

HYE SHARZHOOM *Armenian Action* **ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՒՄ**

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Balakian Buzz Hits Capitol Hill and Armenian Community

SEVAG TATEOSIAN
EDITOR

From The Top-50 of *USA Today*, to #7 in the October 13th issue of *Publisher's Weekly*, to #4 on the *New York Times Best Seller List*, Dr. Peter Balakian's book *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response* has created a buzz among the Armenian community.

I had the opportunity to witness this buzz first hand by attending Balakian's lecture at Fresno State on Sunday, November 2nd. Students politely gave up their seats to individuals from the community and sat on the floor, because there were only 250 available seats at the Wahlberg Hall and there were many more people in the audience. Similar numbers of people were present at almost all of Balakian's lectures

across the United States.

But what is it about Peter Balakian's book that has created such a buzz?

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Director of Armenian Studies at Fresno State, himself a recognized writer and scholar, had this to say about the book, after reading only the first 30 pages. "The opening parts are stunning. The preface is wonderfully evocative, and Faneuil Hall, Howe, and Blackwell are quite powerfully and beautifully rendered." He added, "It is wonderful history writing, very literary, right from the book's opening description of a New England fall evening."

The buzz did not stop there. It also reached Toronto writer and historian Paul Mitchinson, who in an interview on the Armenian National Committee of America

SEE **BALAKIAN BUZZ** PAGE 8

Peter Balakian Speaks on "Burning Tigris" to Standing Room Only Audience in Fresno



Peter Balakian
MITCHELL PETERS
STAFF WRITER

With the newest addition to his long list of published works, Peter

Balakian visited California State University, Fresno, to discuss the major issues of the Armenian Genocide in his powerful new book, *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response* published by HarperCollins.

The lecture was held in the Wahlberg Recital Hall at Fresno State on the evening of November 2nd, as a part of the Armenian Studies Program Lecture series and was co-sponsored by the College of Arts and Humanities Lecture Series, the Armenian Students Organization, and the Arme-

nian National Committee of Central California.

The Burning Tigris gives a detailed history of the Armenian Genocide, the first modern genocide of the twentieth century, and discusses the vast outpouring of humanitarian feelings in America.

In his talk, Balakian addressed the standing-room-only audience on the main points of his book, reading chilling excerpts of the horrors that led up to and followed the genocide. He began by speaking of the importance of the Armenian Genocide and how its occurrence inspired Adolf Hitler to massacre millions of Jews.

"Who today, after all, speaks of the annihilation of the Armenians," Balakian said, quoting Hitler.

Balakian described the massacre of the Armenians at the hands

SEE **BALAKIAN** PAGE 8

Yerevan State Faculty Visit Fresno State



L to R: Dr. Hayk Sargsyan, Dean of the Faculty of Economics at Yerevan State University, Fresno State President Dr. John Welty, and Dr. Toros Torosyan, Chair of the Department of International Economics at Yerevan State University.

BARLOW DER MUGRDECHIAN
ADVISOR

Two groups of faculty and administrators from the Faculty of Economics at Yerevan State University visited Fresno State from October 30th to November 26th.

On October 30th, Dr. Hayk Sargsyan, Dean of the Faculty of Economics, accompanied by Dr. Toros Torosyan, Chair of the Department of International Economics, arrived in Fresno to spend an intensive nine days of meetings with various administrators and faculty of the Craig School of Business. This was their first trip to Fresno State and their first opportunity to meet with many faculty of the Craig

School of Business.

Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program and Liz Shields of the Department of Finance at Fresno State organized the visit and coordinated meetings with faculty. Emil Milevoj of the University Business Center assisted the visitors in a variety of ways.

Dr. Sargsyan and Dr. Torosyan had the unique opportunity to attend the Armenian Studies Program lecture by Peter Balakian on his new book *The Burning Tigris* on November 2nd. They were particularly impressed by the large turnout and they enjoyed meeting with the many community members in attendance.

Fresno State President Dr. John

Welty had a private meeting with the visitors on Monday afternoon, November 3rd, where he had the opportunity to discuss the current Fresno State-YSU partnership. Dr. Welty has been invited to visit Yerevan State University in the Spring of 2004.

The meeting was followed by a special reception in honor of the guests, attended by more than 10 faculty from the Craig School of Business who had traveled to Armenia as part of the joint project.

A visit to the Henry Madden Library also left a deep impression. The Library provides opportunities for students to conduct research using the internet.

Later that week Dr. Sargsyan met with interim Dean of the Craig School of Business Dr. Karen Bowerman and Associate Dean Professor Garo Kalfayan, who discussed how the Craig School of Business is organized. Dr. Sargsyan shared how his School of Economics is organized and governed and exchanged many ideas with the Fresno State administrators.

Dr. Torosyan spent much of his time at Fresno State working on plans on how to extend the four-year partnership between Yerevan State University and Fresno State. The deadline for the new grant is December 5 and requires an extensive application process. Dr. Torosyan had several very produc-

SEE **YSU VISITORS** PAGE 5

"All Things Armenian" Premieres on Campus KFSR 90.7 Radio Station



L to R: Sevag Tateosian, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, and KFSR station manager Joe Moore.

HAKOP TATARYAN
STAFF WRITER

For the past several years, Armenians around the valley have tuned into the *Hye Oozh* show, airing on KFSR 90.7 FM every Saturday morning from 9 am until noon, to enjoy an array of Armenian music. Now they can add another hour to their listening pleasure as a new radio show called *All Things Armenian* has been added to the KFSR lineup from noon until 1 p.m. Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program, KFSR station manager Joe Moore, and *Hye Oozh* DJ Sevag Tateosian developed the concept for the new show.

All Things Armenian features

interviews with a variety of guests and also showcases classical Armenian music, from such composers as Aram Khatchaturian and Alan Hovhanness. The first show aired on November 1st and featured an interview with author Peter Balakian.

