

**California State University, Fresno  
Armenian Studies Program  
Fresno, California 93740-0004**

## **Hye Sharzhoom News Service**

**CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program activities as reported  
in local, national, and international media.**

**Vol. 6 Release #51  
May 1991**

**Special Release: Naming of the Sarkis and Meliné Kalfayan  
Center for Armenian Studies  
California State University, Fresno**

# METRO



Diana Baldrica — The Fresno Bee

Made by hand. Sam Kalfayan shows a United States map made by his father-in-law in Los Angeles from 1940-42. He will donate the map to FSU.

■ Sam and Meline Kalfayan escaped massacres in Armenia and came to Fresno. They pledged over \$500,000 to FSU's Armenian program.

By Jim Steinberg  
The Fresno Bee

Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan lost most of their families to Ottoman Turkish massacres of Armenians, but escaped with their lives. They traveled across the Armenian Diaspora, and arrived in the San Joaquin Valley with virtually nothing.

On Monday, they announced a gift worth well over \$500,000 to the Fresno State University Armenian Studies Program.

"Sam" Kalfayan's and Meline Babessian's lives crossed the world before they met and married in California.

Wise real estate investments brought monetary success. They contribute the fruits of success to the perpetuation of Armenian history and culture, to memory.

"Having lived in the old country," Sam Kalfayan said during a presentation with FSU President Harold Haak, "we are still at

heart Armenians."

The couple have no children and no remaining family, Kalfayan said, "so we have adopted the children of Fresno State University as our children."

After a brief news conference at Fresno State, the Kalfayans told their story.

"Sam" Kalfayan left Armenia when he was 4, crossed the Black Sea and landed in Cairo. He traveled to Wisconsin and then to the Valley.

Sam Kalfayan's father died in Cairo, but he retains a vivid memory of him raising and lowering little *pince-nez* eyeglasses. His mother sent a photograph of herself and her son to America, and she became a "picture bride" of her second husband in Racine, Wisconsin.

The trip across the Atlantic was difficult, especially for Sarkis Kalfayan, who was swept overboard. The ship turned around, and Kalfayan was hauled back on deck with a badly gashed leg. A scar remains.

Speaking Armenian, Turkish, Arabic and French, Kalfayan arrived in Racine in 1921. He spoke no English.

The family moved to the Valley, and Sam Kalfayan attended Dinuba High School.

Meline Kalfayan's stops with her family — the Babessians — included Istanbul, Italy, Germany, Paris, Greece, Cyprus, Paris again and Uruguay. Her father had been a pharmacist for the Turkish army, so was spared the massacres, which took the lives of 72 relatives on his side. Meline Kalfayan cannot estimate the number killed on her mother's side.

Her family made its way to Paris, but her father sensed that World War II was near. At the American embassy, officials told the family to expect a 10-year wait before admittance to the United States. Her father, Hovannes Babessian, took the family to Uruguay instead.

There, his painstaking creation of a map of Uruguay impressed a U.S. State Department representative, and won the family entrance to the United States.

"If they said, 'We invite you to paradise,' it wouldn't have given them as much pleasure," Sam Kalfayan said of his in-laws.

Kalfayan volunteered for service in World War II, serving in the Army and becoming a translator for Gen. George S. Patton.

After the war, he studied at Fresno State, and worked for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. He earned a master's degree in agricultural economics at the University of California.

Kalfayan worked as consultant and city manager for cities in Central and Southern California, investing in real estate along the way.

Meline Kalfayan's father created another extraordinarily detailed map in Los Angeles, this one recalling the history of the United States. It wound up on the wall in Omar Khayyam's restaurant in San Francisco, owned by the late George Mardikian of Fresno.

Kalfayan bought it back for \$5,000. Fresno State eventually will get the map, too.

The Kalfayans' bequest to the university will provide an endowment supporting the Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan Center for Armenian studies.

It will finance scholarships, research and instruction.

## Sarkis Kalfayans Donate \$500,000 to CSUF Armenian Program

FRESNO — California State University, Fresno President Dr. Harold H. Haak announced on Monday, May 6, 1991 the naming of the Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies at the university. Mr. and Mrs. Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan, have pledged more than one-half million dollars as an endowment to support the faculty and students of the CSUF Armenian Studies Program.

