

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.

Dr. Levon Advoyan, the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C, for two copies of *To Know Wisdom and Instruction: A Visual Survey of the Armenian Literary Tradition from the Library of Congress* (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 2012). 100 pp., color plates. This is a catalog of an exhibit held at the Library of Congress in 2012.

Margaret Ajemian Ahnert, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, for a copy of her book *The Knock at the Door: A Journey Through the Darkness of the Armenian Genocide* (New York: Beaufort Books, 2007). The book is about the moving recollections of the author’s mother’s ordeal as a young girl during the Armenian Genocide. 209pp.

Dr. Carlos Antaramian, Zamora, Mexico, for the copy of his new book, *Del Ararat Al Popocatepetl: Los Armenios En México* (Ciudad de México, 2011). 191 pp. In Spanish. A history of the Armenian community of Mexico, based on the author’s research in the Mexican archives.

Armenian Studies Program, Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, University of California, Berkeley, for the article, “*The Book of the Way* (Girk’ Chanaparhi) of Yeghishe Charents: An Illuminated Apocalyptic Gospel for Soviet Armenia, by Dr. James R. Russell, Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies at Harvard University (Armenian Studies Program, Occasional Paper Series, Spring 2012), 37pp., with 31 plates.

Harry and Betty Basmajian, Fresno, for the collection of Armenian and Turkish records and books.

Alice & Berge Bulbulian, Fresno, California, for the gift of currency from the Republic of Armenia (1918-1920), 50 ruble notes, dated 1919.

Susan C. Carson, Black Diamond, Washington, for two hymnals and a book *The Lausanne Treaty: Turkey and Armenia* (New York: The American Committee Opposed to the Lausanne Treaty, 1926) from the library of the late Rev. Dr. Hagop A. Chakmakjian.

Mrs. Jesse Garry, Fresno, for books in Armenian and English from the estate of her uncle Mihran Garabedian.

Lenore Tolegian Hughes, Buellton, California, for a copy of her new work, *Cups of Fortune*, 204pp., the story of an Armenian-American girl named Azad, growing up in 1950s Los Angeles. She grows up and comes of age in an atmosphere thick with humor, superstition, envy, in the loving arms of the colorful members of her family living in Los Angeles.

Dr. A. K. Jabbari, Mazda Publishers, Costa Mesa, California, for a copy of *Armenian Smyrna/Izmir: The Aegean Communities* (Costa Mesa: Mazda Publishers, 2012), edited by Richard Hovannisian. 301pp. Number 11 in the series on Historic Armenian Cities and Provinces.

A. Armen Kandarian, Fowler, CA, for the gift of the *Armenian Journal of Near Eastern Studies Volume IV, Issue 2. 2009* (Yerevan: Association for Near Eastern Studies and Caucasian Studies, 2009).

Walter Karabian, Los Angeles, California, for a family tree of the Karabian and Simonian families dating back to their ancestral homeland of Bitlis. The families came to Fresno in 1896.

Kessab Educational Association of Los Angeles, Inc., for the donation of *Kessab and the Kessabtsis* (2011), a special edition commemorating the Kesab Ousoumnasirats Centennial and the 500th Anniversary of the Yearbook Directory. 314pp. In Armenian and English.

Shahen Khachaturian, Yerevan, Armenia, for a copy of the new book *Arshile Gorky (Vostanik Adoyan), 1902-1948*, authored and compiled by Khachaturian. 119pp. Armenian and English with color plates. This is the first album devoted to Arshile Gorky printed in Armenia. The color plates are of Gorky’s works in museums, private collections, and in exhibition catalogs.

Col. Carl K. Mahakian, Palm Desert, California, for two binders of articles and papers, one on the origin of Armenian names and the other on Armenian coins.

National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, Belmont, MA, for a copy of *Now I Know in Part* (NAASR Armenian Heritage Press: Belmont, MA, 2011) by Paul R. Ignatius. 226pp. The book is by the former Secretary of the Navy, who looks back on his family history, childhood in Glendale, California, and Hollywood brushes with greatness, military service during World War II, and more.

Susan Pattie, Armenian Institute, London, United Kingdom, for the gift of the new book *Treasured Objects: Armenian Life in the Ottoman Empire 100 Years Ago*, edited by Vazken Khatchig Davidian, Susan Paul Pattie, and Gagik Stepan-Sarkissian (London: Armenian Institute, 2012). 71pp. With color plates. The book is part of an oral history project among Armenians living in Britain carried out by the Armenian Institute. The book has grown from an exhibition organized by the Armenian Institute at the Brunei Gallery, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, May 1-July 24, 2010, curated by Susan Pattie and Gagik Stepan-Sarkissian.

California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program

Spring 2013 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
• Arm 1B-Elementary Armenian (Class #32105)	4	10:00A-11:50A	MW	B Der Mugrdechian
• Hum 10-Hum Antqty/Ren (Class #32209)	3	11:00A-12:15P	TuTh	S La Porta
General Education-Arts & Humanities, Area C2				
• Arm 2A-Inter Armenian (Class #36275)	3	9:00A-9:50A	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
Upper Division Armenian Studies Courses				
• ArmS 108B-Arm History II (Class #32104)	3	9:30A-10:45A	TuTh	B Der Mugrdechian
General Education-Arts & Humanities, Area IC				
• Arm 148-Masterp. of Arm Culture (Class #33058)	3	12:30P-1:45P	TuTh	S La Porta
NEW COURSE FOR SPRING-KAZAN VISITING PROFESSOR				
• ArmS 120T-Arm. Genocide & Trans (Class #35933)	3	11:00A-12:15P	TuTh	
This course will cover the Armenian Genocide as it is reflected in literature and translation.				

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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Dr. Rubina Peroomian, Glendale, California, for two copies of her new book *The Armenian Genocide In Literature: Perceptions of Those Who Lived Through the Years of Calamity* (Yerevan: Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute 2012). 464pp. In the series Research and Studies in Armenian Genocide, 2.

