

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

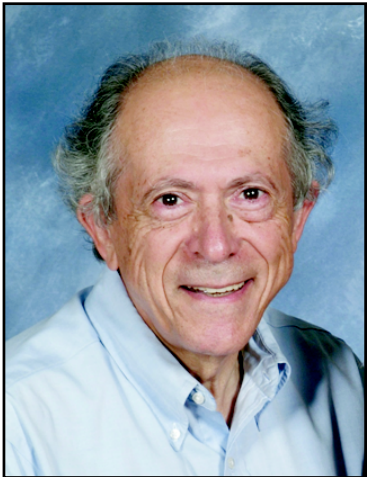
31st
Year

March 2010

Vol. 31, No. 3 (109)

Ethnic Supplement to The Collegian

Dr. Abraham Terian Appointed as Eighth Kazan Visiting Professor



Dr. Abraham Terian

Photo: ASP Archive

TAMAR KARKAZIAN
STAFF WRITER

As Armenians we often find ourselves asking what we can do to preserve the Armenian spirit. One way would be to do what Dr. Abraham Terian has done throughout his life. As an expert on ancient translation, he has done his fair share of bringing the old back to life. Not only has he had experience in field-work, but he has also passed on his vast knowledge to many students, as a professor for over 30 years.

This spring he is sharing his knowledge with students at Fresno State as the eighth Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies. The Kazan Visiting Professor teaches a single class on modern Armenian history or literature, with an emphasis on the Armenian Genocide. This semester, students in Dr. Terian's Monday night class are learning about Armenian Literature and the Genocide. The course concentrates on the Armenian literature of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with special focus on post-Genocide literature, both in Armenian and English.

Dr. Terian will also deliver three public lectures related to the Armenian Genocide, under the general title of "In the Darkness of the Genocide." Buried in the dark and long shadows of the Armenian Genocide are certain issues that should not be forgotten as the struggle against denial and for recognition of the Genocide continues. The lectures address these issues that should bring added awareness and inspire activism as the

SEE **TERIAN** PAGE 6

Vahan Mardirossian and Alexander Chaushian Perform Bravura Concert at Fresno State

PATEEL MEKHITARIAN
EDITOR

The Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State was pleased to welcome pianist Vahan Mardirossian and cellist Alexander Chaushian to perform in a duet concert at 8:00PM on Friday, February 26. This special presentation was co-sponsored by the Keyboard Concert Series and held in the Concert Hall at Fresno State. The large turnout on a rainy evening was an indication of how popular and well-respected the two artists are.

The duet performance by Mardirossian and Chaushian was a wonderful event. The two musicians had been childhood friends in Armenia, and renewed their friendship after many years. These two talented artists presented a beautiful and peaceful performance, which was appreciated by the audience.

Their first piece was Alexander Borodin's Sonata in B Minor, rich in harmonies and an excellent vehicle for Chaushian to exhibit his skill on the cello. They continued the evening with a Sonata in D



Photo: Erica Magarian

Cellist Alexander Chaushian, foreground, with pianist Vahan Mardirossian performing at the February 26 duet concert.

Minor Op. 40, by Dmitri Shostakovich. The energetic Sonata is one of his earlier works and features unusual musical twists.

The close relationship between the artists could be seen in the way that they communicated with each other, sometimes with a simple glance or movement of the eye. After the intermission they concluded their performance with a powerful musical piece, Sonata in

A Major, by César Franck. Chaushian brought passion to his performance, capturing the audience with his beautifully played passages.

Keyboard Concert Director Andreas Werz called the concert "a fantastic success." He said the audience response was great and that now many people were asking that

SEE **CONCERT** PAGE 7

JFDP Scholar Antonyan Visits Fresno State for Spring Semester



Dr. Kristine Antonyan from Yerevan State University.

MARI KOSHKAKARYAN
STAFF WRITER

Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

The Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP) gives overseas scholars the opportunity for professional development in the United States and to study at an American university. Participants are selected by a merit-based competitive process. Kristine Antonyan from Yerevan, Armenia, demonstrated the capability to excel in the Program, and thus was selected as

a recipient of the JFDP grant for the Spring 2010 semester. She is contributing to the University by giving presentations in different classes about economies in transition, and about the Bologna process, which is the transformation of European education.

Antonyan spent two days at an orientation at Kansas University, before arriving at Fresno State. "All

SEE **ANTONYAN** PAGE 6

Armenian Church Web Site Launched



The Cathedral of Ani

Photo: Richard Elbrecht

BARLOW DER MUGRDECHIAN
ADVISOR

Two years ago, Richard and Ann Elbrecht donated their archive of 157 photographs of Armenian churches on the historic Armenian homeland to the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.

Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program announced that the photographic exhibit, "Churches of Historic Armenia: A Legacy to the World," is now available on-line on the Armenian Studies Program mirror website at <http://armenianstudies2.csufresno.edu/research/churches/index.shtml>.

"This collection is an invaluable gift," said Der Mugrdechian, "It will make the Program the foremost archive of these historic

SEE **WEB SITE** PAGE 7

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

Cordially invites you to its

22ND ANNUAL BANQUET

featuring the United States premiere of the film

"WILLIAM SAROYAN'S WILL"

(A film on Saroyan's life, using rare archival footage and interviews)

The recipients of Armenian Studies Minors and Scholarships will be recognized.

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2010

Reception-5PM • Dinner-6PM
Fort Washington Golf & Country Club
10272 N. Millbrook • Fresno, California

\$50 per person • \$500 table of ten
\$25 Fresno State students

Please respond by Friday, March 12, 2010

Armenian Studies Program Book/Video/CD/Archival Gifts

Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian and the Armenian Studies Program would like to thank the donors, authors, and publishers for the following books, periodicals, videos, and archival gifts, either offered personally, or to the Program.

