

Armenian Studies Program
Book/Video/CD Archival Gifts

Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Prof. Sergio La Porta, 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.

His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of Cilicia, for the gift of his new book, *Saint Nerses the Gracious and Church Unity: Armeno-Greek Church Relations (1165-1173)*, (Antelias, Lebanon: Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia, 2010). The book is dedicated in memory of His Holiness Khoren I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia (1963-1983).

Hal & Sandy Avakian, Fresno, California, for the books, *A History of Armenian Christianity* by Leon Arpee (Princeton, NJ: Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc., 1946), *Highlights of Armenian History and Its Civilization*, by H. B. Boghosian (1957), and *Turkey and the Armenian Atrocities*, by Rev. Edwin Bliss (Edgewood Publishing Company, 1896).

Dr. Vahe Baladouni, Falls Church, Virginia, for the gift of his books, *For the House of Torkom* (2 copies), *Armenian Merchants of the Seventeenth and Early Eighteenth Centuries*, and *Translation: Poetry & Prose* (2 copies) (Beirut, 1973).

Kajak Balekjian, Silver Spring, Maryland, for the gift of his book, *Language & Eternal Word: Indo-European and The Armenic Cradle of Man*, 2010.

Anais Barsoumian, Billerica, Massachusetts, for a gift of the book, *The Armenian Amira Class of Istanbul* (Yerevan, Armenia: American University of Armenia, 2007), written by her late husband Hagop L. Barsoumian. The text of the book is the revised version of Hagop Barsoumian’s Ph.D. thesis, prepared for Columbia University in 1979, under the direction of Nina Garsoian.

Elza & Haig Didizian, London, England, for a gift of the book, *The Soil, The Man, and Literature*, Vol. 10, in the series by His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians (1995-1999).

Laura Gazarian, Paoli, Indiana, for the gift of seventeen books in Armenian from the collection of her late father **Mentor Robert Gazarian**. She also donated a large framed painting of the 1894 battle of Sassoun.

Barbara Ghazarian, Monterey, California, for the gift of her cookbook, *Simply Quince* (Canada: Mayreni Publishing, 2009). The cookbook is devoted to recipes made from quince.

Dr. J. Michael Hagopian, Thousand Oaks, CA, for the gift of his latest movie on DVD, *The River Ran Red*.

Shahen Khachaturian, Yerevan, Armenia, for the gift of his book, *The Color of Pain: The Reflections of the Armenian Genocide in Armenian Painting* (207pp., in Armenian), (Yerevan, 2010). The book is dedicated to the 95th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The book is illustrated with paintings of the many artists who utilize the theme of Genocide.

Col. Carl K. Mahakian, Palm Desert, California, for the book, *Year of the Tiger* (Times Book International, 1953).

Dr. Harutyun Marutyan, Yerevan, Armenia, for a gift of his book, *Iconography of Armenian Identity The Memory of Genocide and the Karabagh Movement* (Yerevan, Armenia: “Gitutyun” Publishing House of NAS RA, 2009). This handsome 415 page book, in English, traces the shift of identity among Armenians from victimhood to strength and resilience. The role played by the Armenian Genocide during the period of 1988-1990 is the focus of this work.

Rev. Fr. Sipan Mekhsian, Burbank, California, for a gift of four books.

Kerop S. Nalbandian, Fresno, CA, for the gift of the book, *Jewels of Armenian Literature* (Boston, MA: Hayrenik, 1916).

An Overview of the Educational Activities of the Mekhitarists of Vienna, by Rev. Fr. Yeprem Boghossian, 3 volumes (Istanbul: *Jamanak*, 2008). With introduction in Armenia, English, French, German, and Turkish.

Martin Tourigian, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, for the gift of his two water-color paintings.

Randy Vaughn-Dotta, Fresno, CA for a gift of the book, *Diaspora: Homelands In Exile* (New York, NY, 2003).

California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program
Spring 2011 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
General Education				
Arts & Humanities, Area C2				
• Arm 1B Elementary Armenian (Class #32037)	4	10:30A-11:35A	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
• Hum 10 Hum Antiquity/Ren (Class #32157)	3	11:00A-12:15P	TuTh	S La Porta
Upper Division Armenian Studies Courses				
• ArmS 108B Arm History II (Class #30806)	3	11:00A-12:15P	TuTh	B Der Mugrdechian
• ArmS 120T Mod Arm Lit (Class #35680) <i>New Class</i>	3	9:00A-9:50A	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
<i>The class will focus on modern Armenian literature related to the Genocide of 1915, with special attention to Armenian-American authors.</i>				
• ArmS 120T End of the World (Class #35708) <i>New Class</i>	3	9:30A-10:45A	TuTh	S La Porta
<i>The course will focus on the question of “When is the End of the World?” “What will happen?” The course will examine several revelations of the end in Eastern Christianity and in Armenian Christianity in particular.</i>				

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 2010-2011 catalog: <http://www.csufresno.edu/catoffice/current/armstudhd.html>

HYE SHARZHOOM
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Hye Sharzhoom is an ethnic supplement of The Collegian and is the newspaper of the Fresno State 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 contact us at:

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Garin Hovannisian Debuts New Book *Family of Shadows* in Fresno

ANDREW ESGUERRA
STAFF WRITER

We often hear that Fresno is just like the land of Armenia. The climate is warm, the soil rich and fertile, and the Armenian community strong and active. Combine this sense of “being home” with the pride Armenians feel on September 21, a revered date to Armenians because it was on this day in 1991 that Armenians finally regained their independent homeland. And it is no wonder that Garin Hovannisian chose to debut his new book, *Family of Shadows*, in Fresno.

