

HYE SHARZHOOM Armenian Action ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՍՄ

23rd
Year

May 2002

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Supplement to The Collegian

87th Anniversary of Armenian Genocide Commemorated on Campus



Many Fresno State students and community members gathered at the Free Speech area on the Fresno State campus at noon on Wednesday, April 24. In the foreground is the model of the Armenian Genocide Monument in Yerevan, Armenia.

CARINA KARAKASHIAN
STAFF WRITER

"It was not war. It was most certainly massacre and genocide, something the world must remember..." (Israeli Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin), and remember is what the Fresno State Armenian Students did on Wednesday, April 24, 2002 at their 12 noon remembrance of the 87th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Students, guests, and community members gathered at the Fresno State Free Speech Area in remembrance of the 1.5 million Armenians massacred by the Ottoman Empire beginning in 1915.

The Armenian Students Organization, with the help of the community, held one of its most successful campus commemorations. The entire Armenian community was represented at the event. There was a wide array of students present. Students ranging from nursery

through college were all showing their respect to their culture. Parents and family members were also present. The AGBU Youth Organization provided lemonade on this hot spring day.

The master of ceremonies was Michael Harutunian, President of the Armenian Student Organization. The ceremony commenced with the remarks of former Fresno County Sheriff Hal McKinney. His inspiring and truthful words demonstrated that Armenians and non-Armenians alike share in the honor of our people.

Then the honorable Judge Debra Kazanjian spoke to the crowd, telling them what an impact the Armenian Community has had on Fresno, and how the genocide had inspired Armenians to be the leaders of the community. "Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide is important not only to keep alive the memory of those Arme-

SEE GENOCIDE PAGE 5

3rd Annual Armenian Film Festival



Director Karina Epperlein

ARPIK PARAGHAMIAN
STAFF WRITER

Over 125 Armenian students and members of the community had the opportunity to see four films make their Fresno debuts at the Third Annual Armenian Film Festival on Thursday, April 18, in the Alice Peters Auditorium.

For the past three years, the Armenian Students Organization and the Armenian Studies Program, with funding from the University Student Union Diversity Aware-

ness Program, have hosted the film festival. The film festival has become known for featuring the films of a new generation of Armenian writers, producers and directors.

"This event is basically for Armenian directors or producers to come and show their films," said Talar Atarian, secretary of the ASO and organizer of the Film Festival. Atarian said the film festival is a great way to get the community together and is a place where film-

SEE FILM FESTIVAL PAGE 7

ASP 16th Annual Banquet Features Vartkes Yeghiayan of Glendale

BARLOW DER MUGRDECHIAN
ADVISOR

More than 25 students were recognized for receiving Armenian Studies scholarships at the 16th Annual Banquet of the Armenian Studies Program, held on a sunny and warm Sunday afternoon in the Residence Dining Facility on campus.

Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program, made welcoming remarks and gave a brief overview of the academic year activities of the Armenian Studies Program.

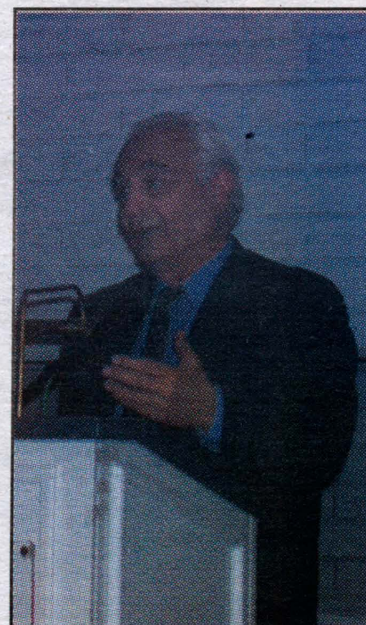
This was followed by the screening of video clips from the Armenian Studies Program "Hye Talk" television show. One clip, was about the ASP, showing students in class and interacting with faculty. The second clip focused on the Armenian Studies Study Trip 2001 participants, 18 students who had traveled with Der Mugrdechian to Armenia for three weeks. The students discussed the impact that the trip had made in their lives and reminisced about the trip. Students spoke about the highlights of the trip.

Dr. Luis and Mrs. Wendy Costa, Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, was present at the banquet, as well as Dr. Varoujan

Altebarmakian, Chair of the Armenian Studies Program Advisory Board.

Attorney Vartkes Yeghiayan of Glendale, California was the keynote speaker at the April 14th banquet. The month of April has been particularly busy for Mr. Yeghiayan, as he was recently in Paris to encourage the formation of a European Armenian Lawyer's Association. He has recently lectured at Glendale City College and Whittier Law School and was invited to New York to speak at the annual Times Square commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.

Mr. Yeghiayan's keynote speech was on "Armenian Insurance Claims from the Genocide Era," a topic he is very familiar



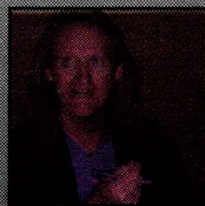
Vartkes Yeghiayan

with as he has been one of the lead lawyers in the class action suit against the New York Life Insurance Company. New York Life has

SEE BANQUET PAGE 6

This Issue...

Fresno State Graduates,
Page 4



John Hughes on Armenia,
Page 3

Letters

Dear Editor:

Dave Barsamian
Pasadena, CA

God Bless you all.

Haig Jamgotchian
Anaheim CA

Dear Editor:

Dear Editor:

Like your new addition – i.e., colored pics – great!

Kudos on a job very well done!

Anthony P. Merzoian
South Portland, ME

Isgouhi Kassakhian
Los Angeles CA

Dear Editor:

It was my pleasure to attend the lecture of Dr. Robert Hewsens yesterday [March 19], it was very interesting and informative.

Dear Editor:

We have enjoyed Hye Sharzhoom over the past several years. Keep up the good work.

In order to give maximum exposure to the Armenian public in Fresno areas, it might be a good idea to publish your activities in advance in the monthly booklets of all the Armenian churches. I am sure the churches will assist you without any fees. It is for our mutual interest. We have to attract young and mature Armenians to attend your activities. I am glad I am receiving the Hye Sharzhoom.

Sincerely,

Martin Koobatian
Santa Barbara CA

Dear Editor:

Please accept our enclosed donation! We enjoy your Hye Sharzhoom very much.

Sincerely yours,

Vasgan & Rose Solakian
Valley Village CA

Dear Editor:

Thank you.

Leon Chopourian
Clovis, CA

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(as of April 27, 2002)

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*In memory of Garabed Kapoian,
father of Angèle Kouymjian*

Armenian Studies Program Faculty:

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

Hye Sharzhoom is a supplement of The Collegian and the newspaper of the CSUF Armenian Students Organization and the Armenian Studies Program and is funded by the Associated Students. Articles may be reprinted provided Hye Sharzhoom is acknowledged. Hye Sharzhoom welcomes prose, poetry, articles and other material from its student readers. For further information concerning the newspaper or the Armenian Studies Program:

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HYE SHARZHOOM

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California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program

Fall 2002 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	1000-1050	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
Arts & Humanities, Area C2 for students using 1999/2000 catalog and after Division 7-Languages, for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before				
• Arm 1A Elementary Armenian	4	1100-1150	MTWF	B Der Mugrdechian
• Arm 2A Intermediate Armenian	4	0930-1045	TTh	B Der Mugrdechian
Arts & Humanities, Area C1, for students using 1999/2000 Catalog and after				
• Arm S 20 Arts of Armenia	3	0930-1045	TTh	D Kouymjian
• Arm S 20 Arts of Armenia	3	Two sections of Honors		D Kouymjian

Arts & Humanities, Integration IC, for students using 1999/2000 Catalog and after Division 6-Languages, for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before

• Arm 148 Mastpcs Arm Lit	3	1300-1350	MWF	Staff
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Upper Division Courses

• Arm S 108A Arm History I	3	0900-1000	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
• Arm S 120T	3	1900-2150	W	Kazan Visiting Professor

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

Armenian Studies Program Book/Video/CD/ Donations

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

Dr. Alichan Avedis Bairamian, Glendale, CA, for several boxes of books.

Dr. Robert Hewsens, Fresno, CA, for copies of two journals: *Revue Des Études Arméniennes*, 1992 and the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*, Volume 1 from 1984.

John Jabaghourian, Goleta, CA, former editor of Hye Sharzhoom, donated two micro-cassette recorders to Hye Sharzhoom for use by the staff.