- History of Armenians in Adana**, CD (2009), donated by the National Association of Armenian Studies and Research. This is a comprehensive work of documentation from ancient times to the 20th century, up to and including the 1909 massacres, the Armenian Genocide during World War I, and the end of the Armenian presence in Adana in 1921.
- Karekin I: The Gift of Faith**, (London and New York: 2009), Iris Papazian,ed., Karekin I Theological and Armenological Studies Series. A tenth anniversary memorial volume dedicated to the life of His Holiness Karekin I. A gift of Elza and Haig Didizian, London.
- Krikor Kesusseyan**, Watertown, Massachusetts, for a gift of his book, *Prismakin Gouynere [Colors of the Prism]* (Boston, 2009). The book covers important Armenian writers and artists of the 20th century.
- Edvard Militonnyan**, Yerevan, Armenia, for the gift of his book, *Hayots' Arevakentron Knik'e* (Yerevan, 2008). In Armenian. A novel of contemporary Armenian life.
- Deacon Kevork Panoyan**, Pasadena, California, for the gift of his book, *Classification of Hymns of the Armenian Apostolic Church*, Volume I (Glendale, CA: USC Institute of Armenian Studies, Book Series 1, 2009). In Armenian. A study and musicological analysis of the *sharagans* of the Armenian Church. The origins and development of the *sharagan* form and the narratives contained therein are explored.
- Arkady Sargsyan**, Fresno, for the gift of his book, *Haykakan Hetk: Hetakhouzout'youn yev Hakahetakhouzout'youn* (Yerevan, 2005). In Armenian. The book presents biographical sketches of the most important Armenian figures working in the defense industry in the period of the former Soviet Union.
- Konrad Siekierski**, Yerevan, Armenia, for donating the following books: *Questions in Armenian Ethnography and Archaeology*, Volume II (Yerevan: Institute of Ethnography and Archaeology, 2003); Hranush Khratyan, *Life is Very Sad: Poverty in Armenia* (Yerevan: The "Hazarashen" Armenian Center for Ethnological Studies, 2007); *Gift From Heaven: Myth, Ritual, History: Studies in Honor of Sargis Harutyunyan on His 80th Birthday* (Yerevan: Institute Ethnography and Archaeology, 2007); *National Minorities of the Republic of Armenia in Transition, Volume II* (Yerevan, 2005); *The Republic of Armenia's National Minorities Today, Volume I* (Yerevan, 2000); *Religion and Society*, Volume 6 (February 2009); and *Religion and Society*, Volume 9 (December 2009).
- Dr. Abraham Terian**, Fresno, for the gift of his book, *Patriotism and Piety in Armenian Christianity* (New York: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2005). Terian discusses and analyzes the early literature in praise of St. Gregory the Illuminator.
- Martin M. Tourigian**, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, for the gift of a water color picture of St. Vartan Mamigonian.

Armenians on the Internet

PATEEL MEKHITARIAN-EDITOR

www.armenianvolunteer.org

The internet is a great place for Armenians to find opportunities to become involved in volunteer work. A wonderful website that provides such information is www.armenianvolunteer.org. This special site concentrates on exchanging ideas, values, and experiences between Armenians, who have been widely dispersed throughout the world, due to the Armenian Genocide.

The mission statement of AVC states "Volunteering is integral to the building of robust civil societies in Armenia and elsewhere. Each volunteer's service will enhance the empowerment of Armenia's citizens and the strengthening of its communities."

The Armenian Volunteer Corps (AVC) organizes volunteers who take part in research and programs in Yerevan and surrounding regions of Armenia. There are two types of internship and community service programs available through AVC; ongoing and featured opportunities. The ongoing opportunities are those that exist at any time throughout the year and usually geared towards a specialized project. An example of this type of volunteer program is Bridge of Hope. This program was established in 1996 to help children with disabilities and to aid their parents in leading their children to become positive members of society. The featured opportunities include other organizations that have contacted AVC and are currently seeking volunteers to work on specific projects, for designated periods of time.

The Armenian Volunteer Corps is an excellent way for Armenians to get involved in volunteer and internship programs, even if they are not living in Armenia. Through this organization one can contribute to the development of Armenia.

California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program

Fall 2010 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
General Education				
Arts & Humanities, Area C1				
• ArmS 20 Arts of Armenia (Class #73231)	3	9:30A-10:45A	TuTh	B Der Mugrdechian
Arts & Humanities, Area C2				
• Arm 1A Elementary Armenian (Class #72097)	4	10:30A-11:35A	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
• Hum 11 Hum Baroque/Mod (Class #72687)	3	9:30A-10:45A	TuTh	S La Porta
Arts & Humanities, Area IC				
• Arm 148 Masterp. Arm Culture (Class #73306)	3	10:00A-10:50A	MWF	S La Porta
• Arm 148 Masterp. Arm Culture (Class #75709)	3	1:00P-1:50P	MWF	S La Porta
Social Studies, Area D3				
• ArmS 10 Intro Arm Studies (Class #72098)	3	11:00A-11:50A	MWF	S La Porta
Upper Division Armenian Studies Courses				
• ArmS 108A Arm History I (Class #72099)	3	9:00A-9:50A	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian

For more information call the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669 or visit our offices in the Peters Business Building, Room 384. Get a Minor in Armenian Studies. Check on requirements for the Minor in Armenian Studies in the 2009-2010 catalog: <http://www.csufresno.edu/catoffice/current/armstudhd.html>

HYE SHARZHOOM

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Siekierski Speaks on “Folk Religiosity in Contemporary Armenia”

EVELYN DEMIRCHIAN
STAFF WRITER

On February 24, the Armenian Studies Program welcomed young graduate student and scholar Konrad Siekierski to Fresno State, to give a power-point presentation on the topic of “Folk Religiosity in Contemporary Armenia.”

Siekierski graduated with an M.A. in Ethnology from the Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology of the University of Warsaw, Poland. He has been doing research in Armenia for his Ph.D. thesis, examining the relations between religious and national identities.

In 2001 Siekierski visited Turkey, at the same time visiting Armenian churches and historical sites, such as Aghtamar, Van, and Ani. This inspired him to visit the Republic of Armenia and when deciding on a topic for his M.A., he proposed to study the contemporary religious situation in Armenia.

In 2004 Siekierski arrived in Armenia to begin the field-work for his degree and was later invited

to complete his Ph.D. with the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the National Academy of Sciences in Armenia, where he is working with Dr. Levon Abrahamian, his advisor, and Dr. Hranush Kharatian. Siekierski is fluent in English, Polish, Russian, and Armenian.

The lecture largely focused on the nature of folk religious practices and how people in Armenia are “preserving deeply-rooted traditions and customs.” Siekierski also argued that these practices were not static, but were dynamic, and were about change and invention. The field of study for folk religiosity is fairly large since it encompasses all the ways in which a group of people present or celebrate their beliefs in the superstitious, as well as in major faiths such as Christianity. Folk religiosity in Armenia is a combination of old folk practices, for example a belief in the “evil eye,” and Christianity.

Examples of these practices typically revolve around dreams people have of those who have died or the veneration of Armenian saints. In the dreams many are told to go look



Konrad Siekierski, left, with Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

for symbolic places and holy sites, to give sacrifices, or to build shrines.

One case in the 1980’s involved a man who was told in a dream by an Armenian saint to reveal a holy shrine, and in doing so the man would be rewarded. After following the advice of the Saint, the man became a grandfather and came into the possession of a lot of money.

Yet another case concerned a woman who dreamed of a girl in

white. The woman’s mother-in-law saw the same girl in her dreams, and both were told to venture to the Kazakh River with a shovel, walk until they dropped, and in that very spot to dig. Following those directions, the women ventured to the River and walked until they collapsed from exhaustion. The next morning they woke up, dug in the spot they had slept and found a *Khatchkar*, or cross stone. Other

Yerevan State Univ. Administrator Mnatsakanyan Visits Fresno State



Naira Mnatsakanyan was in Fresno in January. She was developing plans to implement an “American Studies” program at Yerevan State University.

