



University of California Berkeley Armenian Alumni

NEWSLETTER, FALL 2016 | WWW.UCBAA.ORG

About the U.C. Berkeley Armenian Alumni

The U.C. Berkeley Armenian Alumni is comprised of graduates and former students of U.C. Berkeley. The purpose of our organization is to promote and support Armenian Studies at U.C. Berkeley, and to contribute to the many enriching activities of the Bay Area Armenian community. Some of the activities of the UCBAA include fundraising for the Armenian Studies Program (supported by the William Saroyan Endowment and Krouzian Endowment), supporting the U.C. Berkeley Armenian Student Association, organizing lectures and other academic or social events, and providing scholarship programs. Eligible alumnus can become a member of the UCBAA for a yearly membership fee of \$75. For more information about the UCBAA and our structure:

www.ucbaa.org/about

www.ucbaa.org/files/charter.jpg

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Alumni and Friends of the U.C. Berkeley Armenian Alumni,

2015-2016 were rebuilding years for the UCBAA. The members of the UCBAA Board spent some time working on administrative matters (obtaining a tax exempt status) and long term planning in order to better serve the Armenian alumni and friends of Cal. In addition to the ongoing strategic planning efforts, the UCBAA was also busy organizing events, lectures and outings. Here is a summary of what we have been up to:

Tax Exempt Non-Profit

In 2015, we were notified that, due to changes to the Cal Alumni Association, the UCBAA would no longer qualify as a 501(c)(3) under their umbrella. Accordingly, we made the decision to apply as an independent 501(c)(3) to allow our supporters to continue making tax deductible donations. Nearly 12 months, several board meetings and many phone calls with the IRS later, we are excited to announce the UCBAA is now a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations made to us since May 15, 2010 are tax deductible. A big thank you to our treasurer, Cynthia Avakian, for all of her help in driving the process to completion.

Armenian Studies Program

The Armenian Studies Program (ASP) continues to offer outstanding and thoughtful educational programs for the entire Cal community, thanks to the tireless work and efforts of Professor Stephan Astourian, Executive Director of the ASP. During the 2015/2016 school year, the ASP hosted several lectures and panel discussions on topics ranging from the Armenian Genocide to the current political climate in Armenia. Most recently, the ASP was a co-sponsor of an event featuring Mr. Garo Paylan, a member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

Lectures and Events

Over the last year, the UCBAA has continued to grow its community with events, lectures, and other outings that help bring Cal alumni and friends together. In the fall of 2015, the UCBAA hosted a screening of Nigol Bezjian's "I Left my Shoes in Istanbul" followed by a Q&A with Mr. Bezjian at the Delancey screening room. The event drew a large crowd of alumni and community members. In the spring, Dr. Levon Abrahamian drew a crowd for his lecture on "Armenian Identity in a Changing World." Most recently, the annual fall alumni picnic was a success, bringing together students, alumni and family for a casual day in the sun. Over the last year, the UCBAA also organized outings to see "The Most Dangerous Highway in the World," a Golden Thread Productions, Opera at AT&T Park, trivia night and more.

As 2016 comes to a close, so does my term as President of the UCBAA. It has been an amazing opportunity to be involved with the UCBAA and I'm grateful to the Board for their incredible commitment to the UCBAA organization and community, as well as their support over my term. The UCBAA is driven by the Board – a core group of volunteers who spend many hours attending and planning events and meetings, working with UC Berkeley administrators and liaising with donors, students and community members, all in an effort to serve the Cal and Armenian communities. Thank you to each and every one of you for the work you do and, a special thank you to Victor Stepanian, our immediate past president, who not only guided me throughout but also stepped in whenever I needed an extra hand.

As a final note, if you are interested in learning more about the UCBAA or getting involved, or if you have any feedback or suggestions for the UCBAA, please contact us at contact@UCBAA.org. For the latest updates, announcements and event information, please visit our website at UCBAA.org.

Sincerely,
Alina A. Azizian

ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM UPDATE

ARMENIAN LANGUAGE COURSES

- *Armenian 1A & 1B: Introductory Armenian*
- *Armenian 101A & 101B: Continuing Armenian*

Dr. Hasmig Seropian taught two language classes per semester during the academic year 2015-2016. Nine students were enrolled in 1A in the Fall and six in 1B in the Spring. Most were heritage students. There was one non-heritage student in the Fall and another in the Spring. Fourteen students were enrolled in 101A in the Fall and seven in 101B in the Spring. All but one were heritage students.