The gift, which will be made in part now and in part as a bequest, ultimately will provide an endowment fund to support the Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan Center for Armenian studies. The naming of the Center for Armenian Studies for a benefactor is the first such occasion within the twenty campus California State University system.

Please Turn to Page 4



**\$500,000 DONATION:** From left, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Acting Director of the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF; Dr. Harold Haak, CSUF President; and Mr. and Mrs. Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan, whose generosity will enable the program to flourish.

## Sarkis Kalfayans Donate \$500,000 to CSUF

Continued from Page 1

Following the announcement, a luncheon was held in the University Business Center, hosted by Dr. Haak and by Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Acting Director of the Armenian Studies Program, and attended by university officials, members of the Center for Armenian Studies Advisory Board, and leaders of the Armenian Students Organization.

During the ceremonies honoring the Kalfayans, Dr. Haak said, "Today we celebrate the commitment that the Kalfayans have made. Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan have a deep and abiding commitment to the university and to our Center for Armenian Studies."

"We were proud in late 1988 to announce the creation of an endowment providing permanent support for a professor in Armenian Studies. Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program, was chosen as the Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies. It is my personal privilege to announce yet another gift that will provide a permanent financial foundation to supplement the state budget for the students and faculty who are at work in the Armenian Studies Program. One of the unique hallmarks of distinction on this campus has been our Arme-

nian Studies Program which since 1964 has provided regular classroom instruction in Armenia history, language, literature, art, and culture. The Program has produced scholarly research and publications advancing our knowledge in these same subjects, and the wider community has been served through symposia, instruction on weekends, and visiting speakers, who have brought a continuing stream of information providing an historic as well as a current perspective on Armenian culture."

Sarkis Kalfayan remarked, "My story and my wife's story is the kind of life and early struggles as immigrants that many people could tell. But wherever we lived in Cairo, in Racine or in Los Angeles, our Armenian heritage was important to us."

"We decided to make this bequest because we wanted our heirs to be the students who will follow us as long as there is a university here. These students and their teachers will tell anew the story of the Armenian people: their history, their art, their culture, their literature, and their language. In research and in publications, they will discover new information and share it with the world."

"My wife and I receive the satisfaction today that many people never are privileged to know: that our lives will have a permanent impact long

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Observer; Hollywood, CADATE 15 May 1991SUBJECT Kalfayan Center NamedPAGE 2 of 2

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, acting Director of the Armenian Studies Program, commenting on the significance of the new endowment said, "There are few occasions in the life of the university as important as this. CSUF, as one of the centers for Armenian Studies in the United States, will continue to attract top students to study in the Program. The continuing education of students and the community about Armenian culture is our highest priority. Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan's life-long commitment to education is evident. How fitting that as a graduate of Fresno State, Sarkis, and Meline Kalfayan, should continue their close ties with the university."

"Sarkis Kalfayan's recent trip to Yerevan underscores his desire to see that not only students from the United States benefit from the endowment, but also that deserving students from Armenia

will have the opportunity to further their education at CSUF."

"The Kalfayan's dedication to Armenian culture and to education in general will serve as an example to future generations."

The agreement setting up the endowment calls for scholarships for deserving students studying in the Kalfayan Center to be called the Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan Scholars and Barsam and Aghavni Kalfayan Scholars.

Support will be provided for research in Armenian history, language, literature, culture, and art and the publication of the results of that research will be in memory of Hovannes and Aznive Babessian, Meline Kalfayan's parents.

The Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan Assistantship will provide support for a position in instruction or research in the Center.

Sarkis Kalfayan has been the Chairman of the Center for Armenian Studies Advisory Board since 1989 and has been active in the Armenian and non-Armenian community. In November of 1990, he travelled to Armenia to confer with leaders of Yerevan State University about the forthcoming

exchange agreement between YSU and CSU Fresno. He has actively been involved in the improvement of the university and the community in which he lives.

Sarkis Kalfayan was born in Samson, and led to Cairo, with his parents in the latter part of 1914. In 1921 he arrived in Racine, Wisconsin. Sarkis settled in Yettem, California in 1926 with his parents Barsam and Aghavni Kalfayan. The Kalfayan family immediately became involved in the St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettem.