STAFF REPORT

Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

The Armenian Studies Program hosted Ms. Naira Mnatsakanyan, Deputy Head of the International Relations Office of Yerevan State University (YSU), for a weeklong study trip, January 25-29. ASP Coordinator Barlow Der Mugrdechian commented that visits to the United States by YSU faculty and staff is important in maintaining a relationship between the two universities.

Mnatsakanyan visited Fresno State to gather information and materials relating to the establishment of an American Studies program at Yerevan State University. The initiative has been supported by the United States Embassy in Armenia, which has donated nearly 300 books to Yerevan State University.

The American Studies program is projected to open in Fall of 2010 and will attract students who are eager to learn more about the United States. After opening first for graduate students, it will then be broadened for undergraduate students as well.

While in Fresno Mnatsakanyan attended several classes including a class on American literature and a course on Political Science, which provided insight into some of the methodological techniques used in American classrooms. She observed a different classroom style, with students that are more engaged, and asked more questions, than a comparable classroom in Armenia.

Mnatsakanyan also visited the Henry Madden Library where she was able to consult books and journals on the subject. She commented on her visit to the Library saying, “It’s great.” She was impressed by the ease of obtaining and ordering books and by the technological opportunities, for example students may borrow a notebook computer while in the Library. Printers and scanners are also available for students and there are also student volunteers who assist other students.

Mnatsakanyan will conclude her visit to the United States with a visit to UCLA.

Varaz Samuelian Art Exhibit in Fresno City Hall- Opening Reception May 6 to Highlight Artist’s Work

HAZEL ANTARAMIAN-HOFMAN
STAFF WRITER

The Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State, in collaboration with the Fresno Arts Council, the City of Fresno, and the Armenian Museum, will host in the month of May a long awaited exhibition of Armenian-American artist, Varaz Samuelian. The work will be displayed on the second floor of City Hall.

A reception and opening of the exhibition will be held at 6:00PM in City Hall on ArtHop night, May 6, 2010.

Samuelian, who signed his work as “Varaz,” was a prolific painter-sculptor, who willed most of his paintings and sculptures to the Armenian Studies Program. Born in Armenia in 1917, Varaz, a German prisoner of war in World War II, immigrated to the United States in 1946, moving eventually to Fresno,

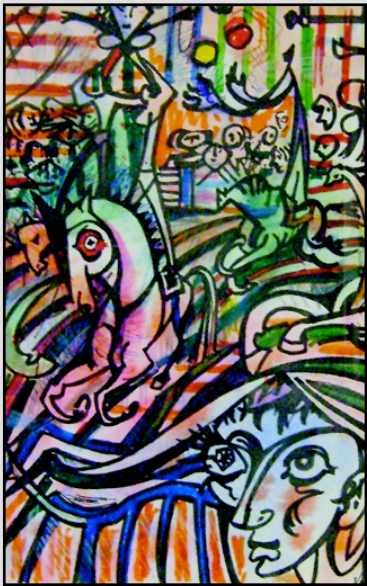


Photo: Hazel Antaramian-Hofman

One of Varaz’s circus series.

where he died in 1995. When Varaz spent time in Paris, he studied with such painters as Othon Friesz, André L’Hote and Fernand Léger. He held exhibitions in Paris, Nice, Marseilles, Barcelona, Mexico

City, and at several New York galleries, as well as exhibiting locally in Fresno.

Varaz’s oeuvre encompassed a wide range of media, including sculpture (bronze, stone), painting (oil, acrylic, watercolor), lithography, pen and ink, and pencil. The artist is well-known for his monumental bronze statue of legendary Armenian hero David of Sassoun, which stands in Fresno County Courthouse Park. Fresno’s renowned writer William Saroyan discovered Varaz’s *raison d’être* in his piece *Who is Varaz?*, when he wrote “Looking, listening, chatting, I thought, ‘This man is an artist. He lives art.’”

The City Hall exhibition will consist of known and available pieces of his circus-themed artwork. For more information on the exhibition, you may contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669.

2010 United States Census To Count Armenians

STAFF REPORT

385,488. Did you know that was the official count of Armenians in America according to the 2000 United States census?

Some recent estimates have put the number of Armenians in the United States at over 1,000,000, but the number that will count is that reported by the 2010 United States census.

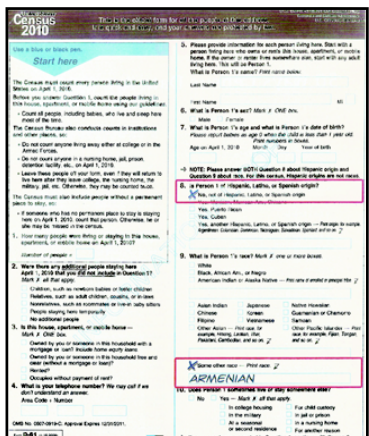
Census partnership specialist Anahit Tovmasyan was in Fresno, February 11-14, to reach out to Armenian organizations, businesses, and individuals. Her goal was to introduce to Armenians the importance of signing up as Armenians in the 2010 census and to increase the number of Armenians who sign up as Armenian.

The first United States census took place in 1790 to determine the number of seats each state would

have in the United States House of Representatives. The census was also created to gain a better understanding of where people lived and to establish patterns of settlement as the nation grew.

The 2010 United States census is right around the corner, with applications due to be sent out March 15-20. April 1 is the official census day, when the questionnaires are to be sent back.

Why is it important to participate in the census? There are many answers to this question, but among the most important reasons are: the numbers influence decision making at all levels of government, the numbers are critical in distributing over \$300 billion in federal funds and additional state funds to organizations based on the census, political power is also based on the census, and for publishing economic and statistical reports about



the United States and its people. Reapportionment of seats in the House of Representatives is still a prime objective of the census.

Make your voice be heard in Congress.

For more information about the census in general, go to 2010census.gov or contact Anahit Tovmasyan at anahit.tovmasyan@census.gov.

Armenian Students Organization Organizes Many Activities

ARMEN MELIDONIAN
STAFF WRITER

The Armenian Students Organization (ASO) began the Spring semester with several changes and plans for an extensive schedule of events. ASO held its first meeting on Wednesday, January 27, holding an election for an opening in the executive. With the graduation of last semester's President Hagop Ohanessian, the position became vacant and Faten Myaznih-Kassabian, who previously was Treasurer, was elected as the new President. Armen Melidonian joined the executive as the new Treasurer.



Photo: ASP Archive

Faten Myaznih-Kassabian

Myaznih-Kassabian is majoring in Nursing and pursuing a minor in Child Development and Vocal Performance. When asked about her new role as President, she said, "Becoming President has allowed me to be a stronger communicator. I enjoyed being treasurer, but I be-

lieve President is more of what I'd like to be."

Myaznih-Kassabian is aiming to make a difference in ASO. "I want to bring new ideas and plans for our club this semester! I have great confidence and faith in the executives, using their great minds and talents to help in making ASO the best it could be!" She hopes to recruit more members because "It is a wonderful club." Myaznih-Kassabian wants to be a part of a legacy and meet fellow Armenian students. "What better feeling can you have when you're surrounded by your heritage and culture? ASO has so many great events coming up and we want everyone to be a part of it," stated Myaznih-Kassabian.