HISTORY COURSES

- *History 177A: Armenian History: From Ethnogenesis to the Dark Age (circa A.D.-1500)*
- *History 280U: A Graduate Seminar entitled "Comparative Genocides"*

In the Fall semester of the 2015-2016 academic year Prof. Stephan Astourian taught History 177, an upper-division survey course covering close to three millennia of Armenian history. Based on the broad framework of Armenian political history and institutions, this course also emphasizes economic development, social change and cultural transformations. Twelve students were enrolled in this class.

In the Spring semester Prof. Astourian taught a new graduate seminar entitled "Comparative Genocides". This seminar is an introduction to the field of genocide studies from a comparative perspective. It does not focus on any single genocide; instead, it tries to provide a good understanding of the extreme diversity of this form of mass killing. Even though it emphasizes twentieth-century cases, it also covers earlier occurrences. Among other things, this seminar focuses on the motivations of the killers and the processes leading to the mass murder of various groups. One graduate student and three auditors took this class.

ASP VARNUM PAUL VISITING PROFESSORSHIP

Dr. Mynra Douzjian was appointed the second Varnum Paul Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies. In the Spring 2016 semester she taught an undergraduate class entitled Modern and Contemporary Armenian Literature: Across Empires, Nations and People. Her course introduced students to some of the Armenian literary masterpieces of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Modern Armenian Literature has a transnational history with ties to the cultural centers in the Ottoman and Russian Empires, the Soviet Union, the Republic of Armenia and a global diaspora. The students examined works within their sociopolitical and cultural contexts. Fourteen students and three auditors completed the course.

Dr. Douzjian concurrently taught a course in twentieth century Russian literature for the Slavic Languages Department.

ASP EVENTS

CONFERENCES & SYMPOSIA

"THE ARMENIAN PROBLEM: AUTHORS REFLECT ON THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE 100 YEARS LATER" – OCT. 13, 2015

Featuring the following authors and film directors: Sona Avakian, Serge Bakalian, Eric Bogosian, Carol Edgarian, David Hovan, Aline Ohanesian, and Katherine Taylor.

Organized by Litquake (the largest literary festival on the West Coast).

Co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program at U.C. Berkeley and the Hamazkayin Armenian Education and Cultural Society.

"ARMENIA 2016: TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER INDEPENDENCE" – FEBRUARY 13, 2016

This international conference dealt with the main phenomena (corruption, emigration, mentalities, civil protests, constitutional change, etc.) and policies (both domestic and international) shaping Armenia's present and future. The proceedings of this conference will be published in two Occasional Papers of the Armenian Studies Program at U. C. Berkeley. The first one, dealing with Armenia's foreign relations, has been published digitally.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC – MARCH 4, 2016

Speakers and Moderator:

The Honorable Robert Avetisyan (Permanent Representative NKR Office in the United States)

"The Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh: Challenges and Achievements in a Tough Neighborhood."

Karin Mac Donald (Director, Statewide Database & Election Administration Research Center, U.C.Berkeley Law)

"Election Observation in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic: The Parliamentary Election of 2016."

Gail Pellerin (County Clerk and Registrar of Voters for Santa Cruz County)

"Election Observation in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic: The Parliamentary Election of 2016."

Stephan Astourian (Director, Armenian Studies Program; Associate Adjunct Professor, Department of History).

"Some Comments on Azerbaijan and Nagorno Karabakh"

"WESTERN OTTOMANISTS WORKSHOP 2016" – MARCH 10 & 11, 2016

About sixteen Ottomanists presented papers in this conference organized by Professor Christine Philliou. The Armenian Studies Program co-sponsored this event, along with other campus academic units.

LECTURES

“ARMENIANS THROUGH THE CAMERA’S EYE: PRESERVING COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL MEMORY”

Ruth Thomasian Founder & CEO of Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives - September 18, 2015

Ruth Thomasian, presented a program about her work collecting and documenting vintage and modern photographs. She talked about how she started Project SAVE Archives and explained the archival and oral documentation procedures she and her staff use. Then with a visual presentation, she shared a variety of Project SAVE images, many by Armenian photographers, of people and places in Historic Armenia as well as the Diaspora from the late 19th century and throughout the 20th.

Sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program (ASP), the Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society, and the Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ISEES) at U.C. Berkeley.

“SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXCELLENCE”

Speakers: Fr. Mesrop Aramian, Director of the National Program of Educational Excellence and Chairman of Board of Trustees of the Ayb School and Aram Pakhchanian, Director of the Ayb School – October 18, 2015

Topics presented included:

- The national program for educational excellence
- The ten-year experience of the Ayb Foundation
- Significant developments in the field of education in Armenia
- New initiatives for Armenia-diaspora educational cooperation

Co-sponsored by the AGBU-Silicon Valley Chapter; the Ayb Educational Foundation; the Armenian Studies Program at U.C. Berkeley; and the AGBU Young Professionals, Northern California Chapter.

“THE EXTERMINATION OF ARMENIANS IN AINTAB: THE ROLE OF LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL ELITES IN THE ANNIHILATION AND DEPORTATION OF AINTAB ARMENIANS IN 1915-1918.”

Speaker: Umit Kurt (Clark University and California State University, Fresno) - October 26, 2015

Umit Kurt is a PhD. Candidate at Holocaust and Genocide Studies Program in the History Department of Clark University. His dissertation is near completion. He is the author of *The Great, Hopeless Turkish Race: Fundamentals of Turkish nationalism in the Turkish homeland 1911-1916* and editor of *Revolt and Destruction: Construction of the State from Ottoman Empire to Turkish Republic and Collective Violence*. He is currently a visiting scholar in Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, and is the co-author, with Taner Akcam, of *The Spirit of the Laws: The Plunder of Wealth in the Armenian Genocide*.

Co-sponsored by the ASP and ISEES at U.C. Berkeley.

“WHAT COMES AFTER UNDOING DENIAL: REFLECTIONS ON CONTEMPORARY ART AND EXHIBITION PRACTICES IN THE ARMENIAN DIASPORA”

Speaker: Neery Melkonian (New York based independent researcher, writer, curator and lecturer in modern and contemporary art) - November 20, 2015

Neery Melkonian is the director of Blind Dates - an ongoing curatorial project which involved thirteen newly commissioned research-based artworks created by ‘match-made’ artistic couples whose collaborations deal with the lingering effects of the Ottoman rupture. The first installment of the exhibition “New Encounters from the Edges of a Former Empire” opened at Pratt Manhattan Gallery in 2010 (<http://blinddatesproject.org>). She organized a related conference entitled “Strategies of (Un) Silencing” at the American University of Armenia in 2012, with Amitav Ghosh as keynote speaker. In spring 2016 another iteration of the exhibit will open in Ghent, Belgium. Melkonian has run several workshops on Global Feminism’s Others at the Summer School for Curators in Yerevan.

Co-sponsored by the ASP and ISEES at U.C. Berkeley.

“RETRACING AN ARMENIAN GENOCIDE SURVIVOR’S PATH ACROSS TURKEY AND SYRIA”

Dawn Anahid MacKeen – March 6, 2016

Dawn Anahid MacKeen is the author of *The Hundred-Year Walk: An Armenian Odyssey* (New York: Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt, 2016). This book has already received superb reviews. Dawn is an award-winning journalist who spent nearly decade researching and writing her grandfather’s story. Previously, she covered health and social issues for Salon, SmartMoney, and Newsday, where her investigative series on assisted living facilities’ poor care helped prompt legislative reform. Her work has appeared in the New York Times Magazine, Elle, The Sunday Times Magazine (London), the Los Angeles Times, and elsewhere.

Co-sponsored by the ASP and ISEES at U.C. Berkeley, St. Vartan Armenian Apostolic Church, the AGBU-Silicon Valley.

“THE ARMENIANS IN TURKEY: A HISTORY DENIED”

Dr. Talin Suciyan (Assistant Professor, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich) – April 6, 2016

Do sources continue to be sources if they are not used? What does it mean to work with sources whose existence has been systematically denied? Is it possible to develop another language: a language, which is not dominated by 100 years of denial? By using the sources of the “others,” namely the Armenians, *The Armenians in Modern Turkey: Post-Genocide Society, Politics and History* offers new perspectives on the historiography of Turkey as well as on the history of Armenians.

Co-sponsored by the ASP and ISEES at U.C. Berkeley.