Professor Der Mugrdechian, who hosts the show, said, "This is a great opportunity for people in the greater Fresno community, both Armenian and non-Armenian, to enjoy good music and listen to interesting interviews." Many of the people he has interviewed have been guest lecturers at Fresno State. Dr. Ara Sanjian, Kazan Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies at

SEE **ALL THINGS ARMENIAN** PAGE 7

Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Photo: Mitchell Peters

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, periodicals, videos, and archival gifts either offered personally or to the Program.

Sylvia Agémian, *Archives Sirarpié Der Nersessian, Catalogue*, vol. I, Bibliothèque arménienne de la Fondation Calouste Gulbenkian, Antelias: Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia, 2003, 351 pages. A remarkable first volume cataloguing the files and notes left by the world's leading expert on Armenian art by her last student and collaborator, with an elaborate index of manuscripts. Available through the Catholicosate or Librairie Orientale (Samuelian), 51, rue Monsieur-le-Prince, 75006 Paris. Gift of the author.

Catholicosats Armenien De Cilicie, *Justice, Peace, Reconciliation*, by His Holiness, Aram I, Liban: Foundation Calouste Gulbenkian, 2003.

Yolanda Crowe, *Persia and China. Savafid Blue and White Ceramics in the Victoria and Albert Museum. 1501-1738* [Geneva]: LaBorie, 2002, distributed by Thames and Hudson, 314 pages, catalogue of 536 pièces all illustrated, including several pièces with Armenian inscriptions. Gift of the author.

Gérard Dédéyan, *Les Arméniens entre Grecs, Musulmans et Croisés. Etudes sur les pouvoirs arméniens dans la Proche-Orient méditerranéen (1068-1150)*, vol. I, *Aux origines de l'État cilicien: Philarète et les premiers roubeniens*, vol. II, *De l'Euphrate au Nil: le réseau diasporique*, Lisbon: Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, 2003, xli, 1528, [xxi] pages, 104 illustrations, maps, genealogies, bibliography, indexes. This massive work, more than 25 years in the making, brings together Prof. Dédéyan's tireless research on the Armenian principalities in Asia Minor and Cilicia up to the generation before the establishment of the Cilician kingdom. Courtesy of the Gulbenkian Foundation.

Ms. Hayden Herrera, New York, NY, for the copies of her book, *Arshile Gorky, His Life and Work* and well as her presentation to our campus on October 22, 2003.

Prof. L. G. Khacherian, Glendale, for the copy of his book, *Armenological Studies and Publications*.

Linda Komaroff and Stefano Carboni, *The Legacy of Genghis Khan. Courtly Art and Culture in Western Asia, 1256-1353*, New York, New Haven, London: Metropolitan Museum of Art, Yale University Press, 2002, 322 pages, hundreds of color plates, catalogue of major exhibit at the Met in New York and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Gift of Linda Komaroff.

Nancy Kricorian, *Dreams of Bread and Fire*, New York: Grove Press, 2003, a fascinating novel about growing up in Watertown and coming of age in Paris. Gift of the author.

A. D. Krikorian, Port Jefferson, NY, for the book, *Respected Citizens, The History of Armenians in Singapore and Malaysia* written by Nadia H. Wright.

Carl Mahakian, Rancho Mirage, for the William Saroyan book, *The Human Comedy* and archival materials.

National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, Belmont, MA, for the *Journal of Armenian Studies*, Vol. VII, No. 1 Fall-Winter 2002-2003.

Rev. Fr., Dr. Abel Oghlukian, *Hay Ekeghetsi jamanaki martahrawernerun dimats* (The Armenian Church before Contemporary Challenges), Geneva, 2003, 88 pages. A series of essays on 1700th anniversary and other issues. Gift of the author. Available at abel-hratch@bluemail.ch.

[Very Rev. Ghevont Samoorian], *Domar. The Calendrical and Liturgical Cycle of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church 2003 A.D.*, n.p.: Armenian Orthodox Theological Research Institute, 2002, ix, 727 pages. A remarkable book combining the liturgical calendar in Armenian and English in facing columns, with a second volume on Saints and Feasts, hymns, etc. with an index. Gift of the author.

Mr. Martin M. Tourigian, Drexel Hills, PA, for the watercolor and his original music book.

Giusto Traina, editor, in collaboration with **Carlo Franco**, **Dickran Kouymjian**, and **Cecilia Veronese Arslan**, *La Storia di Alessandro il Macedone*, Codice miniato armeno del secolo XIV (Venezia, ms. San Lazzaro 424), 2 vols., Padua: Aldo Ausilio Editore, 2003. Vol. I, *Il testo* (The Text), pp.194, introduction to the text, analysis of miniatures, translation, bibliography and index. Vol. II *Le miniature*, facsimile color reproduction of all 254 pages of the famous Venice Mekhitarian manuscript of the History of Alexander the Great, boxed in sturdy buckram. Available through Aldo Ausilio Editore, via A. Da Bassao 70/d- 35135 Oadivam Utaktm etk, fax 049 8642828. Courtesy of Carlo Franco.

Zoryan Institute of Canada, Inc. Toronto ON, Canada, for the booklet by Vahakn N. Dadrian, *Children as Victims of Genocide: The Armenian Case*.

