

HYE SHARZHOOM
Armenian Action
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32nd Year

Ethnic Supplement to The Collegian

12th Annual Armenian Film Festival Features Directors from France, Lebanon, and Armenia

“A Nice Old-Fashioned Romance” (2010) by Los Angeles-based director Ara Soudjian, told the story of Aram, a fifth grader unwittingly caught in the middle of a love story between his stern teacher and the school’s aloof

Photo: Erica Magarian



Ohannes Avedikian Kulak, left, with Osman Köker.

Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

ANDREW ESGUERRA
STAFF WRITER

On January 27th Turkish journalist and author Osman Köker presented a lecture on his book *Images of Armenians in Turkey 100 Years Ago* to a packed Fresno State auditorium.

Mr. Köker's presentation was part of the Spring 2011 Armenian Studies Program Lecture Series and was co-sponsored by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research.

Known for bringing attention to the life of Armenians in pre-Genocide Turkey, through his pictorial exhibition, entitled *Sireli Yeghpayrus* [My Dear Brother], Mr. Köker shared a view of life in specific Turkish provinces during the early 20th century. Eventually seen by thousands of people, the exhibit presented photographs of Armenian life, drawn from a large collection of postcards owned by the collector Orlando Calumeno.

SEE **KÖKER** PAGE 7

ASO members with Prof. Der Mugrdechian at the Festival.

principal. Constantly blamed for the mischievous deeds of his angelic-faced cousin Arak, young Aram is sent to Principal Derringer's office on a regular basis. One day, salacious poems about the teacher and principal start appearing on Ms. Daffney's blackboard and Aram is again sent to the principal's office. Mr. Derringer, instead of punishing Aram, tries to find out from the young boy if the young teacher really does have feelings for him. A sweet tale, one never does see

what pans out between the young adults and all that one find is that Ms. Daffney leaves the school after the spring. The short film is based on a story by William Saroyan, from his book *My Name is Aram* (1940).

Amore sobering film came from director Vatche Boulghourjian of Lebanon. “The Fifth Column” (2010) presented the story of young Hrag and his father, who live in a poor neighborhood of Beirut. Hrag’s mother has passed

SEE **FILM FESTIVAL** PAGE 6

23rd Annual Banquet

**Celebrating the Centennial Anniversary
of Fresno State
and
honoring Fresno State President
Dr. John Welty**

**Graduating seniors receiving
an Armenian Studies Minor
and ASP Scholarship recipients will be recognized.**

Sunday, March 20, 2011

Reception-5:00PM • Dinner-6:00PM
University Dining Hall (East Side)
5200 N Campus Drive • Fresno State

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

For reservations, please call the ASP office at 278-2669

Kooyumjian Family Foundation Donates \$30,500

STAFF REPORT

Armenian Studies Program
Coordinator Prof. Barlow Der
Mugrdechian announced that the
Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family

Foundation has made a generous donation of \$30,500 to the Armenian Studies Program and the Center for Armenian Studies. The gift will be used for a variety

of activities, including outreach activities, special conferences, and scholarships. This is the second year of support from the Foundation.

Dr. La Porta Speaks on Genocide



Dr. Sergio La Porta speaking at Sonoma State University.

Photo: ASP Archive

STAFF REPORT

On February 22, Dr. Sergio La Porta lectured at Sonoma State University (SSU) as part of the 28th Annual Holocaust Lecture Series organized by the Center for

the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide of SSU and the Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide. Dr. La Porta participated in the same series last

SEE LA PORTA PAGE 5

**Walter Sepetjian
Scholarship Fund
Established With
\$25,000 Gift to ASP**

STAFF REPORT

The late Walter Sepetjian of Fresno has bequeathed \$25,000 to the Armenian Studies Program to establish a scholarship fund in his name. The income from the fund will benefit Fresno State students taking courses in Armenian Studies. Mr. Sepetjian passed away on Tuesday, June 29, 2010.

Walter Sepetjian was born in Middleboro, Massachusetts on November 2, 1933. He graduated from Middleboro High School in 1951 and then served in the U.S. Navy.

Mr. Sepetjian graduated from Fresno Junior College (now Fresno City College) in 1955 and continued his education,

SEE SEPETIAN PAGE 3

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.

Carla Amasalian and Helen Anooshian, Fresno, for correspondence letters of World War II written by Karin Anooshian to his wife Helen.

His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilica, Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia, (Antelias, Lebanon 2010), for his books, *St. Nerses the Gracious and Church Unity* (Antelias: 2010), and *A Journey of Faith, Hope and Vision: The Ecumenical Journey of His Holiness Aram I*, (Antelias: 2010).

Dr. William Covino, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Fresno State, Fresno, California, for the gift of the book, *Armenian Costumes Through The Centuries* (Armenian Relief Society, Western Region U.S.A., Inc., 1985).

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate, Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, Burbank, California, for the gift of the books authored by **Fr. Zaven Arzoumanian, Ph.D.**: *High Ranking Clergy of the Armenian Church*, *The Book of Canon Law*, *Studies in Armenian Church*, *Studies in Armenian History V-XIII Century*, *Theology of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church*, and *The Armenian Apostolic Church in Recent Times 1955-1995* (Burbank: Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, 2010).

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate, Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, Burbank, California, for the gift of his book, *Spiritual Reflections, Vol. 9* (Burbank: Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, 2010). In Armenian. This is a collection of Archbishop Derderian’s homilies and spiritual messages given on various occasions.

Hon. Walter J. Karabian, Los Angeles, California, for the gift of the DVD, *Karabian and Simonian Family Tree*.

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Paris, France, for the gift of the book, *Des serviteurs fideles Les enfants d’Armenie au service de l’Etat turc* (Lyon: Source d’Armenie, 2010). This is a collection of articles on various aspects of the Armenians who served in positions in the Ottoman Empire. Dr. Kouymjian has contributed an article on the Armenian potters of Kütahya in the history of Ottoman ceramics. In French.

Boghos Armenag Lakissian, Glendale, California, for the gift of the book, *Dickran Arkayi Mudke Musaneri Leran Shen* (Yerevan: Nayiri, 2010).

Mr. & Mrs. Hagop Manjikian, Studio City, California, for the gift of four books from their new “Genocide Library Series” of memoirs. These memoirs of Genocide survivors have been translated into English and published: Armen Anush’s *Passage Through Hell* [Vol. 1-2005], Mikayel Shamtanchian’s *The Fatal Night* [Volume 2-2007], Shahan Derderian’s *Death March* [Volume 3-2008], and Sebouh Aguni’s *The Crime of the Ages* [Volume 4-2010]. All the books are translated by Ishkhan Jinbashian and published by H. and K. Manjikian Publications, Studio City, California.

