

HYE SHARZHOOM Armenian Action ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՒՄ

24th Year

October 2002

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Supplement to The Collegian

Dr. Merguerian Selected as 3rd Kazan Visiting Professor



Dr. Barbara Merguerian
CHRIS TOZLIAN
STAFF WRITER

nia, United States foreign policy toward Armenia, and the effect of Armenian immigration within the United States. The class is offered on Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM and there are approximately 20 students in the class.

Dr. Merguerian said that the class has been a success, with a diverse student base made up of both Armenians and non-Armenians, and an age range from 20 to 75. Furthermore, to Dr. Merguerian's knowledge, this is the first Armenian Studies class with this specific focus ever to be offered in the United States.

Though this is Dr. Merguerian's first stay in Fresno since her childhood, she compared the sensation with that of growing up in Rhode Island amidst a small Armenian community. Dr. Merguerian received her Bachelor's Degree from Brown University in International Relations and then attended Harvard University, where she received both her Master's Degree and her Ph.D. in History. Though teaching Armenian history

SEE DR. MERGUERIAN PAGE 7

There is a new face within the Armenian Studies Program for the Fall 2003 semester: Dr. Barbara Merguerian, CSU Fresno's 3rd Kazan Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies. Dr. Merguerian is teaching Armenian Studies 120T, The United States and the Armenians, 1800 to the Present. The course deals with the impact of American missionaries in Arme-

Authors Bring Armenia to Life With Photos

TAMARA KARAKASHIAN
EDITOR

If you've never been to Armenia, Matthew Karanian and Robert Kurkjian are going to get you there in the 164 pages of their new book, *Edge of Time: Traveling in Armenia and Karabagh*. They aren't exactly going to get you there, but they are going to provide a convenient travel resource for your trip!

A standing-room only crowd of students and community-members gathered at 7:30 PM on Monday, October 7 in the Alice Peters Auditorium on campus to view this fascinating slide presentation.

After months of photographing the beautiful countryside, churches and people of Armenia, Karanian and Kurkjian decided that the beauty was too good to keep locked within their photographs. They had to tell everyone about Armenia. "We were both first-time

travelers to Armenia, and we were stunned by the beauty of the landscape and the hospitality of the people we met," said Kurkjian. "The only photographs we had ever seen of Armenia were from the Soviet Era, and it was depicted as a sad, gray place." Soon after, they published their first compilation of photographs, *Out of Stone: Armenia and Artsakh (1999)*, which encouraged readers to visit the attractive country portrayed so lavishly.



L. to R.: Matthew Karanian and Robert Kurkjian.

"First, we wanted to share our work on Armenia. We wanted to be able to show to the world that this remote and little-known land is stun-

SEE EDGE OF TIME PAGE 6

Dr. Avakian Donates Library to Fresno State



Dr. Arra S. Avakian

Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

BARLOW DER MUGRDECHIAN
ADVISOR

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at Fresno State has the pleasure of announcing a major gift to the Henry Madden Library and the Armenian Studies Program of CSUF: the professional Armenological library of Dr. Arra S. Avakian.

The collection has an estimated 3,000 books and pamphlets; 95% of the material has a direct connection to Armenian matters. The collection is specialized and valuable to Armenian studies. An estimated 60% of the books are in English with the remainder in Armenian.

The collection includes a 19th century missal from Venice, an Armenian-Latin dictionary printed in Constantinople, and an original

lasting association with the University."

Dr. Avakian began collecting books more than sixty years ago, adding to his collection from offered sales, used books stores, gifts, and retired books. He has a special interest in church related materials. His collection of musical scores includes an 1895 Leipzig edition of the Makar Ekmalian Divine Liturgy, with all of the forms for the Liturgy, such as for male voices and mixed voices.

Dr. Avakian is the author of *Armenian Journey through History*, *Armenians in America*, and *Manual for Choirmasters*, as well as ten translations of books from Armenian into English. He has been deeply involved in Armenian community life and in the study of the Armenian culture for many years.

Dr. Avakian graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and on completing graduate study in 1935 was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science in the fields of Mathematics and Physics.

SEE AVAKIAN PAGE 7



Ambassador Leonidas T. Chrysanthopoulos staying warm in Armenia in 1993.

The Armenian Studies Program

invites you to a special presentation by

**Ambassador
Leonidas T.
Chrysanthopoulos**

presenting his
new book

*Caucasus
Chronicles: Nation
Building and Diplo-
macy in Armenia,
1993-1994*

Wednesday, November 20, 2002
7:30 PM

Alice Peters Auditorium • University Business Center

Admission is free.

Society for Armenian Studies to Hold 24th Annual Meeting in Washington DC, Nov. 23

The Society for Armenian Studies (SAS), will be holding its 24th annual membership meeting in Washington DC on Saturday, November 23, announced Barlow Der Mugrdechian, SAS President. SAS

members will gather to discuss issues of vital interest to the field of Armenian Studies. The SAS meeting will be held in conjunction with the Middle East Studies Association annual conference.

Armenian Studies Program Book/Video/CD/ Donations

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian and the Armenian Studies Program would like to thank the donors, authors, and publishers for the following books and archival gifts.

Armenian National Committee Publication, Watertown, MA, for the copy of the booklet "A Century of Human Rights Violations in Turkey."

Dr. Arra Avakian, Fresno, CA, for the complete set of the *Armenian Digest* journals.

Bazmavep Congregazione Mechitarista, Lido-Venezia, Italy, for the copy of *Revue Bazmavep Vol. CLIX, # 1-4*, Saint-Lazare, Venice, 2001.

Katarine Boyajian and Hakop Arisian, Fresno, CA, for several Armenian books.

Dr. Rosemary H. Cohen, Los Angeles, CA, for the copy of her book *The Survivor*. California: LICO Publishing, 2002.

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, for the copy of the book by H. Gh. Mirzoyan, *Hovhannes Mrkuz Jughayets'i* (Hovhannes Merkuz of Julfa), Erevan, 2001.

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and the Mekhitarist Fathers for the copy of *Bazmavep*, Armenological Review of the Mekhitarist Brotherhood of Venice, vol. 159 (2001), special issue dedicated to the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Brotherhood, 1700-2000.

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, for the *Revue des Etudes Arméniennes*, vol. 27 (1998-2000), published 2002, 457 pages.

