the current situation in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh in newspaper, television, and radio interviews, targeted to both the Armenian and non-Armenian communities.

In Los Angeles and the surrounding cities, the Ambassador held a press conference with the Armenian-American community media, met with the editorial board at the *Los Angeles Times*, and was interviewed for articles in the *Glendale News Press* and the *Pasadena Star News*. Commentary by the Ambassador was also carried on KNX-AM radio following a press conference at the Los Angeles World Affairs Council.

In Fresno, local television and radio stations and Associated Press questioned the Ambassador at a press conference at the airport. Later in the day, the Ambassador was interviewed by Channel 13 and appeared live on the 6:00 p.m. news on Channel 30. Members of the editorial board of the *Fresno Bee* also met with the Ambassador and *Bee* reporter John Cramer, who had travelled to Nagorno-Karabagh earlier this year, covered several events that the Ambassador attended.

In San Francisco, the Ambassador met with the editorial board of the *San Francisco Chronicle* and talked about the prospects for peace in Nagorno-Karabagh as well as the impact of the conflict on the entire Transcaucasus region. The Ambassador also

urged the *Chronicle* to publish more articles about developments in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh. Several members of the local Armenian-American community had expressed their concern about the lack of coverage in the city's leading newspaper. The Ambassador was also interviewed on KCBS-AM, the CBS affiliate in San Francisco.

On a day-trip to San Jose, the

Ambassador addressed the economic opportunities for investment in Armenia to the World Forum of Silicon Valley. The speech was videotaped for later airing on public television. A similar speech which the Ambassador delivered to the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco was also taped for later airing on a radio program sponsored by the Club.



Ambassador Rouben Shugarian discusses the economic and investment opportunities in Armenia at the May 20 Silicon Valley World Forum. From

left: Charles Janigian, Ambassador Shugarian, Nancy Szymanski of the World Forum, Papken Der Torosian and Father Vazken Movsesian.



Ambassador Shugarian addresses an audience of over 400 people at San Francisco banquet.
(Photos by Hrair Eulmesekian)

'ARMENIAN ART' IS FOCUS OF CLASS

On three separate weekends in March, the CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program sponsored a three unit course on Armenian Miniature Painting covering painting in Armenia from the 6th to the 17th century. Each weekend covered a distinct period in Armenian miniature and manuscript painting. The instructor for the course was Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at CSU Fresno. Attending the classes were CSU Fresno students as well as many members of the Fresno community.

The first weekend of the course started with an overview of pre-Christian Art and the origins and development of Christian Art and iconography up to and including the 6th century A.D. In referring to these formative years in Armenian Art, Kouymjian stated that "for many centuries, Armenian painting was characterized almost exclusively by illustrations in Armenian books, especially religious texts." In fact there presently exists over 30,000 preserved manuscripts most of which are illustrated though a majority are "late manuscripts", that is, manuscripts after the 16th century. Kouymjian further added "many of these illustrated texts contain more than one illustration and most depict Christian scenes." Greek, Latin, Syriac, as well as Armenian manuscripts emphasize the four synoptic gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These are detailed accounts of the life of Jesus Christ.

"Christianity truly flourished in the fourth century A.D. after Roman persecution stopped," stated Kouymjian. It was then that the Edict of Toleration was issued and the monastic movement came about. At the time, 313 A.D., paganism ended and Christian art had truly taken a foothold in enclaves and communities. Beginning with Christian stone mosaics and frescoes in the church sanctuaries, various styles of painting emerged. "The patrons with money, the rich citizens, were the ones financing many of the manuscripts in this period," said Kouymjian, and several examples also showed that often the patron would also appear in the manuscript, perhaps in several scenes or places.

The artists of the manuscripts were for the most part anonymous members of the clergy, typically priests, or monks, who inevitably became "scribes". Dating of the manuscripts is made easier by analyzing the information left by the scribes. Often the date would be indicated, however if not, dating could be secured by locating the name of the Catholicos or ruler, or identifying the scribe or artist. If none of the aforementioned are present, analysis of the script and style of art will be necessary to determine the date.

A variety of media were employed from the third to the eighth century, the earliest being papyrus. This medium was invented in Egypt, and is made of reeds. Today, only a few papyri exist.