Krikor Keusseyan, Watertown, MA, for a copy of his book, *Namagani, Volume A, Letters from Shahan Shanour to Krikor Keusseyan*, Mayreni Publishing, 2001.

Carl K. Mahakian, Rancho Mirage, CA, for several boxes of books.

Carl K. Mahakian, Rancho Mirage, CA for several cases of books, magazines, and plays and archival materials related to William Saroyan.

Mr. Ed Marouk, Fresno, for several boxes of books.

Martin M. Tourigian, Drexel Hill, PA, for his paintings.

Arman Vartanyan, Istanbul, Turkey for the copy of his booklet, *Jinage*. Istanbul, Turkey: Acar Press, 2002.

Naomi Weinstein, New York, NY, for the copy of the book by M. A. Marcom, *Three Apples Fell from Heaven*. New York: Riverhead Books (2001).

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"Armenia: The Story of A Place..."

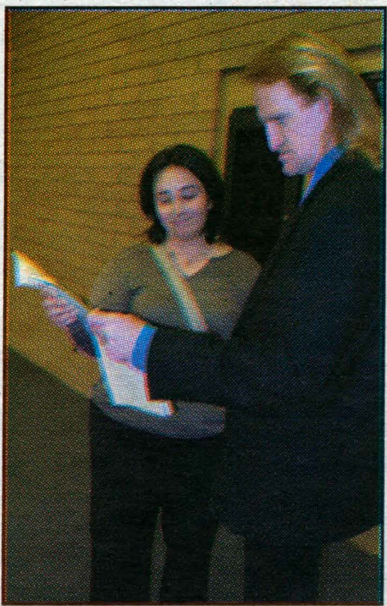


Photo: Dikran Chekian

Hye Sharzhoom editor
Tamara Karakashian with
John Hughes.

TAMARA KARAKASHIAN
EDITOR

Armenians young and old listened engrossed as John Hughes, an American living in Armenia, read one of his emotional and heartfelt essays. In an essay entitled "...And Be Merry," Hughes elaborated on his experiences in Armenia: "...And so I arrived at Hayk's house in the morning hour with some expectations. Arrived to the smell of boiling cow and the laughter of a full house. Cousins, aunts, uncles. Friends on leave from the army. A table set for a banquet. The mother of all brunches. It was 10 am."

A journalist for 20 years, in 1998 Hughes was assigned to write

a series of articles about Armenia for the Orange County Register. He moved to Armenia to begin a life of research of a people who have "survived." Hughes continued to elaborate on his first experience eating the ever-popular celebration meal of "khash."

Hughes explained that while in Armenia, do as the Armenians do. His knowledge of the Armenian language was limited to a choice few words, one of his favorites of which is "lav," good. He basically went along with anything someone suggested. This frame of mind in place, he had many new experiences while living in Armenia. Hughes along with award-winning photojournalist, Bruce Strong, decided to record these ever-strong feelings in a book entitled, "Armenia: The Story of a Place in Essays and Images." The combination of Hughes' poetic and realistic words with Strong's ability to capture the true light of the country of Armenia is a wonderful portrayal of the beauty of our homeland.

With the images in our minds of the strong odor of "khash," the audience listened attentively how Hughes made this dish of "cow's feet" sound lovely: "Take that stack of lavash, I'm told, and break it into the bowl of broth. Lots of it. Reach with bare fingers to the bowl of salt and sprinkle generously. And from the bowl of ground garlic, dip spoonfuls, until the taste is no longer that of cow feet. The idea here is to put enough bread into the soup un-

til you can eat the soaked dumpling with your bare hands. 'Lav.' Good. Whatever." It takes a person of Hughes' character to be able to live in a country completely different from his own - entirely opposite of what he has ever known growing up.

Hughes experiences are vividly recorded in this 133-page book. It is modern history. This isn't a six inch text book which we are required to read in an Armenian history class that goes on and on telling about this war or that defeat. This is a coffee table book depicting the happiness and sadness of a country which has survived as Christians for over 1700 years. A people who have the strength and the will to continue another 1700 years into the future. This is possible with help from people like John Hughes, who dedicate small portions of their busy lives to let the world know about Armenians.

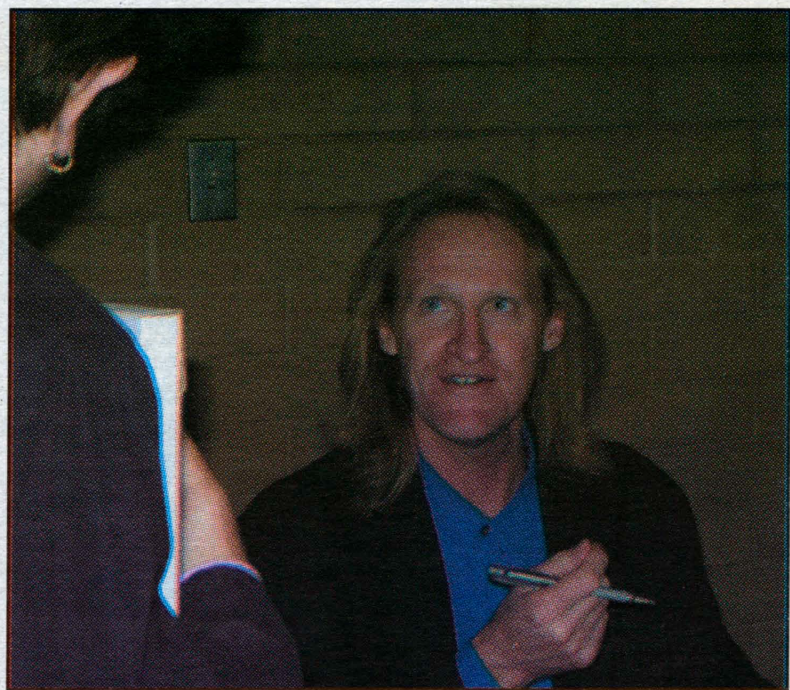


Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

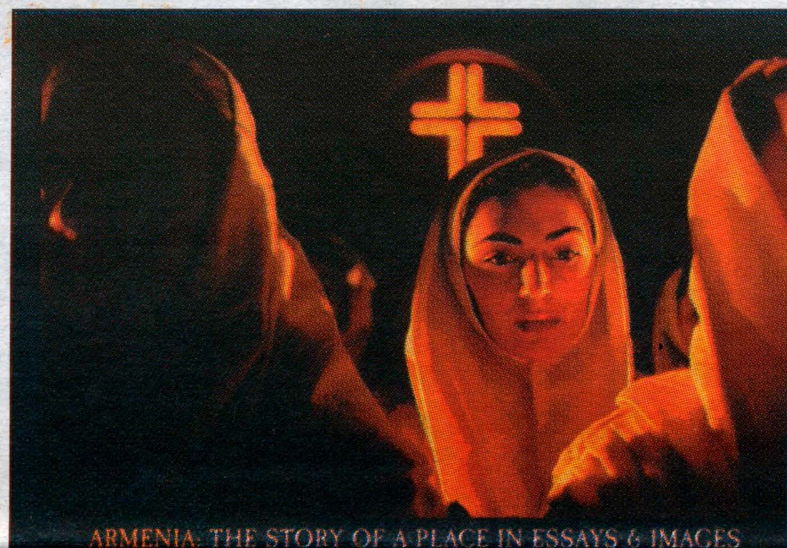
John Hughes

Hughes currently contributes to *Armenian International Magazine* on a regular basis. His current project is a children's book about his cat, Brian.

The Armenian Studies Pro-

gram, Armenian Students Organization of Fresno State, along with the St. Paul Armenian Apostolic Church co-sponsored Hughes' presentation on Friday, March 8, in the St. Paul Haig Berberian Hall.

John Hughes shared with us his experience and life-long memories of the years he lived in our homeland: Armenia.



Spring 2002 ASO Report

BARBARA HARUTINIAN
STAFF WRITER

The Armenian Students Organization held a lot of exciting events for the spring semester of 2002. With the hard work and dedication of the students we were able to make this semester successful and memorable. We started the semester off with a meeting and social at Dominion Pizza where members of ASO ate pizza, discussed upcoming events and socialized with friends. John's Incredible Pizza had also been a meeting spot where students are able to interact with peers and discuss ASO events.