Ara Sarafian, Gomidas Institute, London, England, for six books published by the Gomidas Institute: *The Battle of Holy Apostles’ Monastery* (2008) by General Antranig Ozanian, 59pp.; *A Self Criticism: Monte Melkonian* (2010), tr. by Seta Kabranian-Melkonian, 48pp; *One Life, Three Cultures: An Iranian Armenian Odyssey* (2011) by Elma Hovanessian, 221pp., *The Amiras: Lords of Ottoman Armenia* (2012) by Pascal Carmont, tr. from French by Marika Blandin, 141 pp.; *The Real and Assumed Personalities of Famous Men: Rafael de Nogales, T. E. Lawrence, and the Birth of the Modern Era, 1914-1937* (2010) by Kim McQuaid, 161pp.; and *The Destruction of Armenians in Cilicia, April 1909* (2012) by Hrachik Simonyan, tr. by Melissa Brown and Alexander Arzumanian, 277pp.

Phil Tavlian, Fresno, for books from the estate of John Charles Avakian, Jr. of Fresno. The books, mostly in Armenian, cover a variety of genres, including historical works, literary works, and general cultural works.

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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La Porta Joins Keyan Armenian Community School Board



Seated, left to right: Diane Messerlian and Dr. Sergio La Porta. Standing, left to right: Vahagn Bznuni, Serpouhie Messerlian, Alain Ekmalian, Jerry Kutumian, Principal Zar Der Mugrdechian, Marshall Moushigian, and Kevork Oflazian.

STAFF REPORT

This year Dr. Sergio La Porta, Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies at Fresno State, was elected to serve on the board of the Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School. The school, located in Clovis, has approximately 95 students and includes classes from pre-K through 6th grade.

Dr. La Porta said he was eager to serve on the board because he felt that the school provides an important benefit to the Armenian community of the San Joaquin Valley, instructing children in the Armenian language as well as in Armenian culture and history.

Dr. La Porta also praised the efforts of staff and parents for wanting to continually better the great education students receive at the school. He said that he thinks “the school is heading in the right direction” under the guidance of the principal, Zaroohi Der Mugrdechian, who has had many years of experience within the Fresno Unified system.

“We are determined to continue to push the standards for our teachers and students higher and to maintain our dedication to instructing them about what it means to be Armenian,” Dr. La Porta remarked. It is a challenge, he said, but it is the only way “to insure that our students receive the best education possible.”

Dr. La Porta noted the school has encouraged and helped teachers to achieve, maintain, and upgrade their credentials and that now nearly the entire staff is credentialed. The school is also aiming to receive full accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges this academic year so that its standards and educational excellence will become more recognized.

Dr. La Porta added that the board is further hoping to stabilize the school’s finances and has been pleased with the progress so far. “We have been fortunate,” he said, “to have received grants from the UCLA Dream Fund, for example, that allow us to

Der Mugrdechian Gives Talk on American-Armenian Literature to SOAS in London, England

STAFF REPORT

Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State, was a guest lecturer on Thursday, July 5, at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, England, giving a fascinating talk on William Saroyan and the American-Armenian writers of his generation. Starting from a general background on Armenian emigration to the United States, Der Mugrdechian outlined the evolution of American-Armenian communities and discussed some of the difficulties they faced integrating into American society.

Prof. Der Mugrdechian explained that as the new communities developed, a new generation of English language writers emerged. These writers addressed Armenian issues that straddled life in a modern United States with their lost communities in Ottoman Turkey. By the 1930s, as emigration to the United States was curtailed, the older immigrants increasingly preferred English as their primary language



Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, left, with Ara Sarafian of the Gomidas Institute, in London.

Photo: ASP Archive

of communication—at least in print. The most successful of these writers was William Saroyan, who was increasingly read by non-Armenian audiences.

Der Mugrdechian discussed Saroyan’s plays, short stories, and journalistic pieces, as well as his peculiar sense of humor and style, for a memorable London lecture.

At the reception that followed, copies of *Young Saroyan: Follow*

and Other Early Writings and *Armenian Poetry of Our Time* by Diana Der-Hovanessian (The Press at California State University, Fresno) were available for purchase.

Der Mugrdechian’s London lecture was sponsored by the SOAS Armenian Studies Program, the Gomidas Institute (London), and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

run specific projects related to teacher training or to acquire new computers for the children.”

He also commented that the school and its supporters have run successful fundraisers, such as the recent “Fabulous 50’s” event put on by Ron and Barbara Mortanian, which help with the general costs of operations.

Dr. La Porta remarked that an endowment fund has also been established to encourage “generous and dedicated members of the Armenian community to donate. It would be great if some day all of our operational expenses could be covered through the endowment.”

In the meantime, he is enjoying his time on the board and attending the school’s wonderful functions.

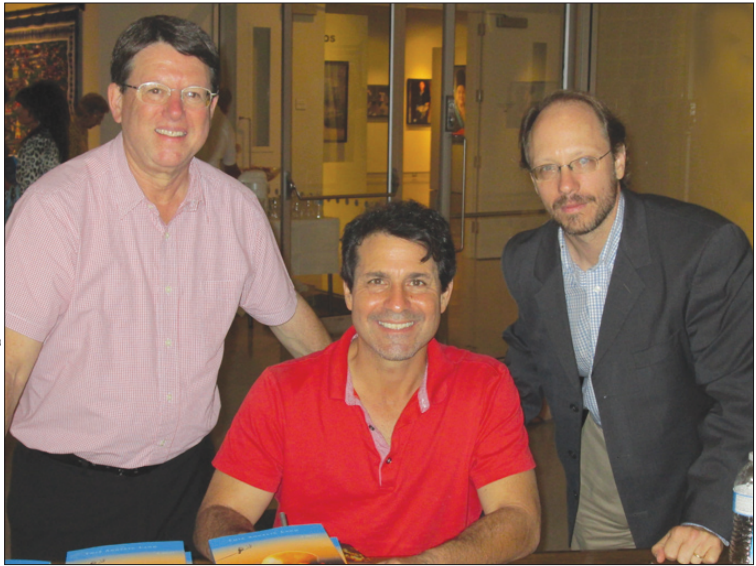
Janigian Discusses and Reads from New Novel “This Angelic Land” at Art Museum Event

DENISE ALTOUNIAN
STAFF WRITER

In April 1992 the world watched for six days as Los Angeles self-destructed. The city had finally reached a breaking point in the days following the not-guilty verdict of the Rodney King trial. Although most have since forgotten those days, the memories are still alive for those who lived through the devastation.

On Wednesday, September 19, author Aris Janigian returned to his roots to share these fascinating moments at a forum to read and discuss his new novel, *This Angelic Land*. This event took place at the Fresno Art Museum, as a result of a collaboration between Fresno State’s Armenian Studies Program and the Fresno Art Museum.

