

Dr. "G.", Dr. Edmund Gergerian

Eulogy from Dr. Ani Kalayjian

5 February 2022

My deep gratitude to you all for honoring a legend and being here to share this experience. On behalf of the Board of the Armenian American Society for Studies on Stress & Genocide (AASSSG), Meaningfulworld, my family and friends I express our deepest condolences to the Gergerian Family, as well as friends and colleagues. Fairwell my friend, Edmund.

I met Edmund and worked alongside him since early 1980's, first as a graduate student at Columbia University, while volunteering at the Armenian Home in Queens, everyone talked about this great Dr., Dr. Gergerian. We then met and began conducting healing groups with the older grandmothers and grandfathers, mez hayrigs and mez mayrigs. When the staff told me that he was a psychiatrist, I thought he was the traditional kind, prescribing medications only. I was pleasantly surprised, in fact, that he was not. I am inspired to say that he was one of the handful of Medical Doctors who had an open mind, always learning, always attending new trainings to improve himself, and his care to his patients at the hospital, nursing home or private patients who loved to call him Dr. 'G.'" He once told me "Ani, I have a new name, my patients call me 'Dr. G.'" He was so happy to share that, his eyes always lit up with curiosity, deep heartfelt connection, with a big innocent and kind smile, and an unlimited joy flowing from his heart.

In 1986, as soon as I received my doctorate from Columbia University, I called Dr. Gergerian, as well as Drs. Lisa Saraydarian, Siroon Shahinian, and others in the mental health field, and in less than 4 months we formed the AASSG, which is the Armenian American Society for Studies on Stress & Genocide as it was 71 years post Ottoman Turkish Genocide, and we wanted to reach out to the handful of living survivors before they perished. We began our research interviewing survivors from PA to CA. We traveled around USA in different states to interview survivors which resulted in the first ever published scientific research on the Armenian Genocide, published in the Journal of Traumatic Stress in 1996. Dr. Gergerian taped those interviews, some of us also audio or video taped them. We then began working on the next generation, to address the generational impact of the Ottoman Turkish Genocide. We spent hours processing, and crying a lot as interviewing survivors was depressing, as we were also impacted by the secondary trauma. Dr. G. and I shared complimentary healing such as essential oils and flower remedies, and we were getting stronger by supporting one another while witnessing horrific experiences from 1915.

Edmund was a multi-talented practitioner, a unique Medical Doctor, who although studied in a traditional medical school in Cairo, he was always open to the energy healing modalities. You think it, you feel it and then you act upon it; as we say at Meaningfulworld Head-Heart-Hands, must be aligned for an ultimate health. Edmund had many interests and many organizations that he joined and served. In talking with my sister, Mrs. Boghosian, who was the Principal of the Holy Martyr's Armenian School for over 30 years, where Nayri and

Taleen his daughters graduated from, she shared how Dr. Gergerian gave them the first Armenian fonts, they had no Armenian fonts at the school. I was surprised, as he never mentioned it to me even though we talked weekly. Mrs. Boghosian said: "In 1988 at our schools 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, when we had no Armenian fonts, I asked Dr. Gergerian what to do, he took it upon himself to type the entire eight-page program in both-Armenian & English languages. It was admirable to all of us that he had created his own unique Armenian fonts on his computer. We remember his creative and thoughtful support in the history of HMADS."

He served without expectations and without even mentioning it to others. Edmund was an active contributor and served in many organizations throughout his life, the Armenian school, the Armenian Home, AASSG, MeaningfulWorld, Genocide Prevention, Genocide Project in Boston with Taner Akcam, AAHOP, ABSA, etc.

Dr. G was passionate about the documents he had from his late uncle Fr Krikor, called Krieger, not to be harassed by the Turkish authorities. We have spent days and days reviewing the documents, and finally he shared the documents with the Zoryan Inst, as well as with our friend Turkish scholar who admits the Genocide Taner Akcam, who wrote "We are thankful to Dr. G for both his meticulous preservation of his uncle's archive, after the latter's death in 1988, and for showing great flexibility and indulgence over the process of transferring the archives to the digital medium. You could find it at Clark University. Dear Edmund rest in peace, we will always remember you and your priceless contributions to the fight of the Armenian people and humanity for justice and truth. It will never be forgotten."

<https://wordpress.clarku.edu/gergerianarchive/>

In 1988 we founded the AASSG organization, and Dr. Gergerian was our lifetime VP for development. We then established the Krieger Essay Contest, in the name of his late uncle Fr. Krikor. The essay continues until today and will be celebrating 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary the deadline is in April, and winners received their awards from Dr. Gergerian at the United Nations. With this contest we have educated over 30 thousand students who wrote about "what the legacy of Genocide means to me."

Harry Milian, our VP said: We lost a giant in our community. His medical contributions, his knowledge, his innovations, what a great humanitarian all around! May the Lord accept you close to his pedestal."

While we were conducting interviews with the survivors of the Genocide, the tragic earthquake struck Armenia, I left for Armenia a month after the earthquake to survey the damages on the psyche and organize the first Mental Health Outreach Program. Of course, Dr. Gergerian was in our second team that we deployed with Drs. Haigaz Grigorian, Meline Karakashian, Louis Najarian and others. Meaningfulworld deployed over 50 mental health professionals to Armenia over the following 4 years. Dr. Gergerian first shared biofeedback modality of relaxation, then he trained Armenians in EMDR, in reading facial expressions, he then published a workbook in Armenian to help them with their emotional discharge. We then invited a group of mental health professionals from Armenia, and we toured PA, CT, Washington, and California. Dr. Gergerian was always with me co-chairing or organizing.

After receiving certificates in EMDR from Dr. Shapiro, the inventor, we then both moved to expand to energetic healing work. We met Peggy Dubro and together we received certification in Electromagnetic Field Balancing techniques. It was the first scientific bases of the Universal Calibration Lattice. The harmonic configuration of light and sound. From there Dr. G got certified in teaching EMF, and sound healing, water purification, the Heart Center Giving and finally it was the Divine light. As Dr. Takooshian said it so well “He is our St. Edmund.” Saint he was.

Edmund was very generous in sharing his knowledge, education, talents, and new things that he learned. He had no judgment towards people, when people took advantage of him, he turned his cheek and moved on helping others. He never got discouraged. We spent hours talking about new modalities. He would, with bright eyes, lit with love, curiosity, and excitement, say “Ani, guess what I learned, I can now just hold you in your heart center, and I could balance your entire energetic system.” In fact, Edmund did exactly that, he helped many students, patients, colleagues, and organizations that he touched with his divine light, he was a mentor and conscientious leader. He was tireless. He worked hard, long, sometimes we talked from 10 pm till 1 am, never realizing how long it had been. His curiosity and growth never stopped till he declared his retirement about 2 years ago.

Dear Edmund, we hold you in our hearts, just like you held us all in yours. May the Divine Light illuminate your path and lift your family with courage and love. May we continue your loving service to others and humanity, may you rest in eternal peace.

Thank you, Edmund!

**E**xceptionally compassionate demeanor,

**D**etermined to give your best

**M**aintaining professionalism with love

**U**nder all challenges you

**N**urtured Healing in our community without

**D**istress or Despair!

We Love you!