“Fresno,” Hovannisian elaborated, “is where I began to look back at my family history.” He explained when his family was living in Los Angeles, that he would visit the Central Valley with his family as a child, and see the headstones of both family members and the memorials of famous Armenians such as Soghomon Tehlirian and William Saroyan. Later in life, these visits to Fresno inspired him; notably, the headstone of his great-grandfather Kaspar

Hovannisian and lead ultimately to the exploration of his family history which later developed into his book. This influence and inspiration for the memoir, according to Hovannisian, is the reason why he chose to release his book here and make the first stop of his nationwide book tour in Fresno.

The standing room only audience at the Barnes & Noble bookstore, made up of interested Armenians and inquisitive community members alike proved, to be a successful combination for Hovannisian. He began introducing his book by explaining just how his connection to Fresno inspired him. “If such great wrongs our sons forget...” reads the



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Garin Hovannisian at Barnes & Noble

epitaph on Kaspar Hovannisian’s gravesite, located in Ararat cemetery. Kaspar Hovannisian, Garin Hovannisian’s great-grandfather, was born in Kharpert and experienced first-hand the tragic loss and devastation of the Armenian Genocide. His epitaph is a warning to later generations of Armenians, that they should not forget the Genocide, which

is a warning Garin Hovannisian heeded.

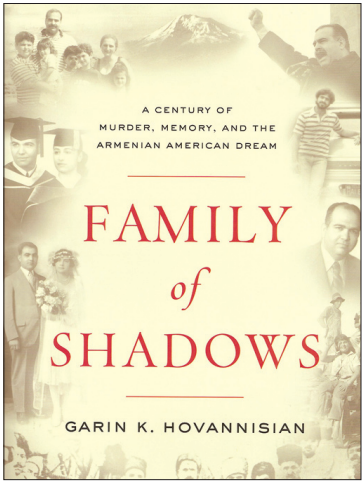
Family of Shadows is a memoir of the last century of Armenian history told from the perspective of three generations of his family, beginning with the story of Kaspar Hovannisian who escaped death, not without tragedy striking his family, and relocated to Tulare, California, to start a new life. It became a prosperous life where he decidedly refrained from mentioning what he saw and experienced in his homeland as a youth.

Nevertheless, the story of Kaspar, his son Richard, and his grandson Raffi perhaps parallels the story of every Armenian family who survived the Genocide. Therefore *Family of Shadows* becomes a book that is less of a dissection of a family’s trials and history and more of a memoir of a nation.

After concluding his introduction for the fledgling book, the multitude of listeners became eager consumers. Within minutes, however, the books had run out and with no copies left for latecomers or stragglers at

the end of the line, Hovannisian proceeded to genially sign copies of his book. It was a successful first day of the book tour – good news for the author and Fresno. Fresno, it seems, will also be affected by Kaspar Hovannisian’s warning to never forget the events of the Genocide nor the cultural history of Armenians today and those days following that dark time in our past.

A good thing too, for knowing our history can only propel us towards our future.



“Family of Shadows” launched nationally Sept. 21.

Dr. Kim Theriault Discusses Painter Arshile Gorky’s “Armenian Identity and Modern Art” on Campus

ARMEN MELIDONIAN
STAFF WRITER

Each year, the Armenian Studies Program hosts many different lectures on a variety of topics presented by invited scholars, authors, and artists. This year’s Fall Lecture Series started off with a presentation by Dr. Kim Theriault, of Dominican University, who spoke on “Arshile Gorky’s Armenian Identity and Modern Art.” Dr. Theriault posed the question “What exactly did it mean to be an Armenian immigrant in the United States when Gorky arrived in 1920?” Throughout the lecture she asserted that Gorky’s upbringing as an Armenian, along with the course of events that happened during the Armenian Genocide, had a profound effect on Gorky’s works.

Dr. Theriault’s lecture was co-sponsored by the Armenian General Benevolent Union, Fresno chapter.

Vostanik Manoog Adoian, arrived in the United States in 1920 and moved to New York in 1925, changing his given name to Arshile Gorky. “Gorky” means “bitter” in Russian, which he used to express how he felt exiled as a result of the Genocide.

Unlike European artists that went through many years of formal study, Gorky developed his skills as an artist through independent study in galleries and museums, studying works of such artists as Cezanne, Matisse, and Picasso. He had worked in a low-paying job teaching his students how to paint. As a teacher, he would repaint his students’ works by fixing lines rather than critique them. By the 1940s, the surrealist movement embraced his work and held it in high regard.

In her book, *Rethinking*



Dr. Kim Theriault

Arshile Gorky, Dr. Theriault discussed how Gorky used art to cope with the traumatic events he experienced in his life. Gorky felt a social stigma about the Genocide and avoided it in speech and in art. She presented a quote from Richard Hagopian’s novel *Faraway the Spring* (1952): “But when we have no country we must live as best we can.”

Dr. Theriault then presented a series of slides of Gorky’s art and commented on how they exhibited his experience as an Armenian immigrant and a survivor of the Genocide.

Portrait of the Artist and his Imaginary Wife (1933) was interpreted to be about an Armenian woman the artist can’t have as a wife because of the Genocide and because she can’t exist as one in America.

The painting *Landscape in the Manner of Cezanne* (1927) deals with space, white area on the canvas, and creating objects in a “flat” viewpoint, all of which are modernist art styles.

