

**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES AND
RESEARCH/CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION LECTURE SERIES
ON CONTEMPORARY ARMENIAN ISSUES
THE TEKEYAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION BOSTON CHAPTER**

PRESENT

**THE RUINS OF ANI:
FROM SACRED LANDSCAPE TO POLITICAL SOIL
A PRESENTATION BY PETER BALAKIAN, EDITOR, AND
ARAM ARKUN, TRANSLATOR, OF *THE RUINS OF ANI***

From the tenth to the thirteenth centuries, the city of Ani was the jewel of the Armenian kingdom, renowned far and wide for its magnificent buildings. By the fifteenth century, Ani was virtually abandoned, its stunning buildings left to crumble. Yet its ruins have remained a symbol of cultural accomplishment that looms large in the Armenian imagination.

Today, Ani is a popular tourist site in Turkey, but the city has been falsified in its presentation by the Turkish government in order to erase Armenian history in the wake of the Armenian Genocide. Krikor Balakian's *The Ruins of Ani*, first published in Armenian in 1910 and now available in English, is a unique combination of history, art criticism, and travel memoir. This timely publication and program raise important questions about the preservation of major historic monuments in the face of post atrocity campaigns of cultural erasure.

DR. PETER BALAKIAN is the Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor of the Humanities in the department of English at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York. He is the author of many books, including *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response*, winner of the Raphael Lemkin Prize; *Black Dog of Fate*, winner of the PEN/Albrand Award for Memoir; and *Ozone Journal*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.

ARAM ARKUN is the Tekeyan Cultural Association of the United States and Canada and assistant editor at the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*. He is the author of numerous academic articles and book chapters and translations, and has served as Director of the Zohrab Center in New York City and as editor of *Ararat Quarterly*.

The Ruins of Ani: A Journey to Armenia's Medieval Capital and Its Legacy (Rutgers Univ. Press, 2018) will be available for purchase the night of the program.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020, 7:30-9:30 P.M.

**BATMASIAN HALL, NAASR VARTAN GREGORIAN BUILDING
395 CONCORD AVENUE, BELMONT, MA 02478**

A reception will take place after the program in the Shahinian Solarium.

Contact NAASR at 617-489-1610 or hq@naasr.org for more information.



FUNDAÇÃO
CALOUSTE
GULBENKIAN

