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The Daily Collegian

Volume 8, No. 2
FEBRUARY 1987

The newspaper of the California State University, Fresno Armenian Students
Organization and Armenian Studies Program

Armenian Studies Program
CSUF, Fresno 93740

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ASP ENDOWED CHAIR DRIVE SET FUND OFF TO SUCCESSFUL START

The California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program announces the opening of a campaign to establish an Endowed Chair in Armenian Studies in the School of Social Sciences. The goal is to raise \$300,000 to endow the position and enable the university to undertake an international search for the best candidate to fill the new position.

The exciting news was announced by Armenian Studies Program Director Dr. Dickran Kouymjian at the tenth anniversary banquet for the Armenian Studies Program held on 27 October 1986. As a

first step in the fund drive the president of the National Institute for Armenian Culture, Mrs. Anoush Chamlian announced a \$5,000 pledge from the organization. Additional pledges were made by the CSU Fresno Armenian Students Organization, the Armenian Alumni Association and the Armenian National Committee of Fresno. Within weeks of the announcement of the endowment drive, Mr. and Mrs. Arnie Avedian of Fresno donated \$15,000, adding new impetus to the campaign.

University officials present at the announcement of the endowment drive

included California State University, Fresno President Dr. Harold Haak, Dean of the School of Social Sciences Dr. Peter Klassen, and Director of Development Richard Francois.

The announcement of the drive for the endowed chair was enthusiastically received by the members and friends of the Armenian Studies Program who were present.

The future of the CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program will be enhanced by this second position. The position promises to bring new recognition and attract students to the field of Armenian Studies.

DER MANUELIAN AT CSU FRESNO

By Yvonne Sahagian Minassian
Editor

Tufts University Art Historian Lucy Der Manuelian was in Fresno December 7, 1986 to present a lecture titled "Ani: The Fabled Capital of Armenia". The lecture which took place on the CSU, Fresno campus, included a series of slides of Ani. An array of slides made of watercolor paintings by Arshag Fetvadjan



Dr. Lucy Der Manuelian

ASP 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED IN FRESNO

by Barlow Der Mugrdchian

The Armenian Studies Program marked its tenth anniversary under the direction of Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, at a gala banquet on the California State University, Fresno campus, Monday October 27, 1986. An overflow crowd of students, faculty, and the Fresno Armenian community celebrated the activities and the achievement of the Armenian Studies Program.

Guests were greeted at the door by members of the CSUF Armenian Studies Organization who invited the guests to enjoy the cheese and wine served before dinner. Former ASO member Jim Karagozian enchanted the guests with selection played on his kanon. A display table in the foyer exhibited the publications produced by the Armenian Studies Program over the past years. The display included the published works of Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program. Highlighting the publications was his latest book *William Saroyan: An Armenian Trilogy*, published by the CSU Fresno Press. The book was edited by Kouymjian, a close friend of Saroyan's, and also includes an introduction written by Kouymjian. Also exhibited were back issues of *Hye Sharzhoom* with pictures and stories of the last eight years of activity of the Armenian Students Organization and the Armenian Studies Program.

Two easels were set up with schematic enlargements of the proposed Center for Armenian Studies which will be located in the new Leon S. Peters Business Building and the Valley Business Center which will be completed in fall of 1988.

Present at the banquet were CSUF President Dr. Harold and Mrs. Haak; the Dean of the School of Social Sciences, Dr. and Mrs. Peter Klassen; and Mrs. Marian Bagdasarian a trustee of the California State University system. The program was conducted by CSUF Armenian Studies Program lecturer Barlow Der Mugrdchian.

Dr. Klassen, addressing the achievements of the ASP during the past years said, "The Armenian Studies Program continues to establish its significance and reputation. A character in William Saroyan's play *Armenians* expressed sentiments incarnate in the Armenian Studies Program. 'Armenia shall not

perish. Armenians shall not perish. We are Armenians and though we are eight or nine thousand miles away from where we were born, we are still in Armenia. We are still there, and this very place, this patriotic coffeehouse, is Armenia.' And so to the Armenian faculty members and the community at large, we thank you for keeping that vision alive."

Richard Francois, Director of Development at CSU Fresno, in remarks about the Leon S. Peters Business Building, said, "What is important is not the building, but what goes in there. If the next generation can train but one more Leon S. Peters, we know the valley will be richly blessed. I am pleased the Armenian Studies Program is in the new building. It is terrific to have the 1986 Outstanding Professor of the Year working in a building with Leon S. Peters name on it."

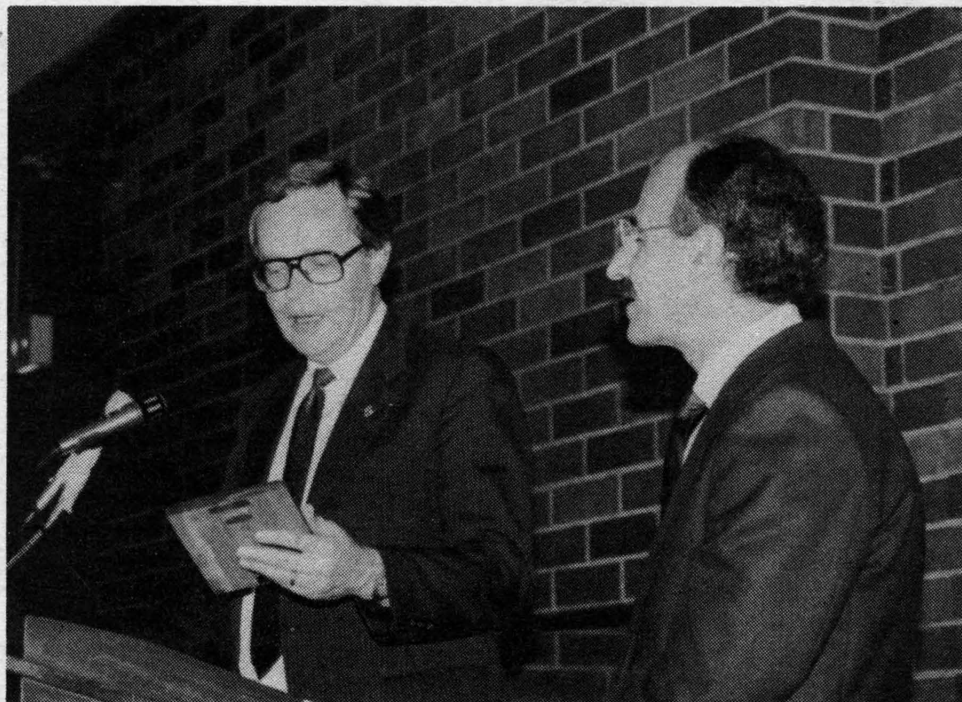
California State University, Fresno President Dr. Harold Haak then awarded the plaque for the 1986 California State University, Fresno Outstanding Professor of the Year to Dr. Dickran Kouymjian. Commenting on Dr. Kouymjian's accomplishments, Dr. Haak said, "... Dickran

Kouymjian is the kind of person who has aspired for the higher things in life, and has achieved them. And I think it is a very wonderful accomplishment." He then presented Dr. Kouymjian to the appreciative guests.

Dr. Kouymjian thanked the numerous guests for their presence at the anniversary banquet. He noted that many of the guests were former students of his in the Armenian Studies Program. He said, "The greatest tribute that you can make to me is to acknowledge that I represent learning, education, and scholarship, that I am the representative for you on this campus of an academic discipline. And if I am to receive rewards in life, I have received them already, by the participation of you in my classes, and that means more to me than everything, including this banquet."