Gorky’s *Organization* (1936) was compared to Picasso’s *The Studio* (1928) and one of his preliminary drawings, which

showed an abstract version of the work. In it, Gorky “redistributes” aspects of the original painting, “extending more fully” the idea of the original through the abstract art style.

The Artist and His Mother (1929 to 1942) was shown and compared to an original drawing; he had painted over the work several times into the finalized form. *The Artist’s Mother* (1926) was an earlier charcoal work compared to the former as well.

Works like *Garden in Sochi* (1941) reflect Gorky’s sense of displacement about his childhood. In *Scent of Apricots on the Fields* (1944), he recreated positive memories from his traumatic past, but avoids showing the traumatic events in the work.

Dr. Theriault showed a photo of the unique Armenian plow along with Gorky’s *The Plow and the Song II* (1946) stating that the work is an example of how he “re-membered” folk songs and plowing; that he remembered them in a different way.

Gorky’s art served as a type of coping method. Quoting William Saroyan, “you only remember what you refuse to forget.” Dr.

Photo: Erica Magarian

THE ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM AND
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK PRESENT

“ARMENIA AT 19: REFLECTIONS”

PROF. BARLOW DER MUGRDECHIAN
Coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program

An illustrated lecture on Prof. Der
Mugrdechian’s reflections over the past
nineteen years of Armenia’s independence.

Monday, November 15 • 7:30 PM

University Business Center, A. Peters Auditorium,
Rm. 191, Fresno State
Free Admission. Parking restrictions are relaxed in
UBC Lot after 7:00PM.

Theriault described Gorky’s work as a “splicing of selective memory.”

Gorky was doing his work at a time when the term “genocide” was not yet in common use, until Raphael Lemkin would introduce the term in the 1940s. This is significant because the lack of a term meant that it was difficult to describe the events. Many survivors were unable to mourn publicly. Genocides would continue to take place after the Armenian Genocide. It was not until the Vietnam War that such psychological effects as Post-

Traumatic Stress Disorder were formally recognized.

Gorky faced several trials in his life during the 1940s. A fire broke out in his studio, he was divorced, he developed colon cancer, had a car accident that resulted in a broken neck, and broke his painting arm. As a result, Arshile Gorky committed suicide by hanging himself on July 21, 1948. Although the last years of Gorky’s life were marked by many tragedies, his works continue to have a lasting influence on modern art.

Hye Oozh - Saturdays 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
90.7 FM-KFSR

Hye Oozh is 90.7 KFSR’s weekly program dedicated
to contemporary and traditional Armenian music and culture.

Current Hye Oozh DJs:
Tatevik Ekezian • Vartush Mesropyan • Marine Vardanyan

Armenian Students Organization Active in Campus and Community

ANDREW ESGUERRA
STAFF WRITER

The summer has swiftly transitioned into fall, and yet another year of classes, sports, clubs, and a diverse array of enlightening activities have begun. With Fresno State celebrating its Centennial year, numerous events have been planned for throughout the year. The Armenian Students Organization (ASO) is right on track with its various activities. The ASO has already held multiple meetings, which are open to all who are interested (not just Armenians), designed and printed club T-shirts, which are currently for sale, and put up a booth on campus to promote the club.

Two weeks into the fall semester, Tamar Karkazian (President), Vartush Mesropyan (Vice President), Armen Melidonian (Treasurer), Noel Lenard (Secretary) and Faten Myaznih-Kassabian (Public Relations Officer) were elected as executive officers of the club. Members began to get to know one another right away with icebreaking activities that helped ease the tension and nervousness of joining a new organization. Since then members have come out of their shells and formed a



L. to R.: ASO Game Day participants taking a brief break from their activities.

Photo: ASP Archive

close-knit group of friends.

In September, the ASO participated in Fresno's Grand Armenian Festival, Prpoor, where students sold T-shirts, ate, and mingled with one another as well as fellow Armenians in the community. "Being at Prpoor was fun," stated Armen Arikian, "It brought the club together and united us as a group."

The following weekend ASO hosted Game Day, which was an entertaining event where the students mingled, played games, and most importantly ate. Over 15 students were present on

a day that was dominated by playing the game "Catchphrase," which became very competitive. Game Day provided members a great break from studying and homework, especially during midterms.

Looking toward the future, the rest of the month of October will be an eventful one. "Our goal for ASO this year is to get more students involved and provide students with various opportunities to stay close to their roots," stated Public Relations Officer Faten Kassabian. Along with the many socials, and

fundraisers, the ASO is reaching out to the Armenian community. Many of its members are getting involved in other Armenian organizations, such as tutoring at the Armenian School and helping out the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA). "By providing our students with an opportunity to participate in the Armenian Community we hope that they will find ways to tie their passions with their heritage and stay involved," said ASO President Tamar Karkazian.

Club members genially spend their free hours during midday at the vibrant tricolor ASO booth, located in front of the University

Student Union. "We wanted to have our booth this year so that we could reach out and promote Armenian culture on campus," explained Vice President Vartush Mesropyan. They have been doing just that by spreading the word about upcoming events such as the Car Wash on October 30, and participation in the Fresno State Centennial Parade.

The Armenian Students Organization has fun activities, meetings open to all who are interested, and allows students to connect on campus. Keep an eye on the booth in front of the USU with the red, blue and orange sign for details on upcoming events!



Photo: Erica Magarian

L. to R.: Noel Lenard, Ruzan Orkusyan, Vartush Mesropyan, Tamar Karkazian, Denise Altounian, Armen Melidonian, and Armen Arikian at the Prpoor Festival held in Fresno.

