



THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

Volume LXXXVIII, NO. 20, Issue 4514

\$ 2.00

The First English Language Armenian Weekly in the United States Since 1932

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tekeyan Cultural Association of Greater NY Marks Platinum Anniversary with Gala

By Florence Avakian

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

PARAMUS, N.J. – More than 250 friends and supporters of the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) on Saturday, November 18, celebrated its 70th anniversary in grand style. The event was held under the auspices of Eastern Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian at the Terrace at Biagio's.

Guests included Armenia's Ambassador to the United Nations Zohrab Mnatsakanian and his wife Irina Igitkhanyan, philanthropists and sponsors of this anniversary, Nazar and Artemis Nazarian, and TCA leaders Edmond Azadian and Hagop Kassardjian. Representatives of several organizations were present, including the Armenian Diocese, Armenian Missionary Association of America, Armenia Fund, the Armenian General Benevolent Union and the Armenian National Committee of America.

Following a reception and the singing of the American and Armenian national anthems by Jeny Sarian, the Very Rev. Oshagan Gulgolian of Sts. Sahag and St.



From left, Vartan Ilanjan, Edmond Azadian, Very Rev. Oshagan Gulgolian, Ani Kassardjian, Vartan Nazerian, Berta Baghajian, Amb. Zohrab Mnatsakanian, Daniel Youssefian, Dr. Arshavir Gundjian, Hagop Kassardjian, Hilda Hartounian, Nadia Gundjian and Irina Igitkhanyan

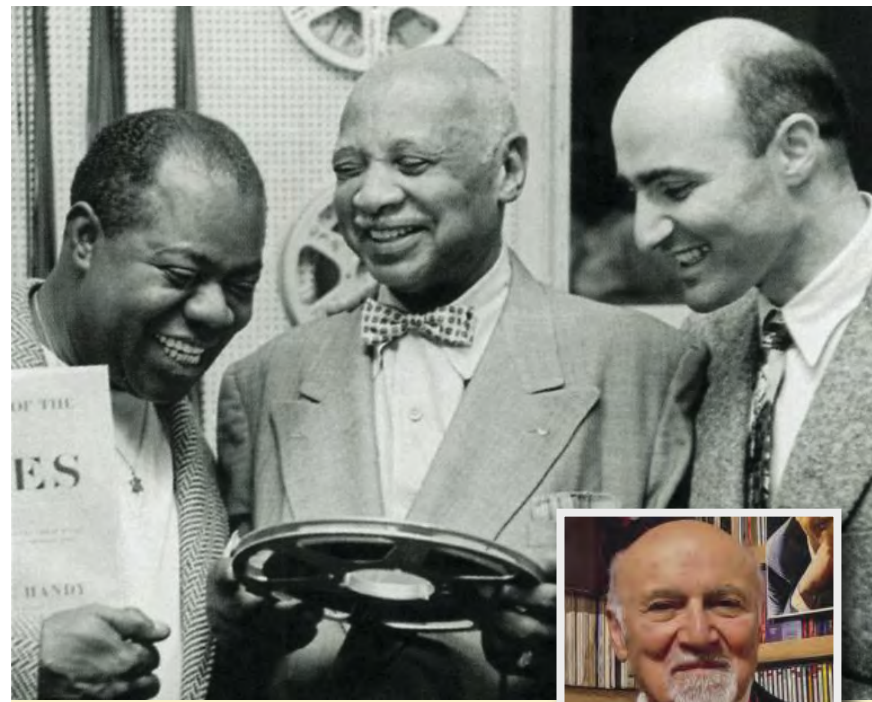
Mesrob Armenian Church of Wynnewood, Penn., offered the invocation, adding, "I am also a Tekeyan member and a graduate of the Vahan Tekeyan School in Beirut."

Jerry Misk, a TCA Greater NY member, was master of ceremonies, offering insight and a unique style.

In warm remarks, Hilda Hartounian,

chairperson of the TCA Greater NY, welcomed all present and stated that members and friends had traveled from Armenia, Lebanon, Egypt, France, Argentina, Canada and throughout the US for this event. She stated that the TCA's "goal and mission has been and always will be to proudly promote

see GALA, page 10



From left, Louis Armstrong, the songwriter W.C. Handy and George Avakian in the 1950s. Mr. Avakian helped popularize the long-playing record and organized the first jazz reissue series, preserving the recorded legacies of Armstrong and other pioneers. (Columbia Records photo)



Legendary Jazz Producer, Talent Scout George Avakian Dies at 98

NEW YORK (*New York Times*) – George Avakian, a record producer and talent scout who played a key role in the early careers of Miles Davis, Dave Brubeck, Keith Jarrett and Bob Newhart, among many others, died on Wednesday, November 22, at his home on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. He was 98.

By Peter Keepnews

His death was confirmed by his daughter, Anahid Avakian Gregg.

Over the course of a career that began when he was in college, Avakian was involved in virtually every facet of the music industry. He helped popularize the long-playing record; organized the first jazz reissue series, preserving the recorded legacies of Louis Armstrong and other pioneers; and introduced Édith Piaf to American audiences.

see AVAKIAN, page 6

EU, Armenia Sign Landmark Agreement

BRUSSELS (Combined Sources) – The European Union and Armenia signed an agreement aimed at significantly deepening their relations at a ceremony here on Friday, November 24, held on the sidelines of the Eastern Partnership Summit.

Signatures to the document entitled the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) were put by High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini and Armenia's Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian.

The signing ceremony took place in the presence of European Council President Donald Tusk and Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan.

see AGREEMENT, page 2

Martin Luther and The Armenians

By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

BOCHUM-LINDEN, Germany – This year 2017 Germans celebrated the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Dubbed as "Luther Year," it hosted hundreds of commemorative events, lectures, special church services, festivities, concerts and exhibitions throughout the country.

Few would have thought that "Armenia in Luther Year" could have been among the celebrations. And yet, on November 11, the Evangelical Church in Bochum-Linden hosted just such a festive gathering. Together

see LUTHER, page 4

Hayastan All-Armenian Fund's Telethon Raises More than \$12 Million

LOS ANGELES – The annual Thanksgiving Day fundraiser by the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund Telethon raised more than \$12.5 million that it plans to mostly spend on the support of agricultural-development projects in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Armenian Fund raised almost \$15.5 million during last year's televised fundraiser earmarked for the reconstruction of war-ravaged communities in Nagorno-Karabakh and other local infrastructure projects.

The focus of the 2017 telethon is support for two major agricultural-development projects in Nagorno-Karabakh: the drilling of deep-water wells and construction of irrigation networks; and the installation of solar power stations.

An anonymous Armenian-American entrepreneur made the single largest donation of \$2.5 million. He was followed by Russian-Armenian tycoon Samvel Karapetian, who donated \$2.25 million. Armenia's Copper-Molybdenum Plant donated \$350,000, Armenia-based business owner Samvel Aleksanian contributed \$200,000 for the cause and the Vardanian family donated \$125,000. The Valex Group donated \$100,000. Several families from the United States, Iran and Armenia provided hefty donations ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Thousands of Armenians from around the world also made smaller contributions, ranging from a few dollars to several thousand dollars.

In recent years the fund has partly financed the construction of a second 116-kilometer-long highway connecting Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia.

Vatican Stamp Depicts Pope Francis Before Yerevan Genocide Memorial

VATICAN CITY (Public Radio of Armenia) – The Vatican issued stamps last month commemorating the Pope's 2016 trips. Designed by Daniela Longo, one the stamps depicts Pope Francis in front of the Armenian Genocide Memorial in Yerevan.

Pope Francis visited the Tsitsernakaberd Memorial on June 25, 2016 accompanied by Armenia's President Serzh Sargsyan and Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II.

Within the framework of a three-day visit to Armenia Pope Francis denounced the "ideologically twisted, planned genocide of Armenians starting in 1915."

The stamp series commemorate the Pope's 2016 trips to Mexico, Poland, Greece, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Sweden.

INSIDE

Watertown of Yore

Page 12

INDEX

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Arts and Living | 14 |
| Armenia | 2 |
| Community News. | 5 |
| Editorial | 18 |
| International | 3,4 |



ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Armenia Ready to Increase Trade with Iran

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Prime Minister of Armenia Karen Karapetyan received on November 28 the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Greeting the guest, Karapetyan noted that Armenia-Iran relations are on a high level, and the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two states is being marked this year.

Karapetyan particularly noted that Armenia and Iran have great potential to develop trade and economic partnership and despite this year's increase in export-import, the current indicators do not reflect the real potential for the development of bilateral economic relations.

"I am very happy Armenian-Iranian business forum opened in Yerevan today, while the session of the Armenian-Iranian intergovernmental joint commission is scheduled in December. In October I had a rather promising visit to Iran and we reached agreements over developing partnership in various fields. The Government of Armenia is extremely interested and is ready to raise trade turnover to a new level," Karapetyan said.

Zarif noted, "Your visit to Iran was very important and was a success. We perceive Armenia as a good neighbor. Our relations have a much longer history than 25 years, and those relations are a valuable capital for the two states, from which we should be able to derive benefits."

First Stage of Meghri Free Trade Zone to Open December 15

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The opening of the first stage of Meghri's free trade zone scheduled for December 15.

A delegation led by Minister of Economic Development and Investments of Armenia Suren Karayan visited the Meghri free trade zone this week. Karayan toured the region accompanied by Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister of Armenia Gagik Martirosyan.

Karayan got acquainted with the construction works of the first stage of Meghri free trade zone and the existing problems, giving adequate instructions on site. The works are in the completion phase.

Armenia to Host Francophonie Summit

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) – Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian of Armenia discussed the country's plans and preparations for the Yerevan Summit of La Francophonie during the Brussels gathering of the Eastern Partnerships Program last week.

Armenia is set to host the 2018 Summit of the International Organization of La Francophonie (IOF) which is a major event that would bring to Yerevan numerous high-level delegations from Francophone countries. By a Decree of the president of the Republic, an Interagency Commission, headed by the prime minister of Armenia, was created for coordination of preparations for the Summit.

According to the preliminary schedule, the summit will be held on October 11-12, 2018. October 7 is scheduled for the Permanent Council of La Francophonie, October 8-9 for the sessions of the Francophonie Ministerial Conference.

"We would like to continue the Madagascar Summit initiative and encourage the participation of youth in the meetings of statutory bodies of La Francophonie to be held in Yerevan. We would like for this high-level meeting to become a major unifying event through cultural programs, among memorable events of which will be the gala concert with the participation of prominent French-speaking singers scheduled for October 11," Nalbandian said.

The general theme of the summit, is suggested as "Living Together."

"We are convinced that it can contribute to the further strengthening of unity of our societies," the minister explained.

EU, Armenia Sign Landmark Agreement

AGREEMENT, from page 1

In her remarks after the signing of the document Mogherini said that the CEPA "is based on our common commitment to democracy, human rights and rule of law."

