



University of California Berkeley Armenian Alumni

NEWSLETTER, FALL 2011 | WWW.UCBAA.ORG

About the U.C. Berkeley Armenian Alumni

The U.C. Berkeley Armenian Alumni is comprised of graduates, former students, and faculty 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 at U.C. Berkeley supported by the William Saroyan Endowment and Krouzian Endowment, 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 \$35. Associate membership may be granted to those who have not attended the University, upon paying the membership fees. For more information about the UCBAA and our structure:

www.ucbaa.org/about

www.ucbaa.org/files/charter.jpg

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends of the ASP and Alumni,

As we welcome the Fall season, we would like to bring you a brief summary of the U.C. Berkeley Armenian Studies Program (ASP) activities and UCBAA's accomplishments over the past year.

The ASP, under the leadership of Professor Stephan Astourian, continues to offer courses in history and two levels of Armenian language. During the past academic year, the ASP hosted a series of public lectures on topics germane to Armenia and Armenians. In addition to lectures, the ASP held a town hall meeting with Ms. Marie L. Yovanovitch, U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, a book presentation, a film screening, and two symposia. In January, Professor Santoukht Mikaelian, instructor of the ASP Armenian language classes, was featured in an article published on the Berkeley Language Center (BLC) website. I would like to congratulate Professor Mikaelian and express my deepest appreciation for her contributions to the ASP over the past seven years.

Last Fall, Mr. Varnum Paul, Esq., who passed away in 2008, was honored at the Builders of Berkeley ceremony for his generous donations to U.C. Berkeley, including donations to the William Saroyan Endowment in Armenian Studies. Although the Title VI funding, which compensated for about half of the cost of the Armenian language courses at U.C. Berkeley, has been eliminated, the ASP was able to keep both the Beginning and Continuing Armenian language classes, and may be able to add an advanced level of Armenian language to its curriculum because of Mr. Paul's generous donation. This budget shortfall demonstrates the importance of your donations for the sustenance and advancement of the ASP. I would like to take this opportunity to reach out to you and ask you to support the ASP in any way you can.

In June, UCBAA mourned the loss of Mrs. Madeline Adrian, one of the founding members of UCBAA. Although we miss Madeline tremendously, we will cherish the great memories that she left with us. We will always remember her magnificent contributions to UCBAA, ASP and the Armenian community. We must make sure that younger generations will continue to carry the torch that Madeline and the UCBAA co-founders lit in 1975. So, if you believe in the importance of the U.C. Berkeley Armenian Studies Program and that it should be sustained to educate the future generations, please do not hesitate to share your ideas, your talents, and your leadership skills with us.

In addition to its key responsibility to support the ASP, UCBAA strengthened the already close relationship with the Armenian Student Association (ASA). UCBAA hosted two ASA/UCBAA mixers which were very much enjoyed by the guests. Take a look at all those happy and smiley faces in the photos inside! To return the "favor," ASA organized a potluck party at Senior Hall on campus honoring UCBAA and the warm relationship shared between the students and the alumni.

UCBAA also co-sponsored an event with the Armenian National Committee of America (ANC) featuring Sara Anjargolian and her fascinating work in Armenia. UCBAA co-sponsored another event with Hamazkayin featuring Peter Garland who talked about Haig Patigian, the renowned Armenian sculptor of San Francisco.

It has been an immense pleasure to be a part of UCBAA and serve as the President of the Board for the past year. I would like to express my gratitude to all the UCBAA Board members for their tireless work and I look forward to the exciting developments ahead of us! Please feel free to contact UCBAA at contact@ucbaa.org should you have any questions about our activities or any suggestions for us.

Truly Yours,
Artin Der Minassians

MADELINE ADRIAN, 1924–2011

In June 2011 the UCBAA lost one of its founding members – Madeline Adrian. Before moving to San Francisco in 1942, Madeline lived with her parents Khoren and Nevart Sahagian and brother, Ara, in Fresno, California, graduating from Fresno High School in 1942.

Madeline attended U.C. Berkeley, graduating with a BA degree in Social Services in 1950. During her student years at Cal, she was a member of the Armenian Students Club. Revived after WWII, the club, though primarily social, occasionally presented programs emphasizing Armenian themes. Madeline, along with other students, became an early advocate for an Armenian Studies Program at Berkeley.