Commenting on the history of the Armenian Studies Program Dr. Kouymjian remembered the late Dr. Louise Nalbandian, "She was the pioneer of Armenian Studies on this campus. It was her work ten years before I came, her insistence that Armenian history be taught, and ultimately Armenian Studies which she engineered, that allowed my coming, and my building on that foundation. She died tragically in the middle of her career, but I had the privilege of meeting her twice and getting to know her well, long before I had any

See BANQUET, page 4



CSUF President, Harold Haak, presenting Dr. Kouymjian with "Outstanding Professor of the Year" award.

was also included. Dr. Der Manuelian received her B.A. degree from Radcliffe College, and her Ph.D dissertation on Armenian art was the first ever written in the United States on that subject.

Ani was the 9th century capital of the Bagratids and is located on the border between Eastern Turkey and the Soviet Union. Because of Ani's precarious location, documentation, excavations, photographing, and other information-gathering tasks are even more important while difficult to undertake. Der Manuelian's rich presentation however, was filled with much of the available information on the city.

The city of legend, built before Gothic architecture, was commissioned by an Armenian queen. It is situated in a romantic setting perched atop a hill and protected on three sides by cliffs. Because of the location, the city withstood the worst of sieges. The location and wealth of Ani fed into the ever-present fables of heroism, treachery, heresy and mystery. Der Manuelian explains these fables as being mistruths and misrepresentations.

Ani has been written about for its architecture, often referred to as the city of 1001 churches. It is the slides of some of these churches which represent the true vision of Ani. Crumbling structures of the once people filled churches now stand decaying with age, the wounds of invasion, and the new damage from current dynamite blasting by invaders from Ani's eastern (Turkish) side. It is amazing to see that among 95% of these churches shown, there remains some wall or roof still intact, still stubbornly standing. Der Manuelian pointed out that this was due to

See DER MANUELIAN, page 8

MIDDLE EAST STUDIES ASSOCIATION REACHES TWENTY

SOCIETY FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES PANEL

EXPLODES TURKISH PROPAGANDA

By Barlow Der Mugrdchian
Advisor

The twentieth annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA) was held in Boston, November 20-23, 1986. MESA is a professional scholarly organization devoted to the study of the Middle East including Persian, Turkish, Hebrew, Arabic, and Armenian studies. History, political science, literature, sociology, language, and art are the specific areas of investigation for MESA members who come from throughout the United States.

A major part of the annual conferences is the presentation of panels on diverse themes in the field. Panel 73 of this year's conference was entitled *Responses to the Genocide: The Armenian Case*. The chairman was Dr. Richard Hovannisian of UCLA. Three papers were presented. I will examine the one by Dr. Kevork Bardakjian of Harvard University entitled *Adolph Hitler on the Armenian Genocide*. This was a synopsis of the conclusions reached in his book *Adolph Hitler and The Armenians* (Zoryan, Institute, 1985). The main thesis of the work is the proof of the 1939 statement made by Hitler to a select group of his commanders on the eve of the invasion of

Poland: "Who nowadays remembers the annihilation of the Armenians?" The statement demonstrates the German leader's knowledge of the Armenian Genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Turkish government in 1915. By admitting that the Armenian Genocide was a forgotten event by the world powers only twenty-four years after its perpetration, Hitler sought to lay the groundwork for his own campaign of murder against the Polish people and later against the Jews and other minorities. The fact that the Ottoman government could plan and execute an act of Genocide against the Armenian people and not be punished set the precedent which Hitler would later use. He understood that the unpunished genocide of 1915 showed that any people could be sacrificed for political and national gains.

In my opinion, the Armenian Genocide has special significance because it was perpetrated on the historic homeland of the Armenian people. Because the Genocide was committed on Armenian soil and because it was successful in removing the native population it had far reaching consequences. An indifferent world could allow other genocides to take place. As for the Armenians, the tragedy of a people living in a Diaspora is the unwritten saga. No one can calculate the loss of Armenian creativity to the world.

The Genocide was the culmination of centuries of persecution of the Armenian people in the Ottoman Empire. The massacres of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire in 1894-1896 was to be only a prelude to the mass destruction begun in 1915 by the Young Turks and concluded by the Turkish Republic of Kemal Ataturk in 1923. The present day rulers of Turkey cannot escape the culpability as inheritors and continuers of the same policy. Today's Turkey must take the responsibility to make sure that the Armenian people are returned to the land from which they came.

The academic setting of the SAS panel of MESA conference was disturbed by the presence of such a noted apologist of the Turkish government as Heath Lowry, Director of the Institute of Turkish Studies based in Washington, D.C. (and funded by the Turkish Government). Bardakjian in his presentation on the validity of Hitler's remark regarding the Armenian Genocide

fittingly and conclusively put to rest the allegations of people such as Lowry. The insistence and belligerence of the Turkish apologists is incredible in the face of facts.

The results of the MESA/SAS annual meeting are being written about today to alert the public to the constant, insidious pressure by the Turkish government to close the Armenian question forever. The question has been opened again by events which have unfolded over the preceding seventy-one years. The efforts of scholars to study the causes and the effects of the Genocide must be widened. The efforts by Turkish propagandists is to argue the occurrence of the Genocide and thus to bog down the question of the Armenian Genocide to one of numbers and conditions rather than to the central issue, the restitution of Armenian lands to the people that lived there for three thousand years.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Congratulations on your publication, *Hye Sharzhoom*. I look forward to every issue. Unlike San Francisco, I left my heart in Fresno fifty-nine plus years ago and always welcome publications from that direction. I feel very proud that Fresno has come a long, long way since I called Del Rey home. Please use the enclosed donation as needed.

Sincerely,
Zabel Harabedian LeaMond
E. Hanover, NJ

Dear Editor,

Keep up the good work. Yvonne Sahagian's *Antranig Means Andrew* was touching. Enclosed is a humble donation. Good luck!

Sincerely,

Tamar Manjikian
Studio City, CA

Dear Editor,

As a former president of the Armenian Students Association (1976-77), it is indeed heartening to see the progress and commitment your students have made to your organization and to the Armenian Studies Program, the newspaper, and most important of all, their culture. Your paper, *Armenian Action* is always interesting and an important asset to the program.

Wishing you continued success,

Paulette Boghosian Kalebjian
Fresno, CA

Dear Editor,

We are so proud of our Armenian Youth. Thanks for all the past issues.

Sincerely,

Anne & Bob Kevorkian
Fresno, CA

Saroyan Armenian Trilogy Reviews

"The plays in William Saroyan's *Armenian Trilogy*, available for the first time in book form, dramatize his deep-felt concern for his own people, the Armenians.

Armenians, which takes place in Fresno, California in 1921, explores the tragedy of the Armenian genocide while still fresh in its victims' memories.

Bitlis picks up the story four decades later, when old memories are further complicated by new concerns. (Bitlis was that very Armenian town--now part of Turkey--where the Saroyan family originated.)

Haratch reflects on the subsequent Armenian dilemma, which in a larger sense is the dilemma of all dispossessed and persecuted peoples. The scene of this final play is the Paris of 1979, where Saroyan has established a second residence.

In a penetrating Introductory Essay and meticulous Glossary, Dickran Kouymjian situates these plays in Saroyan's literary career, and simultaneously provides the personal and historical background for each character. He shares with the public his intimate knowledge of the life and habits of the author and describes in detail the writing and inspiration behind each work."

The Press at California State University, Fresno

...*The Armenian Trilogy* is not a fragment but one of Saroyan's very best works and far more Armenian in content than anything else he ever wrote."

Ara Baliozian

...These plays are the last will and testament (thus far) of a man who had deep sympathy for his people and was aware of their difficulties...

Lemyel Amirian

ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՈՄ ARMENIAN ACTION

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Hye Sharzhoom is the official publication of the CSUF Armenian Studies Organization and the Armenian Studies Program, and is funded by the Associated Students. Articles may be reprinted provided that *Hye Sharzhoom* is acknowledged.

Hye Sharzhoom welcomes prose, poetry, articles, manuscripts, and other material from its readers. For further information concerning the newspaper or the Armenian Studies Program, call the ASP office: (209) 294-2669.

Hye Sharzhoom is located in the Keats Campus Bldg. Fresno, CA 93740 (209) 294-2486.