"This agreement is the first of this kind that is concluded with a party that is also a member of the Eurasian Economic Union. It will now be very important to implement it," the EU's foreign policy chief said.

Nalbandian, for his part, described the "wide-ranging and ambitious document" as "our joint endeavor that opens a new chapter in the bilateral relations between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union."

"The Agreement establishes a solid legal basis for strengthening the political dialogue, broadening the scope of economic and sectoral cooperation, creating a framework for new opportunities in trade and investments and increased mobility for the benefit of our citizens," the top Armenian diplomat said.

According to Nalbandian, "it is important that the Agreement reaffirms the stated commitment of the European Union to support the efforts and approaches of the Co-Chairs of the [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] OSCE Minsk Group for the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict based on the norms and principles of international law, in particular, non-use of force or threat of force, equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and territorial integrity."

"Armenia is determined to further develop and strengthen a comprehensive cooperation with the EU in all

areas of mutual interest based on this Agreement," Nalbandian stressed.

The ceremony became one of the focal points of the EU's Eastern Partnership summit that brought together the leaders of six Eastern European and South Caucasus nations in the Belgian capital on November 24.

Since the launch of the Eastern Partnership program in 2009 Russia has regarded it as a potential threat to its geopolitical interests in the post-Soviet territory.

In the case with Armenia, officials in both Yerevan and Brussels have repeatedly stated that the deal does not contradict Yerevan's allied relations with Moscow nor jeopardize Armenia's membership in the Eurasian Economic Union, a Russian-led trade bloc that also includes Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Russian pressure exerted on Yerevan is widely believed to have scuttled a more ambitious Association Agreement which Armenia and the EU nearly finalized in 2013. President Sargsyan precluded that accord with his unexpected decision to join the Russian-led customs union less than three months before the planned initialing of the document.

Russian Ambassador to Armenia Ivan Volynkin told local Arminfo news agency that "Armenia is a sovereign nation" and "has the right to participate in any pacts and associations that do not breach its existing commitments."

Meanwhile, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who also attended the summit in Brussels, acknowledged Russia's "central role" in countries like Armenia and Azerbaijan as she spoke to Deutsche Welle earlier on Friday.

Unlike the Association Agreement that Yerevan negotiated but did not sign with Brussels four years ago, the CEPA does not make Armenia part of a "deep and comprehensive free trade area" with the EU. Still, the 350-page document commits Yerevan to "approximating" Armenian economic laws and regulations to those of the European Union.

The new EU-Armenia agreement will open new doors and give a new quality to the relations between the bloc and the country, European Union's ambassador to Armenia Piotr Switalski said on November 27, adding that he is "very optimistic" about the deal.

"We are now focused on working to have the agreement implemented in the best possible way," Switalski said.

Under the agreement, Armenia takes up a number of responsibilities, including anti-corruption fight, judicial reforms, free competitive relations for business.

Switalski also announced that the EU plans to provide Armenia with up to 170 million euros (\$200 million) in fresh economic aid by 2020. "But this does not include those opportunities that have been opened up by this agreement," he said. "I hope that we will be able to use those funds very efficiently."

Speaking at Friday's signing ceremony in Brussels, the EU's foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, said the CEPA "will broaden the scope of our relations." "It will now be important to implement it in full, so it can deliver its full benefits," she said. "We will work together on implementation and on monitoring the implementation we will bring forward."

US Embassy launches Armenian translation of best-selling novel *Out of My Mind*

YEREVAN – On November 28, in support of Armenia's efforts to move toward a fully inclusive education system, and as part of the US Embassy's program to bring select American literature to Armenian audiences, the Armenian version of *New York Times* bestselling novel *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper was presented at the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) center.

With Draper leading a discussion of her writing process, her motivations in creating the story of Melody (a brilliant 11-year-old girl with cerebral palsy, which makes communication very difficult) and her experience as an educator herself, audience members also had the opportunity to ask their own questions and share their experiences with the author.

The book is recommended for children ages 10 and up and for grades 5-8.

"A story like this reveals the heart of those students, like Melody, who are being welcomed in classrooms all around Armenia," said US Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Rafik Mansour at the launch. The book's message of compassion and appreciation for the unique talents of all members of society resonated deeply with those who have already read the book. Copies will be available for the general public at the US Embassy and at its American Corners in Yerevan, Charentsavan, Kapan, Gyumri and Vanadzor, along with select university libraries. Copies will also be distributed to NGOs working on social inclusion projects, educators attending the workshops, and more.

Draper will also be meeting with faculty and students at various Armenian educational institutions to share her experiences and learn more about Armenian educational approaches to

social inclusion. She will lead a creative writing workshop for young writers, and hold discussions with teachers.

Draper is a professional educator and English teacher, as well as an accomplished writer. She has been honored as the National Teacher of the Year, is a

five-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Literary Awards, and is a *New York Times* bestselling author.

Out of My Mind was translated by Professor Armenuhi Avagyan, PhD, and published by Asoghik Publishing House in Yerevan.



Conductor Constantine Orbelian with the late opera singer Dmitri Hvorostovsky

Orbelian and Hvorostovsky Recording Nominated for Grammy

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) – Armenian-American conductor Constantine Orbelian has been nominated for Grammy Award together with the late Russian opera singer Dmitri Hvorostovsky.

Constantine Orbelian conducted the St. Petersburg State Symphony Orchestra and the Russian folk music ensemble Style of Five for Dmitri Hvorostovsky's latest album "Russia Cast Adrift," which will compete for a Grammy in the "Best Classical Solo Vocal Album" nomination.

"Russia Cast Adrift" is the world premiere orchestral recording of neo-romantic composer Georgy Sviridov's song cycle set to the vivid and moving poetry of Sergei Yesenin.

Another album featuring Constantine Orbelian featuring American tenor Lawrence Brawnlee singing with the Kaunas City Symphony Orchestra, was nominated for a Grammy in 2015.

The Recording Academy announced the 2018 Grammy nominations on November 28. The awards ceremony will be held at New York's Madison Square Garden on January 28.



INTERNATIONAL

Aurora Dialogues on Global Refugee Crisis to Be Held in Berlin

BERLIN – “Millions on The Move: Need for Development and Integration,” a conference spearheaded by Aurora Dialogues Berlin, is intended to explore how the European Union, and Germany, can contribute to humanitarian solutions by supporting development and integration. It will be held on December 4-5, at the Robert Bosch Stiftung Representative Office here. The conference is a joint effort of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative, the Stiftung Mercator, the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the Global Perspectives Initiative.

The program of the discussions will cover the root causes of the refugee crisis and the efficiency of varying responses to it such as humanitarian relief, education and social integration.

“If we accept flight and migration for what they are: a joint humanitarian obligation – there is no doubt that we can overcome the issues together. People are not born refugees, but are made refugees. They flee violence and persecution; they flee out of fear for their lives. Being a refugee means being vulnerable and having to put your trust in the help of others,” said Norbert Lammert, former president of Bundestag.

“It is significant that Aurora Dialogues, as an important international platform for thought provoking discussion on some of the most pressing humanitarian challenges, is expanding its geography,” said Ruben Vardanyan

on behalf of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative co-founders. “We began in Yerevan, to put into action our gratitude to those who saved Armenians during that mass movement of people, after the genocide, in 1915. Today, we are in Berlin, in grateful partnership with those who are doing so very much to raise awareness about today’s immense problems and seeking solutions. We will take the learnings from the past conferences and continue to set ground for discussions in different locations around the world.”

The speakers of the Aurora Dialogues Berlin – humanitarians, academics, philanthropists and business leaders – will address the state of the global migration crisis and look at the role of different state and non-state actors, as well as development programs and solutions that can make a difference.

“The Robert Bosch Stiftung is pleased to welcome humanitarian, civil society and business leaders in Berlin. Our aim is to expand our focus and activities in the areas of migration, integration and inclusion in Germany and Europe. Therefore, we are looking forward to different perspectives aiming to identify solutions and facilitate action in society,” said Prof. Joachim Rogall, president and CEO of the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

“Our partnership and Aurora Dialogues Berlin will bring unique expertise and a solution-oriented

approach to the current migration crisis through more sustainable and comprehensive development and integration policies. I believe this is an important step for bringing humanitarian crises to the world’s attention,” said Ingrid Hamm, founder and CEO of Global Perspectives Initiative.

“Open-mindedness, respect and tolerance are at the heart of our canon of values. Especially when facing complex challenges like migration and integration these values need to be upheld. Through our partner organization, the Expert Council of German Foundations on Integration and Migration, Stiftung Mercator aims to contribute to an informed public debate and policies that are based on the best available evidence. Aurora Dialogues Berlin brings together perspectives from a variety of fields, which all are relevant to addressing the multi-faceted nature of these issues,” said Winfried Kneip, executive director of Stiftung Mercator.

In keeping with the spirit of the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity, the Aurora Dialogues shine a light on the people who are working to address today’s atrocities in a real and substantial manner and seek to identify ideas that will deliver tangible change. Now in its third year, the Dialogues encourage collaborative conversations to explore the importance of learning from the past, acting in the present, and fostering a better future.

Judge Hints Turkish Government Contacted People Involved in US Trial of Accused Crook

By Katie Zavadski

NEW YORK (Daily Beast) – Jury members for a high-profile trial relating to Turkey’s evasion of US sanctions on Iran will not be named in court, a federal judge suggested on November 21.

Judge Richard Berman took the unusual step of suggesting concealing jurors’ identities after noting that individuals involved in the case have been contacted by “third parties” seeking to interfere with the trial of accused Turkish sanctions violators.

“I guess it’s hearsay for sure, but I’ve heard of people involved in this case being approached inappropriately by third parties. And that even includes court interpreters,” Berman said, implying that the individuals represented Turkish government interests. He added that he will refer such behavior “to the appropriate authorities” if it continues.

At issue is a case whose tentacles reach to the very highest levels of the US and Turkish presidential administrations. Reza Zarrab, a Turkish-Iranian gold trader, is accused of orchestrating a scheme that would allow Turkey to buy Iranian gas in violation of US sanctions. Prosecutors say Zarrab co-defendant, Mehmet Atilla, worked at a Turkish state-owned bank and helped conceal those plans. They are charged with conspiracy to commit bank fraud and violating US sanctions.

Before the trial was set to begin next week, the case took an unusual turn. Zarrab’s attorneys have stopped public filings in the case, and Atilla’s lawyers have indicated they believe Zarrab is no longer a defendant. As The Daily Beast reported last week, there are some indications that Zarrab is potentially cooperating with another criminal investiga-

tion into former national security advisor Michael Flynn, who allegedly discussed a \$15 million plot to free Zarrab and kidnap an exiled Turkish cleric living in Pennsylvania, Fethullah Gulen, for the Turkish government.