New treasurer Armen Melidonian is working towards a major in Accountancy and minor in Armenian Studies. "I certainly feel more involved than in my previous semester here. Although last semester was my first semester in ASO, I feel comfortable in my role as Treasurer. I've already been quite involved before, and I feel at home as part of the executive," said Melidonian.



Armen Melidonian

Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdachian

Weekend Class Focuses on Armenia Today



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdachian

Dr. Kristine Antonyan, center, with students from Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdachian's Arm. Studies 120T-Armenia Today class.

ARMEN MELIDONIAN
STAFF WRITER

The Armenian Studies Program offered a course, Armenian Studies 120T-Armenia Today, which covered the history and development of the modern Republic of Armenia, on Friday, February 19 and Saturday, February 20. The course also covered Armenia in the early twentieth century and in the period of the Soviet Union. Events leading to Armenia's independence nearly two decades ago and the state of the nation today, including the issue of neighboring Nagorno-Karabagh Republic were also discussed. Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdachian taught the course, presenting photos and videos from

his frequent visits as well as his insight from first-hand experience witnessing economic, social, and political developments at various times of the Republic's modern existence.

Prof. Der Mugrdachian has visited Armenia more than twenty times, from his first visit in 1978 when Armenia was part of the Soviet Union, to his latest visit in fall of 2009. He outlined the history of Armenia in the period of 1988-1991, before its independence.

Dr. Kristine Antonyan, who is visiting Fresno State for the Spring 2010 semester as part of the Junior Faculty Development Program, was a guest lecturer for the course. She is a lecturer at the Faculty of Economics at Yerevan State Univer-

sity in Armenia, and has lived in Armenia her entire life. For the "Armenia Today" course, her presentation and discussion provided comprehensive insight into economic development in the modern Republic.

The Armenian people are an ancient people, whose history extends back several millennia, involving periods of self-rule and foreign domination. However the modern Republic of Armenia was established only recently and its history is intertwined with the legacy of this past century's global superpowers.

The history of the modern Republic of Armenia can be divided into several periods. Eastern Armenia had existed as part of the Russian Empire from 1828 until 1918, when the first Republic was formed. Many Western Armenian survivors of the Genocide had entered Eastern Armenia as refugees. This first independent Republic lasted until November 29, 1920, when the Russian communists took over and eventually the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic was formed. Karabagh during this period was administratively put under the Azerbaijan Socialist Republic.

From 1920 to 1930, communism had begun to be imposed on Armenia. It was the Armenian peasant class that was most affected by the new and alien ideology. Stalin's strict regime was in power from 1930 to 1953, making communist



ASO members enjoy a night ice skating.

Photo: ASP Archive

of varying length will be shown. Two local fundraisers will be organized for March: one at Me-n-Ed's Pizzeria on March 24 and one at Panda Express in early April.

This year marks the 95th anni-

versary of the Armenian Genocide and ASO is doing its part in organizing commemorative activities. The members are actively helping raise awareness of the Genocide on campus. The Armenian Genocide Week Committee is preparing activities for April 24th week on campus, to promote public lectures by guest speakers Dr. Bedros Der Matossian, Dr. Levon Marashlian, Michael Bobelian, and Dr. Abraham Terian. ASO is planning a commemorative event with a variety of speeches and songs to commemorate the Genocide and to raise campus awareness of the Genocide. The activities will take place at the Free Speech area on Friday, April 23 from noon to 1PM.

New members are encouraged to join and the involvement of existing members is greatly appreciated. The ASO executives plan to make involvement in the organization enjoyable, worthwhile, and fun.



Dr. Sergio La Porta, second from left, joins ASO members at the Gateway Ice Center, February 12.

Photo: ASP Archive

ASO Fundraiser at Me-n-Ed's Pizzeria on Wednesday, March 24

PIZZA NIGHT FUNDRAISER
ME-N-ED'S IS PLEASED TO HOST A
PIZZA NIGHT FUNDRAISER
FOR

Armenian Students Organization

WHEN: Wednesday, March 24, 2010

WHERE: 5776 N First, Fresno
(Cross Streets: First & Bullard)

TIME: 5:00pm — 9:00pm

PLEASE NOTE: FLYERS CANNOT BE HANDED OUT AT OR NEAR THE PIZZERIA ON THE NIGHT OF THE EVENT. DOING SO WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE CANCELLATION OF THE EVENT.

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ideology's influence much more pervasive and controlling. In these early periods under Soviet rule, the teaching of religion was banned and most Armenian churches were inactive, with the exception of Etchmiadzin. From 1953 to 1988,

Soviet policy was more relaxed, and Armenian life in this period was markedly better overall.

Beginning in 1987, in the Gorbachev era, open criticism was

San Joaquin Valley Armenian Community Marks Vartanantz

EVELYN DEMIRCHIAN
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday, February 11, Armenian community members gathered at Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church to honor *Vartanantz*, in commemoration of the Battle of Avarayr on June 2, 451. On that day, the Christian Armenians of the Sassanid Persian Empire took arms against their Persian aggressors and the Armenian leader General Vartan Mamigonian became a symbol of religious freedom. The traditional day of commemoration by the Church is the Thursday evening before the beginning of Lent.

The Knights and Daughters of Vartan Yeprad Tahlij and Alidz Otyag and Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church sponsored the event, with the participation of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church, St. Paul Armenian Church, Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church, and St. Gregory Armenian Church of Fowler. Each year the site of the commemoration rotates and is hosted by one of these local churches.

The evening's events began with a moving celebration of the Divine Liturgy and prayers for the Armenian martyrs. The Liturgy was cel-



Children of the Keyan Armenian School performing in the Holy Trinity Church Hall after services.

Photo: Alain Ekmalian

ebrated by parish priest Fr. Vahan Gosdanian, who also gave the homily in Armenian, with an English homily by Rev. Ara Guekguezian, pastor of Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church.

In a moving conclusion to the service, Rev. Guekguezian reaffirmed the resilience of faith against the changes that time brings, proclaiming that "empires come and empires go," but that the relationship of Armenians to God has been, and will continue to remain, steadfast.

Following the services, students from the Keyan Armenian Community School of Fresno presented a tableau from the period in the

Church hall. The children were dressed as Armenians of the fifth century and recited poems and sang hymns of the period.

A brief history of events shows that the Armenian people, led by Vartan Mamigonian and by the Armenian Church, stood to lose everything by defending their religious beliefs.

Armenia was partitioned between two superpowers, the Byzantine Empire and the Sassanid Persian Empire, and the Armenian lands were persistently fought over by them.

In 450 A.D. King Yazdigerd of Persia attempted to forcefully convert the Christian Armenians to

Zoroastrianism, to the worship of the Persian sun god Mazda, and went as far as to hold the *nakharars* (princes) hostage until they submitted. A few of the families converted, but most remained steadfast. By the spring of 451 peace talks broke down and the Persians attempted to cut off Armenia from her allies and to impose their religion over the entire land.

