



## NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2005

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on my term as president of the board of the UC Berkeley Armenian Alumni, I am proud of the exciting developments happening within the Armenian Studies Program (ASP) at UC Berkeley. Under the very able direction of Dr. Stephan Astourian, courses in Armenian language and history have become an integral part of the History and Slavic Departments. The Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies regularly features lectures dealing with Armenian subjects. The most recent lectures were "The Re-appropriation of the Past: History and Politics in Soviet Armenia" by Robert Krikorian and "The Emergence of Armenian Identity" by Gregory Areshian.

Other activities on campus in recent months included hosting a town hall meeting in February for US Ambassador to Armenia, John Evans, and a genocide workshop cosponsored with the AGBU Silicon Valley Chapter. All these exciting events have helped to elevate respect for Armenian Studies at UC Berkeley and I am very grateful for all the hard work and dedication of our supporters.

The ASP has tremendous potential for further growth. Dr. Stephan Astourian has gained the respect and admiration of many Berkeley faculty and thus we have a unique opportunity to expand the existing program. Additional funds are needed to increase the Armenian language class to three levels, to enrich the program with visiting professors teaching one-semester courses and to hold symposia and public lectures on contemporary Armenian issues. In order to achieve these goals, a fundraising campaign has been launched under the chairmanship of Mr. Adam Kablanian. In reaching the additional \$2 million goal the ASP aims to become the leading contemporary Armenian Studies Program in the US. UC Berkeley is recognized as one of the nation's premier universities and attracts our brightest youth. Your support and the support of groups such as the Armenian National Committee, which highlighted the endowment campaign this year, can make this very important goal a reality. Your generosity is critical. With the help of our community partners, the ASP at Berkeley will flourish and perpetuate the Armenian language and culture. I look forward to the exciting developments and activities of the year ahead.

The annual fall event at the UC Berkeley Alumni House on October 15, 2005 as well as an exciting gala at the Olympic Club in San Francisco planned for March 25, 2006 will help to raise money and awareness for this cause. Please mark your calendars for these upcoming events and I look forward to your attendance.

Sincerely,  
*Christina Moughamian*

### ANNUAL BANQUET



Mark Geragos

Prof. Stephan Astourian

The 2004 Annual Banquet took place on September 25 at the newly renovated Cliff House in San Francisco. Prominent criminal trial and appellate attorney Mark Geragos was this year's guest speaker. His address entitled "Justice Has No Statute of Limitations" discussed the landmark decision regarding the New York Life Settlement for the Armenian Genocide beneficiaries. This case alleges that the New York Life Insurance Company failed to pay benefits to policies it issued in and following 1875 in the Turkish Ottoman Empire on the lives of persons of Armenian descent. Details regarding this case including the Settlement Agreement and the Order of Judgment are posted on the following websites:

[www.armenianinsurancesettlement.com](http://www.armenianinsurancesettlement.com)

[www.newyorklife.com/cda/0,3254,13529,00.html](http://www.newyorklife.com/cda/0,3254,13529,00.html)

Geragos continued his talk by stressing the importance of Armenians being well informed and politically active. He also recognized the crucial role of the Armenian Studies Program at the University of California at Berkeley and he encouraged the continued support and expansion of this program.



Adam Kablanian and Mark Geragos

The Hrayr Terzian Armenian Alumni Scholarship was awarded at the banquet to Naira Der Kiureghian, an outstanding student double majoring in Art Practice and Middle Eastern Studies. She was described by professors as demonstrating solid analytical intelligence, having excellent writing skills, a strong work ethic, and a keen investigative intelligence. She also maintains a strong commitment to the Armenian community, both through the Armenian Students Association on campus, and through her volunteer work with the Land and Culture Organization in Armenia. The UCBAA was proud to award Ms. Der Kiureghian this scholarship and we look forward to hearing about the bright future we are sure she has ahead of her.



Chaghig Walker and Naira Der Kiureghian

## MESSAGE FROM 2004 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

*The 2004 scholarship recipient, Naira Der Kiureghian, spent a semester abroad at the American University of Beirut. The following is a brief message from her about her experience.*

Spending the Spring of 2005 at the American University of Beirut allowed me to see and experience Lebanon in a time of distinctive social and political movements. It has been an unusual experience to live in a place that I was told about my entire life by my family and their friends, but never before had the chance to visit. Living here for the past few months has given me a perspective on the impact of the Civil War on Lebanese society and the problems left from that era. Although there have been vast improvements in the last several years, traces of the war are still evident in daily life. The segregation of sectarian communities according to neighborhoods and abandoned, shelled buildings are reminders of Lebanon's brutal recent history.