ORDER FORM

WILLIAM SAROYAN: AN ARMENIAN TRILOGY

195 pages, 57 illustrations

\$21.95 cloth, \$12.95 paper

Please send me _____ copy(ies) of William Saroyan: An Armenian Trilogy, ed. Dr. Dickran Kouymjian.

I prefer the hardcover/paperback edition(s) @ \$_____.

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Check or money order must accompany all orders.

Part of the proceeds of books bought through the Armenian Studies Program will benefit the Program. Please make checks out to:

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California State University, Fresno

Fresno, California 93740-0100

Editorial

Call for Student Participation

1987 marks *Hye Sharzhoom's* eighth year of publication. On this same impressive note, our newspaper is also the only Armenian student's newspaper in the United States. Past issues of our newspaper reveal the impressive and determined work of the Armenian student staff of that time. An indication of their success was the abundance of material written, which covered the individuals and organizations in the Armenian community and Fresno State campus, to emphasize a strong student pride and interest in what it is and involves to be an Armenian. Despite a few situations that led to a year of absence of the newspaper, there was a large and active group of Armenian students on this campus to implement a strong newspaper and Armenian Studies Program.

Today's *Hye Sharzhoom* can be compared to previous staff members in that the same underlying threads of purpose, hard work, and pride, remain intact. Also, the Armenian language and Armenian studies classes remain full and the Armenian Students Organization still operates with a full executive board to establish the groups' functions. Yet, the *Hye Sharzhoom* of today is faced with a change in the people aspect (or

lack of) that places a strain on the already skeleton crew staff responsible for *Hye Sharzhoom's* publication. The total staff is made up of a handful of students and advisors each of whom does the work of three people without much complaint. Yet, it isn't surprising to hear a chorus of tantrums when a deadline is near, requiring of the staff to work late nights and substitute dinners in the form of gummie bear and juju fish candy.

I've often pondered over this wave of Armenian student apathy. Much of it arises because of our society's attitude and expectations of its young adults. Today, we as university students strive and compete for a degree which nowadays is almost required in order to ensure us of a somewhat, secure future. So while society emphasizes to us the material goods that supposedly make the "good life", we can easily get caught up in the material, success-attaining style of a Yuppie. The Armenian students of Fresno State are no different than any other students on this campus when it comes to the frantic, busy life of college studies. Nor is the student staff of *Hye Sharzhoom* any different from their fellow Armenian students when it comes to academic responsibilities, concerns,

coursework, etc. What is different about this staff is the choice they make -- to care about themselves as Armenians and all that encompasses that; the politics, the individuals, and the events which change and affect the Armenians in their community, campus, and world.

Seemingly significant numbers of Armenian students enrolled in this university aren't very impressive to me. Nor am I impressed if one has a prestigious mile long Armenian last name and has been in this Armenian community all his life. Being Armenian is more than big brown eyes and having a grandma who calls you *yavrum*. It's more than attending local church picnics and genocide movies that make us cry.

The writing, editing, and photography work are just the beginnings of publishing our newspaper. A majority of the work begins when *Hye Sharzhoom* is completed and we distribute it on campus and prepare for distribution for local and overseas mail. It involves hours of sticking addressed labels onto newspapers, sorting by zip code, bundling them, then delivering. The aspect of our international mailing is what has helped make *Hye Sharzhoom* widely read and supported, in addition to

our own local area. It is satisfying to this staff to provide a newspaper of our community and campus to fellow Armenians in faraway places, and receive comments and contributions because of it.

As Armenian people we are known to be hardworking, innovative, and stubborn as hell. We didn't become this way because life offered us all that we wanted. Yes, our genocide may be over and despite our million and a half loss, we survived as a people, but only because we wanted to and decided that caring about our fate through choosing to make change happen works. No one at this newspaper will win a Nobel Prize for working here, nor will they become nationally known. We do this because we believe in an active Armenian student participation and because we care enough about our people around us to take an active interest in their lives. It isn't enough to identify ourselves as Armenians only during the times our people (or our image) are threatened, or until April 24th rolls around giving us reason to. I refuse to wait for our day of mourning to come around before I can think or act on what I can do for living Armenians today.

--Yvonne Sahagian Minassian

BOOK REVIEW

By Dickran Kouymjian
Advisor

Kevork Bardakjian, Hitler and the Armenian Genocide, The Zoryan Institute, Special Report No.3, Cambridge, MA: Zoryan Institute, 1985, Fayerweather, Cambridge, MA 02138. 1985, 81 pages, paper, \$5.00

The monograph is an exhaustive examination of Adolph Hitler's now well known statement: "Who, after all speaks of the annihilation of the Armenians?" The Fuhrer used the query in the speech to military commanders on August 22, 1939, just before his invasion of Poland. Because the text of the speech has not been preserved verbatim, detractors have gone so far as to suggest that the statement was never made in it. Harvard based scholar, Dr. Kevork Bardakjian, has meticulously examined all available documents on the speech to show that Hitler said it more than once and made other remarks about the Armenian's tragedy. Bardakjian also provides the historical context behind Hitler's awareness of the Armenian case (and its abandonment by the world powers) through contacts with fellow Germans who were witness to the unfolding of the Armenian Genocide.

This is the kind of precise scholarship that the unpleasant reality of Armenian history of the twentieth century is crying out for to counter the well financed and orchestrated historical revisionism the Turkish government is engaged in. Bardakjian has given us the entire dossier in a lively, yet serious style. The seven appendices at the end of the book provide the reader with the original sources; extensive footnotes document his research step by step. If anything, Dr. Bardakjian and the publishers are too modest about his achievement in saying, "Through meticulous research Dr. Bardakjian has traced the likely source of the document." There is nothing likely about his work. The reader is left with no doubts.

An Urgent Appeal for the Release of Dr. Hagop Barsoumian

It has now been nearly one year since the disappearance in Beirut, Lebanon, of Dr. Hagop Barsoumian, a member of the Society for Armenian Studies, and a dedicated teacher of Armenian history.

Dr. Barsoumian was professor of history at Haigazian College of Beirut, when he was abducted on January 31, 1986. Through his teaching and various publications, he has greatly contributed to the understanding of Armenian history, and had embarked on significant research projects, which remain incomplete because of his long ordeal.

We are all united in our pursuit of justice for the Armenian people, and every Armenian can bring his or her share to this national endeavor. We are certain that Dr. Hagop Barsoumian's captors appreciate the contribution that he may bring to the Armenian Cause when he is set free to resume his work.

As concerned scholars with an abiding interest in the advancement of Armenian studies and the welfare of the Armenian people, we appeal to his captors - on humanitarian grounds - for the immediate release of our colleague. We pray that Dr. Hagop Barsoumian will be reunited with his family before the end of 1986.

Concerned scholars,

SOCIETY FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES: Scholars who have signed the appeal for the release of HAGOP BARSOUMIAN

Rouben Adalian
Assistant Professor of History
Chairman, Armenian Studies Department
American Armenian International College
University of La Verne, CA

Dr. Joseph Alexanian
Chairman of the Division of
Biblical Studies
Trinity College, Ill.