In the summer of 451 General Vartan, having rallied his fellow Armenians around the Church, led an army of 66,000 to the banks of the Dghmoud River, on the eve of the Feast of the Pentecost. Standing up against the powerful Persian

army, estimated to number between 100,000 and 200,000 strong, the vastly outnumbered Armenians fought to the death. By the end of the battle 1,000-plus Armenian warriors had died, including General Vartan.

General Vartan, who was sainted by the Armenian Church and hailed as an Armenian national hero, today stands as a symbol of the struggles Armenians have had in keeping their religious beliefs.

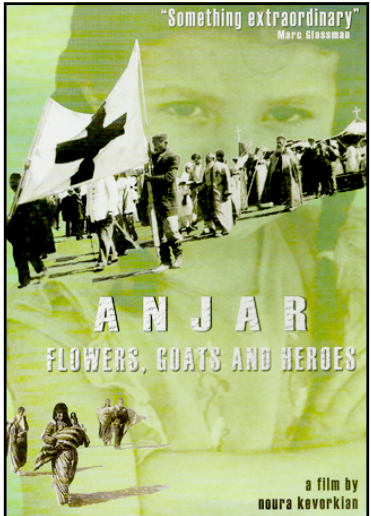
Christianity is a vital piece of the Armenian identity, and during the past 1,700 years has proven critical for the resilience the Armenian people.



Photo: Alain Ekmalian

Children from the Keyan Armenian Community School of Fresno dressed as soldiers from the Vartanantz battle.

Eleventh Annual Armenian Film Festival Presents Diverse Films



Canadian film-maker Noura Kevorkian's *Anjar: Flowers, Goats, and Heroes* was a popular film at the Festival.

EVELYN DEMIRCHIAN
STAFF WRITER

Films showcased at this year's 11th Annual Armenian Film Festival held Friday, February 26, ranged in form with entries from animated shorts to lengthier documentaries. International directors sent in their works and of the films shown, several struck an emotional chord as they hit at the heart of what the Armenian community will be remembering and recognizing next month with Armenian Genocide Awareness Week in April.

The Film Festival is sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization at Fresno State, with partial financial support provided by the Diversity Awareness Program of the University Student Union and was held on the Fresno State campus.

Hove (the Wind) by Alex Webb, is a very short film but had serious subject matter. Clocking in at nine minutes, this beautifully shot tale involves two women and their se-

crets; one an older store owner with a dark book and tragic past, and the other a younger woman recently struck by tragedy.

The younger woman, Nina, lost her child but the audience never finds out why. Nina catches the bookstore owner, Zara, glancing through a book emblazoned with a swastika on the cover. Zara refuses to show Nina the book, fearing that the matter contained within its pages is too painful for Nina to see, due to her recent tragic loss. Zara goes to find a trinket she had been given by a surviving relative of hers from the Armenian Genocide who had lost nearly all her children, and as she comes back Nina leaves, going to look for the Nazi book herself.

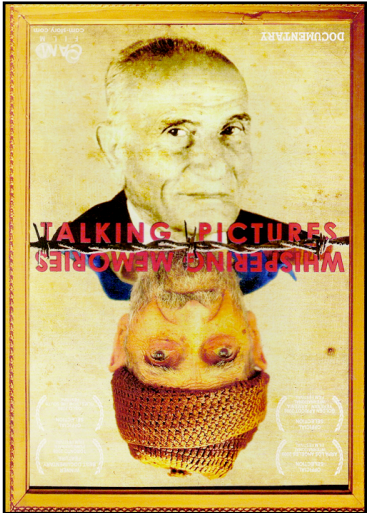
What young Nina finds in the book, a gathering of blueprints for the Nazis, ties together Zara's family history and the special trinket to the book in something larger and darker. It reveals a startling connection between the tragedies experienced by Armenians in 1915 being a direct influence upon the Holocaust some 30 years later.

The technical aspects of the film are also worth noting. The dialogue and soundtrack are kept very minimal; the few words said between the women are enough to express the gravity of their stories. An exceptional storyteller, Webb has received many honors for *Hove*, including an Honorable Mention for Best Short at the Pomegranate Film Festival in Toronto back in September 2009.

Another film that has gained plenty of attention is *Anjar: Flowers, Goats and Heroes*, by director and photographer Noura Kevorkian. A stunning portrait of the Armenian village of Anjar in the Bekka Valley of Lebanon, Kevorkian tells her story with recreations of her memory from living

in Anjar as a young child in the 1970's. In 2001, Noura's mother wrote to her that one of the village elders, Sarik Nene, had passed away, prompting Kevorkian to pay a visit to Anjar.

Mixed with older photos, live reels from her home video camera, and historical documents, Kevorkian's film takes us along to Anjar, and focuses on her childhood and specifically the summers when her mother would take her to the village elders to listen to their stories, which range from dreams to light-hearted anecdotes. Soon though, the Lebanese Civil War would break out, and many Armenians from Beirut fled to Anjar for safety.



Several films from Turkey were received, including Mehmet Binay's *Talking Pictures*.

During this time, the stories become darker, and young Noura comes to find out about the elders' experiences in World War I, the Turkish government's harsh treatment, and ultimate decision to wipe out the Armenians from their lands. The stories of the Genocide came to light for young Kevorkian, and she comes to find out that the early

settlers of Anjar were refugees from Musa Dag.

Musa Dag is a heroic story, as the six Armenian villages were destroyed or evacuated by the Turks, but those who survived by escaping to the mountains were able to withstand the Turkish soldiers until French military ships came to their rescue. Placed at first in a refugee camp in Port Said, Egypt, the survivors were sent by the French and Lebanese government to establish their own village in the Bekka Valley.

A moving tribute to those survivors, *Anjar* is a well-paced narrative of discovery and appreciation. It has also been showcased in several festivals, including the ARPA International Film Festival in 2009. The film is eighty-four minutes long, and narrated by Kevorkian in English.

Cutting to a lighter film is *Dress Story*. An animated short, and only five minutes in length, *Dress Story* is the tale of a He-Dress and She-Dress who are happily married until the He-Dress cheats on his wife with a Waitress. The two adulterous characters then poison the poor She-Dress and toss her into a garbage bin.

The characters don't have bodies; they are instead 3-D animated outlines of clothing with invisible body forms. It leaves to the imagination what the characters really look like, and it is an amusing new animated form that differs from traditional visuals.

The two remaining documentaries, *Talking Pictures* by Mehmet Binay, and *Komitas Hairig* by Baron Maronian, were both short films. *Talking Pictures* focuses on the aftermath of Mehmet Binay's main film *Whispering Memories*, which dealt with Armenian Christians who had converted to Islam

and had become "Turkified" after the Genocide. *Talking Pictures* finds Binay getting an email from a man named Ghazaros Kerjilian, whose father came from the village of Geben, where *Whispering Memories* was documented. Ghazaros and Mehmet traveled back to Geben with Ghazaros's niece to meet the people of his father's hometown. Those who inhabit the village welcomed them warmly, and relayed to their new friends the troubles they have when they reveal their Armenian ancestry to the Turkish citizens they live with. It is easier for them to not recognize their own past, seeing as it brings conflict and creates anxieties among the groups.