ASO, FROM PAGE 1

What inspired you to take part as a leader in ASO?

I was inspired to become a leader in order to stay close to my heritage, support the Armenian community, and represent the Armenians.

What is your goal for the future of ASO?

My goal is to encourage others to join and become a part of a strong, well-known organization. I believe it is very important to continue to engage and communicate with all Armenians in order to have a successful organization.

What has been your favorite experience in the ASO?

Being a part of the executive board these past two years has been wonderful. My favorite experiences have happened when everyone has come together and participated in all the activities.

Armen Melidonian
Treasurer
Senior
Accounting

What inspired you to take part as a leader in ASO?

I wanted to contribute to the club and take responsibility in an executive position. I feel I am capable of helping keep the financial accounts and keeping a balance.

What is your goal for the future of ASO?

I would like to have a variety of different activities and events, and plenty of them. I want to help motivate more participation. Ultimately, I'd like to get ASO to realize its potential and grow.

What has been your favorite experience in the ASO?

I enjoy the socials the most; they're so much fun to attend! It allows me an opportunity to meet my fellow Armenians.

Noel Lenard
Secretary
Freshman
Graphic Design

What inspired you to take part as a leader in ASO?

I just wanted to have an input in the club's activities, and thought it would be a nice way to meet more people.

What is your goal for the future of ASO?

It would be awesome to have more members coming more often to activities.

What has been your favorite experience in the ASO?

So far, the Game Day we had on Saturday October 2nd. The energized environment and good company provided a great way for everyone to come together and enjoy the day.

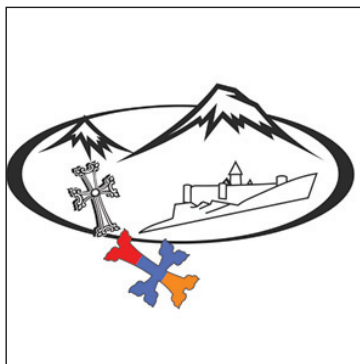
Faten Myaznih-Kassabian
Senior
Nursing with minor in Child Development
Public Relations

What inspired you to take part as a leader in ASO?

Many things have inspired me, but the thing that inspired me the most was to opportunity to plan some events that we weren't able to do last semester. I am hoping to accomplish that this year.

What is your goal for the future of ASO?

ASO T-Shirts for Sale



ASO T-shirts are now on sale for only \$15 each. Contact ASO President Tamar Karkazian at tamark@mail.fresnostate.edu to order your T-shirts now.

My goal this year, is to try to get more students from our university to join the club. There are over 500 Armenians on campus and I hope that we can reach out to them and have them take part in our great organization. I hope to come up with some more exciting events and to get everyone involved, on campus and off. With faith in what you want to achieve, anything is possible!

What has been your favorite experience in the ASO?

I have a few, but I would have to say that my favorite experience was volunteering at the California Armenian Home. That was such a wonderful experience. I loved being there with our club giving back to the men and women living there.

Are you an alumnus of Fresno State?

Send us your email to get on the ASP News and Events email list.

Armenians on the Internet

ARMEN ARIKIAN
STAFF WRITER

Armenian Pulse



<http://www.armenianpulse.com>

Main Categories:

Armenian Radio, Artist Profiles, Events, Music Videos, Exclusive Interviews, Reviews, Artist of the Month, Featured Articles, News.

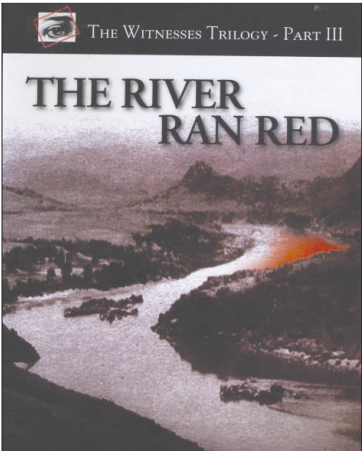
Brief Summary:

Armenian Pulse is an online community for Armenians, young and old, who want to stay informed about the Armenian music industry. As an Armenian abroad it can be challenging to keep up with the latest songs and CDs of famous Armenian singers. *Armenian Pulse* features a 24/7 radio station that conveniently streams the latest Armenian songs from your computer. The website also informs the public of upcoming concerts and the release date of new music videos. *Armenian Pulse* offers hundreds of biographies of not only singers, but also bands, songwriters, television stars, sculptors, and producers in Armenian entertainment. Thus, the online community brings the Armenian culture to the comforts of home with little effort. *Armenian Pulse* helps unite the Armenian community through music. Music strengthens the personal bond between Armenians all over the world. It is crucial, as an Armenian-American, to be knowledgeable about the Armenian culture. Rather than abandon Armenian music for the interests of singers in the United States, Armenians should display their cultural pride. After all, as long as the Armenians embrace their culture's music, the Armenian culture will surely continue from generation to generation.

Dr. J. Michael Hagopian’s *The River Ran Red* Draws Big Audience

ARMEN MELIDONIAN
STAFF WRITER

On Friday, October 1, the Armenian Studies Program held a screening of Dr. J. Michael Hagopian’s *The River Ran Red*, a film devoted to the oral histories of Armenian Genocide survivors, many of whom are today no longer alive. After 95 years, without the documentation that Dr. Hagopian has conducted, many of the survivor accounts would have passed away. The memories can now be kept alive through film. *The River Ran Red* is the third in a series of films, called *Witnesses*, produced and directed by Dr. Hagopian, that tell the story of the Armenian Genocide. The first two films in the series are *Voices of the Lake* and *Germany and the Secret Genocide*.



