



Discovering Armenian Heritage & Culture

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Armenian Photograph Archives

UConn
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Saturday, March 30, 2019
Mark Twain House & Museum
385 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, CT 06105



AGENDA

10:00 AM | WELCOME

Nina Rovinelli Heller, Ph.D., *Dean, School of Social Work, University of Connecticut*

10:05 AM | BOOK DISCUSSION & DEMONSTRATION

HOME AGAIN: ARMENIAN RECIPES FROM THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Mari Firkatian, Ph.D., *Professor of History, University of Hartford*

THE MAKING OF ARMENIAN STRING CHEESE

Maggie Stepanian, *Recipe Demonstrator*

11:00 AM | LECTURE & RECITAL

CONTEMPORARY ARMENIAN MUSIC

Tatev Amiryan, DMA, *Composer & Pianist*

Anna Hayrapetyan, *Soprano and a lecturer in Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies, University of Connecticut*

11:45 AM | PANEL DISCUSSION

**DISCOVERING YOUR ARMENIAN ROOTS:
HOW TO RESEARCH GENEALOGY & ANCESTRY**

George Aghjayan, *Director of the Armenian Historical Archives*

Marc A. Mamigonian, *Director of Academic Affairs, National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR)*

Tsoleen Sarian, *Executive Director, Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives*

Armen T. Marsoobian, Ph.D., *Professor and Chair of Philosophy, Southern Connecticut State University*

Catherine Masud, *Lecturer, Digital Media & Design, University of Connecticut*

Moderated by Kathryn Libal, Ph.D., *Director of the Human Rights Institute and Associate Professor of Social Work and Human Rights, University of Connecticut*

1:15 PM | LUNCH & DISCUSSION

PROGRAM

10:00 AM | WELCOME

Nina Rovinelli Heller, Ph.D., is Dean, Co-Director of the Doctoral Program, and Zachs Professor of Social Work. Heller has taught in the MSW and Ph.D. programs in the areas of casework, social work practice and theory and mental health. Her research and scholarship are in the areas of suicide and suicide prevention, social work theory, integrative approaches to practice, and mental health. She is co-editor of several books *Enhancing Psychodynamic Theories with Cognitive Behavioral Theory* (1998); *Social Work and Social Problems: A Mental Health Perspective* (2010); and *Beyond the Risk Paradigm in Mental Health Policy and Practice*. As a consultant to the State of Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board, Heller led the development of the state suicide prevention plan and serves on several related statewide committees. She is a member of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention Taskforce on Clinical Workforce Preparedness and is certified by the American Association of Suicidology as a psychological autopsy investigator. She is Co-PI on a three year SAMHSA clinical training grant Transitioning Youth at Risk, a collaborative effort between the UConn SSW and the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Heller is a member of the Nominating Committee of the National Association of Deans and Directors of schools of social work.

10:05 AM | BOOK DISCUSSION & DEMONSTRATION

HOME AGAIN: ARMENIAN RECIPES FROM THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Home Again: Armenian Recipes from the Ottoman Empire combines a collection of Armenian recipes from the Ottoman Empire with a memoir of a family of immigrants who kept certain recipes close to their hearts as a means of preserving their cultural heritage. Firkatian examines the relationship between history and cuisine, displacement and memory, the individual and their ancestors. Working over 10 years to collect authentic recipes from the descendants of Armenians who fled their homeland, she brings forth a book that aligns some rare recipes with history and personal anecdotes of dozens of Armenian cooks. Reworking and testing recipes kept safe in family memories, this book brings them to life for the contemporary cook. Deftly combining her grandmother's recollections of daily life in the Ottoman Empire with the personal recollections of others, from different villages, Firkatian describes the recipes and experiences of those communities in loving prose. The book revives a lost world and invites the reader to imagine being a guest in her grandmother Iskouhi's home. Firkatian has studiously preserved

the ancient roots of the recipes while presenting them in a modern context. Firkatian includes over 175 recipes and contextualizes them by sharing fragments of first hand recollections from the chefs themselves, the heirs to the culture.

Mari Firkatian, Ph.D., has been a Fulbright Scholar and a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow as well as a Yale University Fellow and a recipient of International Research and Exchanges Board scholarships. She has lived and traveled extensively in Southeast Europe and the Soviet Union. Trained as a linguist and a historian her research interests include minority populations, diplomatic history and intellectual history. Most recently she has begun to explore the history of food and the key role it plays as a historical artefact.

THE MAKING OF ARMENIAN STRING CHEESE

Maggie Stepanian learned the art of making string cheese from her mother, grandmother and mother-in-law, and now shares this art with the community. Stepanian's family recipe is included in *Home Again: Armenian Recipes from the Ottoman Empire*. In her demonstration she shows the audience how to make this popular Armenian snack peppered with black caraway and wild cherry seeds. Stepanian believes her family heritage is a gift from God and enjoys serving in the church and cooking and sharing the ethnic foods of her family. Stepanian is married to a priest in the Armenian Apostolic church. She has two children, two grandchildren and one great grandchild. Stepanian graduated from Northeastern University with a major in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. She works as a medical technologist at the Lahey Health Clinic in Massachusetts.