Govdoon Youth of America, North Providence, RI, for a copy of the book by V. Hambartsumian, (translated by Murad A. Meneshian) *Village World (Kiughashkarh): An Historical and Cultural Study of Govdoon*. Rhode Island: Govdoon Youth of America, 2001.

Edizioni Angeo Guerini E. Associati, Milano, Italy, for the three books, *Hushèr: la memoria, voci italiane de sopravvissuti armeni*, *Metz Yeghèrn Breve storia del genocidio degli armeni*, and *Armin T. Wegner and the Armenians in Anatolia, 1915*.

Haigazian Armenological Review, Beirut, Lebanon, for the copy of *Haigazian Armenological Review Vol. 21*. Beirut: The Armenian Department of Haigazian University, 2001.

The Library of Mark Kalustian featuring Travel & Exploration, Auction Catalogue, Boston: Skinner Inc., 2002.

Prof. Dr. L. G. Khacheryan, Glendale, CA, for the copy of his daughter's book, *Bibliography of Armenological Studies of Prof. Dr. L. G. Khacheryan, Opinions and Appreciations of Armenian and Foreign Scholars, Intellectuals*. California, 2002.

Zareh Khrakhuni, for the copy of *Darapatum* (History of a Century), Erevan, 2001. The latest volume of poems by Khrakhuni on the 20th century.

Dr. Abraham D. Krikorian, Port Jefferson, New York, for the copy of book by Hew Choy Sin, Yam Tim Wing & Joseph Arditti, *Biology of Vanda Miss Joaquim*. Singapore: Singapore University Press, 2002.

Carl K. Mahakian, Rancho Mirage, CA, for several boxes of Saroyan books and archival materials.

Virginia Meltickian, Fresno, CA, for the photos of President Robert Kocharian while on a visit to Brazil and the copy of *Comunidade Armenia*.

Mrs. Sonya Merian and Family, Framingham, Mass., for the books from the library of her aunt, Sylvia Sarafian and the oil painting by Manuel J. Toligian.

National Arts Foundation, Skokie, IL, for the copy of the book, *Sahagian's Armenia with paintings by Harry Sahagian*.

Ms. Ellen M. Ohan, Walnut Creek, CA, for the two glass negatives, circa 1915, and a silver coin of King Levon I, early 13th century.

Rubina Peroomian, Glendale, CA, for the copy of her book *Armenia v s fere atnashenii ARF "Dashnaksutiun-Bolshevik (1917-1921)*, published in Yerevan, 2001.

Jacquelin Pilar, Fresno, CA, for the copy of the exhibition catalogue *Saroyan on Paper: Drawings, Watercolors and Words*, Fresno: Fresno Art Museum, 2002.

Mr. J. Sarkissian, Izmirlian Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland, for the two copies of the book by Sarkis Izmirlian, *Judgements Concerning Our Hundred-Year-Old Revolution*. Yerevan: Amaras, 2002.

Werner Seibt, editor, for the copy of the book, *The Christianization of the Caucasus (Armenia, Georgia, Albania)*, conference held in Vienna in December 1999, Vienna: Verlag der Osterreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2002.

Martin Tourigian, Drexel Hill, PA, for his two paintings and an Armenian book.

Herman Vahramian, Milan, for the copy of his book *Superpartes. Il "pensiero nano" al tempo della globalizzazione*, Milan: Edizioni Medusa, 2002, edizionimedusa@tiscalinet.it

Arshile Gorky, with an essay by Jean-Michel Goutier, Paris: Gallerie 1900*2000, 2002, 24 pages. Catalogue of an exhibit held at the Basel Art Fair and Paris, essentially of the Gorky works in the former collection of André Breton. info@galerie1900-2000.com

HYE SHARZHOOM

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California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program

Spring 2003 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
General Education				
Social Sciences Area D3, for students using 1999/2000 catalog and after				
Division 9-Other Cultures, for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before				
• Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies	3	10:00-10:50A	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
Arts & Humanities, Area C2 for students using 1999/2000 catalog and after				
Division 7-Languages, for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before				
• Arm 1B Elementary Armenian	4	1100-1150A	MTWF	B Der Mugrdechian
Arts & Humanities, Integration IC, for students using 1999/2000 catalog and after				
Division 6-Humanities and Lit., for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before				
• Arm 148 Mastrpcs Arm Lit	3	9:00-9:50A	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
Upper Division Courses				
• Arm S 108B Arm History II	3	10:00-10:50A	MWF	I Kaprielian
• Arm S 120T Armenian Dance	1	5:00-10:00 P	Fri	T Bozgian
		9:00A-5:00 P	Sat	
<i>Armenian Dance will meet January 31 and February 1, 2003</i>				
• Arm S 120T Armenian Film	3	4:00-10:00 P	Fri	D Kouymjian
		9:00A-5:00 P	Sat	
<i>Armenian Film will meet Feb. 28, March 1; 7,8; and 14, 15, 2003</i>				
• Arm S 123 Armenian Architecture	3	4:00-10:00 P	Fri	D Kouymjian
		9:00A-5:00 P	Sat	
<i>Armenian Architecture will meet Feb. 7,8; 14, 15; and 21, 22, 2003</i>				

**For more information call the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669
or visit our offices in the Peters Business Building, Room 384.**

Armenian Studies Program Faculty:

Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian
Professor of Armenian Studies, Coordinator
Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Lecturer,
ASO Advisor, Hye Sharzhoom Advisor
Barbara Merguerian, Kazan Visiting Professor of
Armenian Studies
Frances C. Ziegler, Program Administrative
Assistant

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Dr. Leon Yengoyan

Director of National Archives of Armenia Visits ASP



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

L. to R. Dr. Barbara Merguerian; Dr. Sona Mirzoyan, Director of the National Archives; and Dr. Amos Khasigian.

STAFF REPORT

Dr. Sona Mirzoyan, Director of the National Archives of the Republic of Armenia, visited the Armenian Studies Program on Friday, September 13.

Dr. Barbara Merguerian, Kazan Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies for the Fall 2002 semester, introduced Dr. Mirzoyan at a small reception. In attendance were Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program and Barlow Der Mugrdchian of the Armenian Studies Program.

A native of Baku, Dr. Mirzoyan moved to Armenia in the 1970s. She has been working in the National Archives for 30 years, the last 10 years as Director. Her doctorate is in history, with specialization in the Armenian Republic of 1918-1920.