California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program

Spring 2004 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, Arts, 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	11:00-11:50A	MTWF	B Der Mugrdechian
Arts & Humanities, Arts, Area C1 for students using 1999/2000 catalog and after				
• Arm S 20 Arts of Armenia	3	4:00-10:00 P	Fri	D Kouymjian
		9:00A-5:00 P	Sat	
<i>Arts of Armenia will meet Feb. 6, 7; Feb. 13, 14; and Feb. 20, 21, 2004</i>				
Arts & Humanities, Area IC for students using 1999/2000 catalog and after				
• Arm 148 Mstrpcs Arm Culture	3	9:00-09:50A	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
Upper Division Courses				
• Arm S 108B Arm History II	3	11:00-12:15A	TTh	I Kaprielian
• Arm S 120T Armenian Dance	1	5:00-10:00 P	Fri	T Bozigian
		9:00A-5:00 P	Sat	
<i>Armenian Dance will meet January 30, 31, 2004</i>				
• Arm S 121 Armenian Painting	3	4:00-10:00 P	Fri	D Kouymjian
		9:00A-5:00 P	Sat	
<i>Armenian Painting will meet February 27, 28; March 5, 6; and March 12, 13, 2004</i>				
• Arm S 120T Armenian Films	1	4:00-10:00 P	Fri	D Kouymjian
		9:00A-5:00 P	Sat	
<i>Armenian Films will meet March 19, 20, 2004</i>				

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

HYE SHARZHOOOM

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“Armenian Forum” Looks at Church and Education



L to R: Deacon Armen Devejian, Mark Der Matoian, Commander Allan Farsakian, and Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

STAFF REPORT

The Fresno Yeprad lodge of the Knights of Vartan held an “Armenian Forum” on Friday, October 17.

Invited speakers for the evening were Deacon Armen Devejian, Press Secretary of the Catholicosate of Holy Etchmiadzin and Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State. The audience was divided into two groups, and each speaker gave a twenty-minute presentation, followed by a question and answer period, and then a joint session addressing questions to each speaker.

The “Armenian Forum” was open to the public and presented current views on two aspects of current life in Armenia—the Church and education.

Deacon Devejian outlined the activities of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Armenia. In particular he focused on the efforts of the Holy See of Etchmiadzin to prepare a new generation of clergy at the Kevorkian Theological Seminary. The seminary has been renovated, a new residence for students has been constructed and the Armenian government has accredited the seminary. Annually some twenty to twenty-five students are being ordained as priests. Within a few years they will begin to fill the

substantial need for clergy in Armenia and in the Diaspora. Outstanding students are being sent abroad to further their education, before returning to serve the Church.

Deacon Devejian has lived in Armenia with his wife Paula for the past two years and will be ordained a priest in February of 2004.

Der Mugrdechian spoke about his experience with the higher education system in Armenia, primarily with Yerevan State University, where he has worked with faculty from the School of Economics, the Department of Art History, and the Department of History. His talk outlined some of the major challenges that the university has faced and he also pointed out some of the areas where there had been much success. Faculty exchanges between Fresno State and Yerevan State University have also opened up opportunities for faculty to learn new methods of teaching and to revise course curriculum where necessary.

In particular Der Mugrdechian discussed how the Armenian Diaspora should become more involved in the educational life in Armenia, by establishing scholarship funds for students and research and teaching grants for faculty.

Mark Der Matoian, Western District Representative of the Knights of Vartan, organized the “Armenian Forum.”

ASO Has Active Fall 2003 Semester

ALEX BUNCH
STAFF WRITER

This year the Armenian Studies Organization got off to another great start. After holding annual elections, the first regular meeting of the year was held at the new Dominion Pizza. Planned ASO events were discussed, including a Halloween party, a canned food drive, the 5th Annual Film Festival (last year’s Film Festival was a huge success), and co-sponsoring a series of lectures given by the Kazan Visiting Professor, Dr. Ara Sanjian.

The first major event of the year was the annual Halloween party, held Saturday, October 25th at the Nyrie Club on First and Dakota. The party was outstanding and everyone was dancing nonstop. The DJ did an awesome job and everyone had a good time.

On Sunday, November 2nd, the Armenian Studies Program held a lecture by Peter Balakian, about his new and enticing book titled *The*



L to R: Ara Nalbandian, Mitchell Peters, Alex Bunch, Sebough Krioghlian, and Lara Chekian at ASO pizza meeting.

Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America’s Response. This is a wonderful and fascinating look at the Armenian Genocide, and explains about the one million plus Armenians murdered during 1915. Included in the book are accounts of Americans who launched

the first American international rights movement. Balakian is also the author of *Black Dog of Fate.*

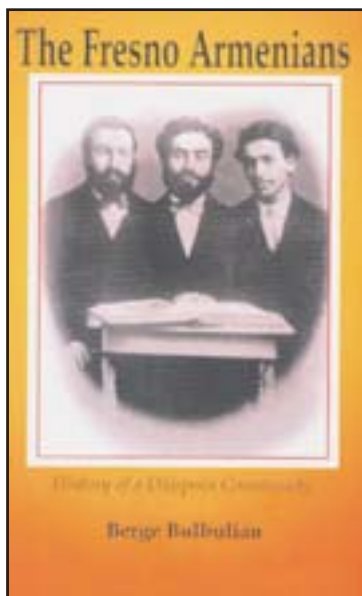
On Wednesday, November 12th, the ASO held its second meeting and many new members attended. All students are welcome to join ASO.

Karabagh President Arkady Ghougassian Makes Historic First Visit to Fresno



L to R: Hovsep Kocaoghlanian, Gevork Aristakesyan, Marine Ekezyan, ASO Vice-President Armen Postoyan, Ani Estephanian, Karabagh President Arkady Ghougassian, Barseg Abanyan, Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program, ASO President Dikran Chekian, Aline Postoyan, and Rosie Bedrosian, Principal of the Armenian Community School. President Ghougassian was in Fresno to attend a banquet in his honor organized by the Armenia Fund Fresno branch.