Janigian explored the devastating effects of the 1992 Los Angeles riots from the



L. to R.: Robert Boro, Aris Janigian, & Dr. Sergio La Porta.

perspective of multiple characters experiencing the chaos and destruction. This novel was a new venture for Janigian, as his other books take place in his native Central Valley. The idea for the book stemmed from his experience living in Los Angeles during the riots. According to

Janigian, this is the first fictional novel written about the riots in the twenty years following.

Although writing about such a sensitive and painful event is intimidating for some, Janigian took on the challenge and created a fascinating cast of characters.

SEE JANIGIAN PAGE 6

Armenians on the Internet



ARMEN ARIKIAN • STAFF WRITER

Khachkar: Symbol of Armenian Identity

<http://www.khachkar.am/en>

Main Categories:

News, Endangered *Khachkars*, Origins of *Khachkars*, Typology & Chronology, *Khachkar* Functions, Main Components, Semantics, Relations, Gallery, Bibliography.

Summary:

Khachkars are Armenian works of art that feature detailed crosses, carefully engraved on an upright stone. *Khachkars* are a fundamental part of Armenian tradition, artistic expression, and history. However, the variety of *khachkars* is very large and each one has a unique meaning and purpose. Khachkar.am serves as an educational source on the history of Armenian *khachkars*. The website also explains in further detail the process of making *khachkars*, their function, as well as their origin.

One of the main functions of *khachkars* is as a physical expression and praise of Christianity. The process of creating *khachkars* gradually began after Armenia’s adoption of Christianity in the 4th century. Many of these *khachkars* from the 7th-9th century still exist today, but not all are located in Armenia. Many of these *khachkars* were created several centuries ago in what used to be historic Armenia, but are now in present-day Turkey.

The *khachkars* in both Turkey and Armenia are endangered, many because of their age, while others are targeted for destruction by governments, such as the Julfa cemetery *khachkars*, destroyed by Azerbaijan. Khackhar.am presents related issues under the section “Endangered Khachkars.” In order to solve this problem, it is vital that Armenians are educated on the types of *khachkars* and their potential destruction.

New Armenian Students Organization Execs Take Office in September

RUZAN ORKUSYAN
STAFF WRITER

New ASO executive members were elected at the first general meeting held on Friday, September 7, 2012. They look forward to a new year filled with innovative ideas and activities and are very eager to engage Armenian youth in the community. All agree that the goals for ASO are to bring the youth together, to raise awareness of Armenians, to preserve Armenian culture, and to work together to improve their community. Below is the interview conducted with the 2012-2013 ASO executives.

Photo: Barlow Der Mugdehian



L. to R.: ASO Executive officers Marine Vardanyan, President; Kevork Ajamian, Public Relations; Lilit Grigoryan, Treasurer; Hagop Ohanessian, Vice-President; and Lauren Chardukian, Secretary.

Marine Vardanyan
President
Major: Community Health
Minor: Armenian Studies
Sophomore

What do you hope to accomplish this year?

My goal for this year is to continue making unforgettable memories with the members of ASO. Not only continuing with the traditional events, but also introducing fresh ideas and opportunities that will provide ASO members with both a good time and also good educational experiences.

Why is ASO important and what kind of response do you hope to get from the members?
ASO is important because of the unity it brings. It allows college students, especially the freshmen, to find a place where they belong, and allows them to participate in experiences that are meaningful to them. I hope to get positive feedback from the members, as

we have many interesting plans for this year.

Favorite quote:

“What we think, or what we know, or what we believe is, in the end, of little consequence. The only consequence is what we do.”
--John Ruskin

Hagop Ohanessian
Vice-President
Major: History-Masters
Program
Graduate Student

What do you hope to accomplish this year?

I hope to collaborate with other students in planning and organizing many events to promote our homeland and culture. I hope we also organize social gatherings, field trips, and give back to our community through volunteer projects.

Why is ASO important and

what kind of response do you hope to get from the members?
ASO is extremely important for our community at Fresno State because we have been blessed with the opportunity to promote our culture and also organize events that bring Armenian students and faculty members together to work toward common goals. ASO members are extremely excited and eager to become a part of this tradition at Fresno State.

Lilit Grigoryan
Treasurer
Major: Business
Administration/Finance
Junior

What do you hope to accomplish this year?

I hope that this academic year will be as successful as previous ones, or even better. My goal as an executive member is to support and promote our club on campus. I and the other executives will do

our best to make this year very entertaining and productive for ASO.

Why is ASO important and what kind of response do you hope to get from the members?
ASO is important because it is a “place” where young Armenian people can meet each other. It also encourages students to learn more about Armenia, Armenian history, and the culture. Most of our activities are entertaining, but at the same time they are educational. I hope that Armenian youth will always be active and I expect them to be more involved and to stay interested in ASO. I would like to see the members become more united and become a strong team.

Favorite quote:

“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin, and culture is like a tree without roots.”
--Marcus Garvey

Lauren Chardukian
Secretary
Major: Biology
Minor: Armenian Studies
Sophomore

What do you hope to accomplish this year?

I hope that this year we are able to encourage continuous participation and involvement in the Armenian community, as well as the greater Fresno area.

Why is ASO important and what kind of response do you hope to get from the members?
I think ASO is very important. Being in ASO has brought stability to how crazy college life can be. It is relaxing to be with other ASO members, regardless

of what we happen to be doing. I hope that our members continue their involvement and help encourage new participation from other students. I also would like to see what new ideas and perspectives our members will bring this year.

Favorite quote:

“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.”
--Benjamin Franklin

Kevork Ajamian
Public Relations
Major: History Major
Minor: Armenian Studies
Senior

What do you hope to accomplish this year?

To have ASO and all its members participate in as many events as possible and to show the community how strong ASO is. Also, I hope to make a memorable impact on other Fresno State students.

Why is ASO important and what kind of response do you hope to get from the members?
ASO is important because as Armenians, it is essential to do what we can to save our culture, and to have others learn about it. We are a strong people who have been around for many millennia, and who have faced forces who aimed at annihilating us from the beginning. To this day we have reason to fight against those who deny our history, and promote our culture to those who are unaware. We are Armenian, we will not forget, and ASO gives us a way to preserve that.



Photo: Barlow Der Mugdehian

ASO celebrating Independence Day of the Republic of Armenia on Friday, September 21, 2012 in the Free Speech area of the Fresno State campus.