Meanwhile, the Turkish government, including President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, is concerned because the Zarrab trial arises from the same

actions as a government corruption scandal in 2013. Top-level ministers were implicated for taking bribes in the corruption probe, and an audio tape surfaced allegedly showing Erdogan telling one of his sons to hide money.

The revelations about attempted interference in the Zarrab trial come amid a concerted media blitz by Turkish state-controlled media to taint the public image of the case. Media reports by state-owned publications say the US prosecution is orchestrated by Fethullah Gulen, the cleric living in exile who was a one-time Erdogan ally, and has now become a popular Turkish scapegoat.

Turkish media has accused Judge Berman and Preet Bharara, the former US Attorney for the Southern District of New York where Zarrab is indicted, of being linked to Gulen. They’ve claimed the US criminal case is simply a duplicate of the 2013 charges, which the Turkish government says were fabricated by Gulenist sympathizers to bring down Erdogan.

Most recently, Turkish prosecutors have launched an investigation in Bharara and his successor, Acting US

Attorney Joon Kim, and demanded to know how they acquired evidence to be used in the prosecution. They have also implied that Zarrab is being denied access to legal counsel.

“I am aware that there is a lot of press coverage of this case and a lot comment on the media,” Berman, the judge, said Tuesday. “I certainly believe, as I’m sure you do, in free speech.”



Reza Zarrab

Instead of playing “armchair quarterback” through the media, Berman suggested that Turkish authorities concerned about the case against Atilla cooperate with his defense team and make witnesses available for questioning.

Defense lawyers, however, initially objected to Berman’s suggestion for anonymizing the jury, saying the unusual step would be “highly prejudicial” and imply that Atilla was a threat to their safety.

“There have been no written threats, as far as I’m aware, especially from Mr. Atilla,” said Victor Rocco, a defense attorney.

“Safety wasn’t even on my radar,” Berman countered. “I’m concerned with the integrity of these proceedings.”

International News

Armenia Re-elected as UNESCO Member

YEREVA (Public Radio of Armenia) – Armenia has been re-elected as member of the UNESCO Committee on Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict for the period of 2017-2021.

Ten countries were competing for six vacant seats in the Committee. The six countries elected as a result of voting include Italy (48 votes), Armenia (44 votes), Cambodia (43 voters), Japan (42 votes), El Salvador (39 votes), Egypt (32 votes).

The statutory meetings for the 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two 1954 and 1999 Protocols is taking place in Paris on November 27-30.

The Committee is composed of 12 state parties to the Second Protocol to The Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

Smbatyan to Conduct Malta Philharmonic

VALETTA, Malta (Public Radio of Armenia) – On December 15, the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra will perform headed by the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia Sergey Smbatyan. The concert will take place at Valletta’s St. George’s Square.

The first half of the concert will feature two works by the great Romantic-era composer, Felix Mendelssohn, starting with the Overture to A Midsummer Night’s Dream which he wrote when he was just 17.

This will be followed up by Mendelssohn’s only violin concerto. Acclaimed violinist Esther Yoo will be the soloist, performing on a 1704 Stradivarius, which has been lent to her by a private collector.

The music from what is arguably the world’s most popular ballet – Tchaikovsky’s “The Nutcracker” – will be the highlight of the concert.

Smbatyan and the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra have worked together before. This year the orchestra performs headed by Smbatyan for the second time.

The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, founded in 1968, celebrates its 50th anniversary next year and is the leading musical collective of the country, the bearer and the developer of the traditions of the Maltese performing art. It has annually about 70 concerts in Malta, as well as tours in other countries

Sharmazanov Praises Armenian Participation In World War II

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (Armenpress) – The Armenian parliamentary delegation led by Vice Speaker Eduard Sharmazanov visited the Piskaryovskoye Memorial Cemetery on November 28. He put a wreath on the monument eternalizing the memory of the victims of Leningrad Blockade during the years of World War II, also known as the Great Patriotic War, and paid tribute to the memory of the innocent victims.

The Armenian parliamentarians also laid flowers on the monument eternalizing the memory of the Armenians who sacrificed their lives for the defense of Leningrad. The members of the delegation highlighted the contribution of the Armenian people to the victory in the Great Patriotic War.

Sharmazanov noted, “The victory in the Great Patriotic War is not only the greatest victory of our friendly Russian people, but also of the Armenian people. Hundreds of thousands of Armenians left for the front line during the first days of the war. I am the grandson of Soviet soldier Petros Avagyan, who voluntarily left for the front line and I am proud that my grandfather was among those who shaped the heroic victory of Stalingrad.

“Thousands of Armenians defended Leningrad from fascism. The skies of Leningrad were defended by Nelson Stepanyan, the sea by Admiral Isakov, the Hermitage by Hovsep Orbeli, and the cultural life by Vahram Papazyan. The contribution of hero Armenians in overcoming the Leningrad Blockade and in victory of Great Patriotic War is indubitable.”



INTERNATIONAL

Martin Luther and the Armenians

LUTHER, from page 1

with the Armenisch-Akademischer Verein 1860 e.V., the oldest Armenian association in Germany, the Church of Christ parish presented a program of lectures and music. Pastor Rolf Schuld, who coined the title, spoke of the connection between two themes that are very close to his heart. In his welcoming remarks, he pointed to the warm relationship his parish has developed with Armenia over many years. Since the construction of the bronze sculpture, "Ode to Peace - Pulsar" by artist Albert Vardanyan in 2006, this Protestant parish feels so closely bound to Armenia that, especially over the past years, various concerts, exhibitions and other events commemorating April 24 have taken place in the community center, in cooperation with the AAV. And the parish is also known in Armenia: outside the Berlin Art Hotel in Gyumri, which hosts artistic activities, one can admire the same statue representing "Pulsar" - an ode to peace. Sculptor Vardanyan comes from Gyumri.

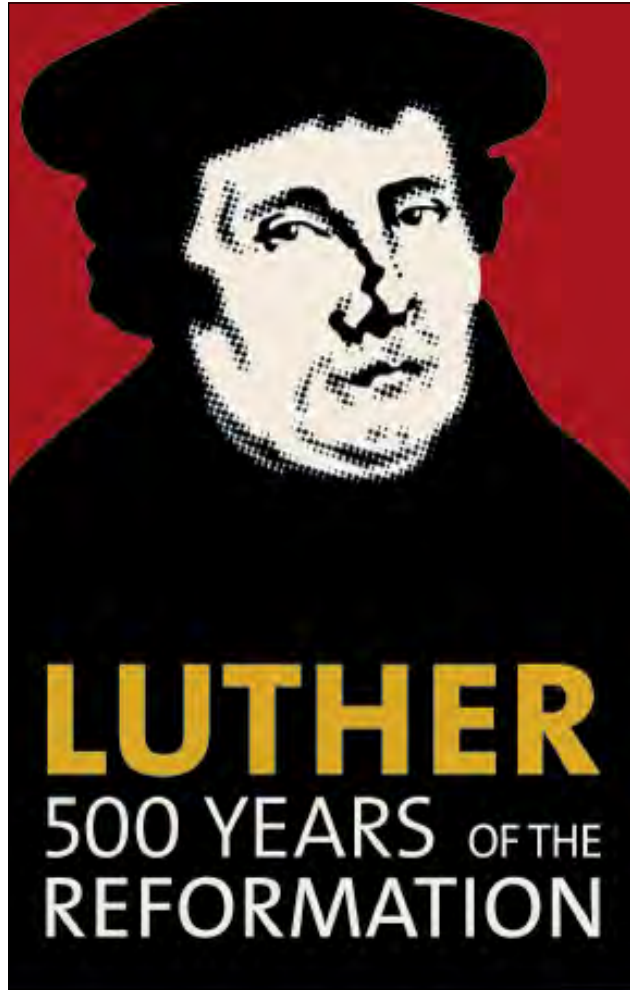
Luther in Mesrop's Footsteps...

The intimate links between Armenia and Luther reach back centuries, as Prof. Armenuhi Drost-Abarjan illustrated in a wonderful address titled, "Invention of the Armenian Alphabet and Bible Translations in the Mother Tongue in the 5th century."

Drost-Abarjan is professor of Armenian Studies at the Halle-Wittenberg University.

Since "Luther Year" has been recognized as a celebration not only of the German Reformer, but of Christianity as a whole, it is fitting to consider other figures as well, whether co-thinkers or forerunners, whether relatively unknown or world famous.

In this context one must place the figure of the great Mesrop Mashtots (360-440) who, almost 1,100 years before Luther, translated the Bible into the vernacular, thus contributing to the development of an Armenian national literature. But, she added, it is not only in this



A stamp commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation

pioneering work of language creation that they are similar; there are also cultural, political and religious aspects that are comparable. Both fought to defend their "heathen tongues" - Armenian and German - in contrast to the sacred languages of the scriptures.

Drost-Abarjan noted that the early

Reformers, in establishing their own theological stances and concepts of the church, looked to the experience of the autocephalous churches, those that had become independent of the Roman or Byzantine churches. When they sent envoys to the Orient, to contact representatives of the autocephalous churches, they soon became aware of the Armenians, who had translated the Bible into Armenian (grapar) in the 5th century, using the alphabet invented by Mesrop. In 1520 Luther wrote about the "Greeks and many others who hold mass in their own languages," and Thomas Münzer, his contemporary and comrade-in-arms, mentions the Armenians by name as among these "many others." The methods used by Mesrop and by Luther, to conduct the necessary research to craft a vernacular were also strikingly similar, Drost-Abarjan showed.

She sketched a concise yet thorough overview of the history of the Armenian language, stressing the role it has played in shaping the political, economic, social as well as religious and cultural life of the people. Thus, it became clear why Armenians attribute such a profound and emotional meaning to the language and the church, and how a veritable "book cult" could develop, as institutions like the Matenadaran testify.

And with the language of the church came

music: it was a happy coincidence that the talented soprano Lusine Arakelyan from Gyumri and Yerevan was in Germany at the time, and could accept the invitation to perform at the event. Singing a cappella, she presented by Mesrop Mashtots the sharanagan Megha Kes Ter and by Komitas Krunk. Her rich, powerful delivery overwhelmed the audience. "When have we ever heard such singing here?" asked one listener, "A voice that sends tremors through you."

Prof. Ute Gause, professor of evangelical theology (Church History) at the Ruhr University in Bochum, then spoke on "The Significance of Martin Luther's Bible Translation into German," the sensational achievement which has been at the center of this year's celebrations. As a musical tribute, soprano Andrea Kampmann sang chorales from Martin Luther, accompanied on the piano by Martina Fleischer.

In his concluding remarks, Azat Ordukhanyan, president of the AAV, spoke about the activities that his association has organized in the Church of Christ in Bochum. These included the commemoration of the 500,000 Armenian victims of World War II, and the planting of 155 trees that he had brought from Armenia to Bochum in 2015. They have been planted in various locations, including the graveyard for war prisoners and forced laborers in the Bochum cemeteries, the Jewish cemetery and in front of museums and schools. In 2015, he noted, it was the first time that a German institution had commemorated the victims of the genocide, "The Friends of Nature from Bochum-Linden". (See "Armenian Trees Planted in Germany to Bear Fruits of Friendship and Reconciliation," May 25, 2015 and "Armenia and Germany Renew a Thousands-Year-Old Friendship," September 17, 2015).

