

## **Armenian Odyssey Dinner (10/16/90)**

Anne and I are delighted to have this opportunity  
to thank Alex and Marie Manoogian personally  
and on behalf of the University.....

And to thank the Manoogian Foundation  
and other members of the family

for their commitment to promoting  
the study of Armenian culture  
at the University of Michigan.

I hope you share our pride in the Armenian Odyssey II  
program which is giving our community  
a unique glimpse of the richly creative and distinctive  
cultural contributions of Armenian life.

At a time when our world is becoming interconnected  
and in some respects more homogeneous,  
it is critically important to appreciate and preserve  
the unique achievements of important groups.

Few peoples have suffered as tragically as the Armenians,  
few have contributed so much talent to the world  
both from their homeland and in their dispersion  
across the globe.

Today, once again Armenians are renewing  
their struggle for freedom.

So it is especially fitting that we in the University  
pause to reflect on the 'Armenian experience,  
learn from it,  
and to be inspired by it.

Your support is the foundation for this program.  
It demonstrates so clearly the critical role  
played by private support.

It is private support that makes the difference.

It is private support such as yours that has helped

make Michigan a great University,  
rather than a merely good one.

Because only private supporters have the creative vision  
and generosity to the future to innovate,  
to reach beyond the ordinary  
to build a unique new strength.

No government committee can do it.  
No budget process.

Only visionary friends of the University  
can help us dream new dreams  
and turn those dreams into reality.

Our program in Armenian studies is the realization  
of such a generous dream.

It is making a truly significant contribution to the University,  
to international scholarship and to public appreciation of Armenian history and culture.

We thank you most sincerely for helping to make it possible.