Aram Arkum
Teaching Assistant
UCLA

Dr. Artin Aslanian
Vice President and Dean
Belmont Abbey College
Belmont, North Carolina

Dr. Fred Assadourian
Chairman, Editorial Board of *Ararat*
Visiting Professor of Electrical Engineering
Pratt Institute

Dr. Hovhannes Bezazian
Assistant Professor of French
North Carolina State University

Abraham Boghigian
Teaching Fellow
UCLA

Dr. Ani Atamian Bournoutian
Director of Pre-Professional Program
and Assistant Dean of General Studies
Columbia University, New York

Dr. George Bournoutian
Director of Financial Aid and Lecturer
Elizabeth Seton College, New York

Dr. Elisha B. Chrakian
Emeritus Professor of Philosophy
Northeastern University, Boston

Dr. S. Peter Cowe
Assistant Professor of Armenian Language
and Literature
Columbia University, New York

Dr. Richard Hovannisian
Professor of Near Eastern and Armenian
History
UCLA

Dr. Vahagn N. Dadrian
Professor of Sociology
State University of New York, Geneseo

Barlow Der Mugrdchian
Lecturer in Armenian Studies
California State University, Fresno

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New York

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Publisher-Editor
Tadeh-Barth Publications

Salpi H. Ghazarian
Director of Resources
Zoryan Institute

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Robert Maynard Hutchins Distinguished
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Associate Scholar in Residence
Woodrow Wilson Department of
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Coordinator, English/Language Arts
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Valley Stream, New York

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Graduate Teaching Assistant
Department of English
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Dr. Haig Khatchadourian
Professor of Philosophy
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Dr. Khatchig Tololyan
Professor of English
Wesleyan College

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian
Director, Armenian Studies Program
California State University, Fresno

Rev. Fr. Krikor Maksoudian
Priest of the Armenian Church

Dr. Chake Minassian
Professor Universite du Quebec
a Montreal

Loretta Topalian Nassar
Director, Society of Fellows in the Humanities
Columbia University, New York

The Rev. Dr. Nerses Vrej Nersessian
Curator for Christian Middle East
and Armenian at
the British Library

Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan
of the Armenian Church

Dr. William Newell
Professor of Anthropology
University of Sydney, Australia

Dr. Nikit Ordjanian
Chairman of the Armenian Center
Columbia University, New York

Dr. Vahe Oshagan
University of California at
Berkeley, Extension Program

Dr. Bernard Outtier
Director of the Caucasian Library

Armen Haig Ovhanessian
Instructor in History
Henry Ford Community College
Dearborn, Michigan

Dr. Dennis Papazian
Professor of History
Director, Center for Armenian Studies
The University of Michigan, Dearborn

Helen Anahit Sahagian
Columbia University, New York

Dr. Levon A. Saryan
Technical Director
Industrial Toxicology Laboratory
West Allis Memorial Hospital

Ralph Setian
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Alex Manoogian Professor
of Modern Armenian History
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Dr. Abraham Terian
Professor of Interdepartmental and
Early Christian Literature; Visiting
Professor of Armenian Studies
Andrews University; The Univ. of Chicago

Dr. Anahide Ter Minassian
Maitre de Conferences a l'Universite
de Paris

John G. Thomas
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dr. Robert W. Thomson
Professor of Armenian Studies
Harvard University
Director of Dumbarton Oaks

Hagop Jack Touryantz
Candidate of Sciences
Former Senior Researcher
Academy of Sciences of Soviet Armenia

Dr. Gabriele Winkler
Professor of Liturgical Studies
St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn.
Istituto Orientale, Rome, Italy

ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM 10th ANNIVERSARY

Gifts Highlight End of Year

The California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program has been the beneficiary of several donations of collections at the end of 1986. Significant numbers of books, records, photographs and other archival material has been received with great appreciation.

The John O. Najarian collection was donated by his wife, Mrs. Helen Najarian of Fresno. The collection consists of a variety of English and Armenian language books and series of periodicals from the early thirties and forties.

John O. Najarian was born March 15, 1882 in Kharpert. He moved to the United States in 1910 and lived in the Boston area serving in the U.S. Navy before moving to California in the 1920's. He moved to Fresno in 1927 where he worked for his brother, Matthew, who owned Carpenter's Hardware at 1133 Van Ness. In 1936 he bought the store from his brother, sold it in 1948 and purchased Blackstone Hardware, which had been founded on Blackstone Avenue near Olive Avenue in about 1930.

Najarian was an Armenian law school graduate and a former president of the Armenian Democratic League and a member of the Armenian General Benevolent Union and he died on July 3, 1986 in Fresno.

He is survived by four children, all of whom are graduates of California State University, Fresno: John O. Najarian, Jr. of San Anselmo, Alice Louisa Najarian

Hardee of Fresno (her husband Jerry also a Fresno State graduate), Joan Najarian Moore of Bakersfield, and Elbert Matthew Najarian of Sebastopol. A granddaughter, Beth Najarian of Fresno, is also a graduate of CSU Fresno and a former member of the Armenian Students Organization.

Mr. Khoren Davidson of Fresno has donated a Kodak slide projector machine, two empty carousels, two projection screens, and two carousels of slides. The slides are from the region of Zeitoun and depict the Armenian heroes who lived in that region. The Armenian Studies Program thanks Mr. Davidson for his generous contribution which will greatly benefit the CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program.

The family of the late Dr. Souren H. Tashian of Seattle, Washington has donated a collection of his books. The Armenian and English language books are on a variety of topics. Also in the collection are records and maps.

Mrs. Grace Paul of Fresno has donated two books written by her father, the late Rev. Arsen Goergizian, who was a native of Van. Mrs. Paul has been a generous supporter in the past years with numerous donations of books to the Armenian Studies Program.

The Armenian Studies Program welcomes the donation of books, photographs, and archival material especially material dealing with the life of Armenians living in Fresno.

Congratulatory Notes

Dear Dickran,

We extend our heartfelt and warm congratulations on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of CSUF Armenian Studies Program and personally to you for your devoted service as coordinator of Armenian Studies Program and as the rightful recipient of the "Outstanding Professor of 1986" title. Keep up the good work—we are proud of you.

Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian
Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Church

It is a pleasure to congratulate California State University, Fresno, on the Tenth Anniversary of the Armenian Studies Program and especially Professor Dickran Kouymjian for his role in development and enlivening the program and for his recognition as an outstanding teacher. I extend all good wishes with the hope that the campus community and the Armenian community of the San Joaquin Valley will avail themselves of the many opportunity to be enriched by the history and culture of the Armenian people.

Richard G. Hovannisian
Professor of Armenian & Near Eastern History
University of California, Los Angeles

Dear Dickran:

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartiest congratulations to you on your selection as CSU, Fresno's Outstanding Professor for 1986.

I am delighted to see that your dedicated efforts to education have been recognized in this way. I am truly sorry that my schedule did not allow me to be in the district on October 27, to join with your many friends in celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF, and to add my own personal words of congratulations.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Tony Coelho
Member of Congress

Dear Professor Kouymjian:

Congratulations, Dickran, on your Fulbright lectureship to the Soviet Union next spring. This is another outstanding example of your stature and recognition in the area of Armenian studies.

Students at Erevan State University are in for a mind-expanding experience, particularly those who attend your Saroyan lectures.

Best wishes always.

Sincerely,
W. Ann Reynolds
Chancellor of the California State University

Charles Dowsett is Calouste Gulbenkian Professor of Armenian at Pembroke College, Oxford University, England. A very erudite linguist and philologist, his books and articles have dealt with various aspects of Armenian civilization particularly those neglected or overlooked by other scholars. His translations are noted for their precision and grace. In the past decade he has taken to writing odes in Armenian, classical and modern, and illustrating them with his own drawings or caricatures. Hye Sharzhoom and the Armenian Studies Program are honored to publish the poem written especially on the occasion of Dr. Dickran Kouymjian's receiving the Outstanding Professor of the Year award for 1986 at CSU, Fresno.

A CONGRATULATORY ODE TO DICKRAN KOUYMJIAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS BEING AWARDED THE TITLE OF OUTSTANDING PROFESSOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, FRESNO CAMPUS 1986

Greeting to our friend Dikran,
Of the like of Kouymjian,
Proclaimed by Fresno's assessor
Annual Outstanding Professor.
Most aptly, too, not before time,
For how often, when from a distant clime
His Air France plane was late in landing,
Have colleagues cried, "Dickran's outstanding!"