(Material for this article was provided by Heide Rieck-Wotke, a co-organizer of the event.)

SOAR Hosts Forum in Switzerland

GENEVA - The Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR), the only non-profit organization whose singular mission is to provide humanitarian assistance to orphaned Armenians worldwide, hosted the inaugural "Child Protection in Armenia" Forum in Geneva, Switzerland, on November 17. The forum preceded SOAR's Eastern Hemisphere Chapter Meetings on November 18 and 19.

Several years ago, the Armenian government committed to a plan of deinstitutionalization, whereby institutionalized children housed in both state orphanages and boarding schools were made eligible for reunification. In

response to this mandate, SOAR created its Services to Children in their Own Homes (SCOH) Fund, which assists previously institutionalized children at serious risk for reinstitutionalization through home-based services. SOAR staff members work with families to set goals and build on strengths to create a safe and stable home environment for the children.

Because there are multiple key stakeholders in the child protection arena in Armenia, SOAR offered to host the inaugural "Child Protection in Armenia" Forum to bring together child protection experts and interested parties to address the emergent needs of institutionalized and recently reunified children. Attendees included SOAR's Executive Board Chairman, George S. Yacoubian, Jr., SOAR staff from Armenia (Hripsime Muradyan, Alina Karapetyan, and Zoya Torosyan); Mother Arousiag Sajonian (Our Lady of Armenia Center); Ashot Kocharyan (SOS Children's Villages, Armenia); Jane Buchanan (Human Rights Watch); Jeffrey Paretchan and Ani Manukyan (USAID); Artak Shakaryan and Aaron Greenberg (UNICEF); Hana Solarova (Lumos); Mihra Antonyan (FAR); Ryan Hanlon (National Council on Adoption); Robin Sizemore (SOAR and Hopscotch Adoptions); Varduhi Sahakyan (Armenian Embassy in Geneva); Lou and Yolanda Mazzola (Gulamerian Armenian Orphan Fund); and Chapter Presidents and representatives from 21 SOAR Chapters around the world.

Today, SOAR aids approximately 2,000 orphaned Armenians across 38 institutions in Armenia, Artsakh, Istanbul, Javakhk, Lebanon and Syria. Headquartered in the suburbs of Philadelphia, SOAR has more than 400 volunteers in 115 Chapters and 6 Junior groups around the world.

For more information about SOAR, visit www.soar-us.org.



LONDON - Haro Bedelian, trustee of the Armenian House, London, on November 10 received the insignia of Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, CBE, a grade within the British order of chivalry, from Prince William for services to Engineering and Charity.

Prof. Bedelian, Past Executive Vice President of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations, was awarded the CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. The award was presented to him by Prince William at a Ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

Bedelian is an independent consultant, formerly deputy chief executive of Balfour Beatty and chief executive of Transmanche Link, the Anglo French Channel Tunnel Contractor.

He has been a vice president of the Institution of Civil Engineers and is a fellow and past council member of the Royal Academy of Engineering. He is a Visiting Professor of Civil Engineering at Portsmouth University and an Honorary Fellow of St. Catharine's College, Cambridge University.

12 Die in Batumi Hotel Fire

BATUMI, Georgia (Armenpress) - A fire broke out on Friday, November 25 night at Hotel Leogrand, the Georgian Interior Ministry said. The report indicated that identification of the dead was underway. Somewhat earlier, the ministry had put the number of the dead at 12.

Participants in Miss Georgia 2017 beauty pageant made up most of the customers staying at the hotel at the time of the accident.

The ministry said the rescuers and hotel staff had managed to evacuate more than 100 people from the building, including guests and hotel employees. Spokespeople for the directorate of the beauty pageant said that all the 20 contestants were having dinner at the hotel at the time the blaze broke out.

Community News

St. Nersess Seminary Campus Donors Honored

ARMONK, N.Y. — On a brisk autumn evening on November 10, more than 75 guests gathered at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary for the consecration of an exterior cross, two dedications and a celebratory dinner. It was also the one-year anniversary of the consecration of the Armonk campus by Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians.

Before a crowd of naming donors, board members, seminary faculty and staff, seminarians and clergy, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese and President of the St. Nersess Board of Directors, blessed and consecrated the new exterior cross as part of the seminary's campus. The cross was donated by Carol DerBoghossian in memory of Artur Kosian.

Following the consecration, the guests walked to the Founders Garden which was donated by the late Deacon Charles Pinajian and his wife, Grace. The latter was present with her son and daughter, Paul Pinajian and Lynn Beylerian and her family, and together they witnessed the archbishop officially dedicate and bless the garden, which honors the late Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, the founder of St. Nersess. Lynn Beylerian later shared her feelings about the evening, saying: "We are so proud of our new St. Nersess Seminary campus and happy to have been able to help. This evening was a wonderful tribute to many. Our sincere gratitude to Der Mardiros [Chevian] for his outstanding leadership."

Finally, the guests traveled to the Faculty and Guest Apartments in the Hekimian Building, where Apartment 2 was dedicated and blessed by the Primate. This studio apartment was donated by George Papalian and his late wife, Catherine. Papalian was present with his son, Richard, for the ribbon cutting and blessing.

Following the consecration and dedications, everyone gathered in the Arsen Keleshian Dining Hall for a reception before making their way to the Theological Center atrium where dinner was served. The Rev. Mardiros Chevian, dean of the seminary, welcomed the guests and thanked the naming donors for their contributions to St. Nersess. "If not for you, we would not be where we are today," he commented.

see SEMINARY, page 8



Abp. Khajag Barsamian consecrating the new exterior cross.



Armenian Assembly Capital Region Council Co-Chair Doris George, Armenian Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny, Armenian Ambassador to the US Grigor Hovhannissian with his wife Victoria, Armenian Assembly Board Member Annie Totah, Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie of Ethiopia, Armenian Assembly Capital Region Council Co-Chair Clara Andonian, and Artsakh Permanent Representative to the US Robert Avetisyan with his wife Elvina

Ethiopian Prince Praises Ethiopia-Armenia Relations at Assembly Holiday Reception

WASHINGTON — The Armenian Assembly of America and its Capital Region Council hosted its Annual Holiday Reception this month, with special guest Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie of Ethiopia. Prince Ermias spoke highly of the bilateral relations between Ethiopia and Armenia that dates back centuries.

"At this point, it is both important and gratifying to know our two people — Ethiopia and Armenia — have been colleagues longer than most of the nations on this planet. Indeed, the Imperial Family has taken note of the active trade and civil relationships between Ethiopians and Armenians, extending back to the 3rd Century AD. Moreover, Armenians and Ethiopians share a rich and historic connection as members of the same branch of Orthodox Christianity, as well as perhaps lesser known stories of the invaluable Armenian contributions to Ethiopian history," Prince Ermias said.

Prince Ermias, president of the Crown Council of Ethiopia, recalled the story of his grandfather, Emperor Haile Selassie I, and his encounters with Armenians. In 1924, when the emperor was visiting Jerusalem, he came across a marching band of 40 Armenian youngsters. When he asked who they were, he was told that they were all orphans who had escaped Ottoman Turkey during the Armenian Genocide. After listening to the band play, the Emperor was "struck by the band's musical talent." Thereupon the emperor asked for permission from the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem to adopt and bring the musicians to Ethiopia.

The Armenian musicians were then known as the "Arba Lijoch," which means 40 children in Amharic, and were trained in Ethiopia by musical director Kevork Nalbandian. Nalbandian was an Armenian Genocide survivor, originally from Aintab. The Armenian musicians came to form the Royal Imperial Brass Band, beginning a tradition in modern Ethiopian music of heavily using brass instruments. Amazed by their progress and skill, Emperor Selassie asked Nalbandian to compose a national anthem for Ethiopia. On November 2, 1930, the Emperor's coronation day, the Arba Lijoch unveiled the Imperial National

see ETHIOPIA, page 9



Armenian Assembly Development Director Nazanee Topian, Armenian Assembly Public Affairs Associate Danielle Saroyan, Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie of Ethiopia, Armenian Ambassador to the US Grigor Hovhannissian, Armenian Assembly Grassroots and Development Associate Mariam Khaloyan, Armenian Assembly Intern Program Director Joseph Piatt, and Armenian Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny

Conventional, Digital, and Online Resources of the Armenian Genocide

By Shoghig Missirian Sahakian

WASHINGTON — The Knights and Daughters of Vartan held their regular monthly public discussion titled "New Ways of Learning About the Armenian Genocide. Conventional, Digital, and Online Resources" on Tuesday, November 14, at St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church Cultural Hall.

The guest Speaker was Dr. Rouben P. Adalian, director of the Armenian National Institute (ANI). Close to 30 guests attended the program and enjoyed hearing about ANI.

Master of Ceremonies Malvina Brown presented the speaker to the audience.

Adalian began his discussion expressing his gratitude to the members of the Armenian Community Centennial Committee as well as the Washington metro-Armenian community at large for their tireless efforts organizing events leading up to the commemoration and celebration of the centennial of the Genocide. Adalian was especially elated to have seen the younger generation involved and engaged throughout the week-long activities in May 2015.

The question Adalian posed was: "It's been 100 years; what's next?" He continued assuring



During the presentation

the audience that the hard work put in for the centennial celebration paid off.

Adalian moved on to present ANI's role and the impact its website has created within the general public, our elected officials, the media, educators on all levels and much more. He provided statistics on the number of visitors to ANI's website and what was being analyzed behind the scenes of ANI's website. In 2013 ANI's website had 2 million visitors. The numbers started rising every year and reached the peak in 2016 with 6 million hits. Statistics indicated the visitors were mostly from English-speaking countries; the US, the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada. The team at ANI realized there was an audience in Turkey that needed access to the information in their language, including the Islamized Armenians and Armenians who did not speak Armenian. Hence, access to the information in Turkish language was added to the website and so far has recorded 10,000 visitors.

Adalian added that ANI's website has realized that one of its goals is actively participating in spreading the historic data about the Genocide

see ANI, page 7



OBITUARY

Legendary Jazz Producer, Talent Scout George Avakian Dies at 98

AVAKIAN, from page 1

He made his most lasting mark as a jazz producer with Columbia Records in the 1950s. He brought Brubeck and Davis to the label, helping to transform them from artists with a loyal but limited audience to international celebrities. He signed Johnny Mathis, then an unknown jazz singer, and oversaw his emergence as a chart-topping pop star. He persuaded Louis Armstrong to record the German theater song *Mack the Knife*, an unlikely vehicle that became one of his biggest hits. And he supervised the recording of Duke Ellington's performance at the 1956 Newport Jazz Festival, which revitalized Ellington's career.