Armenian Studies Program-Christmas Books



The Fresno Armenians
Soft cover \$20.00

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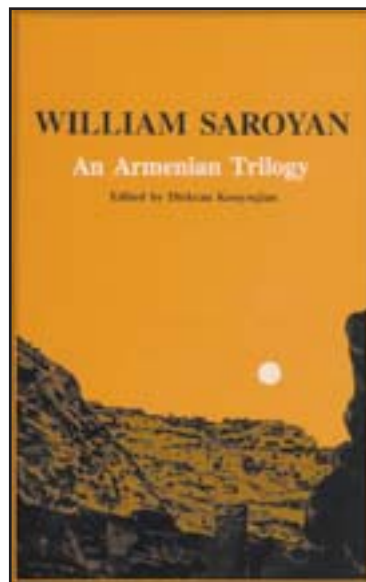
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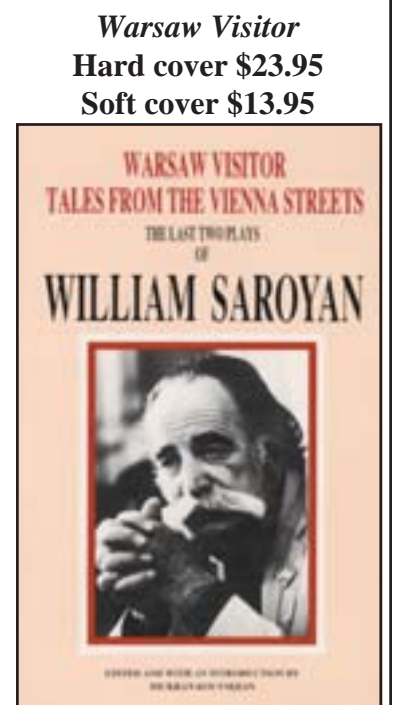
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Hayden Herrera Introduces New Book About Artist Arshile Gorky



Photo: Dickran Chekian

Author Hayden Herrera.

MITCHELL PETERS
STAFF WRITER

California State University, Fresno, was honored to host Hayden Herrera, the author of an extensive new biography, *Arshile Gorky: His Life and Work* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), telling the story of one of the vanguards of modern painting of the twentieth century, Arshile Gorky.

In her talk, sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization, Herrera touched on the main points of her 767 page book, focusing mainly on Gorky's childhood, heritage, secretive personality, and the tragic events that ultimately led to his suicide at the age of forty-five.

Born Vosdanig Adoian, Gorky

was raised in Van, Armenia where he faced the horrors of the Armenian Genocide and the painful death of his mother, who died of starvation in his arms. As a result of this trauma, Adoian changed his name to Gorky and often posed as a Russian after arriving in the United States.

"He didn't want to be associated with the starving Armenians," Herrera said in an interview with Professor Barlow Der Mugrdchian. "That was a term used a lot in the 1920's. He thought it would be a better thing to be Russian in terms of having success as an artist."

Gorky's ancestry and childhood also played a major role within his art. Although he was vague about his heritage (his wife didn't even

know he was Armenian) and childhood, he still kept the two very close to his heart.

In a questionnaire for the Museum of Modern Art asking what his heritage meant to his art, Gorky replied, "Everything." "All of Gorky's artistic subject matter came from his childhood experiences," said Herrera.

Herrera's lecture concluded with an explanation of the "series of disasters" that Gorky faced in the last few years of his life that led to his suicide in 1948.

The first major tragedy he faced was a studio fire that destroyed 27 of his paintings. Then he was diagnosed with colon cancer, which was followed by a car accident where his painting arm was paralyzed. Herrera believes the final devastating blow, however, was the ending of his marriage after he found out his wife had an affair with one of his best friends.

"I've always thought that if he had not had the traumas that he had in Armenia, he might have been able to cope with all of these things that happened at the end of his life," Herrera said.

Herrera's motivation for writing this biography was prompted by the fact that her father married Gorky's widow, Agnus Magruder (Mougouch). She recalls Gorky's painting being on the walls of her house while she was growing up, and being fascinated by them.

"There was a long fascination with this man really coming from family connection," she stated. "He was an incredibly sensuous painter."

Trained as an art historian, Herrera is also the author of *Frida: A Biography of Frida Kahlo*. She currently resides in New York City.

Albert and Isabelle Kabrielian of Fresno Establish Two Endowed Scholarship Funds at Fresno State

STAFF REPORT

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, announced that Albert and Isabelle Kabrielian of Fresno, California have established two scholarship funds, the Albert and Isabelle Kabrielian Endowed Scholarship for Armenian Studies and the Genevieve Tatoian Endowed Scholarship for Armenian Studies, to benefit students enrolling in Armenian Studies courses.

When asked why they chose to establish a scholarship at Fresno State, Isabelle Kabrielian responded, "My husband and I have always followed Armenian Studies and Fresno State and we feel we have contributed to a worthy cause. We would like to see Armenian Studies continue, especially when there is such an interest there."

The Kabrielians kept a regular tie to the University through *Hye Sharzhoom*. "Armenian Studies is a necessity. The Program does a good job," said Kabrielian.

Albert and Isabelle Kabrielian were married in 1946 and moved to Fresno in 1948. Albert Kabrielian was originally from New Jersey, while Isabelle Tatoian was from Chicago. After moving to Fresno, Albert was involved in the repair and maintenance of appliance, later selling parts for appliances. Isabelle attended Fresno State and graduated with a degree in education. She taught for more than thirty years at Jefferson Elementary School in Fresno, teaching fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. Prior to attending Fresno State she worked in the accounting field. Isabelle's experience was very happy at Fresno State

and she still contributes to the Alumni Association.

Albert Kabrielian's parents, Levon and Mary Kabrielian, were from Izmir and when he was nine months old, his mother returned with him to Izmir because she was homesick. Due to the outbreak of World War I, they could not return until after the war. Kabrielian's father served in the United States army in France.