I, of Oxford's nondescript crew,
Am mighty proud that him I knew
When he was mortal, like me and you.
How many years 'tis since we took a walk
Down the East Side of New York,
Talking of *ishkhan* and *atabeg*,
To be narrowly missed by a rotten egg
Chucked by a Katzenjammer Kid
Behind some tenth-storey curtain hid!
Although we made much argument
As to for what the egg was meant -
For my British English, too darn posh,
Or his Groucho Marx moustache

(I call it that, though every man know'th,
Armenians have prior claim to the growth,
For is not the famous movie man
Not know as Palabiyikian?) -
We never then could agree
If the egg was thrown at him or me.
But now I see I must take the blame
For that disrespectful aim,
Since the alternative would be
A shocking case of lese-majeste -
Unthinkable, as ar' sap 'il
Confirm, in folk of the Big Apple,
Renowned for manners more refined

Than the common run of humankind.
And then - pardon me if I boast! -
I am more fortunate than most,
being co-enshrined in a Work of Art,
Having played a small, subordinate part
In a diptych of the Chinese School
Of the ambidextrous South Georgian rule.
I regret I could not attend the Feast
Given in his honour, but at least
I send this Ode of Congratulation
For all he's done for the Armenian Nation,
Of which he's a worthy scion and true.
Air France sends its greetings, too.



ASO members celebrating at the ASP 10th Anniversary Banquet

BANQUET, continued from page 1

idea of coming here. Without her work and sacrifice we wouldn't be here today."

Speaking about the Program Dr. Kouymjian said, "In ten years more than fifteen hundred students have taken Armenian Studies courses. It is a remarkable number of students. There is nothing in the country that can compare with it. These students are the link between the first and the third generations of the Armenians in Fresno. In order to strengthen this Program it is imperative that we build it up, and the way to build it up is to guarantee job security for our second professor. What will do that? An endowment for the Armenian Studies Program on this campus. I think we have arrived at the right moment to establish this endowment: The endowment, a chair in Armenian Studies, will guarantee a second position in Armenian Studies. It is the intent of myself, professor Der Mugrdchian, and the officers of this university to start that endowment this year."

Dr. Kouymjian concluded by thanking the supporters of the Armenian Studies Program for their continued encouragement.

The Armenian Studies Program is planning a community wide campaign to support the proposed Chair in Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno. Hye Sharzhoom with its national and international circulation will also play a vital role in the campaign.

Many guests from the campus community were present at the banquet demonstrating the close contacts Dr. Kouymjian has developed on campus over the years. Faculty present at the banquet included the Acting Coordinator of the Ethnic Studies Program, Dr. Lily Small and her husband Rev. Sylvester Small.

This fall another anniversary banquet will be held and the event promises to become an annual fixture in the Armenian community. There are many activities sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program each year which contribute to the education of the California State University, Fresno students in general and also to the Armenian community of Fresno. The Armenian Studies Program in its diverse activities is a point of contact between Armenian and non-Armenians as well as Armenians and Armenians.

The evening came to an end with guests meeting with Dr. Kouymjian and the special guests of the evening.

ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM 10th ANNIVERSARY

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE YEARS NOTED

by Barlow Der Mugrdechian

The California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program became a reality with the hiring of Professor Dickran Kouymjian in the fall semester of 1976. Although Armenian Studies had been taught for many years at CSU Fresno prior to Kouymjian's arrival, most notably under the able leadership of Dr. Louise Nalbandian, it was with his arrival to specifically fill the post of Director of the Armenian Studies Program that the present Armenian Studies Program took form. In the years since his arrival the Armenian Studies Program has developed into a center of international repute in terms of the scholarship produced and quality of teaching. In the variety and excellence of programs and courses offered the CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program has been unique. A chronicle of the achievements of the Armenian Studies Program would show the interrelationship of the program to the Armenian community of Fresno, the wider community in California, and the entire Diaspora.

Courses

Kouymjian has been assisted in the instruction program through the years by a group of outstanding teachers. Flora Tchaderjian, Hagop Karamanian, Mark Malkasian, Serpouhi Messerlian, Dr. Arra Avakian, Hagop Terjimanian, and Ralph Setian have taught Armenian language, history and Armenian studies. Over the past two years, in the spring semesters, while Dr. Kouymjian has gone on leave to complete research projects and this year as a Fulbright scholar he has been replaced by Acting Coordinator Barlow Der Mugrdechian, a graduate of UCLA working on his Ph.D. in the field of Armenian literature. Over the past ten years over 1,500 students have taken Armenian Studies courses at California State University, Fresno. The core of the Armenian Studies Program is the study of Armenian history, language, and an introductory course on Armenian Studies. Courses on William Saroyan, Armenian architecture, and Armenian art have been taught regularly over the past ten years. A varied group of one unit classes has been offered on Saturdays to the campus and the community at large. The Armenian Studies Program has always been active in the community promoting the study of Armenian topics and bringing an awareness of Armenian issues.

Programs

International exhibits have made their stops at CSU Fresno through the years. In October of 1981 it was the International Exhibition of Armenian Architecture (fourth to the eighteenth century) shown at the Conley Art Gallery on the CSU Fresno campus. The exhibit was conceived and prepared by a team of Italian and Armenian architectural historians in Milan, Italy. It was acclaimed throughout the world as a model of its kind, bringing to the western public a comprehensive view of the church architecture of an Eastern Christian people, the first to accept Christianity as a state religion in the early 4th century. The exhibit was shown in various cities in France, Belgium, Portugal, Austria, Germany, Lebanon, Iran, Argentina, and most major cities of Italy, before coming to Fresno.

In November of 1978 an international symposium on David of Sassoun: The Armenian Folk Epic after a Century was held on campus. Participating in the symposium were Ashough Hovnani, a troubador from

Toronto; Dickran Kouymjian of Fresno; Chake Minassian of Montreal; Frederic Feydit from Paris; Aram Tolegian of Los Angeles; Charles Dowsett of Oxford; Leon Surmelian of Los Angeles; Arpine Khatchadourian of Milwaukee; Earl Anderson of Cleveland, and Vahe Oshagan from Philadelphia. This set of distinguished scholars discussed the folk-epic of the Armenian people. A seminar on David of Sassoun was held in conjunction with a symposium on the following day with the participation of artist Varaz Samuelian, composer Earl Robinson, and professor of Theater Arts at CSU Fresno, Edward EmanuEl.

In 1981 the Armenian Studies Program commemorated the Centennial of the Armenian community in Fresno: The first hundred years (1881-1981) with a series of events including a William Saroyan Festival, and the special Saturday class The Armenians in Fresno. The two week festival included a showing of Saroyan films, dramatic readings of his plays, and a symposium on the works of William Saroyan.

Armenian Studies Program Archives

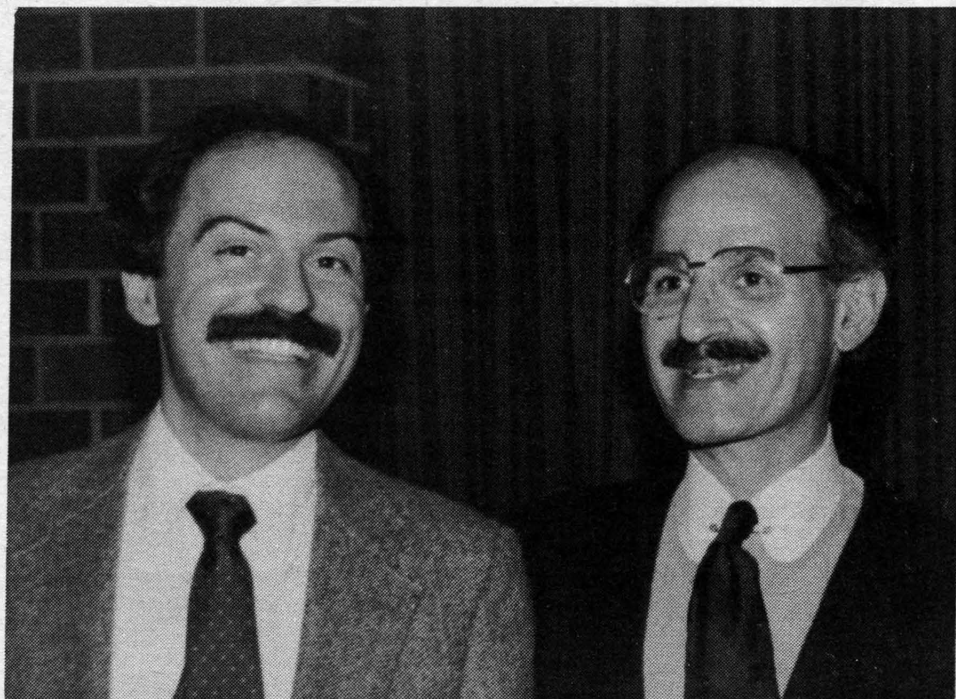
The archives of the Armenian Studies Program are rich in the variety of materials which have been donated over the years. Film archives, the Index of Armenian Art, the Saroyan archive, and the collections of books and photographs have enriched the research activities of the Armenian Studies Program. The Index of Armenian Art was organized by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian as a research tool to aid Armenian art historians. The purpose of the IAA is to document the appearance of manuscript illuminations and later to encompass all photographic art prior to the 20th century. The large project is an ongoing one for the Armenian Studies Program.