In the intervening 15 years Madeline married Souren Adrian and had two sons, Eric and Loren. Sadly, Souren passed away in 1965. A year later Madeline returned to Berkeley and in 1968 received a Masters Degree in Social Work. She was dedicated to helping the less fortunate while trying to raise their skills to become able members of society. She worked for the City and County of San Francisco for 35 years. Her career in Social Work included case management, community college teaching, as well as senior management within San Francisco city government.

In 1975 a reunion of U.C. Armenian students – classes '49 through '52 – was held at the Claremont Hotel. Shortly thereafter a nucleus of alums, including Madeline, met. They decided to form an Armenian alumni group. They would offer scholarships to Armenian students attending Cal and begin advocating for an Armenian Studies Program at the University.

In 1979 this group became a chartered club of the California Alumni Association (CAA). Madeline's voice was always welcomed at club meetings. Her insights about working with the CAA and within the U.C. system were invaluable.

Madeline was president of the UCBAA from 1989 through 1991. She continued to be active in the UCBAA, quietly working to establish an Armenian Studies Program at U.C. Berkeley. During her presidency, Board members attended U.C. Charter Day Ceremonies, dinners and Association mixers.

Madeline was tireless in her efforts to raise funds for the Armenian Studies Program. As a respected member of the Bay Area Armenian community, her work with major donors paid dividends. Madeline later became a liaison between the UCBAA and the University Advisory Committee for the Armenian Studies Program.

In 1995 the Armenian Studies Program inaugurated its first visiting Professorship with Dr. Richard Hovannisian. This was a time of jubilation as well as a time for the Alumni and the Bay Area Armenian community to continue to raise funds to sustain the Armenian Studies Program.

Madeline continued to attend Board meetings, always offering her invaluable insight and perspective on the expanding Armenian Studies Program. She was involved with the UCBAA until the last months of her life.

She fought cancer for many years, never complaining to anyone about her struggles. She was an inspiration, setting an example of equanimity and fortitude for her sons, grandchildren and friends.

Madeline also leaves her brother, Ara Sahagian, many relatives, and friends who thought fondly and very highly of her. Madeline's contribution to UCBAA will always be remembered.



Madeline at the ASP Banquet, 1995

VARNUM PAUL HONORED AT BUILDERS OF BERKELEY EVENT

On October 5, 2010, Mr. Varnum Paul, Esq., who passed away in 2008, was honored at the Builders of Berkeley ceremony for his generous donations to the William Saroyan Endowment in Armenian Studies and to Boalt Hall School of Law. The Builders of Berkeley ceremony is held annually to honor major donors to U.C. Berkeley whose names are added to a granite monument located in the heart of campus, in front of the main entrance to Doe Library.

Mr. Paul was a dedicated member of many Armenian and non-Armenian charitable organizations and included the William Saroyan Endowment as a beneficiary in his final will. Thus far the Endowment has received \$1 Million from the disbursement of Mr. Paul's estate.

The Builders of Berkeley ceremony was held in front of the granite monument at the entrance to Doe Library. After opening remarks by Chancellor Robert Birgeneau, U.C. Berkeley's ASUC President shared a brief biography for each donor honored this year. Donors or their representative were then presented with a plaque replica of the Builders of Berkeley Monument. Mr. Paul's plaque was accepted by his estate's trustee, Mr. Stephen Jizmagian, and Mr. Adam Kablanian, Chair of the Armenian Studies Program Fundraising Committee. Also present were Professor Stephan Astourian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program, and Chaghig Minassian Walker, U.C. Berkeley Armenian Alumni Board member.

The ceremony was followed by dinner served on the patio in front of Doe Library.



Chancellor Birgeneau giving welcoming remarks

ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM UPDATE

COURSE OFFERINGS

The ASP continues to offer courses in History and Armenian Language. This semester's courses include:

- *History 177B: From Pre-modern Empires to the Present*
- *Eurasian Studies 1A: Beginning Armenian*
- *Eurasian Studies 101A: Continuing Armenian*

Professor Astourian's History 177B course will cover the period from the incorporation of most of the Armenian plateau into the Ottoman Empire to the present day.

Professor Mikaelian's Beginning Armenian 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. The Continuing Armenian course provides further development of 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.).