Mr. Kalfayan married Miss Meline Babessian in June of 1949. Meline was born in Tokat and came to America 1940. Her father Hovannes Babessian, was a scholar and a teacher and author of many Armenian books.

In World War II Kalfayan served in the armed services and due to his knowledge of foreign languages he was shipped to the Third Army headquarters as General Patton's interpreter in the European Theater. When the fighting ended, he was transferred to Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces in Berlin.

Mr. Kalfayan received a B.A. in economics from Fresno State College and an M.S. in agricultural economics from UC Berkeley. Later he received a Masters in Public Administration from USC. Mr. Kalfayan worked over twenty years as a city manager, mostly in Southern California. For two years he was a consultant with the city and county of Fresno preparing a master plan. He has also been employed as an economist and statistician by the Federal Raisin Administration.

Active in the community Sarkis is a member of the Battle of the Bulge Veterans Association, the Shriners, a member of Eastern Star, the Downtown Exchange Club, the AGBU, the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, and the Knights of Vartan. Mr. and Mrs. Kalfayan enjoy gardening and reading.

This donation from the Kalfayans coupled with the donations of others to the Leon S. Peters Building campaign, and the Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies, bring total contributions benefiting Armenian Studies to more than \$1,000,000 during the past five years.

SUB

ARMENIAN STUDIES

PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The California Courier; Glendale, CA

DATE 16 May 1991

SUBJECT Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies

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CSUF BENEFACTORS - Cal State University, Fresno, President Harold Haak (second from left), with benefactors to CSUF Armenian Studies Center, Meline and Sarkis Kalfayan of Fresno (at right). Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian (left), spoke at a campus reception honoring the Kalfayan's \$500,000 pledge to the Center.

## Kalfayans Pledge \$500,000 To CSUF Armenian Studies

FRESNO - With an endowment pledge of more than \$500,000 from Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan of Fresno last week, the Center for Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno will be named after the benefactors, the first such occasion within the 20-campus California State University system.

The Center already serves as an umbrella for the Haig and Isabel Berberian Endowed Chair, the Sahatdjian Library and the Avedian Archives. The endowment will expand the capabilities of the Center through research and publications as well as provide

teaching fellowships and student scholarships. The Center has an Advisory Board of 15 community leaders appointed by the university president.

The gift from the Kalfayans, coupled with donations of others to the Leon S. Peters Building campaign and the Berberian Chair, brings total contributions benefiting Armenian Studies in Fresno to more than \$1 million during the past five years.

Forty percent of the endowment's proceeds will be devoted to students' scholarships, preferably from recognized universities and

*Continued on Page 7*

### \$500,000 to CSUF

*Continued from Page 1*

institutes in Armenia. Twenty percent will be used to support research in Armenian history, language, literature, culture and art, and publications, with another twenty percent going to teaching fellowships. The last portion of the endowment's proceeds will be used to meet other academic needs as determined by the director of the Sarkis and Meline Center for Armenian Studies. The agreement also allows the university the option of establishing a second Endowed Chair in Armenian Studies in the names of the donors.

In 1986, CSUF's first chair in Armenian Studies was founded, and named after Haig and Isabel Berberian.

The major portion of Kalfayans' gift will come as a bequest in their wills.

The couple have no children and no remaining family, Kalfayan said, "so we have adopted the children of Fresno State University as our children."

Both Kalfayans lost most of their families to Ottoman Turkey's organized massacres and barely escaped with their lives.

During the news conference where they pledged the \$500,000 gift, Sam Kalfayan told FSU President Harol Haak: "Having lived in the old country, we are still at heart Armenians."

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter; Fresh Meadows, NY

DATE 16 May 1991

SUBJECT Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies Named

PAGE 1 of 1

## \$500,000 Donation Made to California State University by Fresno Couple for Armenian Studies

FRESNO, Ca. - A gift of more than one-half million dollars has been pledged to California State University, Fresno by Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan of Fresno in support of the university's Armenian Studies Program.

The gift, which will be made in part now and in part as a bequest, ultimately will provide an endowment fund to support The Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies.