“SURVIVORS INTO MINORITIES: ARMENIANS IN POST-GENOCIDE TURKEY”

Dr. Lerna Ekmekcioglu (McMillan-Stewart Associate Professor of History at MIT) – April 15 2016

The talk followed the trajectories of the survivors of the 1915 Armenian Genocide who remained inside Turkish borders after the signing of the 1918 Mudros Armistice (and during the Allied occupation years of Istanbul) and after the 1923 establishment of the new country as the Turkish Republic. What were Armenians’ responses to the new (but also old) Turkish regime? The speaker discussed multiple strategies Armenians improvised in order to cohabit with unapologetic perpetrators and survive the new Turkey.

Co-sponsored by the ASP and ISEES at U.C. Berkeley.

“CONTEMPORARY ARMENIAN DRAMA AND WORLD LITERATURE”

Dr. Myrna Douzjian (Visiting Lecturer, Dept. of Slavic Languages and Literatures, U.C. Berkeley) - April 20, 2016

Though they do so in the name of understanding literary culture as a universal, autonomous system, theories that develop models of world literature tend to center on the Euro-American canon. Because these models claim comprehensiveness, they eliminate the need for engagement with languages and literatures outside their purview. Taking contemporary Armenian dramatic texts as a case in point, this talk examines the ways in which a theatrical tradition produced for a small audience can undermine assertions made by critical discourses on world literature.

Co-sponsored by the ASP and ISEES at U.C. Berkeley.

ACADEMIC LECTURES BY THE ASP DIRECTOR “ARMENIAN GENOCIDE STUDIES: DEVELOPMENT AS A FIELD, HISTORIOGRAPHICAL APPRAISAL, AND THE ROAD AHEAD”

Read (in absentia because of a family emergency) on October 2, 2015 at the conference entitled “Critical Approaches to the Armenian Genocide: History, Politics, and Aesthetics.” October 1-4, 2015

Sabanci University (Istanbul).

Organized by Sabanci University and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in collaboration with the USC Institute of Armenian Studies.

“DISLOCATIONS/RELOCATIONS: THE ARMENIAN CENTURY (1915-2015)”

Read at the 40th Annual Stanford-Berkeley Conference. The theme of the Conference was: “Dislocation”.

The conference was held on the Stanford University campus on March 4, 2015.

Organized by the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies of Stanford and the Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies of U.C. Berkeley.

“ARMENIAN GENOCIDE STUDIES: DEVELOPMENT AS A FIELD, HISTORIOGRAPHICAL APPRAISAL, AND THE ROAD AHEAD”

Keynote speech at the conference entitled “Empire, Politics, and War: The Armenian Genocide within the Context of the Ottoman Empire”.

Conference held at Alice Peters Auditorium, California State University, Fresno on March 18, 2016.

Organized by the Armenian Studies Program of the California State University, Fresno.

DR. MYRNA DOUZJIAN TO RETURN TO BERKELEY IN THE SPRING 2017

By Christina Moughamian



Dr. Myrna Douzjian will be returning to Berkeley in the Spring 2017 to teach two courses for the Armenian Studies Program. One course is entitled *The Armenian Genocide in Film: Theoretical and Comparative Perspectives*. This course will focus on the representation of the Armenian Genocide in films. Films will be paired with readings that deal with trauma, memory and history.

Her second course is entitled Advanced Readings in Specialized Armenian. This course is designed to further develop students’ Armenian reading skills and to link language competence to the study of contemporary politics, culture and society in Armenia and the Armenian diaspora. Readings will be in both Western and Eastern Armenian.

Dr. Douzjian holds a PhD in comparative literature from UCLA. She has taught literature, composition, literary theory and film at UCLA, Temple University and California State University Fresno.

ALUMNUS AMONG US, DR. JACK ZAKARIAN

By Artin Der Minassians



On a beautiful Friday morning I sat down with Dr. Jack Zakarian for breakfast at Diggery Inn in Oakland where he usually eats after his running routine in the Oakland hills. We had not met before and did not know each other. So, after the usual greetings, I introduced myself and told him a little bit about my background before and after coming to the U.S. Then, it was Jack's turn to tell me all about himself...

Jack was born and raised in Boston, MA and attended MIT. In 1973 he graduated with B.S. degrees in Chemistry and Mathematics and headed west to attend graduate school at U.C. Berkeley. When in graduate school, he observed all the chemist postdoctoral fellows who worked in the lab. "These guys were so brilliant that they should have good jobs and careers...", he said, "and they didn't! So, I decided to switch to engineering." I smiled! Upon completing his master's degree in Chemistry he switched his major and was awarded with both a master's and a Ph.D. degree in Chemical Engineering in 1976 and 1979, respectively. During his last year at Cal, the Iran Hostage Crisis took place and Iran cancelled all its contracts with the U.S. oil companies. And that event shaped Jack's career.