Dr. John J. Markarian, Paramus, New Jersey, for the gift of his book, *The Thirsty Enemy: A Memoir* (Paramus, New Jersey: The Armenian Missionary Association of America, 2009).

Dorothy Marootian, Irvine, California, for the gift of the books, *100 Armenian Tales*, *Armenian Village Life Before 1914*, *The Ararat Papers*, *Apples of Immortality*, *A Graded West Armenian Reader*, *Anahid*, and *Burn After Reading*.

Rev. Fr. Sipan Mekhsian, Burbank, California, for the books, *The Uncivil War*, *Time Almanac 2006*, *Security*, *The Obama Nation*, and *Out of Mao’s Shadow*.

Serge N. Mouraviev, Paris, France, for the book, *Erkataguir ou Comment naquit l’alphabet arménien* (Sankt Augustin: Academi Verlag, 2010). In French. With an English foreword by Dickran Kouymjian. This fascinating book is a study of the invention of the Armenian alphabet by St. Mesrop Mashtots. Mouraviev studied the Danielian letters that became the basis for the Armenian alphabet by Mashtots. Mouraviev explains in detail the process of the creation of the Danielian and Mesropian letters. The book includes numerous graphs and drawings to support the conclusion that are drawn.

Fr. Sarkis Petoyan, St. Gregory Armenian Church, Pasadena, California, for the DVD, *St. Nersess Seminary: A Calling Fulfilled*. The DVD was prepared to encourage young men to serve in the holy priesthood.

Nor Or Publishing, Altadena, California for the gift of the books, *The Cup of Bitterness and Other Stories* (1979) and *Veradznount yev Veratarts* (1993) written by Antranig Antreassian. The Armenian Studies Program received the books at the request of the author’s family as part of Mr. Antreassian’s hundredth anniversary commemoration. Mr. Antreassian was editor of *Nor Or* newspaper for over twenty-seven years.

Vatche Soghomonian, Fresno, California, for the gift of the DVD, *Ararat Expedition*.

Varooj Soorenian, Glendale, California, for the gift of the book he translated, *Plays From Western Literature* (Stepanakerd, Karabagh, 2010). The book features plays by Harold Pinter and Arthur Miller among others. In Armenian.

Ara Topouzkhanian, Fresno, California, for the gift of the books,

California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program

Fall 2011 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
• Arm 1A Elementary Armenian (Class #72051)	4	10:30A-11:35A	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
• Hum 11 Hum Baroque/Modern (Class #72565)	3	9:30A-10:45A	TuTh	S La Porta

General Education-Arts & Humanities, Area C1

• ArmS 20 Arts of Armenia (Class #73049)	3	9:30A-10:45A	TuTh	B Der Mugrdechian
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Social Studies, Area D3

• ArmS 10 Intro Armenian Studies (Class #72052)	3	10:00A-10:50A	MWF	S La Porta
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Upper Division Armenian Studies Courses

• ArmS 108B Arm History I (Class #72053)	3	11:00A-12:15P	TuTh	S La Porta
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General Education-Arts & Humanities, Area IC

• Arm 148 Masterp. of Arm Culture (Class #73181)	3	9:00A-9:50A	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
• Arm 148 Masterp. of Arm Culture (Class #73119)	3	11:00A-11:50A	MWF	S La Porta

• ArmS 120T Armenian Church (Class #75743)	1	5:00P-7:50P 9:00A-5:00P	Fri Sat	B Der Mugrdechian
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Class meets Friday, September 23 and Saturday, September 24, 2011

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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Aygeshagh (Fresno: Meshag Printing), a book of spiritual reflections based on the daily readings of the Armenian Church; *62 Questions and Their Answers* by Very Rev. Fr. Vaghinak Meloian (Beirut: 2009), a book about commonly asked questions on the Armenian Church; *An Interpretation of Solomon’s “Song of Songs”* by Grigor Narekatsi (Beirut: 1963), a book by St. Gregory of Narek. All in Armenian.

Kemal Yalcin, Bochum, Germany, for the gift of his book, *Kardeslerim var uzaklarda* [My Siblings are Far Away] (Germany, 2010). In Turkish.

Professor Boghos Levon Zekiyani, Venezia, Italy, for the gift of the book, *Album-25th Anniversary of the Summer Armenian Language Program of Venice University 1986-2010* (Venezia, 2010).

Armenian-American Literature Focus of Der Mugrdechian Lecture

ANDREW ESGUERRA
STAFF WRITER

Armenians in America, often find themselves torn between two cultures—the Armenian and the American. They often struggle to find a balance between the two. This struggle is so evident that one can find a reflection of this in Armenian-American literature, beginning with the first wave of Armenian-American authors.

Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program, and Kazan Visiting Professor for the Spring 2011 semester, presented the first in a two-part series of lectures on “Armenian-American Literature: The First Generation.”

By 1924, hundreds of thousands of Armenians, for the most part from the Ottoman Empire, had immigrated to the United States. Many had left to escape annihilation at the hands of the Turkish government.

The tragedy of the Armenian Genocide and the shock that refugees experienced remained largely muted in literature by this first generation of authors writing

in America, revealed Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

“Well, the truth is I am both and neither. I love Armenia and I love America and I belong to both, but I am only this: an inhabitant of the earth, and so are you, whoever you are.” These words stated by William Saroyan so eloquently state his views on his own Armenian-American identity, and in addition hint at the internal crisis that other first generation Armenian-Americans faced.

As the exodus of Armenians from Turkey and Armenia steadily increased, from 1890 to 1914, many Armenians made their way to America. Life in the United States proved difficult for them. While these Armenian-Americans retained a strong Armenian identity when they emigrated from their homeland, the American culture offered no support for any culture but its own. Life was not easy for this group of people who found their identity put in jeopardy. This theme—of hybrid identity—is what dominates the themes in first generation Armenian-American



Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian literature.

Photo: Erica Magarian

The earliest Armenian-American literature, in the Armenian language, portrays the idealized village life to which the authors were accustomed, back in their homeland. Also present in their writings are feelings of exile that came with living in a new place with different customs, language, and a certain hostility towards foreign cultures. The Diaspora Armenians retained their identity by creating religious, educational,

and cultural centers to preserve their cultural heritage.

