

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.

Fr. Shahe Altounian, Fresno, for a gift of several books authored by him, including *The Psalms Tell the Story of My Soul* (2010), *Lord I Love You* (2001), in Armenian, *The Sacraments of the Armenian Church* (2009), in Armenian, and *Christ Glorified from January to December*, in Armenian. He donated the newly published *Sharakans of the Armenian Apostolic Church* by Archbishop Yeprem Tabakian (Burbank, CA: Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, 2011), in Armenian. He also donated several other Armenian and English language books.

Hazel Antaramian-Hofman, Fresno, for the gift of her Masters’s Thesis on the *Portrait of King Gagik-Abas of Kars*. She completed her Master of Arts in Art degree at Fresno State in December 2011. Her thesis is an interpretation of textile wealth in the 11th century Armenian miniature family portrait of King Gagik-Abas of Kars, the last Bagratuni king in Greater Armenia. In English. 170pp. with illustrations.

Levon Chookaszian, Yerevan, Armenia, for the gift of his book, *Arshag Fetvadjian* (Yerevan, Armenia: Printinfo, 2011). This is the first in a new series called “Masters and Treasures of Armenian Art,” by Dr. Chookaszian, who is Chair of the UNESCO Art History Department at Yerevan State University. This volume covers the life and work of the artist Arshag Fetvadjian (1866-1947) and is illustrated with his drawings and paintings. In Armenian and English with a Russian summary. 187pp.

Elza & Haig Didizian, England, London, for the gift of the book *Karekin I, Catholicos of All Armenians: Religious, Theological, and Armenian Studies Works*, Vol. 7 (Armenian Series) (London, England: Haig & Elza Didizian Fund, 2011). 311pp. In Armenian.

Hrant Dink Foundation, Istanbul, Turkey for the gift of the *2012 Calendar* (Turkey, Istanbul: International Hrant Dink Foundation Publications, 2011).

Sheldon Gajarian, Fresno, for the gift of two posters: one on the battle of Sassoun and the other on the heroes of the Hnchak party.

Jerair H. Gharibian, Watertown, MA, for the gift of his book *Armenian Journalism 1794-1977* (Waltham, Massachusetts, Arvest Printing 2011). The late (1937-1991) Jerair Gharibian’s work is a reference guide and a history of the Armenian press. 145pp. In English.

David Kherdian, Florence, Massachussets, for the gift of his book, *Gatherings* (Northhampton, MA: Tavnon Books, 2011), a collection of poems, essays, reviews, stories, and talks by the prolific author Kherdian. 184pp. In English. He also donated a copy of *Orer* Armenian European Magazine, which includes an article on the author (in Armenian).

James Kizirian, Novato, California, for the donation of the book *Keanki Patkerner yev khind ou khrad* (Beirut: Lebanon: Sevan Printing, 1961). 438 pp. In Armenian.

A. D. Krikorian & Eugene Taylor, Port Jefferson, New York, for the gift of the book *The Genocide of the Ottoman Greeks: Studies on the State-Sponsored Campaign of Extermination of the Christians of Asia Minor (1912-1922) and Its Aftermath: History, Law, Memory* (Scarsdale, NY: Artistide D. Caratzas, 2011). Krikorian and Taylor authored an article in the book, “Achieving Ever-Greater Precision in Attestation and Attribution of Genocide Photographs,” pp. 389-434.

John Krikorian, Fresno, for the gift of a variety of books in Armenian and English from the estate of his parents, Puzant and Margaret Krikorian.

Lauren Hoekstra, Fresno California, for the gift of the CD of an oral history of her grandmother, Roxie Krikorian, recorded in 1983. Krikorian was a survivor of the Armenian Genocide.

Edward Misserlian, San Francisco, California, for the gift of the book *Tigran the Great* (Yerevan, Armenia: Gitutun Publishing House of NAS RA, 2011). This book is a collection of materials related to the 2100st anniversary of the enthronement of Tigran the Great. The articles were presented at an international symposium in honor of the great King in 2005, organized by the Armenian National Academy of Sciences. 482pp. In Armenian, French, Russian, and English.

Dr. Harry Moordigian, Fresno, for the gift of several Armenian language books.

Leon Palian, Armen Sahakian, and Madeleine Minassian, Washington, DC, for the gift of the book *Avetik Sahakyan (Hayr Abraham)* (Yerevan, Armenia: Persian Caucasian Studies Center, 2003). This book is dedicated to the life of Avetik Sahakian, who was a notable figure in the history of the Armenian national liberation struggle, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He was a member of the Eastern Bureau of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, the President of the Parliament of the Republic of Armenia (19180-1920) and was a noted intellectual. In Armenian. 278pp.

Ara Sarafian, London, England, for the gift of the book *Telling the Story The Armenian Genocide in The New York Times and Missionary Herald 1914-1918* (London, England: Gomidas Institute, 2012). The book was authored by Anne Elbrecht and based on her M.A. Dr. Dickran Kouymjian wrote the forward. The book is dedicated to the memory of her late husband Richard Elbrecht. 234 pp. In English.

George Shirinian, Arlington, Massachussets, for the gift of the new book *Judgment at Istanbul: The Armenian Genocide Trials* by Vahakn N. Dadrian and Taner Akçam (New York, Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2011) and for the article “The Armenian Genocide: Review of its Historical, Political, and Legal Aspects” in the *University of St. Thomas Journal of Law & Public Policy*, Volume V, Number 1 (Fall 2010) by Vahakn Dadrian. *Judgment at Istanbul* is a study of the Armenian Genocide as documented through the Ottoman Special Military Tribunal’s criminal prosecution of the perpetrators involved. 363 pp. In English.

Rev. Dr. Gorun Shrikian, Dearborn Heights, Michigan, for the gift of

California State University, Fresno

Armenian Studies Program

Fall 2012 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
• Arm 1A-Elementary Armenian (Class #72189)	4	10:0A-11:50A	MW	B Der Mugrdechian
• Hum 11-Hum Baroque/Mdrn (Class #72645)	3	9:30A-10:45A	TuTh	S La Porta
General Education-Arts & Humanities, Area C1				
• ArmS 20-Arts of Armenia (Class #73078)	3	9:00A-9:50A	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
General Education-Social Sciences, Area D3				
• ArmS 10-Intr Arm Studies (Class #72190)	3	11:00A-12:15P	TuTh	S La Porta
Upper Division Armenian Studies Courses				
• ArmS 108A-Arm History I (Class #72191)	3	9:30A-10:45A	TuTh	B Der Mugrdechian
General Education-Arts & Humanities, Area IC				
• Arm 148-Masterp. of Arm Culture (Class #73140)	3	2:00P-3:15P	MW	S La Porta
• Arm 148-Masterp. of Arm Culture (Class #73185)	3	3:30P-4:45P	MW	S La Porta

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 2012-2013 catalog: <http://www.csufresno.edu/catoffice/current/armstudhd.html>

HYE SHARZHOOM

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his book *Armenians Under The Ottoman Empire and The American Mission’s Influence on Their Intellectual and Social Renaissance* (Ottawa, Canada, 2011). The book is the author’s doctoral dissertation presented in 1977 to Concordia Seminary in Exile in cooperation with the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. 335 pp. In English.