Isabelle Kabrielian's natural mother Martha and husband John Tatoian were from Kharpert. Mr. Tatoian served as a Deacon at St. Paul Armenian Church for many years. As a teenager he taught school in Kharpert and later was employed as a rug weaver and repaired rugs.

The Genevieve Tatoian Endowed Scholarship was established in memory of Genevieve Tatoian who passed away in August of 2002. She was born in Chicago and attended and worked at Northwestern University for several years. In 1966 she moved to California where she was trained as a paralegal. She was an avid reader and believed in education. Although she was not a regular attendee at the Armenian Church, she was very close to the Church, leading an exemplary life. She had a great love of animals.

The first scholarships from the two new endowments will be awarded in the 2004-2005 academic year.

Students may apply for the new scholarships as well as all other Armenian Studies scholarships by contacting the Armenian Studies Program or by going to the Armenian Studies Program website at www.armenianstudies.csufresno.

Dr. Ara Sanjian Gives Third Lecture on Mountainous Karabagh

HAKOP TATARYAN
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, November 19th, 2003 a large audience attended the last of the three-part Armenian Studies Program Kazan lecture series on "The Quest for Mountainous Karabagh." Dr. Ara Sanjian, who is the Kazan Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies this fall, lectured on "The Armenian Church in Mountainous Karabagh Under Soviet Rule." The first two lectures in this series also dealt with topics regarding Mountainous Karabagh.

Dr. Sanjian presented a chronology of events that involved the Armenian Church in Karabagh and the oppression it faced from the Soviet government from 1923 to 1989. His lecture touched upon the activities of various Armenian Church leaders in Karabagh and their contributions to the Christianity in this region.

Armenia adopted Christianity sometime in the early fourth century. Neighboring Caucasian Albania followed suit. The church of Amaras in the Martuni region of Mountainous Karabagh, is one of the oldest functioning Armenian churches. The history of Christianity in the Armenian province of

Artsakh (the old name for Mountainous Karabagh) had close links with the developments in Albania next door. Early in the twentieth century, there were some 118 churches and 12 monasteries in Karabagh. In 1887, the construction of the biggest Armenian Church in the world had been completed in Sushu.

When the Bolsheviks came to power in 1920, the Armenian Church and other churches felt the bellicose oppression from the Soviet Union. His Holiness Gevorg V (reigned 1911-1930) witnessed some of the worst attacks against the Armenian Church in Karabagh as well as in other parts of USSR. Prior to the 1940s the Soviets wanted to completely rid their territory of Christianity and other religions. Although they eventually couldn't complete their task, they were largely successful in curbing its activities. Particularly in Karabagh, there were no active Christian services from the late 1930s to 1989.

The Soviet policy changed somewhat after 1941; the state now only wanted to control the already humbled church. Thus the government was actively involved in the selection of church leaders.



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

L to R: Bryan Bedrosian, Ashot Hagopian, Dr. Ara Sanjian, and Edward Saliba.

In 1955, Catholicos Vazken I was elected. He first managed to have fifty Armenian typewriters delivered to Karabagh and in 1957 made his first visit to the region. This was some feat at the time. Furthermore, he strongly advocated the return of Karabagh, Nakhichevan, and Akhalkalak to

the jurisdiction of Soviet Armenia. Moscow was quick to remind him however that the scope of his jurisdiction did not include things political.

In 1988, Catholicos Vazken appointed the young bishop Pargev Martirosian as head of the church in Mountainous Karabagh, and, in

1989, the first service took place in the Gandzasar monastery.

The church had survived through turmoil and resentment in Karabagh and now is witnessing a rebirth.

In all, it was once again a praiseworthy lecture given by Dr. Sanjian.

Armenian Church Class Attracts Students for Interesting Weekend



Photo: Dikran Chelikian

The Armenian Church weekend class at Fresno State.

**ZHANNA BAGDASAROV AND
MARINE EKEZYAN**
STAFF WRITERS

One might think that taking a weekend class would be time consuming and that you might lose a weekend of relaxation. However, taking the Armenian Studies 120T-Armenian Church class offered by the Armenian Studies Program dur-

ing the weekend of October 10th and 11th proved to be an atypical experience. As soon as the students began to walk into a room filled with Armenian Church music, the earlier notions faded away.

Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian, the instructor for this course, began his discussion with information concerning the background and organization of Arme-

nian churches throughout the world. There was a lot of information shared during the course, yet what really made this class stand out from other classes was the first-hand experience students received by actually visiting an Armenian church.

On Saturday morning, the entire class met at St. Paul Armenian Church, on the corner of First and

Dakota streets. Because Professor Der Mugrdechian is a Deacon at this church, the students were able to take a tour of the church. The subject of Armenian art came up several times during the class, and so the tour began with an examination of the frescoes on the interior walls of the church. He also explained the meaning of every stained-glass window in the church, each of which forms a part of the larger story of the history of Christianity in Armenia. Then the class gathered in the narthex of the church, where Der Mugrdechian explained the meaning of a typical Sunday Divine Liturgy.

Student Ani Estefanian expressed her feelings while at the church, "I wasn't aware of the importance and symbolism that underlined the importance of the artwork within the church, but now that I'm enlightened, I wish all Armenians were aware and appreciative of this aspect of our culture."

It was to the students' advantage to have Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian teaching this course because he didn't just acquire knowledge of this topic through books, but also gained an under-

standing through personal experience. For instance, he was one of the delegates elected to participate in the election of the Catholicos of All Armenians in Etchmiadzin in 1999. It is because of these experiences that he was able to contribute interesting facts and stories regarding this subject.

Another feature of this class that contributed to the enjoyment felt by the students was the incredibly detailed video about the preparation and blessing of the Holy Oil (Muron). "Watching the video of this event made me realize just how ceremonial and extensive this process is and it was interesting to find out that the oil is only made one batch at a time and is distributed to all the Armenian churches throughout the world," commented student Barseg Abanyan.

