

AGBU Hosts Bay Area Viewing of Much-Lauded Saroyan Film

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - Paul Kalinian's award-winning documentary on "William Saroyan: The Man, The Writer" had its premier Bay Area showing Dec. 3rd at St. John's Armenian Church here.

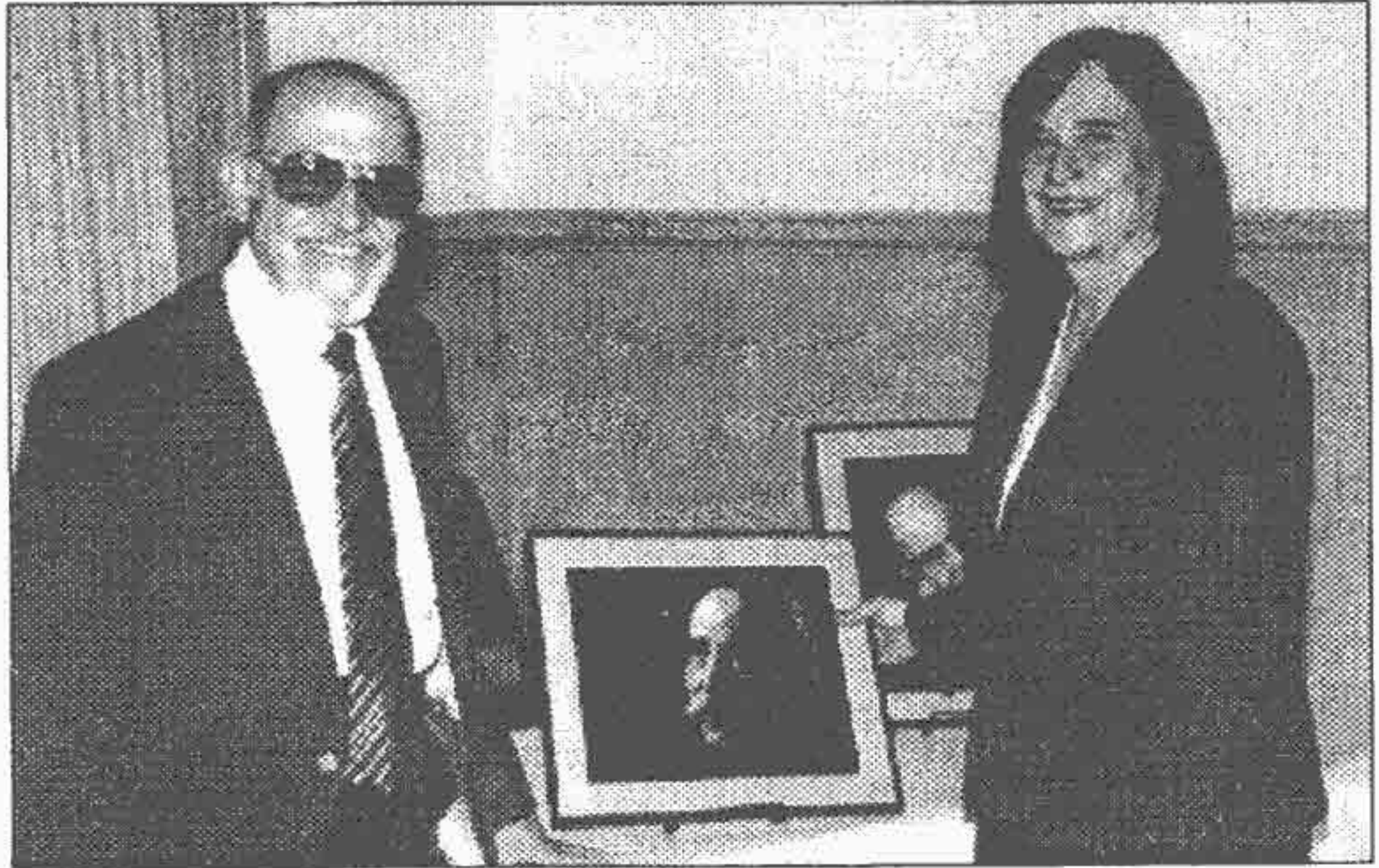
The one-hour film which took six years to complete delves into Saroyan's character and philosophy towards humanity; it is based on biographies of the noted author, his recordings, extensive magazine articles, his own works and, finally, Kalinian's personal interviews with him in Fresno, dating back to 1976.

Kalinian's efforts in creating this revealing documentary were well rewarded as evidenced by the audience's recognition and acclaim for the well-planned presentation. It was sponsored by the San Francisco chapter of the Armenian General Benevolent Union whose chairperson is Ruby Sanoian-Kueffer.

Prior to his introduction of Mr. Kalinian, Professor Armen der Kiureghian, Dean of Engineering at University of California, Berkeley (UCB), spoke about the William Saroyan Chair in Armenian Studies at UCB and noted how public affairs, such as this evening's event, make significant contributions in perpetuating the Endowment.