She showed a 20-minute video on the work of the archives. She also explained how the economic crisis in Armenia over the past 11 years has had a drastic negative impact on the Armenian Archives. She thanked Armenian-American supporters on the East and West coasts for providing resources to help maintain the collection.

The National Archives are one of the important national resources of the Armenian people. Founded in 1923 with 25 employees, it now houses literally millions of docu-

ments. For example, the historical records of the Armenian Apostolic Churches are kept in the Archives, as well as the personal papers of such figures as General Antranik, Njdeh, and writer/scholar Arshak Chobanian.

A vast archive of material relating to the Armenian Genocide is being preserved: photographs, documents, and individual memoirs.

The records of the Republic of Armenia (1918-1920), papers, and other material are included in the collection. Histories of political parties and every-day life of the people are also kept. Extensive resources permitting genealogical research are also available.

The Archives have a two-fold purpose: 1) the preservation of important materials, and 2) a publications program designed to make available the most important of the works.

The National Archives welcomes scholars from throughout the world to make use of its vast collections. The staff is prepared to assist any individual with a research project.

The National Archives are non-political and non-partisan. They are currently under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth of the Republic of Armenia.

New Perspectives on Armenian NGOs

DR. HARUTYUN ALEKSANYAN
IREX CONTEMPORARY ISSUES
VISITING FELLOW

It is crucial that for building and strengthening civil society in Armenia it is increasingly important to develop the non-governmental organization (NGO) sector. This truth is becoming more evident for communities and societies living in a post-crisis and transitional period.

In former Soviet times (Armenia was one of the fifteen Soviet Republics) there were very few non-profit organizations in Armenia. These organizations were created for uniting people with similar professional interests (such as the Unions of Painters, Artists, Writers, Composers, Architects, etc). Organizations such as the Committee for Cultural Relations with Armenian Abroad or Committee for the Cultural Relations with the Outside World, were created to regulate relations with the Armenian Diaspora or with other governmental or non-profit structure's of foreign countries. All of these public organizations were funded mostly from the state budget and depended on the government and Communist Party for everything.

The situation radically changed in 1991 after Armenia's independence. The non-profit sector in Armenia started to develop. At first environmental non-governmental organizations were established and then came others for "humanitarian aid," "human rights," "women's rights," "refugee's rights," etc. Year after year the Armenian NGO sector has expanded with hundreds and hundreds of non-profit organizations. The "Golden Era" for Armenian NGOs started in 1994, when several international organizations opened their branch offices in Armenia and the NGO Training and Resource Center of the Armenian Assembly of America began to operate in Yerevan. The foreign assistance to Armenia through non-profit organizations increased. This stimulated the new wave of growth of non-governmental organizations. A large number of Armenian NGOs were founded to serve as a response to society's needs (assistance of socially vulnerable groups of population; refugees, disabled people, those who were suffering from the earthquake and poverty, etc).

According to the data provided by State Register of Armenia, in August 2001 2,585 NGO officially active in the following fields: 605 charitable, 295 regional, 175 youth, 120 medical, 88 community based, 86 human rights, 74 international, 72 women's rights, 40 patriotic, 34 educational, 33 national minorities, 15 juridical, etc. At present there is an evident trend towards the growth of the number of NGOs in Armenia. This is very positive tendency for building civil society in Armenia because the NGO sector can take a huge portion of challenges existing in the fields of economy, education, and social and legal priorities. Unfortunately, the overwhelming majority of the above-mentioned NGOs, according to for-



eign experts, do not have a lot of experience in their field and are in the developing stage of their activities. This is the result of low involvement of the population in non-profit activities.

At present, according to the data of the Research Center *Zarkerak* (Pulse in Armenian), the involvement rate of population of Armenia in NGOs constitutes 3%. Given that the average membership of each NGO is 10 persons and that in Armenia there are approximately 2,700 NGOs, the overall number of the members involved in the NGO activities might amount to 50,000-60,000.

"Mission of Armenia," an NGO with a staff of 250, and whose goal is to assist elderly people, and the "Armenian Association of University Women," which defends women's rights, are among the largest NGOs in Armenia.

Another weak point in the functioning of Armenian non-profit organizations is development of their organizational capacities. Most NGOs do not have paid staff and there is lack of fundraising strategies. Furthermore, these organizations are not audited. The impact assessment mechanisms are not developed; there is a lack of strategy of resource mobilization. Another weak point on NGO development is that the "Effective law on NGOs," adopted by the Parliament of Armenia in December 2001 still does not ensure tax regulations and does not improve self-governance of NGOs.

My study of Armenian NGOs showed that many challenges typi-

cal to Armenian NGOs are common for non-profit organizations in Eastern Europe, which are arising from difficulties of the transition period.

I see the potential development of the Armenian non-profit sector in the following areas:

- 1) Encouraging the development of sustainable local fundraising resources;
- 2) Educating NGO staff and volunteers to improve their organizational skills;
- 3) Increasing and expanding the use of information technologies by the non-profit sector;
- 4) Facilitating the participation of Armenian NGOs in international and regional networks;
- 5) Advocating amendments in the effective law on NGOs in order to encourage taxpayers to support non-profit organizations.

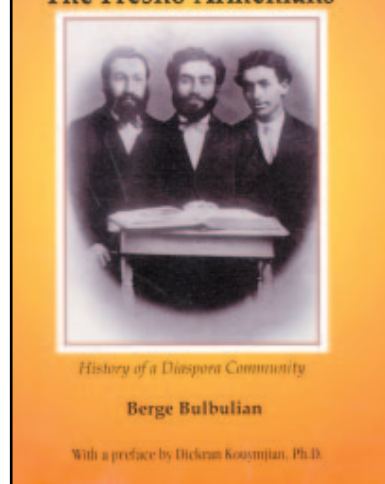
The Armenian non-profit organizations are representing the unique history, culture, traditions, and politics of Armenia and I believe that in a few years, Armenia will have a strong, sustainable non-profit sector which could assist the state to solve problems and challenges existing in the fields of education, health, social and legal priorities and the economy.

Research for this article was supported in part by a grant from the International Research and Exchange Board (IREX) with funds provided by the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs (ECA), US Department of State. None of these organizations are responsible for the views expressed herein.

The Fresno Armenians

Berge Bulbulian's *The Fresno Armenians* has been reprinted and is now available for purchase.