St. Mary Armenian Church, Fr. Vartan Kasparian, Yetem, CA, for the gift of an eight volume Bible, in new Armenian Braille (New York: American Bible Society, 1953). The Bibles are from the estate of the late Sima (Hripsima) Shuklian. Several other Armenian language books were also donated.

The Armenian Prelacy, New York, NY, for the gift of the book *International Trade and the Armenian Merchants in the Seventeenth Century* by Vahan Baiburtian (New Delhi, India: Sterling Publishers Private Limited, 2004). Vahan Baiburtian holds the Chair of International Relations and Diplomacy at Yerevan State University and served as the first ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to Iran. 261 pp. In English.

Martin M. Tourigian, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, for the gift of eighteen booklets called *Happy Birthday USA-A Very Special Year-1976*, by Lucy S. Tourigian, eight articles of information on the Armenians, two tapes of a concert by the Knar Chorus, one booklet of songs, and two booklets with information on the Armenian Students’ Association of America, Inc.

Hye Sharzhoom is an ethnic supplement of *The Collegian*, funded by the Associated Students, and is the newspaper of the Fresno State Armenian Students Organization and the Armenian Studies Program. 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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Dr. Thomas Mathews Discusses the Mystery of the Gospel of King Gagik of Kars

RUZAN ORKUSYAN
STAFF WRITER

Armenia’s rich, diverse history and culture is perhaps best described through ancient manuscripts and artwork. Since such valuable resources are often unknown, many aspects of the Armenian past are kept secret.

Dr. Thomas F. Mathews, Professor Emeritus of Art History at the Institute of Fine Arts at NYU, enlightened a captivated audience on February 8, 2012, discussing “The Mystery of the Gospel of King Gagik-Abbas of Kars.” He compared the 11th century manuscript, housed in the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem, to the Parthenon of Athens, noting that both represented the epitome of cultural achievements of their cultures. Although, the paintings in the Gospel are damaged and some images are missing, some of the manuscript’s secrets have begun revealing themselves.

Dr. Mathews was invited to speak by Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, director of the Armenian Studies Program, as part of the Spring ASP Lecture series. While in Fresno, he also spoke to an art history class taught by Prof. Keith Jordan. The Art History Club and the Department of Art and Design at Fresno State were co-sponsors of the event, partially funded with IRA

funds. Art History club advisor Laura Meyer was instrumental in arranging for the co-sponsorship.

The Gospel of Gagik-Abbas, who was the last king of Kars before the Seljuk invasion, is arguably the most illuminated Gospel ever executed. It contains 56 carpet ornaments, 256 birds, and 10 decorative index tables. In addition, there were originally 227 narrative miniatures of the Life of Christ, of which only about six percent remain today.

According to Professor Mathews, there are four great secrets that the manuscript holds. The first deals with theology in its original setting. The Gospel was made to explain religion and to defend Armenian Christianity, in the face of the Seljuk advance. In addition, Professor Mathews revealed that the portrait of the royal family, the most famous miniature in the Gospel, was not originally part of the Gospel. It was found in a library and attached to the Gospel at a later date, but the style of writing clearly demonstrates that it belonged to another manuscript. However, the portrait is still important as it presents princess Marem as the successor to Gagik-Abbas. In a sense, this portrait, by depicting Marem on a lion throne wearing the *tiraz*, or badge of office, was a deed to inheritance.

Another secret was regarding the journeys of the Gospel. When



Dr. Thomas Mathews.

Photo: Erica Magarian

Kars was pillaged, the Gospel was safely stored in the Citadel. From there, it traveled to Tsamandos where it inspired new artists and scribes. Later, it was carried to Hromkla with the Catholicos, and finally, to Jerusalem. Everywhere the Gospel went, it inspired artists; today we can draw parallels between the Gospel of Gagik-Abbas and works created in later centuries. In the Trebizond Gospel (Venice 1400), whose patron was princess Marem, fol. 7v is strikingly similar to fol. 8 of Gagik-Abbas’ Gospel. In addition, since the Gospel migrated to Cilicia after the fall of Tsamandos, motifs seen in Gagik-Abbas’ Gospel are seen throughout Cilician manuscripts.

The last secret was of the fate

Professor Mathews commented that the figure of Christ had been cut out in all the miniatures. The miniatures that were not harmed were either of very poor quality or did not contain Christ’s image. This led Professor Mathews to hypothesize that the mutilation was the work of a devout Christian collecting images of Christ, sometime after the Gospel’s use in Cilicia but before its rebinding in 1703.

The Gospel remains an important treasure of Armenian past and an inspiration to those who see it. The audience was very fortunate to witness glimpses of a manuscript that very few have access to. And one can hope that with time, more is revealed about the vibrant history of the Gospel and therefore, Armenia.

The Armenian Students Organization present an
Armenian Dance Workshop
Learn how to dance traditional Armenian dances.
conducted by Hasmik Harutyunyan

Saturday, March 31, 2012 • 2:00-5:00PM

Meet in the South Gym, Rm. 133

The workshop is free for Fresno State students and is partially funded by the Associated Students at Fresno State.



Armenians on the Internet



ARMEN ARIKIAN • STAFF WRITER

Visitarmenia.org

Main Categories: Home, Resources, Armenia Gallery, Reports, Available Tours, In The Media, Links, Visitor Feedback, F.A.Q.s, Promotional, Thank You, Contact Us

Summary:

Armeniavisit.org is a website that will be helpful for those planning a visit to Armenia; it provides its visitors useful tourist information. The homepage of the website provides a background of how Armenian culture developed. This information focuses mainly on the nation’s adoption of Christianity in 301 A.D. and ends with a description of current life in Armenia. The rest of this page features the creator’s purpose in developing the site—“to promote tourism to Armenia” and to emphasize that “Armenia offers a little something for every person.”

The website offers a variety of information and photos to encourage Armenians and non-Armenians alike to visit Armenia—including pictures of the beautiful scenery. The Resources section of the website provides addresses and phone numbers to notable museums in Armenia, such as the Matendaran and the Museum of Yeghishe Charents.

In this section several photos and descriptions of popular national monuments are displayed to help potential tourists decide which parts of Armenia they should visit. Some of the examples are the Cathedral of Etchmiadzin and Lake Sevan.

Another important section of the website, Armenian Gallery, features a wide array of scenic photos of Armenian landscape. For those who would prefer a more structured and informative trip to Armenia, Armeniainfo.org also suggests tours, located in the “Available Tours” section. From the wide range of photos, biographies, and history, Armeniainfo does well in preparing people to visit Armenia.