A moving portrait of a beautiful old village, Binay creates a lovely visual with all stop motion and pictures. It is Binay who also has Armenian roots in Turkey, so this project is a personal one as well.

Komitas Hairig on the other end focuses its lens on the Armenians in Turkey during the Genocide, and specifically upon Komitas Vardapet, an important figure in Armenian culture, who was a classically trained musician and priest who is hailed today as a martyr. He went mad after witnessing the atrocities of the 1915 Genocide and spent his final years in a clinic in Paris before passing away in 1935.

This documentary contains interviews about Komitas and the history of the treatment of the Armenian priest from Very Rev. Fr. Nareg Berberian and Dr. Richard Hovanissian. The documentary was an interesting historical addition to the Film Festival, with its clear telling of the life of Komitas Hairig.

Overall, the films chosen for this year's Festival all touched upon similar themes of loss and survival and most of all, hope.

ANTONYAN, FROM PAGE 1

the participants are very vigorous, young, and motivated faculty members in their universities. I am glad I had a chance to get acquainted with them and gain new good friends. I felt very happy to be selected,” said Antonyan.

Antonyan was placed at Fresno State through her contact with Armenian Studies Program Director Barlow Der Mugrdechian, who conducted a Faculty Development Program at Yerevan State University, from 1999-2004. She had become familiar with some faculty who visited Armenia and she considered Fresno State her ideal university for placement.

Antonyan, who is 29 years old, graduated from Yerevan State University with a specialty in Economics. Two years ago, her interest in economics led her to pursue her Ph.D. from the same university. Antonyan’s interest in improving the quality of Armenia’s educational system is based on several factors: growing up in an family of teachers, being a young scholar herself, and having a young child who attends school in Yerevan.

“I will have a chance to realize my goal, to see what things are like in the United States, and to make new connections. I plan to learn a lot and implement what I have learned in my courses and in my research,” said Antonyan.

Antonyan further described why she wants to contribute to the educational system in Armenia and why the need for development came into effect. She commented that Armenia didn’t always have a need to

improve its educational system, but the collapse of the Soviet Union meant a financial disaster for the educational system. Armenia was in a struggle to find a way to save what remained of its educational system.

Antonyan plans to sit in on various undergraduate and graduate courses in her field of study, and to learn new ways to apply that knowledge. She has also taken an interest in the field of educational leadership, which will allow her to use those skills to help enhance Armenia’s educational system.

The first thing that Antonyan liked as she stepped onto the Fresno State campus was the friendly educational atmosphere. She also enjoyed the fact that students are allowed to choose their own courses. Students are given flexibility and freedom to choose their own educational path—something she hopes Armenia can develop and implement in their system.

Along with attending courses and giving lectures, Antonyan also is working on writing a textbook on *State Regulation of Economy* that she hopes to publish soon. She also hopes to write an article dealing with the differences in the educational system between the United States and Armenia.

Antonyan’s involvement with the JFDP program, and more specifically with Fresno State, not only provide her with a glimpse of how international educational systems differ, but also allows her to interact with other faculty members from whom she can learn different teaching styles.

“This program provides for pro-

Dr. Terian Gives Talk on Armenian Identity and the Genocide-First Lecture in Three Part Series

TAMAR KARKAZIAN
STAFF WRITER

Armenian identity and the Genocide—we don’t expect to hear topics like this until April, when we, as a community, come together to commemorate the Armenian Genocide. However, this was the topic of discussion on Wednesday evening, February 17. Dr. Abraham Terian, the eighth Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies at Fresno State gave his first lecture, “Armenian Identity and the Genocide,” in a series of three lectures under the general title of “In the Darkness of Genocide.” The goal of these lectures is to bring both awareness and inspiration to listeners.

The Armenian Studies Program hosted a reception in the Gottschalks Gallery of the University Business Center before the lecture. As guests arrived, they were greeted with a buzz of excitement and anticipation. A beautiful table filled with food was the centerpiece for the reception.

“I look forward to hearing what Dr. Terian has to say,” said Faten Miyaznih, President of the Armenian Students Organization, “It seems like it will be an interesting topic.” There was a diverse audience of Fresno State students, faculty, and community members present.

Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Coordinator of the Armenian Stud-

ies Program, introduced Dr. Terian, who began the lecture by discussing how the Armenian national/ethnic identity is closely tied to Christian religious identity. He went on to underscore the uniqueness of Armenian Christianity and to show continuity between the Armenian faith and the Genocide.

Dr. Terian stated that Armenians in general blend Armenian identity with their Christian identity. The first piece of literary evidence he discussed was Koriun’s *Life of Mashtots* the first book ever written by an Armenian. Dr. Terian explained how since *Life of Mashtots*, “the Armenian identity was set in stone.” He continued on to explain that 99% of Armenian manuscripts were religious, and that we know of only a small percentage of those works. Dr. Terian elaborated by drawing an analogy, saying that “The published work is a tip of a pencil and the amount of literature unknown to us is the rest of the pencil.”

The motivation for the development of an Armenian alphabet also has to do with religion. Mesrop Mashtots’s motivation for creating an Armenian alphabet was to translate the Bible. In 406 A.D. Mashtots and a group of early writers translated the Bible, at first from a Syriac manuscript and then later from Greek manuscripts.

Armenian history is closely tied to its Christian identity. Many battles were fought to keep the faith, such as the Battle of Avarayr in

Judge Debra Kazanjian Featured Speaker Feb. 25

TAMAR KARKAZIAN
STAFF WRITER

Think back to the fall of 2000, around election time. Try to remember the large pieces of cardboard placed in lawns and street corners, in bright reds and deep blues. Do any names stick out from those elections? One should. Debra Kazanjian. She ran and was elected as a Judge of the Superior Court, County of Fresno, Office 3. Judge Kazanjian was invited to Fresno State to speak to students and members of the community on Thursday, February 25, as part of the College of Arts and Humanities Lecture Series, featuring distinguished Alumni. She is a highly respected member of the community and has numerous honors.

For Debra Kazanjian, becoming a lawyer and later a judge was not something she had dreamed of since childhood. The mentoring of her Forensics teacher at Fresno High School and later her communication professors at Fresno State encouraged her to pursue a law degree. Like many students, she was eager to get out of Fresno, but being a daughter of Armenian parents

fessional development and the opportunity to gain additional resources to help in her field,” said Armenian Studies Director and Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian, “In coming to Fresno State, she is also able to interact with the Armenian community and the Armenian Studies Program.”

Antonyan has proven to be an



Photo: Armenian Studies Archives

Judge Debra Kazanjian

she said, “that really wasn’t an option.” In retrospect staying at Fresno State “was the best thing that could have happened.” She graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Speech Communication, with a minor in English.