The new edition has a forward by Professor Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies at Fresno State.



The second edition has been updated with added information.

Order Form

Please send me ___ copy(ies) at \$19.00 each of *The Fresno Armenians*.
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Letters

Dear Editor:

I enjoy reading the paper. Keep up the good job!

Anoush Chamlian
Fresno, CA

Dear Editor:

We are deeply impressed and inspired to read about your numerous cultured activities. We too are especially interested in the Armenian Church and its future.

Richard & Anne Elbrecht
Davis CA

To Hye Sharzhoom Newspaper:

Please accept including a small donation or check for your mailing expenses. I appreciate your efforts, many good wishes to students for their success and happiness.

Sincerely,

Alice Muragliyan
Covina, CA

Dear Editor:

Thank you!

Dave Barsamian
Pasadena, CA

ASP Graduate with Minor in Armenian Studies



Name: Michael Sonny Kazarian

Age: 24

Major: Business Entrepreneurship

What are your plans after graduation? I would like to utilize my entrepreneurial skills by continuing to pursue a business in the automobile industry.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? I see myself with a family and doing well in business.

What was the most influential part of your college experience? Working towards a minor in Armenian Studies was the most influential, as well as the most interesting part of my academic career. I was intrigued to learn more about my culture and would like to continue my exploration of Armenian history.

What was the highlight of your college career? One of the highlights of my years in college was traveling to Armenia with a group of students from Fresno State on the Armenia 2001 Study tour. It was a wonderful educational experience as well as a very entertaining time.

CSU Fresno Graduates 2001-2002

College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology

Bachelor of Science
Michael Hrant Harutinian
Lisa Ann Shanoian
Charles Hagop Sislian

Bachelor of Science
Joan Lark Manselian

College of Health and Human Services

Bachelor of Arts
Angela Gevorkyan

College of Arts and Humanities Bachelor of Arts

Jason Salvador Anaforian
Ronald Lawrence Dzerigian
Brian Bruce Ekmanian
Aaron Philip Emerzian
Kathryn Ann Gulian
Rosemary Levon Kalpakian
Carlo Paul Kelejian
Cydny Denise Omartian
David Matthew Shabaglian
Jonathan Daniel Shabaglian
Maria Elizabeth Verdian

Bachelor of Science
Kori Renee Hovsepian
Lucine Kenderjian
Karen Jean Ohanesian
Debra A. Yakligian

College of Science and Mathematics

Bachelor of Arts
Lori Bridgette Garabedian

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Bachelor of Science
Zepure Attashian
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Angela Kay Hagobian
Alison Marie Iskenderian
Krista Rose Kardashian
Shushan Khalachyan
Kevork Tanossian

College of Social Sciences

Bachelor of Arts
Mariel Annelisesa Howsepian-Rodriguez
Jon Gary Ovoian
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Statewide Nursing Program

Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Arlene Carol Boyajian (Fall 2001)

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Master of Arts
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Talin Grigorian
Sandra Lynn Kazanjian
Gostanian

Master of Business Administration

Paul John Soligian
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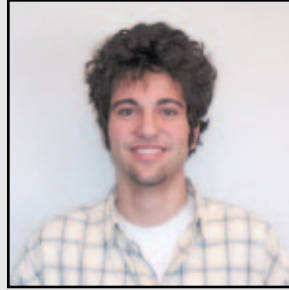
College of Engineering and Computer Science

Master of Social Work
Flora Esraelian

Eench ga Cheega?

BY CARINA KARAKASHIAN

What is your favorite aspect of the Armenian culture?



ARLEN GORJIAN:
The atmosphere that is created when you are with Armenians.



MICHELLE MANUKIAN:
The family values.



CHRIS TOZLIAN:
The sense of community that Armenians have retained through the centuries, and even into modern times.



KRISTINA MINASIAN:
The food.



MARSHA SHEAKALEE:
The life long friends.

Egoyan Film "Ararat" to Make U.S. Debut: Movie Depicts Armenian Genocide and Its Denial

STAFF REPORT

Over 1,000 U.S. officials attended a special presentation of Atom Egoyan's new movie "Ararat" on Tuesday, October 8, in Washington DC.

Members of the US Congress, officials of the US Department of State, World Bank, representatives of the Armenian Assembly of America (AAA), as well as Armenia's Ambassador to the USA attended the presentation.

Meanwhile, in Yerevan, Egoyan, the prominent Canadian film director of Armenian origin, received one of Armenia's highest state awards, the day after his world-famous film "Ararat" dealing with the 1915 Armenian Genocide was premiered in Yerevan.

A decree awarding Egoyan the Movses Khorenatsi medal, given for major artistic and cultural accomplishments, was signed by President Robert Kocharian.

"Ararat" will open in New York and Los Angeles on November 15, followed by wide distribution in the United States.

The recently released movie, condemned by Turkey for its depiction of the slaughter of some 1.5 million Armenians by Ottoman Turks, details the continuing impact of the mass killings and depor-

tations on descendants of the genocide survivors. A film-within-a-film switching between different periods of history, "Ararat" shows how painful memories change the life of a young Canadian-Armenian man in present-day Toronto.

The film, stars Egoyan's wife, actress Arsinee Khanjian, and French-Armenian singer Charles Aznavour.

In an exclusive interview with RFE/RL, Egoyan said he hopes his story about the Armenian Genocide will strike a chord with people around the world. "I think there is a huge expectation from everybody for this film," he said. "I had to make it as personal as possible and find a way of telling the story that

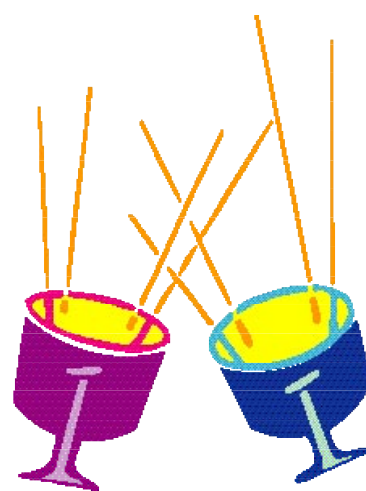
has a meaning for me and communicates to other people as well."

