

Armenian Professional Society Green Symposium Featuring Lisa Kalustian

GLENDALE -- The Armenian Professional Society (APS) will present a Green Symposium featuring a special presentation on California's Green Initiative by Lisa Kalustian, Chief Deputy Director of the Los Angeles Office of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The presentation will be held at the monthly APS dinner meeting on Friday, February 26, 2010, at 7:30 pm at the Brandview Collection in Glendale.

Kalustian will provide an update on how Governor Schwarzenegger's environmental and energy policies have launched California's developing Green-Tech Economy, and what that means for the future. Over the past several years, Governor Schwarzenegger has taken action to implement far-reaching, landmark environmental measures that are expected to produce economic benefits and to help to fuel the state's recovery from a severe recession.

As a member of the Schwarzenegger administration, Kalustian's responsibilities include communicating the Governor's policy agenda, representing the Governor at events, local issues management, and identifying qualified individuals as candidates for positions within the Administration. Previously, she served as vice president of public affairs for the Western Region of Health Net, Inc., one of the nation's largest health insurance companies. She also served as deputy cabinet secretary and deputy press secretary in the office of California Governor Pete Wilson, overseeing health and human services, education, environment, immigration, and legal issues. Active in community affairs, Kalustian serves on the boards of directors of the Armenian Assembly of America and the Endowment Fund for the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church.

Additional speakers will discuss



Lisa Kalustian

related topics, including Green Building Design and Operation, Green Tax Incentives, and Job Opportunities in the Green-Tech Sector.

The Armenian Professional Society is an independent, non-partisan organization founded in 1958 to promote fellowship among Armenian professionals and to encourage and foster higher education in young Armenians. APS activities include annual grants and scholarships to universities in Armenia, and to graduate students in the United States; conducting regularly scheduled meetings that cover a range of professional, cultural, and other topics of interest to its membership; sponsoring social events; and holding an annual banquet to honor a Professional of the Year who has provided outstanding service to the Armenian community.

Admission to the event is \$35 for APS members and \$40 for non-members.

Additional information about The Armenian Professional Society and upcoming events is available at (818) 685-9946, apsla@apsla.org, www.apsla.org, or by writing to APS, P. O. Box 10306, Glendale, CA 91209.

Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State to Hold 22nd Annual Banquet

FRESNO-- The Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno, will hold its 22nd Annual Banquet on Sunday, March 21, 2010 at the Fort Washington Golf & Country Club, 10272 N. Millbrook, in Fresno.

This year's Banquet will feature the United States premiere of a film, "William Saroyan's Will," directed by Grigor Harutyunyan. Hayk Film Studio in Armenia produced the movie in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the birth of Fresno's native son, William Saroyan. The fascinating film brings never before seen footage of Saroyan and also interviews with family and friends.

More than forty-five student recipients of Armenian Studies scholarships and grants for 2009-2010 will be recognized at the Banquet.

The Armenian Studies Banquet brings together Fresno State students, faculty, and administrators and the community, to celebrate the achievements of the Program and the students.

During the past several decades the Program has gained national and international recognition, for its wide range of courses offered, research conducted by faculty, and for student involvement in a variety of programs.

The reception will begin at 5:00PM followed by the Banquet at 6:00PM.

Tickets are available at \$50 per person, with a special price of \$25 for Fresno State students and Fresno State faculty.

For more information about the Banquet, please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669.

New Publication:

An ethno-Musicological Collection of Palou and its Neighboring Areas by Bedros Alahaidoyan

Bedros Alahaidoyan, a graduate of Brussels University in Musicology, has made a life's work following the example of Father Komitas and his successors.