Prof. Der Mugrdechian discussed authors such as Leon Serabian Herald, William Saroyan, Leon Surmelian, Emmanuel Vardanyan, A. I. Bezzerides, Richard Hagopian, Khatchik (Archie) Minasian, Harry Barba, Marjorie Housepian, and Peter Sourian who represent published authors from that first wave of Armenian-American immigrants, before

immigration laws were tightened from 1924-1965. Through poetry, short stories, and novels, this generation, born between 1894-1935, wrote in English, though many had achieved little or no acclaim. However they remained inspirational to later generations of Armenian-Americans.

On Wednesday, April 27, Professor Der Mugrdechian will pick up where he left off by discussing the theme of Genocide in the works of second and third generations Armenian-Americans, in a talk entitled, “The Theme of Genocide in Second and Third Generation Armenian-American Literature.” That generation of course was influenced by their parents and grandparents, who were the first generation of Armenian-Americans.

Professor Der Mugrdechian’s enthralling lecture was accompanied by excerpts selected from the works of the authors, for all those who desired to also see the works penned by our Armenian-American predecessors.

The lecture in April is sure to be just as interesting.

New Archaeological Finds in Armenia



Photo: ASP Archive

The world’s oldest shoe discovered in the region of Areni.

EVELYN DEMIRCHIAN
STAFF WRITER

Armenia has recently been in the news because of interesting archaeological discoveries that have uncovered the world’s oldest leather shoe, as well as the world’s oldest winery.

The well-preserved leather shoe was found in the same cave in Areni as the winemaking tools, and is dated to be 5,500 years old. Discovery of the shoe was announced in June 2010, and discovery of the ancient winemaking facility was made seven months later in January of this year.

A team of research scientists from UCLA began their excavation of a cave complex near the village of Areni in Vayots Dzor, in 2007. Their find included

evidence of winemaking dated at over 6,000 years old: grape seeds, dozens of dried grape vines, cups, and fermentation vessels.

The researchers who made

these discoveries published their findings in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*.

The new findings are important because of their significance to the evolution of society and civilization. Wine culture is a marker in the early stages of human settlements, and the discovery of winemaking in Areni suggests early human settlement in Armenia as far back as 4,000 BCE.

Dr. Gregory Areshian, is an archaeologist from UCLA and was co-director of the excavation.

“For the first time, we have a complete archaeological picture of wine production dating back 6,100 years,” said Areshian, to *National Geographic Magazine*.

Evidence of ancient viticulture has also been found in Georgia, Iran and Egypt.

Attorneys Geragos and Kabateck Make Fresno Visit



L. to R.: Judge Chuck Poochigian, Brian Kabateck, and Mark Geragos. Kabateck and Geragos were in Fresno on February 8, to address the Central Valley Lawyer’s Association on their far-reaching legal victories over insurance companies. The Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School co-hosted the event, which drew a large audience.

long-time member of the Fresno State Alumni Association and the Bulldog Foundation. He also was a frequent contributor to the Armenian Studies Program.

Mr. Sepetjian was universally liked and respected and was very proud of Fresno State and especially proud of his Armenian heritage.

Armenians on the Internet

“Armenia’s Future Rests in the Hands of Its Young People”



ARMEN ARIKIAN-STAFF WRITER

Junior Achievement of Armenia

<http://www.jaarmenia.org/index.html>

Main Categories:

About JAA, What We Do, News & Events, Reports & Textbooks, Alumni Focus, and Getting Involved.

Summary:

Armenia is gradually improving its political and economical stability, however in order to strengthen the future of Armenia, childrens’ education must be a priority. Junior Achievement of Armenia (JAA) aspires to educate young Armenians in Armenia in various areas of their program, and is working to develop a more educated population in Armenia.

JAA’s website gives many success stories, as well as the history, events, and goals of the program’s effectiveness. Historically, Armenians needed to move abroad, away from Armenia, in order to achieve their academic and career goals. However with JAA, Armenians can remain with their families without having to limit their educational potential. The program mainly focuses on enhancing the business and political skills of more than 170,000 students in Armenia. With rigorous courses in Civics and Economics, the Armenian youth have an opportunity to take charge of successful businesses or become prestigious politicians. The program is devoted to “improving the lives of young Armenians by giving them the tools to compete in a global economy and foster democracy in their nation” (JAA). The students that graduate in the top of their class are rewarded with an opportunity to participate in the “Study Abroad Program” to the United States. For these participants these trips are life-changing experiences

Many children and young adults were completely uneducated in economics and political fields before they participated in the JAA program, but the program reestablishes hope in young Armenians. Students Matevos Mheryan, Anna Gasparyan, and Karen Sarkavgyan have achieved high expectations for their futures. Mheryan, Gasparyan and Sarkavagyan were recipients of the Study Abroad Program and are determined to achieve their goals in finance in Armenia. The program has drastically changed the lives of students across Armenia.

SEPETJIAN, FROM PAGE 1

graduating from Fresno State College (now California State University, Fresno) in January 1959.

Mr. Sepetjian was a teacher in the Fresno Unified School District from 1959 to 1989, first at Carver Elementary and then Viking Elementary. He was a

Armenian Students Organization Has Many Activities in Semester

TAMAR KARKAZIAN
EDITOR

Considering that Fresno State is three-quarters done with the 2010-2011 academic year, I feel that now is a good time to reflect upon ASO's goals and accomplishments. The main goals for the Armenian Students Organization (ASO) for the 2010-2011 school year have been to 1) bring more young Armenians together 2) increase cultural awareness on the Fresno State campus, and 3) to raise awareness of the club in the community. After a relaxing winter break, ASO members got right back into the swing of things; trying to reach their goals.

They started off the semester with their first meeting held at Viktoria's Place restaurant. "We want to make meetings more than just meetings," explained ASO President Tamar Karkazian. "We want to make them more fun—like we are hanging out with friends." Elections for a new treasurer were held at the meeting and after a very close race, Tatevik Hovannesian was elected.

The month of February was filled with a variety of sports activities. First, ASO students went to a couple of Fresno State

men's basketball games. The second game was more special than the first, as ASO took part in Fresno State's attempts to revive school spirit. This game, on February 5th, broke records with attendance announced at over 9,000. ASO students were the first in line to get in to the first-ever basketball tailgate held at the Save Mart Center and they were happy they did so. "We had a great time at the tailgate and game," exclaimed Ani Grigoryan. "I really enjoyed it, especially since we went as a group." Later in February, at the request of many members, ASO headed to a local ice rink. Quite a few members came out to skate and it was interesting to see the varying skills that the members had. "I wasn't planning on going because I am a terrible skater, but I am glad I did. It was a great night," stated Ann Soghomonian.

