



ARMENIAN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

65th
ANNIVERSARY
Gala

JANUARY 31, 2016

BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL

PROGRAM

Introduction

Gevik Baghdassarian

Master of Ceremonies

Anthems

Maria Cozette

Singer - Songwriter - Producer

Invocation

Welcoming Remarks

Al Cabraloff

Chair, Organizing Committee

Video Presentation

Foundation for our Youth

Dinner

**Remarks and Introduction
of Guest Speaker**

Vahe Hacopian

AEF President

Guest Speaker

Professor Richard Hovannisian

*First Holder of AEF Chair in Modern
Armenian History, UCLA and
Adjunct Professor of History with
the Shoah Foundation, USC*

Entertainment

Maria Cozette

**Introduction of AEF Lifetime
Service Award**

Zareh Sinanyan

Councilmember, City of Glendale

AEF Lifetime Service Award

Hacop Baghdassarian

Introduction of AEF Legacy Award

Flora Dunaian

Community Leader and Friend

AEF Legacy Award

Ralph Tufenkian

Benediction

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Joseph & Nora Simonian for donation of the wine
Anie Andonian
Hasmik Keyribarian

*Due to printing deadlines, we apologize to all whose donations are not listed in our program.
Your generosity is greatly appreciated.*

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1950-1952 Arshag Dickranian

1952-1953 Arpaksat Setrakian

1953-1955 Alex Pilibos

1955-1962 Joseph Peroumean

1962-1963 Harry Carian

1963-1968 Joseph Peroumean

1968-1979 Jack Arakelian

1979-1981 Dro Amirian

1981-1983 Mardik Hovsepien

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2003-2005 Nora Sahagian

2005-2007 Vahe Hacopian

2007-2009 Alec Baghdasaryan

2009-2011 Vahik Petrossian

2011-2013 Hermineh Pakhanians

2013-2015 Al Cabraloff

2015-2017 Vahe Hacopian



Professor Richard G. Hovannisian

Richard G. Hovannisian is the first holder of the AEF Chair in Modern Armenian History at UCLA, a Chancellor's Fellow at Chapman University, and an Adjunct Professor of History at USC to work with the Shoah Foundation on Armenian survivor testimonies.

A native of Tulare, California, he received his graduate degrees in history from UC Berkeley and UCLA. A member of the UCLA faculty since 1962, Hovannisian developed the undergraduate and graduate programs in Armenian history, mentoring students who are now teaching in various colleges, universities, and institutions across the country.

At UCLA, Hovannisian served for many years as Associate Director of the Von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies, represented the State of California on the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education, and served as a consultant to the California State Board of Education in preparing Armenian Genocide-related curriculum for secondary students. He is the author and editor of more than 30 books, including the magnum opus four-volume archival study, *The Republic of Armenia*, and 14 volumes in the UCLA series *Historic Armenian Cities and Provinces*.

In order to ensure the permanence of courses and careers in Armenian history at UCLA, Hovannisian encouraged the Armenian Educational Foundation to sponsor an endowed chair which would commit the university to maintain the seminal professorship in Armenian history after Hovannisian's retirement. Thanks to the leadership of Dro Amirian and the assistance of attorney Walter Karabian, as well as with the generous support of several prominent community members and families, \$500,000 was raised to endow the AEF Chair in Modern Armenian History in 1986. Professor Richard Hovannisian was selected as the first chair-holder.

Richard Hovannisian has been honored by more than 40 Armenian and non-Armenian educational and civic societies, most recently with election to the Abrosiana Academy of Milan, Italy. He is the recipient of Mesrop Mashtots Medal bestowed by His Holiness Karekin II of the Great House of Cilicia, the Medal of Saints Sahak and Mesrop conferred by Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II, and the Knight of Cilicia Award from His Holiness Catholicos Aram I. Professor Hovannisian was elected to the Armenian Academy of Sciences in 1990, becoming the first social scientist living abroad to be so honored. He also has received honorary doctorates from Yerevan State University and Artsakh State University.



Hacop Baghdassarian

Hacop Baghdassarian is a dedicated board member of the Armenian Educational Foundation and a highly regarded delegate of the Armenian community, actively serving and supporting many organizations, including Homenetmen, the Armenian Relief Society, the United Armenian Fund, and the Armenian Eye Care Project, amongst others.