Armenian Studies Program Coordinator Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian was the master of ceremonies at the evening event, co-sponsored with the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR). Former NAASR Board Chair Nancy Kolligian of Boston made a special trip to be present at the premiere Fresno screening and introduced Dr. Hagopian to the audience. At the conclusion of the screening, Prof. Der Mugrdechian, on behalf of the Armenian Studies



L. to R.: Judge Charles Poochigian, Dr. J. Michael Hagopian, and ASP Coordinator Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

Program, presented Dr. Hagopian with a certificate honoring his “Lifetime Achievement in Film.” Dr. Hagopian was a guest earlier in the day of the Fresno State Cineculture class and was a discussant after his film was screened. More than 100 students and community members were in attendance, and they eagerly engaged with the 96-year old Hagopian. The river of the movie title refers to the Euphrates, along whose banks many Armenians perished. Dr. Hagopian has searched for Genocide survivors for over 40 years, recording and collecting the life stories of those who survived the deportation and eventually settled in communities around the Euphrates. At the beginning of the World War I, an estimated two million Armenians lived in Ottoman Turkey, while at the conclusion of the war less than half a million survived. Dr. Hagopian’s search along the Euphrates led him first to Syria’s Der Zor desert, where the largest massacres of Armenians occurred. The Turkish government used the war as an excuse for carrying out the Genocide. One of the witnesses to

the massacres was Dr. Ernest Partridge, a Christian missionary in Turkey, who explained his role in helping a Turkish family hide Armenians. “The Turks would say they are taking them away from their families for their safety.” The separation of children from their parents created many orphans. In dealing with the orphans, the Turks realized that if they let them go, the children would remember what happened when they grew up. They would therefore drown as many of the orphans as they could in the Euphrates. From minarets, Muslims announced that the Armenians should change their religion and some converted the next day. Harry Kurkjian recounted how he could sing well when he was a child. Turkish officers had him get circumcised, convert to Islam, and then forced him to learn Islamic call to prayers and songs. One survivor testified that she had seen Turkish policemen bet on the sex of the baby of a seven month pregnant woman. They slit her open and settled the bet. After five hours, the child and mother were dead. In Aleppo, Syria, 5,000 emaciated women and children arrived as deportees. Dr. Hagopian

interviewed a number of Arabs who remembered when the Armenians arrived into the city. One Arab noted that “They came walking with their clothes torn.” They were going to be taken to Der Zor, which was used as an Ottoman Turkish concentration camp for Armenians. Dr. Hagopian’s film serves as an insightful source of testimonies that bring the deportations of Armenians and the role of the Euphrates River in the Genocide into fuller perspective. He is currently having the 400 videos of eyewitnesses he interviewed archived for the institutions he is working with.



Former NAASR Chair Nancy Kolligian visited from Boston.

2011-2012 Academic Year Scholarships in Armenian Studies for Fresno State students

2011-2012 Scholarship Applications Now Available On-Line

<https://scholarship.csufresno.edu/>

Make sure to mark one of the areas pertaining to Armenian Studies on the application

1) Will enroll in Armenian Studies or

2) Armenian-Supplemental application required

The scholarship application for California State University, Fresno is only available online.

Priority Application Period: October 1, 2010-February 28, 2011

For applications to be considered you must also complete the special Armenian Studies supplemental form which can be found at: <http://armenianstudies.csufresno.edu/scholarships.htm>

Fill out the form and turn it in at the ASP office, Peters Business Building, Room 384.

For more information contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.

Eench Ga Chga-What’s Happening?

MARI KOSHKAKARYAN
STAFF WRITER

Question: What made you decide to take an Armenian language course this semester?

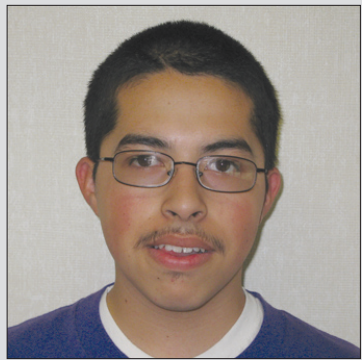
Name: Mounah Saksouk
Year: Junior
Major: Biology
“I enjoy many different cultures and by taking Armenian language I believe I can be diversified. Now I will be able to communicate with my Armenian friends back home. I realize how interesting the language is. Prof. Der Mugrdechian is a great teacher who makes me enjoy the class.”



Name: Vachagan Vardanyan
Year: Sophomore
Major: Biology
“I forgot the Armenian alphabet and needed to improve my reading.”



Name: Parker Nalchajian
Year: Freshman
Major: Mathematics
“I decided to take the Armenian language class because a lot of my family can speak Armenian, but my father’s generation did not learn. I didn’t learn Armenian so I’m taking it to satisfy my curiosity.”



Name: Marcos Mendoza
Year: Freshman
Major: Criminology
“My friend Armen convinced me to take it. He made the language seem interesting. I have been around him a long time and every time he would talk to his dad in Armenian I would be amazed, so I wanted to learn the language so I could understand what they were saying.”



Name: Jackeline Ibarra
Year: Sophomore
Major: Liberal Studies
“I have a lot of Armenian friends and Armenian culture has always interested me. I would like to be able to communicate with my Armenian friends and I am really enjoying the class and am learning a lot.”



Photos: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Varaz Samuelian Art and Cultural Center Opens in Earthquake Region of Armenia

STAFF REPORT

While on recent trip to Armenia this past summer, Armenian Studies Program Director Barlow Der Mugrdechian visited the nearly completed Varaz Samuelian Art Center, located in the region of Artik. On September 7 the Armenia Fund (Hayastan All-Armenian Fund) unveiled the completed Varaz Samuelian Cultural Center in Artik, a town near the Gyumri earthquake.