So far in March, ASO has teamed up with the Armenian Studies Program to host community events. The first in the month was on Friday, March 4th, the 12th Annual Armenian Film Festival. This event was a big hit, as not only were many Fresno State students in attendance, but there were also many members of the community present.



Photo: ASP Archive

ASO members demonstrated their school spirit by attending the Fresno State men's basketball game on February 5. The students received many prizes for being the first to enter the Save Mart Center.

The second event in March was an Armenian Dance and Song Workshop taught by Hasmik Harutyunyan. This workshop, which was cosponsored by the Associated Students, was held on March 5th. More than 25 students were present and eager to learn. "Armenian dance seems easy but involves so much energy," said Lilit Grigoryan. This energy was evident in Hasmik Harutyunyan, as her passion for music shined through with every explanation she gave. Throughout the four-

hour workshop students focused on learning traditional Armenian folk songs as well as Armenian dances.

In addition to their holding their own events, the ASO has been teaming up with other youth organizations in the area to organize events together, with the goal of bringing young Armenians together. "We want to revive the Armenian community," explained Zhor Pogosyan. "We want to bring the Armenians together." The first event, which took place

in December, was a dance held to collect toys for orphans in Armenia. The 40 plus young people in attendance were asked to bring a toy with them, in place of paying an entry fee. Not only did the students collect two boxes of toys, but everyone got a chance to meet someone new, and to eat, drink, and dance. The second collaboration event, a "Game Day," was held in late February. Although the crowd was smaller than in December, participants still enjoyed the event. "It was great interacting with new people in the Armenian community," explained Arlen Gorjian, from the St. Gregory Armenian Church, Fowler, ACYO. "We had a great time." The most popular games were "Mafia" and "Catch Phrase."

Along with all these fun events ASO is also planning to give back to both the local and Armenian communities. They are planning a project to collect "shoeboxes" of goodies to send to orphans in Armenia.

Keep your eyes open for ASO activities to commemorate the Armenian Genocide in April. ASO is planning on hosting several events during the week of April 25-29th, including a lecture, a vigil, and a movie showing.

Student Corner

RUZAN ORKUSYAN
STAFF WRITER



Lilit Grigoryan
Freshmen-International Business Major

1. What do you like most about Fresno State?

I really like our campus—it is beautiful. I like the fountain, and some of the buildings, especially the Smittcamp Alumni House. It is very nice. Russian universities don't have such big campuses.

2. What are your career goals?

Right now my long-term goals are to get Masters in Business Administration and to get a job in a large prestigious company.

3. How are you involved in the Armenian community?

I try to participate in every Armenian event on and off campus. Right now I am helping the Armenian Students Organization organize the Armenian Genocide Commemoration activities.

4. What do you want to contribute to ASO, to Fresno State, and the community?

I would like to promote more our culture on campus and in the city so that people can learn about Armenia, about its ancient history, and about its amazing people.

5. Why do you think it is important for your generation to stay actively involved in the Armenian community?

I think it is very important for the young Armenian generation to stay actively involved in the Armenian community because it helps young people learn more about their country. It helps them remember who they are, especially when we all live far from our country and rarely go there.

For students like me (who recently moved to the United States), participation is a way to find a part of Armenia in this small community and to stay connected with my country. It is really a great pleasure to be involved in the community.



Noel Lenard
Freshmen-Graphic Design Major

1. What do you like most about Fresno State?

The friendly and knowledgeable professors, the pretty campus, and a magnificent library.

2. What are your career goals?

I would like to work with an advertisement agency and design promotions, posters, and packaging for movies.

3. How are you involved in the Armenian community?

I am ASO Secretary, so I help to plan events, as well as get-togethers with other Armenian organizations.

4. What do you want to contribute to ASO, to Fresno State, and the community?

I would like to help plan fun events, to promote the club, as well as create promotional materials for surrounding businesses.

5. Why do you think it is important for your generation to stay actively involved in the Armenian community?

I believe that it is important to know one's heritage and appreciate where you come from. By staying active in the Armenian community, we keep our culture alive.

Ruzan Orkusyan
Freshmen-Biology Major

1. What do you like most about Fresno State?

I like the beautiful campus where everything is within a five to ten minute walk. I also like the professors, who are very open to helping the students and helping them get involved in different activities.

2. What are your career goals?

I would like to someday become a pediatrician and help children all over the world overcome their illnesses. It would be nice to be able to travel to Armenia and help improve medicine there.

3. How are you involved in the Armenian community?

In high school I was not very involved in the Armenian community, but now I take every

ASO Elects New Treasurer

Name: Tatevik Hovhannisyan
Executive Position in ASO: Treasurer
Class standing: Freshman
Major: Political Science

What inspired you to become a leader in ASO?

My life. Since I just recently moved from Armenia, it always makes me happy to be around things that are Armenian. Plus, I love being able to do something for the Armenian community.

What is your goal for ASO?

My goal for ASO is to gather more people together. I want our Armenian students to understand that we need to be united, that when we are united we are better, and I want ASO to improve.



Tatevik Hovhannisyan

Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

What is your favorite experience in ASO?

I love everything ASO does, everything from meetings to the Armenian Studies Program lectures. Everything that is connected to Armenians and Armenia makes me feel better.

chance to do something with the ASO. I enjoy spending time with people who come from my culture because it reminds me of my life in Armenia. Today I am an active member of ASO, write for the *Hye Sharzhoom*, and take part in other Armenian events that take place in Fresno.



4. What do you want to contribute to ASO, to Fresno State, and the Armenian community?

I hope to spread more awareness about Armenian culture and

traditions within the university and the community. I have come to see that many people don't know where Armenia is or what the culture is like, so it is my goal to help people understand—at least a little—my colorful and unique culture.

5. Why do you think it is important for your generation to stay actively involved in the Armenian community?

It is important for all of us to stay active in the Armenian community; it is especially crucial for the young generation who will be responsible for passing down Armenian traditions to the next generation. If the youth of today does not learn the culture and traditions, how can we hope to maintain a strong national identity in the future?

