



NEWSLETTER FALL/WINTER 2008

Outgoing President's Message

Dear Friends of the ASP and Alumni,

As my term as UCBAA President comes to an end, I'd like to thank you all for your continued involvement with UCBAA and support of the UC Berkeley Armenian Studies Program (ASP). This newsletter brings you information about UCBAA's recent activities and our plans for the upcoming year.

The UCBAA had a busy year, with our primary focus being the fundraising and support of the ASP. On March 29, this community came together in style to demonstrate their commitment to the ASP at a Benefit Gala held at The Olympic Club in San Francisco. With an attendance of 200 people, proceeds from the evening and previous fundraising bring the total raised for the William Saroyan Endowment since the beginning of the \$2M Campaign to \$850,000. Because of these donations, our history is being shared, our language kept alive, and we are being represented at symposiums and lectures by well respected scholars such as ASP Executive Director, Professor Stephan Astourian.

The ASP continues to offer History courses and two levels of Armenian language. Also this year, Professor Astourian organized an extensive series of public lectures and seminars, including a very successful International Symposium in memory of Hrant Dink. Details about these events are included in this newsletter issue.

In other exciting news that benefits the ASP, on March 1, 2008, Chancellor Robert J. Birgenau and Professor Aram Simoyan, Rector of Yerevan State University in Yerevan, Armenia, signed an agreement establishing a formal relationship to encourage the exchange of faculty, researchers, and graduate students between the two universities. As you will read in this newsletter issue, this agreement will only strengthen the ASP at Cal, allowing for collaboration with scholars from Armenia.

The UCBAA is proud of the work being done by Professor Astourian and asks for your continued support of this important program. Reaching our fundraising goal will allow for expanded course offerings, enable visiting professors to conduct special courses, and ensure that ASP continue to host public lectures and conferences on contemporary Armenian issues.

In addition to fundraising for ASP, UCBAA continues to foster our relationship with the Bay Area Armenian community. In September we hosted a Summer Picnic where alumni and friends could mingle, enjoy great barbecue and some fierce backgammon competition!

We also continue to support our current Cal students through our yearly scholarship program. As you will read in the following pages, this year we awarded two outstanding students with the Hrayr Terzian Armenian Alumni Scholarship.

We are proud to let you know that our dedication to the community through these types of events and our scholarship program has earned us very special recognition from the California Alumni Association (CAA). This year the UCBAA was recognized as the CAA's Alumni Group of the Year. This award is presented yearly to one UC Berkeley alumni group which demonstrates outstanding service to the community. We were honored to receive this award on Saturday, April 5th, at the California Alumni Association Charter Gala!

It has been a pleasure to serve as President these past two years. I leave the presidency in the very capable hands of Haiganoush Krikorian Preisler, who has been an active member of our Board for the last six years. Thank you again for your continued support of our organization, and please feel free to email us at contact@ucbaa.com. We welcome your feedback and suggestions!

Warmly,
Chaghig Minassian Walker

Alumni Group of the Year

On Saturday, April 5, 2008 at the California Alumni Association Charter Gala, the UCBAA was recognized as the CAA's Alumni Group of the Year. This award is presented yearly to one UCB alumni group which demonstrates outstanding service to the community. We are honored to have received this award!

Second ASP Benefit Gala March 29, 2008

The endowment campaign for the UC Berkeley Armenian Studies Program celebrated the community's support for the Armenian studies program with a formal fundraising gala on Saturday, March 29, 2008 at the exclusive Olympic Club in Daly City. With an attendance of 200 people, proceeds from the evening and previous fundraising bring the total raised for the William Saroyan Endowment since the beginning of the \$2M Campaign to \$850,000.



Guests dancing to the music of the Hosharian Brothers Band from Los Angeles.

The Benefit Gala was an evening filled with entertainment, with Mistress of Ceremonies Gasia Mikaelian, KTVU Channel 2 News Anchor. The guest of honor was former U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, John Evans, who spoke of “The Fierce Urgency of Armenian Studies.” Ambassador Evans outlined several reasons why Armenian Studies is necessary, citing its significance for Armenians, non-Armenians, and also due to Armenia’s important location in the turbulent Caucasus. Armenians are one ethnic group that has coexisted in the wide variety of cultures that make up the “arc of instability”, including much of the former Ottoman Empire. Mr. Evans pointed out that as a result of

this, Armenian studies provides a unique perspective on this critical part of the world for future leaders of the United States, of Armenian and non-Armenian descent.