The Center already serves as the umbrella for the Haig and Isabel Berberian Endowed Chair, the Sahatdjian Library and the Avedian Archives. The endowment will expand the capabilities of the Center through research and publications as well as provide teaching fellowships and student scholarships. The Center has an Advisory Board of 15 community leaders appointed by the university president.

gift will come as bequest in their wills.

The naming of the Center for Armenian Studies for a benefactor is believed to be the first such occasion within the 20-campus California State University system.

Distribution of proceeds from the endowment when completed will include 20% for scholarships to deserving students who will be designated "Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan Scholars," with preference for students from recognized universities and institutes in Armenia. Another 20% will be designated for scholarship for Barsam and Aghavni Kalfayan Scholars, in memory of Sarkis Kalfayan's parents. Preference again would be given to students from Armenia.

Twenty percent will be used to support research in Armenian history, language,



Mr. & Mrs. Sarkis Kalfayan, benefactors, pose with California State University - Fresno President Dr. Harold Haak, and Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Acting Director of the Armenian Studies Program. The Kalfayan couple pledged \$500,000 to the program.

This gift from the Kalfayans coupled with donations of others to the Leon S. Peters Building campaign and the Berberian Chair, bring total contributions benefitting Armenian Studies to more than \$1 million during the past five

years.

This donation includes the Kalfayan's Fresno home, where they will retain the right to reside, as well as cash gifts planned over the next several years. The major portion of the

to provide for dissemination of the information through publications. The work will be designated in memory of Hovannes and Aznive Babessian, the parents of Meline Kalfayan.

Twenty percent will be designated to provide additional support for a position in instruction or research that will be known as The Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan Assistantship, and the remaining 20% will be used to meet other academic needs as determined by the director of The Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies.

The agreement also allows the university the option of establishing a second Endowed Chair in Armenian Studies in the names of the donors.

The Berberian Chair in Armenian Studies was established at the university in 1988.

## Armenian Center Named For Major Contributors

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*Please, See P.27*

*Continued From P.25*

Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies.

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ARMENIAN STUDIES

PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Asbarez; Glendale, CA

DATE 18 May 1991

SUBJECT Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies Named

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## Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies Named

FRESNO, May 6.—California State University Fresno President, Dr. Harold H. Haak, announced last week the naming of the Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies at the university.

Mr. and Mrs. Kalfayan have pledged more than \$500,000 as an endowment to support the faculty and students of the CSUF Armenian Studies Program. The gift will be made in part now and in part as a bequest. The naming of the Center for Armenian Studies after a benefactor was the first such occasion within the 20-campus CSU system. □

## CSU, Fresno Armenian Studies Dept. Receives Half Million Dollar Endowment

By Jeff Aharonian

Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan pledged \$500,000 to the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno. Dr. Harold Haak, President of the University, announced at a press conference on Monday, May 8.

The gift, which will be made in part now and in part as a bequest, ultimately will provide an

endowment fund to support the Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies.

The Center already serves as the umbrella for the Haig and Isabel Berberian Endowed Chair established in 1988, the Sahatdjian Library and the Avedian Archives. The endowment will expand the capabilities of the Center through research and



From right: Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan, Dr. Harold Haak, Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

Center, was born in Armenia in 1911 and fled to the U.S. with his family during the Genocide. He settled in Yettem, where he immediately became involved with the St. Mary Church.

In 1949, he married Meline Babessian, who was born in Tokat. Meline's father was a scholar, teacher, author as well as a talented cartologist.

Kalfayan, who speaks five languages, served in World War II as an interpreter to General George Patton. After the war he earned a B.A. in economics from Fresno State College, an M.S. in agricultural economics from UC-Berkeley and a Master's in Public Administration from USC.

publications as well as provide teaching fellowships and student scholarships. The Center has an Advisory Board of 15 community leaders appointed by the university president.

This gift from the Kalfayans, coupled with donations of others to the Leon S. Peters Building campaign and the Berberian Chair, bring total contributions benefitting Armenian Studies to more than \$1 million during the past five years.