Photos: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

Hasmik Harutyunyan Leads Armenian Dance and Song Workshop

ARMEN ARIKIAN
STAFF WRITER

Internationally recognized performer and teacher Hasmik Harutyunyan led an exciting Armenian Dance and Song Workshop for more than twenty-five students and community members on Saturday, March 5. She taught traditional Armenian folk songs such as *Koon Yeghir Balas*, *Garun A*, and *Sona Yar*, and also the steps to many traditional Armenian dances. Dances included the *Gyovend*, *Kochari*, *Tamzara*, *Ververi*, *Mayroke*, and *Pampouri*.

The event was sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and the Armenian Students Organization and was partially funded by the Associated Students, Inc.

When did you first learn how to sing and dance?

I grew up in a family where everybody was always singing and dancing; it was a part of our daily lives. My grandmother and father were major influences for me in music and dance.

My grandmother would talk of Moush, our homeland, until she died. She would gather us,



Photo: Erica Magarian

Students learning an Armenian dance at the Workshop.

and tell us about life there, and we would sing the folk songs of Moush. She would sing happy songs, dance songs and wedding songs; singing these songs helped her live. She was trying to keep us close to the traditional living style.

When we were young, my father would tell us, “When you have guests, and if you don’t have anything good to serve them, sing and dance for them.”

What made you decide to keep dancing and singing a big part of your life?

I never thought that I would

dedicate my life to singing and dancing. But I understood that if I could become a bearer of this culture, I would keep the homeland in my heart. That is how preserving this culture turned into my life’s work

What are your personal favorite Armenian folk songs and dances and why?

Some of my favorite songs are those that I learned from my family—my grandmother, my mother, and my father. These songs remind me of when I was a child. My grandmother’s *Tagvoragovk* [Praising of the

Groom] is a wedding song from Moush. I also love *Surmalu*, about the Surmalu massacres, which my father sang. And, of course, the many Armenian lullabies which I collected, learned, and recorded.

What inspires you to teach Armenian folk songs and dances to others?

By teaching I am able to tell the world about my people- our history, our memory. Our lives as a people are in the Armenian folk songs and dances and being able to share that inspires me to continue. They will always remind us of who we are, and where we come from.

Why do you feel it is important for Armenians today, to learn and preserve traditional Armenian culture?

When we are young, we don’t understand the importance of preserving these songs—this folk culture. But when you lose the older generation, and are standing alone on that cultural road, you understand that it is your time. Every generation is responsible for what they have learned and what they will pass on to the next generation. If you lose your country, there is always hope that you will get it back. But if you lose your culture, your roots, it is

lost forever.

What is your favorite memory related to Armenian folk music and dance?

When the Karabagh war was still being fought, we were blockaded, and life was very difficult in Armenia. The lives of dear friends were in grave danger, and we didn’t know what to believe in, what to have hope in. So we sang patriotic songs, happy songs, to try to cheer people up. We sang humorous songs, believing life hadn’t stopped. That is when I understood how song could give strength in very difficult times.



Photo: Erica Magarian

Hasmik Harutyunyan

Volunteer Altounian Tutors Students at Keyan Community School



Volunteer Denise Altounian with kindergarten students.

DENISE ALTOUNIAN
STAFF WRITER

Armenian Students Organization members have been active volunteers at the Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School for many years. ASO volunteer Denise Altounian shares her experience in this personal piece.

Since I began volunteering at the Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School, I have learned quite a lot from the five and six-year olds I tutor: 1) naps make the ultimate punishment, 2) keep your friends close and your crayons closer, and 3) when one friend has an injury, it is necessary for the whole class to see it.

I began volunteering at the Community School in September 2010, after the ASO asked for volunteers. Ever since, I have been helping out three days a week, for about an hour a day. Last semester I tutored a second grader one-on-one and this semester I work with about six different kindergarteners. As

hectic as working with six five-year olds may sound, I honestly wouldn’t change it for anything.

Making the decision to become a volunteer at the school was one of the best choices I have ever made. I have always loved working with children and knowing that I am making a difference in their education is reason enough to continue going week after week. Working with these kids, with their innocence and energy, is like nothing else; they always manage to brighten my day regardless of whatever else is happening. I love being a role model for these children and seeing them grow intellectually.

A typical day at the school begins by walking into the classroom and being attacked by at least three little girls—all just super happy to see me. They then like to inform me that they already know it all so they do not need to come with me to the back of the room to learn.

After some convincing, I take two or three students to one side and work on simple addition and subtraction problems or practice

reading five letter words. Each day is definitely an adventure, as it is not always easy to keep their focus on learning.

Seeing the progression of their reading and math skills is a reward in itself. Seeing students improve, from walking them through the problem or sounding out a word, to watching them take charge and

do it on their own, is the highlight of my experience.

Although initially the students were shy, I eventually got to see their personalities shine through little by little. Some are outgoing and talkative, while others are more reserved and quiet. They are all different and seeing their true colors shine is just another

high point of working with them. While working with children may not be for everyone, and while one needs a lot of patience, it’s absolutely worth it at the end of the day.

I have come to see these kids as my little “brothers and sisters” and I always look forward to seeing them.

LA PORTA, FROM PAGE 1

year and was very pleased and honored to be asked to return.

The theme of this year’s lecture series was “Remembering and Preserving Memory” and there were over one hundred students, faculty, and community members present. Dr. La Porta’s lecture, entitled “The Armenian Genocide: Memory and Memoir,” presented an introduction to the Armenian people and Armenian history before detailing the historical context and evolution of the Armenian Genocide in order to emphasize that, although the Genocide “is a defining moment in Armenian history—particularly in the modern age—it is not *the* defining moment;” nor is it, he continued, “the culmination of Armenian history.”

Using power-point slides, Dr. La Porta highlighted the relative prosperity, cultural production, and global perspective of many Armenians in the Ottoman Empire in the 1860s and showed how that time of increasing optimism dissolved after the Russo-Turkish war of 1878 and the events leading to the Hamidian massacres of 1895-6. Dr. La Porta underscored how the despotic and repressive measures of Sultan Abdul-Hamid II were not only felt by Armenians but resented by many in the Ottoman Empire. After the overthrow of the Sultan in 1908,

another wave of optimism infused the population of the Empire and particularly the Armenians.

Dr. La Porta emphasized the ways in which the events of 1915 constituted Genocide, noting the pattern and simultaneity of the extermination, the use of technology (including the telegraph and railway system), and the establishment of concentration camps—methods of extermination that would resonate through the Holocaust. The word genocide, he pointed out, was invented by Raphael Lemkin in 1944, a Jewish, Polish jurist based upon his research into the events of 1915 and upon his own experience of the Holocaust. He also listed the numerous organizations, including the International Association of Genocide Scholars, that recognize what happened to the Armenians as Genocide.