Armenian Studies Program Guests

The CSU Fresno campus has always been an attraction for the numerous guests of the Armenian Studies Program. Among the many guests have been John Guiragossian, Foreign Minister of Armenia; Karekin II Sarkissian, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia; Congressman Charles Pashayan, Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian, Aram Saroyan, Arthur Tcholakian, Levon Keshishian, Jack Antreassian, Set Momjian, Leo Hamalian, Jack Goddard, Robert Edwards, and numerous other educators, religious leaders, and community leaders from throughout the world.

Lectures

Dr. Kouymjian through the excellence of his scholarship has been invited to speak and participate in conferences in such cities as New York, San Francisco, Boston, Cambridge, Ytterem, Reedley, Washington, Princeton, Paris, Erevan, Berne, Amsterdam, Milan, Venice, Athens, London, Detroit, Philadelphia, Ann Arbor, and Chicago. He has served as the Chairman of the Administrative Council of the Society for Armenian Studies and been on the board of various other professional organizations and the editorial board of a large number of periodicals and journals.



Armenian Studies Lecturer, Barlow Der Mugrdechian left, with ASP Coordinator, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian at the ASP 10th Anniversary Banquet.

Future of Armenian Studies

The future of the Armenian Studies Program is based on the firm belief in the mission of the Program, to inform and educate the community. With the construction of the Leon S. Peters Business Building and Valley Business Center expected to be completed in fall of 1988, the Armenian Studies Program will have new offices to show the community the extent of the growth of the Armenian Studies. An Armenian Endowment fund has been started to fund a chair in Armenian Studies with the purpose of solidifying the

Armenian Studies Program by adding a second teaching position. The Index of Armenian Art will be housed in the new Center for Armenian Studies along with the valuable archives which will be open to scholarly use in the the Center for Armenian Studies. The next five years promise to be exciting ones for the Armenian Studies Program and the Fresno community. With the support of the Fresno Armenian community in particular, the Armenian Studies Program will continue to meet the high standards it has set for itself, enriching the lives of all those who live in the San Joaquin Valley.

AVEDIAN DONATION KICKS OFF ENDOWMENT

Mr. and Mrs. Arnie and Nectar Avedian of Fresno have donated \$15,000 to the California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program Endowment for a chair in Armenian Studies. In grateful recognition of this gift the University has agreed to name a room in the proposed Center for Armenian Studies in the new Leon S. Peters Business Building. The Avedian Archive Room will house the growing number of rare books, periodicals, and maps which have been donated to the CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program over the past few years.

Mr. Avedian was born in Van, the youngest of ten children in the Markar and Serpouhi Avedian family. Avedian escaped the 1915 genocide of the Armenians by

walking from Van to Erevan with his family.

In 1921 Avedian was able to join his brother in Fresno. He worked as an apprentice cabinet maker for fourteen years until he was able to open his own cabinet shop. Always interested in education he has taken courses at California State University, Fresno while conducting his business.

Mr. Avedian married Miss Nectar Azadian in 1930 and they have two sons, Norman and Richard.

The Avedian have been active in the Armenian General Benevolent Union, the Knights of Vartan and the First Armenian Presbyterian Church.

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SAROYAN'S MESSAGE

The following essay was written for Dr. Dickran Kouymjian's one unit Saturday class, William Saroyan and Fresno, which was offered in the fall 1986 semester.

By Kenneth Zech
Contributor

William Saroyan's view of his hometown of Fresno in *My Name is Aram* is hardly a concealed message. One needs to look no further than the first twelve words of the preface to glean the essence of Saroyan's perspective. "The writer returns these pleasant memories to the world at Fresno, California..." Of course, we *do* look further. The preface becomes an essay on the theme expressed in the first few words. His thoughts here are explicit. But in the stories that follow, Saroyan's thoughts are implicit, but equally clear. One could safely skip the preface and reach the same conclusion.

In his preface "Note", Saroyan tells us three very important things about Fresno. He tells us that one can find "the large comic world" in Fresno. But this is not a braggart's claim. Rather, it is the author's philosophical perspective that life in Fresno is much like life anywhere. Towns, large or small, are microcosms of the world at large.

Saroyan does, however, believe there is something special about Fresno. He says that Fresno is "as good a town as any in the world for the writer to be born into" to have those things needed to feed "the spirit of the growing writer." In fact, in Fresno he finds "an abundance of material by nature...rich in the elements of comedy..."

My Name is Aram is a collection of short stories, and a recapitulation of the preface themes. It is important, though, to understand that the stories are not really

about Fresno. The locale for the stories is, to be sure, Fresno and environs, but the stories are about life and about people.

That Saroyan's memories of Fresno are pleasant is confirmed by his sentimental (in the best sense of that word) and lyrical storytelling throughout the collection. For Saroyan, Fresno was a place where a child could enjoy simple pleasures, confront the difficulties of life, survive, and grow from the experiences. It was a place where young Aram could escape the dreary classroom of the ineffectual Miss Flibety when the circus came to town. Of course there were certain to be consequences for this truancy. But Aram is pleasantly surprised that the severity of the punishment is "modulated," so to speak. Aram is left free to eagerly anticipate the County Fair, and another escape.

Fresno was also a place where Aram and his cousin Mourad could appropriate a neighbor's beautiful white horse, and when discovered by the neighbor, be gently shamed into returning the animal without a word of confrontation.

This is a pleasant and humane world for Aram, but it is a world of sorrow too. For his Uncle Melik, a man "too imaginative and poetic for his own good," the vision of vast orchards of pomegranates becomes a reality of loss and sadness when Melik fails to make his farm productive. In his Uncle Khosrov, Aram sees the sorrow, despair, and loneliness that is caused when his uncle's Arab friend dies. And so the stories go. Stories of the trials, comedies and pleasures of life--stories of people.

To have come of age in Fresno, and to have had his spirit nurtured there, caused a

certain bond to form between Saroyan and the town. In "The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse," he says, "the world was full of every kind of magnificence, and life was still a delightful and mysterious dream..." Not surprisingly, these emotions are inseparable from the place in which they occurred.

Paradoxically, Saroyan's portrayal of the world at Fresno is conducted on the smallest of scales. The events he describes are not those of which significant moments in history are made. Nor are his characters of prominence in the world or even in their community. Nevertheless, it is an expression of the human condition as important and as valid as the affairs of geopolitics.

The impatience Saroyan alluded to in his preface is indeed absent from his stories although we do wonder whether "A Word to Scoffers" is not a curious inclusion in the collection, and perhaps a suggestion of other themes. But even this story, which takes him away from Fresno, is an examination of life and the observation of behaviors that vary little from place to place.