Next time you consider taking a weekend class, don't let your preconceptions prevent you from taking a course that would broaden your horizons and open your eyes to see that the history of Armenian Church is significant. The Church has built our culture and shaped us as a nation. Even today, our everyday perceptions of life are influenced by this history.

YSU VISITORS

FROM PAGE 1

tive meetings with Dr. Dan Griffin of the Grants and Research Office and with Barlow Der Mugrdechian to help crystallize goals for the new project.

Dr. Sargsyan and Torosyan also met with Dr. Luis Costa, Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities. They discussed a broad variety of topics of mutual interest in a very enjoyable way.

Dr. Sargsyan continued his visit to California by traveling to California State University, Northridge, where he met with Mrs. Hermine Mahseredjian of the Armenian Studies Program and met with Dr. Fred Evans, Dean of the School of Business and former Fresno State Dean of the Craig School of Business.



L to R: Barlow DerMugrdechian, Dr. Hayk Sargsyan, and Dr. Toros Torosyan with computer equipment ready for shipping to the Faculty of Economics at Yerevan State University.

ulty for department offices. The project has already provided complete internet access for the students and faculty.

On Sunday November 9th, Professors Lusine Grigoryan and Hayk Mnatsakanyan arrived in Fresno and stayed until November 26th. Professor Grigoryan is Chair of the Department of Business English in the Faculty of Economics and Dr. Mnatsakanyan is acting Chair of the Department of Finance and Accounting. It was the first visit to Fresno and the United States for both.

particularly interested in applying some of these new methods when she returned to Armenia. The Business English Department provides English language courses exclusively for the students enrolled in the Faculty of Economics. Therefore the English is very specialized and requires terminology specific to a business curriculum.

Dr. Mnatsakanyan is developing new curriculum for courses to be taught in his department. He was particularly interested in applying computer skills for new methodology in his courses. Dr. Mnatsakanyan was particularly interested in the usage of computers for teaching and also in distance learning techniques.

Both Professors Grigoryan and Mnatsakanyan were impressed with Fresno State and the greater Armenian community. Fresno very much reminded them of Armenia with its open land and nearby mountains.

The project will continue in the Spring when two more visitors will come to Fresno State.

The partnership program between Yerevan State University and Fresno State has been funded by a grant from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.



Photos: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Dr. Hayk Mnatsakanyan

There are many Yerevan State graduates in the Los Angeles area and plans are under way to form a Friends of Yerevan State University branch in Los Angeles. This would be a support group for the University as well as a way for graduates to stay in contact with each other.

Before they departed for Armenia, the visitors were shown the more than \$30,000 of computer equipment, printers, and other office material, purchased by the project, which was being shipped to Yerevan State University. This equipment will be used in the Fac-



Dr. Lusine Grigoryan

Dr. Grigoryan met with and observed the teaching methods of various professors from the Department of Linguistics. She was

**California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program**

Armenian Studies 120T- Armenian Dance

*(Learn how to dance traditional Armenian dances)
conducted by*



**Tom
Bozigian**

The internationally recognized dance instructor was born in Los Angeles. Each year Mr. Bozigian travels to Armenia to continue his research working with various institutes and dance specialists. He is particularly sought out for his extensive knowledge of dances from the pre-1915 period. He also specializes in new Armenian folk-dance as well as choreography. Mr. Bozigian regularly tours the Orient and Europe teaching Armenian dance.

**Friday, January 30, 2004 • 5-10 PM
Saturday, January 31, 2004 • 9 AM-5PM**

Meet in the South Gym, Rm. 134-Fresno State

**Fresno State students enroll through
web registration.**

**The course is open to the public
for a fee of \$50.**

**To register for the class contact the
Armenian Studies Program or come to the
first class session.**

*Contact the Armenian Studies Program, 278-2669,
for more information.*

Pictorial History of the Armenians in China, 1919-1945

Virginia Meltickian of Fresno, California, has donated an archive of photos and articles about the Armenian community in China. Her "Memory" Album encompasses the time period from the beginning of the last century to the 1950s, when the Armenians had to leave China due to the change in political situation of that country. Some Armenians went to Armenia, others to Australia, Canada, South America, Europe and the United States.

Two families in addition to Virginia Meltickian were instrumental in providing these photos: Mrs. Natalia (Azatian) Lukin of Sao Paulo, Brazil and Mrs. Vartanoush Kassians of San Francisco, California.

Excerpts from a Russian-language magazine published in Australia circa 1970. National Groups in Harbin (China) The Armenian National Group

The first Armenians who appeared in Manchuria (N. China) during the construction of the Chinese Eastern Rail Road, undertaken by the Imperial Russia, were few. (*) The railroad was called in Russian language- Kitayskaya Vostochnaya Zheleznaya Doroga-KVZHD. Only after the Russian-Japanese War did their numbers increase. This necessitated the cre-

done by their Ladies Aid Group, who carried out a very useful and important work of fund-raising to support their charitable works in organizing bingo games, collecting donations, etc.

(*) Translator's note.

Finally, the most important task of the Board was to preserve the national heritage and spirit among the members of the colony. To this effect, the Board organized social events, staged national and literary plays, performed by the youth group in their native language. On the national and religious holidays, tea parties were also organized. Classes to study Armenian language and literature also were held. The theatrical plays were performed at the prestigious Commercial Club and the Tchurin Club, where "Anahit" drama and the "Arshin-Mal-Alan" musical were performed, featuring the lead-singer, Karine Psakian.

Armeno-Gregorian Church

Until 1918, the city of Harbin had in the district of Noviy Gored an Armenian House of Prayer.

