

So I Will Till the Ground
by Gregory Djanikian

Reading and Book Signing
Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 7:30 PM

University Business Center
Alice Peters Auditorium
Fresno State University



Award-winning poet and educator **Gregory Djanikian** reads from latest book of poetry, *So I Will Till the Ground*.



The author's fifth collection of poems, published by Carnegie Mellon Press, deals with aspects of Armenian history and family life: the Genocide of 1915, the ensuing diaspora, and the emigration of the author and his family from Egypt to the United States. The poems, Peter Balakian has written, "...chart a poetic topography that takes us... from the elegiac to the philosophical and to the heartfelt comedy of human love."

Gregory Djanikian currently directs the creative writing department at the University of Pennsylvania.

"In the marvelous title poem that concludes his book, Gregory Djanikian establishes himself as a gardener of the human spirit. He will work to replenish what was nearly entirely lost—Armenian culture and language, Armenian life itself—by first making use of the horrific as a kind of necessary mulch, then using the domestic as water and sun. And indeed his poems do go on to replenish, delineating his and his family's gradual assimilation into America, which leads to a wonderful variety of tones, including even the humorous. But, finally, this is Djanikian's book of history and of memory, no holds barred, his most urgent to date."

—Stephen Dunn

Djanikian's poetry has appeared in numerous publications including *The American Poetry Review*, *The American Scholar*, *The Georgia Review*, *The Iowa Review*, *Poetry*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The Washington Post*, and in many textbooks and anthologies.