ASO, FROM PAGE 1

rewarding experience,” said Vartush Mesropyan.

ASO represented Armenia on September 28 by selling Armenian delicacies at the “Passport to Fresno” event of Fresno Sister Cities, held at Woodward Park. Etchmiadzin, Armenia is a sister city with Fresno. The event’s goal was to expose attendees to the rich cultural diversity of Fresno, with each of the sister cities’ organizations preparing and serving food from their culture.

ASO also organized two campus activities: the first to celebrate the 21st anniversary of “Armenian Independence” on

September 21, and the second a “Gurgen Margaryan Awareness Day” on September 26. On both days, ASO members came together to raise awareness about Armenian culture and history on the Fresno State campus, by distributing posters and fliers to students. On the “Gurgen Margaryan Awareness Day” a laptop was available where interested students could send a letter to President Obama urging him to condemn the injustices of the Azerbaijani government in freeing Ramil Safarov from life imprisonment.

Finally, the ASO organized several social events. On

Saturday, September 22, members enjoyed the premiere of the new movie “My Uncle Rafael.” Many enjoyed the movie, finding it comical, and at the same time educational and heart-warming.

On September 29, ASO held its annual Game Day. ASO President Marine Vardanyan remarked that it was a successful event that helped “break the ice between the new members and to get everyone to know each other better.” The executives planned a wide array of games including charades, balloon toss, mafia, an ASO version of jeopardy, and a variety of other games. The best part, commented Vardanyan, was that the Game Day “allowed us to learn a lot about our members, even those who have been part of ASO for a long time.”

The semester is just getting started however, and the executives have a variety of events planned. ASO will be holding a car wash on Saturday, October 13, organizing a bowling night, a movie night for Halloween, and much more.

One of the biggest upcoming events will be International Culture Night at 7:00PM on November 17 at the Fresno State Satellite Student Union. The event aims to promote cultural diversity and awareness at Fresno State by presenting dances, songs, music, and fashion of the different

cultural and ethnic groups.

This year ASO member Ani Grigoryan, along with a team of eleven students will be planning, coordinating, and organizing the

entire event. ASO successfully participated last year and they hope to mesmerize the audience again this year with the unique sounds and sights of Armenia.

2013-2014 Academic Year Scholarships in Armenian Studies

2013-2014 Scholarship Applications
Now Available On-Line

www.fresnostate.edu/scholarships

Make sure to mark one of the areas pertaining to Armenian Culture or Language on the application.
Armenian Studies Program-
Supplemental application required.

The scholarship application for California State University, Fresno is only available on-line.

Priority Application Period:
October 1, 2012-February 28, 2013

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

Gurgen Margaryan Remembered

Student Wins Yerevan Magazine Trip to Armenia



The funeral of Lieutenant Gurgen Margaryan, an Armenian army officer who was axe-murdered by an Azerbaijani colleague during a NATO training course in Budapest, Hungary, on February 25, 2004.

MARINE VARDANYAN
STAFF WRITER

September 26, 2012 should have been a joyous day for a lieutenant in the Armenian army, Gurgen Margaryan, as it would have marked his 34th birthday. Instead, the day held a somber atmosphere, as Armenians gathered at the Yerablur Military Cemetery in Yerevan, Armenia, to commemorate his life.

Lt. Margaryan was brutally murdered in 2004, while asleep at a NATO-sponsored program in Hungary. While Armenians honored the memory of Gurgen Margaryan, his confessed murderer is living the life of a hero in his home country, Azerbaijan.

Uniting with demonstrators world-wide, the Armenian Students Organization of Fresno State organized a plea for justice on September 26th. The goal was to raise awareness among the students and faculty at Fresno State about the great injustice that had taken place with the release and pardoning of the Azerbaijani murderer, Ramil Safarov.

A participant of the NATO training, Safarov represented Azerbaijan, a country with long-time tensions with Armenia. Safarov murdered Margaryan and intended on murdering another Armenian officer present at the NATO program, but did not succeed.

Following Lt. Margaryan’s murder, Safarov was sentenced to life in prison in Hungary. Yet, in late August 2012, after serving only eight years of his sentence, the government of Hungary extradited Safarov to Azerbaijan, where instead of continuing his sentence, he was immediately pardoned by

Azerbaijan’s president, Ilham Aliyev, and welcomed as a hero. The axe-murderer was awarded with an army promotion, a new apartment, and eight years of back salary, and is now a free man.

Despite protests in Hungary, Armenia, France, the United States, and several other nations, Azerbaijan has refused to take responsibility for its actions. A significant number of individuals remain unaware of the recent events, but ASO wanted to change that by hosting a table in the Free Speech Area to educate individuals with posters and informational flyers.

Students were also given the opportunity to send pre-written letters, courtesy of the Armenian National Committee of America, to President Obama, urging the United States to place pressure on Azerbaijan to punish Safarov for his crimes.

Mario Garcia, a student who took action by sending a letter, voiced his opinion. “There must be justice...it is ridiculous that they overturned his [Safarov’s] lifetime in prison and on top of that he receives back pay,” he said. “How do you murder someone, in cold blood, and get rewarded? It’s just wrong.”

The murder of Gurgen Margaryan, and the decision to pardon his murderer, Safarov, is not only an Armenian issue, but an international one, as it pertains to the rights of all human beings. The incident concerns the death of an innocent man, while the guilty individual is celebrated and rewarded. Human progress and development is held back by such events, which are a major step back and further promote hatred and the occurrence of similar crimes.



ASO members at the information table on Lt. Gurgen Margaryan, at noon on Wednesday, September 26.

EVELYN DEMIRCHIAN
STAFF WRITER

“Evelyn Demirchian! This is Suzy H. from Yerevan Magazine-you’ve won a trip for two to Armenia!”

I played back the voicemail at least four or five times before immediately dialing the number back to get confirmation that, yes, because I’d simply “liked” a post on Yerevan Magazine’s Facebook page I’d been entered, and had won, an all-expense paid trip to my fatherland-Armenia. Eight months later I found myself on a 12-hour flight to Moscow with one of my best friends, Kristin.

Traveling to Armenia was never at the top of my priority list. As your typical broke college student, I didn’t have the time and hardly the funds to think I’d be able to travel in the near future. Yet there I was, still in shock, as we descended into Yerevan’s Zvartnots International Airport, tearing up at the sight of beloved Mt. Ararat.