George Mesrop Avakian was born on March 15, 1919, in Armavir, Russia, to Armenian parents, Mesrop and Manoushak Avakian. His family moved to the United States shortly after he was born. His younger brother, Aram, became a respected film editor and director.

An avid jazz fan and record collector, George was a sophomore at Yale and already a published jazz critic when he persuaded Decca Records to let him record the guitarist Eddie Condon and other musicians who had been fixtures of the Chicago scene a decade earlier. Those sessions, in 1939, produced "Chicago Jazz," a package of six 78 RPM recordings that is widely regarded as the first jazz album.

"When I saw how much alcohol Eddie Condon and his guys drank and abused their health," Avakian told *Down Beat* magazine in 2000, "I was very alarmed and became convinced they couldn't possibly live much longer. So, I persuaded Jack Kapp at Decca to let me produce a series of reunions to document this music before it was too late.

"They were only in their mid-30s. But I was 20. What did I know about drinking?"

Columbia hired Avakian in 1940 to assemble and annotate a comprehensive jazz reissue series, something no record company had undertaken before. Working one day a week for \$25, he compiled anthologies of the work of Armstrong, Ellington, Bessie Smith and others, establishing a template that the industry continued to follow into the CD era.

In 1946, after five years in the Army, Avakian became a full-time member of Columbia's pro-

duction staff.

While overseeing the company's jazz operations, he wore many other hats as well. He was in charge of pop albums and served as a one-man international department, releasing Piaf's record "La Vie en Rose" and other important European records in the United States.

He also played a significant role in establishing the 33-RPM long-playing record as the industry standard, supervising production of the first pop LPs shortly after the format was introduced in 1948.

Avakian later worked briefly for the World Pacific label before joining the Warner Bros. movie studio's newly formed record subsidiary, where he was in charge of artists and repertoire from 1959 to 1962.

With a mandate to get Warner Bros. Records on solid financial ground by delivering hits, he temporarily shifted his focus from jazz. He brought the Everly Brothers to the label and signed a young humorist named Bob Newhart, who had been working as an accountant in Chicago and moonlighting as a radio performer but had never performed for a live audience.

Newhart's first album, "The Button-Down Mind of Bob Newhart," became one of the best-selling comedy records of all time.

In 1962, Avakian joined RCA Victor Records, where he was in charge of pop production but also had the opportunity to renew his involvement in jazz, producing critically acclaimed albums by Sonny Rollins, Paul Desmond and others.

Tiring of the day-to-day grind of the record business, Avakian became a freelance manager and producer in the mid-1960s. His first client of note was Charles Lloyd, a saxophonist and flutist whose freewheeling style had attracted a young audience and who became one of the first jazz musicians to perform at the Fillmore Auditorium in San Francisco and other rock venues.

The pianist in Lloyd's quartet was Keith Jarrett, and Avakian worked with him as well, helping to lay the groundwork for his breakthrough as one of the most popular jazz musicians of the 1970s.

By the late 1990s, Avakian had come full circle: He returned to Columbia Records to super-

Rose (Varjian) Muggeridge

Former Volunteer at *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*

WATERTOWN – Rose (Varjian) Muggeridge, 91, originally from Franklin, then Watertown, passed away on November 19 at Carlton Willard Village in Bedford.

She was born and raised in Franklin, Massachusetts. Her parents were born in Armenia and her mother was a survivor of the Armenian Genocide.

Through the International Institute of Boston she met and later married David John Muggeridge, an Englishman. He predeceased her in 1959. They had one son, John David, who lives with his wife Karen in Southborough. Rose's two granddaughters, Jacqueline of Boston, and Diana of Washington, DC, were the light of her life.

Her younger sister, Helen Katziff, is retired and currently lives in Sarasota, Fla. One sister, Mary, and three half-brothers, Archie, Greg and Harry, predeceased her.

Muggeridge lived most of her adult life in Watertown. In addition to working for more than 40 years at the Unitarian Universalist Association and Beacon Press in Boston, she found time to volunteer at the Boston Center for the Arts, Parents Without Partners and taught English as a second language in the Boston Public schools.

Her mother was a survivor of the Armenian Genocide. Rose worked closely with the Armenian Museum in Watertown since its inception. She also volunteered with the Armenian Women's Welfare Association, and the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*.

Rose enjoyed traveling both domestically and abroad. She loved flower arranging, foreign films, and listening to music – especially the big bands. No family gathering was complete without her contribution of *cheoreg*, string cheese, *yalanchi*, *boereg*, *lamejun* and *pilaf*.

A memorial service and collation will be held at the Armenian Museum of America in Watertown on Saturday, December 9 at 2 p.m., with visiting hours beginning at 1p.m.

Arrangements were made by the Giragosian Funeral Home.



vised a series of jazz reissues. This time the medium was CD rather than vinyl. And this time many of the recordings being reissued had originally been produced by Avakian himself.

Avakian was married for 68 years to the violinist Anahid Ajemian, a founding member of the Composers String Quartet. She died in 2016. Aram Avakian died at 60 in 1987.

In addition to Gregg, Avakian is survived by another daughter, Maro Avakian; a son, Greg; and two grandchildren.

In 2014, Avakian and Ms. Ajemian donated their archives, including unreleased recordings

by Armstrong and Ellington, to the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center.

Among the many honors Avakian received were a Trustees Award for lifetime achievement from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences in 2009 and a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters award for advocacy in 2010.

Receiving the NEA award, he said at the time, was "a culminating honor that confirms my long-held belief: Live long enough, stay out of jail, and you'll never know what might happen."

Krikor 'Kirk' Yilancioglu

Inducted Into Engineering Hall of Fame

PHILADELPHIA – Krikor Yilancioglu, age 83, passed away suddenly on Friday, November 17, 2017.

He was born March 18, 1934 in Istanbul, Turkey to the late Bedros and Nivart Yilancioglu. He grew up in Turkey. In 1957, he graduated from Robert College in Istanbul, then was granted an education visa to come to the US to study at the University of Delaware. He received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Delaware in 1959. He then was sponsored and received his citizenship through DelDOT.

His nearly 60-year career in civil engineering started with the DelDOT Highway Department-North District, where he held increasing responsibilities as a civil engineer, chief of survey, area engineer and North District engineer.

He worked in the construction/engineering of the Delaware Turnpike (during which he met President Kennedy)/I-95, I-495/Wilmington Bypass, and numerous other Delaware highways.

He loved his occupation so much that after retiring from DelDOT in 1988, he resumed working for Century Engineers in Dover. For the last 29 years, Yilancioglu worked as chief of surveys at Century Engineers.

His expertise and knowledge enabled him to contribute to numerous high-profile projects, including the SR1 Relief Route, Roth Bridge and, most recently, the Route 301 Middletown Bypass project.

Even at 83, Kirk drove daily from North Wilmington to Middletown for work. Because of his accomplishments, respect from peers and contributions to Delaware's highway system, in 2005 he was inducted into the American



Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE) – First State Section Hall of Fame.

Kirk and his wife Mary were married for 50 years. They loved spending time with their families, enjoyed traveling the world, and spending lazy weekends at Cape Henlopen and Rehoboth beaches. While providing for his family, he loved teaching his sons how to fish, watching them play little league baseball while cracking peanuts in left field. He enjoyed fishing Delaware's coastal waterways. He, also loved backgammon, crossword puzzles and sudoku.

He is survived by his sons, Peter and Ara, his brother, John (Onnik) Yilanjan, brothers- and -n-law, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, as well as his grandchildren, Mark and Natalie Yilanjan.

DENNIS M. DEVENEY & SONS

Cemetery Monuments

Specializing in
Armenian Designs and Lettering

701 Moody St. Waltham, MA 02543
(781) 891-9876 www.NEMonuments.com

Giragosian

FUNERAL HOME

James "Jack" Giragosian, CPC
Mark J. Giragosian

Funeral Counselors

576 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown, MA 02472, TEL: 617-924-0606
www.giragosianfuneralhome.com

Telephone (617) 924-7400

Aram Bedrosian

Funeral Home, Inc.

Continuous Service By The Bedrosian Family Since 1945

558 MOUNT AUBURN STREET
WATERTOWN, MA 02472

MARION BEDROSIAN
PAUL BEDROSIAN
LARRY BEDROSIAN



COMMUNITY NEWS

AESA Gala Puts Spotlight on Cooperation

GLENDALÉ – On Saturday, November 11, the Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America (AESA) celebrated its 34th anniversary with a gala at the Armenian Society of Los Angeles Banquet Hall which drew crowd of nearly 280 attendees. Amongst the attendees were Glendale Mayor Vartan Gharpetian and Council Member Zareh Sinanyan.

In keeping with AESA's spirit of bringing together Armenian engineers and scientists to network, collaborate and build a better community, the gala was designed to recognize prominent figures in the science and tech com-

munity. Two of the organization's active members introduced the organization and its purpose, and were joined by the AESA's president and Glendale City Council member, Vrej Agajanian, with congratulatory remarks.

The director of the Cosmic Ray Division at Yerevan Physics Institute (YerPhI), Prof. Ashot Chilingarian, was awarded the prestigious Victor Hambartsumyan Award. AESA's service award was granted to AESA's long-time member, co-founder of Green Armenia, and advisor to the Minister of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia, Areg Gharabegian. Albert



From left, Vrej Agajanian, Varag Gharibjanian, Razmik Gharakhanian



From Left: Prof. Ashot Chilingarian, Vrej Agajanian, Dr. Ara Chutjian



From Left: Razmik Gharakhanian, Albert Eisaian, Vrej Agajanian, John Shirajian



Areg Gharabegian online from Armenia, with his son Raffi accepting Service Award from AESA

Eisaian, co-founder and CEO of IntelinAir, Inc. was granted the Person of the Year Award. Varag Gharibjanian, an engineering and management at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), was the recipient of 2017 scholarship award donated by Dr. Shant and Ani Kenderian.

The organization's past presidents were also recognized.

A raffle drawing and musical entertainment followed the award ceremony.

The financial sponsorship support from New York Life, Glendale Water and Power, Adventist

Health Glendale, Hybrid Systems, Cordoba Corporation, Novadontics Dental Implants, ConnectTo Communications, and numerous local businesses made this gala possible. Harout Bronozian, long-time member and supporter of AESA, donated \$10,000 towards AESA projects.

AESA is a non-profit and leading organization that cultivates and empowers Armenian engineers and scientists in the United States and Armenia through its networking, community service, and professional development events. Visit us at www.aesa.org for more information and to become a member.

Conventional, Digital, and Online Resources of the Armenian Genocide

ANI, from page 5

and reaching out to all age groups, including student and teachers. The website is being used now as a teaching tool and is appealing to youngsters. The systematic translation of the key documents posted on the website by professionals have to date not been contested as they were all based on American accounts of what was happening to the Armenians living under the Ottoman Empire rule. Exploiting incontestable evidence extracted from around 37,000 pages from the National Archives, meticulously studied over the course of two years,

zens of this country.