"Ararat," which is being distributed worldwide by Miramax Films despite vehement Turkish protests, has drawn unprecedented international attention to the bloody events of 1915. The Turkish government and lobbying groups, which maintain that the massacres did not amount to genocide, have threatened the Hollywood company with a boycott. They claim that "Ararat" is part of broader Armenian efforts to mislead the international community, a charge denied by Egoyan.

The challenge facing Armenians throughout the world now, Egoyan went on, is to rely primarily on themselves in their bid to realize their centuries-long aspirations. "As long as we are putting energy in expecting other people to give us strength, we are in a weaker position," he explained.

"We have always been the victim of outside politics and forces beyond our control, and this has historically been our greatest vulnerability.

We have to be able to do everything on our own terms, and we clearly have the strength and the means. I think with every new generation we are gaining a confidence to be able to do that."



IREX Visiting Fellow to Spend Semester Studying NGOs at ASP

TATEVIK EKEZIAN
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Harutyun Aleksanyan from Yerevan, Armenia, is visiting California State University, Fresno on an IREX Contemporary Issues Fellowship. His three-month stay, formally hosted by the Armenian Studies Program, began August 29, following a three day orientation in Washington DC. Barlow Der Mugrdchian of the Armenian Studies Program is acting as faculty sponsor/advisor for Dr. Aleksanyan while he is in Fresno. Dr. Aleksanyan will participate in a one-month internship in Los Angeles to conclude his stay in the United States.

Dr. Aleksanyan is the president of the Elegia Cultural non-governmental organization. He is also an institutional assessor for the NGO Strengthening Program of the World Learning Organization in Armenia. He also taught history of the Armenian Diaspora and modern world history at the "David Anhakht" Humanitarian University in Yerevan.

Dr. Aleksanyan is delighted to share his experiences with non-governmental organizations (NGO's). His purpose in coming to the United States is to get acquainted with how non-profit organizations function. Since NGOs are relatively new in Armenia, he intends to investigate how NGOs in the United States function. He is studying the

related literature in the field as well. He wants to help Armenia with its NGOs and their improvement in development, challenges, and perspectives. Most NGOs in Armenia are dealing directly with social issues. Each is basically set up as a union of people who work to improve the country's social and environmental problems.

Dr. Aleksanyan hopes to be able to return to Armenia with a compatible paradigm from the United States that he can implement in his native land. This way, he hopes the model he puts together after his analysis and research in the United States can improve the organizational capacity of NGOs in Armenia. For example, Armenian NGO governance, operational and management systems, human resources, financial resources, service delivery, external relations, and advocacy would all improve tremendously.

The NGOs in Armenia are in their developing stages. Dr. Aleksanyan wants to work to help increase organizational skills by providing training and the understanding and application of better skills in these organizations. He wants to acquire skills and go back to Armenia to apply what he has learned and to teach and train others.

While in Fresno, Dr. Aleksanyan has attended several seminars in personnel development, grant writing and management, and

financial control. He has focused especially on financial control because there is a lack of fundraising strategies in Armenia. He is sitting in on a variety of courses at the university, including a course in non-profit management. As an international guest he was invited to participate in a Fresno area "Non-Profit Organizations in the 21st Century" conference.

Dr. Aleksanyan is President of "Elegia" NGO, whose main purpose is to support the development of Armenian culture; to assist and facilitate creative groups, talented artists, and children active in culture; to facilitate the development of capacity building in the area of art business; and to preserve and develop the culture of national minorities. "Elegia" also helps talented children involved in culture and contributes to creating cultural networks nationally and internationally as well. They have created programs with Georgia and Azerbaijan, and have put together joint projects to create organizational networks, exhibitions, and concerts, hoping that all these activities will assist in political stability in the region.

Dr. Aleksanyan plans to share his experience in Armenia, doing assessments using the IAI (Institutional Analysis Instrumental) method, developed by World Learning Organization, to establish each non-governmental stage of development.



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

Dr. Harutyun Aleksanyan

Dr. Aleksanyan has lectured to an Armenian Studies class at Fresno State and he discussed "Advocacy and Coalition Building" to a group of students from the Ameri-

can Humanities Program at Fresno State. He also went on a field trip with students to the "Stone Soup" NGO in Fresno to conduct an assessment of the organization.

The reason Dr. Aleksanyan believes that the United States can set good examples for the NGOs in Armenia to follow is because

America's civil society has been developed over a long period of time, and Armenia's civil society only since its independence in 1991.

Dr. Kouymjian's Research Leads to New Discoveries in Armenian Art



Photo: Dickran Kouymjian

Right Hand Relic of St. Gregory

CHRIS TOZLIAN
STAFF WRITER

To say that Dr. Dickran Kouymjian remained busy during his year-long sabbatical would be an understatement. Dr. Kouymjian, Haig & Isabel Berberian Endowed Professor of Armenian Studies, spent the last academic year on foreign soil. By his own admission, he passed most of his time in the libraries of Paris, France, doing the research and scholarship so hard to accomplish when teaching many

courses and administering the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno state. During Dr. Kouymjian's absence from CSU Fresno, he visited Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, and Italy, conducting research or presenting scholarly articles. In past articles, Hye Sharzhoom described for its readers some of the various tasks set before the Armenian Studies Program Director: symposiums, awards committees, vast amounts of research, plus much more. And while most Program Directors would leave their position for a year to work abroad, Dr. Kouymjian continued to oversee the administrative duties of the Armenian Studies Program as its coordinator; while on sabbatical, Dr. Kouymjian spent a couple of hours each day dealing with office administration from his

home in Paris via the internet.

One little-mentioned work that Dr. Kouymjian has spent years producing is the *Album of Armenian Paleography*, an exhaustive study of ancient Armenian writing. Dr. Kouymjian recalled the vast time spent checking the various sets of page proofs of the book for bibliographies, ensuring correct Armenian-to-English translations, and reviewing the photographs to be used. Sometimes this took up to an hour per photograph to review. Dr. Kouymjian dedicated much of his time to this folio volume, which was just printed. Literally the size of a large photo album, Dr. Kouymjian, along with Professor Michael Stone and Dr. Henning Lehmann, spent twelve years compiling information, researching the topic, choosing a broad selection of dated Armenian manuscripts for inclusion and working with publishers, which has culminated in a near six hundred page album with 220 color illustrations of ancient Armenian writing. It has been in press for the past five years.

