

ability and the willingness to communicate in the language of his ancestors which was so alien to him. He was able to unravel all this only when he himself married and became a father. Now he was able to see that his father's tortured soul was the source of all the family conflicts during his childhood, and to understand their impact on his own life. By his own admission, he began to resemble his father in terms of attitude and beliefs. "No doubt as a result of Hagop's influence, I had developed an embryonic sympathy for those marginalized or displaced by forms of systemic power but, like him, was sufficiently cautious to want to escape identification" (80).

Ellen Sarkisian Chesnut, the author of *Deli Sarkis*,⁴⁸ describes how the shadow of the Genocide dominated the atmosphere in her childhood home and created that odd and unpleasant feeling of alienation in her and her three siblings toward their parents, both survivors of the Genocide. Ellen Shakeh was the first child of Sarkis and Evelyn Sarkisian, born in Mosul, Iraq, in 1939. She immigrated to the USA with her parents and baby brother in 1941. Her two sisters were born in America. Ellen was educated in public schools in San Francisco and later taught in the San Francisco Unified School District. She is a multimedia artist, specializing in printmaking and watercolors. Beginning in the late 1980s, she incorporated representations of the suffering of the Armenian people during the Genocide in her artwork.

In an interview conducted in 1993, Ellen said that her mother never liked to talk about the past, although it was

⁴⁸ Ellen Sarkisian Chesnut, *Deli Sarkis: The Scars he Carried, A Daughter Confronts the Armenian Genocide and Tells her Father's Story*, (Minneapolis, MN: Two Harbors Press, 2014).