The trip lasted a little over a week, and Yerevan Magazine was kind enough to arrange for a room in the historical Armenia Hotel (now Marriott), in the center of Republic Square.

A large portion of the week was spent on excursions to the ancient and famous sites of the country: the Temple of Garni, Lake Sevan, and the Dilijan forest, not to mention landmarks around the city such as Tsitsernakaberd (the Armenian Martyrs Monument) and the Matenadaran, Khor Virap, Etchmiadzin, Erebuni, Noravank, and Areni.

My head still spins thinking about how many places we visited in those short eight days. Even now, I feel a little nauseous recalling the driving behavior



Evelyn Demirchian, left, with Kristin Livanis, on the way to the historic sites of Garni and Geghard in Armenia.

of our tour bus drivers. Did you know that Armenian bus drivers can talk on cell phones, blast folk music over their speakers, while going 50mph on sharp turns in the mountains?

But of course, there is nothing better than Armenian hospitality. Kristin and I came as guests to Yerevan and not a single moment passed where we did not feel welcome. The relatives I was able to meet treated Kristin and me like family, taking us into their homes and celebrating our brief meeting with everything they could afford. It was almost frustrating not being allowed to pay for simple things like we would back home in California, but that is the beauty of these people—they’d be ashamed to let a guest feel any level of discomfort. By the end of that short week Kristin and I were virtually able to communicate simple ideas with my family.

What can I say to those of you who have not been to Hayastan [Armenia]? To touch the ground your mothers and fathers walked on, ducking into the alleys they must have played in as children

is a strange feeling that can not easily be put into words. I only regret not being able to see more of the land, and more of my family. For anybody who carries even the slightest interest or connection to this nation, make the effort and find your way there.

Go to Armenia and see for yourself! Gaze at Mt. Ararat hovering in the distance from Yerevan. Stroll around Holy Etchmiadzin and find yourself by the graves of past leaders and priests.

Lose your breath hiking up the stone steps of our ancient churches. Get lost in Yerevan’s diverse city center filled with Armenian expatriates, international students from India and Iran, Russian tourists, and European businessmen. Watch street performers and relax at late-night cafes and make new friends.

Take the first flight out and sit near a window so that when the sky begins to lighten up and the sun rises you can gaze in awe at Mt. Ararat, as it magically appears before you. Just go.

Opinion: Issues and Concerns in the Community



Tamar Karkazian

TAMAR KARKAZIAN
EDITOR

With November fast approaching, and elections just around the corner, it seems fitting to discuss elections and issues and concerns of the people, not to mention rivalries. Yes, all these obviously relate to the presidential election, but these concepts and concerns can also be related to the dynamics within the Fresno Armenian community.

Let us start at the core: the issues and concerns of the individuals in the communities. For the presidential campaign, the concerns we have as citizens, tend to revolve around the economy and jobs, just to name a few. For the Armenian community, concerns revolve around participation,

involvement, and keeping the culture alive.

Often, in both politics and in the Armenian community we get so wrapped up in the differences that we forget we have something greater in common: the desire for our communities to succeed. Most individuals in America, Republicans and Democrats alike, want the unemployment rate to decrease and our economy to improve. The same goes for Armenians; we all want to get individuals involved and to keep the Armenian culture vibrant.

In both contexts, we want the same end result, for our communities to succeed, but we repeatedly get so caught up in the “how” that we forget our goals. There is more than one way to solve a problem,

to decrease the deficit, to get individuals involved, or to keep the Armenian culture alive. For some organizations, keeping the culture alive means teaching the language, yet for others it means bringing Armenians together. Neither is right or wrong; both address the issue. What might work for some individuals may not work for others. It is important to remember that there is more than one way to achieve our goals and the better we work together the better off everyone will be.

So I encourage you to remember that we are not as different as we sometimes feel. Although we have our differences, we are all striving to reach the same goal success. We should strive to find common ground and work together to reach our goals.

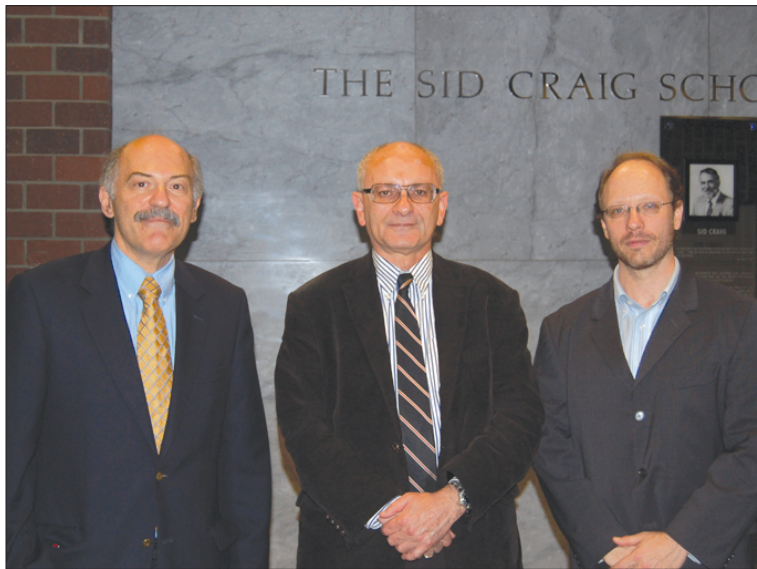
Hye Oozh - Saturdays 9:00 AM - Noon

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

Dr. Astourian Gives Talk on “The Path to the Armenian Genocide”



Left to Right: Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Dr. Stephan Astourian, and Dr. Sergio La Porta.

Photo: Erica Magarian

EMMA SHALJYAN
STAFF REPORTER

Dr. Stephan Astourian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program at the University of California, Berkeley, presented a talk on “The Path to the Armenian Genocide,” on April 30, to conclude the Spring 2012 lecture series of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.

During his lecture Dr. Astourian spoke about perspectives on the cultural, social, economic, and demographic issues affecting Kurds and Turks, as well as the Armenian population, in the early twentieth century.

Anarchy and organized oppression of the Armenians in the Eastern provinces of the Ottoman Empire was prevalent in the late 19th century. Political persecution, primarily aimed at the Christian population was on the rise, and there was an increase in expropriation of land from the Armenian peasants in the 1800s.