Adalian covered the next phase of ANI's website, which was being "interactive." During his research of more than 20 years, Adalian said he sensed the need for a reliable governmental source document to present Armenian life. He wanted to have a tool that would offer highlights and not overwhelm students searching for the information. Consequently, by keeping close tabs with technology he created downloadable documents within ANI's website to be used as tools for parents and teachers. He estimated 50,000 copies of these documents have



Dr. Rouben Adalian, Director of the Armenian National Institute with Dikranouhie Otyag in Washington DC

Adalian succeeded in producing a treasure trove of documents that have yet to be challenged as presenting false information.

Adalian pointed out that one mission ANI had to accomplish was to prove to the public and governmental officials in the US and around the world the Armenian Genocide happened based on evidence as recorded by non-Armenians. He assured the guests in attendance that Armenians are winning the battle already with documents retrieved from the National Archives for the purposes of reconstructing the history and giving an account of the genocide by using reports by citi-

already been in circulation for various purposes by the individuals who had accessed them.

Adalian ended his presentation by posing the question: How do we continue telling our story now that our survivors are no longer with us?

Adalian received a standing ovation from the attendees for his unyielding labor in affirming the genocide and not arguing whether it happened or not, a philosophy to which he justly claims ownership.

The evening concluded with a reception where Adalian patiently answered the attendees' numerous inquiries.



COMMUNITY NEWS

USC Institute of Armenian Studies Convenes an Evening of Appreciation

LOS ANGELES – Nearly 200 supporters and friends of the University of Southern California (USC) Institute of Armenian Studies gathered at the Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills in appreciation of USC Provost Michael Quick's and Vice President for Strategic and Global Affairs Anthony Bailey's travels to Armenia this past spring to open the "End of Transition: 25 Years after Soviet Collapse International Conference." This evening of appreciation, which took place on Sunday, November 19, highlighted not only the USC administration's support of the Institute but also the extensive array of pro-

Republic of Armenia and the Diaspora; and creating a platform to investigate and understand the post-genocide experience.

Maral Tavitian, recent graduate of the USC Annenberg School for Communications and Journalism who left for Armenia to work for CivilNet Online Media upon graduation, spoke about her participation in the Institute's Undergraduate Retreat and her journey to a reporting career in Armenia with the Institute's support. Tavitian recently returned to USC, with CivilNet, to report live from Innovate Armenia, an upbeat, outside-the-box festival that explores what it means to be Armenian in the 21st century and celebrates innovation and innovators.

In addressing the challenge of good governance in Armenia, the Institute held the "Celebrity Diplomacy: Redefining Diaspora's Role in Armenia" program in January 2017, three months before Armenia's first parliamentary elections under a semi-presidential system. Actress and activist Arsinée Khanjian spoke on November 19 about the need for a more engaged Diasporan community in Armenia and how the Institute's engagement with the country has been a constructive step in that direction.

Provost Michael Quick and Vice President Anthony Baily related their experiences in Armenia underscoring how the trip helped them better understand the challenges that the Institute chooses to tackle through research and programming.

In 2017, the Institute supported the research of over 40 young scholars from around the world who were investigating topics related to either the Nagorno Karabakh and the region or Armenia's transitional processes since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The Institute will continue to support research and embark on new larger projects in 2018. One of these will be the collection, documentation, and digitization of the archives of the DP community who came to Los Angeles at the end of World War II. Several members of the community, and project donors, were present at the banquet.

During the evening, Institute Director Salpi Ghazarian announced that in the framework of the Los Angeles - Yerevan Sister City relationship, the USC Institute of Armenian Studies and the office of Councilmember Paul Krekorian will work together to select and place young people - students or recent graduates - in policy planning positions throughout the City of Los Angeles to learn from and contribute to the process of improving lives in both cities. This will serve as a pilot for possible broader future collaboration.



Gerald and Patricia Turpanjian

gramming and research the Institute has undertaken in 2017.

The evening's attendees included Provost Quick, Vice President Bailey, Dean of Dornsife College Amber Miller, as well as two of the four members of the Institute's Academic Council - USC Professor of Public Policy Dan Mazmanian and the holder of the USC Turpanjian Chair in Civil Society and Social Change Professor Manuel Pastor. Two members of the Institute's Honorary Council, philanthropist Gerald Turpanjian and Ambassador John Evans, were also in attendance. Canadian-Armenian actor, producer, and activist Arsinée Khanjian was among the distinguished guests.

The evening was hosted by Varant and Houri Melkonian. The Chair of the Institute's Leadership Council, Charles Ghailian, welcomed the Institute's donors and supporters.

"This banquet concludes a very productive year for the Institute. The Institute's supporters and donors saw first-hand the outcome of the Institute's research and programming around Nagorno-Karabakh, Republic of Armenia, and the Diaspora. The Institute plans to do this and much more in 2018," said Salpi Ghazarian, director of the USC Institute of Armenian Studies.

The Institute's current and upcoming vision and mission were outlined during the evening - its commitment to expanding and supporting opportunities for students and young professionals; addressing the immediate challenges of the

St. Nersess Seminary Campus Donors Honored

SEMINARY, from page 5

"Everyone here is like a stockholder who has made an investment in this institution," he added.

Next, Richard Papalian, who is the treasurer of the Board of Directors, gave a financial summary of the seminary.

After a question-and-answer period, the evening ended with Barsamian's closing remarks. He thanked the board members, the faculty members and everyone present for supporting the seminary. "We are secur-

ing the future of the Armenian Church for the younger generations to come," he stated.

"It's great to see the new campus fulfilling the vision of those who helped plan it, along with the donors and workers who helped make it possible. The future is bright for St. Nersess, and I encourage those who have not yet been able to visit the Armonk campus to do so," proclaimed Stephen Mekenian, a former board member and campus donor.



Fr. Mardiros Chevian welcoming guests.

Dr. Owen Miller to Speak on Sasun Massacre at Ararat Eskijian Museum

MISSION HILLS, Calif. – The Ararat-Eskijian-Museum and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) present "The Massacre in Sasun (1894) and the Ottoman Colonization of the Mountains" by Dr. Owen Miller Postdoctoral Fellow, Consortium for Faculty Diversity, Union College on Sunday December 3, at 4 p.m., Ararat-Eskijian Museum/Sheen Chapel, 15105 Mission Hills Road.

In the late summer of 1894, several battalions of Ottoman soldiers were ordered into the mountains of Sasun, south of the fertile plains of Moush, in current day southeastern Turkey. The entire Armenian population of the region was regarded as rebellious and one to two thousand men, women, and children were murdered. The 1894 violence in Sasun has been viewed quite differently by scholars who work within Ottoman Studies and those in Armenian Studies. The former usually present it as the first major rebellion of Armenian nationalists against the state, while the latter

present the 1894 events as the first major episode of Ottoman State mass violence against its Armenian populace. In his research, Miller has shown that the Ottoman governor relayed intentionally false reports that thousands of Armenian villagers in Sasun had rebelled against the state. After establishing that the Sasun massacre took place, he shows that there was a concerted effort made both by local and central Ottoman authorities to cover it up.

In this lecture, Miller will examine what has been unaddressed by prior accounts of these events along with a detailed account of why the violence took place, and how it is remembered.

Miller is a Postdoctoral Fellow, Consortium for Faculty Diversity, at Union College for 2017-2018. He is a graduate of the University of California, Santa Cruz, and holds a master's degree and doctorate from Columbia University. His 2015 dissertation was titled "Sasun 1894: Mountains, Missionaries and Massacres at the End of the Ottoman Empire."

A DONATION TO THE
INSURANCE
FOUNDATION FOR
SERVICEMEN
ENSURES MILITARY FAMILIES CAN
RECOVER FROM THE LOSS OR INJURY
OF THEIR SONS FIGHTING ON THE
FRONT LINES OF ARMENIA
Visit www.1000plus.am/en to
Learn More About Us and Support Our Troops



COMMUNITY NEWS

Valadao Discusses Lifesaving Demining Effort in Artsakh at ANCA Presentation

FRESNO – The Republic of Artsakh will be a safer place in the future, thanks to the efforts of Central Valley Congressman David Valadao (CA-21st). Earlier this year, Congress adopted an amendment by Valadao to continue providing life-saving funds for the removal of land mines around the villages of Artsakh. The Hanford-based representative who serves on the House Appropriations Committee was in Fresno to talk about the measure and his recent trip to Armenia and Artsakh during a community gathering held at the Garo and Alice Gureghian Armenian Cultural Center and sponsored by the Central California branch of the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

“Whenever a member of Congress would have an issue with (the amendment), the simple question was ‘what issue is there with removing land mines that are blowing up farmers,’” remarked Valadao in emphasizing the humanitarian purpose of his resolution. “I mean, who’s going to argue against that?”

The Valadao amendment will provide \$1.5 million in US assistance to help the HALO Trust in its goal to eradicate mines, bombs, and other munitions that were laid during the peak of the Artsakh-Azeri conflict in the early 1990s. Since 2001 when the international humanitarian organization began its mission in Artsakh, the HALO Trust has removed over a quarter-million explosives from the countryside, thus bringing otherwise fallow land back into

agricultural production. Along with the making the country safer and more productive, the demining operation employs hundreds of locals, who have an intimate knowledge of the landscape.

“These folks spend a lot of hours digging around a little land mine just to find it, secure it, and essentially blow it up....To have the opportunity to see them and go through the experience...made me proud to support that,” said Valadao, who co-chairs the Congressional Armenian Caucus.

The event also featured ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian, who gave some background on US assistance to Artsakh while emphasizing the significance of the amendment. The uphill battle to secure funds for the region began shortly after the 1994 cease-fire agreement, at a time when the State Department still regarded Artsakh as part of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Hamparian explained that US appropriations in general and the Valadao’s legislation in particular achieve multiple objectives at various levels. Most obviously the funds serve a humanitarian purpose in creating a safer environment for the civilians and especially the children of Artsakh. Additionally, there is the political dimension of such assistance. Even though the United States does not officially recognize the Republic of Artsakh as a sovereign county, such funds are administered in Stepanakert and not by the



From left, Rep. David Valadao, ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian, and former Fresno County Supervisor Debbie Poochigian



From left, Rep. David Valadao and ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian

Azeri authorities in Baku—an implicit but clear acknowledgement by the US that Artsakh is effectively a functioning and autonomous Armenian state.

Perhaps most encouragingly have been the statements of US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson about the de-mining amendment, who affirmed that his department “remains focused on completing the demining as quickly and as thoroughly as possible.” Hamparian recalled that appropriations for Artsakh were viewed reluctantly if not negatively by previous administrations. Tillerson’s comments may signal a more constructive approach by the State Department on the question of Artsakh’s self-determination.