One of the oldest known Armenian manuscripts is the Etchmiadzin Gospel. Etchmiadzin, where that manuscript is located today, is characterized by Kouymjian as being "the Vatican of the Armenian Church with the Catholicos serving as the religious spiritual leader, much like a pope". This late tenth century manuscript has four distinct parts in terms of its artistic qualities. The first are the Final Four Miniatures, which as the name suggests are the paintings attached at the end of the Gospel. The second part is the binding of the manuscript, which is known, by dating, to be older than the manuscript itself. The third part is the bulk of the text and the miniatures, and the fourth part are the many colorful marginal illustrations which can be found throughout.

The oldest complete Armenian Manuscript is an artistic creation of the ninth century - the Queen Mkhe Gospels. The Gospels can currently be found in the library of the Mekhitarist Brotherhood at San Lazzaro, Venice. The binder of the Gospel had even left several flyleaves, or blank pages which serve as a remembrance. The scribe had also included several colophons, or memorials in the Gospel. Each of the four Evangelists uniquely receives a full page drawing within this Gospel.

The oldest illustrated Christian Gospel manuscript surviving today is the

Rabulla Gospels of 586. This Syriac manuscript is completely intact and properly dated. "This is one of the most notable and studied works of the sixth century" stated Kouymjian. It was written in Syriac and portrays the Four Evangelists, typically in pairs. Wall paintings of catacombs and crosses also served as evidence of fifth - sixth century art.

An indexing system, known as the canon tables, was perfected by Bishop Eusebius of Palestine. Used avidly by Armenians most notably in the Mkhe Gospel, and the Etchmiadzin Gospel, the decorative Canon Tables with their arches and columns became a useful system for locating the various sections of the four Gospels. The two page letter of Eusebius was also usually included along with the Canon Tables.

Armenian Manuscript painting once again flourished, this time in the 13th century, hallmarked by the distinguished accomplishments of artist Toros Roslin. Roslin headed the scriptorium at the Catholicossal See of Hromkla. A scribe as well as an artist, Roslin had a distinct style characterized by detailed backgrounds and vivid yet smooth colors. The use of gold leaf in the borders and a rich palette are characteristic of Roslin. Unfortunately, only seven of his signed manuscripts have survived.

The seventeenth century denotes the decline in manuscript painting as book printing had already begun early in the sixteenth century. Western influences via international trade resulted in differential styling modeled after European painting. Different media were also available such as larger panels and canvas.

Armenian manuscript illumination, one of the oldest art forms, spans more than a millenium. Thousands of manuscripts are in existence and can be seen at institutions such as U.C.L.A., the Madenataran in Yerevan, and some can even be seen in Fresno. This special and unique opportunity to study Armenian Miniature Painting was one well appreciated by those who were fortunate enough to be enrolled in the course.



Soldier Sam Kalfayan
Europe, WWII

Kalfayan Chairs A.S. Directors

by **Sevag Yaralian**

FRESNO -- During the last years, gentleman and philanthropist Sarkis "Sam" Kalfayan has been diligently working towards making the Armenian Studies program at Fresno State a financially sound center of learning, unencumbered by state budget woes now plaguing the California State Univer-

Kalfayan

Continued from page 1

sity system.

His recent bequest of half million dollars is the single largest donation to the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State, which has been renamed the Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan Armenian Studies Center in their honor.

Now serving as Chair of the Board of Directors, Kalfayan and others on the Board were quick to intercede during the last rounds of budget cuts which threatened to eliminate the program's one non-tenured teaching position. This would have meant the abandonment of many of the core classes now taught by Barlow Der Mugerdichian.

However, Kalfayan is quick to point out that "the Board really has no teeth. It serves only in an advisory capacity, but its members (with many generous gifts from interested donors) may contribute financially. And so that's what we did."

Kalfayan became a benefactor of the Program four years ago when he heard Dr. Kouymjian speak at a function sponsored by the Knights of Vartan. He spoke to Dr. Kouymjian about donating a substantial amount of money which was later realized as an initial \$50,000 gift to the Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair sponsored largely by Dr. and Mrs. Ar-

nold Gazarian. The bequest of half a million dollars soon followed (with additional sporadic donations) and will be made available to Fresno State out of Kalfayan's estate after he and his wife pass on.