Mr. Baghdassarian is awarded the AEF Lifetime Service Award for his patronage and support of the AEF School Renovation Program. Mr. Baghdassarian often travels to the rural villages in Armenia to review plans and evaluate the need for the reconstruction of these dilapidated schools. To date, Mr. Baghdassarian has sponsored the construction or renovation of numerous schools in Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh and Javakhk. In 2005, Mr. Baghdassarian's philanthropy and dedication were officially recognized when he was awarded with the "Yerakhtagitiun" or "Gratitude" medal from the former President of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, Arkady Ghoukasyan. In 2006, Mr. Baghdassarian was named Armenian Businessman of the year by the Armenian-American Chamber of Commerce. In March 2010, he was honored by the Armenian Relief Society's Javakhk Fund Committee for his work raising contributions to support many worthy projects, including the sponsorship of the renovations of eight schools. In 2010, the highest honor was bestowed upon Mr. Baghdassarian when His Holiness Catholicos Aram I of the Great House of Cilicia presented him with the Knight of Cilicia Medal. In 2014, Hacop and his wife, Hilda, made a generous donation to Chamlian Armenian School for the completion of the school's new gymnasium. In honor of this generous donation, the Chamlian School Board dedicated the gym in the benefactors' names and designated it as the "Hacop and Hilda Baghdassarian Gymnasium."

The three central tenets in Hacop Baghdassarian's life are family, abiding faith and commitment to the Armenian American community. It is through his devout adherence to these principles that he has earned the love and esteem of his community. His greatest joy, besides helping those in need, is to spend time with his family, mainly his five grandchildren.



Ralph Tufenkian

Longtime community activist and public servant Ralph Tufenkian is the recipient of the AEF Legacy Award for his decades of service to the Armenian community and dedication to the Armenian Educational Foundation.

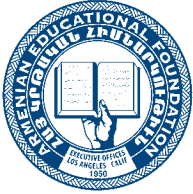
Ralph Tufenkian was born and raised in an Armenian neighborhood in Los Angeles, California. As an exemplary Armenian American he has shown his commitment and pride in both heritages. Ralph joined the U.S. Army as a young man, where he selflessly served in the Pacific theater. Later, he became a B-29 Turbo-Supercharger Specialist for the U.S. Air Force. In 1958, Ralph married his lifelong friend and partner, Savey Shirvanian. Together they raised three children, Richard, Sandra and Greg, and became grandparents to six grandchildren, whom they deeply love. Tragically, in 1990, Ralph and Savey lost their eldest son, Richard. Instead of accepting defeat, Ralph and Savey embarked on a new, important and benevolent facet of their lives; providing for and helping Armenian children.

In loving memory of Richard, Ralph and Savey Tufenkian set up an educational endowment with the Armenian Educational Foundation (AEF), through which over 200 scholarships have been awarded to Armenian students across Armenia and the United States thus far. They have also funded three schools: the Richard Tufenkian St. Mary's Armenian Pre-School in Glendale; the Richard Tufenkian School in Stepanakert, Nagorno Karabakh; and the Richard Tufenkian School in Gyumri, Armenia. The latter two were funded through their partnership with the AEF. Furthermore, they provide additional endowments in Richard's memory with the Armenian Assembly of America, Armenian Missionary Association, and recently with the USC Institute of Armenian Studies.

What brings Ralph the greatest joy is helping to enhance the education of Armenian youth both in the United States and in Armenia. Ralph has been a member of the Armenian Educational Foundation for over 40 years and a board member for 15 years. In addition, he has served the community in the following capacities: Director, Whittier National Bank; Commissioner, Water & Power Department, City of Glendale; Board Member, Armenian Assembly of America; Trustee, United Armenian Congregational Church; and President, Ani Plaza Hotel, Armenia.

Ralph Tufenkian's merits include the following honorary medals: Prince of Cilicia Medal in 1993 from His Holiness Karekin I, Catholicos of All Armenians; St. Gregory's Medal 2003 from His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians; and Recognition Medal from Arkady Ghoukassyan President of Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

Ralph has travelled to Armenia more than 30 times and each time he extended a visit to the Armenian students at the AEF schools. During his most recent visit to AEF's renovated Darbas Village School in Lori, he was particularly moved by one of the young students who reminded him of his granddaughters. As a result, he was compelled to sponsor a four-year university scholarship for this young student. Ralph Tufenkian's humble, consistent, and steady support of young Armenian students, his pledge to education and his loyalty to the Armenian cause is deserving of the greatest respect and admiration.



About the Armenian Educational Foundation

In 1950, AEF's visionary founding members – Harry Carian, Arshag Dickranian, Ben Kazarian, Mard Pelloian, Alex Pilibos and Arpaksat Setrakian – set out to follow four objectives in their commitment to higher education and the Armenian youth: to render financial assistance to Armenian schools irrespective of their religious affiliation; to assist needy students of Armenian parentage in acquiring an education in schools, colleges and universities; to form and to aid in the establishment of Armenian schools and cultural centers; and to promote Armenian studies and research programs in American colleges and universities.

