



ARMENIAN RUGS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume III, Number 2 * San Francisco, California, USA * October, 2006

THE ARMENIAN RUGS SOCIETY: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

We would like to invite all members to the Armenian Rugs Society biennial meeting on Friday and Saturday, December first and second, 2006. At this meeting, our focus will be on the ARS: What we have accomplished, where we now find ourselves, and what we anticipate for the future. There will also be the option of an informal excursion to the new De Young Museum in San Francisco on Sunday, the third.

The weekend will start on Friday evening at the Simonian Rug Company in San Mateo. Dr. Murray L. Eiland, Jr., who has been involved with the society almost since its inception, will present a retrospective look at the past quarter century of the organization. We are delighted to have Murray give us a perspective on the ARS that few have been privileged to share. The evening will also include a Mediterranean buffet, wine and music.

On Saturday morning we will meet for breakfast at the nearby Hyatt Regency, where we will focus on current activities of the society. There will be a short business meeting and election, followed by lunch and lectures on subjects dear to lovers of Armenian textiles. We also expect a good deal of interest in the auction planned for Saturday afternoon. Later we will turn our attention to the future, discussing and defining goals and aspirations for the Society. We will conclude the day with a gala dinner in San Francisco, at Neptune's Palace Restaurant overlooking the bay. (Be sure to indicate your choice of dinner entree on the registration form.)

On Sunday, there will be an optional trip to the newly redesigned De Young Museum, for which transportation, museum admission and lunch are not included in the registration fee; we do plan to car pool.

Registration includes the Friday evening buffet, breakfast and lunch at the Hyatt Regency on Saturday, transportation to and from San Francisco that evening, the gala dinner with a no-host bar, and all lectures. If



Dr. Murray L. Eiland, Jr. will present a retrospective look at the history of the Armenian Rugs Society on Friday, December 1, 2006

we receive your check by Friday, November 10, 2006, the fee will be \$150.00. After the 10th, registration will be \$180.00, so please make your plans and sign up as early as possible. Registration will be closed after November 25th.

The Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport (which is very close to the Simonian Rug Company,) is located at 1333 Bayshore Highway in Burlingame. The hotel is holding a number of guest rooms for us at the price of \$99.00 per night. These rooms will be held on a first-come, first-serve basis, so call Jeffrey at (650)347-1234 as soon as possible to reserve your room at this special rate; be sure to mention your affiliation with the Armenian Rugs Society. The hotel provides twenty-four hour complimentary shuttle service to and from the San Francisco Airport.

If you have any further questions, please call Araxi Bezdjian at (650)343-8585 during west coast business hours.

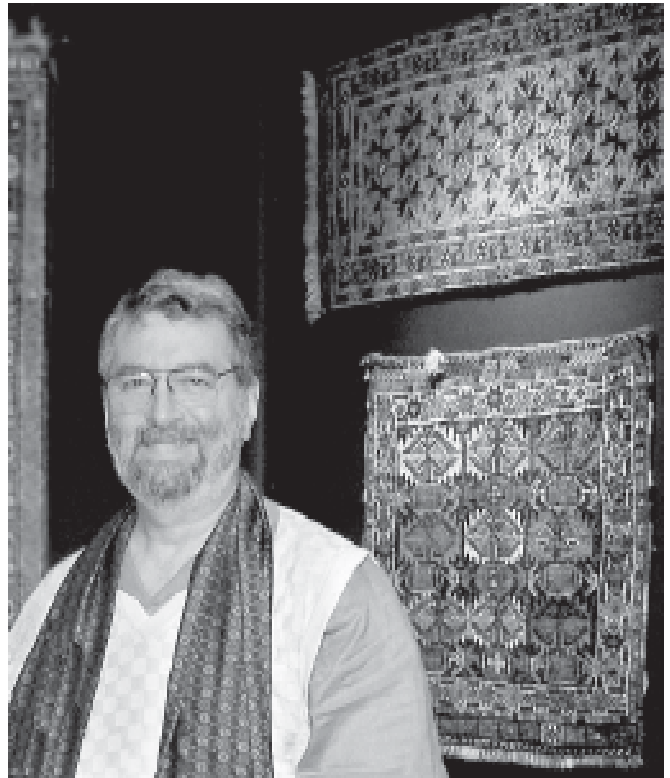
Join us for what promises to be an interesting and provocative weekend; we'll see you in December!!