Are you receiving multiple copies
of Hye Sharzhoom?

Have you recently moved?

Please contact the Armenian Studies
Program with your address changes.

559-278-2669

Kristen St. John Presents Lecture on Armenian Prayer
Scrolls- *Hmayils* from the UCLA Minasian Collection

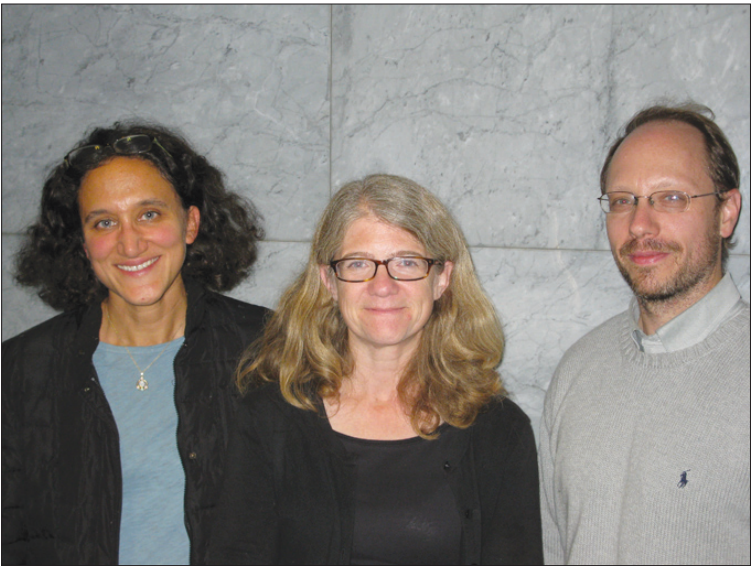


Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

L. to R.: Malina La Porta, Kristen St. John, and Dr. Sergio La Porta.

ANDREW ESGUERRA
STAFF WRITER

Shining a light on the efforts to preserve fragile links to cultures from long ago, Kristen St. John, a collections conservator at UCLA, concluded the Armenian Studies lecture series for the fall semester.

Speaking to an audience at Fresno State on November 28th, St. John brought her vast knowledge of the preservation and restoration of manuscripts to the lecture. Her expertise spans from Ethiopic to Byzantine scrolls—written and used anywhere from between the 11th to 19th centuries—to one particular Armenian artifact that has been the focus of her personal and professional interest for the past several years.

In the process of conserving historical manuscripts, utilizing

the lightest and sometimes unorthodox materials, such as wheat paste to bind tears and repair damage is key. Rather than restoring the scrolls to a pristine state, explains St. John, the goal is to preserve them with the signs of use by the owners at the time. Problems that face the almost 7,000 manuscripts in the UCLA collection include tearing over time from being rolled up, and damage caused when previous owners tried doing repairs themselves. When approached by a colleague several years ago to help restore a scroll found in the Exhibits Collection of Near Eastern Materials Minasian Collection, St. John found an intriguing artifact of Armenian history, damaged from heavy use and discolored in some places.

Dating back to 1608, the Sargis scroll was written by a 17th century monk of the same

name, according to the scroll’s colophon, the inscription at the end manuscript that usually details the date, author, topic, and owner of the work. Heavy use of the scroll points to its importance and the subject matter make the Sargis scroll a *hmayil*, or Armenian prayer scroll. It’s common for a *hmayil* to be damaged from regular use by the owners and examples of *hmayil* are found in the Madenataran and in other cultures, too.

Many questions are still raised about the *hmayil* and its purpose, contents, and origins, which motivated St. John to undo the deterioration of time, so that translators can work to answer some of the questions the artifact raises. The UCLA archives have also reached out to people for assistance in finding answers by uploading videos of the artifact onto Youtube. Discoveries about who made and owned these scrolls, their function and perception in Armenian and neighboring societies at the time, and the significance of the each of the scrolls’ contents will, in St. John’s view, benefit “anthropologists, historians, theologians, art historians” and more, “these scrolls could provide valuable information about how people lived and how their beliefs shaped their lives.”

Bringing her account of the personal interest she gained as she worked on the texts to an interested audience at Fresno State, promotes access and encourages other to also study the collection.

Visit to Armenia on ASP Summer Trip 2011 Leaves Lasting Memories



Armenia Summer Study Trip participants at the Sardarabad monument commemorating the famous battle of 1918.



KYLE GAEDE
SENIOR
ANTHROPOLOGY

I had the incredible opportunity, from May 24 to June 9, 2011, to visit a country, Armenia, whose language, culture, and traditions are some of the oldest and most beautiful in the world. Every waking moment was spent well occupied with some form of immersion into the Armenian culture, from an early morning tour of the Matenadaran to an afternoon of cognac tasting. With

the help of our wonderful driver, we spent our days traveling from the beaches of Lake Sevan to the open-air market in Gyumri.

While it is difficult to decide what I specifically enjoyed the most, I would have to say it was the beauty of the Armenian culture, country, and maybe somewhat its women. Watching the little old ladies who rose at the crack of dawn only to polish the already clean sidewalks with their old straw brooms, is one of those things that I will always remember. I never thought I would see the day when I would be able to say that a talent show put on by the children of the Nork Youth Center would leave me speechless.

The hospitality of David Tataryan's family still puts a smile on my face when I think of David's baptism. The way they unwaveringly tried at every song to get us all onto the dance floor, and made sure we all had enough

food to eat, made the language barrier in the country all but disappear.

I find that life is all about the small things. While the monasteries in Tatev and Geghard were awe inspiring, the classes on the state of the Armenian economy informational, and the 1,000 foot high gondola ride a little terrifying, I will never forget the simple little things—like playing poker all night just to win enough *tram* (money) to go buy a chocolate *ponchik* in the morning.



DENISE ALTOUNIAN
JUNIOR
POLITICAL SCIENCE

It would be difficult for me to say that traveling to Armenia was a lifelong dream of mine. I had always been curious about the land of my ancestors, but not much more. I had often heard that you can't truly feel a connection to the land of your ancestry until you step foot on the soil and this past summer I discovered just how true that really is.

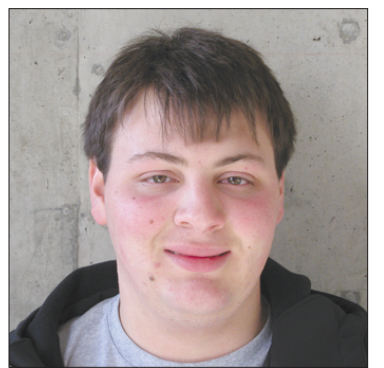
During the long plane ride there, my mind was filled with thoughts of what Armenia would be like. As we got off the plane in the early morning and saw Mount

Ararat so clear in the distance, I knew any preconceived notions would be wrong. Traveling to Armenia with the Armenian Studies Program and Prof. Barlow was an experience of a lifetime. I can now say that I have seen more of Armenia than most of my family members. We traveled through so many regions of Armenia, each one having something different to offer. The turnaround was amazing, one day we would take in the big city atmosphere of Yerevan, while other days we were surrounded by mountains in the outskirts of Armenia, almost secluded from people.