The “Armenian Question” evolved into a political issue in the context of European involvement in the fate of the Ottoman Empire, and in the context of how Armenians were treated in the Ottoman Empire, from 1839-1876. The 1878 Treaty of San Stefano, and the

succeeding Congress of Berlin are the international treaties that form the basis of the “Armenian Question.”

Dr. Astourian also discussed the 1895-1896 Armenian massacres. “Those were meant to send a message to the European powers stating that they could not do anything,” stated Dr. Astourian, “because the Ottomans were still going to massacre the Armenians.”

Dr. Astourian discussed two Armenian political parties: the Hnchakian party (1887) and the Dashnaksutiun (Armenian Revolutionary Federation) (1890) and how the Armenian revolutionary movement developed after the Congress of Berlin failed to solve the “Armenian Question.”

During his lecture, Dr. Astourian clearly outlined the reasons why the “Armenian Question” developed and discussed the path to the Armenian Genocide, from the 1890’s to 1915.

Dr. Astourian is completing manuscripts for two books using a variety of sources and materials. The first is on Armenian-Azerbaijan relations in the twentieth century, and the second is about the origins of the Armenian Genocide, using primary sources.

JANIGIAN, FROM PAGE 3

The novel follows Adam Derderian, a Lebanese-Armenian refugee from the Lebanese Civil War, and his family as they watch the riots unfold. While trying to find his way in the world, Adam watches as the city he and his family have found sanctuary in, burn, just like the one they left behind in Lebanon.

During the presentation, Janigian read captivating readings from various passages throughout the book.

Those in attendance were given a glimpse into those chaotic

days in 1992, through the eyes of the eclectic group of characters. Janigian brought his characters to life with his artful reading and obvious love for the characters of his book. Each passage brought to life the unique charisma of the characters as they found their way through the ruin. As the twenty-year anniversary of the riots has come and passed, Janigian’s novel is one of the more unique ways the memories of those six days have been kept alive.

Aris Janigian is the author of *Bloodvine*, and *Riverbig*, and the co-author, with April Greiman, of *Something for Nothing*.

Now Embarking: An Artistic Interpretation of the 1947 and 1948 Armenian Repatriation

Hazel Antaramian-Hofman is still seeking those who were repatriated in 1947 and 1948.

As an artist and the daughter of repatriated youth, she wants to document and artistically interpret the culture shock, loss of freedom, and the ideological turmoil that shaped this historical time in Armenia for the “akhbars.”

She has been collecting short anecdotal stories that help narrate the circumstances and emotions of the people and of the times. She is interested in collecting more, so if you are a repatriate or know of a repatriate who is interested in the project, please contact hazelantaramhof@yahoo.com.

Eench Ga Chga

TATEVIK HOVHANNISYAN • STAFF WRITER

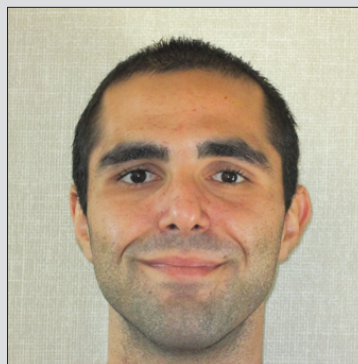
Why are you taking an Armenian Studies course? What did you find surprising or fascinating in the course?



Name: Daniel Hairabedian
Year: Junior
Major: Mechanical Engineering

As an American-Armenian I yearned to make a connection between the homeland and myself. A fascinating aspect of Armenian history I learned about in the Armenian Studies 10 class is the large impact Armenians have made in history. Not only was Armenia the first country to adopt Christianity but its church architecture has become a unique

and identifiable quality of Armenia and is renowned worldwide.



Name: Kevin Cross
Year: Senior
Major: History

I am a history major so that is one reason I am taking History 108A. I also wanted to learn more about my heritage. Although Armenian was the first language I heard in the family, I never had the chance to learn about the history. The most interesting thing I have learned so far is the amount of Armenian involvement in so many

ancient cultures and the influence they have had on history, such as Greek and Roman history. Sadly we never really hear about the Armenians more often.



Name: Sona Soghomonian
Year: Freshman
Major: Chemistry

I took this course, Armenian Studies 20 (Arts of Armenia), because I wanted to learn more about my heritage and to connect with other Armenians. There are so many interesting characteristics specific to the Armenian churches.

Hovannisian, leading scholars in the field, as well as offprints, articles, pamphlets, books, and videos from other scholars.

Work has begun on the cataloging of the collection and when completed, a full list of the collection’s contents will be available online.

Kloian was an advisor to the Genocide Education Project, and was devoted to the work of enabling education and memory about the Armenian Genocide.

KLOIAN, FROM PAGE 1

Kloian’s widow, Mrs. Antonia Kloian, donated the archive to the Special Collections area of the Henry Madden Library, forming the nucleus of what will be known as “The Richard Kloian Armenian Genocide Collection,” a permanent resource for students, faculty, and the community to learn more about the Armenian Genocide.

In 1985 Kloian authored

The Armenian Genocide: News Accounts from the American Press, 1915-1922, a landmark publication that consisted of articles on the Armenian Genocide that appeared in the *New York Times*, as well as other newspapers.

The Kloian Collection includes a wide variety of important documents relating to the Armenian Genocide. There are numerous articles by Dr. Vahakn Dadrian and Dr. Richard

APS, FROM PAGE 1

The Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State offers a Minor in Armenian Studies, with courses in Armenian language, history, art, literature, and culture.

APS President Dr. Agheg Yenikomshian affirmed that, “The Armenian Professional Society of the San Francisco Bay Area is proud to establish the APS Scholarship Endowment at California State University, Fresno in support of students interested in pursuing Armenian

studies. This contribution is a testament to APS’s guiding principles.”

The Armenian Professional Society (APS) of the San Francisco Bay Area was founded in 1982 as a non-profit organization primarily dedicated to educational endeavors. For more than 30 years, the APS has provided a forum for the free exchange of ideas among individuals who share cultural, educational, and professional interests.

Over the years APS has offered a myriad of lectures,

panels, public discussions, and seminars on a variety of useful and interesting subjects.

Most noteworthy among its many endeavors, the APS provides annual scholarships to college students. It also sponsors health fairs and job fairs as a service to the community.

Specific examples of such engagements include the 2005 World Armenian Medical Congress and the 2007 ARMTECH Conference in San Francisco.”

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

Then we want to hear from you!