Sam has a genuine concern for the generations here in the U.S. who are moving away from their ethnicity.

Kalfayan is a alumnus of Fresno State, graduating in 1950 as an economist, then attending Berkeley where he received a masters of science degree in agricultural economics. His first job subsequently was as an economist and statistician for the California raisin industry under Sox Setrakian.

He came to the United States in 1921 with his mother, after his family fled to Cairo to escape the 1914 massacres by the Turks. In 1926 they came to California where his new stepfather was unexpectedly stricken with polio, which forced Sam to work during high school to support the family on \$300 a year. During World War II, Kalfayan volunteered for the armed services, because he felt he "owed the country that saved me." Speaking five languages, he

was assigned as General Patton's interpreter throughout the war, but he never had to perform his duty because "Patton never stayed in one place long enough to do any talking." Kalfayan was one of the Third Army men who fought in Ardennes at the Battle of the Bulge. While under Patton's command, Kalfayan was court martialled twice, once for sneaking into Paris without leave to barter GI-issued dried fruit and cigarettes for a few bottles of Chanel perfume for his wife. Ironically, at his discharge in Dec. 1945 he was awarded the Good Conduct Medal. When the war ended in May 1945, Kalfayan was transferred to Berlin as Finance Intelligence and Liaison officer under Gen. Eisenhower in Supreme Headquarters American Expeditionary Forces (SHAEP).

Returning to the states, Kalfayan was devastated at the unexpected death of his first wife. He recalls: "I was sitting alone in the funeral home crying over her, and I remember the yeretsgin (the priest's wife) came in and saw me and then left. A few months later when I was attending Fresno State she begged me to drive her to Los Angeles. I had no money to drive her, but I felt ashamed. So I borrowed money. We drove up to a house in Los Angeles where she asked me to knock on the front door. There was Meline standing in the doorway, and I was

struck. I married her soon after and have been happy ever since."

In 1955 Kalfayan was hired as economic planning consultant for Fresno. In 1960 he applied for the Assistant City Manager's position. He was refused. Kalfayan quit his job at Fresno City Hall, attended USC at nights, working as Assistant City Manager at Manhattan Beach (CA) during the days. He earned his master of public administration degree. For the next 15 years he managed several cities throughout Riverside County and invested in real estate which accounts for the bulk of his wealth.

Sam now turns his energies into preserving the Armenian language and heritage. He has a genuine concern for the generations here in the U.S. who are moving away from their ethnicity. The endowment is largely in part to stay this movement away from Armenianism and also to foster a strong exchange program between students in Armenia and Fresno.

Kalfayan flew to Moscow with Dr. Haak (then president of CSUF) to be his interpreter in Armenia in 1990. Due to transportation difficulties Kalfayan flew to Yerevan alone under Dr. Haak's instructions and consummated the contract establishing the student exchange program between CSUF and Yerevan University.

Armenian Studies Lists Fall '93 Offerings

FRESNO -- Topics classes in Armenian Film, Armenian Cooking and Armenia Today are included in the Fall 1993 offerings of the CSU Fresno Armenian Studies program. Information regarding the classes may be obtained by writing the Armenian Studies Program, CSU Fresno, Fresno, CA 93740.

Fall Schedule

Course	Units	Time	Instructor
General Education			
Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies	3	0945-1100 TTH	D. Kouymjian
Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies	3	1010-1100 MWF	B. Der Mugrdechian
Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies	3	1245-1400 TTH	D. Kouymjian
Arm S 20 Arts of Armenia	3	1110-1225 TTH	D. Kouymjian
Upper Division Courses			
Arm S 108A Arm History	3	0910-1000 MWF	B. Der Mugrdechian
Arm S 120T Armenian Film	3	1810-2100 TH	D. Kouymjian
Arm S 120T Armenia Today	1	1610-2200 Oct. 8 0900-1700 Oct. 9	B. Der Mugrdechian
Arm S 120T Armenian Cooking	1	1610-2200 Oct. 29 0900-1700 Oct. 30	B. Der Mugrdechian
General Education-Div. 7			
Arm 1A Elem Armenian	4	1110-1200 MTWF	B. Der Mugrdechian
Arm 2A Intermed Arm	4	1310-1400 MTWF	B. Der Mugrdechian

Ekizian's "David of Sassoun" Receives Premiere

SAN FRANCISCO — Due to the overwhelming success of the recent world premiere of the concert version of Michelle Ekizian's chamber opera "David of Sassoun" by the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, the work has just been nominated for this year's Pulitzer Prize in Music.