One of my favorite visits was to Holy Etchmiadzin. Never before had I seen such a beautiful church filled with so many amazing treasures, and a choir that sang so beautifully. Another beautiful site was Lake Sevan—that really just took my breath away. The size of the lake was incredible and the time we spent on the small beach was so much fun.

A soccer game between Armenia and Russia that was being broadcast in downtown Yerevan was an unexpected moment, that really left an impression on me. There were so many people gathered to support their country; you just could feel that everyone was watching the same game. Their passion and patriotism were amazing. It made me so proud and made me wish that we lived in a society where life could stop for a soccer game.

If I could take this trip again, I would in a heartbeat. I left proud to be Armenian and wanting to tell everyone all I knew about the country of Armenia and my trip.



ANDREW KHASIGIAN
JUNIOR

As a young child, I had always heard about the beauty and history of Armenia. So when a chance to visit Armenia arrived, I jumped at the opportunity. Once our plane landed, I saw the attractiveness of Armenia in Mt. Ararat.

The landscape was stunning and was constantly changing. On each trip to see a different church, we saw more of the beautiful scenery of Armenia. I enjoyed seeing and hearing about all the history of Armenia, the churches, and the Armenian culture. Many of my favorite places that we visited were the churches and especially the landscape and scenery that surrounded them. Even though a majority of the memories I have of Armenia were of the churches or museums, some were of the new friends I made and the time we spent exploring Yerevan.

I plan on making a return trip to Armenia so I can see the tree that we helped plant in the grove at the Armenian Genocide Monument. I would recommend any and all students to attend and participate in a study abroad opportunity such as this.

CAMP DARFUR, FROM PAGE 1

never even heard of the Armenian Genocide. However, how many of us are aware of similar atrocities that have taken place in Bosnia, Cambodia, Rwanda, and Sudan?

On Monday, March 5, Fresno State sought to change this as the traveling exhibit, "Camp Darfur," was brought to campus. "Camp Darfur" is a traveling, simulated refugee camp, meant to educate the public about the current genocide happening in Darfur, Sudan, while reminding them of genocides of the past.

The event was held in the Memorial Gardens, in front of the Kennel Bookstore, and was open to students, faculty, staff, and the community. The Holocaust and the genocides of Armenia, Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Darfur were each represented by an authentic U.N. refugee tent that was filled with information, pictures, timelines, and articles.

This event was brought to campus by USU Productions, Fresno State's student programming board and i-Act,

a nonprofit organization, whose aim is to bring awareness to violations of human rights around the world. Also featured were speakers at a noon program that included a survivor of the Bosnian Genocide, a daughter of Cambodian Genocide survivors, and Dr. Matthew Jendian, chair of the Sociology department at Fresno State and the grandson of three Armenian Genocide survivors.

The Armenian Students Organization helped add to the event by hosting a table, bringing the replica of the Armenian Martyrs Monument (Tsitsernakaberd) and having the public make colorful paper carnations to place on the monument. The students were able to add their knowledge to the event and ensured that the public left knowing that there was a Genocide of the Armenian people in 1915.

Camp Darfur was a great success as many people walked through the exhibit and were able to learn that genocide is both a problem of the past and of today.

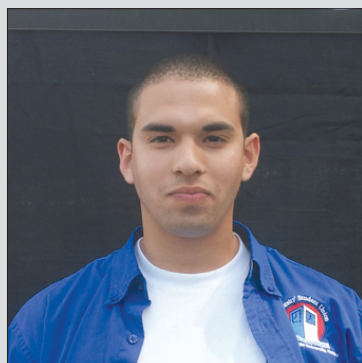
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The campus programming board, USU Productions, hosted "Camp Darfur" to raise awareness about genocides on Monday, March 5, 2012. The Armenian Genocide was one of six genocides represented. We asked students who visited the Armenian Genocide tent to share their reactions.



OLEG MURADYAN
JUNIOR- NURSING

"I'm Armenian myself, and the reaction I felt was to be prouder of my country and my people."



JOHN GONZALEZ
SOPHOMORE-SOCIOLOGY

"I didn't know that so many Armenians were killed during the Genocide. Learning about these atrocities is alarming, but also helpful because we are learning about history."



LAURA CARROLL
SENIOR- ENGLISH

"I did not know much about the Armenian Genocide before the "Camp Darfur" event, but reading and seeing things about the Armenian Genocide was so sad. There should be more organizations willing to bring these sad facts to light. Perhaps it will change the world for the better."



NATACHA WOODSON
JUNIOR-
DOUBLE MAJOR:
MATHEMATICS & AFRICAN
AMERICAN STUDIES

"Before this event I was not informed about the Armenian Genocide. The similarities between the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust were very interesting, and the pictures that showed the malnutrition of the Armenians were especially shocking."

TAMAR KARKAZIAN
EDITOR

Photos: Andrew Esguerra

**Are you an alumnus
of Fresno State?**

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

Jendian Awarded 2012 President’s Award

ARMEN ARIKIAN
STAFF WRITER

Those involved in the Armenian community often feel a sense of pride when they hear that a fellow Armenian has won an award or been recognized for an accomplishment. On January 11, 2012 they had one more reason, as Dr. Matthew Jendian was the recipient of Fresno State’s 2012 Presidential Award of Excellence.

The President’s Award of Excellence, established in Fall 2001, recognizes faculty members who have “demonstrated integrity, leadership, and a commitment to the university and the community, as exemplified by President Welty.” The University Advisory Board reviewed the candidates for the award and made the decision to select Professor Jendian as the 2012 recipient.

Jendian, a Fresno State alumnus, earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with minors in Armenian Studies and Psychology. As a student he was an active member of the Armenian Students Organization, as well as a staff writer for *Hye Sharzhoom*.

At the Spring faculty and staff assembly, where the award was announced, Dr. Jendian stated that as honored as he was, he knew that “there are many others on our campus who are equally or even more worthy” of the award. Jendian believes that “awards like this are bigger than the individual being recognized,” emphasizing



Photo: Cary Edmonson, Fresno State

L. to R.: President Dr. John Welty, Dr. Matthew Jendian, and Advisory Board member J. Michael McGowan.

that his achievements and projects would have not been possible without the support of his wife Pam, his parents, his siblings, his in-laws, his grandparents, and several of his colleagues and mentors.

Jendian is the author of *Becoming an Armenian, Remaining Ethnic: The Case of Armenian Americans in Central California* (2008). He is currently writing another book, with his siblings, on how his family survived the Armenian Genocide, and how they maintained their Armenian identity in the United States.