Following Ambassador Evans’ talk, UC Berkeley Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost George Breslauer spoke to the audience about his support for Armenian Studies at Berkeley and gave an informative update about Berkeley’s recent academic and fundraising achievements, presenting compelling reasons for why this University is the best location to build the premier Armenian Studies Program in the world.



Left to right: Adam Kablanian, Chairman, Fundraising Committee, Dr. Stephan Astourian, Executive Director, Armenian Studies Program and John Evans, former U.S. Ambassador to Armenia.

Funds raised by the Gala and future events will benefit the William Saroyan Endowment in contemporary Armenian studies at UC Berkeley. The \$2M goal is to ensure the expansion and permanence of the ASP’s multi-faceted program, with a long-term goal of becoming the national leader in Armenian studies. These additional funds will make the William Saroyan Professorship fully self-sustaining, expand Armenian language course offerings, allow for visiting professors to conduct special courses, support public lectures and conferences on contemporary Armenian issues, and more.

Fall/Spring 2008 Courses

History 177A: Armenian History: From Ethnogenesis to the Dark Ages – Professor Stephan Astourian

Course Description: This survey course will cover close to three millennia of Armenian history, from the process of ethnogenesis to the almost complete destruction of the Armenian “feudal” system by the end of the fifteenth century.

Fall/Spring 2008 Courses (Continued)

History 177B: From Pre-Modern Empires to the Present - Professor Stephan Astourian

Course Description: This survey course covers the period from the incorporation of most of the Armenian plateau into the Ottoman Empire to the present day.

Eurasian Studies 1B: Beginning Armenian – Professor Santoukht Mikaelian

Course description: This course is 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.

Eurasian Studies 101B: Continuing Armenian - Professor Santoukht Mikaelian

Course description: The purpose of this course is to further develop students' Armenian proficiency in all four language skills, using discussion, oral presentations, written assignments, and a variety of readings (literature, non-fiction, folklore, newspaper articles, etc.) chosen partly for their cultural significance and partly based on student needs and interests. Emphasis on particular skills (e.g. reading) depending on student needs and interests.

ASP Update

During the 2008 academic year, the ASP organized a series of lectures/events for the campus and Bay Area community, all held on the UC Berkeley campus.

On February 25th Dr. **Levon Abrahamian**, Senior Researcher at the Institute of Archaeological and Ethnography, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia gave a talk titled "Dancing Around the Mountain: Armenian Identity Through Rites of Solidarity." The talk was co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program, the Townsend Center for the Humanities, and the Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ISEEES) at UC Berkeley.

On March 14th **Mr. Kemal Yalcin**, Novelist, and Lecturer at the University of Bochum, Germany gave a presentation of his novel "You Rejoice My Heart" (in Turkish, with translation). The talk was co-sponsored by the Central Board of the Tekeyan Cultural Association, the Armenian Studies Program and ISEEES at UC Berkeley.

Dr. Verjine Svazlian, leading Researcher, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography and Museum-Institute of the Armenian Genocide, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia gave a talk on March 19th titled "The Oral Tradition of Western Armenians regarding the Armenian Genocide".

The event was co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program, the Bay Area Armenian National Committee, and the San Francisco Nigol Aghbalian Hamazkayin Armenian Educational & Cultural Society.

On April 6th an **International Symposium** was organized by Dr. Stephan Astourian on campus. (*More details at the end of this listing.*)

On April 7th **Dr. Raymond Kevorkian** of the French Institute of Geopolitics and Nubar Library, Paris gave a talk on his book "Le genocide des Armeniens."

Mr. Armen Liloyan, Consul General of Armenia in Los Angeles presented a talk on April 11th on the topic of "Armenia, Old Nation, Young State: Challenges and Opportunities." The event was co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program, and the ISEEES at UC Berkeley.

On April 16th **Dr. Speros Vryonis, Jr.**, Emeritus Professor of History, UCLA, presented a talk on "The Mechanism of Catastrophe: The Turkish Pogrom of September 6-7, 1955 and the Destruction of the Greek Community of Istanbul". The event was co-sponsored by the Townsend Center for the Humanities, the Armenian Studies Program, and the ISEEES at UC Berkeley.

International Symposium Democratization, Genocide Denial, and the Armenian-Turkish Dialogue: In Memoriam Hrant Dink

This symposium was made possible by a grant from the Harry and Ovsanna Chitjian Family Foundation.

Morning Session: Hrant Dink: The Man and His Assassination

- "My Last Words with Hrant."



Taner Akçam (Department of History, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities)

"For Now We See Through a Youthful Murder, Darkly."



Stephan H. Astourian (Department of History and the Armenian Studies Program at the ISEEEES, U.C. Berkeley)

Morning Session (Cont.): Aspects of the Armenian Genocide

- "The Great Powers and the Armenian Genocide."