While at Fresno State Kazanjian actively participated in speech tournaments and debates. She felt that her involvement in these activities made all the difference in her education. Ms. Kazanjian learned many things from her participation that later helped her in her political

ideal candidate for the Fulbright Program with her desire to learn and to implement changes. Her passion for education will allow her to grasp the important educational developments at Fresno State and make her classroom an advanced educational environment for her students. She will return to Yerevan in May of this year.

career. One such lesson was learning how to regroup, which helped her in her campaigns, and allowed her to be quick on her feet. The greatest lesson she learned, however was to “bear down and finish with integrity.” Her involvement with the team also made her experience at Fresno State all the better. She felt that the professors really cared about her and her classmates.

After graduating from Fresno State in 1974, she moved to Sacramento to attend law school. Even before completing her degree she had court experience. Because of her involvement at a Family Law Clinic, she was able to work a trial as a student. Her involvement in that case helped her decide to enter into family law, which deals with divorce and custody issues.

Upon graduation from law school, Judge Kazanjian returned to Fresno and opened her own practice, working as a private attorney for nineteen years before being elected. In 1996 she ran for Judge, but lost. When the opportunity arose during the 2000 elections, she decided to give it another try. “I didn’t want to always wonder if I could have made it,” explained Kazanjian. With the encouragement of her colleagues and even the retiring judge, she ran and was elected as a Superior Court judge for Fresno. She is currently assigned to the Probate Court.

She is a past president of the Fresno County Planning Commission, Fresno State Alumni Association, and Fresno County Young Lawyers Association.

TERIAN, FROM PAGE 1

centenary of the most tragic event in Armenian history draws closer. His first lecture was on February 17, with subsequent lectures on March 11, and April 29.

Dr. Terian was chosen as the Kazan Visiting Professor because of his extensive knowledge of Armenian literature. His favorite author is the 10th century poet, Naregatsi. “He is the greatest author of all time because of his deep thoughts, imagery, and use of language,” said Dr. Terian. Although Naregatsi is his favorite author, he feels that all Armenians should read the *Life Of Mashtots* by the fifth century author Koriun, because “It’s the starting point of everything Armenian.”

After “retiring” last year Dr. Terian and his wife Dr. Sara Kärkkäinen Terian moved to Fresno. Several factors led to their decision to move here. One was to be closer to their family, mainly their two daughters. The second was for the community, both for the Armenian community and the university-town feel. “It also reminds me of the Holy Land,” remarked Terian.

Dr. Terian has taught a variety of classes: Archaeology, Jewish Philosophy, Greek, and Ancient History. However this is the first time he is teaching an Armenian Literature and Genocide class. He hopes that his students increase their awareness of the Genocide and become familiar with modern Armenian literature. Although most of his former classes were taught at a graduate level, he enjoys working with undergraduates. “They make

me feel young,” he explains.

Born in Jaffa, Israel Dr. Terian came to the United States to study archeology. He grew up in the Armenian quarter in Jerusalem and was a tour guide in the Holy Land as a young adult. He credits that experience as the reason he can lecture without notes. Throughout his life he has learned five ancient languages and translated numerous works.

It wasn’t until Dr. Terian was working on his doctorate that he decided he wanted to study Classical Armenian and work on translations. “I was in a seminar when I learned that a fourth of Philo of Alexandria’s work survives in Armenian only,” revealed Dr. Terian. He soon realized that it was a wise investment. “Classical Armenian,” he explained “ties in with everything else.” For his doctoral studies he went to the University of Basel, in Switzerland, focusing on theology and the origins of Christianity.

Dr. Terian received his undergraduate degree in History and Biblical languages. He was a professor at Andrews University and later became Academic Dean and professor at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in New York. He remained at St. Nersess from 1997 until his retirement in 2008.

Dr. Terian is the author of many articles and books, including *Patriotism and Piety in the Armenian Christianity* (Crestwood, NY, 2005) (*The Armenian Gospel of the Infancy* (Oxford, 2008) and *Macarius of Jerusalem: Letter to the Armenians* (Crestwood, NY, 2008).



Dr. Abraham Terian

Photo: Erica Magarian

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L. to R.: Andreas Werz, pianist Vahan Mardirossian, Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, and cellist Alexander Chaushian.

Photo: Erica Magarian

CONCERT, FROM PAGE 1

more chamber music be schedule in future seasons.

Vahan Mardirossian was born in Yerevan, Armenia and moved to France in 2003, where he currently lives. He has studied at the Paris Conservatoire with Jacques Rouvier and graduated with honorable distinction after being awarded the First Prize as a pianist. He was also awarded the Chamber Music Prize and the Conservatoire’s highest diploma, which allowed him to continue on to postgraduate studies.

Mardirossian’s solo recordings include music by Bach, Handel, Schubert, and Brahms. His recordings broadcast regularly in Europe and America. At the young age of 15, Mardirossian was appointed Principal Conductor and Musical Director of the Youth Chamber Orchestra by the Youth Culture Center of Armenia. Starting in September 2010, Vahan Mardirossian will serve as the Principal Conductor of the Caen Orchestra of France.

Alexander Chaushian is consid-

ered to be one of the finest cellists of the younger generation. Having performed throughout the world as a soloist, he has taken part in numerous, prestigious performances. Born to a family of musicians, he started playing the cello at the young age of seven. He began his musical studies with his grandfathers, Alexander Chaushian Sr. and Zare Sarkisian. He later continued his education and pursued advanced studies at the Hochschule fur Musik Hanns Eisler in Berlin with the late Boris Pergamenschikow and later with Davis Geringas. He completed his studies by graduating with honorable distinction in 2005.

This talented cellist has made special appearances at the Vienna Chamber Orchestra at Vienna’s Konzerthaus and at the Brucknerhaus in Linz, as well as the London Mozart Player and the Philharmonia Orchestra in London. Chaushian has given recitals across the world. He is currently busy organizing a concerto project with the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra.

ASP Website Quarterly Statistics

<http://armenianstudies.csufresno.edu>
November 30, 2009-Febraury 27, 2010

Total: 898,901 hits average 9,987.79 hits per day
Visitors-47,035

Most visited part of the site: Arts of Armenia and Hye Sharzhoom

Geographic Locations (countries from where hits come from)

Country	percentage
1. United States	60.7
2. France	5.1
3. Russian Federation	3.6
4. Armenia	3.3
5. Canada	2.7
6. Germany	2.0
7. United Kingdom	2.0
8. Italy	1.6
9. Poland	1.6
10. Turkey	1.6

WEB SITE, FROM PAGE 1

churches anywhere in the world. Placing them on the website makes them accessible to everyone on the Internet.”

Prof. Der Mugrdechian coordinated the process that culminated with putting the photos on-line. Michael Emo of Emo Creative was the project director for designing and implementing the new web site. Campus photographer Randy Vaughn-Dotta assisted in the project with his valuable advice and by organizing the digitalization of the photographs. The Elbrecht’s provided financial support to help complete the project, completing their dream of sharing their photographs with the world.