During the question and answer part of the program, Berj Apkarian, Armenia’s Honorary Consul in Fresno, expressed his gratitude to the valley congressman, adding that his visit to Artsakh made an important statement to other US lawmakers. As in the past, this year’s congressional delegation—which also included representatives Jackie Speier (CA) and Frank Pallone (NJ), Anna Eshoo (CA), Tulsi Gabbard,

(HI) and James Sensenbrenner (WI) as well as ANCA Chairman Raffi Hamparian – was advised by the State Department not to travel to Artsakh for fear of reprisals by the Republic of Azerbaijan. Following their tour of Artsakh, Valadao, Pallone, and Gabbard were added to Azerbaijan’s infamous blacklist, which currently comprises hundreds of international officials, dignitaries, journalists, and celebrities who have openly traveled to the region.

“I didn’t think being in (Artsakh) would get me blacklisted by another country for doing something that most people would consider as a good thing,” commented Valadao.

As part of the congressional delegation’s tour of Armenia, Valadao made various stops in Yerevan, including the Armenian Genocide Monument (Tsidzernakabert) and the American University of Armenia, where he was impressed by the initiative of the college’s business students.

The event was emceed by Debbie Poochigian, former Fresno County Supervisor and long-time supporter of the Central Valley’s Armenian Community.

Ethiopian Prince Praises Ethiopia-Armenia Relations at Assembly Holiday Reception

ETHIOPIA, from page 5

Anthem, Marsh Teferi, which was Ethiopia’s official anthem from 1930 to 1974. Prince

Ermias told the audience that these Armenians became known as the “forerunners in the modernization of mainstream music in Ethiopia.”

Assembly Board Member Annie Totah expressed her gratitude to Prince Ermias, her personal friend, for his kind words about the Armenians. “We thank you so very much for joining and educating us about the situation in Africa, and thank you for having presented to us the history about Armenians in Ethiopia. Emperor Haile Selassie welcomed us – the Armenians – and we have an ideal, mutually beneficial and fantastic relationship between both countries,” Totah said.

More than 100 guests attended the recep-

tion, including Armenian Ambassador to the United States Grigor Hovhannissian and his wife Victoria and Artsakh Permanent Representative to the US Robert Avetisyan and his wife Elvina.

In his remarks, Hovhannissian noted that Ethiopia has a special place in the hearts of Armenians. He also recognized the Assembly’s advocacy work, as well as the grassroots activism and dedication of its members.

“We are very mindful and cognizant of the tremendous effort that the Armenian Assembly of America has been making towards the development of Armenia and towards building and strengthening relations

with the United States,” Hovhannissian stated. “You have many, many dedicated members, and Armenia is blessed to have them among its most committed friends.”

Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny briefed the audience on the Assembly’s accomplishments this past year and explained the challenges ahead. He emphasized the continued efforts to increase membership in the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, which is currently at 113, as well as urging Members to withdraw from the Turkish and Azeri Caucuses. Both Ardouny and Totah encouraged the audience to contact their Representatives and educate them on the importance of strengthening US-Armenia and US-Artsakh relations.

Following the speeches, Dr. Naira Babayan, a member of the Armenian Assembly, performed an Armenian musical selection, including *Krunk* (Stork) and *Six Dances* by Komitas, and *Dance of Sasun* by A. Arutiunian.

“We would like to especially thank Assembly Capital Region Council Co-Chairs Clara Andonian and Doris George with Host Committee Members Naira Babayan, Nadya Carson, Natalie George, Anahid Ghazarian, Takuhi Hallajian, Anahid Nishanian, and Marguerite Satian for donating and hosting the reception, as well as our volunteers Kyra Chamberlain and Nicole Merullo, who are currently with George Washington University’s Armenian Student Association,” Totah added.



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA
SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS
WASHINGTON, D.C. | YEREVAN, AM



ARMENIAN-ASSEMBLY.ORG/STUDENTS

Read News in Armenian at:

Հայ  **հայ**

hayzayn.am

Հայ



COMMUNITY NEWS

Tekeyan Cultural Association of Greater NY

GALA, from page 1
cultural and educational activities in all communities around the globe, as well as our motherland, Armenia.”

Honorary Chair of the TCA Greater New York Committee Hagop Vartivarian, and Hartounian participated in presenting the evening’s honorees Nazar and Artemis Nazarian with the Lifetime Benefactor Award, an etched crystal plaque, for their generosity, which has included schools, hospitals, churches, camps and buildings built by them from Armenia to the farthest corners of the Armenian world.

To thunderous applause and a standing ovation, the couple graciously accepted the honor. Daughter Seta, speaking for the family, stated in a short and eloquent phrase, “Our parents have taught us how to live and give,” which brought on lengthy applause.

Hagop Kassardjian, chairman of the TCA Founders Committee of Lebanon, as well as a leader in the AGBU and the Armenian Democratic Liberal party, and elected twice to the Lebanese Parliament, spoke in Armenian about the TCA’s beginnings, history and leaders. He said that in the last few years in Lebanon, the Yervant Odian theatrical group had been formed, and emphasized that the TCA is an important institution for the diaspora, and for the future.

Aram Arkun, TCA executive director of the US and Canada, and assistant editor of the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, spoke about the legacy and bequest to the TCA of ADL leader and intellectual Dr. Nubar Berberian, on the first anniversary of his death. A video detailing the history and founders of the TCA showing the many personalities involved, was shown.

To the delight of the audience, artist Nora Azadian, who had been a student of the legendary poet Vahan Tekeyan, a close friend of her grandfather, recited with powerful emotion and passion, Tekeyan’s soulful and heartfelt poem “Hayou Hokeen.” It was rewarded with a



Standing, from left, Khoren Kalinian, Mr. and Mrs. Kassardjian, Ambassador and Mrs. Mnatskanian, Vartan Nazarian, Berta Baghjajian, Nar Khatchadourian and Hagop Vartivarian; seated from left, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Edmond and Nora Azadian, and Dr. Arshavir and Nadia Gundjian

lengthy standing ovation.

Noted author and editor, founding member and Chairman of the TCA Central Board of the US and Canada Edmond Azadian, in an eloquent keynote address in English and

Armenian, spoke about the main components of the organization. “Words have power and poetic words have torrential power which can inspire and move masses of human beings. That is why the words of the poet Vahan Tekeyan

reverberated in space and time, motivating multitudes and guiding them by means of the ideals which had molded his persona and his heritage.”

It was two years after Tekeyan’s death that



From left, Seta Nazarian, Artemis and Nazar Nazarian, and Claudia Nazarian



Members of the organizing committee of the TCA Greater New York



From left, Saro, Nairi, Hilda, Nanor and Aram Hartounian



From left, Dr. Arshavir Gundjian, Edmond Azadian, Hilda Hartounian and Mihran Minassian



Celebrates Platinum Anniversary with Gala



From left, Vartan Ilanjian, Edmond Azadian, Mihran Minassian, Hilda Hartounian and Hagop Vartivarian



Seated, from left, Olympia Jebejian, Shahe Jebejian, Hratch Kouyoumjian, Dr. Tavito O. Najarian, Sossi Najarian and Lena Kalayjian; Standing, from left, Seta Jebejian, Sona Khanjian, Zaven Khanjian and Barkev Kalayjian

the TCA was founded in 1947, he related, and detailed the many missions of the organization, including education, the publication of several literary magazines, daily and weekly newspapers, literary and scholarly books, and the promotion of literature, the arts, music, dance, theater, and the bringing of that culture to the diaspora.

"Today, the poet's voice resonates louder than ever, even far beyond the boundaries of our people, to touch mankind," Azadian declared. On behalf of his people and mankind, Tekeyan passionately implored: "Tear down all fortresses and impregnable walls. And lance your wrath against the barricades of armored ignorance. Divide the world's wealth evenly. Let crowds through the entrance to your pastures stampede at the last fall of the last tower - But, O lord, let them break no trees, nor crush a single flower."

Before the benediction, closing remarks were delivered by Archbishop Khajag Barsamian. "It is our encounter with writers like Vahan Tekeyan, as well as the artists, musicians and cultural forces of our heritage that led us into a deeper appreciation of the Armenian identity, as well as a deep desire of our younger generation to know their identity as Armenians. This is the great influence the Tekeyan Cultural Association has had on our community. This enduring mission must continue and expand well beyond the 70th anniversary."

During the evening a silent auction featuring valuable prizes had been held. At the conclusion of the memorable event, the lucky winners were announced, and then the crowd enthusiastically took to the floor dancing to the catchy beats of Elie Berberian and Ensemble, joyously concluding a momentous and historic event that will long be remembered.



From left, Kevork Marshashian, Edmond Azadian and Daniel Youssefian



Karen Kakoyan, left, and Daniel Youssefian



Members of the TCA Mher Megerdichian theatrical group



Maral and Sarkis Jebejian



Carmen and Ed Gulbenkian



From left, Edmond Azadian, Dr. Arshavir and Nadia Gundjian, Hagop Vartivarian, Very Rev. Oshagan Gulgulian, Ani and Hagop Kassardjian and Nora Azadian



Nila and Nazareth Festekjian



COMMUNITY NEWS

Tribute to Old Watertown

Bob Sanasarian Walks Down the Memory Lane

By Nancy Kalajian

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

WATERTOWN — At 88, Bob Sanasarian jauntily walks through the streets and byways of East Watertown to recollect the shops that once were, in many buildings that still are. With a keen memory for names and places, my pen can hardly keep up with his recall of shops, fruit-ripening facilities, cleaners and of course, his family's Ideal Market. With a penchant for storytelling, a gift for elaboration, and quick wit, Bob could keep even the sleepiest audience awake for hours.

A lifelong resident of Watertown, Sanasarian is a weekly presence at St. James Armenian Church in Watertown, both as a choir member on Sundays for the past 73 years and as a volunteer at Bingo on Tuesdays. He may well hold the record for longevity in the choir; he recalls that the only time he couldn't be in church was many decade ago when he would be "on call" for duty during a nearly 12-year stint in the US Naval Air Reserves. But no matter which way he would he would go, he would always go in the direction of St. James when he was in town.

Indeed, a film starring Bing Crosby could well be the anthem of his life. As a youthful usher at the one-screen Coolidge Theatre in East Watertown, he still remembers tiny details from the film "Going My Way" that he viewed scores of times, all week long. In those days, only one film was viewed at a time, and that film could play for weeks at a time.

"In one scene from the film, they are setting a table. Bing Crosby has a fork in his hand. He pokes around the food a lot with his fork but never puts the fork to his mouth," reminisces Sanasarian, imitating the star, with a gleeful smile.