Another project which necessitated much of Dr. Kouymjian's time was his earlier appointment as the ANI (Armenian National Institute) Project Manager for a compilation of Armenian art, focusing on the issue of loss as a result of the Armenian Genocide. Though this appointment came before his sabbatical, Dr. Kouymjian and his wife, Angèle Kapoian Kouymjian, dedicated much time to this endeavor

when the Legacy Project, originally funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, was put on the web. The fruit of Dr. Kouymjian's labor is visible to all who visit www.legacy-project.org, the website that is currently displaying more than 25 Armenian artists who have embodied the concept of loss and desolation in their work. Dr. Kouymjian explained that this website provided Armenian artists with widespread exposure in the art community, especially after the tragic events of September 11th, which caused multitudes of Americans to deal with the concept of loss within their own lives.

And now, although Dr. Kouymjian has returned to Fresno

State for yet another year of teaching, there is still much to keep him busy. He is currently working on an Armenian textile exhibit to be held in Geneva in 2004. He is also continuing his research and study on Armenian relics and liturgical metal work, including the four known right hand relics of St. Gregory the Illuminator. Furthermore, Dr. Kouymjian has a 30-year file of Pentecost illuminations, which continues to multiply as he pursues his analysis of the iconography of the Pentecost scene within Armenian manuscripts. As usual, Dr. Kouymjian remained busy this past year, and will continue to do so as long as the pursuit of scholarship drives him.

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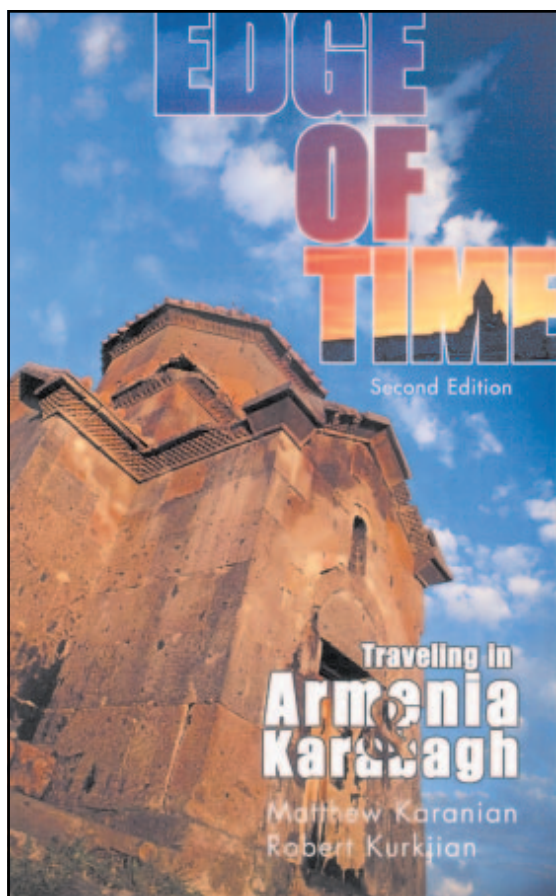
Students must also fill out an Armenian Studies Program supplemental scholarship form to be eligible for Armenian studies scholarships

www.csufresno.edu/ArmenianStudies

Deadline for applications

• November 30, 2002 •

EDGE OF TIME FROM PAGE 1



Armenian Studies Program Fall 2002 Lecture Series at CSU Fresno and co-sponsored by the Armenian National Committee, Central California.

The main topic of discussion was their newest publication, *Edge of Time: Travelling in Armenia and Karabagh* (Revised Second Edition, 2002). *Edge of Time* is a travel guide through Armenia and its brilliant color photography and descriptive passages draw the

ningly beautiful," said Karanian.

In 1995, Karanian and Kurkjian both journeyed to Armenia for the first time, and took jobs with the American University of Armenia. Finding each other through their common interest in photography, the two instantly became friends. This friendship fostered the publication of *Out of Stone*.

Both *Edge of Time* and *Out of Stone* were on display and for sale at their presentation, the first in the

reader closer to making that journey to Armenia, the homeland so many have heard about, but never visited.

Attendees saw outstanding, rare photographs of the mountainous region, the striking churches, and the people of Karabagh. Karanian and Kurkjian have spent many days in Karabagh taking photographs. The two also had on display many of their more popular prints including a few that had taken

them hours upon hours to capture perfectly.

Karanian and Kurkjian both commented how it was necessary for them to return to the same exact place many times to capture the precise image they desired. The time of day and seasons also produced varied photographs.

Shortly after the publication of *Edge of Time*, the two realized how necessary such a publication was. After a mere 11 months, and with a 200-copy order that they couldn't fill, they unexpectedly ran out of books. For a period of about three months they had no books to deliver, despite the orders which kept rolling in. The travel guide was promptly reprinted and Karanian and Kurkjian could breathe a sigh of relief.

Karanian, who has worked in Armenia for at least part of each year since 1995, is a practicing lawyer in Washington, DC. He will return to Armenia in February to work as an Associate Professor of Law at the American University of Armenia.

Kurkjian is a scientist and has served for several years as the Director of the Environmental Research and Management Center at the American University of Armenia, beginning in 1995. He was later married in Shushi, the cultural capital of Karabagh and has traveled extensively throughout the most remote parts of Karabagh.

Both *Out of Stone* and *Edge of Time* are available from Stone Garden Productions, a publishing com-



Matthew Karanian

pany founded by Karanian and Kurkjian. To order books call toll-free: 1-888-266-7331, for all other inquiries, call: 202-537-3708; email

info@stonegardenproductions.com or visit their website at <http://www.stonegardenproductions.com>.

Armenians and the Internet

By Ara Mekhitarian

Club Tune – The Ultimate Armenian & International Music E-Store

Address: <http://www.clubtune.com>

Contact: <http://www.clubtune.com/webpage/contact.htm>

Main Categories: New Release, Pop Vocals, Contemporary, Rabiz, Childrens, Compilations, Classical, Instrumental, Spiritual, Videos.

Brief Summary: Club Tune is a new web site that offers a wide range of Armenian music available to purchase online. One can find anything from contemporary to spiritual Armenian music with samples to listen to online. They also offer a variety of different Armenian movies and videos at reasonable prices. Ordering is simple and is all done on a secure server. Club Tune also has a virtual gift shop where you can purchase Armenian jewelry and accessories.