It was interesting to watch my mother's reactions to the places of her childhood, which had been destroyed and reconstructed since she last saw them. Her visit here in April was her first return since she fled Lebanon in 1978. Traveling with her in the country made me realize how much change this country has seen over the last few decades. However, I have come to realize that the fundamental problems of Lebanese society have remained the same. Lebanon is frequently referred to as a place of extremes. In my experience, it is a place where the most beautiful and the ugliest aspects of the world coexist. The warmth of the people, the landscape and the lifestyle contrast sharply with a political system based on religious lines and inherent inequalities.

I took pleasure in seeing a sense of recognition on people's faces when I told them I was Armenian, as opposed to the usual lack of understanding I have grown used to in San Francisco. When you tell someone you are Armenian here, they usually react by saying 'Inchbes es?' in a heavy Arabic accent. Everyone has at least a few Armenian friends, holds our cuisine in high esteem, and is knowledgeable about our history. However I was disappointed to see that Lebanese Armenians were frequently viewed as a foreign element and not considered essential to the identity of the nation. This could be due to the self-perceptions of the Lebanese Armenians themselves. Only time will tell if the Lebanese will be able to overcome their differences and forge an all-inclusive Lebanese identity. For their sake and for the sake of humanity, I sincerely hope so.

## ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The Fundraising Committee has been actively planning over the past several months to advance toward our goal of \$2M by 2008. A series of events are being planned over the next year, including a private visit by Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia, Vartan Oskanian, a Gala on March 25, 2006, and five academic lectures on the Berkeley campus during the 2005-2006 academic year.

The donations and pledges to date total \$400,000 thanks to the generosity of many from the Bay Area community. Most recently, the Armenian Studies Program was fortunate enough to be the focus of the Armenian National Committee's Hai Tahd efforts. Through its annual Hai Tahd banquet on March 5 as well as the film night at the Larkspur Theater on April 8, the ANC was able to raise additional support for the endowment campaign. The UCBA, the Fundraising Committee, and the Armenian Studies Program are grateful to the ANC for supporting the fundraising efforts and directing attention to the strength of the ASP and the vital importance of expanding the Program and securing Dr. Astourian's position at the University.

The Fundraising Committee is also working on the development of several grant proposals for Armenian foundations and organizations. UC Berkeley's reputation as a top university as well as Dr. Astourian's reputation and accomplishments as Adjunct Professor put the Armenian Studies Program in a unique position to seek grant funding from outside institutions.

This fall the Fundraising Committee will be mailing its annual solicitation letter to its database of supporters and alumni. Donations to the William Saroyan Endowment in Armenian Studies at UC Berkeley can be made in a variety of ways. Gifts can be made through an annual contribution or a major gift pledge in the form of stock, charitable trusts, or bequests. To inquire about making a contribution or to discuss major gifts, please contact Adam Kablanian, Fundraising Committee Chair at 510-360-8001 or Rachel Nadjarian at 415-566-7827.

We hope that those who have offered their generosity to the campaign will continue to do so and that others will offer their support in recognition of the Armenian Studies Program's exceptional quality and its impact as an educational force within the Bay Area community and throughout the world. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to this exemplary program.

*Adam Kablanian*

## ALUMNUS AMONG US

*By Armen Sedrakian*



Victoria Jenanyan Wise combines her Armenian family memories around the dinner table with her professional skills at enhancing and perfecting recipes in *The Armenian Table*. The twelfth of thirteen recipe books authored by the prolific Jenanyan Wise, this Armenian recipe book goes a step beyond the Armenian recipe books found in most Armenian kitchens and moves Armenian food to the modern gourmet realm. Of her thirteen books, her most popular cookbook is *The Well-Filled Tortilla* (co-authored with Susanna Hoffman); but her first is *American Charcuterie: Recipes from Pig-by-the-Tail* and the latest is *The Olive and the Caper: Adventures in Greek Cooking*, a cookbook of Greek gastronomy and lore, in collaboration with Susanna Hoffman.