IN MEMORIAM: ROGER CAVANNA

We are sad to report that member Roger Cavanna, proprietor of Carpets of the Inner Circle in San Francisco and a great friend to the Armenian Rugs Society, passed away earlier this month. He had been scheduled to speak to the Society, but the cancer that had been in remission for several years returned, and sadly, caused his recent death.

Roger believed that the carpet traditions developed by the Phrygians and other early weavers were preserved and passed on by the Armenians for over twenty-five hundred years, and that the carpet is neither of nomadic origin nor does its origin lie in central Asia. Instead, he maintained it is a product of ancient oriental civilizations located within the Armenian highlands at the crossroads of the oldest trade routes between the west, north and south. He also considered the carpet a symbol of spiritual as well as temporal power.

Roger lived in Iran for several years, where he worked building schools and hospitals. He was fluent in Farsi and had an excellent understanding of Persian and near eastern culture. Describing his time in Iran and the influence it had on his life, he wrote: “My love affair with Persia began during the 1960s when, as a recent architectural school graduate, I joined the American Peace Corps and was naively sent off to Iran, full of ideals and with the attitude that I could make a difference. Five years later I returned a different being, nourished in ways I could not have imagined. The awareness that I was on a spiritual journey developed during my stay in Iran, and the taste of the transformations involved in the process will always have a Persian flavor to it. It is a debt I can repay only by becoming my Self. I am so positive and emotional about Persian art and culture precisely



Roger Cavanna
1944–2006

because my soul has been so nourished by it. The graciousness of the people, the grandeur of the landscape, the public spaces and architecture, the rugs, carpets and textiles, the poetry of Rumi, Hafiz, Khayyam and others have combined to create in me the understanding that the intentional living of one's own life is actually the highest art form. There are many 'deaths' and 'rebirths' on this journey! I am grateful for the experiences I had in Iran, and I take considerable pleasure in sharing the positive memories of that experience with others.”

We are sorry to have missed the opportunity to have Roger give a talk to the members of the Armenian Rugs Society. Our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time, and we feel grateful to have shared a few moments of his journey.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure to announce that our member and longtime friend, Dr. Murray L. Eiland, Jr., has consented to be our keynote speaker on Friday evening, December 1, 2006, at the Simonian Oriental Rug Co., 939 N. Amphlett Blvd. in San Mateo. This is a rare occasion for our members and friends to hear this well-known scholar, author of six books on Oriental carpets, as he recounts the history of our organization and describes the many achievements since its inception in 1980.

I urge all of you to come enjoy this very special event with Murray, Armenian food, wine and music. For those not registered for the entire weekend, admission to this evening event will be \$45.00 per person. Please mark your calendars—we'll see you on December first!

—Joseph Bezdjian

ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Registration received by November 10, 2006.....\$150.00 per person

Registration received after November 10, 2006.....180.00 per person

NO REGISTRATIONS CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER NOVEMBER 25, 2006

Name(s)_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip Code_____

Daytime telephone number with area code_____

Fax number_____

E-mail address (please print)_____

SATURDAY DINNER ENTREE (Indicate choice of each registrant)

Mustard Crusted Salmon_____

9 oz. Filet Mignon_____

Rosemary Chicken Breast_____

Garlic Roasted Prawns & Baby Lobster Tail_____

IF NOT A MEMBER OF THE ARS, TO JOIN (indicate level of choice)

Individual \$50_____

Family \$60_____

Corporate \$100_____

Donor \$250*_____

Patron \$500*_____

* Eligible for donor or patron appreciation events and benefits.

Membership fee enclosed (if applicable)_____

Number of registrants on this form_____at per person cost_____

Total amount enclosed_____

ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE PAID BY CHECK IN USA DOLLARS.

For more information, please call Araxi Bezdjian at (650)343-8585

Please make check payable to the **Armenian Rugs Society**. Send form and payment to:

Armenian Rugs Society * 939 North Amphlett Blvd. * San Mateo, CA 94401 * 650/343-8585

Armenian Rugs Society
939 N. Amphlett Blvd.
San Mateo CA 94401 USA



The Armenian Rugs Society, founded in 1980, is dedicated to the preservation, documentation, and advancement of the artistic and cultural contributions made by Armenian rug weavers to the rich and vibrant history of textile arts.

BIENNIAL MEETING

Our next newsletter will be a full report on the meeting described in this edition. Be sure to watch for the next issue, in your mailbox sometime after the first of the year!