11:00 AM | LECTURE & RECITAL CONTEMPORARY ARMENIAN MUSIC

Armenian composer and pianist Tatev Amiryan will give a presentation on Armenian contemporary music, as well as will perform pieces by contemporary Armenian composers accompanied by soprano Anna Hayrapetyan.

Tatev Amiryan, DMA, is a composer and pianist devoted to exploring the sounds of her native Armenian homeland. Her music has been performed in the United States, Armenia, Russia, Ukraine, Israel, England, Poland, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, and Japan by such renowned ensembles and performers as, German Chamber Philharmonic of Bremen (Germany), CMEA Central Coast Honors Orchestra (USA), Carpe Diem String Quartet (USA), Ensemble Oktoplus

(Germany), Metropolitan Choral of Kansas City (USA), pianists Jeffrey Jacob (USA), Hayk Melikyan (Armenia), and thereminist Thorwald Jørgensen (Netherlands).

Amiryan has received such awards as the 1st prize at the Armenian Allied Arts 71st Annual Composition Competition, the UMKC Conservatory Chamber Music Composition Competition, the Metropolitan Chorale of Kansas City's Chorale Composition Contest, the Abundant Silence Composition Competition, the 2nd Prize at New Ariel Recordings Fifth Piano Composition Competition, the Crossing Borders Music Call for Scores (2018) and the Juventas New Music Ensemble Call for Scores (2019). In 2013, she was commissioned a piece by North German Radio NDR Norddeutscher Rundfunk which was premiered by Ensemble Oktoplus in Hannover, Germany in 2014. In April 2016, she released her first album of complete piano works performed by Armenian pianist, Honored Artist of Armenia Hayk Melikyan.

She has presented lectures and lecture-recitals at a number of international conferences and festivals in the United States and in Europe, including Women in the Arts International Conference at University of Missouri-St. Louis, Women Composers Festival of Hartford at Hartt School of Music in Connecticut, London International Piano Symposium at the Royal College of Music, the 12th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities in Honolulu, Hawaii, USF New Music International Festival at the University of South Florida and the 3rd Hildegard Festival of Women in The Arts at California State University in Stanislaus.

Amiryan holds bachelors and master's degrees in composition and musicology from Komitas State Conservatory of Yerevan, Armenia and Doctor of Musical Arts degree in composition from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. She is a member of the Union of Composers of the Republic of Armenia.

Anna Hayrapetyan, soprano, has impressed her audiences with her bright soprano and engaging characterizations. Hayrapetyan has performed in multiple solos and joined concerts around Armenia, Australia, UK, South America and USA. She is the winner of the MacArthur Music Competition in Sydney, Australia. As the former Vice President of the board of the Women Composers Festival of Hartford, Hayrapetyan remains a strong advocate for women composers and performers. Hayrapetyan's most recent performances in the USA include series of lecture-recitals and recitals in Worcester, Massachusetts, at the University of Connecticut, Southern Connecticut State University, at the West Hartford Libraries and regular performances with the Women Composers Festival of Hartford among others. Hayrapetyan is a lecturer at the University of Connecticut's Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies program and also maintains a private voice and piano studio.

11:45 AM | PANEL DISCUSSION
**DISCOVERING YOUR ARMENIAN ROOTS:
HOW TO RESEARCH GENEALOGY & ANCESTRY**

The panel will provide an overview of how to research genealogy and ancestry, as well as the resources available to the public through their organizations. Panelists will discuss the intersection of genealogy and Armenian-American history and provide accounts of their personal experiences and historical artifacts and stories they found when researching their own family history.

PANELISTS

George Aghjayan is the Director of the Armenian Historical Archives. Aghjayan graduated with honors from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1988 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Actuarial Mathematics. He achieved Fellowship in the Society of Actuaries in 1996. After a career in both insurance and structured finance, Aghjayan retired in 2014 to concentrate on Armenian related research and projects. His primary area of focus is the demographics and geography of western Armenia as well as a keen interest in the hidden Armenians living there today. Other topics he has written and lectured on include Armenian genealogy and genocide denial. He is a board member of the National Association of Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), a frequent contributor to the *Armenian Weekly* and Houshamadyan.org, and the creator and curator westernarmenia.weebly.com, a website dedicated to the preservation of Armenian culture in Western Armenia.

Marc A. Mamigonian is the Director of Academic Affairs at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), where he has worked since 1998. He has served as the editor of the *Journal of Armenian Studies* and of the volume *The Armenians of New England* (Belmont, MA: Armenian Heritage Press, 2004). He is the co-author of annotated editions of James Joyce's novels *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (Richmond, UK: Alma Classics, 2014; with John N. Turner) and *Ulysses* (Richmond, UK: Alma Classics, 2015, with John N. Turner and Sam Slote). His work has appeared in the academic journals *James Joyce Quarterly*, *Genocide Studies International*, *Armenian Review*, and the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*, as well as in the *Boston Book Review*, *Armenian Weekly*, *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, *Institute for the Study of Genocide Newsletter*, and other outlets.