Donald Bloxham (School of History and Classics, The University of Edinburgh; J.B. and Maurice C. Shapiro Senior Scholar-in-Residence at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC)

- "The Economic Dimension of the Armenian Genocide."



Raymond Kévorkian (Institut français de géopolitique, University of Paris-VIII; Nubar Library, Paris)

Afternoon Session: 'Genocide' and Its Absence from Turkish Historiography

- "Turkish State Historiography: Innocence, Betrayal, Salvation."



Hamit Bozarslan (Centre d'histoire du domaine turc, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris)

Afternoon Session (Cont.): Turkish Democratization, Genocide Recognition, and the Armenian-Turkish Dialogue

- "Illusions of Justice, Freedom, and Human Rights on the Anniversary of Hrant Dink's Assassination."



Müge Göçek (Department of Sociology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

Co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and the Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ISEEES) at UC Berkeley.

To stay up to date with upcoming ASP events, be sure to check the UCBAAs website frequently. You may also request to be added to the ASP email list (for emailed announcements about upcoming events) by emailing Professor Stephan Astourian at astour@berkeley.edu.

UC Berkeley-Yerevan State University Agreement

On March 1, 2008, UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert J. Birgenau and Professor Aram Simoyan, Rector of Yerevan State University in Yerevan, Armenia, signed an agreement establishing a formal relationship to encourage the exchange of faculty, researchers, and graduate students between the two universities. The genesis of this agreement goes back a number of years to collaboration between David Stronach, archaeologist and emeritus professor in the Department of Near Eastern Studies, and archaeologists from Yerevan State University, as they conduct ongoing archaeological digs at the site of Erebuni fortress near Yerevan.

This formal exchange between UC Berkeley and Yerevan State University will further strengthen the already important Armenian Studies Program at Cal, under the executive directorship of historian Stephan Astourian, and concomitantly will benefit Yerevan State University. As one concrete example, Ms. Gohar Shahnazaryan, assistant professor of sociology at Yerevan State University, spent the spring 2008 semester at Berkeley developing a course that will examine the impact of macro-social and cultural transformations on the micro-level, such as the transformation of identity, values, and attitudes.

2008 Scholarship Recipient

The Hrayr Terzian Armenian Alumni Scholarship is offered yearly to a current UC Berkeley student of Armenian descent in the amount of \$1000. This September the Hrayr Terzian Armenian Alumni Scholarship was awarded to two very deserving students, Vladimir Asriyan, a graduate student, and Lara Palanjian, an undergraduate student.

Vladimir Asriyan is a first year graduate student in Economics. He graduated from UC San Diego, Summa Cum Laude with a joint major in Economics and Mathematics. As an undergraduate, Vladimir initiated and conducted a research project studying the link between economic liberalization and poverty in Armenia. This project took him to Armenia where he spent the summer compiling data and gathering information about the recent transformation of Armenia's income support programs. Vladimir was described by one of his instructors as "a perfect example of what a fully engaged student can and should be. He has incredible work habits, he is inquisitive and focused, and he is wholly involved with the intellectual mission of the academic environment."

Lara Palanjian is a senior with a double major in Economics and Political Science. She plans to enter law school and work in the area of public policy. Lara is

currently a Judicial Council justice in the student government (ASUC) as well as an executive committee member for the Cal Mock Trial Team. She also worked as a caseworker at the Student Legal Clinic where she gained insight into how legal research works. Lara has a passion for the performing arts and has been involved in various music and theater productions on campus. She is a member of *Artists in Resonance* and the *Cal Jazz Choir*. She also participated in the ASA Armenian Genocide Commemoration, *United Hands Across Cal*, by singing a traditional Armenian folk song during the ceremony. Lara was described by one of her instructors as a "leader in her undergraduate community" who "will succeed at any task to which she applies herself."

UCBAA Summer Picnic

Saturday, September 6th was a beautiful day for a picnic and Lake Temescal in the Oakland hills provided an ideal setting. Alums and their families played games, some napped under a shady tree, and others of the older crowd played "tovlou." Everyone enjoyed the food. The planning for next year is already underway and will include traditional Armenian water games, and who knows, maybe even some sack races.