The award, given annually by Columbia University for a distinguished composition premiered during the year of the prize, will be determined in late April. Commissioned by the National Endowment for the Arts, "David of Sassoun" received its concert premiere on February 8, 1993 at San Francisco's War Memorial Veterans Building.

An intricately crafted musical portrayal of a section from the ancient Armenian epic of the same name, Ekizian's "David of Sassoun" is a parable for our time's post-communist struggle for national identities. The work is bound with a high impact drama that is exhilarating from beginning to end. Throughout the work, Ms. Ekizian weaves in her own adaptation of an old Armenian folk song, "Oh Wind," to suggest that the desire for freedom and independence is as natural to the Armenian people as is the wind to the Armenian highlands.

The premiere was met enthusiastically by a full capacity audience including a portion of San Francisco's Armenian community with a sizeable representation from the Knights of Vartan.

Also attending was one of Armenia's foremost composers, Pro-



At the Concert premiere of "David of Sassoun" from left: Dickran Kuymjian, Barbara Ann Sulahian Martin, composer and director of the Gomidas Conservatory of Music of Yerevan, Armenia, composer Michelle Ekizian, and singer Maro Partamian.

fessor Tigran Mansurian, director of the Gomidas Conservatory at Yerevan. On hand for the pre-concert discussion and providing insightful commentary on Armenia's national epic, was Professor Dickran Kouymjian, Chairman of Armenian Studies at California State University at Fresno and eminent scholar of the "David of Sassoun" epic.

The concert's first half consisted of instrumental chamber works by Aaron Copland and Art Jarvinen conducted by the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players' music director Stephen L. Mosko.

For the second half of the program, four vocal soloists joined Maestro Mosko and the virtuoso instrumentalists of the SFCMP for a dazzling rendition of "David of Sassoun."

Performing the female vocal parts with verve and finesse were two long time collaborators of Ms. Ekizian's: the mezzo-soprano Maro Partamian as the wise old widow and soprano Barbara Ann Sulahian Martin as Kourkig Jalaly (a flying horse).

The roles of David and King Msrah Melik, performed with equal intensity, were portrayed respectively by two artists from the San Francisco Opera: tenor Richard Walker and Baritone Hector Vasquez. The concert was taped for broadcast by Public Radio.

Plans for expansion of the chamber opera into a full evening length work are already underway, as are negotiations for performances of the existing version with American, European and Russian ensembles.

President Gregorian of Brown Will Keynote CSUF Annual Armenian Studies Banquet

FRESNO -- Dr. Vartan Gregorian, president of Brown University, will be the keynote speaker at the eighth annual CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program Banquet Friday, Sept. 10th.

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at CSUF, an-

nounced Gregorian's visit. Members of the Advisory Board of the Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies, under the leadership of Sarkis Kalfayan, are planning an exciting evening.

Gregorian became the 16th president of Brown in January 1989 following

a successful tenure as head of the New York Public Library.

He received his Ph.D degree from Stanford University in history and humanities. He has taught at numerous universities across the United States. He served as professor history and Tarzian Professor Armenian and Caucasian History and professor of South Asian history at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1974 he became the first dean of the faculty of arts and sciences and in 1978 the university's 23rd provost and chief academic officer.

Gregorian assumed the presidency of the Library in 1981 and for the next eight years, under the aegis of the trustees and the chairman of the board, and in partnership with the City and State of New York, he directed the rebuilding and restoring of the library, ushering in numerous cultural and educational programs, major preservation, automation and publication projects, and bringing about a successful completion of a \$326 million campaign for the library.