Events that were held were the 3rd Annual Armenian Film Festival, the Armenian genocide commemoration, and a dance seminar led by Zar Der Mugrdchian, which were all very successful. ASO also co-sponsored, with the Armenian Studies Program, a lecture by John Hughes who spoke on his new book *Armenia, The Story of a Place in Essays and Images*.

The 87th Armenian genocide commemoration that was held on campus was graced with speakers such as the Honorable Judge Debra Kazanjian and Professor Hal McKinney, making it a very special and memorable event. The 3rd Annual Armenian Film Festival was also very exciting as films by very talented filmmakers concerning Armenian issues were screened.

To end the school year off the right way a party will be held so the students can come together and celebrate their accomplishments. The present executive Michael Harutunian (president), Sevag Tateosian (vice president), Talar Atarian (Secretary), Barbara Harutunian (Treasurer), and Tim Kuckenbaker (Historian), would like to thank everybody who helped in making this semester remarkable.

"A Journey Through Modern Karabagh" by Dr. Hewsen

CHRIS TOZLIAN
STAFF WRITER

Last semester, Dr. Robert Hewsen was appointed as the Kazan Visiting Professor for the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State. In his brief time in Fresno, he has delivered four lectures to the public, with his most recent, on March 19th, dealing with the current status of Karabagh.

Dr. Hewsen graduated from Georgetown University in the late 1960's and went on to post-graduate work that focused on Armenia and the Caucasus. He first traveled to Armenia in 1969; while there, he did research for his graduate advisor, and since then, he has had a "special place" in his heart for Karabagh. Specifically, he is deeply fascinated with the ongoing Azeri-Armenian conflict over Karabagh.

Dr. Hewsen has traveled to Armenia numerous times since 1969; his most recent trip was in October 2000. While in Armenia, he was able to visit both of the major towns (considered cities) in Karabagh, Stepanakert and Shushi. He was also able to visit the Armenian monasteries in Karabagh and the only university in Karabagh. Dr. Hewsen outlined for his audience an overview of the geography (as seen in his travels.) After giving a brief background about Karabagh he spoke about the prevalent political issues that are currently affecting this self-declared Republic.

In 1991, Karabagh declared its

independence from the ailing USSR. However, this bold political move offended Azerbaijan, which, in turn, battled with the independence-driven Armenians of Karabagh for almost three years, until a cease-fire was declared in May 1994. Dr. Hewsen explained that the years of Azeri-Armenian conflict had destroyed many of the small villages, as well as both Stepanakert and Shushi. Reconstruction was still taking place to repair war-torn areas when Dr. Hewsen returned to Karabagh.

The first buildings that were built after the fighting stopped, and which are still being built, are churches. Dr. Hewsen explained that there is a positive psychological effect on the Armenian people when they see churches being constructed. Not only does it encourage the imagery of permanent residence in Karabagh by Armenians, but it also draws their attention to the reality that they were battling a people who disagreed with them both politically and religiously. The building of churches offers hope and comfort to those who have lost loved ones or homes during the fighting. It also serves as a healing tool for the Armenian people.

Dr. Hewsen then turned his attention to the debate over the status of Karabagh and went on to explain why he believes that the Armenians within Karabagh will not give up their control of the land. Dr. Hewsen began by pointing out that the Armenians are spending

money building new roads. He also pointed out that Armenia is partially stimulating the Karabagh economy and that the Armenian government is currently paying Armenians to relocate from Armenia to Karabagh. Finally, on October 3, 2000, all of Karabagh's district names were changed to Armenian names. When observing this list of examples of Armenian involvement within Karabagh, it is evident that the Armenians not only consider this land to be theirs, but also will fight to retain ownership of it.

Dr. Hewsen spoke of the possible solutions regarding the Azeri-Armenian dispute over Karabagh. While possible solutions include giving the land to either Azerbaijan or Armenia, this solution would anger the non-recipient nation. The "American solution" has also been proposed: this would give Armenia the Karabagh region, but it would give to Azerbaijan the southern border region of Armenia; this proposal would also displease both sides.

Others have suggested giving Karabagh autonomy, but within the administrative structure of Azerbaijan; this has also been unacceptable to the Armenians of Karabagh. Another possible solution is the "Cyprus solution," which will allow the Karabagh situation to remain as is, perhaps leading only to more fighting and bloodshed. The only commonality between these proposed solutions is that they would not solve the cur-

rent debate over Karabagh.

However, a plausible and positive solution called the "Endoran solution" has been suggested, which would give Karabagh its autonomy and the ability to dictate its own actions in domestic affairs; this solution would allow for Azeri and Armenian involvement within Karabagh's foreign affairs. Many feel that the "Endoran solution" is the fairest solution and that it will bring a long-needed peace to the region. Others, however, look to this proposal with pessimism, unable to trust either the Armenians or the Azeris to stay out of the Karabagh's domestic affairs.

Overall, Dr. Hewsen's discussion was both informative and intriguing, bringing greater clarity to the issue of the Karabagh for all who attended.

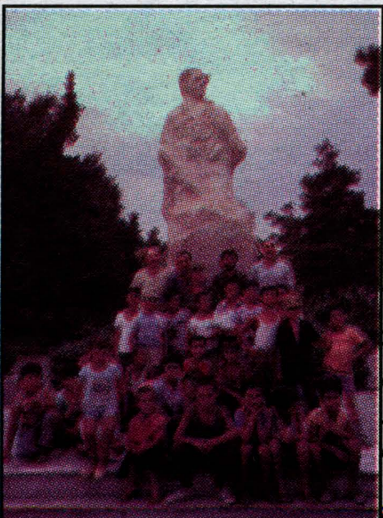
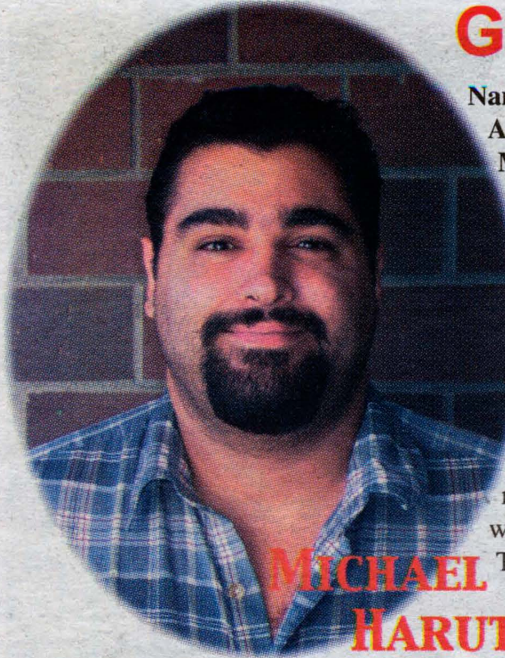


Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

The children of Karabagh gathered around the statue of Karabagh hero Monte Melkonian.

Graduating Seniors With Armenian Studies Minor



Name: Michael Harutinian

Age: 23

Major: Ag Business

What are your Plans after Graduation?

I plan on doing some traveling and then getting a job in the agriculture field.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

In ten years, I see myself established in a career.

What was the most influential part of your college experience?

The most influential part of my college experience was the relationships that I developed while at college with my professors and friends.

The guidance that I received from my professors has been excellent and they have helped to be able to think more critically and not to take anything on face value.

How do you feel the Armenian Studies Program influenced your college experience?

Through the ASP I have acquired a deeper understanding of my roots and culture. The friendships that I have made with students that I have met through the ASP and ASO will last a lifetime

Name: Stacie Shahbazian

Age: 22

Major: Liberal Studies

What are your plans after Graduation?

After graduation, I will marry my fiancé, Paul Melikian, on June 22nd and live in Kingsburg. In August, I will begin law school at San Joaquin College of Law.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Paul and I have talked about this together. We see ourselves working in Fresno, raising a family, building a house, and enjoying the company of family and friends.

What was the most influential part of your college experience?

It's hard to sum up 4 years in a sentence or two, but I believe the most influential part of my college experience was meeting and interacting with many new and interesting people. I've learned a lot of life's important lessons through college. Fresno State is a great school!

How do you feel the Armenian Studies Program influenced your college experience?

The Armenian Studies Program provided me with cultural awareness and an opportunity to explore my heritage. This program gave me a chance to see the generosity and support of the Armenian community through the Scholarship program. I've gained insight on what it means to be an Armenian. It was a wonderful program and I really enjoyed it!