Dr. La Porta subsequently made students aware of the humanitarian efforts launched by the U.S. to help the Armenian people. In the 1930s, however, that memory began to fade as other concerns—the Great Depression and, eventually WWII—came to the fore. The Republic of Turkey, too, tried to suppress the memory of the Genocide, blocking, for example, the MGM production of Franz Werfel’s popular novel, *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh*.

Dr. La Porta then documented

how this veil of silence on the Genocide began to lift after the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Genocide in 1965. He noted the emergence of writings by descendants of Genocide survivors that recorded their personal journeys of understanding the meaning and repercussions of the Genocide. In particular, he mentioned Michael Arlen’s *Passage to Ararat* and Peter Balakian’s *Black Dog of Fate* as prominent examples of this type of memoir. He also noted the efforts made by organizations—such as the UCLA Armenian Genocide Oral History Project and Project Save Armenian Photograph Archives—and scholars to preserve the memory of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire as well as of the Genocide.

Dr. La Porta remarked that he feels strongly about the lecture series and the inclusion of the Armenian Genocide in it. When he asked for a show of hands to see how many students had heard about the Armenian Genocide in high school, none went up. The series, he said, fills in that critical gap. Dr. La Porta hopes that one day, complete recognition of the Armenian Genocide will be achieved so that the process of healing may truly begin. That process, he added, would not be fully complete until the policy of genocide becomes a memory.

Catching Up-Alumni Feature



Diko Chekian Class of 2004

Major: Business Administration-Entrepreneurship Option
Minor: Armenian Studies
ASO President
Hye Sharzhoom Layout Design and Photographer
Armenian Studies webmaster

After graduating with a degree in Business Administration, Chekian began working for his family business, Prestige SurfaceWorks, a stone countertop company. In 2010 he returned to Fresno State to begin a Masters in Business

Administration (MBA) program; he will graduate this Spring. In October he took a trip around the world for five weeks, visiting six countries (including 2 weeks in Armenia and Karabagh), and flying through 11 different airports!

Nyrie Karkazian Class of 2005

Major: Mass Communicaion-Print Journalism Option
Minor: Armenian Studies
ASO Public Relations
Hye Sharzhoom Writer

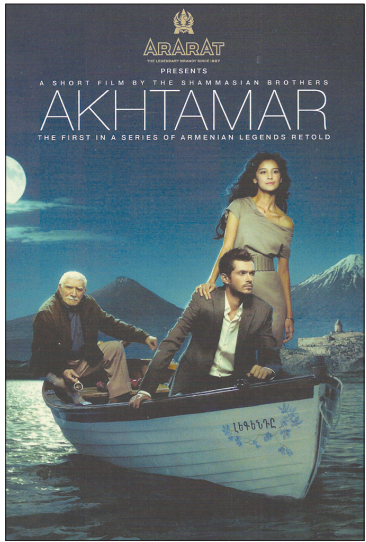
After graduating from Fresno State, Karkazian began working for the family business, Karkazian Jewelers. She then worked with the California Teaching Fellows Foundation, After School Programs, while getting her Single Subject English Credential. She is now an English teacher at Rio Vista Middle School in the Central Unified School District. Karkazian travels as much as she can and her goal is to visit every continent before turning 30. So far she has visited four and only has three to go!



FILM FESTIVAL, FROM PAGE 1

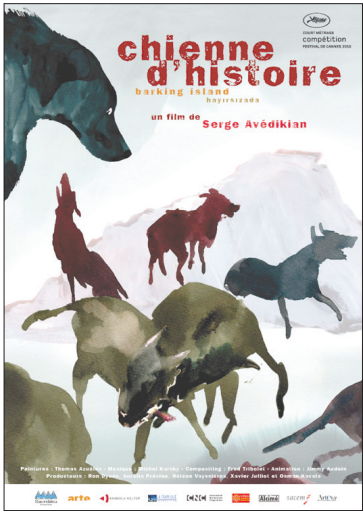
away, and his father has lost his job at a shoe repair shop. Instead of going to school, Hrag is seen running through the streets of Beirut. Hrag, cognizant of his father's spiraling desperation and possible suicidal tendencies, steals his father's gun before running out of their apartment.

Hrag visits the shoe repair shop and begs for his father's job back, but it is to no avail. He receives free medicine from a family friend at the pharmacy, and an offer to tutor her children. Hrag visits his grandmother, suffering from dementia, who at first doesn't realize her daughter, Hrag's mother, has passed away. Hrag's father at the same time is running through the city trying to find his son, learning of the fights young Hrag has been in with the local schoolboys. The film ends with a letter Hrag wrote to his father, telling him he knows his father's been planning on sending



him to an orphanage, yet he isn't an orphan. Hrag reveals that he knows his father is suicidal. A beautiful, but very restrained film, "The Fifth Column" took a more in-depth look at the unfortunate circumstances that impacted an impoverished life.

Switching from fiction to reality, the only documentary featured in the festival this year was "Mt. Ararat Expedition" (2010), directed by Hacob



Khodaverdian, followed a group of Armenian men, the *Ararat 11*, as they climbed Mount Ararat in July 2010. A "dream of a lifetime," the men were led by a local Kurdish guide and persevered through a difficult climb as they reached the summit over the course of three days. A mostly lighthearted documentary, the group of men shared stories and sang songs as they traveled up the ever-steeper mountain and braved the cold winds to proudly fly the flags of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh.

The only animated feature, "Chienne d'Histoire" [Barking Island] (2010) comes from French director, Serge Avedikian. The animated short, based on true events, depicts the streets of Constantinople, overrun by stray dogs that are becoming a nuisance to the government. The new government, led by the Young Turks, develops an idea to get rid of their canine problem by sending the stray dogs to a deserted island to die. In a sad image, the dogs on the island bark the nights away and attempt escape when a European ship passes by, but unfortunately there

is no hope for salvation.

Finally, one of the more anticipated films of the festival was "Akhtamar" (2009) a joint British and Armenian venture by the Shammashian Brothers. A simple tale with many layers, "Akhtamar" focuses on a particular day in the life of an elderly taxi driver in Yerevan. We see him at breakfast, looking out into the Yerevan landscape, getting coffee at a café, and driving his cab through the city streets. He picks up a young man from Moscow, just arrived in Yerevan, and sets off.