During his tenure at the library, Gregorian was nam-



Dr. Vartan Gregorian

ed University Professor of History at the New School for Social Research and professor of history and Near Eastern Studies at New York University (1984-1989).

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

For information on the dinner call the Armenian Studies Program at (209) 278-2669.

4UB

ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Fresno Bee; Fresno, CA

DATE Thurs. 15 July 1993

SUBJECT V. Gregorian to Speak at ASP Banquet

PAGE 1 of 1

AROUND THE VALLEY

Armenian studies banquet speaker

Brown University President Vartan Gregorian will be the keynote speaker Sept. 10 at the eighth annual banquet of Fresno State University's Armenian Studies program.

Gregorian received a doctorate in history and humanities from Stanford University and has taught at numerous universities across the country.

Details: 278-2669.

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ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

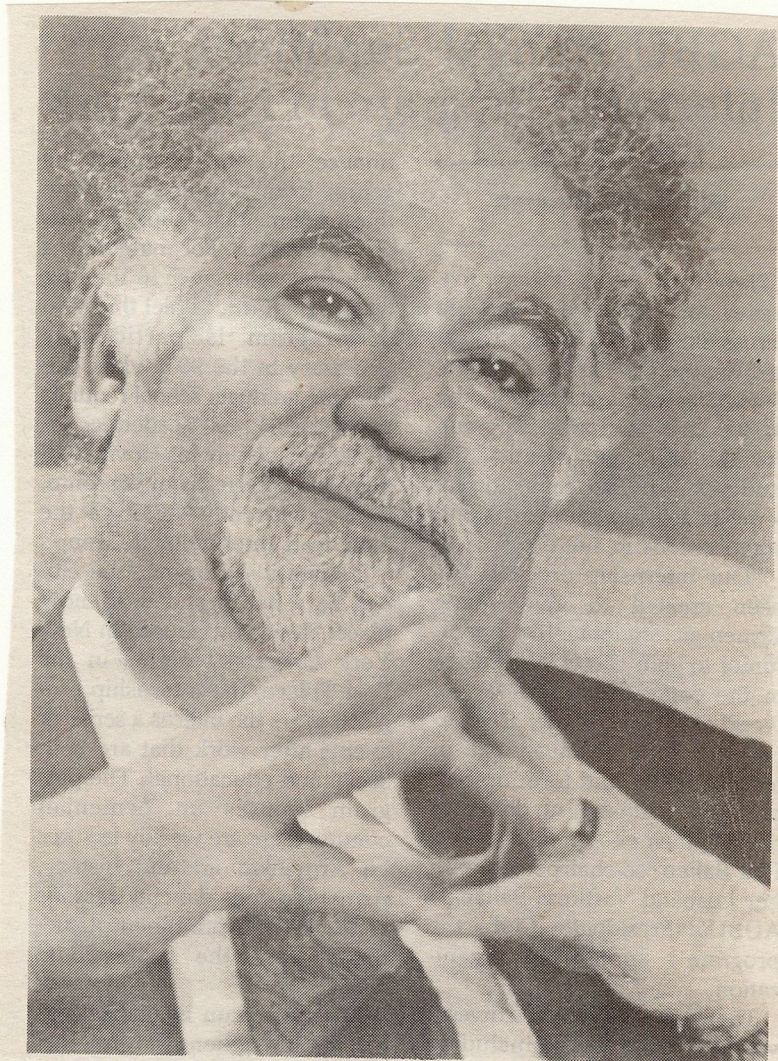
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Mirror-Spectator; Watertown, MA DATE Jul 24, 1993

SUBJECT Gregorian to Speak at CSUF

PAGE 1 of 2



Dr. Vartan Gregorian, who will give a lecture in Fresno on September 10.

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Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at CSUF made the announcement of the visit of the prominent guest. Members of the Advisory Board of the Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies, under chairman Sarkis Kalfayan, are responsible for the arrangements.