Jack recalls one day that he was sitting in his car and patiently waiting in a very long line at a gas station to get fuel for his beat-up Volkswagen. He heard President Jimmy Carter on the radio giving a speech and reflecting on the oil crisis. The President was emphasizing energy security and how America should and would strengthen its oil industry. Coincidentally, two of the companies that Jack was interviewing with were oil companies (Chevron and Exxon) and, hence, he chose to join Chevron! And, thus he made his career at Chevron's R&D laboratory in Richmond for 37 years. He retired earlier this year.

"Why chemistry?" I asked. He noted the early influences he had had during high school like good science and chemistry teachers. At MIT he lived in a fraternity house and some of his fraternity brothers were chemists. They convinced him that being a chemist is better than being an engineer. "A chemist is like an artist and an engineer is like a plumber," they said. Of course, we both had a good laugh on that 'brotherly' comment!

I asked Jack about the Armenian community at Cal in the late 1970s, a decade after the Free Speech Movement, and he replied with a fascinating story about the formation of the U.C. Berkeley Armenian Student Association (ASA) and their early activities! He said, "It's kind of funny because it could never happen that way today" and continued his story by telling how a group of Armenian students who were friends and knew each other through AYF and other Armenian organizations decided to form a student club at Cal. "Back then," he mentioned, "there was an open area in Sproul Hall which housed file tables of index cards with the name and contact information of all Berkeley students

written on them. Anybody could go there, look up a name and find out that student's address and telephone number!" In 1976, four of the Armenian students went to Sproul Hall, browsed through all the index cards and collected the contact information of all the Armenians. They sent everyone a message and invited them to attend the first ASA meeting...

Here Jack interjected and remarked, "You never know the direction your path will turn. Sometimes you do one thing and you don't know its consequence until later when it changes your life." Jack was born to an Italian father and, although he had no ties with his Italian ancestors, he carried an Italian last name. Zakarian was Jack's maternal grandmother's last name. In fact, she was the only Zakarian from her family who survived the Genocide. She was a slave to a Turkish family but managed to escape to Syria, lived in France, and ultimately settled in Boston, MA. She never talked about her early life and, for the first time, Jack learned about the Armenian Genocide at his grandmother's funeral in 1973 when the priest mentioned that she was a genocide survivor. That urged him to do extensive research and educate himself about the Genocide. Jack's grandmother passed away just before he moved to Berkeley and, since he wanted to have an Armenian identity, on the first day of 1976, Jack changed his last name to Zakarian. If he had not made that change, he would have never been identified in the Sproul Hall index cards!

There they were at the first meeting of the ASA in late 1977 with about 30 students in attendance. Among them was Monte Melkonian¹ who was standing at the door and passing out a flyer about essential readings on revolutionary activities for Armenia! The newly formed ASA held elections the same evening and Jack became the first ASA President. Among the executive body were our very own Cynthia Avakian, Armen Sedrakian and, of course, Monte Melkonian who filled the position of Public Relations officer.

Jack mentioned that 1978 was an interesting year for the ASA. They published the ASA's first newsletter, Hye Times, in February. Also, Monte proposed that they should organize an exhibition along the main entryway inside the Doe library. The exhibition theme was Armenian History and Culture. Two big displays (of 10 total) were dedicated to the Armenian Genocide. He recalls that, almost immediately, the Turkish Consul in San Francisco criticized the university about the Genocide exhibit, calling it propaganda, and demanded that the display be removed. The university complied and cleared the two displays without notifying the ASA executives. However, thanks to the Armenian community, George Deukmejian², who was a California State Senator at the time, Ben Bagdikian³ (1920 – 2016), a professor at the school of Journalism, and many others, all major newspapers such as the San Francisco Chronicle reported about this story. Eventually, after receiving several letters from the legislature, the university chancellor sent a note to the ASA and mentioned that they would put the exhibit back on display. Jack showed me a few photos from the exhibit, cutouts from the newspapers and the chancellor's letter. They were fascinating! Jack also mentioned that they had a huge march in San Francisco in

