
A Century of Armenians in America:

Voices from New Scholarship

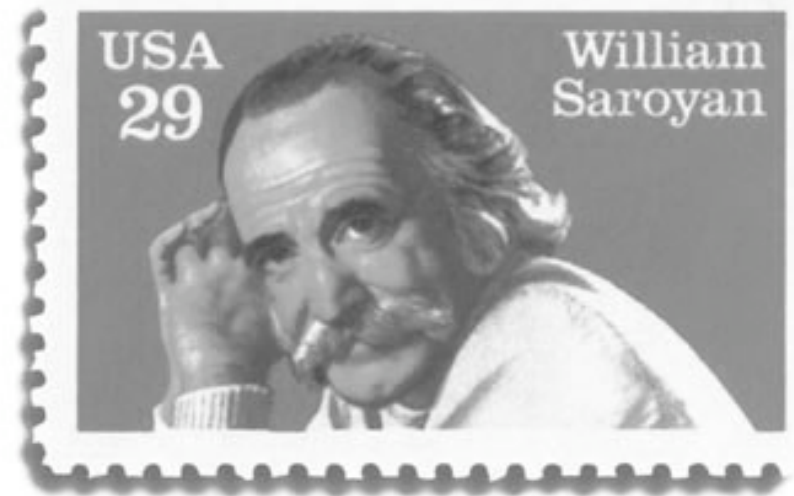
Saturday, October 9, 2004

The Armenian Center at Columbia University

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Presented by:
The Armenian Center at Columbia University

Hosted by:
**The Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center
(MEMEAC), The Graduate Center, CUNY**

*Baisley Powell Elebash Recital Hall
The Graduate Center
City University of New York*

PROGRAM

Honorary Chairpersons:
Robert Mirak
Arpena Mesrobian

10:15: Welcome: **Michael Haratunian**
Introduction: **Anny Bakalian**

10:30-12:30: ***The Pioneers: Early Armenian Immigrants to the United States***

- (1) **Knarik Avakian**, "The Emigration of the Armenians to the U.S.A.: Evidence from the Archives of the Armenian Patriarchate of Istanbul."
- (2) **George Byron Kooshian, Jr.**, "The Armenian Immigrant Community of Pasadena, California: From Its Origins to 1960."
- (3) **Ben Alexander**, "Reaching Out to the Young: The Parties, the Press, and the Second Generation in the 1930s."

Discussant: **Isabel Kaprielian-Churchill**

12:30-1:45: Lunch
[See guide to cafes and restaurants on page 10]

Restaurant: Artisanal

2 Park Avenue at 32nd Street, between Madison and Park Avenues
French bistro, great cheese selection, \$20 lunch special.

Restaurant: Barbès

19-21 East 36 Street, between 5th and Madison Avenues
Moroccan and French cuisine.

Restaurant: Branzini

299 Madison Avenue, at 41st Street
Mediterranean cuisine.

Restaurant: Cinque Terre

22 East 38th Street, between Madison and Park Avenues
Northern Italian cuisine.

Restaurant: Chenai Garden

129 East 27th Street (in Little India)
South Indian vegetarian.

Restaurant: Cho Dan Gol

35th Street between 5th and 6th Avenues
Best Korean food in town, hand-made tofu.

Restaurant: Da Ciro

22 Lexington, between 33rd and 34th Streets
Italian, wood-burning oven for pizza.

Restaurant: Ethos

495 3rd Avenue, between 34th and 33rd Streets
Greek cuisine.

Restaurant: Rungsit

208 East 34th Street, between 3rd and 2nd Avenues
Thai food.

CAFES AND RESTAURANTS

Au Bon Pain

- 1) Empire State Building, 33rd Street between 5th and 6th Avenues
 - 2) Corner of 37th and 5th Avenue
- Sandwiches, soup, etc.*

Café : Zaiya

18 East 41st Street, between 5th and Madison Avenues
Japanese sandwiches and prepared foods.

Café: Guy & Gallard

180 Madison Avenue, corner of 34th Street
Gourmet sandwiches, panini, wraps, salads, etc.

Café: Moonstruck on Madison

244 Madison at 38th Street
Sandwiches, salads, etc.

Café: Wonder Food

5th Avenue at the corner of 36th Street
Sandwiches, salads, pizza, etc.

Coffee: Starbucks

- 1) Corner of 36th and Madison Avenue [*carries sandwiches*]
- 2) Corner of 33rd and 5th Avenue [*carries sandwiches*]

Macy's Department Store

34th Street and Broadway, lower level
Self-service selection of salads, sandwiches.