Professor Jendian is the founding director of Fresno State’s Humanics Program, which prepares and certifies students to strengthen and lead nonprofit organizations. Jendian

is enthusiastic about a recently established grant in the Humanics Program, the Phillip T. Manoogian Philanthropic Award. This award will give students of the Program the opportunity to donate \$3,000 to their choice of community benefit organizations in the field of education. The award, named in honor of Jendian’s father-in law who was professionally involved with the Fresno Unified for 35 years, will be presented on May 14, 2012.

Grateful to those who helped him with all of his projects—through past, present, and future contributions—Jendian is inspired by his students. “Many of them tell me that I inspire them, but I keep reminding them that they are inspiring me to work as hard as I do for the benefit of my university and my community.”

13th Annual Armenian Film Festival Features New Films-Attracts Students & Community

EVELYN DEMIRCHIAN
STAFF WRITER

An eager crowd packed the Industrial Technology Building’s auditorium the evening of Friday, February 24 in anticipation of the 13th Annual Armenian Film Festival at Fresno State. The Festival was organized by the Armenian Studies Program and featured volunteers from the Armenian Students Organization who introduced the films. The Festival was funded in part by the Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation.

Students, family, professors, filmmakers, and community members all came out to support this annual event that features a variety of films from the international Armenian film community.

The four films showcased this year were “The Armenian and the Armenian” (2012) by director Armen Karoghlanian, “Le Piano” (2011) by Levon Minasian, “Sunrise Over Lake Van” (2011) from Artak Igityan and Vahan Stepanyan and “Bolis” (2011) by director Eric Nazarian.

“Telling stories is the only way we can create empathy, without being dogmatic or didactic,” said director Nazarian, quoting the late William Saroyan.

Nazarian traveled from Los Angeles for the viewing of his film “Bolis,” speaking to the audience before the film began.



Photo: Erica Magarian

“Bolis” director Eric Nazarian.

“The game has changed, civilization has changed, and technology has changed everything. Everything is cinema. Facebook, YouTube, Skype, everything is words and images, so we have to start not being didactic but being storytellers. Being storytellers in a way that transcends the fact that we are special because we are Armenian.”

Nazarian was chosen with several other directors to be part of a project entitled “Do Not Forget Me, Istanbul.” Each film made focused on a theme of one of the ethnic minorities in Turkey, providing a look into the world of Istanbul that is both European and Anatolian.

“Bolis” is the first time the word “genocide” was uttered

in a Turkish cinema. The story concerns an *oud* player with lived in Istanbul, known by Armenians as Bolis. A short film, “Bolis” contains multiple layers showing us how the cosmopolitan, progressive world of Istanbul lives right beside the more rustic, memory-filled streets of the city.

“The Armenian and the Armenian,” based on a Saroyan short story, evoked the Armenian spirit.

An audience favorite, “Le Piano” was another short film, which provided a view into a world not commonly seen by the 1988 earthquake that destroyed the city of Leninakan. Young orphan Loussine is a talented musician. Her grandfather dotes upon the girl, who can’t speak, and her rented piano. The piano is

Grandma’s Tattoos Screened at Fresno State to Large Audience

TATEVIK HOVHANNISYAN
STAFF WRITER

When one hears about the Armenian Genocide, one often hears about the death marches and the killing of the Armenian leadership on April 24. Rarely do we hear what happened to the women who were “saved.” One movie, *Grandma’s Tattoos*, explored this topic at a screening on Wednesday, February 29, at Fresno State.

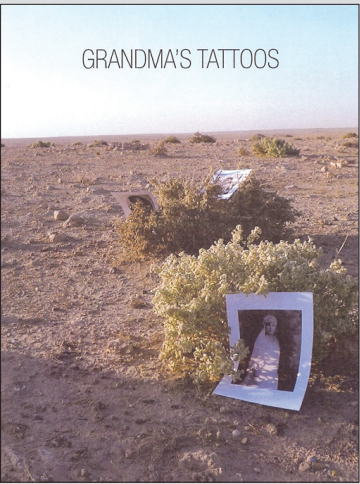
The Armenian Studies Program co-sponsored the Fresno premiere of *Grandma’s Tattoos* with the Armenian National Committee, Central Valley.

Directed by Suzanne Khardalian, the 58-minute documentary explores grandmother Khanoum’s horrifying past—one that she never wanted to share with any of her children or grandchildren, because she was ashamed of her experiences.

The movie follows the director, Suzanne Khardalian, as she embarks on a journey to better understand her grandmother and to find out what prevented her grandmother from expressing love and affection to her family. Khardalian first visits her family home in Beirut, where her grandmother had settled as a refugee. She wanted to find out what the “devilish-marks” on her grandmother’s face and hands meant. Realizing that nobody there could answer her questions, she traveled to the United States to find out more from her grandmother’s sister. After hearing shocking and tragic stories about her grandmother’s childhood, Khardalian traveled to Armenia to interview a survivor of the Genocide, who could tell her stories of what happened to the young girls who survived the Armenian Genocide.

too large to fit inside their small residence, so Loussine must practice outside in the elements where the weather, neighbors, and little hooligans become obstacles. The plot serves as an indicator that, just as the beautiful piano is too big for the small house, Loussine’s beautiful talent is too large for Leninakan.

The remaining film, “Sunrise Over Lake Van,” was also embraced by the crowd, and provided moments of comic relief and introspection. A feature-length film, “Sunrise Over Lake Van” concerned the antics of Garabed, an old man whose mother survived the 1915 Genocide, and who now takes it upon himself to burn Turkey’s flag in front of the



Khardalian learned that the Ottoman Empire killed most of the Armenian male population during the Genocide, leaving the women miserable and helpless. As the death marches started, Turkish *gendarmes* took more than 90,000 children, mostly young girls, converted them to Islam, and forced some of them into prostitution. In order to remind the young girls of their past, the Turks tattooed their faces, chests, and foreheads. The tattoos were meant to distinguish them from the locals.

Khardalian later discovered that her grandmother had been raped when she was a young girl, which was why she was always filled with so much anger and rarely showed love towards her family.

Although the movie was sad and heart wrenching, it was an effective movie because it depicted the pain that women had to endure during and after the Genocide.

“It really opened my eyes to the pain that the women and children faced,” reflected Denise Altounian.

The survivors who are ashamed to talk need to speak up and to share their story so that people around the world know what happened to them.

Turkish Embassy every April 24.

Garabed’s son, Dikran, his new wife, and Garabed’s grandson and grandson’s girlfriend, all played separate but meaningful roles within the storyline supporting each other.

The films all inspired conversation among the audience, drawing applause and laughs as well as sighs and murmurs.

The Knights of Vartan Cultural Committee provided refreshments after the screening, providing an opportunity for the audience to reflect upon the films.

Films this year once again showcased the bevy of talent, artistry, and passion alive in Armenian filmmakers around the world.