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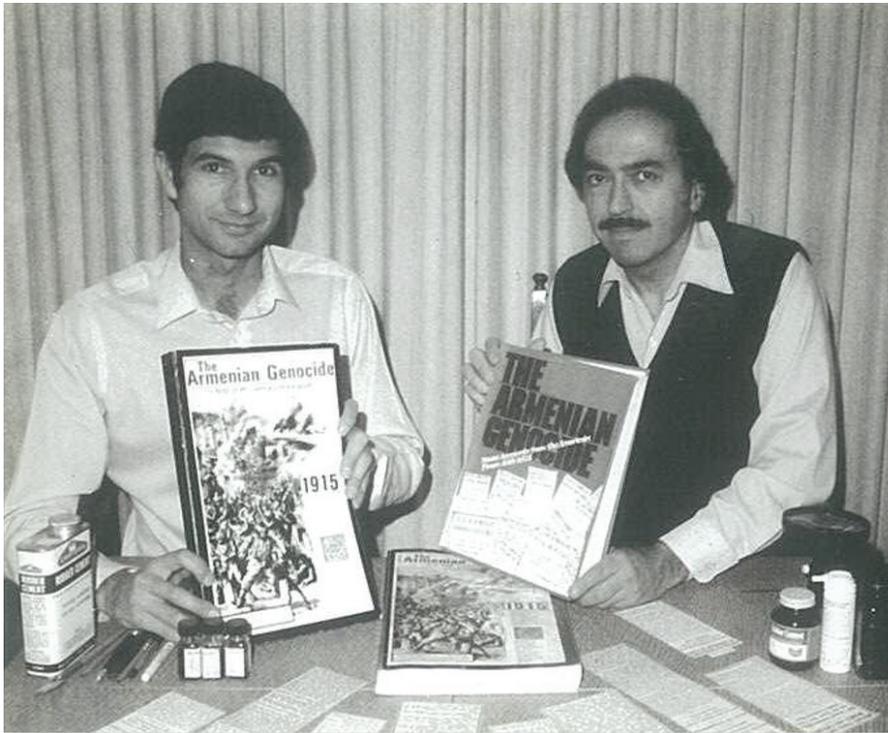
front of the Turkish Consulate and that, for three years, he was the chairman of the Genocide Commemoration Committee.

I couldn't resist the temptation of asking him to compare his MIT and Berkeley experiences. In reply he mentioned, "They are totally different! MIT is a much smaller school and more focused and intense. Berkeley has so much distraction all around! If one is not disciplined and focused it would be hard for him to succeed in Berkeley. The cities – Cambridge, Berkeley, and San Francisco – on the other hand, are very similar."

Jack has always been interested in science and fundamentals and, even though he worked in industry, he kept publishing academic papers and patents. He considers himself a "technical guy", so he stayed on the technical side throughout his career and never moved to management, sales, or marketing as most people would do. He always recruited student interns and worked on various projects with them. In fact, he had more summer interns than anyone else in his department ever.

Jack has been a runner since high school and, after retirement, he has started road biking. He is also a ballroom dancer and, with the influence of his Hawaiian wife, he has just started learning to play the ukulele. He has a strong interest in history and reading; he constantly reads and studies. He is the treasurer of his running club: the Oakland-based Lake Merritt Joggers and Striders. He plans to continue his involvement in the technical societies such as the Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineers, the Society of Automotive Engineers, and the American Chemical Society.

Alas the waitress brought the check which reminded us that we had to stop this wonderful conversation and continue with the rest of our days. We said goodbye and as I was walking to my car I thought of all the great things that I learned from our conversation and made a mental note of all the topics that I wanted to research and study more. Thank you, Jack, for a wonderful breakfast talk!



Publishing Armenian genocide book with friend Richard Kloian, 1983

Armenians happy with U.C. decision

Armenian students at the University of California said yesterday they were "pleased" that U.C.-Berkeley Chancellor Albert Bowker had ordered the display of a library exhibit relating to genocide of Armenian people.

"We are encouraged that the issue was resolved through official University channels by nonemotional, reasoned discussion between the students and the university administration," said a statement presented by Jack Zarkarian, president of the Armenian Students Association.

Zarkarian, at an Oakland press conference, said the display was to be put back in Doe Library yesterday afternoon.

The display, depicting massacres of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire during the years 1915 to 1918, was removed after protests from the Associated Turkish Students and the Turkish Consulate in San Francisco.