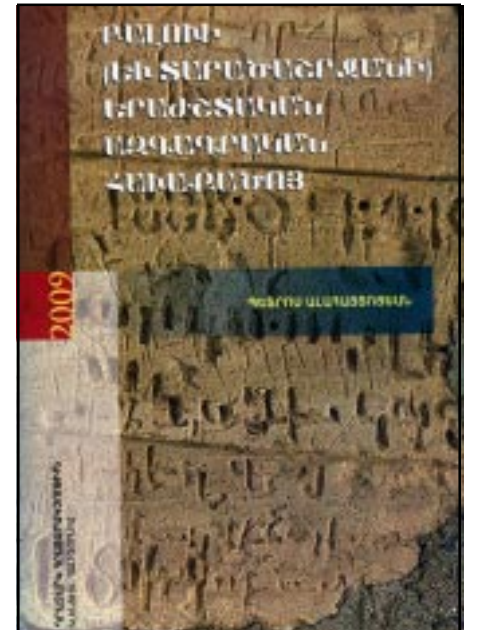
Traveling to numerous Armenian communities in the Diaspora, he has sought out and recorded songs from the oral tradition of the generation of genocide survivors and succeeding generations.

Within his collection, the songs of the Palou/Palahovid region hold a very important place. They have been passed down intact from singer Maro Nalbandian (Aleppo), her parents and from other senior Paloutsees. He has supplemented the collected works with an impressive musicological and textual research, which are offered to the reader in this present volume. This study – substantially accessible to the general reader and containing rich social insights – is dedicated uniquely to the songs of the Western Armenian Palou/Palahovid region (in the land of Tzopq, viz. "Tzopatz Ashkhar"). It is titled "An Ethno-Musicological Collection of Palou and its Neighboring Areas".

The book is divided into three sections, followed by the texts of individual songs, and a dictionary of ethnic terminology. It is written in its entirety in the Western Armenian Dialect – the direct spoken by those who once lived in Western Armenia (present day Turkey). The old Armenian dialect once used in Palou is no longer spoken anywhere in the world, the few survivors of that region having mostly passed away. As a result, the author has encountered countless difficulties deciphering certain words and idiomatic expressions within the songs. He has included various lexicons of dialectic terminology and contextual readings.

Included in the volume are two compact disks with recordings of the 72 songs relating to Palou and its neighboring areas (Moush, Sassoun, Tigranakert, etc.) explored in the study. The initial recordings were made in 1989 and 1990, from the mouth of the famous daughter of Palou, Maro Nalbandian, and were subsequently supplemented by other recordings and transcriptions in Aleppo and elsewhere in later years. Ninety percent of this collection is unknown to the general public.

Maro Nalbandian, the unique and vigilant custodian and curator of these songs, is the daughter of survivors from Palou. Those, from which she is a descendant and to whom these songs were native, were either wiped out or driven from their homeland. Today, there are no Armenians living in Palou or the hinterland. The region is primarily populated by Kurdish peoples and hardly any trace of its Armenian inhabitants remains. Ms. Nalbandian has dedicated her life, undertaking meticulous training, to ensure the preserva-



tion of these precious ethnic heirlooms which speak of her ancestors' way of life.

Preparation and presentation of this volume has been prompted and encouraged by ethnographer and Armenian popular song expert Prof. Arusiak Sahakian (Yerevan). Her comments and observations have greatly enhanced the content of this volume.

The volume is divided into three parts:

Part One is a collection of six articles: "Introduction to the Palou wedding song cycle", "Contents of monograph devoted to Palou", "Palou and the Paloutsee" (includes a 1913 map of Palou), "An attempt to recreate the Palou wedding song cycle", "Singer Maro Nalbandian," and "The various stages of collecting Palou and related songs". A final section of this first part presents a fairly large compilation of ethnographic song texts, which are appended in the alphabetical order of their towns – more than 30 villages and cities, from Akn to Qghi.

Part Two offers a textual and musicological study of the 72 songs in the collection. Each song is laid out with its notes and lyrics and given a brief and accessible analysis.

Part Three contains various lists and catalogues: 1. Dictionary of words of rural dialects, 2. Bibliography, 3. List of variations within the different songs, 4. list of locations from where they have been collected, 5. Song list of the CDs contents, and 6. Song titles in order of their genres. This section further includes an annotation concerning the CDs, as well as a biography of the author

The two compact disks that come with the book display song and melody selections with no instrumental accompaniment. The recordings preserve the basic, crude and monodic/monophonic stage of the songs, which serve as ethnographic kindling and musical testimony of the undertaken work. The volume final offering is a series of photos and illustrations relating to Palou.

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