

A beloved friend.

**Charles was a quiet
unassuming
gentleman dearly
loved by many people
of whom he was
unaware.**

**His contributions to
society will long be
remembered.**



Since 1972, Rochester Area Community Foundation has engaged passionate philanthropists in improving our region, awarding more than \$293 million in grants across our eight-county service area to meet both current and future needs.

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Scholarship Award

CONGRATULATIONS
from the
Armenian Scholarship Fund
of Rochester Area
Community Foundation
in memory of
Charles Churukian



The
Heart Behind
Your Gift

Charles Churukian

Charles Joseph Churukian was born in Rochester in 1928 to Kessabtsis immigrant parents, Joseph Garabed and Christine Anna Aintablian Churukian, who lived in a small mountain village called Kessab along the border of northern Syria.

After completing the bachelor's degree in theology at Gordon College, rather than accepting a pastoral call, Charles remained at home to help with the care of his elderly parents. While doing so, he completed an accredited course in Histologic Technique that created an interest in the medical field. While receiving on-the-job training at a local hospital laboratory, he enrolled in numerous science classes and attended many workshops and scientific seminars to gain necessary education that qualified him to become certified as a histotechnologist by the American Society of Clinical Pathology and to be licensed by the state of New York as a Medical Technologist.

As a profession, Charles concentrated his efforts in the medical field, namely Histology. For a span of 54 years he worked in histology laboratories at Rochester General Hospital, Genesee Hospital, and for 40 of those years, he supervised the Histochemistry Laboratory at University of Rochester Medical Center in the Department of Pathology. Because of his expertise, he traveled to inspect various laboratories in this country for the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences. In 1980, he became a member of and consultant for the Biological Stain Commission: the most prominent agency in the world that certifies dyes for medical, biological and other purposes.

Numerous awards have been granted to him throughout his career. In 1993, he received the *University of Rochester Distinguished Service Award* because of his development of many new and cost-saving methods in the laboratory including innovative staining methods that speed up diagnostic time. Other awards given were the *Golden Forceps Award*, *Journal Of Histotechnology Editors Award*, *Fellow of the New York Society Award*, *J.B. McCormick Award*, *Diamond Cover*

Award and Histotechnologist of the Year Award. For being an innovator and for pioneering the use of the microwave oven for many staining procedures greatly reducing time required, and for presenting the best scientific seminar using microwave technology, he was given the *William J. Hacker Memorial Award*.

Published in the *Journal of Histotechnology* (June issue 1979) is the article on the well-known Churukian-Schenk stain used to demonstrate malignant neuroendocrine tumors. Dr. Eric Schenk, now deceased, was a pathologist, researcher and his mentor at the UR Medical Center. Also developed by Charles was the Strong Fast Stain now used in operating rooms for fast diagnosis, and also in Cytology laboratories to determine the type of cells in various body fluids.

He has authored or co-authored 55 scientific publications and has presented over 100 scientific lectures at conferences and meetings. The Biological Stain Commission distributed his *Manual of Special Stains* to every teaching hospital in United States making his name well-known among pathologists and histotechnologists of this country as well as other countries who purchased his staining manual. With modern technology available, the manual is now available on the web. Until age 80, he presented seminars and workshops at local and state meetings as well as at the annual conference of the National Society for Histotechnology, of which he is a founding member. He is also a founding member of the NY State Society

On August 30, 2010, at age 82, the National Society President surprised him with a telephone call requesting that he return once again and attend the annual conference in Seattle, Sept. 24-28. It was at this conference, he was honored and humbled as he put closure to his public career with the Society when presented with the prestigious award: ***Histotechnologist of the Decade***

His degree in theology provided the education and insight for him to be involved giving spiritual guidance to others. For many years he could be found preaching at the Open Door Mission, serving in leadership roles of various boards at church, and teaching Sunday School classes to adults and children. His book of poetry, *Poems*

for the Spiritual Life, has offered inspiration and spiritual guidance to many people.

His career did not limit his involvement in volunteer service to others-be it religious or secular. Spiritual direction based upon Biblical principles has been his basis offered to young and old alike. For some years he has been counseling weekly with male drug and alcohol addict inmates at the county jail and following up with them after they are released. Helping the homeless and destitute men find clothing at a Store House and serving meals at a Dining Caring Center has given additional opportunities to serve others. Presently, he continues working part-time at the laboratory and does volunteer work as strength and time allows.

Relying on God's strength, guidance, wisdom along with a steadfast faith in God has been his mainstay. Philippians 4:13...always offered much encouragement to him: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

It is the desire of family and friends that His Name will live on as students accept the scholarship established in his memory.

To view our other scholarship funds, visit our website at www.racf.org or contact the Scholarship Program:

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500 East Avenue
Rochester NY 14607-1912

Phone: (585) 341-435
Email: scholarships@racf.org

To make a contribution and help share Charles' passion send a check to The Community Foundation payable to: Armenian Scholarship Fund in memory of Charles Churukian.