ACADEMIC AND PUBLIC LECTURES

The ASP, under the directorship of Professor Astourian, organized several lectures throughout the 2010-11 academic year:

Friday, October 8, 2010

"Town Hall Meeting"

Marie L. Yovanovitch, U.S. Ambassador to Armenia

Monday, November 15, 2010

"Significant Characteristics of the Lebanese Armenian Diaspora in the 20th Century"

Dr. Aida Boudjikianian, Independent Scholar

Saturday, November 13, 2010

ASP Symposium: "The Armenian Diaspora and Its Relation with the Armenian State"

Keynote Speaker: David Grigorian, Ph.D., Senior Economist, IMF, and Senior Fellow, Policy Forum Armenia

Monday, December 6, 2010

"Russian Economic Policies Toward the South Caucasus and Armenia"

Anna Mkhoyan, visiting doctoral student from the University of Geneva

Monday, January 24, 2011

Film Screening and Q&A Session: "My Dears, Living and Dead (1993)," and "Soldiers of the Land (1994)"

Tsvetana Paskaleva, Bulgarian Director, Cinematographer, and Reporter

Friday, January 28, 2011

"Economic Development and Business Environment in Armenia"

Keith E. Simmons, Former USAID Mission Director in Armenia

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

"The First Assyrian Diaspora from the Homeland: Assyrians in Armenia, Georgia, and the Tsarist Empire"

Lina Yakubova, Yerevan State University

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

"Arshile Gorky, Displacement and the Making of Modern Art"

Dr. Kim S. Theriault, Associate Professor of Art History, Theory, and Criticism, Dominican University

Friday, March 18, 2011

"Directions of Armenian Genocide Research in Armenia"

Dr. Hayk Demoyan, Director, The Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia

Friday, April 22, 2011

"Deciphering Denial: Ottoman Past, Turkish Present, and the Collective Violence against the Armenians, 1789-2009"

Dr. Fatma Muge Gocek, Associate Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Friday, April 29, 2011

ASP Symposium: "The Caucasus Since the Georgian-Russian War (2008)"

Speakers: Professor Julie George (Department of Political Science, Queens College, City University of New York), Dr. Gaidz Minassian (Associate Researcher at the Foundation of Strategic Research in Paris), Dr. Alec Rasizade (Senior Associate at the Historical Research Center, Washington D.C.), and Professor Stephan Astourian (Department of History, U.C. Berkeley)

Discussant: Professor Harsha Ram (Department of Slavic Languages and Literature, U.C. Berkeley)

Monday, May 9, 2011

Book Presentation and Discussion: "The Armenian Genocide: A Complete History"

Dr. Raymond Kevorkian, French Institute of Geopolitics, University of Paris VII-Sanit-Denis

The Berkeley Language Center Profiles ASP Armenian Language Professor Santoukht Mikaelian

The following are excerpts from an article published on the BLC website on January 25, 2011, written by Sirpa Tuomainen. For complete article visit http://blc.berkeley.edu/index.php/blc/post/blc_lecturer_profile_santoukht_mikaelian/

“Santoukht Mikaelian, born in Aleppo, Syria to an Armenian family, has a very different philosophy about education than the kind she herself received in Arabic in an Armenian school—an education she describes as “very strict & traditional.” After her secondary education she studied at the American University in Beirut, where instruction was conducted in English. Her educational experiences convinced her to apply a different approach: positivity. She doesn’t like criticism and negativity and concurs with the uplifting and kind Armenian spirit, so apparent in the literary works by her countryman, novelist William Saroyan.

Santoukht Mikaelian ended up teaching Armenian at U.C. Berkeley after Berkeley found her in 2005. She had always wanted to have some contact with children of Armenian immigrants and feels fortunate that Berkeley is now offering Armenian. Santoukht wasn’t new to language education when she was recruited by the university. In 1969, she had followed her then boyfriend (later husband) to the US where he was studying physics. Santoukht in turn started a graduate program in English at the State University New York at Stony Brook. After their marriage in 1970, the young couple moved around for career opportunities: first to Cleveland, Ohio, where they had their first child, then on to Penn State, and their second child. Their third child was born in Stillwater, Oklahoma, and a fourth in Livermore, California, where the Mikaelians settled in 1980.

Santoukht started her career in education in the Tri-Valley area (Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin)—teaching ESL (English as a Second Language) and ELD (English Language Development) in high schools and adult schools. She loved her work and got “addicted”—as so many of us do—to teaching ESL. The work was interesting, and she still often misses the interpersonal communication and the students she got to know as “real people.” She stayed involved in ESL until part-timer budget cuts made it impossible. At the same time, she was also getting more and more involved in teaching Armenian, volunteering for seven years in a weekly language school in Walnut Creek, teaching both teenagers and adults.