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

Don’t forget to include what year you graduated and your involvement with the Armenian Studies Program, the Armenian Students Organization, or Hye Sharzhoom.

Please include a 2x2 digital color photo.

Email it to tamark@mail.fresnostate.edu.

We hope to hear from you soon!

We are updating our mailing list.

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Emerging Pop Star Narek Baveyan Has Unique Style



Narek Baveyan

SUREN OGANESSION
STAFF WRITER

Singer Narek Baveyan is among the emerging pop stars in Armenia today—one of the more unique artists on the musical scene. Baveyan’s musical style mixes traditional Armenian folk music with elements of rock and synth pop, and even polka. His upbeat track “Dzuk,” released in 2011, is a shining example of how well he is able to incorporate an accordion with traditional Armenian instruments to make for a very festive and catchy song that has almost as much in common with German folk music as it does with Armenian folk music.

Narek Baveyan’s musical style is extremely varied; his songs “Ko Hugin” and “Indz Tesa” are both slower love ballads that feature a soft piano.

Another example of his variety is the song, “Khelegar Ser,” which features synthesizers and autotuning, a more modern dance track that hearkens to Western-style pop. “Khelegar Ser” also has the distinction that its music video was banned from most Armenian television stations for being too explicit.

Narek Baveyan began singing at the age of nine, taking third place in the Do Re Mi Song Competition. Later he took part in the All-Armenian Song Festival “YNCA,” an annual music competition held in Stepanakert, featuring artists from both Armenia and Artsakh, which often serves as a way for lesser-known singers to gain fame. Baveyan was also a student at Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory’s Jazz-Pop-Vocal Department.

<http://www.armenianpulse.com/artists/narek-baveyan/>

Everyone Needs An Uncle-Movie “Uncle Rafael” Entertains



TATEVIK HOVHANNISYAN
STAFF WRITER

Everyone needs an uncle—one who is always cheerful and willing to listen. Everyone needs an uncle like Uncle Rafael, from the newly released movie “Uncle Rafael.”

Iranian-American actor, writer, and director Vahik Pirhamzei, who plays the main role of Uncle Rafael and also his son Hamo, is Armenian.

The movie focuses on a charismatic old man, Uncle Rafael, who immigrated to America from

Syria with his two children. Rafael works at his family coffee shop, *Hamo’s*, providing customers priceless advice and cheerful jokes along with their drinks. It is his personality that brings his customers back.

One of Uncle Rafael’s customers is a script writer in search of an inspiration for a new show. This customer soon comes up with a concept- that Uncle Rafael should be the focus of a reality TV show.

Although reluctant at first, Uncle Rafael accepts the offer to be part of the show, on one condition, “It’s my way or the freeway.”

In this reality show, Rafael plays the uncle in a dysfunctional family, who is going through a divorce. Despite the family’s struggle he tries to bring them together with his wise Armenian words.

Vahik Pirhamzei does of a great job of playing both characters, giving them both their own funny personalities.

This funny and entertaining movie is definitely worth watching with family and friends.

Alumnus Stockdale Active in Community

Stephanie Stockdale
Class of 2005
MBA International Relations
BA-Political Science and Geography
Minor in Armenian Studies and Spanish



Photo: ASP Archive

Stephanie Stockdale

Master’s Degree, she studied and researched in Tanzania. She

also earned an MBA in Global Management from Thunderbird School of Global Management.

Stockdale has spoken at and hosted many conferences relating to the Rwandan Genocide, the Armenian Diaspora, and business and culture in Peru and the Czech Republic.

She also hosts genocide seminars on an annual basis. Currently Stockdale is working in academic management at ITT Technical Institute in Clovis.

HOFMAN, FROM PAGE 1

an understanding of the textiles portrayed. Ms. Hofman makes a significant contribution toward understanding the historical dynamic that pertained at that time between two significant but different monarchies—of which little else is known. The committee felt her work worthy of a Ph.D. dissertation.”

Not only did Hofman receive an award for her research, but the work also brought her closer to her Armenian heritage.

When Hofman was accepted into the Department of Art and Design, she took a class on “Medieval Women of Europe” that sparked her interest in the image she had seen years earlier.

Hofman was intrigued by the portrait of the royal family and wondered if there was more to be learned about the image. It was then she decided to make it her focus for further research.

To add to the research already done on the image, Hofman concentrated on the image of the Armenian queen Gorandukht and

the true impact and power she possessed. While conducting her research, Hofman found that the textiles in the image also played a significant role—they were a reflection of wealth and status.

Hofman’s current project is research on the Armenian repatriation movement, utilizing photographs and paintings that she has created.

Hofman plans to have it ready to exhibit by 2015, the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

IGNATIUS, FROM PAGE 1

his family endured. Thriving in historic Armenia, Ignatius’ family distributed cotton in the Ottoman countries prior to 1893, but during the Hamidian massacres, 1895-1896, the whole family, except for his grandfather, was murdered.

Mr. Ignatius continued to detail his father’s immigration to America in 1904, following his four brothers, who had also escaped the Hamidian Massacres. Having attended the Euphrates college in Kharpert, and being fluent in English, Ignatius’ father attended college in New York, and moved to California after meeting his wife.

Ignatius’s father gained the

nickname “Patriarch” because of his imposing manner and his strong involvement with Armenian causes in Southern California.

Mr. Ignatius commented about the impact Armenians, like his father, have had in their communities. While visiting Singapore with his wife, he discovered the Armenian Church built in 1835 and remarked that, “Where they [Armenians] go, things happen.”

Mr. Ignatius concluded his lecture by discussing issues and goals that Armenians in Armenia and the Diaspora face. He commented on his desire to see the establishment of a

distinguished Armenian museum, to demonstrate the contribution of Armenians in America, in various fields such as politics, business, music, and the arts

Mr. Ignatius also spoke about the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, and whether reconciliation can and should take place, a subject that he discusses more in his book.

Mr. Ignatius took his audience on a journey through his family background, shared his vivid collection of childhood stories and vibrant characters from his past, and discussed, on a more serious note, important issues that pertain to all Armenians.

Ghazal to the Sea

SUREN OGANESSION • STAFF WRITER

The cycle of life on Earth revolves around the sea.
Each breath we take, each bite we eat, is all thanks to the sea.

It’s easy to forget this when one lives on the land.
I only started thinking about it when I moved close to the sea.