The Cultural Center is named after the celebrated painter and sculptor Varaz Samuelian.

Attending the opening ceremony were Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Tigran Sargsyan, Deputy Governor of Shirak Region Seyran Petrosyan, Mayor of Artik Khachatur Varagyan, Executive Director of Hayastan All-Armenian Fund Ara Vardanyan, Chairman of the Armenia Fund U.S. Western Region Ara Aghishian and Executive Director of Armenia



Photo: ASP Archive

Children presenting traditional bread and salt at the opening ceremony of the Varaz Samuelian Cultural Center.

Fund U.S. Western Region Sarkis Kotanjian.

The construction of the new center, at a cost of approximately 155millionAMD(U.S.\$505,000), was funded by the Armenia Fund U.S. Western Region, through the bequest of the prominent Armenian-American painter and sculptor Varaz Samuelian (1917-1995).

Comprising two stories and an area of 6,000 square feet, the Samuelian Cultural Center will double as a community entertainment facility and an art school. The first floor includes an art gallery (where Samuelian's paintings as well as works by Artik artists will be on display), a cultural-events hall, a chess room, and a computer room. The second

763 Armenian social, religious, and community leaders, as well as their biographies and circumstances of death in 1915.

Dr. Kuyumjian had, through her research, found out about her husband's grandfather whose fate had remained a mystery until then. Knowing this makes it much more believable that others across the world will be able to accomplish the same.

Volume III, titled *The Survivor*, is Aram Andonian's biography. Andonian was a historian, journalist, and a known and feared satirist, always ready to make note of what was said or done, truly earning the name "father of Genocide studies." His ability to observe in a detached manner made him a reliable source, especially as he documented the events of the Genocide.

The lecture ended with a potent reading of chapter ten from *The Survivor*, that brought tears not only to my eyes, but also touched the hearts of all listening.



Dr. Rita Kuyumjian, left, with Dr. Sergio La Porta.

Photo: Erica Magarian

KUYUMJIAN, FROM PAGE 1

Genocide while highlighting the importance of the intellectuals who suffered through it.

Dr. Kuyumjian, an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at McGill University, Canada, and author of an insightful psychobiography *Archeology of Madness* on the composer Komitas Vartabed, introduced her *Trilogy* of books, discussing the immediate aftermath of the Genocide. The *Trilogy* is a treasure chest of our forgotten past, enhancing our view and understanding of the ghastly events that took place on and after April 24, 1915.

Dr. Kuyumjian's presentation was focused on *Trilogy April 24, 1915*, a three-volume work dedicated to the 95th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. It is a stunning continuation of *Archeology of Madness*, probing further the clouded details of April 24.

The first volume, *Exile, Trauma, and Death; On the Road to Chankiri with Komitas Vartabed* by Aram Andonian contains 25 articles, translated by Dr. Kuyumjian, written between 1946-1947. In memory and honor of Komitas Vartabed, "symbol of the Armenian Genocide," Andonian, an intellectual rounded up in April 1915 along with Komitas, was commissioned to write these articles about the conditions leading up to Komitas'

mental breakdown. These were originally published in an independent periodical in Paris, however, when the newspaper ceased to exist, the articles slowly retreated into oblivion. These crucial pieces of history chronicling the first three days of the Genocide were forgotten until now.

Dr. Kuyumjian's translations illuminate the lives of lesser-known Armenian intellectuals and their important literary contributions, essential for an enhanced understanding of the Genocide. By adding innovations of her own, such as biographies for each entry and an epilogue, she endeavored to make the reading more accessible. This powerfully vibrant and meticulous work is a crown jewel of Armenian history brought to us by Dr. Kuyumjian, an important work expressing the magnitude of loss, the suffering, and the tragic events of the first days of the Genocide.

Volume II consists of two parts; the first, is a biography of the author Teotig. Perhaps his most important contribution was the 19 volumes of *Everyone's Almanac*, small encyclopedias recording the day-to-day lives of the Armenian community in Constantinople. The second part is a translation of Teotig's work *Monument to April 11* [where April 11 is equivalent to April 24]. It lists the names of

floor will feature classrooms for fine-arts and music instruction.

"We are so happy that, thanks to Varaz Samuelian's will, today we are able to build a full-fledged cultural center, where generations will be trained and educated, drawing inspiration from Samuelian's marvelous artistic legacy," said Ara Vardanyan, executive director of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund.

On his part, Artik mayor Khachatur Varagyan said he expects the Samuelian Center to become a beloved landmark, where the city's residents will be able to participate in a diversity of cultural programs and events, take art and music classes, engage in leisure activities, and have access to computers and the Internet. "We have long felt the need for such a center," Varagyan noted.



Photo: ASP Archive

One of the new art rooms in the Samuelian Cultural Center.

Captivating and intriguing, the lecture delved into the dark past of the Genocide, shining a novel glow on the delicate topic through a fervent presentation that made me want to learn more about the past of my rich culture.

Dr. Kuyumjian's memorable

lecture was full of the same passion overflowing in her works, inviting the audience, Armenians and Americans, young and old, to further explore the nuances and fine details of the Armenian Genocide.

**Are you a Fresno State Alumnus?
Were you part of Hye Sharzhoom
or the Armenian Students Organization?**

Then we want to hear from you!

In honor of our year-long centennial celebration we will have an Alumni Section for each issue.