The U.C. Berkeley offer came to her at a great time as it coincided with her retirement from ELD. She was ready and excited to get started in developing a program at UCB This is



Santoukht Mikaelian’s sixth year at Berkeley, and she admits that while her drive and enthusiasm for Armenian language teaching has stayed strong and committed, she has become more realistic. The reality is that Armenian is losing ground, especially in diaspora where the languages of host countries are taking over the language. Santoukht comes from Western Armenia, and she feels that specifically Western Armenian is getting lost in the Armenian diaspora while there’s more hope for Eastern Armenian. But even among the Armenian immigrants, children are speaking less Armenian, as young people use the languages of the host country amongst themselves.

However, Santoukht is encouraged by the genuine interest that is evident at Cal from both Armenian and non-Armenian students. There are girlfriends and boyfriends of Armenians as well as students who just want to study a “different” language. She is also impressed at the achievement of many students in a two-year program.

Santoukht and her husband raised their own four children bilingually and biculturally even though the family has lived mostly in non-Armenian environments. She is now a proud and happy grandma, medzmama, of four grandchildren, and is expecting the fifth one any time. She babysits a grandson two days a week, leaving little time for her other hobbies: walking, reading, music, and movies. As a movie-lover, Santoukht recommends that to find out about her beloved culture we all watch her favorite Armenian film, Ararat.

Epilogue: If you’re watching Channel 2 News and wonder why all of a sudden you’re thinking of Santoukht (as I did for a while), don’t wonder any more. The beautiful young newscaster, Gasia Mikaelian, has obviously inherited her mom’s friendly demeanor and twinkle in the eye.”

Armen Der Kiureghian Elected to National Academy of Engineering

In February of 2011, Professor Armen Der Kiureghian, Taisei Professor of Civil Engineering at U.C. Berkeley, was named among the 68 new members elected to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE).

Election to the Academy is considered one of the highest professional honors accorded to an engineer, marking outstanding contributions to engineering research, practice or education. Professor Der Kiureghian was nominated for his contributions to risk and reliability and earthquake engineering to advance the practice of civil and structural engineering.

Professor Der Kiureghian is also Chair of the Armenian Studies Program Advisory Committee and has been a longtime supporter of the ASP. Congratulations Professor Der Kiureghian on this prestigious and well-deserved recognition!

Hrayr Terzian Armenian Alumni Scholarship Winner

Every year, the UCBAAs awards the Hrayr Terzian Armenian Alumni Scholarship to a Cal student of Armenian descent who demonstrates academic excellence, involvement in extracurricular activities, and a commitment to the Armenian community. In January of 2011, we were pleased to award this \$1000 scholarship to Sosseh Valentine Taimoorian, now a senior majoring in Urban Studies at the College of Environmental Design (CED), and minoring in Global Poverty & Practice.

The scholarship money allowed Ms. Taimoorian to intern this past summer with the Armenian Assembly of America in Washington, DC. While in D.C., she worked with the think tank Policy Forum Armenia, researched and drafted a policy paper proposal on migratory and demographic trends in Armenia, and documented historical documents and completed projects on various Armenian issues for the Armenian National Institute (ANI), which were then digitized and added to the national research archives.

Ms. Taimoorian is also the current President of Cal’s Armenian Student Association and serves as Undergraduate Ambassador for the CED. The UCBAAs is proud to support bright young leaders like Ms. Taimoorian with this scholarship program!

ARMENIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION MIXERS

The UCBAA hosted two mixers in 2010 for members of the U.C. Berkeley Armenian Student Association (ASA) and UCBAA. On October 24th, members of both organizations gathered at the home of UCBAA Board member Armen Sedrakian for a pizza party and talk by Bruce Boghosian, the newly appointed president of the American University of Armenia. Dr. Boghosian spoke briefly to the students and alumni. One of his main points was that he took the job, taking a leave from Tufts University in Massachusetts, because of the quality of the students he met in Yerevan. In addition, he spoke about some of his goals for the AUA and its role in Armenia.