Minado

32nd Street, between 5th and Madison Avenues
Japanese buffet, sushi – \$13.99 lunch special.

1:45-3:15: **Psychological Issues: Successful Adaptation and Legacy**

- 4) **Diana Vartan**, “Psychological Impact of Acculturation on Armenians Living in the United States.”
- 5) **Margaret Manoogian**, “Exploring the Family Ties and Legacies of Older Armenian American Women.”

Discussant: **Aghop Der Karabetian**

3:15-3:30: Break

3:30-5:30: **Generational Changes: Assimilation and Identity**

- 6) **Claudia Der Martirosian**, “Armenians in the U.S. Census: 1980, 1990, 2000.”
- 7) **Matthew Ari Jendian**, “To Be or Not to Be Armenian: Cultural Retention, Assimilation, and Perspectives on Ethnic Identity among Four Generations of Armenian-Americans.”

Discussant: **Susan Pattie**

Concluding Remarks: **Khachig Tölölyan**

Biographical Sketches

Robert Mirak holds degrees from Williams College, Oxford University and a Ph.D. in History from Harvard University. His book *Torn Between Two Lands: Armenians in America 1890 to World War I* (Harvard University Press, 1983) and his articles in the *Harvard Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Groups* and elsewhere forged the field of Armenian American studies. He has taught history at Boston University and devoted his energies to scholarship while running his family's business.

Arpena Mesrobian was born in Boston but lived most of her life in Syracuse, NY. She attended the Armenian College of Beirut (Jemaran), later received her B.A. and M.Sc. from Syracuse University. She has been an active member of the Armenian American community throughout her life both regionally and nationally. She was editor of the *Armenian Review* for many years, contributed articles and reviews to the press, and held leadership positions in the Society for Armenian Studies, Armenian Assembly, Armenian Relief Society, and St. John the Baptist Armenian Apostolic Church, to name a few. She is Director Emerita at Syracuse University Press, and author of "*Like One Family*" – *The Armenians of Syracuse* (Gomidas, 2000).

Anny Bakalian is Associate Director of MEMEAC at the Graduate Center, CUNY. She received her undergraduate degree from the American University of Beirut, her Master's from Exeter University, and her Ph.D. from Columbia University. Between 1989 and 2001, she was Professor of Sociology at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland. She is the author of numerous publications on Armenian Americans including *Armenian Americans: From Being to Feeling Armenian* (Transaction Press, 1993). She is presently writing, with Mehdi Bozorgmehr, the findings of their research funded by National Science Foundation. *Backlash 9/11* examines the aftermath of September 11th on Middle Eastern Americans.

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Khachig Tölölyan is Professor and Chair of the English Department at Wesleyan University. He received his BA in Molecular Biology from Harvard University and his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Brown University. He is the founder and editor of *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies*. This award-winning publication is in its 12th year of continuous publication by the Zoryan Institute and the University of Toronto Press.

The Armenian Center at Columbia University was founded in 1979 to raise funds for the establishment of the Chair in Armenian Studies and endowments for scholarships, library acquisitions, academic publications and outreach to the public at large, especially the Armenian American community. In that regard, the Center organizes lectures, conferences and symposia on a wide range of topics pertaining to Armenia and Armenians in a variety of disciplines.

The Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center (MEMEAC) was established in 2001 with a generous grant from the Ford Foundation to promote the study of the Middle East and Middle Eastern Americans. It is the only center in the country that incorporates the Middle Eastern American experience into Middle East Studies. Based at The Graduate Center, CUNY, MEMEAC sponsors lectures, seminars and conferences; conducts research; serves as a resource for both the CUNY Community and the public at large; and engages in outreach. Professors Beth Baron and Mehdi Bozorgmehr are the founding Co-Directors of MEMEAC.

Knarik Avakian graduated from the Institute of History, National Academy of Sciences in Yerevan in 1995. She subsequently attended the American University of Armenia, Graduate School of Political Science & International Affairs. She is the author of *The History of the Armenian Community of the United States of America – From the Beginning to 1924* (Gitutiun Publishing House, 2000) and over 50 articles and book chapters. She is currently continuing her work on the Armenian American community, focusing her research on the period from 1924 to the present.

