



Araxi Kabbenjian Bezdjian

17 February 1945 (Nazareth, Palestine) - 03 April 2016 (San Mateo, CA)



Araxi was born in Nazareth, Palestine, to parents Stepan and Lucintak Kabbenjian, with a long, strong Armenian heritage. She grew up with sisters Sona and Sossy, and brothers Ohaness and Dikran. In the United States, she was a dedicated participant in the Daughters of Vartan and the Armenian Apostolic Church.

About 2008, Araxi and her husband, Joe, began participating with great interest in the monthly in-home meetings and public outreach endeavors of the local [Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue](#). They were invited by Palestinian-Israeli participant Raeda Abu Nofal Ashkar, Araxi's friend since childhood in Nazareth, Israel. Araxi and Joe continued with increasing interest, frequently hosting meetings in their beautiful home with an abundance of food and loving hospitality as recently as February, 2016, a month before the discovery of her terminal, widespread colon cancer and surgery. One participant said that the beauty of Araxi's home reflected her soul.

Araxi's last words in bed at home one Sunday morning April were in Armenian, her mother tongue. She spoke of Joe being the best possible husband, and of her satisfaction about their family. Then she closed her eyes for the last time.







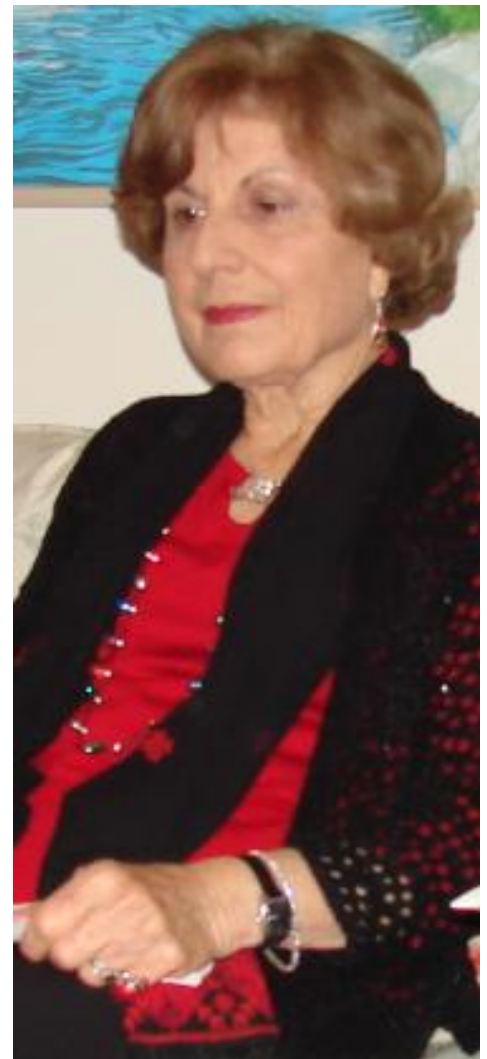


*December
Season of
Light
Community
Celebration*





*May we pass forward the
light of inclusiveness,
hospitality to all, and
generosity as Araxi
lived her full life.*





*I will mostly miss Araxi's loving spirit and
personal, human depth.*

*Neither Palestinian nor Jewish,
Araxi's Armenian family journey in diaspora led her to be
so empathetic with the Palestinian Israelis she grew up with,
and also with the Jewish experience.*

*In her own gentle yet direct manner,
Araxi related to the many challenging stories
shared in our Dialogue meetings.*

*She always provided an abundant array of specialty dishes
representing Armenian and other cultures in her
ever-expanding world.*

~ Libby Traubman



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Reflections

*Oh no! She was such a treasure.
I will miss her very much.*
~ Judy Serebrin

*I am so sad and shocked.
I couldn't sleep while absorbing the sad new.
She and her family are in my prayers.
May God place her soul in the heaven
and grant her family patience.*
~ Mohammed Abufayyad

*I am just speechless and can hardly believe
that beautiful beloved Araxi is suddenly gone.
The beauty of her soul was in every cell of her body
and came through so effortlessly in every word she would speak,
and simply yet elegantly in her remarkable loving beautiful thoughtful resence.
I send my deepest condolences, and blessings for Araxi on her heavenly way.*
~ Jamie Leno Zimron

*Oh! I am so sad! What a dear, dear lady!!
A "gieteh neshumah" (good soul).*
~ Debbie Rekotomalala

*Oh, my!!!! Araxi is gone.
I am in total shock.
I send my deepest condolences to her husband, Joe.
May her soul rest in peace!!*
~ Huda Abu Arquob (Hebron)

*My heart grieves.
I will always remember Araxi as a gracious, elegant lady
who was passionate about her family and her people.
She wanted to help me find an Armenian genocide speaker and
attended my class at Notre Dame de Namur University to hear her speak.
I always looked forward to the Dialogue meetings in her home and
Araxi's delicious home baked goodies she prepared for us,
so beautifully arranged in a sumptuous buffet.
What a loss for her family and her community.*
Miriam Zimmerman

*Araxi Bedzjian was always poised to respond.
 Her eyes, her posture conveyed "I am here, I am present."
 Once I entered a cavernous sanctuary to hear a speaker on Middle East peace.
 Seeing Araxi and Joe in the sea of people, I immediately I felt in the right place.
 The energy of Araxi's spirit is palpable now, as it was before.*
 Molly Freeman

*What sad news.
 Araxi was a very warm and welcoming woman.*
 ~ Lareen Jacobs

*That's sad indeed.
 I remember her fondly as a warm and kind person.
 Please convey my condolences to her family.*
 ~ Amir Mané

*I like to think that Araxi continues her shining journey
 in a way that will allow her to have even greater influence on
 the matters that meant the most to her such as your program.*
 ~ Lucy Grace Yaldezian



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