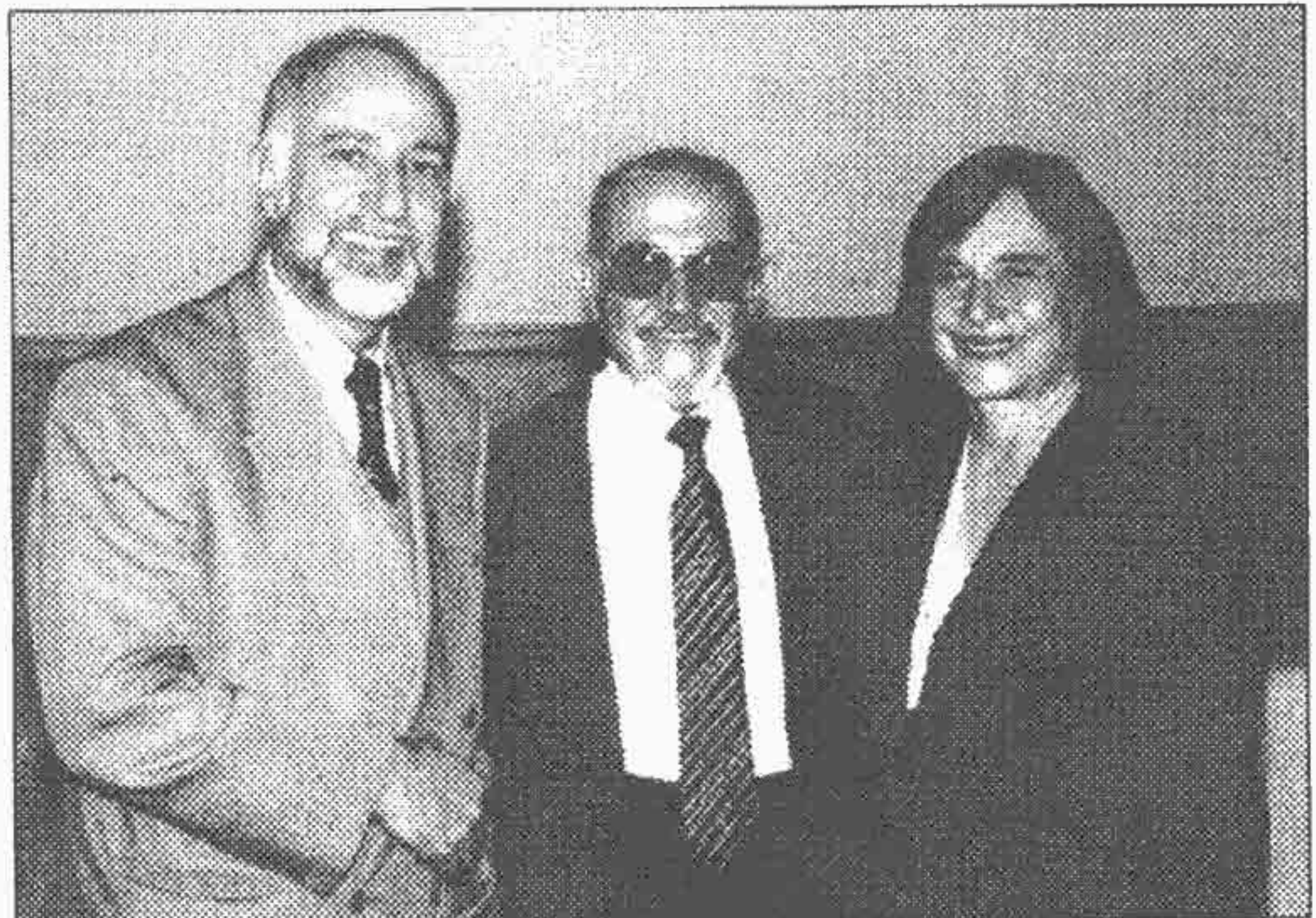
Paul Kalinian was born in Beirut, Lebanon in 1932. The family then migrated to Syria where Kalinian entered the field of photography in Damascus at an early age. In 1967 his family emigrated eventually to Fresno where he operated his own studio.

His dream of photographing William Saroyan came to fruition in 1976 and culminated in the making of a documentary movie. Fresno-



Paul Kalinian and Ruby Sanoian-Kueffer at table on which the photographer's portraits of Saroyan were displayed.

—Photos by Art Sarkisian



L to R: UCB Prof. Armen der Kiureghian, filmmaker Paul Kalinian of Fresno, and AGBU SF chairperson Ruby Sanoian-Kueffer.

born Mike Connors of television fame narrated the film, which has been seen in many US cities.

Kalinian has stated that his purpose in producing the documentary was to help preserve the legacy of Saroyan and his heritage for all fu-

ture generations. Kalinian's work received the finalist award at Houston's International Film Festival and this year took the Gold Award at the Philadelphia International Film Festival.