Saroyan's stories often revolve around the conflict between man's aspirations and the reality of life. There is a parallel to be found in Saroyan's writing and that is

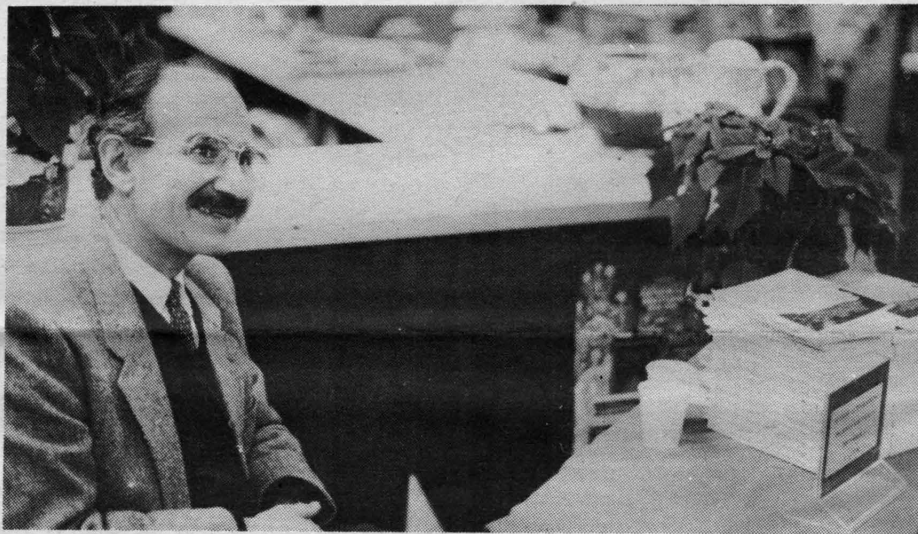
the imagined or fictional version of Fresno versus the reality of Saroyan's life in the community. There may have been periods when life was grim and harsh, and less comedic than when viewed in retrospect. But time can smooth the rough edges, and perhaps did with Saroyan, and thus allow a nostalgic recounting of the essential goodness, disappointments, and ironies of life.

Ultimately, the book--this "story of an American boy named Aram Garoghlanian"--is as the author suggests. "Nothing extraordinary is going to happen in it," Saroyan says of *My Name is Aram*.

And nothing extraordinary does happen, nor is anything extraordinary said of Fresno. Saroyan's thoughts and feelings are simple and to the point. He is fond of the town. He appreciates Fresno for the meaning it has to him. He sees in Fresno the world.

Ultimately, the book--this "story of an American boy named Aram Garoghlanian"--is as the author suggests. "Nothing extraordinary is going to happen in it," Saroyan says of *My Name is Aram*. And nothing extraordinary does happen, nor is anything extraordinary said of Fresno. Saroyan's thoughts and feelings are simple and to the point. He is fond of the town. He appreciates Fresno for the meaning it has to him. He sees in Fresno the world.

Armenian Trilogy Book Signing



By Lynette Zerounian
Staff Writer

William Saroyan: An Armenian Trilogy, edited by Dickran Kouymjian. It is a set of three plays having to do with Armenians and is enriched with fascinating pictures. It is a remarkable book filled with style and humor.

In an interview with Dr. Kouymjian, which was conducted at a book signing given by the California State University, Fresno Kennel Bookstore on December 3, 1987, I asked him what motivated him to do this kind of book. He said, "I thought it would be the most interesting material Saroyan had written explaining his concern with being a member of a minority group in America." Kouymjian also said, "The CSUF Press asked me if I

would do a book of Saroyan plays, because the Press knew I had worked with Saroyan material before."

When asked how the response was to the publishing of the book, he stated "It was excellent, much better than I had imagined. Those people who have read the book spoke warmly of it. When I spoke recently about the book before audiences in Los Angeles and the East Coast, the book represented a personal view of Saroyan himself. People can identify with Saroyan's material because of the joy and sorrows present in it and also because of the present day concerns of Armenians which are in it."

A sincere bravo to Dr. Kouymjian for having edited this book and presenting to the public the work of perhaps the best known Armenian writer.

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ESSAY CONTEST

The Armenian Students Organization is pleased to announce an essay contest open to all college students. The first prize winner will receive \$200.00 which has been contributed by a donor from New York.

How to resist assimilation?

The essay can be in Armenian or English, and must be typed, double spaced, and be no less than three and no more than five pages long. The deadline for essays to be received is April 1, 1987. All submissions must be sent to:

ASO Essay Contest
c/o Armenian Studies Program
California State University, Fresno
Fresno, California 93740

The essays will be judged by a panel of the Armenian Students Organization and the Armenian Studies Program. Winners will have their work published in *Hye Sharzhoom*.

Sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Babken and Anahid Khanjian

Armenian restaurant captures Old Fresno flavor George's downtown eatery

By Greg Eritzian
Staff Writer

It's noon time. You walk in and sit at the counter. At once you smell the aroma of grilled peppers, onions, and tomatoes along with the familiar scent of tender chunks of skewered lamb being prepared by a young Mexican American chef who greets the customers saying "Parev, eench bes es?" (Hello, how are you?). In the kitchen behind the counter the voice of Gevorg is heard (better known to the Fresno community as George) along with his wife Iskouhi.

George Koroyan, a Soviet-born immigrant, is the proprietor of the locally famous George's Shish Kebab located at 2405 Capitol Street, north of the convention center in Fresno. Since 1979 when the original George's first opened, the restaurant has become a local landmark, obviously because of its fine food and strong reflection of the Fresno community.

George immigrated to Fresno in 1977 with his family, except for one brother whom George is still trying to bring over from the Soviet Union. It was there in the Soviet Union George first learned the restaurant trade and the art of preparing shish kebab. He worked for a government owned and operated restaurant which was highly regulated by government controls. In 1979, George opened the original George's Shish Kebab which was located on the corner of L and Ventura Streets. It was a small brick building and the inside counter and cafe-type tables were often full, emphasizing the obvious need for expansion. When asked about the difference between working in the United States and Soviet Armenia, George had this to say, "Here it is more exciting and I like working. There are no controls. You can open and close whenever you want and the money you make is yours."

In 1986 George decided to change the location of the restaurant. The old place was too small and since business was doing so well the rent was quadrupled. George moved into the larger location on Capitol street which he had custom designed to fit his needs. The new George's includes a much larger kitchen, a long shiny counter with bar stool seating with a look that adds to the friendly, airy atmosphere of neighboring shops in the mall. A TV is located in one corner for sports fans, towering over the large black and white pictures of Babe Ruth and William Saroyan. Saroyan, who frequented the old George's many times, often had George make him *jajukh* (cucumbers in yogurt with garlic and mint leaves.)

Other famous Fresnoans who drop by occasionally are the Fresno sculptor Varaz Samuelian, actor Mike Connors, and Coach Jerry Tarkanian of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Every time UNLV plays basketball at Selland Arena, Tar-



Proprietor George Koroyan, left, at new location preparing for the daily noon rush.

kanian eats at George's three times a day. He loves the shish kebab and *keyma* (a raw ground beef dish similar to steak tartare).

It isn't surprising to see people lined up at 6:00 in the morning when George is just opening up for breakfast. He serves the traditional breakfast dishes in addition to shish kebab with eggs which are outstanding. For lunch, customers have a choice of peda and "Hye" burgers, shish kebab, salad, or pilaf, or the daily special which changes everyday.

George stops serving at 3:00 p.m. but continues working, often until 7:00 in the evening. On nights of basketball games he stays open late for the fans. Saturday is his busiest day and he says the new restaurant is already feeling too small. Since relocating he uses up to fifteen pairs of legs of lamb, compared to three pairs at his old location. He marinates the meat himself, with an old family recipe. When things settle down (which is hard to envision) and he adjusts to all the new changes, George says he would like to introduce some new dishes.