Name: Charles Hagop Sislian

Age: 23

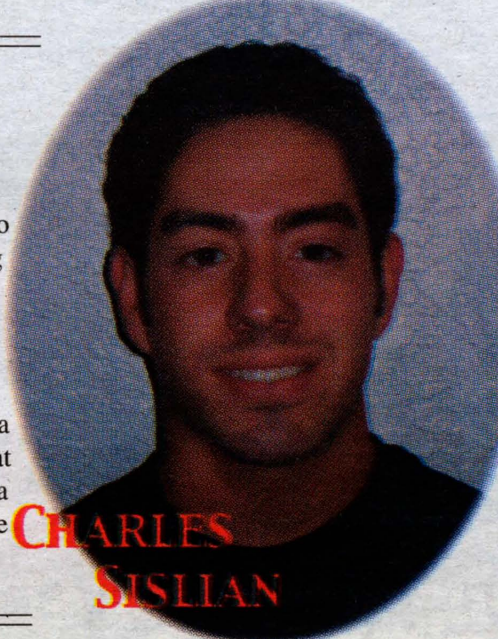
Major: Ag Business

What are your plans after graduation?

I plan on taking a few fun classes at Fresno City next semester. I anticipate working within the next few months. I have decided on a few potential employers and need to finalize my decision.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

In 10 years, I plan to be firmly planted in a career with the Agriculture Industry. By that time, I should be married and be starting a family. I plan on being well established before marriage and well traveled.



What was the most influential part of your college experience?

All of the courses I took within the Armenian Studies Program made me re-evaluate what it means to be a proud Armenian. However, the most influential experience was spending June of 2001 in Armenia and learning in person what I have spent years in classrooms studying.

How do you feel the Armenian Studies Program influenced your college experience?

In an extremely positive manner. Everyone in the ASP is warm, helpful and friendly. I can't imagine going through college without it. Shad shanoragalootun!

Graduating Seniors

Name: Tamara Karakashian

Age: 23

Major: Liberal Studies/Linguistics

What are your plans after graduation?

I have already begun the Masters Program in Linguistics at California State University, Fresno.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

In 10 years I am hoping to be teaching English as a Second Language either at the college level here in the United States, or abroad.

What was the most influential part of your college experience?

The most influential part of my college experience has been the life long friendships that I have created. Learning from each and every person, fellow students and professors alike, has been the highlight of my college career.

How do you feel the Armenian Studies Program influenced your college experience?

The Armenian Studies Program has impacted my life in a huge way. Through history classes I was able to learn the true past of our forefathers.

Through the language classes I have been able to strengthen my knowledge of the Armenian language which will help me in my masters program in Linguistics.



Name: Shushan Khalachyan

Age: 26

Major: International Business

What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation, I plan on taking a trip to Europe. When I return, I will be working at the University Business Center (UBC) at the Craig School of Business. After gaining some experience in the workforce I also plan on attending Graduate School.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

In 10 years from now I see myself as being healthy, happy, and successful.

What was the most influential part of your college experience?

The most influential part of my college experience, other than all of the knowledge I gained, is having the opportunity to grow, learn from my experiences, and to meet people and make new lifelong friends.

How do you feel the Armenian Studies Program influenced your college experience?

The Armenian Studies Program allowed me to learn more about myself and my family. Learning about my culture and background allowed me to be a stronger college student. Thank you.



SHUSHAN
KHALACHYAN

Name: Kristy Melikian

Age: 23

Major: Liberal Studies

What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation, I plan to obtain my teaching credential at Fresno State.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Ten years from now I see myself working as an elementary school teacher. I also plan to be married and starting a family of my own.

What was the most influential part of your college experience?

The most influential part of my college experience was spending a semester abroad in London. Throughout this experience, I was not only able to grow as a person but I had the opportunity to see another part of the world.

How do you feel the Armenian Studies Program influenced your college experience?

I feel that the Armenian Studies Program has influenced my college experience by bringing me closer to my Armenian culture, while creating friendships with fellow Armenians. I have also gained a greater appreciation for the Armenian people.



KRISTY
MELIKIAN

Name: Jude Dunbar

Age: 28

Major: Geography

What are your plans after graduation?

If my plans for multiple lottery award winner fall through, I'll probably either go graduate school or work for the state.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

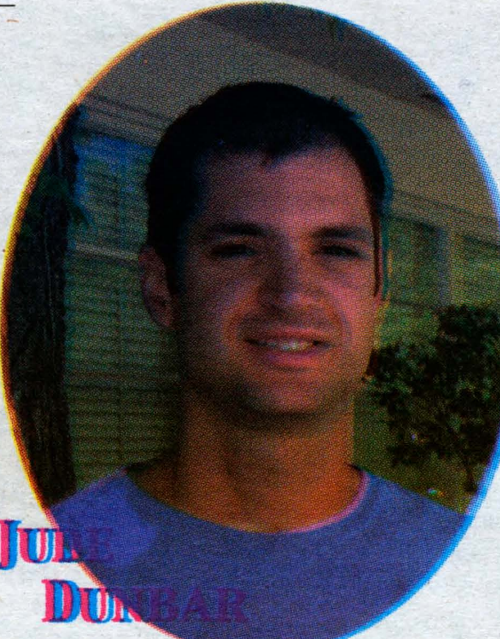
Married with 2.5 kids, 3.7 mortgages, 1.5 underpaid overworked jobs, 0 Ferraris.

What was the most influential part of your college experience?

Class schedule-your whole life revolves around it for four years.

How do you feel the Armenian Studies Program influenced your college experience?

Armenian Studies classes helped me to learn more about my background.



JUDE
DUNBAR

GENOCIDE FROM PAGE 1



Photos: H.S. Archive

L to R: Dikran Chekian, Ani Cardoux, Michael Harutonian, Judge Debra Kazanjian, Sevag Tateosian, and Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

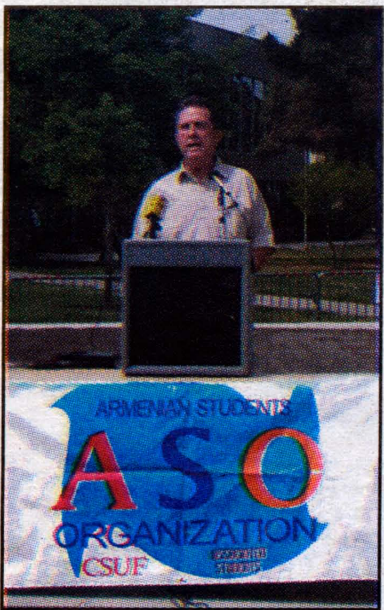


Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Former Fresno County Sheriff and current Fresno State professor Hal McKinney.

nians who died, but also to remind the world of its duty" Kazanjian commented.

Also taking part in the program were Fresno State Armenian Student Organization members Ani Cardoux, Dikran Chekian, and Sevag Tateosian who each expressed their emotions.

Ani read an eloquent poem in Armenian by Daniel Varoujan. Sevag read the declaration by the California Legislature marking April 24th as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day. Dikran expressed his devotion and dedication by speaking about the facts of the Genocide.

To conclude the ceremonies, Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian made brief comments about the importance of remembrance as part of the Genocide commemoration. He said that the large number of students present at the ceremony attested to their continued commitment.

Along with distinguished community members Der Mugrdechian initiated the laying of flowers on a model of the Armenian Genocide Memorial Monument. While musicians Jim and Edward Karagozian played solemn Armenian music, the rest of the crowd followed Prof. Der Mugrdechian's lead.

And at the conclusion of the ceremony, the monument stood as a proud reminder of the Genocide, just as the Martyrs' Monument in Armenia does.

Turkish wartime leader Talat Pasha once told a German Ambassador, "What on earth do you want? The question is settled. There are no more Armenians." Talat Pasha couldn't have been more wrong.

The Armenian community in Fresno, along with all of the Armenian communities around the world, with their commemorations and respect for the 1.5 million massacred in 1915 demonstrates that the Armenians will never forget what happened 87 years ago, and that the Genocide will never be forgotten.