A 1987 vacation to Turkey was the beginning of a twenty-year odyssey that took Richard and Anne Elbrecht on what became a passion – photographing and documenting Armenian churches in the historic homeland of the Armenian people.

As an outcome of their visits with Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, then Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies and Director of the Armenian Studies Program, they decided to donate their archive to the Armenian Studies Program.

The Elbrechts’ first trip to Turkey included not only the obligatory sights, but also a chance visit to the magnificent Church of the Holy Cross on Aght’amar Island in Lake Van. Built in the tenth century by an Armenian King Gagik Ardzruni, the church is an architectural marvel, its exterior walls covered with intricate carvings of scenes from the Bible and Armenian history. Several hundred miles

Karabagh region, while the Karabagh Committee in Armenia supported Karabagh’s autonomy. The Karabagh War lasted from 1988 to 1994, with the issue of recognition still unresolved.

Armenia officially became an independent Republic once again on September 21, 1991, and since then Armenia has continued to deal with societal issues, a delicate foreign policy situation, and economic problems.

Students were assigned to do introductory research and write analysis papers on current issues facing Armenia. With such complex issues and foreign relations inherited from the Soviet Union, a great deal of modern Armenia’s history was taught, presented, and discussed during this educational course.

WEEKEND COURSE, FROM PAGE 4

allowed of problems that arose due to communist policy. After the Armenian earthquake of 1988, there were protests over the inadequate construction practices in Leninakan (Gyumri) and Spitak, due to corruption and lack of oversight by Soviet officials. This contributed to the death toll of over 100,000. The Soviet Union initially assisted in the rebuilding effort, but when the Union collapsed, the reconstruction efforts froze.

The Soviet Union’s decline led to conflicts over national borders between Armenia and Azerbaijan, as the Armenians of Karabagh sought freedom from Azerbaijani rule. An independent Azerbaijan emerged with Soviet-era claims over the Armenian-populated



Church of the Holy Cross

Island of Aghtamar

Built 915-921 AD

Photo: Richard Elbrecht

north of Aght’amar, the Elbrechts visited the medieval Armenian city of Ani, with its world famous cathedral and numerous churches, all in a state of ruin due to recurring earthquakes and human neglect. Since then, they have visited and photographed churches in Kars, Mren, Dogubayazit, Van, Moks, Diyarbakir, Urfa, Tarsus, Sis, Kayseri, Kharpert, Malatya, Merzifon, Shabin Karahisar, Gireson, Trabzon, and the Oltu-Penek Valley.

Asked why they have devoted so much of their lives to this project, the Elbrechts explained: “The photographs give meaning to historical accounts, and promote a deeper understanding of the elusive and plaintive history of an extraordinary people and their relationships with the people around them.” The photographs interest people of all ages, including children who ask when and why the churches were built, scholars of art, architecture, and religion, who can see details of church design and decoration not readily available, and Armenians

who treasure the images of their historical roots.

The presence of the Armenian Church tells the story of the three thousand years of Armenian presence in the lands where Armenian Christianity took root far more accurately and persuasively than might be told by words. “It is imperative that the government of Turkey with active support from the world allow properly-trained specialists to restore and maintain these monuments – which are indeed Treasures of the World – before they disappear forever.”

Richard Elbrecht passed away in May of 2008. He was a graduate of Yale University and the University of Michigan School of Law. He is survived by his wife Anne Elizabeth Elbrecht, a graduate of Wheaton College, University of California Berkeley School of Library Studies, and McGeorge School of Law.

The Armenian Studies Program is grateful to the Elbrechts for their efforts to preserve the legacy of the Armenian people.

Armenian Studies Program 95th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide

Friday, April 16 • 7:30 PM

Dr. Bedross Der Matossian, MIT

“THE TABOO WITHIN THE TABOO: THE FATE OF THE ‘ARMENIAN CAPITAL’ IN THE END OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE”

One of the marginalized topics in the historiography of the Ottoman Empire in general and that of the Armenian Genocide in particular is the fate of the “Armenian economy” during World War I. Der Matossian examines or questions the fate of the “Armenian capital” in the Empire.

and



Dr. Levon Marashlian, Glendale College

“PROBLEMS WITH DENIAL AND DENYING WITH THE ARMENIAN-TURKISH PROTOCOLS”

The interrelationship between Turkey’s problems with denying the Armenian Genocide and Turkey’s motivations for negotiating the Armenian-Turkish Protocols is the focus of this lecture.

University Business Center, A. Peters Auditorium, Rm. 191, Fresno State.

Free Admission. Parking restrictions are relaxed in UBC Lot after 7:00PM.

Wednesday, April 21 • 7:30 PM

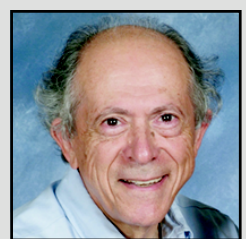
Michael Bobelian, Free-Lance Writer

“THE STRUGGLE FOR ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RECOGNITION IN THE UNITED STATES”

Despite the growing literature on the Armenian Genocide in recent decades, little has been written about the post-Genocide history of the Armenians or their decades-long struggle for justice in the face of Turkish denial of this atrocity. This lecture fills that gap by closely analyzing this period through the use of previously untapped archives and Freedom of Information Requests

University Business Center, A. Peters Auditorium, Rm. 191, Fresno State.

Free Admission. Parking restrictions are relaxed in UBC Lot after 7:00PM.



Thursday, April 29 • 7:30 PM

Dr. Abraham Terian, Kazan Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies

“THE LESS-KNOWN VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE”

Following a brief introduction to the less-known martyred writers of the 1915 Armenian Genocide, this lecture dwells on the seldom-mentioned victims of the annihilating policy, including those who ceased to be productive after being tortured and those who converted to Islam so as to survive. The lecture explicates the consequences of its loss for the Armenian Church and people, and concludes with a justifiable view that perceives today’s Armenians as victims of the Genocide.

University Business Center, A. Peters Auditorium, Rm. 191, Fresno State.

Free Admission. Parking restrictions are relaxed in UBC Lot after 7:00PM.



Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization

**Campus commemoration of the
95th Anniversary
of the Armenian Genocide**

Friday, April 23

Noon

Free Speech Area • Fresno State

Main Speaker:

Fresno City Councilman

Andreas Borgeas

**The Armenian Students Organization is
seeking photos of Genocide survivors**

Please send photos by email, as a digital file. Include the sender’s full name, and the full name of your loved one. Also, please give a brief description of their Genocide experience.

Deadline is Monday, April 12

Please send photos and information to:

Faten Myaznih-Kassabian:
myazournajankas@yahoo.com
or

Vartush Mesropyan: vart55@csufresno.edu



The Armenian Students Organization Genocide Committee is planning events and activities in commemoration of the 95th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. They meet every two weeks in the Peters Business Building, Room 390.

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