The Armenian students did not intend "to use the university library as a free-speech platform or political forum," said the group's statement.

"The Armenian Student Association is a cultural, social and recreational group which does not mean to preach prejudice and hate toward Turkish people.

"Our intention in setting up the exhibit was the accurate portrayal of Armenian culture and history."

At the press conference, it was announced that the Armenian Commemorative Committee is sponsoring a "remembrance" of the 63rd anniversary of the genocide at the San Francisco Hilton Sunday.

On Monday, the group is leading a protest march ending at the Turkish Consulate to "educate American public about the Armenian genocide" and to demand "reparations and land for Armenians," and end to human rights violations of minorities in Turkey," that "U.S. stop all aid to Turkey," and that Turkey leave Cyprus and Armenia.



Tribune photo by ROY WILLIAMS

ASA PRESIDENT JACK ZARKARIAN Controversial library display reinstated

Oakland Tribune Article, 1978

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monte_Melkonian

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Deukmejian

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ben_Bagdikian

HRAYR TERZIAN 2016 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER SAREEN NANOR HABESHIAN

By Christine Moughamian

Sareen is a shining example of a bright, high-achieving, Armenian American. Born in Northridge California, Sareen attended Armenian schools graduating from the Chamlian Armenian High School at the top of her class.

Sareen entered U.C. Berkeley in the fall of 2013. She immediately became involved in campus life. She joined the Armenian Student Association serving as Cultural Chair, Public Relations Director, Vice President and this year as President. She is also on the staff of the Daily Californian presently as a reporter and previously as a blogger. She is also a writer and co-web content manager for Caliber Magazine. She has worked as a journalist for Humans of Berkeley, a social project uncovering stories behind the diverse student body at Berkeley. In addition she has worked as press secretary and communications director for the Associated Students of the University of California, Office of the President as well as serving as a board member of UC SWANNA Student Development Office.

All these varied experiences have helped support her passion for writing. She hopes to one day become a journalist so that she can as she stated in her essay “bring forth people’s stories and realities in order to achieve justice, peace and recognition”.

Sareen exemplifies stellar academic achievement as well as excellent leadership skills and a strong sense of civic responsibility. UCBAAs applauds her many achievements and we look forward to seeing her future accomplishments.

Congratulations Sareen!



IMPRESSIONS OF 2016 UCBAAs TERZIAN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

By Sareen Habeshian

My Armenian identity greatly defines who I am and is a key point of interest to me in my studies. Through the Armenian Studies Program at Berkeley, I have had the opportunity to take unique courses that have helped me advance my knowledge on Armenian culture, history, identity, and literature. Having gone to Armenian school up until starting at Berkeley, I greatly value the chance to further study these topics in a more sophisticated way. My intent with my studies is to delve deeper into Armenian related issues, whether that be in politics, social spheres, or the economy.

I am currently a senior studying Media Studies and Middle Eastern Studies. I am majoring in Media Studies because I want to seize the opportunity to bring to light the reality of the people hidden away in dark corners, to educate and inform the public, to be a modern-day story teller. I am pursuing this major with a focus in journalism because the voices of those who are silenced by circumstance must be heard. My passion is to write and uncover truths, which may be uncomfortable, in order to move people to action and bring about change. I am also minoring in Middle Eastern Studies because that is a region of the world where people’s voices are often silenced. I’m particularly interested in women’s roles in familial, culture, social, political, and economic realms, in the Middle East but particularly in Armenia.

When I started at Berkeley as a freshman, the Armenian Student Association made me feel comfortable and at home in a city that was foreign to me. This year, I am the President of the ASA and I am really excited to help create such an environment for others, to educate about our culture and hold social events to create a space for lifelong friendships to form.

Last year, frustrated and feeling helpless, a group of us in ASA started an Artsakh Relief Fund in April when the four day war was occurring. On behalf of the U.C. Berkeley ASA, we raised nearly ten thousand dollars. This summer, during my fifteenth trip to Armenia, I got to visit Artsakh and help distribute that aid.

Armenia is truly where I feel at home. I have spent several summers and Christmas breaks in Armenia, exploring, reading, observing, and navigating my way through Yerevan and various villages. I would like to one day move to Armenia and work in promoting women’s rights both in education and in the career force but also in the social and domestic realms.