George Byron Kooshian, Jr. is a native of Pasadena, in metropolitan Los Angeles. He received his B.A. in Latin from Seattle Pacific College, then his M.A. in Linguistics and Ph.D. in History from UCLA. His 2002 dissertation, entitled “The Armenian Immigrant Community of California: 1880 – 1935,” examines the struggles of the earliest Armenian settlers in Fresno and their children’s generation. He has been employed as a teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District since 1975. He is married with three children and lives in Altadena, California.

Ben Alexander is currently completing his Ph.D. in history at the Graduate Center, City University of New York. His dissertation focuses on the changing face of Armenian ethnic identity in the United States from 1915 to 1955. Ben teaches U.S. history as an adjunct at St. Francis College in Brooklyn. He is also a playwright, whose work has been produced at Off-Off-Broadway venues.

Isabel Kaprielian-Churchill is Professor of Modern Armenian and Immigration History, Department of History, California State University, Fresno, specializing in Modern Armenian History, the Armenian Genocide, and Armenians in America. Her writing focuses on Armenian diaspora history, especially the history of Armenians in Canada and the United States. She has published a number of books and contributed articles to many scholarly journals. Her most recent book, *Like Our Mountains: a History of Armenians in Canada*, is to be published by McGill-Queen's University Press in 2004.

Diana Vartan is a clinical psychologist in private practice. She emigrated from Iran as a teenager and received her Ph.D. from the University of Southern California in 1996. Her dissertation dealt with the acculturation patterns of Armenian immigrants from Iran, the Middle East and Armenia. She has worked in a number of community mental health settings as a clinician and training supervisor, and has taught graduate and undergraduate psychology in New York, California, and Florida. Her psychodynamic, family systems and multiethnic focus has helped her address the needs of many Armenian families, couples, teenagers and children. Dr. Vartan has relocated from Los Angeles to New York City in the last year.

Margaret Manoogian is Assistant Professor of Child and Family Studies at Ohio University College of Health and Human Services in Athens, OH. She received her doctoral degree in 2001 from Oregon State University in Human Development and Family Studies, focusing on family gerontology. Her dissertation title was, "Linking Generations: The Family Legacies of Older Armenian Mothers." Currently, she is part of a national team of scholars addressing family well-being after the 1996 federal welfare reform act. Margaret's father encouraged a strong interest and pride in Armenian culture, a legacy she is currently sharing with her two children.

Aghop Der Karabetian is Professor of Social Psychology and Chair of the Department of Psychology at the University of LaVerne in Southern California. He is also Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for Strategic Planning and Outcomes Assessment. He received his B.A. and M.A. from the American University of Beirut in experimental psychology and his Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Kansas. He is the author of numerous articles on Armenian identity issues in the United States and the Diaspora and creator of the much-used Armenian Ethnic Orientation Questionnaire, a scale used to measure Armenian identity. He has recently translated into English and published his and his wife's grandfathers' genocide survival memoirs, "Jail to Jail," and "Vahan's Triumph," respectively.

Claudia Der-Martirosian left Iran with her parents at a young age. She studied at UCLA, earning a B.A. in Applied Mathematics (1987) and a Ph.D. in Sociology in 1996. She has numerous publications in immigration and ethnicity. She has co-authored chapters in *Irangelos* and *Ethnic Los Angeles* discussing the Iranian, Armenian and other Middle Eastern groups in Los Angeles. She currently works as a Statistical Consultant with UCLA Public Health Dentistry and Southern California University of Health Sciences (SCUHS).

Matthew Ari Jendian is Assistant Professor of Sociology at California State University, Fresno, and Director of the American Humanics Certificate Program in Nonprofit Management and Leadership. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Southern California in 2001. His dissertation was titled, "Assimilation and Ethnicity: Adaptation Patterns and Ethnic Identity among Armenian-Americans in Central California." He is a third-generation Fresno Armenian who is active in the Armenian Church as a deacon. He and his wife, Pamela, reside in Clovis, CA, and have two sons, Joshua and Nicholas.

Susan Pattie grew up in the Washington D.C. area, and completed her Ph.D. at the University of Michigan in Anthropology. She is the author of *Faith in History – Armenians Rebuilding Community* (Smithsonian Institution Press, 1997). She makes her home in London where she is a Senior Research Fellow at University College, London. Recently she was instrumental in the founding of the Armenian Institute in London which is dedicated to making Armenian culture and history a living experience through a variety of events, paying particular attention to contemporary diasporan life, and the development of links with Armenia. She is presently researching the lives of Armenians from Kessab (Syria) around the world.