Distribution of proceeds from the endowment when completed will include 20 percent for scholarships to deserving students who will be designated Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan Scholars, with preference for students from recognized universities and institutes in Armenia. Another 20 percent will be designated for scholarships for Barsam and Aghavni Kalfayan Scholars, in memory of Sarkis Kalfayan's parents. Preference again would be given to students from Armenia.

Twenty percent will be used to support research in Armenian history, language, literature, culture and art, and to provide for dissemination of the information

through publications. The work will be designated in memory of Hovannes and Anne Babessian, the parents of Meline Kalfayan.

Twenty percent will be designated to provide additional support for a position in instruction or research that will be known as the Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan Assistantship, and the remaining 20 percent will be used to meet other academic needs.

The agreement also allows the university the option of establishing a second endowed chair in Armenian studies in the names of the donors.

The Kalfayans, who have no children or relatives, made the donation in an effort to give Armenian students the opportunity to excel.

"It if wasn't for the help of others, I wouldn't have ever gotten the chance to go to school and get to where I am today," he said. "My wife and I are donating to the university because we wanted our heirs to be the students who will follow us and tell the story of the Armenian people."

"Sam" Kalfayan, who serves as advisor to the Armenian Studies

He worked for more than 20 years as a city manager, mostly in Southern California, and has also been employed as an economist and statistician by the Federal Raisin Administration.

Kalfayan, who travelled to Armenia this past November, said: "The most important thing Armenians today should remember is not to forget about their heritage," he said. "If you forget your cultural heritage, then you are losing your past. Without your past you are a nobody."

- ARCHIVE -

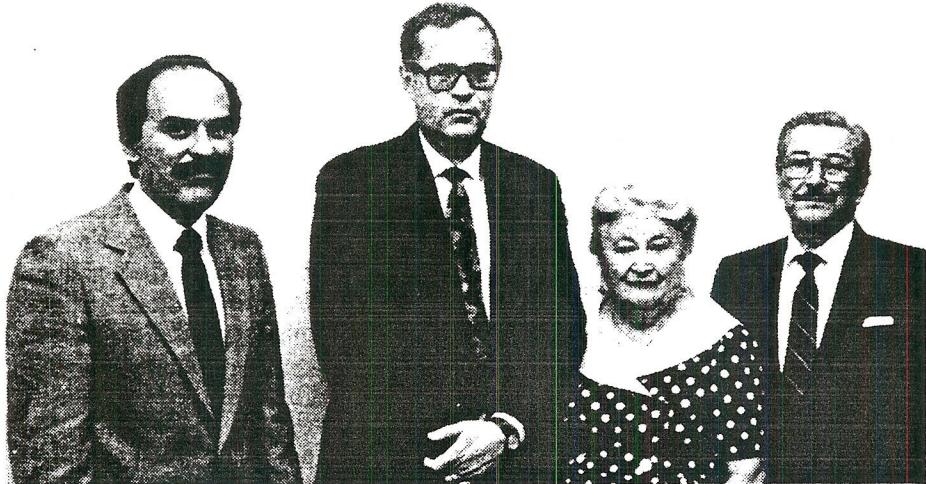
SOURCE Armenian Life; Glendale, CA

DATE 24 May 1991

SUBJECT Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies Named

PAGE 1 of 1

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***Kalfayans Donate \$500,000 To  
CSUF Armenian Studies Prog.***

*Mr. and Mrs. Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan have pledged to donate over \$500,000 as an endowment to support the faculty and students of CSU Fresno's Armenian Studies Program. Pictured above: Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Director of the Program; Dr. Harold Haak, President of CSUF; and Mr. and Mrs. Kalfayan. See full story, P. 26.*

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SOURCE Armenian Life; Glendale, CADATE 24 May 1991SUBJECT Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies NAMEDPAGE 2 of 2

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# Սարգիս և Մելինէ Գալֆայեաններ 500,000 տոլար կը նուիրեն Ֆրեզնոյի Հայագիտական Ամսիոնին



Զախէն աշ՝ Պարլօ Տէր Մկրտիչեան, Համալսարանի նախագահ Տոքթ. Հերըլտ Հեր,  
բարերարներ Սարգիս և Մելինէ Գալֆայեաններ

