



### **RICHARD & ROSE DERMENJIAN ARMENIAN SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Richard & Rose Dermenjian Armenian Scholarship has been established to assist qualified Armenian students in funding an undergraduate degree at an accredited four (4) year college or university within the United States. Scholarships will be awarded in discretionary amounts to the selected recipients.

Richard and Rose were active in the Armenian community until their passing in 2002, and were proud of their Armenian heritage. Their only daughter, Deborah, who had cerebral palsy, passed away in 1965 when she was only 10 years old. Their commitment to helping Armenian children who might not otherwise be able to finance their college experience is a testament to Deborah, and fulfills their desire to provide children the opportunity to attend college and to promote Armenian culture and history.

By offering the scholarship, there is a great deal about the Armenian culture that Richard and Rose hoped would be perpetuated and preserved. Because of the diaspora, the Armenian community has been stratified for many years making it a greater challenge to pass along the history, traditions and cultures that define who we are as Armenians.

There are not as many younger generation Armenians that actually speak the language. Likewise, few recall that Armenia adopted Christianity as its religion in 301 A.D. Although there is occasional mention of the Armenian Genocide of 1915, not many people appreciate the horrific suffering and oppression endured by an earlier generation. The successful applicants will be encouraged to perpetuate the Armenian culture and history.

The contributions by Armenians to music (by older and more contemporary luminaries such as Aram Khachaturian, Charles Aznavour and Cher), sports (Ara Parseghian, Garo Yepremian, Jerry Tarkanian and Andre Agassi), government (George Dukemejian, former governor of California), business (Kirk Kerkorian), engineering (Artem Mikoyan, creator and namesake of "MiG" jet-fighters and Dr. Raymond Damadian, the inventor of the MRI), and chess (Gary Kasparov) are but examples of what Richard and Rose hope that recipients of their scholarship can continue to make to society.