The story starts in the Berkeley of the 1960s when Wise would throw dinner parties for her friends. Although the food industry was not yet what it is today, the times they were a-changing, and instead of pursuing her doctorate in philosophy, she was compelled to follow her passion for food. It was a stroke of serendipity when a friend, who had been a dinner party guest, was walking by a construction site on Shattuck Avenue and asked what they were building. It turned out they were building a restaurant and in need of a chef. It turned out the restaurant was *Chez Panisse* and Chef Victoria cooked the first of many meals there in 1971. Goodbye philosophy, hello kitchen.

Two years later, tired of cooking at night, Wise opened a French-style charcuterie in 1973 in the present location of the Cheeseboard's pizza parlor. She named the establishment *Pig by the Tail*. The charcuterie Wise opened served more than the standard pork-butcher's fare to include treats available in the gourmet American delicatessen. She drew on diverse ethnic cuisines in such recipes as Swedish potato sausage, Armenian lamb pizzas and chile Colorado.

In 1985, she sold the business and worked on her first cookbook from home when pregnant with her son. A friend offered to be her agent and within a week the book was picked up by Viking/Penguin. Thus was born her first and favorite book: *American Charcuterie: Recipes from Pig-by-*

*the-Tail*. The cookbook business has gotten a lot tougher in the past twenty years. Wise says that unless you have a famous name or restaurant, it could take up to a year for a publisher to buy a book. Nevertheless, she continues to successfully pursue her passion for food with *The Olive and the Caper: Adventures in Greek Cooking* published just months after *The Armenian Table*. And she's to come out soon with *Three Cheers For Big Bold Food: A Celebration Of The Well-Filled American Plate*.

In preparing for *The Armenian Table*, Wise researched the cookbooks of the Detroit AGBU, Bezjian, Ouvezian, Boboyan, and others. These books were fine, but much of it was too homey for her. Victoria feels her book updated the recipes for the broader American market that's interested in ethnic food.

Some of Wise's favorite recipes from *The Armenian Table* include the mok-basturma, the eggplant mousaka, and the walnut cake. The most challenging, from a recipe-development point-of-view, is the pork shish kebab. Wise feels that some would find it too sweet because of the pomegranate syrup.

She tested a number of recipes for the same item and perfected ingredients to her culinary satisfaction. Some of those recipes came from her mother, a non-Armenian bride who learned to cook just the way her Armenian husband's mother did. If Wise's father (born in Yette) was not happy with his wife's cooking, Wise's mom would go back to her husband's mother or aunts and learn to perfect it. Thus, Wise feels what her mother passed down to her was the best of Jenanyan cooking. (Apparently, mom not only passed on the love for cooking to Wise, but to Wise's two sisters as well. One sister is on the board of the Cheeseboard and another has a restaurant in Sutter Creek.)

## 2005 GRADUATES

*Congratulations to the following Armenian students who graduated from Cal in 2005!*

Armen Abrahamian – Computer Sci. & Elect. Eng.  
Chris Berghoudian – Sociology  
Cynthia Elmastian – Political Science  
Talene Hachikian – Anthropology  
Alex Khojikian – Political Science  
Armen Moughamian – Molecular and Cell Biology  
Nareg Oknaian – Molecular and Cell Biology  
Ani Pezeshkan – Psychology  
Hasmig Tatirossian – International Relations  
Sergey Tirayan – Legal Studies  
Alen Vartan – Integrative Biology  
Allen Vartazarian – Business

## FALL 2005 COURSES AT UCB

History 177B: From Pre-modern Empires to the Present  
TuTh 12:30-2P, 182 Dwinelle  
Professor Stephan Astourian

*This survey course will cover the period from the incorporation of most of the Armenian plateau into the Ottoman Empire to the present day.*

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Eurasian Studies 1A: Beginning Armenian  
TuTh 11-12:30P, 6115 Dwinelle  
Professor Johanna Nichols

*An introduction to Armenian language and culture, aiming to give students basic competence in all four skills and an introduction to traditional and contemporary Armenian culture.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS...SAVE THE DATES!