MAINTAINING THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAL ALUMNI CONNECTION

By Ara Abrahamian

As the Armenian student population at Cal has grown over the years, the pace of students arriving from Southern California has accelerated as well. Increasingly, we find that many of the students relocate back to Southern California upon graduation to establish their careers closer to home. As such, it is increasingly important to not only organize a wide breadth of events in the Bay Area but also to create opportunities in Los Angeles and the surrounding communities for Cal Armenian Alumni to reunite and maintain the close sense of community that had been cultivated on campus.

Historically, the board members of UCBAA have organized and hosted events in Los Angeles, but not with the same regularity as in the Bay Area. These events have ranged from social mixers to afternoon picnics and have been great opportunities for alumni young and old to gather, exchange ideas, and reminisce about their days on campus. But with a growing proportion of our alumni now living in Southern California, the UCBAA Board has decided to set up a separate Southern California committee, comprised of members living in So Cal, to organize a wider range of events with even more regularity.

The Southern California Committee of the UCBAA had its first meeting in September 2016 and has charted an exciting schedule of events for the coming year. The first gathering will be a Big Game viewing party on November 19th, in Burbank, to cheer on the Cal football team as they try to win back the axe from our Stanford rivals. Other events will follow in the new year, incorporating more professional development / networking opportunities as well as social get togethers for our So Cal alumni. In addition to serving the alumni network in and around Southern California, we also plan to help current students on campus with career or grad school advice as they approach graduation and even to encourage more high school Armenians from So Cal to consider Cal as they plan for college.

We are looking forward to the events that the Southern California Committee will organize and hope that our So Cal-based alumni will take advantage of the opportunity to reconnect with friends and form new connections through these events.



UCBAA PICNIC

On Sunday August 28th UCBAA held its annual picnic at Madrone Picnic Area in Roberts Regional Recreation Area in Oakland. The weather was perfect and everyone enjoyed delicious food prepared by barbecue chef extraordinaire Armen Sedrakian. This year we were joined by several current U.C. Berkeley students including the 2016 Hrayr Terzian Scholarship recipient, Sareen Habesian. Everyone enjoyed a lovely afternoon surrounded by redwoods with delicious food and wonderful companionship. It was a great opportunity to renew friendships and make new ones.



Armenian Alphabet sculpture "Apples from Heaven" was donated to the U.C. Berkeley Doe Memorial Library by the late Richard Carl Terzian '51 in 2013. Prof. John Thomas Ventimiglia is the sculptor of the "Apples from Heaven" and Chair of the Sculpture Department of the Maine College of Arts in Portland, Maine. When visiting the Berkeley Campus, please stop by to see the sculpture on the second floor of Doe Library.

THANK YOU

WILLIAM SAROYAN ENDOWMENT DONATIONS

October 2014 to September 2016

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Daughters of Vartan Grand Council

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* Multiple Donations

+ To Be Matched By Microsoft Corporation

^t Deceased

Calling All L.A. Alumni!

The UCBAA is looking for any Cal Alumni living in the Southern California area who are interested in participating in alumni activities in the LA area! If you live in Southern California and are interested in gathering with other Cal Armenian Alumni, please contact us at contact@ucbaa.org.

Join our Board or Volunteer on a Sub-Committee

Calling all alumni or interested community members! The UCBAA is actively searching for more volunteers to either join our Board or a sub-committee. Sub-committee members need not be Cal graduates and we welcome anyone who is willing to come help us plan culturally enriching and entertaining events for the Bay Area Armenian community. If you are interested in helping in any capacity, please contact us at contact@ucbaa.org.

Are you on Facebook?

Like the U.C. Berkeley Armenian Alumni page and stay in touch!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/UC-Berkeley-Armenian-Alumni/228022577209796>



Visit us online!

The UCBAA's website includes information about ASP courses and events, UCBAA events, scholarship programs, and more. Please visit us at www.ucbaa.org and sign up for the newsletter to receive electronic messages about upcoming events and important announcements. We appreciate your feedback, please feel free to drop us a line at contact@ucbaa.org.



ANNUAL MEMEBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE NOW. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A UC BERKELEY GRADUATE TO JOIN UCBAA!

We have hundreds of "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. Only dues paying members are allowed to vote in our elections.

Annual dues are \$75. Use the forms below to send us your dues and updated contact information.

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Please make checks payable to : UCBAA, PO Box 10113, Berkeley, CA 94709-5113.

You may also contribute via PayPal by visiting our web page at www.UCBAA.org.



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