UCBAA and ASA Members, October 24, 2010

On December 5th, the groups gathered at the home of UCBAA Board member Chaghig Minassian Walker for a brunch mixer. At these mixers, students and alumni enjoyed meeting one another, sharing experiences and making connections over endless pots of coffee and loaded plates of delicious food. The UCBAA remains strong in our commitment to supporting the current Armenian students at Cal. Mixers like these are a really fun way to build community between our groups and we hope to continue hosting similar events in the future!



UCBAA and ASA Members, December 2010

2010-11 TALKS HOSTED BY UCBAA

Peter Garland

On April 10, 2011, Peter Garland, under the sponsorship of UCBAA and Hamazkayin, gave a talk at the Vasbouragan Hall of St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church in San Francisco on the contributions of sculptor Haig Patigian (1876-1950). Garland noted that Patigian was a largely self-taught sculptor who spent much of his artistic life in San Francisco, California. His work can be seen in a variety of public spaces in San Francisco such as Golden Gate Park and just outside of City Hall as well as elsewhere in the United States. Garland also described Patigian's involvement with the Bohemian Club of which he was a two-time president.

Photography Presentation: Sara Anjargolian

On September 26, 2010, Photographer and U.C. Berkeley alumnus Sara Anjargolian presented Alumni and Community members with a photography presentation about two recent projects: her book "How We Live", documenting life on the margins in Armenia, and a second project documenting the stories of families affected by labor migration.

Sara received her JD in 2000 from U.C. Berkeley's Boalt Hall. After passing the bar, Sara joined the Justice Department in Washington, D.C. where she served as a trial lawyer. In 2002, Sara moved to Armenia on a Fulbright scholarship. She lived there for two and a half years, traveled extensively throughout the region, and photographed the country and its people. Sara shared her book, "How We Live", which documents life on the margins of Armenia through stunning photographs and personal stories of families living in extreme poverty. "How We Live" was produced in collaboration with the Tufenkian Foundation, and Sara shared with the audience their purpose to raise awareness about the poverty crisis, and hopefully inspire people to act.

Sara also showed photos and video from a second project, "Not Here," which tells the story of nine families separated as a consequence of labor migration.

Since her return to Los Angeles, Sara's photography has been featured in numerous exhibitions and presentations. Her images have been utilized in awareness and fundraising

campaigns and have raised thousands of dollars for non-profit organizations such as the Real Medicine Foundation, the International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights, the Armenia Fund, and the Tufenkian Foundation.

Sara's presentation was eye-opening, moving, and inspiring, and the UCBAA is grateful that she was able to come share her work with us at this event.



"How We Live" book cover courtesy of Sara Anjargolian

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.



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<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.



WILLIAM SAROYAN ENDOWMENT DONATIONS September 2010 to August 2011

Daughters of Vartan Araxi Chapter #7
Triple X Fraternity, Mt. Diablo Chapter*

Dr. & Mrs. Jack & Mary Aslanian
George & Mary Atashkarian
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In Memory of Hrayr Terzian

Tom Terzian

In Memory of Madeline Sahagian Adrian

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Cynthia Avakian & Janice Higashi
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Khajag & Hildy Sarkissian
Armen Sedrakian & Ruth Alahydoian
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UCBAA GENERAL FUND DONATIONS September 2010 to August 2011

Elaine Anderson
Cynthia Avakian
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Evelyn Boyd
Richard Chackerian
Linda Dardarian
Armen, Naira & Sebouh Der Kiureghian
Artin Der Minassians
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Krikor Soghikian MD
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Chaghig Walker
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Jack Zakarian

*In Memory of My Mother,
Daisy Uvezian Bagdikian,
killed during the Genocide on
January 30, 1920 in Marash
Ben H. Bagdikian*

In Memory of Stella Michaelian

Cynthia Avakian
Evelyn Boyd
Richard Simsarian

+ Gift to be matched by Chevron
* Multiple donations

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

U.C. 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 U.C. Berkeley Armenian Studies Program (William Saroyan Endowment or the U.C. Berkeley Armenian Alumni) in your will

Life Insurance, Brokerage Accounts, Retirement Plans – Name the U.C. Berkeley Armenian Studies Program (William Saroyan Endowment or the U.C. Berkeley Armenian Alumni) as **beneficiary**.

For more information: contact@ucbaa.org

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 _____

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Dues '11-12 _____ General Fund _____

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

WILLIAM SAROYAN ENDOWMENT CONTRIBUTION FORM

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