Founded in 1955, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) is an independent non-profit membership organization, and one of the world's leading Armenian

Studies centers and rare book libraries. NAASR advances education and scholarship through Armenian Studies, offers high-quality public programming, and supports and connects scholars of Armenian Studies worldwide with each other and a broad general public to build a global community, expand horizons, and preserve and enrich Armenian culture, history, and identity for future generations.

Tsoleen Sarian is Executive Director of Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives, Inc. Sarian currently serves her community with leadership roles in the Armenian Memorial Church, the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) Eastern Region, and the Friends of Armenian Heritage Park. She is enrolled in a Master's Degree program in Non Profit Management at Northeastern University.

Project SAVE's mission is to bring to light the culture and history of Armenians by making photographs and their stories, which otherwise would be lost, destroyed, or forgotten, available for public and educational use. The organization collects, documents, preserves, and shares images of all subjects and time periods relating to the Armenian people and the work of Armenian photographers. Project SAVE is dedicated to promoting the photographic heritage of the worldwide Armenian community. It aims to contribute to the community by supporting and collaborating with other historical, cultural, and educational organizations.

Armen T. Marsoobian, Ph.D., is Professor and Chair of Philosophy at Southern Connecticut State University and editor of *Metaphilosophy*, an international peer-review journal. He received a doctorate in philosophy from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. He has twice taught as the Nikit and Eleanora Ordjanian Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies in the Department of Middle East, South Asian, and African Studies at Columbia University and was a Senior Visiting Fellow at the Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations in Istanbul, Turkey. He has lectured and published on topics in American philosophy, pragmatism, aesthetics, moral philosophy, human rights, and genocide studies. His articles have been translated into Armenian, Turkish, and Arabic. He received the Hrant Dink Prize for Historical Research in 2011 for his scholarship on the Armenian Genocide.

He has co-edited seven books, including *The Blackwell Guide to American Philosophy*, *Genocide's Aftermath: Responsibility and Repair*, most recently, *Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Genocide and Memory (2018)* and *Criticism and Compassion: The Ethics and Politics of Claudia Card (2018)*. His award-winning book, *Fragments of a Lost Homeland: Remembering Armenia (2015)*, was based upon extensive research about his family, who were accomplished

photographers in the Ottoman Empire. A Turkish translation of this book will appear in spring 2019.

Since 2011 he has mounted seventeen exhibitions of the Dildilian photography archive including at multiple venues in Turkey, and major venues in Armenia, Great Britain and the United States. His companion volume to the exhibitions entitled, *Reimagining a Lost Armenian Home: The Dildilian Photography Collection* (2017) was published in both English and Turkish editions. He is currently writing a book titled, "Breaking the Silence: History and Memory in the Aftermath of the Armenian Genocide," that focuses on the trans-generational effects of the genocide with particular focus upon our responsibilities to redress and repair the cultural destruction of Armenian heritage that occurred both during and subsequent to the events of 1915.

Catherine Masud, is an award-winning filmmaker with 30 years of experience in producing, directing, and editing, working in both documentary and fictional genres. Many of her films address themes relating to war, genocide, and social justice. Among other work, she produced and co-wrote the acclaimed feature *THE CLAY BIRD*, which won the International Critics' Prize at Cannes. An American citizen by birth, Catherine spent much of her adult life in Bangladesh, working together with her late husband and filmmaking partner Tareque Masud. Since her relocation back to the US in 2015, she has divided her time between teaching, filmmaking, and advocacy. She currently teaches film and human rights at the University of Connecticut, and in the fall of 2019 will teach a special topics course on "Visual Representations of Armenian Genocide."

MODERATOR

Kathryn Libal, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Social Work and Human Rights at the University of Connecticut. She directs the University's Human Rights Institute. She received her doctorate in cultural anthropology at the University of Washington. Since 2007, she has taught at the School of Social Work and Human Rights Institute, specializing in human rights, humanitarianism and migration, and social welfare in the Middle East and United States. Libal is currently conducting qualitative research on the politics and practices of voluntarism and refugee resettlement in the United States and Canada. She has co-edited *Human Rights in the United States: Beyond Exceptionalism* and co-authored *Human Rights-Based Approaches to Community Practice in the United States*. Her latest book is a co-edited volume on *Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the United States: Interdisciplinary Perspectives* (forthcoming in 2019). In addition, Libal serves on the USA Steering Committee for Scholars at Risk and serves on the Human Rights Committee of the Council on Social Work Education's Global Commission.

ALICE K. NORIAN LECTURE SERIES

In 2004, Alice K. Norian, an important member of the Connecticut Armenian community bequeathed more than \$500,000 to restart Armenian Studies at the University of Connecticut. The bequest included funds to be dedicated to an annual lecture on Armenia, which would be open to the public as well as the University community. The Alice K. Norian Lecture Series was inaugurated in 2004 by Dr. Arman J. Kirakossian, the Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the United States.



Images provided by Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives.



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