Armen Sedrakian cooking his famous bbq chicken



Eating need not stop you from the backgammon game

**William Saroyan Endowment Donations
November 2007 to October 2008**

Armenian Cultural Foundation of San Francisco
Armenian General Benevolent Union
Armenian Professional Society
Armenian Relief Society, Erepouni Chapter of Oakland
Daughters of Vartan, Araxi Chapter #7
UC Berkeley Armenian Alumni

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Madeline Adrian	Jacqueline Kazarian
Lisabeth & Zaven Alejian	Alex Khojikian
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Michael & Gladys Apar	Haig & Nina Krakirian
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Daron Barsamian	Serouj Ourishian
Dorothy J. Bell	Noubar & Tracy Ouzounian
Seda Boghossian	Doris Paroonagian
Jack & Barbara Bousian	Gladys Peters
Armen & Evelyn Boyd	Barry & Haiganoush Preisler
Richard Burnett	Edward & Corinne Preisler
Ellen Sarkisian Chesnut	Mr. & Mrs. Monte Sahagian
Zaruhy Sara Chitjian*	Dr. & Mrs. Jack Saroyan
Cherie Chooljian	Armen Sedrakian/Ruth Alahydoian
Linda M. Dardarian	Garo & Sonia Sedrakian
Andrea & Steven De Graff	June Shamshoian
Donald & Myrna DeFriese	Richard & Diane Simsarian
Levon Der Bedrossian	Bella & Victor Stepanians
Harry & Carol Dokouzian	Ardemis & Fred Tajirian
Isabelle Dokouzian	Isabelle Tajirian
Roupen & Zovinar Donikian	David Tateosian
Al & Sabine Eisaian	Shant Tchakerian
John M. Evans, Amb. Ret'd	Garo & Sylvie Tertzakian
Peter & Sarah Goorjian	Richard Terzian
Shavarsh Hazarabedian*	Michelle Tusan
Dikran & Hermine Horouppian	David M Vartanoff
David Aram Kaiser	Norma Yaglijian
Frank & Nectar Kaiser	Leon & Marie-Louise Yengoyan
Elizabeth Kaprielian	Agheg & Rima Yenikomshian
Deneb Karentz	Anahid Dian Yeremian
Adrine Katchadurian	John & Shelley Zovickian

* Multiple Donations

**UCBAA General Fund Donations
November 2007 to October 2008**

Dr. & Mrs. Zaven Adrouny	Ralph & Lillian Kalibjian
Anonymous	Ronald Kallan
Michael Apar	Norma Kaufman
George & Mary Atashkarian	Ralph & Elise Kazanjian
Cynthia Avakian	Mary Koobatian
Richard Barberian	Gregg & Pat Krikorian
Evelyn Boyd	Santoukht & Karnig Mikaelian
Richard Chackerian	Michael Minasian
Linda Dardarian	Christina Moughamian
Armen & Nelly Der Kiureghian	Gladys Peters
Artin Der Minassians	Haiganoush Preisler
Faith DuBois	Mr. & Mrs. Monte Sahagian
Jeannette A. Frenster	Armen Sedrakian
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Peter & Sarah Goorjian	Krikor Soghikian
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Andrew Guzelian	Charles Tateosian
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In Memory of George Aivazian
Myrna & Donald DeFriese

In Memory of Lucy Gazarosian
Armen & Evelyn Boyd

In Memory of Ruben Bassian
Armen & Evelyn Boyd

Visit us online!

The UCBAAs website includes information about ASP courses and events, UCBAAs events, scholarship programs, and more. Please visit us at www.ucbaa.com 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.com.

Join the Board or Volunteer on a Sub-Committee

Calling all alumni or interested community members! The UCBAAs 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.com.

Dues are due and remember, you don't have to be a UCB Graduate to join us!

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. Use the envelope provided in the newsletter and the forms below to send us your dues and updated contact information.

UCBAA Contribution Form

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Dues '08-09 _____ General Fund _____

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

Ways to Give to the UCBAA and the Armenian Studies Program at the UCB

UC Berkeley Armenian Alumni

Donation – support our activities and services to the Armenian Studies Program

Membership - become a member and have a voting voice

William Saroyan Endowment Fund

Donation – The most immediate way to show your support

Memorial Donation – In memory of a loved one in lieu of flowers

In Honor of – Birthdays and Anniversaries

Matching Gift Program – Double your contribution by taking advantage of your employer's matching gift program

Wills and Trusts – Remember the UC Berkeley Armenian Studies Program (William Saroyan Endowment or the UC Berkeley Armenian Alumni) in your will

Life Insurance, Brokerage Accounts, Retirement Plans – For more information, please contact

Cynthia Avakian at cpavakian@yahoo.com

William Saroyan Endowment Contribution Form

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Amount _____

**Please make checks payable to U. C. Berkeley Foundation/Saroyan Endowment,
P.O. Box 10113, Berkeley, CA 94709-5113**