Currently, George has thirteen employees working for him, including his sister-in-law and two nephews from another Fresno Armenian restaurant-Sassoun's. George's is a true family business. He cites this as being the key to the restaurant's success. "It's a family outlet," George said.

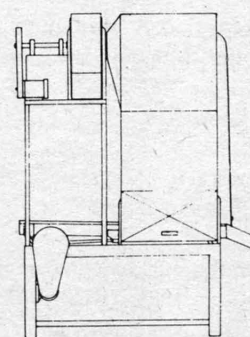
You can see George working all the time, talking with customers and giving them personalized service which has proved, for this restaurant, important in providing good service and excellent food.



The original George's which first opened in 1979, now sits vacant.



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On the Origins of the Armenians

The following essay was written for Armenian History 108A, Armenian History-Origins to the Mongol Invasions, which was taught in the fall semester of 1986 by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian.

by Zepur Karakazian

It is rather difficult to compare in details the theories of L.M. Diakonoff on the origins of the Armenian nation with that of Boris B. Piotrovsky's because each writer has approached and analyzed the question from a different perspective. Diakonoff dwelled on the linguistic basis, whereas Piotrovsky used historical and archaeological facts. Furthermore, Piotrovsky put little emphasis on the pre-history of Armenians and mainly discussed the period of the 6th century B.C. of Urartu and the rise of the Armenian nation; Diakonoff, on the other hand, discussed the origins of Proto-Armenians which went back to 12th century B.C. and tried to identify the origins of the Old Armenian language.

According to Piotrovsky, after the fall of Urartu its place was taken by new countries which had formed part of the Urartian kingdom. Thus, on the western periphery of Urartian territory, there grew an alliance of tribes headed by the Armenians, and by the middle of the 6th century B.C. a considerable area of Urartian territory was occupied by the Armenians. This was indicated by the old Persian inscriptions of Darius the Great where the Armenians were mentioned in his list of victories as "Armine." Also, in the Babylonian text of inscriptions, the same area was referred to as Urartu in the Babylonian form of "Urashutu."

Up in the north, in the old land of Hayasa (a Hittite province), the remnants of the Hayasa people formed a tribal federation whose language was evidently related to the ancient Indo-European languages of Asia Minor, namely Hittite, Luvian, Lydian, Lycian, and Phrygian. Although after the fall of Hittites empire the name "Hayasa" disappeared from the historical record and was replaced by "Sukhmi" or "Sokhmi", the Hayasa tribes federation gave rise to the forms "Haik", and "Hayastan", used by the Armenians today. "Sokhmi" was also applied to tribes living along the upper Euphrates,

seems to be perpetuated in the medieval and modern texts as a name for the Armenians in general. Following the fall of Urartu and the Median invasion, there was further fusion and intermingling of all these tribes, so that "hai", "Armen", and "Sokhmi" became more or less synonymous. The Armenians themselves adopted the form "hai", the Georgians "Somekhi", while the Iranians took over the form "Armia", which in Greek or Latin turns into the familiar "Armenian".

Diakonoff dismisses this logical idea of "Hayasa" by saying that "the connection of the Armenian nation and language with Hayasa is not provable and in its very essence not probable." He approaches the question as follows: the Old Armenian was brought to "Armenia" from the outside because the Old Armenian is not related to the language of the aborigines of the Armenian Highland—the Hurrians, Urartians, etc. Also, since it doesn't belong to any of the branches of Indo-European family which penetrated into Western Asia in the 3rd or first half of the 2nd millennium B.C., it must have appeared before or after that time. After various logical processes of elimination, he comes to the conclusion that the only branch of the Indo-European language family to which Old Armenian can be related is Thracian-Phrygian and therefore, the most probable date for the appearance of the Proto-Armenians in the Armenian Highland is 12th century B.C., the century when there actually is historical evidence of great migrations.

In summary, the Proto-Armenians migrated from the area of ancient Phrygia to the Armenian Highland where they mingled with other tribes and nations, namely Hurrians, the Urartians, and the Luvians and gave rise to the Armenians and Armenian nation.

One common factor in both of the theories is that the Armenians and the Armenian nation that we know today is a mixture of tribes (and possibly nations) who lived in Asia Minor for at least three millennia. Piotrovsky's theory is easier to grasp and understand and of course is very logical; Diakonoff's theory, although logical, is harder to follow and requires vast knowledge of history and linguistics to make any decent comment.

DER MANUELIAN,
continued from page 1

the heavy stone used for building in addition to the architectural design which included double walls and round towers which were stronger than common square towers.

Ani's highly advanced military architecture has been the topic of several studies. For example, Ani's double wall system offered a well fortified system whose features have been copied in the West & in Cilicia where castles were built during the Cilician Armenian kingdom. Ani's other architectural highlights include the great staggered gates which were built in order to deter invaders in the case of one being destroyed. The stone walls of the fortress were highly polished, decorated on the inside, and built with extreme care -- a care which Der Manuelian sums up as, "...built to be a thing of beauty as well as a fortress."

According to Der Manuelian, about two dozen churches, thus far, have been documented from findings through excavations. Yet she emphasized that much more remains yet to be uncovered.

Churches were built in valleys, on mountains and cliffs. All were built in stone and had stone domes, a revealing, very high tech method for Ani's time. The sculpture and design on the churches varied from slide to slide. For example, one highly regarded church, the church of the Holy Cross on Akhtamar island on Lake Van was highly sculptured, bearing human figures at the church's entrance.

In the capital, eight churches remain, each established by a different royal family as their way of symbolizing gratitude to God and to reflect the importance of building churches.

Der Manuelian told the story of one church's inception. The church, simply named Shepherd's (Hoviv) Chapel after its builder, a shepherd, who one Sunday morning not finding room in any of the other nearby churches, decided to build one.

The lecture concluded with a question and answer period followed by a reception. The talk was sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization, the Armenian Studies Program, and the Fresno Metropolitan Museum.



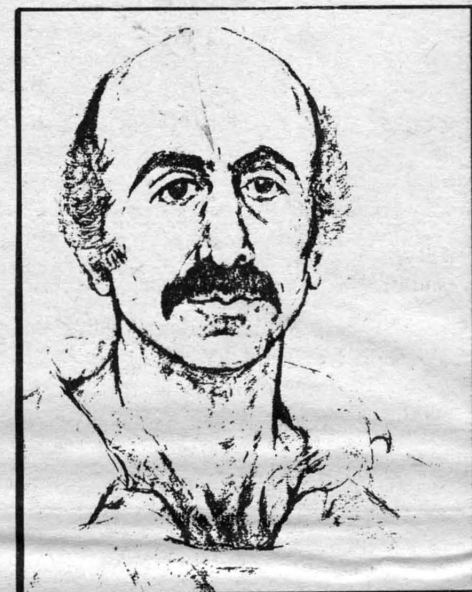
Najarian to Speak in Fresno

Author Peter Najarian of Berkeley will lecture on the California State University Fresno campus on Friday, March 13, 1987. The author of the recently published *Daughters of Memory* (City Miner Books, 1986) will be in Fresno to address the Armenian Students Organization and the campus community. Later that day he will speak to the Armenian community of Fresno.

Najarian is an instructor in English at San Francisco State University and received an M.A. in creative writing from San Francisco State in 1970.

He is the author of two novels, *Voyages* (Pantheon Books, 1971) and *Wash Me On Home, Mama* (Berkeley Poets Press, 1978). He has written numerous short prose pieces and articles. Najarian was awarded a Stegner Fellowship from Stanford University in 1967-1968.

Rachel Hadas of the *New York Times*, in a recent review of *Daughters of Memory* said, "We have an appetite for language, like hunger or lust, and Mr. Najarian's use of language is what lifts this book above the level of memoir, journal or scrapbook--all genres *Daughters of Memory* embraces but transcends."



Peter Najarian

Watch for additional information concerning the specific times and places of the appearance of Peter Najarian in Fresno.

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