Երկուշաբթի, Մայիս 6-ի առաւօտուն, Ֆրեզնոյի Գալֆայեանի Հայագիտական մէջ, Տէր եւ Տիկ Սարգիս եւ Մելինէ Գալֆայեաններու, Հայագիտական Ամպիոնի փոխանորդվարիչ Պրն. Պարլօ Տէր Մկրտիչեանի, հեռացոլի եւ մամուկի թղթակիցներու ներկայութեան, Համալսարանի նախագահ Տոքթ. Հերըլտ Հեք ուրախութեամբ յայտարարեց որ Գալֆայեան բարերարները աւելի քան կէս միլիոն տոլար արժողութեամբ կտակ մը կը ձգէին համալսարանի, Հայագիտական ամպիոնին, որպէսզի աւելի ամուր հիմերու վրայ զրուէր Հայագիտական նիւթերու ուսուցման յանձնառութիւնը համալսարանին մէջ: Ի միջի այլոց ան ըստ, թէ այս համալսարանին աչքառու յատկանիշներէն մին եղած է Հայագիտութեան նույնութեամբ ծրագրը, իրբեւ մաս Հայագիտական նիւթերու ուսուցման կեղրոնին: «1964-էն ի վեր, մեր ուսանողներուն կը մատուցուի Հայոց պատմութեան, լեզուի, գրականութեան եւ արուեստի դասընթացքներ: Հետզհետէ զարգացնելով մեր գործունէութիւնները, Հայագիտութեան կեղրոնը նաև

շաբաթավերշի դասընթացքներով, գիտաժողովներով եւ համանման յայտագիրներով օգտակար գառնալով համայնքին եւ ուսանողութեան», աւելցուց նախագահը:

Հայագիտական կեղրոնի պատմութեան մէջ առաջին անգամ ըլլալով ամպիոնի մը կը տրուի բարերարներուն անունը: Կտակին մաս կը կազմեն անշուշտ անշարժ կալուածներ, ինչպէս նաև Գալֆայեաններու ընակարանը, ուր անոնք պիտի ապրին որքան որ կը փափաքին: Որով, անոնց ողջութեան, կտակին միայն մէկ մասը պիտի օգտագործուի յիշւած նպատակներու իրագործումին համար: Բնականաբար, Ֆրեզնոյի Համալսարանին հայագիտական կեղրոնը նախապէս ալ ստացած էր կտակներ, ինչպէս Հայկ եւ Իզապէլ Պէրպէլեաններէն, ինչ որ նահանգին Հայթայթած պիտճէին մեծապէս օժանդակած կ'ըլլար, նոր ծրագիրներու կարելիութիւն ստեղծելով:

Նախագահին ջերմ ու համակող արտայայտութենէն ետք, խօսք առաջ բարերար Սարգիս Գալֆայեան եւ հակիմ կերպով պատկերացուց իր անցած ճամբան, որ այնքան նման էր

ղիին: «Իմ եւ տիկնոջս կեանքի պատմութիւնը, պատմութիւնն է գաղթականներու սկզբանական կեանքի պայքարին: Բայց մենք ուր որ ալ ապրեցանք՝ եզրակացու, Ֆրանսա կամ հու, Ամերիկա, մեր հայկական ժառանգութիւնը կարեւոր էր մեզի համար: Մեր մտահոգութիւնը այն է, որ հազարաւոր տարիներու կեանք ունեցած մեր երկրին պատմութիւնը պէտք է շարունակաբար պատմով աշխարհին:

«Մենք անզաւակ զոյգ մը ըլլալով, հայագիտութեան ուսուցման այս կեդրոնի ուսանողները որդեգրեցինք իրրեւ մեր զաւակները: Այս ուսանողները եւ անոնց ուսուցիչները կրկին ու կրկին պիտի պատմեն հայ ժողովուրդի պատմութիւնը: Անոր՝ մշակոյթը, արուեստները, գրականութիւնն ու լեզուն: Հետախուզութեամբ եւ հրատարակութիւններով, անոնք նոր տեղեկութիւններ պիտի գտնեն եւ զանոնք պիտի փոխանցեն աշխարհին:

«Կ'ուզեմ գիտցուի այսօր, որ թէեւ մենք շատ կու տանք, բայց ատոր փոխարէն մենք այնպիսի բան մը կը ստանանք, որ դրամով կարելի չէ գնել: Եւ կը յուսանք որ մեր այս նախաձեռնութեան լուրը կը տարածուի ամէնուրեք եւ պատճառ կ'ըլլայ նաեւ որ ուրիշներ եւս ներջնչուին ու ոգեւորուին ու հետեւին մեր օրինակին:»

Պրն. Գալֆայեանի զգածուած խօսքերէն ետք, արտայայտուեցաւ հայագիտական ամպիոնի պատասխանատու ուսուցիչ Պրն. Պարլո Տէր Մկրտիչեան, շնորհակալութիւն յայտնելով համալսարանի նախագահին, որ միշտ քաջալեր հանդիսացած էր հայկական նիկթերու վերաբերեալ դասընթացքներու ճոխացման կեղրոնէն ներս, ու ապա իր գնահատանքը արտայայտեց Գալֆայեան ամոլի առատածեռն նուիրատուութեան մասին, խոստանալով որ հայագիտական կեղրոնը ամէն ջանք պիտի թափէր իր վրայ դրուած յոյսերը աւելիով արդարացնելու:

Կոտակին եկամուտը հաւասարապէս պիտի օգտագործուի կրթաթոշակներու, հայոց պատմութեան վերաբերեալ ուսումնասիրութիւններու, ինչպէս նաեւ գրականութեան, մշակոյթի եւ լեզուի մարզերուն մէջ ըլլալիք հետազոտութիւններու: Բնականաբար, տարիներ պիտի առնէ մինչեւ որ կոտակին պայմանները ամբողջութեամբ իրենց լրումին հասնին, սակայն այս գեղեցիկ առիթը օգտագործուեցաւ նպատակը գէթ հանրութեան սեփականութիւնը դարձնելու:

Սարգիս Գալֆայեան ծնած է 1911-ին, Սամսոն, եւ 1914-ի ջարդերէն փախչելով, ծնողքին հետ մեկնած է Գահիրէ: Ապա՝ հաստատւած է Ռէյսին, Ռէփանարն, 1921-ին: Աւելի ետք, 1926-ին, Սարգիս եւ ծնողները՝ Պարսամ եւ Աղաւնի կու գան ու կը հաստատուին Եղեմ, Քամիֆորնիա: Պրն. Գալֆայեան 1949-ին կ'ամունանայ Մելինէ Պապէսեանի հետ: Մելինէ ծնած է Թոքաթ: Անոր Հայրը՝ Յովհաննէս Պապէսեան կը նկատուի պատրաստուած մտաւորական մը, հեղինակ՝ բազմաթիւ հայերէն գիրքերու: Երկրորդ Համաշխարհային Պատերազմին, Սարգիս Գալֆայեան թարգմանիչը հանդիսացած է գորավար Փեթէնին, եւ րոպայի մէջ:

Պրն. Գալֆայեան լրջանաւարտ է Ֆրեզնոյի Համալսարանէն, ինչպէս նաեւ Պըրքլիէն, վկայուելով տընտեսագիտութեան եւ հողամշակութային գիտութիւններու մէջ: Ան միշտ գործունեայ անդամ մը հանդիսացած է այն համայնքներու մէջ, ուր բնակութիւն հաստատած է գործի բերումով:

(Ֆրեզնօ)

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- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE

SAS Newsletter

DATE

April 26, 1992

SUBJECT

CSUF Establishes Kalfayan Center

PAGE

1 OF 1

SAS Newsletter

**CSUF Establishes Kalfayan Center**

California State University, Fresno, has named the Armenian Studies Center for two generous benefactors, Sarkis and Meliné (Babessian) Kalfayan, in recognition of

their gift of \$500,000 in donations and pledges.

The funds will be used to establish an endowment, the income from which will support the Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies through scholarships, grants for instructors and for research, and publications.

Chairman of the Center for Armenian Studies Advisory Board since 1989, Mr. Kalfayan travelled to Armenia in 1990 to lay the groundwork for an exchange agreement between Yerevan State University and CSUF.