The taxi-driver senses that the quiet young Muscovite is troubled, and learns that he is on his way to meet his Armenian girlfriend. The driver pulls to one side and recounts the legend of Akhtamar, about the Armenian girl Tamar who lived on an island in Lake Van. After telling the story, the taxi-driver drops the young man off, continues to the lake and pulls out a photograph of his Tamar, his love. Standing beside his cab, the film ends with the driver staring out into the dark night of the lake.

The films presented this year at the Armenian Film Festival showcase the immense artistry and spirit of Armenian filmmakers.



"The Artist and His Mother" A Review of Najarian's Book

BARLOW DER MUGRDECHIAN
ADVISOR

The Artist and His Mother. Pete Najarian. Fresno, CA: The Press at California State University, Fresno, 2010. 203 pp. Black and white and color drawings and illustrations by the author.

The Artist and His Mother is a poignant and moving story of the love between a mother and son. It follows the life arc of mother, Zaroohé Najarian, from her birth in 1905 in Adana to her death in 2006 in Fresno. Noted author Pete Najarian has created a world that is filled with interactions between he and his mother.

The book is newly released by the Press at California State University, Fresno and is the second title in the recently established Armenian Series. The first book in the series was William Saroyan's *Follow*. Partial funding for the series has been provided through the generous support of the M. Victoria Karagozian Kazan and Henry S. Kazan Fund of the Armenian Studies Program.

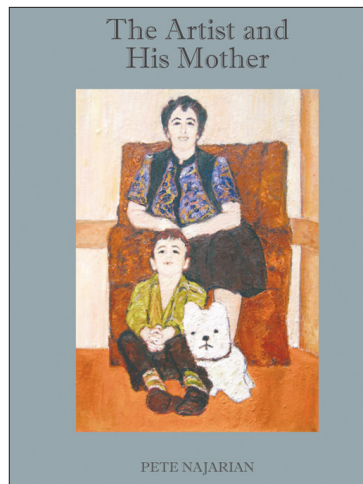
Pete Najarian is the author of earlier works such as *Voyages* (1971), *Wash Me on Home, Mama* (1978), and *Daughters of Memory* (1986), which also dealt with Najarian's family history.

Najarian's *The Artist and His Mother* captures the relationship between mother and son and how that relationship changes over time. As both mother and child age, their relationship becomes even more complex. Najarian bares his own emotion, as he peels back layers of his own feeling and personality. He is often torn between the feeling of family and the reality of his self-described lonely existence in Berkeley, California.

An orphaned refugee from the Armenian Genocide, Zaroohé came to the United States, married, and led a life that was sometimes unhappy. His life story mirrors that of many who survived the Genocide.

"We had seven years of happiness. Some never have any."

Zaroohé was the mother to two children, and enjoyed seven year of happiness while married to her husband Armenag, who later suffered a stroke while still in his 40's, dying at the age of 50.



She thereafter had to take care of her children as a single mother, raising them through her own hard work—an independent and proud woman. Tommy the older brother by eleven years, born to Zaroohé's first husband, while Peter was Zaroohé's and Vahan's child.

Pete Najarian, who in his own words is "miserable as hell," lived in the Bay Area while his mother lived in Fresno. He would often drive to Fresno to be with his mother, who he longed to be with. Najarian reveals his life-long tie to a mother—one that he would sometimes love and sometimes hate, a woman who played a monumental role in his life.

A major theme of the novel is Pete Najarian's ambivalence about his mother. "I had wanted to escape her since I was a boy, yet the further I fled the more I missed her, the more she let go the more I held on, always returning to her as if to the earth itself." (p. 121)

It is this inner struggle that comes to dominate the relationship between mother and son. He is so emotionally attached to his mother, that it became difficult for him to live apart from her. How he tries to resolve this inner dilemma is at the heart of the book.

Zaroohé's gradual physical decline becomes a running theme in the narrative, and her aging also becomes a means to explore memory. She eventually falls and breaks her hip, later suffering heart attacks and a stroke. The long decline provides for a detailed description of the interaction between mother and son.

Najarian's evocative drawings add depth to the book, portraying his mother at various ages. Several color painting add a different touch from the author, bringing an autobiographical view.

AKHTAMAR (2009) (UNITED KINGDOM/ARMENIA),
Directors: The Shammashian Brothers
CHARENTS: IN SEARCH OF MY ARMENIAN POET (2009) (SOUTH AFRICA),
Director: Shareen Anderson
CHIENNE D'HISTOIRE [BARKING ISLAND] (2010) (FRANCE),
Director: Serge Avedikian
FIFTH COLUMN (2010) (LEBANON/USA),
Director: Vatche Boulghourjian
ICI-BAS [DOWN HERE] (2010) (BELGIUM/FRANCE),
Director: Comes Chahbazian
MT. ARARAT EXPEDITION (2010) (USA), Director: Hacob Khodaverdian
NICE OLD-FASHIONED ROMANCE (2010) (USA), Director: Ara Soudjian
OUR QASHATAGH (2007) (ARMENIA), Director: Gor Baghdasaryan
THE THIRD RIDER (2008) (ARMENIA), Director: Gor Baghdasaryan
Thanks to Armen Toumajian, Film Curator of the AFFMA-Arpa Foundation for Film, Music and Art (Los Angeles) for his assistance in organizing the 12th Annual Armenian Film Festival.

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Benefactor Alice Peters Passes Way

Longtime California State University, Fresno friend and benefactor Alice A. Peters passed away Monday, Jan. 24. She was 97.

Mrs. Peters was the widow of business leader Leon S. Peters, who died in 1983. After Mr. Peters' death, Mrs. Peters served for many years as board president of the Leon S. Peters Foundation, a charitable organization that has supported the university, local organizations and Armenian causes.

Born Alice Apregan, Mrs. Peters is the daughter of Armenian immigrants who came to the United States in 1907 to escape persecution by the Ottoman Turks. Her family was from the Armenian province of Bitlis. She attended high school in nearby Selma, but it was at Del Rey Packing that Mrs. Peters met her future husband, Leon, whose family was also from Bitlis. They married in 1943.

Leon Peters and his brother, Pete P. Peters, established Valley Foundry and it became one of the region's most successful businesses, allowing them to found the foundation in 1959. Since then, the Peters Foundation has become one of the community's biggest benefactors, giving millions to philanthropic causes, particularly higher education, hospitals and arts organizations.

Mrs. Peters helped to start the Fresno Metropolitan Museum, and actively supported the Community Medical Centers and Fresno State.