**9<sup>th</sup> Celebrating Saroyan Event**  
**Saturday, September 17, 2005 at 2:00 PM**  
**Main San Francisco Public Library, Koret Auditorium**

100 Larkin at Grove  
Robert A. Papazian, Emmy Award Winner for Drama/Comedy, CEO of Sunset Gower Studios, Formerly Columbia Pictures  
"Saroyan and the Stage and Screen"  
American Conservatory Theater, A Scene from a Saroyan Play  
(Free to public, doors open 1:30 PM, seating limited)

**Armenian Rug Society Reception and Lecture**  
**Sunday, September 25, 2005 at 3:00 PM**  
**Toll Room, Alumni House, UC Berkeley Campus**

On September 25, 2005, the Armenian Rugs Society and the Armenian Studies Program of the UC Berkeley and ISEES will co-sponsor a talk by Dr. Lucy Der Manuelian, holder of the Arthur H. Dadian and Ara Oztemel Chair of Armenian Art and Architectural History in the Department of Art History at Tufts University. Her lecture is entitled "Diamonds, Dragons and Crosses: The Story of Armenian Rug Weaving" and will be located at the end of Dana Court just off the Bancroft Way/Dana Street intersection in Berkeley. Admission is free.

For more information:

[http://www.armenianrugssociety.com/meeting\\_9-25-2005\\_armenian\\_rug.html](http://www.armenianrugssociety.com/meeting_9-25-2005_armenian_rug.html)

**Markar Melkonian Talk and Film Viewing**  
**Saturday, October 15, 2006 at 3 pm**  
**Alumni House, UC Berkeley Campus**

Author Markar Melkonian will be present to read and sign copies of *My Brother's Road*, a biography/memoir about Monte Melkonian, UC Berkeley graduate aka Commander Avo.

*For more information, contact Christina Moughamian at (510) 526-1550.*

Editorial Review from *Amazon*:

Known at various times as "Abu Sindi", "Timothy Sean McCormick", "Saro", and "Commander Avo", Monte Melkonian was denounced in Europe as an international terrorist, while his adopted homeland of Armenia decorated him as a national hero who led a force of 4,000 men to victory in Azerbaijan. Markar Melkonian spent seven years unraveling the mystery of his brother's road: a journey which began in his ancestors' town in Turkey and led to a blood-splattered square in Tehran, the Kurdish mountains, the bomb-pocked streets of Beirut, and finally, to the windswept heights of mountainous Karabagh. Monte's life embodied the agony and the follies of the end of the Cold War and the unraveling of the Soviet Union. Yet, who was this man, really? A terrorist or a hero? *My Brother's Road* is not just the story of a long journey and a short life; it is an attempt to understand what happens when one man decides that violent deeds speak louder than words.

Also, ALL STREAMS FLOW TO THE SEA, a short film about Monte by Edig Baghdasarian, may be screened.

**Armenian Studies Program Benefit Gala**  
**Saturday, March 25, 2006**  
Olympic Club, San Francisco  
Stay tuned for more details...

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS**

The U. C. Berkeley Armenian Alumni would like to thank the following people who have made generous donations to the William Saroyan and Krouzian Endowments and UCBAAs over the past year.

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Mary Koobatian

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### **In Memory of Edward D. Peters**

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Angeline M. Durso

### **In Honor of UCBAA Founders and Long Time Supporters: Madeline Sahagian Adrian, Evelyn Chituni Boyd, and Stella Genian Michaelian**

Anonymous

### **In Memory of Elizabeth Khachigian**

Peter & Michelle Kezirian

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**DUES ARE DUE AND REMEMBER, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A UCB GRADUATE TO JOIN US!**

Your membership to UCBA A is welcome. While only UCB graduates can be elected to serve on the Board, we invite community members to join as Associate Members. We are constantly in the process of improving our mailing list, and wish to expand our network through email. Use the forms below to send us your email and/or change of address.

We have over 500 "alums" on our mailing list, yet we receive dues from fewer than 50. The dues become part of our General Fund which covers our operating expenses, including mailings, printing, honorariums and travel expenses for guest speakers, and much more. Remember, only dues paying members are allowed to vote in our elections. Annual dues are a small fee of \$35.

You can reach us: Via Mail: UCBA A, P.O. Box 10113, Berkeley, CA 94709, Email: [ucbaa@hotmail.com](mailto:ucbaa@hotmail.com), Telephone: Evelyn Boyd: 925-946-9320.

**UCBA A Contribution Form**

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Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Dues '05-06 \_\_\_\_\_ General Fund \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to UCBA A, P. O. Box 10113, Berkeley, CA 94709-5113

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