



# CASPS 2009 IN REVIEW

COMMITTEE FOR ARMENIAN STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## EXECUTIVE TEAM

### PRESIDENT

Rouben Gourjian

### MEMBERS

Laura Atoian

Mary Balian

Linet Danoukh

Hagop Dermegerdichian MD

Medea Kalognomos

Armineh Keshishian

Anna Keshishyan

Angie Mathevosian

Khachig Melikyan

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Arsineh H. Hovannisian

## CASPS COLLABORATORS

GUSD Healthy Start

LAUSD Local District 2

Armenian Edu. Foundation

Artists For Kids

City of Glendale CDBG

St. Mary's Church

Western Prelacy

LA Valley College

Homenetmen Ararat

## Message from the Board

The year 2009 was lean with funds, but rich with activities. Thanks to our friends and supporters, and despite the economic crisis of our nation, we were able to maintain all existing programs and are hoping for better days in 2010. CASPS has come a long way since the initial days of advocacy and translation in 1994, and with years of inevitable flux and adjustment to changes in public education, we have grown into a highly recognized community resource. Our team enjoys the support and collaboration of two school districts and multiple community agencies; we stand tall thanks to the accomplishments of the students and parents we serve.

One of the perks of belonging to CASPS is the opportunity to work with a new generation of Armenian-Americans who is increasingly, and refreshingly, exhibiting comfort with "out of the box" thinking, and entering higher education with professional goals that include a wide variety of industries. The other equally satisfying perk is the involvement of volunteers, sponsors and collaborators, whose collective support is crucial for upholding CASPS' mission, and its unwavering commitment to the advancement of our youth.

## Celebrating Students of Glendale Unified School District

For the thirteenth consecutive year, CASPS honored over 185 seniors graduating with a GPA of 3.5 or higher, from Glendale schools. This traditional celebration includes messages by valedictorians, scholarships for the highest

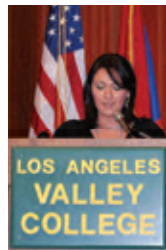
GPA's, certificates from state officials, and an art exhibit.



M.C. Nora Bedrossian

## Celebrating Students of LAUSD Local District 2

In June 2009, at the LA Valley College Auditorium, CASPS hosted a dinner and awards reception honoring Armenian students in grades 9-12 with GPA's of 3.5 or higher.



Linet Danoukh  
 CASPS Board Member and Grant HS DPC, opening the event

Keynote Speaker and award winning filmmaker Eric Nazarian, shared vignettes of his journey from public



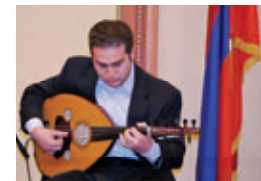
Honorees celebrating their success

schools to film studios, and encouraged all students to follow their passion. Andrew Kzirian sweetened the program with traditional

Armenian songs played on the "Oud", and CASPS surprised Executive Director Arsineh Hovannisian with a plaque of appreciation, for a decade of outstanding service.



Eric Nazarian,  
 Keynote Speaker



Andrew Kzirian

Four seniors with the highest GPA's, attending Local District 2 high schools, received scholarships generously sponsored by the Armenian Educational Foundation. All other honorees received certificates of achievement. Keynote speaker Mark Geragos spoke eloquently about his family's beginnings in the



Mark Geragos, Esq.

USA, the challenges facing all minorities, the value of community involvement, the importance of setting goals, and always going beyond the call of duty.



Scholarship recipients with AEF representatives, Razmig Hovannessian and Ara Shabanian

## Case Management-Healthy Start

CASPS has a thirteen year track record of collaboration with the GUSD Healthy Start program. We provide Case Management services for students and families in the Glendale schools. By working closely with school and district personnel, our case managers provide an array of services which include academic counseling and support, and facilitating access to community resources. Our partnership with GUSD is an important component of the work we do to help newly arrived youngsters adjust to a new social and academic environment.

## Annual Leadership Conference

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, CASPS held a Leadership Conference themed "Connecting to your Community", at the campus of the Western Prelacy in La Crescenta. More than 100 GUSD seniors attended this annual interactive workshop. California Assemblyman Paul Krekorian gave a telecast opening address, which was followed by two panels featuring leaders from the public and private sectors. The presenters shared knowledge from their individual fields of expertise, life experiences, paths to success, and the importance of giving back to the community.

**Leadership Conference Presenters:**  
Glendale Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Escalante, Glendale Mayor John Drayman, Glendale Community College Board Member Dr. Armine Hacopian, Mark Geragos Esq, GUSD School Board Member Nayiri Nahabedian, Cordoba Corporation President and community leader, Maria Mehranian.

## Annual Art Contest

On February 5th, CASPS hosted the awards reception for its annual Art Contest for GUSD high school students. Twelve beautiful entries translated the contest's theme:

**"Across Generations-Honoring our Ancestors"**. Families, teachers and administrators attended the event



CASPS thanks AEF and AFK for their continued support.

held at the GUSD boardroom.

GUSD Board Members honored the participants with recognition certificates; winners received

awards generously sponsored by the Armenian Educational Foundation and Artists For Kids; CASPS sponsored secondary awards for all contestants.

## Intervention/Prevention Clinical Group Counseling

This innovative program was piloted by CASPS in 2000. It provides GUSD K-6 students effective ways to redirect negative behavior, and build mental and academic readiness for success in middle school and later. The program is premised on "nipping failure in the bud", and is conducted through play/create/talk activities where students develop self-discipline, respect for authority, anger management, and coping skills. The I.P. Program is partially funded by a Community Block Grant administered by the City of Glendale, and continues to be offered by Dr. Ida Karayan and her staff at Columbus and Keppel Elementary schools. In 2010-11, this service is slated to expand to a third school.

## DON'T MISS OUR 16th Birthday Celebration!



*Let's Laugh and Dance*

*with Lory Tatoulian*

*and Tom Bozigian*

**Sunday, May 16, 2010 at 3 p.m.**

at a private Glendale residence

**Cocktail Reception and Dessert**

**Bring your friends and family**

Tax deductible donation—\$50 per person

**For reservations contact:**

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Arsineh: 310-780-4222 - [info@casps.org](mailto:info@casps.org)

Directions will be given upon confirmed reservation