KÖKER, FROM PAGE 1

Köker, using a map of Turkey, spoke about the Armenian presence in the various provinces of Turkey, supplemented with images from his collection of century-old photographs and postcards. He presented interesting information, by giving the pre- and post-Genocide Armenian population, and detailing the Armenian contributions to the life of those provinces.

It is hard to imagine that there was place in Turkey with 108 Armenian newspapers, yet according to Köker, the *vilayet* (Turkish for province) of Istanbul did, in the early part of the 20th century. Istanbul also had Armenian schools and businesses; the presence of Armenians at the time was also apparent, demonstrated by the Armenian writing on signs and buildings throughout the region. The St. George Armenian Church in Istanbul served the Armenian population, and is still active today, though the traces of Armenian influence—the writing—is now nowhere to be found.

The region of Hudavendigar, with the large city of Bursa, was strongly influenced by the Armenian population living in an Armenian quarter with a population of 10,000. The Armenians made their presence known by adorning buildings with Armenian crosses. There are pictures of people, who are likely Armenians, working with silk in Bursa. This is unsurprising as Bursa has had strong historical association with the silk trade and a reputation for fine silks. Armenian influence was widespread in the economy, as nearly all firms in the business center were once owned by Armenians.

The seaside *sanjak* (a historical subdivision of the Ottoman Empire) called Izmir, also Smyrna, was once a place where the Armenian population reached 20%. Today, however, the once proud Armenian sector of this city has mostly been converted into six-story apartment buildings, lamented Köker. He showed the St. Stephanos Church in Izmir and explained how this Armenian church was important to the community, but that it had gone through tribulations and now is used for the annual Izmir fair.

Many of the people in the various provinces shared a similar story. A picture on a postcard or photograph projected onto the screen connects us to a city's past, which today has been buried by a turbulent Turkey.

Köker's goal to show the rich history of Armenians in Turkey and the contribution of the Armenians to society, through the photographs he showed. Köker intended to show Turks that the ideas taught in their schools about an exclusively Turkish-built nation of Turkey were false.

Through his book, *Armenians in Turkey 100 Years Ago*, and exhibit, Osman Köker created something to open the minds of the youths of Turkey to the rich history of people who shaped the landscape of Turkey. The result is an impressive, unique archive of Armenian history for all the world to see.

Controversy Over “Friendship Statue” in City of Kars, Turkey



Turkish-Armenian Friendship Statue in Kars, Turkey.
ARMEN MELIDONIAN
STAFF WRITER

The City Council of Kars has decided that the Turkish-Armenian Friendship Statue in the Kars Province of Turkey, whose existence was subject to political debate, will be demolished. The statue is of a human figure divided in two, with each facing one another and one extending its arm to the other. Currently unfinished, it is 100-feet tall, and the method of going about its pending demolition remains in question.

It has just been reported that a Turkish court has temporarily blocked controversial government plans to demolish the monument, meant to promote reconciliation between Turkey and Armenia.

Joost Lagendijk, a former member of the European Parliament, explained in his article “Different Reasons to Visit Kars” that in his meeting with Naif Alibeyoglu, then mayor of Kars in 2005, Alibeyoglu “made a strong argument in favor of opening the closed border between Turkey and Armenia,” to help revitalize Kars and the surrounding regions. Lagendijk noted that the scale model of a monument Alibeyoglu had in mind at the time was too “militaristic and bombastic,” and recommended Turkish sculptor, Mehmet Aksoy.

A year later, Lagendijk met with Aksoy, who had proposed a scale model of the “Statue of Humanity” and was already well into building it. Aksoy stated that the hand in the divided figure symbolizes hope of reconciliation between Turkey and Armenia. The Erzurum Cultural and Natural Heritage Protection Committee allowed the project in 2006 despite objections from the local branch of the National Movement Party.

The man who led opposition to the statue was the local leader of the National Movement Party Oktay Aktas, an ethnic Azeri. Azeris in Kars make up 20 percent of the city. Former Mayor Alibeyoglu commented at a meeting with students of the Department of Journalism at Marmara University that although “the arguments to tear down the monument vary,” the decision to demolish the statue was made at Azeri President Ilham Aliyev’s request because “Turkey has an oil and gas dependence on Azerbaijan. This is the only reason for demolition.” Azerbaijan is at odds over the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict, and has repeatedly voiced its concerns and opposition to Turkey’s efforts in normalization with Armenia.

Hye Oozh - Saturdays 9:00 AM - Noon

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 Studies Program March and April 2011 Lecture Series

Wednesday, March 16 at 7:30PM

“The Armenian Author Missak Metsarents”

Dr. James Russell, Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies at Harvard University is the special guest of the Armenian Studies Program. **University Business Center, A. Peters Auditorium, Room 191, Fresno State.**
Free Admission. Parking restrictions are relaxed only in UBC Lot after 7:00PM.



Monday, March 21 at 7:30PM

“Dr. Hayk Demoyan-Director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute of Yerevan, Armenia”

Special guest speaker Dr. Hayk Demoyan will speak on the mission and goals of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute of Armenia.

Peters Educational Center Auditorium, Save Mart Center, Fresno State. Shaw and Woodrow Ave. Free Admission.



Wednesday, March 30 at 7:30PM

“Armenian Jerusalem Through Photos”

Guest speaker Matthew Karanian will present a photo presentation on the Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem. **University Business Center, A. Peters Auditorium, Room 191, Fresno State.**
Free Admission. Parking restrictions are relaxed only in UBC Lot after 7:00PM.



Tuesday, April 12 at 7:30PM

“The Secret of Mesrop Mashtots’ Erkatagir”

Guest speaker Serge N. Mouraviev will present a discussion on the development of the Armenian alphabet, from the Danielian letters.

University Business Center, A. Peters Auditorium, Room 191, Fresno State.
Free Admission. Parking in UBC Lot.



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Thursday, April 7 at 7:30PM

“L’Inferno Armeno: Some Readings of Dante in Modern Armenian Literature”

Dr. Sergio La Porta will speak on the translation of the Divine Comedy of Dante into Classical and Modern Armenian. This lecture will look at how the work of Tourian, Varujan, and Charents’, share resonances with the *Inferno*.

Wednesday, April 27 at 7:30PM

“The Theme of Genocide in Armenian- American Literature”

Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Both lectures in University Business Center,
A. Peters Auditorium, Room 191, Fresno State.

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

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Dean and Shari Arakelian
in honor of Arnold Gazarian’s 80th Birthday