My One Armenia

Address: <http://www.myonearmenia.com/>

Contact: email: webmaster@myonearmenia.com

Main Categories: News, Live Radio, Fonts, Chat, Issue Board, Links, Music, Games, Jokes, Literature, History, Art, Images.

Brief Summary: My One Armenia is an online Armenian community that provides an array of useful services. The site requires registration; however it is quick and free to sign up. Once a member, users will have access to their own email account (user@myonearmenia.com), free Armenian music, games, movies, chat, news and much more. The site also has an integrated Armenian Radio that broadcasts music 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Furthermore, the site offers a section called "Explore Armenia" where you can learn about Armenian Art, History and Literature. Overall this is an entertaining as well as educational web site that is worth visiting.

United Armenia Fund Delivers \$20,000 Worth of Computers to Yerevan State University

STAFF REPORT

The Armenian Studies Program, as part of its continuing NIS College and University Partnership Program with Yerevan State University's Faculty of Economics, contributed \$20,000 in computer equipment to establish a 2nd computer lab. The computer equipment arrived in Yerevan in late September and were ready to be used by students and faculty by the beginning of October.

The nine computers and three lap-top computers will be utilized by students, who often do not have convenient access to computers. Funding for the lab was provided by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State.

The NIS grant has also assisted in establishing internet connections for the Faculty of Eco-

nomics, essential for research and for communications.

The NIS project is in its third year of cooperation between the two institutions, which provides for training for faculty and students of the Faculty of Economics.

The UAF has provided free transportation for the computers and equipment. Since its inception in 1989, the UAF has sent \$345 million of humanitarian assistance to Armenia on board 120 airlifts and 866 sea containers.

The UAF is the collective effort of the Armenian Assembly of America, the Armenian General Benevolent Union, the Armenian Missionary Association of America, the Armenian Relief Society, the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America and the Lincy Foundation.

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Armenian Radio Show

Hye Oozh

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morning from 9:00AM-12:00noon

FM 90.7

D. J.s

• Sevag Tateosian • Armen Postoyan • Tatevik Ekezian

Yergu Puta-Mahd Verr (Two Thumbs Up!)

WITH
CARINA & NYRIE



L. to R.: Carina Karakashian, Rami Gabriel, Nyrie Karkazian.

CARINA KARAKASHIAN
& NYRIE KARKAZIAN
STAFF WRITERS

When most people think of a restaurant owned by an Armenian they immediately think of *kebob*, *pilav*, and *paklava*. But we have found one Armenian who serves something a little bit different. He serves pizza.

Ferris Gabriel, owner of the two Dominion pizzerias located in Fresno, opened his very first franchise just about four years ago on the corner of Cedar and Shepherd. Gabriel and his family are originally from Baghdad, Iraq and moved to Fresno in April of 1975.

Ferris Gabriel's children, Rami and Vera, are students at Fresno State.

Years ago Gabriel worked for another pizza company, but one day he decided to open his own

business, Dominion Pizza. The name Dominion came from the neighborhood in which he lived at the time. He recently opened a new branch in Clovis on Willow and Nees. Most of his business comes from schools, sports teams, and families. The Armenian Students Organization at CSU, Fresno, also holds meetings there from time to time and feels right at home.

When asked how he likes what he does Gabriel replied, "I love my job." He said that, "Pizza is like my kids. If someone messes up pizza, it's like messing up my kids."

Our time spent at Dominion was great and as always the food was incredible. We personally recommend getting a large pepperoni pizza, but everything on the menu is good.

We only have one question... when do they add *soojough* and *bastermah* pizza to the menu?

AVAKIAN FROM PAGE 1

For many years, he served with distinction in scientific research and engineering, especially in the area of aerospace technology.

Responding to a call, Dr. Avakian was appointed Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno, in 1970. Several years later, he took a similar position at the newly formed American Armenian International College, in La Verne, California. Dr. Avakian contributed to the initiation of the Armenian studies programs at both institutions. He continues to maintain a highly visible profile in the dissemination of knowledge on Armenian cultural heritage through his authorship of newspaper and magazine articles and his public lectures on Armenian subjects. In addition, he offers a yearly Elderhostel program on the cultural history of the Armenian people. His book, *The Armenians in America*, is used as a reference text in public schools.

Dr. Avakian has held leadership positions in such community organizations as the Armenian Students' Association of America, the Na-

tional Association for Armenian Studies and Research, the Armenian Assembly, the Knights of Vartan, and the Armenian Church at both parish and diocesan levels. Among his special interests are the music and liturgy of the Armenian Church, in which he has served as Choir Director for many years. In 1995, Dr. Avakian was elected a delegate to the National Ecclesiastical Assembly at the Holy See of the Armenian Church, at Etchmiadzin, for the election of Karekin I, Catholicos of All Armenians.

Also, in that same year, he was awarded the St. Sahag-St. Mesrop Medal of Honor by the Catholicos, together with an Encyclical (Gontag) commending him for his long years of fruitful service to the church.

Dr. Avakian has traveled extensively, with visits to Armenian centers throughout the world, especially in historic Armenia (Anatolia) and the Republic of Armenia, often forming and guiding tourist groups.

He is married to the former Georgia Keosaian of New York. They have five children.

DR. MERGUERIAN FROM PAGE 1

in Fresno, Dr. Merguerian's area of expertise lies in modern Russian history, even writing her doctoral dissertation on political ideas during the rule of Peter the Great.

Dr. Merguerian has taught at a number of institutions, including Tufts University in Massachusetts and Yerevan State University in Armenia. While at Tufts, one of her classes focused on modern Armenian history. Dr. Merguerian remarked though Tufts offered Armenian studies courses taught by fine professors, the program is not nearly as large as the Armenian Studies Program at CSU Fresno, the country's largest undergraduate program.

Dr. Merguerian's recent teaching at Yerevan State University was made possible by the CEP (Civic Education Program). While there, she taught two classes, one dealing

with International Relations and the other with Women's Studies. Dr. Merguerian said that the students in Yerevan are very bright; the problem they face is a lack of school supplies. There students do not own textbooks, forcing her to photocopy the texts for the students. Another problem at Yerevan State University is that students may not take courses that are not part of their major; as a result, many students were unable to enroll in Dr. Merguerian's classes. Still, Dr. Merguerian said her time in Armenia was a fantastic experience.