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

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ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

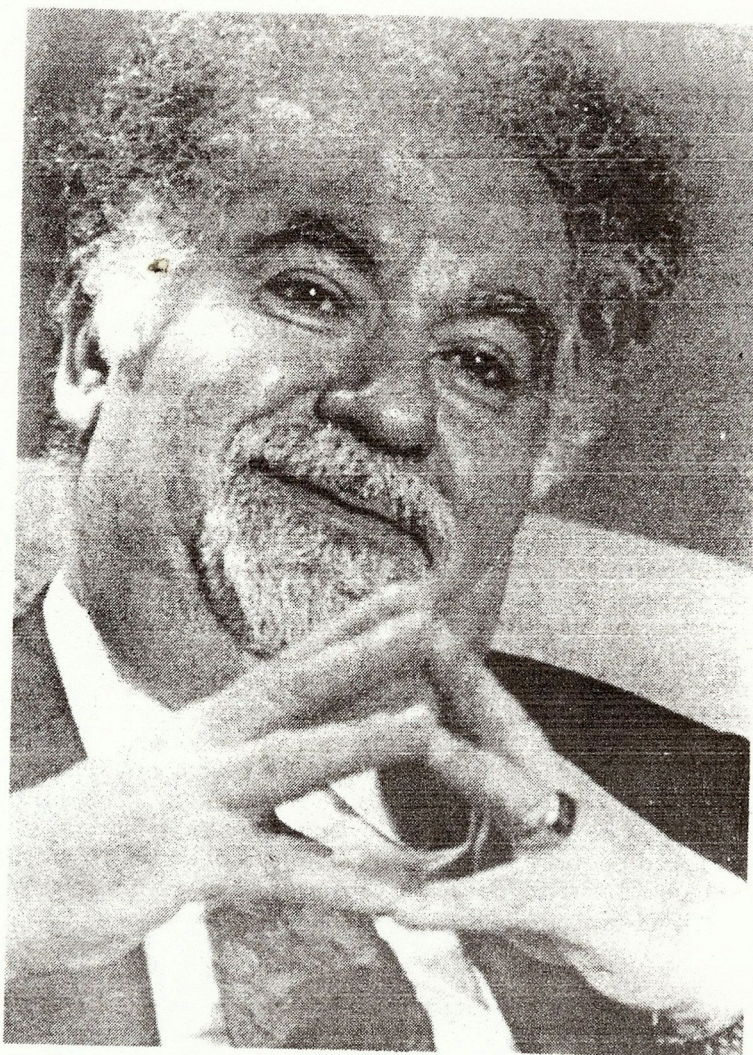
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Mirror-Spectator; Watertown, MA DATE Jul 24, 1993

SUBJECT Gregorian to Speak at CSUF PAGE 1 of 2



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

Dr. Vartan Gregorian is Keynote Speaker in Fresno

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

For information please call the Armenian Program at (209) 278-2669.

San Joaquin Valley Armenian Community Donates More than \$15,000 to Aid Embassy

FRESNO - Over \$15,000 were raised to assist the Embassy of Armenia in Washington, D.C., during the recent Fresno visit of Armenian Ambassador Rouben Shugarian. The Armenian Com-

munity Council of the San Joaquin Valley coordinated a successful dinner and reception on May 19 attended by over 250 guests.

Earlier in the day, Shugarian
Continued on Page 2



SHUGARIAN WELCOMED TO SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY - Ambassador Rouben Shugarian (fourth from left), with the executive body of the Armenian Community Council, from left: Richard Darmanian, co-Chairman, Bob Der Mugrdechian, Treasurer; Barlow Der Mugrdechian, co-Chairman, Fr. Vartan Kasparian, Advisor, and Allan Y. Jendian, Secretary.

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ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE California Courier; Glendale, Ca

DATE Jul 29, 1993

SUBJECT Armenian Comm. donates to Embassy

PAGE 2 of 2

met with a group of Armenian leaders to discuss the current and future plans of the Embassy and the financial obligations that need to be met.

At the dinner, Fresno Mayor Jim Patterson presented the envoy with the keys to the city. Guests responded to the needs of the Embassy by making donation and pledges.

During his one-day in Fresno, the Armenian Ambassador had a busy schedule, meeting with the *Fresno Bee* newspaper editorial board and reporters, business leaders, and members of the Armenian-American community.