I walk to the beach again, past the decaying ruins of
an army fort of yesteryear, to be close to the sea.

Beyond a busy highway the people labeled ‘one’, past the edge
of human civilization and in view of the edge of the Earth lies the sea.

The walk is long, through a dark tunnel, down a windy path up
sand dunes once peppered with bullets, and down a cliff to the sea.

The dunes are carpeted with rubbery ice plant, a foreign invader
but then again I am no more native than they are to this area, to this sea.

My mountain Ararat lies half a world away. How I ended up here is a long story,
although I long for the mountain I cannot lie, I’ve grown fond of the sea.

Like the ice plant and the eucalyptus, sometimes I feel like I’m on the wrong continent.
An invasive species that has made its home along the shores of the sea.

Each breath I take quenches a thirst, the wind through my hair never ceases to soothe.
Some despise the weather it brings, but for the fog and for the clouds I thank the sea.

I taste salt in the air. The waves crash, bringing green kelp from the bay.
All of my troubles are cleansed, and they crumble like a sand castle swallowed by the sea.

Violated by humans, filled with waste and poison, I worry for its health.
What artifacts will future archeologists find at the bottom of the sea?

My name, Suren, is Parthian for strength, its origins an old empire of the Middle East
whose memory lies submerged in history, like the canyon beneath this deep blue sea.

Armenian Studies Program
5245 N. Backer Ave., PB4
Fresno CA 93740-8001

www.armenianstudies.csufresno.edu

The California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program, College of Arts and Humanities
and the Henry Madden Library
cordially invite you to attend an exhibit and reception

**“THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF
ARMENIAN PRINTING”**

Sunday, October 14, 2012
Reception-2:00-4:00PM
Henry Madden Library • Fresno State
Second Floor (in front of Peters Ellipse)

2:45PM-Remarks
Dr. John Welty, President;
Dr. William Covino, Provost;
and **Dr. Vida Samiian**,
Dean of the College of Arts & Humanities

3:00PM-Special Guest Speaker
**“The Impact of the Armenian Script and Printing
on Armenian Identity and Letters”**
Dr. Kevork Bardakjian
Marie Manoogian Professor of Armenian Language and Literature,
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Madden Library Auditorium
(Room 2206-second floor)

Free admission.
Parking is relaxed (free) on Sunday afternoon.
Enter at Shaw and Barton Ave.
Free parking in Lots D and E near the Library.

ARMENIAN PRINTING, FROM PAGE 1

special reception from 2-5PM on Sunday, October 14 to mark its official opening. The exhibit is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program, the College of Arts and Humanities, and the Henry Madden Library.

Special guest speaker for the day will be Dr. Kevork Bardakjian, Marie Manoogian Professor of Modern Armenian Language and Literature at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, who will speak on “The Impact of the Armenian Script and Printing on Armenian Identity and Letters.” Fresno State President Dr. John Welty, Provost Dr. William Covino, and Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, Dr. Vida Samiian, will also be present at the afternoon reception.

The exhibit can be viewed during regular Henry Madden Library hours, from October 1-31. Go to the Madden Library website for specific information <http://www.fresnostate.edu/>

library/. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

The 1512 *Urbatagirk* (The Book of Friday Prayers) published by Hakob Meghapart in Venice, was the first printed work in Armenian, and utilized a new technology, the movable printing press that would generate a new chapter in the Armenian literary tradition by exposing a wider audience of Armenian speakers to intellectual trends.

The Armenian Studies Program exhibit features rare printed books and several examples of earlier manuscripts from the Armenian Studies Program collection. The majority of the printed works are from the Parnay Collection, 300 19th and 20th century works, the majority published by the Armenian Mkhitarist congregation of Venice, but also including books from Constantinople, Tiflis, and elsewhere, now part of the Armenian Studies Program. Mr. Ray Parnay donated the

collection, once belonging to his late father Mardig and late uncle Serope Y. Parnay (Yedi-Kardashian), in 2006.


A 1782 “Guidebook to the Holy Places of Jerusalem” is the oldest book on display. Other works include a translation of Homer’s *Iliad* (1843), an 1859 *History of Vartan and the Armenian Wars* by Yeghishe, and A *Geography of Place Names of Greater Armenia* (1855) by Very Rev. Fr. Ghevond Alishan.

On display also is a special facsimile reproduction of the 9th century “Etchmiadzin Gospel” (Codex Etchmiadzin) on loan from the collection of Arminee Shishmanian and the late Dr. Leo Shishmanian of Fresno. The “Etchmiadzin Gospel” contains the “Final Four Miniatures,” the earliest known Armenian miniature paintings, dated to the late 6th or early 7th century.

Just as the creation of the Armenian alphabet by St. Mesrob Mashtots allowed for Christianity to be spread and taught in Armenian, the printing press would allow the works of Armenian authors to proliferate.

On the world stage, this revolutionary catalyst for the Armenian literary movement has not gone unnoticed. Yerevan was proclaimed the Book Capital of the Year of 2012 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In addition, Yerevan itself has played host to many exhibitions and events during this past year.

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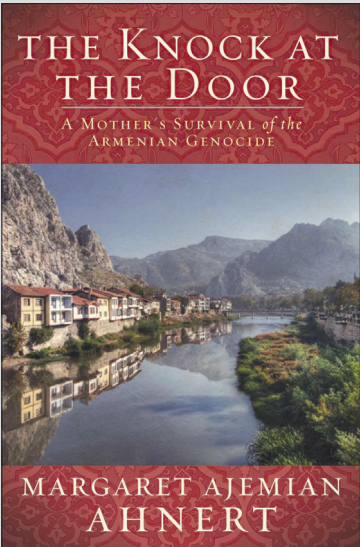
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**“THE KNOCK AT
THE DOOR”**

by
**Margaret
Ajemian Ahnert**

Featuring the winner of the 2008 New York Book Fair Award for *Best Historical Memoir*, Margaret Ajemian Ahnert. She will read from her book *The Knock At The Door: A Mother’s Survival of the Armenian Genocide*, and answer questions from the audience. Books will be available for purchase and the author will sign books.

Thursday, November 1, 2012
7:30PM

University Business Center
• Alice Peters Auditorium • Fresno State

PARKING: There is no longer a separate UBC parking lot.
Parking in Lots A and J near the UBC.
Call the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669
to receive a free parking code.

**Copies of *The Knock at the Door* will be available
for purchase at the lecture.**

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