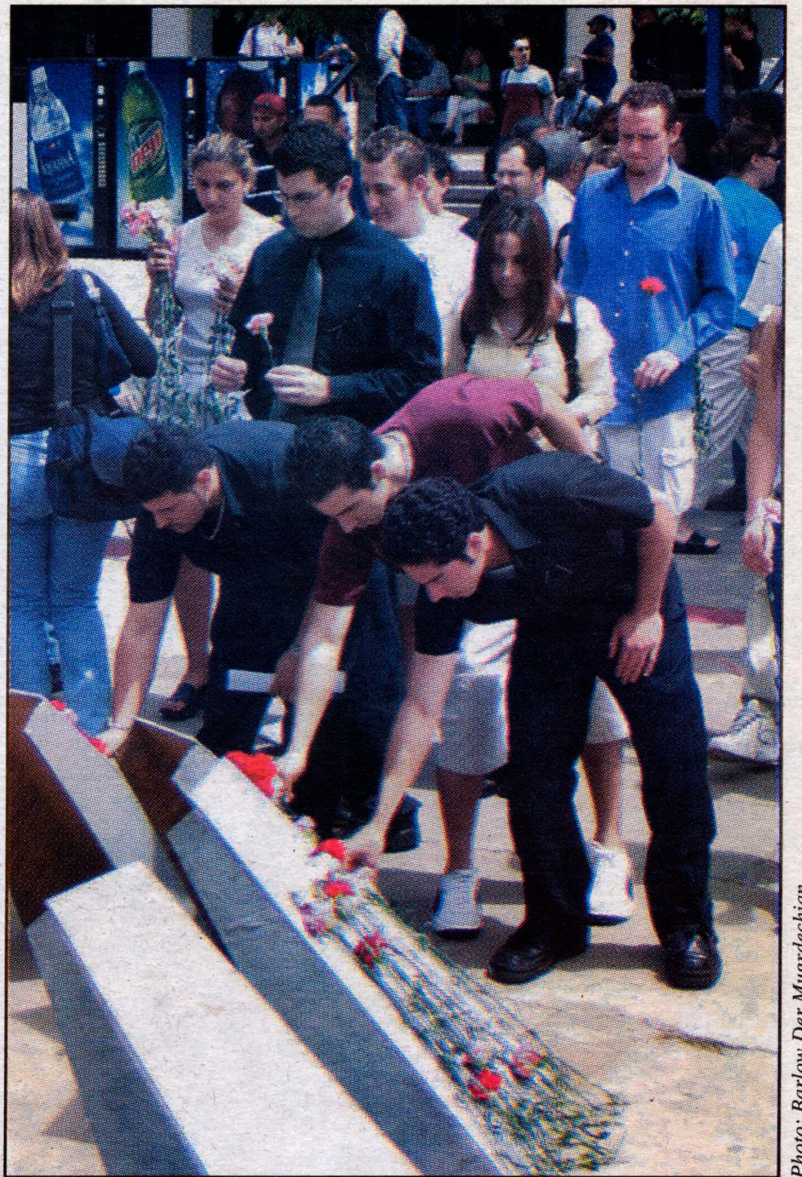


Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Above: L to R- Dikran Chekian, Rami Gabriel, and Charles Sislian honoring Genocide victims by placing carnations at the Genocide Monument.

Prof. Kouymjian's Spring Activities

(This article is a continuation of the March 2002 Hye Sharzhoom report on Professor Dickran Kouymjian's sabbatical leave activities.)

Later in the month he traveled to southern Italy, where the University of Lecce organized an international conference entitled "San Gregorio armeno e il suo culto nell'Italia meridionale" (Saint Gregory the Armenian and His Cult in Southern Italy). He presented a paper entitled "The Armenian Iconography of St. Gregory the Illuminator," discussing in detail with the aid of some 60 slides the different ways Gregory was depicted in Armenian art and how we are to interpret the great variety of images. During his stay in the Apulia region he was able to visit other sites devoted to St. Gregory, including the church of St. Gregory in the city of Nardo, where he was allowed to photograph a hitherto unknown right hand relic of St. Gregory the Illuminator preserved in the treasury. According to him, there are now four right hand relics of the founder of the Armenian church, on which he is preparing a separate study. Professor Giusto Traina, one of Italy's foremost young classical scholars and an authority on early Armenian history and texts, organized the conference. Dr. Kouymjian had invited Traina to participate in the international symposium on the father of Armenian history, Movses of Khoren, that he had organized in Paris ten years ago, the proceedings of which were published last year.

At the end of October, Prof. Kouymjian was invited to present a paper entitled "Art in Exile: Armenian Artists of the Nineteenth & Twentieth Centuries," in Leiden,

The Netherlands, at an international symposium titled "Armenia Beyond Territory. The Evolution of the Individual Living in the Diaspora." The one-day conference held on October 30th was part of the inauguration of three separate exhibits on Armenian art as part of Holland's celebration of the 1700th anniversary of Armenian Christianity. The exhibitions were held in Leiden and in Utrecht and comprised ancient, medieval and modern Armenian art. Dr. Kouymjian in his paper discussed in detail the question "What is Armenian Art?" He asked the audience to reflect on the possible answers to the question and on the arbitrary nature of the term "Armenian Art."

Currently, the Professor Kouymjian is deep into the correction of the proofs of the major publication on the history and analysis of Armenian writing from the invention of the Armenian alphabet in the fifth century to our time. The book, to be published by Aarhus University Press in Denmark, is entitled *Album of Armenian Paleography* and is the fruit of eleven years of research he carried out in libraries and archives throughout the world with Prof. Michael Stone, head of the Armenian Program at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Dr. Henning, a classical Armenian scholar and for the past 15 years president of Denmark's second largest university in Aarhus. The folio volume, scheduled to appear in the first half of 2002, will be more than 500 pages and contain over 200 full-page color plates and a very dense text and many comparative alphabet tables illustrating the various forms of Armenian manuscript writing.

Shahen Khatchatryan Speaks on Armenian Art of the 20th Century

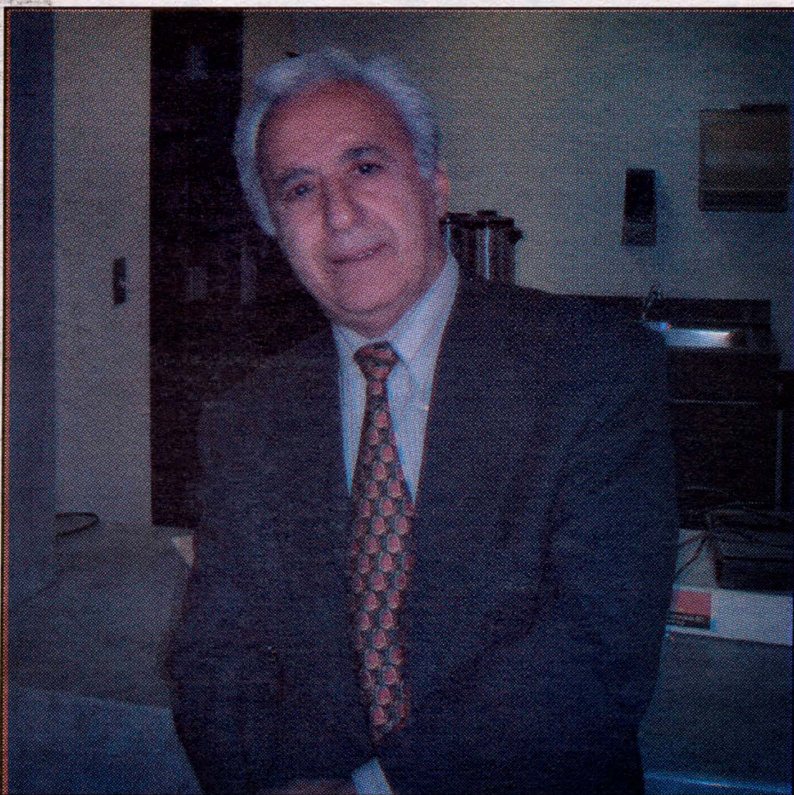


Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

BARLOW DER MUGRDECHIAN
HYE SHARZHOOM ADVISOR

Shahen Khatchatryan

talks on Armenian Art.

Shahen Khatchatryan, Director of the National Gallery of Art of Armenia and the Martiros Saryan Museum in Yerevan, Armenia, presented an illustrated lecture on "20th Century Armenian Art" on Friday, April 5, 2002.

Khatchatryan's lecture, part of the Armenian Studies Program Spring Lecture Series, was held in the Alice Peters Auditorium of the University Business Center on campus.

Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program introduced Mr. Khatchatryan, who was in California to give a series of

numerous monographs on famous Armenian artists of the 20th century: Martiros Saryan, Minas, Hovhannes Aivazovsky, Hagop Hagopian, and Rafael Atoyan, among others. He is an art historian and critic who was born in Aleppo, Syria, and returned to Yerevan with his family in 1946. He later graduated from the Leningrad Academy of Art.

Mr. Khatchatryan's illustrated talk began with a discussion of the founder of "modern" Armenian art, Hagop Hovnatanian, a portrait painter of the 19th century. Hovnatanian was the last of a great

line of Hovnatanian painters and his portraits of the Armenian gentry of Tiflis are evocative of Armenian life of the period. Hovnatanian drew on the history of medieval Armenian manuscript painting and folk art to paint his masterpieces.

Hovhannes Aivazovsky, the great Armenian seascape artist of the nineteenth century, was the next artist discussed. Born in the Crimea, his seascapes have an originality based on the Armenian national temperament. His portrayal of stormy seas reflects the Armenian national optimism and determination against all odds.

Khatchatryan then moved to the 20th century with the works of Vartkes Soureniants, an artist whose works reflected Armenian national life, including the 1895-1896 massacres of Armenians in Ottoman Turkey. His paintings have a patriotic spirit to them.

Martiros Saryan is considered by art critics as the finest of 20th century Armenian artists. He was the first Armenian artist to recognize the need to form an individual style founded on ancient national traditions. His rich compositions were imbued with light, color, and contrasting harmonious combinations of colors. He devoted his life to Armenia which was the canvas for his works.

Gevorg Bashinjaghyan, Edgar Chahine, Egishe Tadevosyan, Carzou, and several other artists were discussed by Mr. Khatchatryan.

The evening concluded with a lively question and answer period.

BANQUET FROM PAGE 1

yet to pay survivor policies from the 1915 genocide. In the past few years, Armenian survivors of the genocide and their relatives have sought compensation for life insurance policies purchased by their victim relatives, but never honored by the companies.

In his fascinating presentation, Mr. Yeghiayan outlined the background facts of the case, the legal issues involved, and the current status of the case.

Mr. Yeghiayan became interested in the issue of Armenian insurance claims in 1987, while reading U.S. Ambassador Henry Morgenthau's memoirs. Morgenthau mentions that the insurance policies of Armenians who

had been massacred, were being demanded by the Ottoman Turkish government. This provided the impetus for Yeghiayan's pursuit of justice, beginning with correspondence with the then Secretary of State George Schultz, which led to the discovery of many pertinent documents.

Mr. Yeghiayan outlined the basic facts of the class action law suit, *Marootian v. New York Life*. Between 1895-1915, New York Life sold more than 5,000 life insurance policies to Christian Armenians in the Ottoman Empire. Business was good for New York Life, as they sold more policies in Ottoman Turkey than they had in twenty-one states in the United States. After the Genocide of 1915-1923, many Armenian survivors attempted to

be compensated for the loss of life of their relatives. New York Life kept very good records of whom it sold its policies to, maintaining a card file with names and addresses of policy holders. There are more than 35,000 pages of evidence and documentation on this issue. For years New York Life claimed that they could not find the survivors of the Armenian genocide who had held policies.

Martin Marootian and his family have been pursuing their rights since 1922. In 1999 he continued his correspondence with New York Life and succeeded in getting New York Life to negotiate the claim. It was claimed that there were no other persons in a similar situation, but a list of more than 3,000 names were uncovered.

The legal basis for the class action suit became possible with the passage of Armenian Genocide Claim legislation in California. Then State Assemblyman Chuck Poochigian was instrumental in getting the legislation passed, which provided that Armenians would have the right to sue for the insurance claims in California until 2010.



L to R: Tamara Karakashian, Nyrie Karkazian, Carina Karakashian, Armen Postoyan, Ara Mekhitarian, and Eric Mouradian.

Attorney Mark Geragos of Los Angeles will be the lead attorney in the *Marootian* class action suit, which should be ready to be tried in November or December of this year.

In 1928, New York Life claimed that it did know who the Armenians were that held policies, but today Yeghiayan emphatically states that, "No one should profit from the Genocide." Armenians are only asking for justice, delayed for more than eighty-five years. He clearly articulated the position of the Armenian Genocide survivors in the case and his determination to pursue the case was evident.

Next in the program was Melissa Valgeirson, a faculty member from the Department of English, Communications and Theatre at Fresno Pacific University. She performed a series of readings based on Saroyan's dramatic prefaces. She artfully presented Saroyan's battle with the critical theatre elite, bringing to life the emotional struggle that Saroyan faced.

Der Murgdechian then introduced the student scholarship recipients, stating their major, field of study, and involvement in Armenian Studies. Many of the students are active members of the Armenian Students Organization and some are involved in the production of *Hye Sharzhoom*. As each student was called, he or she was recognized for their achievements with a round of applause.

For community members and parents, the Armenian Studies Program Annual banquet is a way to interact with faculty, students, and staff of the Program.

The Annual Banquet has become an enjoyable tradition of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.



L to R: Robert Torosian, Agop Torosian, Mrs. Ekejian, Tatevik Ekejian, David Nersesyan, Tamara Enfiedjian, David Sirunyan, Erica Ananian, & Barseg Abanyan.

"Perhaps It Is Time We All Remembered"- An Opinion

ROBERT TOROSIAN
STAFF WRITER

April 1915, the sun rose over the mountains of Armenia just like any other day, warming up the fields and inviting the people of the villages to wake up from their sleep and to start their daily tasks. No one knew that this day would be anything but another normal day.

All of a sudden the day got dark as the Turkish soldiers marched into the Armenian villages to deport all the Armenian families. The soldiers used force and violence to move the Armenians from the villages. Some men tried to fight the soldiers but they were brutally executed in front of their families. Children screamed as they watched their parents killed right in front of their eyes by the Turkish soldiers. All of this was done without mercy and without guilt.

This may sound like part of a new movie by Steven Spielberg that is playing at Edwards' Theatre in Fresno, but it's not. This is the true story of the Armenian people and the Armenian Genocide. The genocide, which began on April 24, 1915, with the arrest, torture and execution of 300 intellectuals, writers, poets and civic and political leaders, lasted until 1923. 1.5 million Armenians were killed during those 8 years. The point that I am trying to make is not to retell the story of the Armenian Genocide, which has been told and retold many times, but to see how well people in Fresno and in other cities know about the Armenian Genocide.

On April 25th, 2002, a day after the 87th year remembrance of the Armenian Genocide, I conducted a random survey at Fresno State University, asking some of the future leaders of this country some

questions about the Armenian Genocide. The survey consisted of asking 50 randomly chosen people of every race, gender, profession, and age, if they knew what the Armenian Genocide was. The most common response was "Uhhhhhh no." Some other responses ranged from Armenian Genocide being a food to the Armenian participation in the Olympic games this year.

Out of 50 people surveyed, only 8 knew about the Armenian Genocide. The remaining 42 people did not have a clue. So 84% did not know anything about the genocide and only 16% knew about the first Genocide of the 20th century. I then asked the participants if they knew about the Jewish Holocaust and all 50 responded with a quick "Of course." I asked them how come they knew about the Jewish Holocaust so well and most of them responded that they were taught about it in their classes and also had learned about it through the movie industry.

We hold a commemoration every year on April 24 and tell the story of the Armenian Genocide and have speakers come and talk and give their opinions and feelings about the horrible things that happened to the Armenian people. Every Armenian has to live with the Genocide their whole life and passes that knowledge and pain to their children. We lay flowers for the innocent people who lost their lives during the genocide, but is that going to teach people about the Armenian Genocide?

We pay our respects and honor those who lost their lives during the demonstration but we do not reach the public to educate them more and to get their support. Fifteen seconds of airtime on the local news at 11 o'clock in the evening does not even give the viewing public enough in-

formation for them to even know what occurred during the genocide or how people suffered.