In the last 65 years, AEF has monumentally surpassed the goals the founding fathers envisioned. In the last 20 years alone, AEF has allocated over \$7.7 million in financial assistance to Armenian students and educational institutions. AEF has built and supported numerous Armenian day schools in the United States, Middle East and Armenia.

The AEF Chair at UCLA and New Textbooks

In 1986, AEF established the Richard Hovannisian Chair in Modern Armenian History at the University of California, Los Angeles with a \$500,000 grant donated by its board members, general membership and friends. In 1993, AEF provided \$125,000 to fund the printing and publishing of Armenian textbooks prepared for California day schools under the auspices of the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America.

Scholarships

AEF has assisted thousands of students in the United States, Middle East and Armenia by granting over \$1,300,000 in scholarships since 2000. These scholarships have been made possible by the generous donations of individuals and the following endowments:

Richard Tufenkian Fund: Granted over \$409,000 in scholarships and support to Armenian schools.

Jorjorian Anjar Fund: Granted \$116,000 in scholarships.

Jorjorian Armenia Fund: Granted \$25,000 in scholarships.

Movsisian Fund: Granted \$25,000 in scholarships.

Shrikian Fund: Granted over \$76,500 to the Gulbenkian School in Anjar, Lebanon.

Mgrdich Fidanian Fund: Granted \$38,500 in scholarships.

Shrikian Fund: Granted \$50,000 to Antelias Seminary.

Vahe Shrikian Scholarship Fund: Granted \$5,000 in scholarships.

Armen Mirzaian Fund: Granted \$5,000 in scholarships.

Dr. Albert & Virginia Melik Ghassemian Fund: Granted \$7,100 in scholarships.

John Varjabedian Endowment Fund: Granted \$1,500 in scholarships.

Armenia Full Tuition University Scholarships

In 2007, AEF initiated a program to provide full tuition scholarships in Armenia and Artsakh. The scholarships are provided to encourage and promote students who are gifted and have excellent academic performance and who are from financially vulnerable families. The students are required to do community service in order to continue receiving the scholarship. Individuals sponsor students by providing \$1,000 a year for four years. AEF is currently providing full tuition scholarships to 128 students attending public universities in Armenia and Artsakh and will increase to 150 scholarships by the summer of 2016.

Armenia School Renovation Program

Since 1998, AEF has allocated over \$4.4 million to construct and renovate over 185 schools in the remote villages of Armenia, Artsakh and Javakhk. These renovations have been made possible by the generous support of sponsors who provided the necessary funds to help finance the renovation of these schools.

School Supplies and Computer Project

With the help of its volunteers and through generous donations from its members and supporters, AEF has embarked on two new projects in supporting schools in Armenia. In the last few years, school supplies and clothes were shipped to over 187 schools in Armenia, Artsakh and Javakhk with over 18,000 students receiving supplies. AEF also provided 171 computers and has trained school staff in the use of computers for 87 village schools renovated by AEF.

New York Life Project

AEF was one of nine organizations selected to receive a share of a \$3 million allotment from the New York Life settlement and to utilize the funds for humanitarian projects. The settlement proceeds (\$333,333.33) were allocated by AEF to three projects: (1) 2,828 sets of school furniture were provided to 55 renovated schools at a cost of \$185,280; (2) full university tuition was provided to 12 orphans until their graduations (one of the recipients graduated from a five-year medical school program this year); and (3) four village schools in regions where refugees from the Turkish massacres settled were renovated at a cost of \$100,000.

Artsakh State University Computer Department

In 2013, AEF committed \$100,000 to fund a four-year Computer Information Systems degree program at Artsakh State University in Stepanakert – the I-Artsakh program. The I-Artsakh program helps finance computer hardware, software, instructor salaries, and student scholarships. In its third year, I-Artsakh serves 87 students, most of whom are expected to receive full-time employment after graduation due to the high demand for IT graduates from international companies in Stepanakert.

Over the past 65 years, AEF has grown into a thriving organization with a diverse membership of dedicated individuals. The majority of the work is done by AEF members who volunteer countless hours offering their skills and expertise. AEF's success in each of the above-mentioned projects is attributable to our generous benefactors and supporters to whom we are eternally grateful.

The AEF welcomes to its fold anyone who shares the commitment of its founding members and who will bring to the organization new energy and fresh ideas. As it looks with optimism toward the future, AEF hopes to be of even greater assistance to young Armenians pursuing all levels of education, as well as to continue providing financial help to students and institutions in Armenia, the United States and other countries.