In 1918, the KVZHD (Chinese Eastern Railroad) had granted the Armenian Colony a piece of property on 18, Sadovaya Street, corner of Liaoyang Street, where they began to build the Far-Eastern Armeno-Grigorian Church, which took several years to complete. The name "Far-Eastern" derived from the fact that Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Rostomians and his family emigrated to Harbin from Vladivostok, where evidently his church was closed.

The church in Harbin began officially to function in the 1920s. In 1925, the Chinese Authorities have registered it as the Armeno-Grigorian Church of Harbin. The church was erected in memory of St. Gregory the Illuminator.

In 1932, Fr. Yeghishe Rostomians passed away. The Armenian Church became orphaned. For several years thereafter the church was without a Pastor and the premises were rented to the members of the Lutheran Congregation, who later built their own Kirche (church).

In 1937, thanks to the initiative and efforts of Mr. Ter-Ovakimov, President of the Armenian Organization, a priest was brought from Jerusalem - Rev. Fr. Assoghig Ghazarian (who recently passed away and whose Rank at the time was Archbishop).

Rev. Fr. Assoghig was educated in the monastery, after his parents were killed by the Turks. At the time of his arrival in Harbin, he was only 27 years old. He was well-educated and spoke five languages.

The Armenian Colony, numbering at the time about 350-400 persons, felt very fortunate once again to have a Pastor.

During the period of 1938-1950, Rev. Fr. Ghazarian, who was greatly respected and loved by his parishioners, did many good things for the Armenian Church. The building adjacent to the church has been enlarged and renovated,



Harbin, China. Church Choir. Church of the Prelacy of the Far-Eastern Armenians.

thanks to the financial backing of large contributors and businessmen (Messrs. C. Eloyan, I. Avetisian, A. Elyasov and others); during the construction of the Church itself it too was built with money donated by the members (the largest contribution was made by Mr. K.C. Aspetian). All members of the Armenian Organization gave according to their means, and some others donated their labor.

In 1950, Rt. Rev. Fr. Assoghig Ghazarian (who during WWII 1941-1945 ended up in the Concentration Camp for British and American citizens in the city of Moukden) (**) returned to Jerusalem and the Armenian Church once again remained without a Pastor.

Subsequently, during the following years, due to the mass-exodus of Armenians from Harbin, their

colony dwindled down to a mere 40-50 persons.

In 1959, the building of the Armenian Church changed hands and became the property of the Chinese Government, which in turn used it for a textile factory.

In August of 1966, during the "Cultural Revolution," the time period where all churches in Harbin were demolished, all the treasures of the Armenian Church kept in the altar for several years, such as the ikons, the vestments - were all taken out, dumped into the yard and burned.....

(**) Rt. Rev. Fr. Assoghig Ghazarian was a British subject, because Jerusalem was a British Protectorate.

Translated by: V. Meltickian — August 20, 2003.



City of Haelar, Manchuria, North China. Mr. Krikor Kassians, on horseback and buggy in front of his grocery store named after him. Circa 1915-1916.

By VIRGINIA MELTICKIAN

Armenians lived in China long before the twentieth century, but because the twentieth century brought us the first Genocide, followed by the Russian revolution, our people fled their respective homes in Turkey and Russian Armenia. The only available road was via Trans-Siberian railroad all the way to Manchuria, the northern province of China.

These Armenians have survived the genocide, the world depression of 1930s, the Japanese occupation of Manchuria in 1932 and the takeover of the country by the Chinese communist army -The Paludiu, i.e. the Eighth Army, headed by Mao-Tse-Tung.

These Armenians rebuilt their lives, formed families, had children, and built a church in the city of Harbin in 1927. They worked hard and gave their children a good education so that the new generation would go ahead and lead productive lives and always keep their identity through their faith, their church and their nation.

As a daughter of a survivor, born and educated in China, it occurred to me that from historical perspective it might be useful to prepare an album which would [provide] evidence [on] the existence of Armenians in China.

I hope that this small contribution to the Fresno State Armenian Studies Program would be of help in the overall picture of our people's history.

July 1, 2003
Fresno, CA

ation of an Armenian National Organization for the purpose of helping their needy countrymen and the preservation of their national heritage.

The Armenian National Organization was headed by the Board of Directors, whose President for many years was Dr. C. G. Migdisov, along with Mr. Ter-Ovakimov, an engineer with the KVZHD and Mr. Melik-Ogandjanov, an attorney. The Armenians jokingly called them the three giant whales on whose back the Armenian community of the city and the region was sustained.

The Armenian National Organization was founded in 1917. Its statute was approved by the local authorities in 1919. By 1923, they succeeded to build their own church and adjacent to it a social hall located on Sadovaya Street.

Because most of the members of the Armenian colony lived in Harbin and had the only Armenian church in China, with residential quarters for their priest, Fr. Yeghishe Rostomians, the spiritual leader of all Armenians in Manchuria, China and Japan, Harbin became the center of the Armenian national life.

One of the main tasks of the Armenian Organization was to solve the problems of assistance to the needy members, such as the elderly, the poor, the orphans and generally all those who needed one or another kind of help.

Undoubtedly, the Organization also responded to the requests of other benevolent organizations giving their share.

The charitable works of the Armenian Organization was mainly

Armenians on the Internet

Armenian Bar Association

Website address: <http://www.armenianbar.org/>

Topics: Professional links, Newsletter, Committees, New York Life insurance litigation update, Member news

Brief Summary: The Armenian Bar Association is the largest organization of Armenian judges, attorneys, and law students outside of Armenia. The Armenian Bar Association was formed in 1989 to provide an arena for lawyers of Armenian heritage and other interested individuals to come together socially and professionally and to address the legal concerns of the Armenian community. With the creation of an independent Republic of Armenia, the Association undertook the task of helping to build and encourage the growth of democratic institutions in Armenia. The Association is a forum in which attorneys with different backgrounds and at different stages of their careers share their expertise and insight. The cooperation also takes the form of pro bono assistance and legal education seminars geared toward raising community awareness of rights and responsibilities. The Association is committed to serve the profession of law, the interests of its members, and the rights of its constituents.

