

KNIGHTS OF VARTAN
PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: February 10, 2015
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KNIGHTS OF VARTAN ANI LODGE BEGINS THREE-PART LECTURE SERIES MARKING THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Next Lecture to take place at George Mason University on February 26, 2015

WASHINGTON, DC – As previously reported, the Knights of Vartan-Ani Lodge in Washington, DC has begun a three-part academic series of lectures touching upon different aspects of the Armenian Genocide. The first lecture, “Oil, Politics, and the Genocide in Armenia: The First World War Retrospect,” featured Professor Christopher Simpson, a professor of Journalism from the School of Communications at American University, and was held on January 29, 2015 at American University in Washington, DC.

The second lecture will feature Professor Simpson on the same topic on Thursday, February 26, 2015 at George Mason University, 10423 Rivanna River Way, Fairfax, Virginia 22030 from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM.

The third and final lecture will feature Dr. Gregory Stanton, Research Professor in Genocide Studies and Prevention, George Mason University, for a presentation on “Why Denial Violates the Genocide Convention: The Genocides of Armenians, Native Americans, and Tutsis in Rwanda.” The final lecture will take place on Thursday, March 19, 2015 at The George Washington University Law School, Michael K Young Faculty Conference Center, 2000 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20052 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

“The Knights of Vartan and the entire Washington, DC Armenian American community is grateful to Professor Simpson, Dr. Stanton and these esteemed universities for advancing genocide and holocaust education in our nation’s capital,” stated Ani Lodge Commander Jake Bournazian. “Engaging the American public is a critical part of genocide education efforts. The Armenian community is intrinsically interested in the genocide and it is up to us to show the relevancy of studying the Armenian Genocide to issues that are important to the American public today,” Bournazian said.

Professor Simpson is internationally recognized for his expertise in democracy, and media theory and practice. He has authored five books and won national awards for investigative reporting, historical writing, and literature. These first two lectures discuss the lucrative concessions that US oil companies received from the Ottoman Turks and the subsequent aggressive congressional lobbying by American oil companies for the U.S. government's silence on the Armenian Genocide.

Professor Stanton served as a Foreign Service Officer in the State Department from 1992 to 1999, where he drafted the UN Security Council Resolutions (955 and 978) that created the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. In 1992, he also drafted the UN Peacekeeping Resolutions that helped end the Mozambique civil war from 1977 to 1992. In 1999, Stanton founded Genocide Watch, the International Campaign to End Genocide, the first international anti-genocide coalition. Stanton served as the President of the International Association of Genocide Scholars from 2007 to 2009 and Vice President from 2005 to 2007.

All three lectures are produced by the Knights of Vartan Ani Lodge with the support of our cosponsors, the Armenian Bar Association, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, and Genocide Watch. Historical and archival material provided by the Armenian National Institute.

Space is limited and RSVP is required. For media inquiries or to RSVP, please contact Knights of Vartan Ani Lodge at kovanilodge@gmail.com.

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PR#: 2015-02