The Armenian and the Armenian (2010) (USA), Director: Armen Karaoghlanian Bolis (2011) (USA/Turkey), Director: Eric Nazarian Folie à Deux (2011) (France), Director: Armen Khechoumian 40 Days of Musa Dagh (2010) (USA), Director: Robert Davidian Return (2010) (USA), Director: Robert Davidian Komitas (2010) (USA), Director: David Deranian The Last Tightrope Dancer in Armenia (2010) (Armenia), Directors: Arman Yeritsyan, Inna Sahakyan Le Piano (2011) (France/Armenia), Director: Levon Minasian Roots (2011) (Greece), Director: Vahagn Karapetyan Sunrise over Lake Van (2011) (Armenia), Directors: Artak Igityan, Vahan Stepanyan

Opinion-Genocide Law in France

EVELYN DEMIRCHIAN
STAFF WRITER

There’s a question in my mind that keeps repeating, “Why such a fuss about the “Armenian Genocide” law in France, if they [Turkey] have nothing to hide?” Why must there be such a push from the nation of Turkey (and Turkish individuals abroad) to bully, blackmail, threaten, and intimidate their allies when these allies attempt to recognize a wholly-accepted facet of their past?

No country has a clean record; all nations have shameful moments in their histories. Why refuse to let this skeleton out of its glass closet?

At the time that this piece was written, the French Constitutional Council overturned the “Armenian Genocide” law that had been approved by both houses of the French Parliament. If validated, the law would have criminalized the denial of the Armenian Genocide in France. It has been a controversial topic as there is a large Turkish population in France, as well as sensitive relations between the two countries.

For me, something about this issue remains mildly unsettling.

While recognition, education, and open public discussion of the Armenian Genocide must be pursued, I wonder if the law like the one proposed in France now is the right course of action.

In first world countries, such as in France and the United States, where the idea of Free Speech is virtually sacred, what does the criminalization and subsequent punishment of denial achieve?

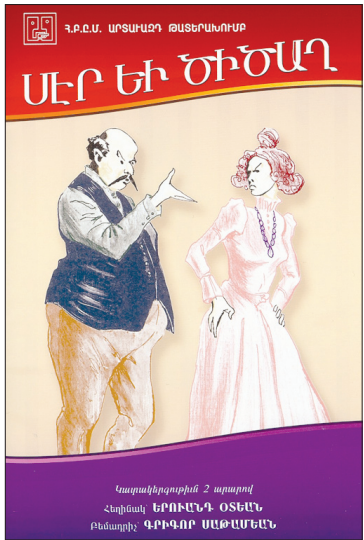
At Fresno State, in last week’s campus newspaper *The Collegian*, editor Tony Petersen quoted French philosopher Voltaire, “I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.”

As an Armenian, my heart aches watching the ancestors of those who attempted to kill off my people continue this cycle of hate and denial. Yet, as someone who wholly believes in free speech, I would sooner defend the right of a man to speak freely in France, whose philosophy is “*Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité*,” rather than see that man punished.

It’s a slippery slope of regulations and consequences once a law such as the proposed “Armenian Genocide” law is enacted.

Until the issue is resolved and the French parliament and courts make up their mind, let these Genocide deniers and naysayers spew their ignorance and continue to make themselves look like fools. Let the rest of us take the high road and continue to learn, educate, and remember. The ignorant will learn, and history will right itself. Politicians can attempt to right these matters, but ultimately we as individuals carry the responsibility of awareness.

Armenian Play Brings Fun to Fresno Audience on Feb. 26



MARINE VARDANYAN
STAFF WRITER

Love and laughter are the perfect ingredients for a happy life; they also make for an enjoyable Sunday afternoon. On Sunday, February 26, the Ardavazt Theater Group from Los Angeles paid a visit to the Armenian community of Fresno, bringing with them the invaluable gift of love and laughter with their comedy play, “Ser Yev Dzhizagh” by Yervand Odian.

“Ser Yev Dzhizagh” is a play that combines three of Odian’s works into one hilarious two-act comedy. Fresno’s Armenian community came together at Fresno High School’s auditorium to enjoy one of America’s best Armenian theater companies, sponsored by the Armenian General Benevolent Union, Fresno Chapter, and the Charlie

Keyan Armenian Community School.

The play takes place in Bolis (Constantinople) during the late 19th century, and describes the chaos that arises with the task of matchmaking a wealthy family’s daughter, Vartuhi. Concerned parents, Yevpimeh and Artin Agha can’t seem to agree on which suitor would be best for their daughter, as each of them are being persuaded by a different matchmaker—both matchmakers hoping to make money from their expertise.

The father is in favor of a young man, Agripas, while the mother favors the doctor from France, Shavarsh. What the mother, father, and both matchmakers don’t know, is that Vartuhi has already made her decision, and it is neither Shavarsh nor Agripas. Instead it is Edward, a young man from America. The play follows the conniving actions of all the characters, but most importantly shadows the actions of Edward and Vartuhi, who are both conspiring to end up with one another.

The dynamic characters of this play were each unique and silly, never ceasing to amuse the audience. The performance had such great acting that even if one didn’t understand the language, the performance was sufficient enough to make the play enjoyable and entertaining.

Along with the talented acting, the comedy had singing, beautiful

Lory Bedikian Reads Poetry From New Book

SUREN OGANESSIAN
STAFF WRITER

Lory Bedikian, poet and author of *The Book of Lamenting*, came to Fresno State on February 17, to read poems from her new book in an event sponsored by Fresno State’s Creative Writing MFA Program and the Fresno Poet’s Association. The Armenian Studies Program also supported her appearance in Fresno.

Among those in attendance were United States poet laureate Philip Levine, as well as Fresno State students and faculty.

Bedikian is an award-winning poet, as *The Book of Lamenting* won the 2010 Philip Levine Prize for Poetry. She graduated from UCLA earning a BA in Creative Writing, Poetry, and earned her MFA in Poetry at the University of Oregon. Her poetry has earned her a plethora of other awards as well, and she currently teaches poetry workshops in Los Angeles, where she resides with her husband.

Bedikian’s poetry illustrates the experience of immigrants coming to California from the Middle East. She was born in San Francisco, but grew up in Cupertino, and also lived for a brief time in Los Angeles. She writes about her family and



Lory Bedikian

Photo: Erica Magarian

her experiences returning to Armenia and Lebanon when she was younger, as well as living in California. She began writing poetry at the tender age of 8. She knew from then on that poetry was a permanent part of her life, no matter what.

Her poetry sometimes contains vivid, surreal imagery; while some of her colleagues in her Graduate program criticized her poem “Beyond the Mouth” for being “unbelievable,” in its metaphorical imagery, Bedikian said that she gained the courage to write “unbelievable” poetry by becoming inspired by other poets who wrote similarly.