Who is to be blamed for this lack of knowledge about the Armenian Genocide? The people? The media? No, the government! There is not a single textbook at the junior high or high school level that has the history of the Armenian genocide in it. How are people going to know about something that they were not educated about? People know the great sufferings of the Jews and the African-Americans because they were required to learn about them in high school and also in colleges and universities. The country that models itself to be the most powerful country in the world turns its head everytime a light shines on the issue of the Armenian Genocide. If we Armenians had raised enough money to make multi-million dollar movies like "Schindler's List" or "Amistad" to tell our story to everyone through the big screen or had enough political power to influence the government to recognize the Armenian Genocide, it would have already been done. But our population is small compared to the Jews and the African Americans and our voice is not heard amongst the larger groups.

Hitler was evil but not stupid. He watched while the Young Turks carried out the final solution of the Armenian Question during World War I, and he saw them get away with it. He drew the logical conclusion: the world has a short memory. When Hitler sent his generals to start World War II and to effect the final solution against the Jews, he ranted: "Go! Kill without mercy! Who today remembers the annihilation of the Armenians?"

Perhaps it is time we all remembered.

ARMENIAN CORNER

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SEVAG TATEOSIAN
STAFF WRITER

Parev to all !!! Welcome back to learning how to speak Western Armenian with Sevag. Don't forget that we are getting closer to the Armenian 1A class that will be offered next semester here on the beautiful Fresno State campus. You don't need to know a word of Armenian to join the class and every student is welcome. What I will be teaching you in this lesson is how to say the basic colors, and how to say some breakfast items.

In Armenian the word for color is *Kouin* (գոյն).

The first color we will learn is Brown, which is called *Sourjakuin* (սորձագոյն). An easy way to remember this is by remembering how to say coffee in Armenian, which is *Sourj* (սորձ). All you do is add *akuin* (ագոյն) and you have the word for brown.

The next color we will learn is Orange. If you know how to say Orange the fruit in Armenian, then it will be easy for you. *Nareenj* (նարինջ) is Orange the fruit, and all you need to do is the same thing as you did with coffee in the previous one, add *akuin* (ագոյն). So the color Orange is pronounced *Nareenjakuin* (նարինջագոյն).

The next color we will learn is Yellow, which is *Teghine* (դեղին). Just as an added bonus I will tell you that the word *tegh* (դեղ) in Armenian means medicine.

The word for red in Armenian is *Garmeer* (կարմիր). The word for blue in Armenian is *Gabuid* (կապույտ).

The Armenian flag has the colors *Garmeer* (Red), *Gabuid* (Blue), *Nareenjakuin* (Orange).

My favorite color in Armenian is the color Black. If you know how to say my name in Armenian, you can say the word black. Black in Armenian is *sev* (սև).

Now from the colors we will be going to a new direction, which is to teach you how to say some breakfast items.

First you need to know the word for breakfast which is *nakhadjash* (նախաճաշ).

A common breakfast item is butter. The word for butter is *garak* (կարագ). With butter you have got to have your bread, which is *hats* (հաց). You simply can take the word hot in English and add an S to the end of it and you have the word for bread. On top of the bread and butter, many Armenians put jelly, which is *bedghanush* (պտղաճուռ) or they put eggs which is *havgeet* (հավկիթ).

To wash down this food Armenians either drink tea, which is *tey* (թէյ), milk which is *gat* (կաթ), water which is *choor* (ջուր) or juice which is *hyoot* (հիւթ).

Thanks again for taking Sevag's quick Armenian lesson. We shall see each other in the next *Hye Sharzhoom* issue. For more information on the Armenian class offered at Fresno State, contact the Armenian Studies office at 559-278-2669. Until next time *Ge Des Na Veenk*, that is, see you later.

FILM FESTIVAL FROM PAGE 1

makers can present themselves and their work. "These aren't major films that you would see in big theaters, which is why we need these types of events," Atarian said.

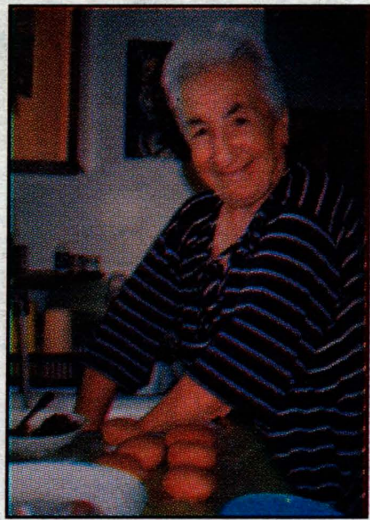
"The purpose of the film festival is to promote films with an Armenian theme. This year's theme happens to be the genocide," said Barlow Der Mugrdechian, lecturer in the Armenian Studies Program.

The first film shown was part one of a four part series, "The Genocide Factor: The Human Tragedy," which explores the history of genocide and how it effects various nationalities throughout the world. As the audience watched the first episode in the series, "The Beginning to the Armenian Genocide," written by Manoug Manougian, Ph.D. and Jack Sandler, Ph.D. and produced and directed by Robert J. Emery, they gasped or turned away shaking their heads at the horrors that were allowed to take place. The film takes a look at the definition of genocide and the factors that drive people to it.

"The Genocide Factor," which took three years to make, will be aired in its entirety on public television stations nationwide in May.

The second film touched upon the Armenian Genocide in a different way.

"I Will Not Be Sad In This World" a 56-minute documentary by award winning producer/director, Karina Epperlein of Berkeley, followed a 94 year-old survivor throughout her daily routine. The subject, Zaroohé Najarian lost everything at the hands of Turkish soldiers as part of the Armenian Genocide during World War I. As one of the oldest living survivors of the Armenian Genocide, Najarian grew up in an orphanage in Beirut, Lebanon before immigrating to America, where she divorced her husband of an arranged marriage and created a second family with the man she really loved. For fifty



Zaroohé Najarian

years Najarian supported herself as a seamstress. The documentary shows Najarian being as candid as an old woman can be. The audience was delighted to see her vacuuming her living room, cooking authentic Armenian dishes, singing to her great grandson and gardening as well.

Epperlein was present at the Film Festival and after her film screened, she discussed why she made the movie and how it came about.

As an independent filmmaker, Epperlein chooses the subjects of her films very carefully. She found Najarian through a story written about her by her son, Peter Najarian. As she read the story, Epperlein saw a film taking shape in her head. "I didn't yet have the courage to start a new film. I was so much in debt from my last project," said Epperlein. She wouldn't meet Najarian for another year, but when she did she was fascinated. "She was so open to me. She just let me into her life," said Epperlein. For her documentary, Epperlein took a different approach. "I didn't come in like a regular filmmaker who just goes and asks questions. I really made a friendship with her. For four years I came and visited and we became friends," Epperlein said. Epperlein was amazed to see Najarian so vibrant after having

lived through such difficult times. "There's a whole century she has lived, with all of the tragedies and hardships and also the joys of her life. And here she was, not bitter in her old age. So vibrant and vital that I wanted to be around her and I wanted to share her with the world," said Epperlein.

Epperlein grew up in post-war Germany and studied Armenian history and culture for five years in order to make her latest film. She said making the film was a wonderful way of accomplishing her goal of capturing Najarian's spirit and giving it onto the world.

Epperlein has come to find that Armenian audiences that see the film have totally embraced it because they can see themselves in it as well as someone who is so similar to their own grandmother. "I tried to make the film universal so that everybody could take something from it and so non-Armenians could also learn about the genocide," said Epperlein. Today Zaroohé Najarian lives in a nursing home.

The last two short films shown were creative in a modern sense. "Hokees" and "Girl From Moush" were written and directed by self-taught filmmaker and photographer, Garine Torossian. Born in Beirut, she moved to Canada in 1979. In "Hokees," which stars Arsinee Khanjian, the ultimate Armenian taboo is committed: an Armenian woman, Anahid, falls in love with a Turkish man. Pregnant with her lover's child, Anahid finds herself haunted by her past as her great-grandmother, who was murdered along with her unborn child in the Armenian Genocide, returns to reclaim what was lost. "Girl from Moush" was a lighter and more personal short (5 minute) clip that documented Torossian herself through an emotional and psychological geography. The film was filled with images of Armenian cultural treasures.

2001-2002 Armenian Studies Scholarship Recipients

The Armenian Studies Program awarded scholarships and research grants from six different endowment or scholarship funds and research grant for a total of \$27,000. These scholarships encourage students to pursue minors in Armenian Studies and to enroll in the various course offerings. The number of applicants for Armenian scholarships has doubled for the next academic year, 2002-2003. We ask our students and our supporters to tell their friends and relatives about the Armenian Studies scholarship program and encourage them to apply for the upcoming year.