The Ambassador addressed a noon business luncheon co-spon-

sored by the Armenian Community Council, the International Business Committee of the Fresno County Chamber of Commerce, and the University Business Center of CSU Fresno. Many prominent community business leaders attended the luncheon, which was an introduction to Armenia and how to conduct business there.

Later that afternoon, the Armenian Studies Program and the International Programs Office of CSUF sponsored a reception for Ambassador Shugarian, where faculty and staff met with the delegation from Washington, which included Deputy Chief of Mission Garnik Nanagulian and Press Secretary Carole Karabashian.

San Joaquin Community Donates to Embassy



The members of the Executive Body of the Armenian Community Council of San Joaquin Valley and Fresno

Over \$15,000 in cash and pledges were raised to assist the Embassy of Armenia in Washington, during the Fresno visit of Ambassador to the United States of the Republic of Armenia Rouben Shugarian. The Armenian Community Council of the San Joaquin Valley coordinated a successful dinner and reception on May 19 attended by over 250 guests. The Fresno visit was the Ambassador's first visit to the

oldest Armenian community in California.

Ambassador Shugarian was the keynote speaker at the dinner, where attendees generously responded to the needs of the Embassy in Washington, by making donation and pledges. Earlier in the day Ambassador Shugarian met with a group of Armenian leaders to discuss the current and future plans of the Embassy and the financial obligations in need to be met.

At the dinner, Fresno City Mayor Jim Patterson presented Ambassador Shugarian with the keys to the city of Fresno. The Armenia community of the San Joaquin Valley responded warmly to the delegation from Washington, which included Deputy Chief of Mission Garnik Nanagulian and Press Secretary Carole Karabashian.

SOURCE Armenian Reporter; Fresh Meadows, NY

DATE Jul 31, 1993

SUBJECT Gregorian Speaks at Banquet

PAGE 1 of 1

Vartan Gregorian to Speak at Banquet of Armenian Studies

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Dr. Gregorian assumed the presidency of the Library in 1981 and for the next eight

years, under the aegis of the trustees and the chairman of the board, and in partnership with the City and State of New York, he oversaw the process of rebuilding and restoring the library, ushering in numerous cultural and educational programs, major preservation, automation and publication projects, and bringing about a successful completion of a \$326 million campaign for the library.

During his tenure at the library, Gregorian was named University Professor of History at the New School for Social Research and professor of history and Near Eastern Studies at New York University (1984-1989). He also served on the board of numerous civic and non-profit associations, organizations, and institutions.

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

Author of *The Emergence*

of Modern Afghanistan. Gregorian has written extensively on various aspects of Armenian history and culture.

For information on the dinner please contact the Armenian Studies Program at (209)278-2669.

Shugarian Visits Armenian Studies Program at CSUF

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

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

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

Ambassador Shugarian, a graduate of Yerevan State University expressed his

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

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

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

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

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

In the Works... upcoming events at ALMA

Walter and Laurel Karabian Collection of Kutahya Ceramics to Fresno -- Selected samples of the Karabian Kutahya Collection will be on display in late 1993 at the Fresno (CA) Art Museum. Dickran Kouymjian, the Haig Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University at Fresno, will curate the exhibit as well as produce an accompanying catalogue. The exhibit will contain both Kutahya and Jerusalem pottery pieces.

Gregorian Collection of Armenian Rugs -- ALMA will be celebrating the contributions of Arthur T. Gregorian with an exhibit of the ALMA Gregorian Collection of Armenian Inscribed Rugs. This exhibit, tentatively scheduled for April 4 - September 21, 1993, will

feature rugs representing every genre of Armenian style. Mr. Gregorian, a major force behind the success of ALMA, has exhibited this elaborate collection in museums, colleges, and universities across the United States and Europe.

Horom: In the Shadow of Aragats -- An Archaeological Dig in Armenia -- Dr. Philip Kohl of Wellesley College will be curating an exhibit of 30 Bronze Age artifacts excavated from the ancient site of Horom. ALMA will host the exhibit from February 28 through April 13, 1993. Dr. Kohl, a veteran of several archaeological digs in the former Soviet Union and Armenia, will also exhibit photographs of the excavation sites and will compile an accompanying catalogue.