The website has a new page on the New York Life insurance litigation, including a list of Armenians insured by New York Life before the Armenian Genocide.

Armenian Diaspora

Website address: <http://www.armeniadiaspora.com/>

Topics: News, Links, Inside Armenia, Entertainment, Travel

Brief Summary: The Armenia Diaspora website provides information and links for the Armenian Diaspora.

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ALL THINGS ARMENIAN FROM PAGE 1

Fresno State and author Hayden Herrera, who wrote the biography of artist Arshile Gorky are among those who have been interviewed for the show.

Current news from Armenia and national and local news are also part of the show. Students from Fresno State read the news on radio every week and Professor Der Mugrdechian is looking for students interested in learning about radio journalism to assist in producing the shows.

"I am very excited about the

new program. I think it will be a great show that provides its audience with important Armenian news, especially from the San Joaquin Valley," said Tateosian, who has been a DJ for five years at KFSR. The show adds yet another link between Armenians in the Diaspora and the rest of the world.

All Things Armenian can be heard every Saturday from noon until 1 pm, following the *Hye Oozh* show. The program is also available on the internet, via the station's website at www.kfsr.org.

Listen to Fresno State's
new Armenian Radio Show

"All Things Armenian"

Every Saturday Afternoon
12:00 noon-1:00PM

90.7 FM

Hosted by Barlow Der Mugrdechian

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BALAKIAN BUZZ FROM PAGE 1

website said, "The [Balakian's] latest book encourages America to tap into a forgotten well of knowledge about the Genocide and to revive its powerful impulse toward humanitarianism. In doing so, America will not just be serving the cause of history, but the broader aims of a liberal and democratic society."

Mr. Mitchinson could not have said it any better. But how much longer will the Genocide remain forgotten to the non-Armenian community?

On the way to the airport I had the opportunity to talk one on one with Dr. Balakian and he seemed quite optimistic about the movement that is currently taking place in United States to get the Genocide recognized, especially after last May's unanimous passage by the House Judiciary Committee of House Resolution 193, marking the 15th anniversary of the United States implementation of the United Nations Genocide Convention. The bill, which cited the Armenian, Cambodian and Rwandan genocides, as well as the Holocaust, was passed despite strong efforts by the Turkish government to exclude "Armenian Genocide" from its wording.

The buzz even had an effect on



Congressman George Radanovich

Capitol Hill. Congressman George Radanovich of California's 19th District, co-sponsor of House Resolution 193, in an exclusive email

question-answer interview with *Hye Sharzhoom* said this about *The Burning Tigris*, "I read the *Burning Tigris* and thought it was so effective in telling the story of the Armenian Genocide that I distributed copies, donated by the Armenian National Committee of America, to every member of the House of Representatives." When asked what impact the book will have on his efforts to get a Genocide Resolution passed, he replied, "I believe the book raises awareness of the Armenian Genocide, and anything that raises awareness will help the effort to pass the resolution I introduced on the Genocide."



Congressman Frank Pallone

Representative Radanovich is not the only member of the House of Representatives to feel the Balakian buzz. His colleague and co-sponsor to House Resolution 193, Frank Pallone of New Jersey's 6th District had this to say, again in an exclusive interview with *Hye Sharzhoom*. "As we continue to educate our colleagues in Congress about the horrific acts Armenian citizens endured at the hands of the Ottoman Empire, it is important that we have personal stories in the form of books and films to help us combat Turkish efforts in revisionist history."

Scholars, politicians, and professionals, are all talking about this book, but how long will this Balakian buzz last? Only time will tell, though one thing is certain-whatever Dr. Balakian endeavors next, it is likely to cause another Balakian buzz.

It was said best by a gentleman in the audience at the Fresno lecture, "What is next, can I suggest *The Flaming Euphrates*?"

BALAKIAN FROM PAGE 1

of the Ottoman Empire as the greatest crime of World War I, and a landmark event that permanently scarred the twentieth century.

He also spoke of the many American heroes including Clara Barton, Julia Ward Howe, William Jennings Bryant, Henry Morgenthau, John D. Rockefeller, and Theodore Roosevelt who helped launch America's first international human rights movement.

"I think there was a serious historical context for the presence of the Armenian people in the American mind," Balakian said in an interview with Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program. "Protestant Americans believed Armenia was

a very holy place and held it in very high esteem."

During the genocide many American intellectuals intensely spoke out against the massacres of the 1890's and coverage in the media was extraordinary, stated Balakian.

"*The New York Times* in 1915 alone published 145 articles just on the beginning of the Armenian Genocide, so we get a sense of how deep this reaction was," Balakian said.

He concluded his lecture by speaking about Turkey's denial of the Armenian genocide. Although the Genocide occurred 88 years ago, Armenians are still fighting for its recognition by the Turkish government.

"The Turkish government's denial has provoked more outrage

from more people that I would have ever imagined," said Balakian.

The Burning Tigris, on *The New York Times* Bestseller list for three weeks upon its release, is now in its eighth printing. The event ended with Balakian signing copies of his book.

Peter Balakian is the author of seven previous books, including *Black Dog of Fate*, which won the 1998 PEN/Martha Albrand Award and was a New York Times Notable Book. A prizewinning and widely published poet as well as a respected scholar, he holds a Ph.D. in American Civilization from Brown University and is currently the Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor of Humanities at Colgate University. He lives in Hamilton, New York, with his wife and two children.

Hye Sharzhoom at 25-The Early Staff

Vol. 1, No. 1

April 16-24, 1979

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