Bedikian said she enjoys visiting Fresno, calling the city “wonderful and underrated,” and commenting that “the land breathes easier here.” When she read her poem “What Floods the Hour,” with references to William Saroyan, she said she was proud to finally read the poem in a place where people were familiar with his work.

Her advice to fellow writers and aspiring writers was to “Read, and after you’re done, read some more.” She also advised writers to listen to people and to their surroundings. “There is inspiration to be found all around you.”

ASO Enjoys February & March Activities



ASO members at the 13th Annual Armenian Film Festival.

Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

EMMA SHALJYAN
STAFF WRITER

With the start of the Spring semester, the Armenian Students Organization has continued with the same enthusiasm and dedication that has driven their success during the Fall semester. “We have a lot of great events planned for this semester,” stated ASO treasurer Andrew Esguerra. “We want reach out to various communities.”

ASO started off the new semester with a celebration at Gateway Ice Center, as members played “White Elephant,” held a gift exchange, ate, and skated.

On February 2, ASO was very happy to see its members gather

together for the first meeting of the semester. Students discussed upcoming events, signed up for various activities, and caught up with one another.

“This year has been different from previous years,” stated Ani Grigoryan. “We have done a lot of volunteering.” Participating and volunteering at all these different events has “made us stronger as an organization and as a team,” she explained.

On Monday, March 5 ASO participated in the “Camp Darfur” event on campus, designed to raise awareness about genocide. Tents were set up to represent various genocides of the twentieth century. ASO was the only club that had set up a table

with additional information about the Armenian Genocide. Denise Altounian organized the event, with USU Productions. “We were very pleased that ASO wanted to participate, they were a great addition,” she recounted. Along with the table, ASO set up the scale model of the Armenian Martyrs Monument (Tsitsernagapert).

ASO members taught students how to make handmade carnations to commemorate the Armenian Genocide, which were then placed on the Genocide model. The purpose was to show students that they can make a difference and help get genocides recognized; it was also meant to raise awareness about April 24. By the end of the day there was dozens upon dozens of carnations. “It made me proud to see ASO participate in a campus event,” said Tamar Karkazian, assistant director for USU Productions. “They represented the Armenian community well with their knowledge and dedication.”

Looking ahead, ASO has planned many upcoming events. In the coming weeks they will take a trip to Badger Pass to learn how to ski and snowboard. In late March, Hasmik Harutyunyan will visit campus to lead a workshop on Armenian dancing.

ASO is also preparing for the annual April Armenian Genocide activities and commemoration.

Armenian folk music, and scenic backgrounds, all of which added to the perfection of the play.

“It is always a joy to have an Armenian play performed in Fresno...the acting was wonderful and we all enjoyed it,”

stated Zhora Hakobyan.

Abraham Kendoyan, who first watched this same play in Beirut, Lebanon, commented “In Beirut, we thirst for Armenian plays and it is also the same here in America.”

Not only did the Armenian community spend a wonderful Sunday enjoying the play, but they also showed their support for the Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School, as proceeds went to the school.

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(received as of March 12, 2012)

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Raffi, From Page 1

Reminiscing about the inception and recognition of the independence of Armenia, Hovannisian spoke about his family, their experiences, and the challenges that face the Armenian nation today. Joined by his wife Armenouhi, who is the head of the Orran Benevolent Organization in Armenia, Hovannisian spoke on his family life focusing on the time when he was growing up. He recalled his trips from L.A. to Fresno, the “Armenian school [he] never had,” every weekend. Along the way he would visit his uncles and aunts and his

hardworking grandparents. Kaspar, a proud man and a fighter who hailed from Kharpert, “lost everything yet danced in the face of adversity,” and his wife Siroun, who represented a more Americanized culture and took the nickname Sarah, helped shape Hovannisian’s personal cultural identity. His other grandparents “gave their world to their grandchildren” even though they were plagued by nightmares of what they had been through. It is of note that his family history is documented in Garin Hovannisian’s (Raffi’s son) book, *Family of Shadows*, which was launched in Fresno this past

September.

Hovannisian insisted that the young republic needs to become a viable nation economically and socially by emphasizing the legitimacy of its leadership by means of fair elections. The Armenian government must strengthen its sovereignty by becoming more independent in its duties, such as in national defense.

Regarding the Armenians in Karabakh, Hovannisian felt that the government in Armenia should support the Armenians in Karabagh and their stance that they are an independent country, which should be internationally recognized (this sentiment is also shared by the Heritage Party). By striving to become a modern, democratic nation and by putting the people in charge of their own matters, Armenia earned its position on the world stage, reaffirming the meaning and significance of our tricolor flag flying at the United Nations.

Raffi Hovannisian offered a one-of-a-kind story of how one Armenian-American can give back so much to the historical homeland of Armenians. His message was one that was fresh and motivating for the Armenian-American audience and especially important for the future generations, especially to the Charlie Keyan Armenian School students in attendance, to show them that they can one day make a difference in a land so far away, yet so close to all of us.



Photo: Alaiti Ekmalian

Left to right: Grant Bedrosian, Armine Hovannisian, and Gail Bedrosian. Armine Hovannisian, Raffi Hovannisian’s wife, is the founder of the Orran Benevolent Organization in Yerevan, Armenia, that provides services for disadvantaged youth. She has been a long-time advocate for the aged and disadvantaged in Armenia.

Fresno State Alumni Find Success

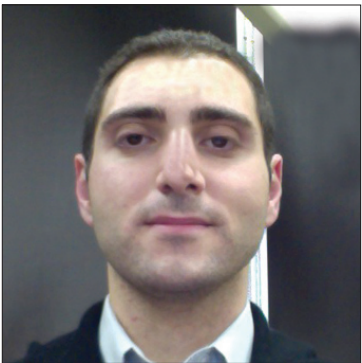


Photos: ASP Archive

ZHANNA BAGDASAROV
CLASS OF 2007 MA
EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
CLASS OF 2005-BA PSYCHOLOGY;
MINOR ARMENIAN STUDIES
FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT AND
ASO SECRETARY, FORMER
EDITOR OF HYE SHARZHOOM

In 2009, Bagdasarov was accepted into a PhD program in Industrial/ Organizational Psychology and offered full financial support at the University of Oklahoma. Currently, she is studying various issues pertaining to ethical decision-making and emotions in the workplace, while also serving as the coordinator for the University-wide ethics training effort. Bagdasarov is living in

Norman, Oklahoma and working diligently toward completing her degree.



PETER PETROSYAN
CLASS OF 2009
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION;
MANAGEMENT OPTION
ASO MEMBER

While at Fresno State Petrosyan was involved in the Armenian Students Organization. Upon graduation he worked in his family’s business, Diamond Auto Body located in Fresno. He recently began working in the accounting department of DiBudo & DeFrendis Insurance. Petrosyan is now studying for a Global MBA at Fresno Pacific University.