Send a few lines about what you have been up to...
Family...Career. It's up to you.

Don't forget to include what year you graduated and your involvement with the Armenian Studies program.
Please include a 2x2 digital color photo.

Email it to tamark@mail.fresnostate.edu.

We hope to hear from you soon!

Varaz Samuelian Art Exhibited at Fresno City Hall

STAFF REPORT

The Armenian Studies Program sponsored a long awaited exhibition of Armenian-American artist Varaz Samuelian's work at the second floor of the Fresno City Hall on Thursday, May 6, as part of the ArtHop.

Armenian Studies Program Coordinator Barlow Der Mugrdechian introduced the exhibit, curated by Fresno State graduate student Hazel Antaramian Hofman. The highlight of the exhibit was a collection of "Circus" themed paintings.

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, where he died in 1995. Varaz held exhibitions in Paris, Nice, Marseilles, Barcelona,



Varaz Exhibit curator Hazel Antaramian Hofman with Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

Photo: Erica Magarian

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.

The Varaz exhibition at City Hall was made possible by the Armenian Studies Program, with the Fresno Arts Council, the City of Fresno, and the Armenian Museum.

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SISTER CITY, FROM PAGE 1

welcomed to Fresno at a press conference held by Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearengin at City Hall on Monday, August 16. Armenian community representatives attended the press conference to welcome the honored guests.

Later that day the guests went to the Fresno State campus, where they visited the Enology Center. Winemaster Kenneth Fugelsang gave a guided tour of the facilities, leading to an idea for a joint project in the area of wine production. Dr. Bill Erysian of the Jordan College of Agriculture organized the visit to the winery and Lucy Erysian assisted in interpreting for the group. Sister City Committee Chairman Bznuni stated that "Fresno State's enology department offered to make wine from Armenian grapes and see if they can make 'marketable wine out of them'...all the Armenian side would need to do is ship some grapes to Fresno State [for production]."

Armenian Studies Program Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian then gave a presentation on the history of the Armenian community in Fresno, focusing on the contributions that Armenians had made to the San Joaquin Valley. "The group was fascinated to hear how the Armenians immigrated to the United States in the late 19th

century and how they were able to make such an impact on the Valley," said Der Mugrdechian.

Later that night, Deputy Consul General Mesrop Shaboyan, on behalf of the Armenian Consulate in Los Angeles, hosted a dinner in the delegation's honor.

The delegation visited the California Armenian Home, the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church Blessing of the Grapes

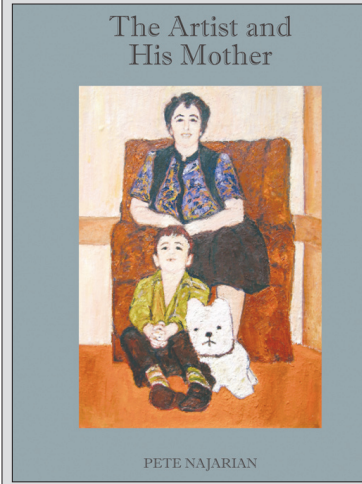


Mayor Karen Grigoryan, center, with members of the Etchmiadzin-Fresno Sister City committee at Fresno City Hall.

picnic, the statue of David of Sassoun, the grave of Soghomon Tehlerian, as well as local Armenian monuments dedicated to William Saroyan.

Chairman Vahagn Bznuni, Prof. Der Mugrdechian, and Councilmember Andreas Borgeas

University Press at Fresno State
Releases New Book by Najarian



Available for \$15 plus postage at:
<http://www.thepressatcsufresno.org/>

The Artist and His Mother by Pete Najarian. (9 x 6, 203 pp., b/w, color illus., \$15.00 paper, ISBN 978-0-912201-40-5; LCCN 2010927939) published September 29, 2010 by The Press at California State University, Fresno.

Retired Professor Dr. Arra Avakian Passes Away

STAFF REPORT

Former Fresno State Armenian Studies professor Dr. Arra Avakian passed away in Fresno on Wednesday, June 30. He was born in 1912 in Boston, to parents Setrak and Takoohi Avakian, who had emigrated from Kharpert, Armenia.

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

Dr. Avakian was appointed Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno in 1970. Several years later, he took a similar position at the newly formed American Armenian International College, in La Verne, California. Dr. Avakian contributed to the initiation of the Armenian studies programs at both institutions.

In October of 2002 Dr. Avakian donated his professional Armenological library of an estimated 3,000 books and

were among representatives of Fresno and the Fresno Armenian community that organized the visit.

There was time dedicated to touring private industry in Fresno, with a trip to Fowler Packing and



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

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

Dr. Avakian was the author of *The Eaglet, Armenian Journey through History*, as well as sixteen translations of books from Armenian into English. He was deeply involved in Armenian community life and in the study of the Armenian culture for many years.

Dr. Avakian held leadership positions in such community

a student-exchange program with students from Fresno State spending time abroad in Armenia, in order to gain a better cultural and economic sense of the country and of Etchmiadzin.

Another project that was discussed was a possible collaboration with the American Medical Overseas Relief (AMOR), a philanthropic group based in Fresno. The opening of a hospital in Etchmiadzin with aid from AMOR and Fresno donors would mean a permanent tie between the two cities and a way for Armenian-American medical personnel to aid their Armenian brethren as well as pursue research

organizations as the Armenian Students' Association of America, NAASR, the Armenian Assembly, the Knights of Vartan, and the Armenian Church. Avakian was elected a delegate to the National Ecclesiastical Assembly at the Holy See of the Armenian Church, at Etchmiadzin, for the election of Karekin I, Catholicos of All Armenians.

