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**Legendary Armenian Filmmaker to be Honored by San Diego Church**

**San Diego, CA -- January 3, 2006.** Producer/Director Dr. J. Michael Hagopian will make a guest appearance at a St. John Garabed Armenian Apostolic Church luncheon in San Diego Sunday, January 22. Hagopian, co-founder and chairman of the Board of the Armenian Film Foundation based in Thousand Oaks, is to be honored for the past fifty years he has dedicated to documenting the heritage and history of the Armenian people on film.

*Voices From the Lake*, the second full-length documentary in THE WITNESSES trilogy on the Armenian Genocide of 1915, will be shown to luncheon guests. THE WITNESSES project spans over 25 years, incorporating rare archival footage and some of the over 400 eyewitness survivor interviews amassed by Hagopian in 13 countries on 5 continents.

To date, the Armenian Film Foundation has secured funds for 15 internationally award-winning films on different aspects of Armenian heritage produced by Hagopian, copies of which will be available at the event. Master of Ceremonies, Paul Kalemkarian, Sr. of Escondido is a member of the Foundation's Board and long-time staunch supporter of the AFF mission to inspire pride, create worldwide recognition of the Armenian people and their contributions, foster human dignity, and establish understanding and goodwill between Armenians and people of other cultures.

Armenian victims of the Azerbaijan and Karabagh uprising of 1988-1990 will also be honored in a commemoration during the luncheon.

The luncheon program will begin at 12:30. A donation of \$8 will be collected at the door. The church is located at 4473 30<sup>th</sup> Street in San Diego. For more information, contact the church office at 619-284-7179 or the Armenian Film Foundation at 805-495-0717.

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