Fresno State Alumnus Arlene Srabian Passes Away



STAFF REPORT

With the death of Arlene Srabian, the Armenian Studies Program lost one of its most ardent supporters.

Arlene Gale Srabian, born in Fresno on May 21, 1944, was the first child of George Gulian, survivor of the Armenian Genocide, and Hazel Vartanian, native of Parlier, California. Arlene was a member of the first graduating class of McLane High School and attained an art degree in 1966 from Fresno State University. She met the love of her life, Robert Srabian, of San Francisco, at a Fresno-Triple XXX Convention and they married on January 3, 1970, at Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church.

She began her teaching career at John Muir Elementary School in Fresno and also taught in Burlingame, California during the first year of her marriage. Arlene took time out from her career to raise her two children, Bryan and Shayla. Arlene dedicated 28 years to teaching Kindergarten at Toby Lawless School before retiring

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Kooyumjian Family Foundation Donates \$35,000

STAFF REPORT

Armenian Studies Program Coordinator Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian announced that the Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation has made a gener-

Bertha and John Garabedian Fund Donates \$5,000

STAFF REPORT

Armenian Studies Program Coordinator Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian announced that the Bertha and John Garabedian Foundation has made a generous donation of

ous donation of \$35,000 to the Armenian Studies Program and the Center for Armenian Studies for the 2011-2012 academic year. The gift will be used for a variety of activities, including outreach activities, special conferences,

and scholarships. This is the third year of support from the Foundation.

This year the 13th Annual Armenian Film Festival was supported in part by the Kooyumjian Family Foundation.

\$5,000 to the Armenian Studies Program for the 2011-2012 academic year.

The gift will be used for a variety of activities, including outreach activities and awarding scholarships.

The Garabedian Foundation has been a long standing supporter of the Armenian Studies Program. Their grants have supported the development of the Armenian Studies Program website and the online Arts of Armenia.



Two paintings by Hovhannes Aivazian (Aivazovsky) brought for display to Fresno by the Karabians.

Photo: Erica Magarian

AMBASSADOR, FROM PAGE 1

faced similar injustices, such as discrimination. Ambassador Sarukhan went on to explain how working together would benefit everyone, considering that agriculture is a focus in both the San Joaquin Valley and Mexico.

Following the meeting with Ambassador Sarukhan, Divine Liturgy was celebrated in the church sanctuary by Fr. Yeghia Hairabedian, pastor of St. Gregory Armenian Church.

Vartanantz is a commemoration held every year to honor General Vartan Mamigonian and the sacrifice of the lives of so many Armenians. Mamigonian is considered an Armenian hero because of his courage in the face of death; he was willing to die for a cause he believed in, Christianity. As the commander-in-chief of the Armenian army during the Battle of Avaryar in 451 AD, Mamigonian inspired his troops with his selfless philosophy. Although he was martyred in the battle, Avarayr is still considered a victory by Armenians, as they later achieved religious freedom from the Persians.

Fr. Vahan Gosdanian, pastor of the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, was one of the speakers at the commemoration. He spoke about the battles faced by Armenians, past and present, explaining that although our ancestors fought with swords, we continue the battle today with words. He went on to say that it is not enough to celebrate the victory of our ancestors; we must continue to fight for what we believe in.



Photo: Alain Ekmalian

L. to R.: Mexican Consul Reyna Torres-Mendvil, Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan and Jasmine Markarian.

Badveli Ara Guekguezian, pastor of the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church, focused his speech on the topic of courage. "Courage reveals itself with every situation," he said. "A prime example of this was Vartan Mamigonian." Guekguezian encouraged the audience to stand up for what they believe in and said that "we have it in us" because we are the descendants of

St. Vartan.

Students from the Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School concluded the evening with a short program in the church social hall. They recited several poems and songs honoring St. Vartan. Their enthusiasm and zest during the performance would have made Vartan Mamigonian himself proud.

Armenian Studies Events

• **Thursday, March 22, 2012 • 7:30PM- "Knowledge, Heresy, and Inquisition: The Armenian Reaction to Latin Missionaries in the 14th century" by Dr. Sergio La Porta**
University Business Center (UBC), Room 191.

• **Thursday, March 29, 2012 • 7:30PM "Telling the Story: The Armenian Genocide in The New York Times & Missionary Herald" by Anne Elbrecht and Ara Sarafian, UBC, Room 191.**

• **Thursday, April 19, 2012 • 7:30PM**
"The Changing Landscape of Historic Western Armenia: Reflections on a Journey into the Past"
by Dr. Richard Hovannisian, Peters Aud., SaveMartCenter.

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KARABIAN, FROM PAGE 1

He was born in Theodosia, Crimea, to an Armenian father and mother.

Aivazovsky studied in St. Petersburg Academy of Arts and graduated with a gold medal. A very talented artist, he traveled around the world to exhibit his art. Although Aivazovsky once received a medal from the Turkish Sultan for his amazing paintings, he gave up his medal because he was so affected by the Hamidian massacres of Armenians (1895-1896). His works such as "The Expulsion of the Turkish Ship" and "The Armenian Massacres at Trebizond," represent his expression of the Turkish government's mistreatment of the Armenians.

Walter Karabian started collecting Aivazovsky paintings about twenty years ago; it all began with his fifth wedding anniversary. He wanted to give his wife something very special, so he bought an Aivazovsky ink sketch—one that had a hole cut in the middle of it. After buying that first piece, Karabian began collecting Aivazovsky's art.

Laurel Karabian presented some of the biographical details of the life of Aivazovsky, speaking passionately about the talented artist.

Walter Karabian presented many aspects of Aivazovsky's work, using a power point presentation to highlight many of the most prized of Aivazovsky's

paintings, many of which were painted in Venice.

Karabian is a native of Fresno who went on to attend USC, where he served as student body president from 1959-1960. He also earned a Law degree and a Master's degree from USC. He became a Deputy District Attorney for Los Angeles County in 1965 before winning a seat in the California State Assembly, in 1966. By the time he left the Assembly in 1974, he had served as the youngest majority leader in the history of that body. Karabian has been a partner in the law firm of Karns & Karabian since the 1960's.

During his talk Karabian stated that he was planning to sell three Aivazovsky's paintings from his collection, and that he would prefer to sell it to Armenians, in order to keep these treasures within the Armenian community.

When asked if there was a specific Aivazovsky painting he would really like to have, Karabian replied that he admired the painting of the Suez Canal, which was done during Aivazovsky's travels to Egypt, specifically for the opening of the Canal. Aivazovsky, in fact, was the first painter to paint the Suez Canal. Ivan Aivazovsky died on May 5, 1900, at the age of 82.

Aivazovsky's work was astonishing to view.

It is no wonder his work remains a source of inspiration until today.

Armenian Students Organization 97th Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide

• **Tuesday, April 24, 2012 • 12:15PM**
Free Speech Area, Fresno State

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