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

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

He was married to the former Georgia Keosaian who died in 2004. He is survived by five children: Arsine, Armine, Arra, Armen, and Arten, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

opportunities.

The Etchmiadzin delegation enjoyed their visit. There was an expected language barrier but with many Armenian speakers in the Valley, including Prof. Der Mugrdechian, it was easy to overcome. Overall, everyone was relaxed and in good spirits.

"The Mayor [of Etchmiadzin] is really sharp. He understood what we're trying to accomplish. We want to have this be a living relationship and get both communities involved," stated Councilmember Borgeas.

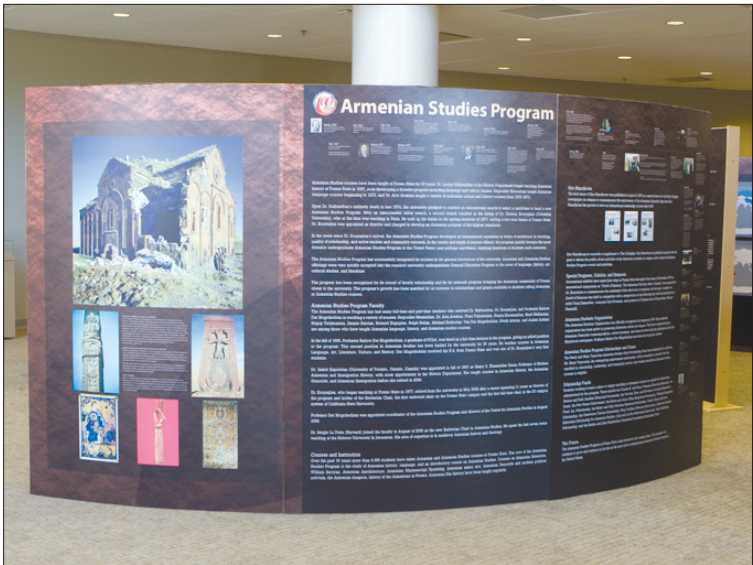
The Fresno-Etchmiadzin Sister City relationship seems ready to grow in the coming years.



L. to R.: Mayor Karen Grigoryan, Winemaster Kenneth Fugelsang, and Deputy Consul General Mesrop Shaboyan.



L. to R.: Faten Kassabian, Vartush Mesropyan, Samvel Franklyan, Mayor Karen Grigoryan, and Prof. Der Mugrdechian.



The Armenian Studies Program Exhibit in the Library.

ASP ALUMNI, FROM PAGE 1

informed guests of activities happening within the Armenian Studies Program with two tables: one for the Armenian Students Organization (ASO) and the other for *Hye Sharzhoom*.

At the ASO table guests got a chance to mingle with current executives and members. “It was wonderful to meet past members and hear about their experiences,” stated Faten Myaznih-Kassabian, ASO public relations officer. Guests also supported their alma mater by purchasing car wash tickets or ASO t-shirts. Alumni also could look at a special chart, to see who the past executives of the club were, dating all the way back to 1974.

There was also an opportunity to see the progress and change of *Hye Sharzhoom* over the years. A table was set up with numerous

Hye Sharzhoom issues dating all the way back to the first edition, published in April 1979. Also available was a 30th Anniversary booklet, listing of all the staff,



Some Hye Sharzhoom staff of the past 32 years.

editors, and advisors for the paper, from the beginning to 2010. “It was amazing to see the changes that *Hye Sharzhoom* has gone through. It was very enlightening to meet people who have really impacted the ASO,” commented Armen Atikian, a current ASO member and staff writer for *Hye Sharzhoom*.

Once alumni and guests had the opportunity to mingle and to enjoy the full refreshment table a short program took place. Professor Barlow Der Mugrdchian, current Director of the Armenian Studies Program, began the program by introducing professors new and old to the guests. He also introduced former Program Secretaries Fran Ziegler and Kati Litten. Brief comments were made by Dean Vida Samiian, explaining the importance and influence the Armenian Studies Program has had on the College of



ASO members, past and present, at the ASP Alumni Reception. Many former editors, staff members, and photographers were present along with faculty advisors.

Arts and Humanities. Dr. Dickran Kouymjian was especially invited from Paris to be present at the reception. He described the joys of teaching and reminisced about the struggles and successes of the Armenian Studies Program. Dr. Sergio La Porta, the Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies extended his welcome to the guests and wished the Armenian

Studies Program many more years of success.

As the reception was ending, it was easy to see that the event had been quite a success. Alumni left feeling content that new students were active, faculty were pleased to see the progress of their former students, and current students left feeling fortunate to be part of a strong and great tradition.



Photos from the Armenian Studies Program archives were displayed at the reception.

Upcoming Armenian Studies Event

“THE COSMIC RAY DIVISION OF THE A. ALIKHANYAN NATIONAL LABORATORY”

Dr. Anahid Yeremian, Stanford University

Friday, October 29 • 7:30 PM

Dr. Yeremian is a particle physicist at the Stanford Linear Accelerator. The Cosmic Ray Division (CRD) is the regional Space Weather Center, well equipped to conduct research.

“Climbing Mt. Ararat-An Illustrated Presentation” by Vatche Soghomonian

Soghomonian will present a 10-minute video on his recent climb to the peak of Mt. Ararat.

University Business Center, A. Peters Auditorium, Rm. 191, Fresno State
Free Admission. Parking restrictions are relaxed in UBC Lot after 7:00PM.

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