Currently, Dr. Merguerian is continuing her work on American missionaries within the 19th century Ottoman Empire and also on Armenian women's studies. In regard to Armenian Women's studies, Dr. Merguerian admits that little has been published, yet she has

been the co-editor of two books composed of articles on this subject. Dr. Merguerian is also a co-founder of the Armenian International Women's Association, in which she remains active as the head of the Information Center and Archives. Dr. Merguerian will also be very active within the university, as she will be delivering three public lectures during this Fall semester as the Kazan Visiting Professor, on the general topic: "The Armenian Question in United States Foreign Policy." The first talk will take place on Tuesday, October 22nd at 7:30 PM on the specific topic "The Impact of the American Missionaries."

The addition of Dr. Merguerian to the Armenian Studies Program this semester will greatly benefit both students and the community at large through the expertise that she brings with her to the classroom.

The California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program

Third Annual Henry S. Khazadian Kazan
Lectures in Armenian Studies

"The Armenian Question in United States Foreign Policy"

by

Dr. Barbara Merguerian

Henry S. Khazadian Kazan Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies
at Fresno State for the Fall 2002 semester

I: "The Impact of the American Missionaries"
• Tuesday, October 22, 2002 • 7:30 PM

II: "The Witness of the American Consulates"
• Tuesday, November 12, 2002 • 7:30 PM

III: "Isolationism vs. Internationalism in U.S.
Foreign Policy: The Case of Armenia"
• Friday, December 6, 2002 • 7:00 PM

Parts 1 and 2: Alice Peters Auditorium • University Business Center • Fresno State
Part 3 is co-sponsored by the College of Arts and Humanities Fall Lecture Series
and will be held in the Wahlberg Recital Hall on campus.

The lectures are free and open to the public.

For more information contact the Armenian Studies Program • 278-2669

Relaxed Parking in Lots J and A after 7:00 PM

Gov. Gray Davis Signs Bill Establishing California Trade and Investment Office in Armenia

Less than a few weeks after the California State legislature voted in both chambers in favor of establishing a California international trade and investment office in the Republic of Armenia, Governor Gray Davis signed Senate Bill 1657, introduced by Senator Jack Scott (D-Pasadena).

California will now become the first state in the United States to have a trade presence in Armenia. Armenia, which in 1991 gained its independence from the Soviet Union, was the first former Soviet Republic to privatize agriculture and continues to privatize small businesses and state-run enterprises. Since independence, the

Republic has shown steady positive economic growth while maintaining a stable currency. It has been hailed as a model democratic republic in the region and represents the ideal location for a California trade office.

Senator Chuck Poochigian (R-Fresno) was co-author of the measure, SB 1657, creating an international trade and investment office in Yerevan, Armenia. Poochigian, said, "I am pleased our legislative efforts will result in the establishment of an Armenian trade office. This venture promises to expand and strengthen relations between California and Armenia, demonstrating the importance of a mutu-

ally beneficial relationship."

Unlike other current trade offices, the California-Armenia trade office not only requires a comprehensive evaluation of its success but will require new authorization by the State for its operation beyond January 1, 2006. The study of the office's economic impact on trade, investment and tourism in California and the Trans-Caucasus region would be a model for other current and future trade offices.

The State of California currently has trade offices in Germany, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Israel, Mexico, the Republic of South Africa, Taiwan, and Japan.



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Levonian Fund Benefits CSU Fresno Students

M. JOYCE ABDULIAN
SPECIAL TO HYE SHARZHOOM

California State University, Fresno has been one of five beneficiaries of the Yervant, Rose, and Hovannes Levonian Educational Fund which provides scholarships for deserving Armenian students since 1985. Yervant Hovhanness Levonian was my uncle.

Each time I receive the Hye Sharzhoom list of scholarship recipients, I feel great joy knowing so many students at Fresno State are benefiting from Uncle Ed's life and generosity.

Yervant Levonian was my mother's brother. He was born in Aintab, Turkey to Hovhanness and Dudu Levonian, wealthy landowners and exporters of apricots and pistachios. He came to the United States prior to the Armenian Genocide in 1915 and settled in Fresno. His parents, a sister (my mother), and a brother struggled through the hardships of the deportation of the Genocide and finally arrived, exhausted and destitute in Aleppo, Syria.

Yervant's brother Levon fondly known as "Toh Levon" opened a school in Aleppo for all the refugee children and was revered by all for his compassion and skill as a teacher, musician, and administrator. The funding for this school came from the sale of his mother's (my grandmother's) gorgeous gold jewelry, which she was able somehow to conceal on her arduous journey across the Syrian Desert. (I prize having the only two matching bracelets remaining from her large collection.)

Yervant and his bride, Rose Gagosian, opened a small grocery store, Peacock Market, on Belmont.

They would eventually trade their way up to a third larger market located near Belmont and Blackstone. They worked long and hard for their living and lived in a modest house behind the store. Uncle worked and saved eventually buying some fruit orchards and after WWII a new home.

He lived a happy but frugal life that consisted of work, friends, relatives, and his lovely wife Rose.

He was like a surrogate father to me, being that my father died when I was an infant. Going to Fresno from Los Angeles over the old winding 2-lane Grapevine was the biggest adventure for us especially during winter snow storms. I can still remember reaching in the jellybean jar at the store for a special treat.

It was to this house behind the store that my mother Zekie Levonian arrived after suffering life through the Genocide. An accomplished pianist and accustomed to the privileged life, she began working long hours in the hot Fresno packing houses and helping with cooking chores in the Levonian household which now held two more brothers and their families.

When uncle became ill a few years after the passing of Aunt Rose,



Rose and Yervant Levonian

he asked my husband, Dr. H. Jack Abdulian, and myself for advice as to the disbursement of his money. Being that he was childless, we advised him to leave it all to the Armenian Missionary Association of America. (The AMAA was founded after the Armenian Genocide for the sole purpose of financially helping devastated Armenian schools and churches in the Middle East. It has since expanded its outreach world-wide.) We knew his money would be handled properly and increased substantially due to their expertise in these areas. This he did and designated Fresno State as one of the recipients. The rest is history.

Many of you students are now benefiting from my Uncle Ed's generosity. Appreciate it and use your knowledge wisely. Perhaps you can help a student someday. This will be uncle's greatest legacy.

**For questions and
comments contact the
Armenian Studies
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559-278-2669
www.csufresno.edu/
ArmenianStudies**

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