Applying has become simplified and is entirely online through the Program website at <http://www.csufresno.edu/ArmenianStudies> and the University website at <http://www.csufresno.edu>.

Nerces and Ruth Azadian Memorial Scholarship

Talar Atarian, Fresno, Biology-Ecology & Evolution.

Yervant, Rose and Hovannes Levonian Educational Grant

Michael Arakelian, Fowler, Liberal Studies; Dikran Chekian, Fresno, Art-Graphic Design; Amy Deorian, Fresno, Pre-Business; Jonathan Deundian, Fresno, Liberal Studies; Tatevik Ekejian, Fresno, Biology; Martin Hopelian, Clovis, Pre-Business; Kevin Kandarian, Fowler, Cont. Animal Sciences; Carina Karakashian, Fresno, Liberal Studies; Tamara Karakashian, Visalia, Business Administration; Tim Kuckenbaker, Fresno, Political Science; Ara Mekhitarian, Fresno, Business Administration; Elizabeth Mello, Lemoore, Political Science; Eric Mouradian, Fresno, Pre-Business; David Nersesyan, Armenia, Ag Business; Arpik Paraghamian, Fresno, Mass Communication; Armen Postoyan, Fresno, Pre-Business; Stephanie Rivas, Fresno, Biology-Physiology & Anatomy; Taguhi Semirzhyan, Fresno, Philosophy-Pre Law; Stacie Shahbazian, Parlier, Liberal Studies; David Sirunyan, Armenia, Ag Business; Sevag Tateosian, Fresno, Criminology; Akop Torosian, Fresno, Business Administration; Robert Torosian, Fresno, Criminology; Aida Vareldjian, Fresno, Undeclared; Rouben Vesmadian, Australia, Philosophy-Pre Law.

Koren and Alice Odian Kasparian Scholarship

Barseg Abanyan, Fresno, Health Science Administration; Tatevik Ekejian, Fresno, Biology; Jayson Emerian, Fresno, Mechanical Engineering; Arpik Paraghamian, Fresno, Mass Communication.

Charles K. and Pansy Pategian Zlokovich Scholarship

Christina Ajamian, Fresno, Kinesiology-Athletic Training; Natasha Azarian, Fresno, English as a Second Language; Ramona Bujulian, Kingsburg, Liberal Studies; Shelly Cha, Fresno, Business Administration; Anna Hadjinlian, Fresno, Master of Business; Gabriel Halls, Sanger, History; Carina Karakashian, Fresno, Liberal Studies; James Karibian, Fresno, Pre-Business; Bryan Kirkorian, Fresno, Finance; Tobias Riday-White, Fresno, History; Taguhi Semirdzhyan, Fresno, Philosophy-Pre Law; Brooke Tinnin, Fresno, Education; Robert Torosian, Fresno, Criminology; Marjorie Visser, Sanger, Political Science.

The Pete P. Peters Endowment

Jameil Haddad, Fresno, Communication; Stacie Shahbazian, Parlier, Liberal Studies; Christopher Tozlian, Fresno, History.

The Harry and Mary Topoozian

Armenian Studies Merit Scholarship Fund

Talar Atarian, Fresno, Biology-Ecology & Evolution.

Armenians and the Internet

Republic of Armenia-The Official Site

Address: <http://www.president.am/>

Contact: email: comments@panarmenian.net

Main Categories: Main Page, The President, Administration, News, Library, Armenia, Messages, Links.

Brief Summary: This web site is the official web site of President Robert Kocharian and was created and is maintained by his administration. The web site was designed to offer information about the President and his administration as well as offer information on the latest developments in Armenia. It is interesting to read about President Kocharian and to find out what his plans and future goals are for Armenia. The "News" section, offers day-by-day updates on the activities the President will partake in and the progress of any developments. Furthermore, the "Library" section offers all the information regarding Armenia's government, their constitution, judicial power, national assembly, etc. People can also post questions and comments for the President to read on the message board system. Overall, this is an informative web site for anyone who is interested in learning more about President Kocharian and the way the Armenian government operates.

Hayastan.com - Armenian Internet Portal

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

Contact: email: webmaster@hayastan.com

Main Categories: Daily News, Entertainment, For Your PC, Webmaster Tools, Search Engine, Publications, Armenia.

Brief Summary: Hayastan.com is a useful web site because it offers a built in search engine which allows you to search for anything Armenian related. There are also categories to assist the search engine (Culture & Arts, History, Business, Politics, etc) to narrow your search or to just browse the various Armenian sites related to that topic. The "Entertainment" section offers a wide range of options such as chat, dating club, horoscope, online radio, jokes and a large archive of over 3000 different Armenian songs to listen to. It also has a section on learning the Armenian language and sending free electronic postcards to friends. They even have a live web cam from Yerevan, showing St. Gregory Church and Mt. Ararat.

CSU Summer Arts Festival

A Reading of Saroyan's Play

"The Time of Your Life"

by members of the prestigious
Steppenwolf Theatre Company of Chicago

Saturday, July 19

8:00 PM

John Wright Theater, CSU Fresno

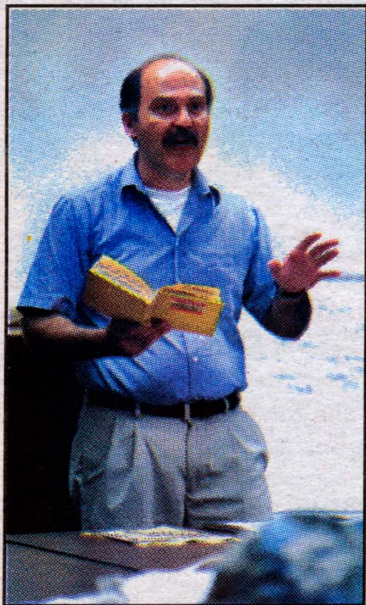
Refreshments will be served.

For more information, please call 559-241-6090.

William Saroyan Books Discussed

— STAFF REPORT —

Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, led a four session series on "William Saroyan: The Man and His World: A Reading and Discussion Group," on April 2, 9, 23, and 30.



Barlow Der Mugrdechian

The Fresno County Library organized the discussion group as part of the two-month citywide celebration of famed local writer William Saroyan. Lydia Kuhn, Manager of Adult Materials and Institutional Services of the Library applied and received a mini-grant from the California Council



Barlow Der Mugrdechian with reading group at the Library.

for the Humanities to help in funding the event.

The four Saroyan books that were read and discussed were: *The Human Comedy*, *My Name is Aram*, *Fresno Stories*, and *The Armenian Trilogy*. Community members were provided the books and asked to read each of them prior to that week's session. The works were then the subject of an interactive discussion between the community members and Prof. Der Mugrdechian.

Der Mugrdechian introduced each two-hour session with background material on William Saroyan and about each book. Videos on Saroyan and slides of Fresno's Armenian sites added an additional cultural component to the program. Participants explored the culture and

identity of Armenian-Americans as seen through the eyes of William Saroyan.

Saroyan's writings reflected not only the culture and experiences of Armenian-Americans, especially those in Fresno, but dealt with larger issues such as the immigrant experience, cultural adjustment, discrimination, justice, and cultural identity. These issues are of universal interest to Armenians and non-Armenians alike.

The Armenian Trilogy especially reflected Saroyan's interest in his Armenian roots in the last twenty years of his life.

The discussion group was held at the Fig Garden Regional Library, on the corner of Bullard of Marks Avenues, in Fresno.

Photos: Michael Karibian



Photo: Anoush Ekparian

The Armenian National Bobsled Team brought their sled to California State University, Fresno to attract young Armenians to the wide world of Olympic competition. Standing in the back row, 3rd and 4th from the left are Olympians Dan Janjigian and Jorgo Alexandreu.



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Famed author and Fresno native-son William Saroyan died in 1981. Half of his cremated remains are interred in the Pantheon National Cemetery in Yerevan, Armenia. At a private graveside ceremony in March of this year, the other half of Saroyan's remains were buried in Fresno's Ararat Cemetery.

Listen to Fresno State's
Armenian Radio
Show

Hye Oozh

Every Saturday
morning from
9:00AM-12:00noon



FM 90.7

D. J.s

- Sevag Tateosian
- Armen Postoyan
- Tatev Ekejian

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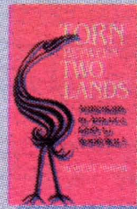
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