Growing up in Watertown meant lifelong friendships among and between people from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds. According to him, the East Watertown neighborhood included mostly Irish, Italians, Greeks and Armenians. Many of the Armenians stuck together for play, work and church. Indeed, in testament to the notable presence and deeds of

of his work there. "The odor was bad. The Armenians joked a lot with one another. Mrs. Gulbankian and Mrs. Mouradian worked on the cutting machines and they nicknamed me 'Bobby.' There was camaraderie for the war effort. There were many huge buildings from Nichols Avenue to Arsenal Street. There was even a Goodrich store on Bigelow Avenue where those apartments are now and at that time Hood made some of their products."

Immigrants in Watertown

With such a profound influence on the immigrant community when everyday goods were expensive, it was no wonder that many young residents lined up to try Hood Rubber's "test sneakers. They were testing for wear ability. The sneakers were free and would be used for two or three weeks. The company would evaluate them for extended use. I never got sneakers since I never got there quick enough. My mom would say that sneakers weren't good for you, that leather shoes were better. But look, I have rubber sneakers now," said Sanasarian with a chuckle.

Shops were a place for immigrants to connect, and Sanasarian's family played an integral part in that part of community life.

"Ideal Market on Dexter Avenue was bought by my father from a couple moving to California; they later came back from California and wanted to rebuy the Ideal Market but my father, Aram, didn't sell it back to them. The couple then opened a competitive market nearby on Nichols Ave. and called it called the New Deal Market. My father's business went down a bit but then my father moved the Ideal Market to Mt Auburn Street in 1940."

Walking down Mt. Auburn in East Watertown is a trip down memory lane as my guide points out significant sites. "Across the street from what is now Giragosian Funeral Home, starting from Lloyd Road, there was Lloyd's Pharmacy, Ideal Market, Berberian's Armenian Shoe Repair, Charlie's Barber Shop and at the corner of Irma Road and Mt. Auburn Street was the Ivy dry cleaning shop," he continued. "After some



Bob Sanasarian sitting at a coffee hour at St. James Armenian Church in Watertown

years, my dad closed the Ideal Market and went to do welding at Fore River in Fall River with Mr. Atamian, the Mt. Auburn Grill owner, and an Italian guy. They wore Navy clothes since it was a navy contract they were working on."

Soon Aram Sanasarian was able to buy a family home on Carver Road East, and later worked at the commissary at Hood Rubber.

"When my father closed the Ideal Market on Mt. Auburn Street, Kirk Kaloustian's mother and father opened a grocery store, elongating three stores into one; they used the space that was the Ideal Market, the shoe repair, and the barber shop and they called it Kay's Market, and they were in business for a long time. Kirk Kaloustian's mother was a beautiful lady," Sanasarian reminisces.

"Back then, there was a gas station on the corner of Arlington Street and a bowling alley next door to the Mount Auburn Grill. When we were young, we worked at the bowling alley and would set up the pins — we would take turns, jump up when the pins fell down and then put the pins back up." On the stretch between Elton Avenue and Melendy Avenue was Victoria Spa, a men's haberdashery, a bar, Nahigian's grocery store and Gelesian's five-and-dime store. Near Melendy Avenue was the Atlantic Gas Station owned by the Kaloostians and a luncheonette/diner run by two Armenian women (now Massis Bakery), a few other shops and Scott Cleaners on the corner of Mt. Auburn Street, just before Dexter Avenue."

Indeed, according to Sanasarian's recollections, most of the businesses on Mt. Auburn Street in East Watertown seemed to have had some Armenian connection. For example, he recalls that under the building that now houses the Post Office was where the Patapanians ripened bananas and tomatoes and that his cousin Billy Derderian's grandfather owned the



Bob Sanasarian pointing to where his family's Ideal Market once stood on Mount Auburn Street, close to Lloyd Road.

Armenian immigrants in East Watertown, there is a sign named "Missak and Sarkis Parsekian Square" in the immediate vicinity. "The older Armenian men — not the young people — would sit on boxes or old fruit and vegetable crates on Nichols Avenue and would play tavloo," shares Sanasarian. "They would set up the tavloo table on one crate and then would sit on the other crates. On Quimby Street, we played tag, and hide and seek. Our neighbors included Harry Parsekian and his family. By the way, I now sing in the choir with Harry's wife [Hrip] — she's an alto."

"On my summer vacation when I was about 16, I worked on shoes at Hood Rubber and made a grand total of \$60 for the summer. Then I was learning to drive and got in a little car accident with my aunt's borrowed car and it costs \$60 to fix the car so that was it for the \$60. At Hood Rubber, we roughed up the inner part of the sole and buffed the soles so the cement would stick to the canvas sneaker." Bob also cleaned the frames and rubber off the windows on military paraphernalia.

Some years ago, filmmaker Roger Hagopian made a film on Hood Rubber that even included Sanasarian's reminiscences



Near the original location of Ideal Market near the corner of Nichols and Dexter Avenues. Long ago, tavloo was played outside in this area.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Watertown Builder's Supply on Arsenal Street.

Dexter and Nichols

A short drive away to the corner of Dexter Avenue and Nichols Avenue brings up the Dexter Spa, a popular landmark. "Mr. Chapazian had a printing shop right on Dexter Avenue next to the Ideal market. Then there was Dickie Bakalyan, part of the Junior Rat Pack; he went to California. He had an older brother, Willie, my friend. They lived in an attic apartment in a three-story building on Dexter Avenue. Dexter Spa was on the opposite corner of Nichols Avenue and Dexter Avenue. Then they moved across the street. Behind the Dexter Spa, where JKT Garage once sat, you can now find an empty lot. In the same block of Dexter Avenue was a printing shop, then Ideal Market. Barber Toros had a shop across the street at #57 Dexter Avenue. With an entrance on Nichols Avenue, the Sevan Club – on the second floor above the Ideal Market – had connections to the Progressive Party," he recalls. Decades ago, Sanasarian even recalls seeing a movie there from the Tsarist days, with memorable scenes of an uprising and Russian soldiers shooting the protesting people.

A grocery store was on the corner of Dexter and Hazel Streets and diagonally across is where three sons lived on the first floor. These young men served in the Korean War and World War II. Their family bought a market across from the Ideal Market. Peter and John Airasian owned a textile shop on the second floor on Dexter Avenue; there was a garage down-

sister, Nadine, was in the French Parliament. Sam and Ronaldine's two daughters, Bonnie and Nadine, still live in New Mexico. One of Ronaldine's brothers was in the British Admiralty while her other brother was a brigadier general in the Scottish army," Sanasarian recounts with a proud grin.

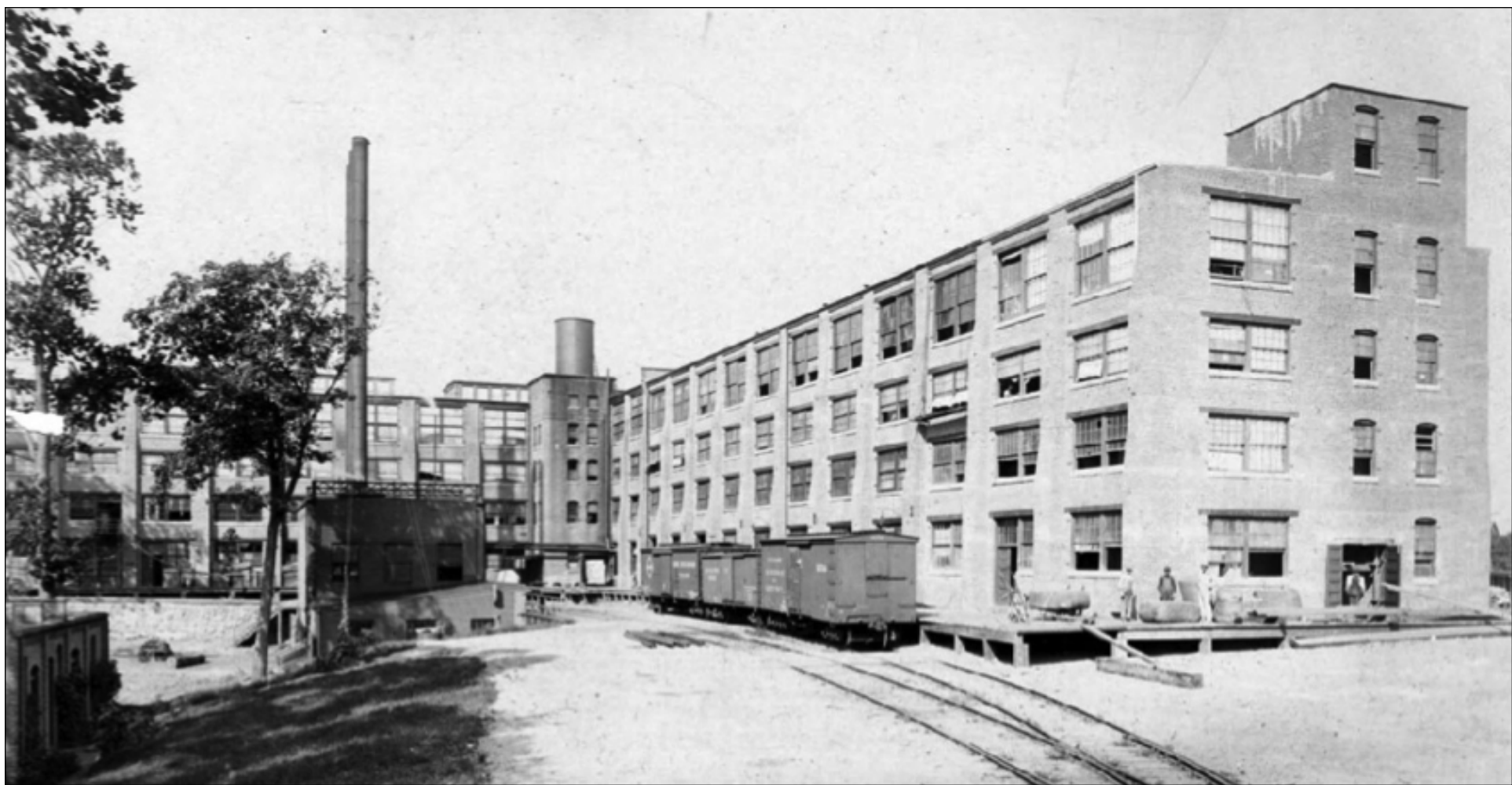
As far as his family's roots and history, Sanasarian recounts, "My Uncle Vahakn Jerian was a Gamavor, in the French Foreign Legion. The French gave Adana to the Turks. My mother and family were in Cyprus. My oldest aunt's husband, Dr. Sempat Paretchianian, was from Marash. He had come to the US, attended Yale University and became a doctor. He was a US citizen. He went back to Turkey, opened a practice in Adana and then cured and treated my grandmother. There he fell in love with my Aunt Sirvart. Adana was given back to Turks so my uncle was asked to treat Turkish soldiers. They said, 'We'll care for your family,' so he served as a doctor in the Turkish army. The wounded came in droves. He went to the front and there was a British war ship there. Turkish soldiers were walking on the beach and were getting popped off. My uncle was wondering why there were so many Turkish soldiers wounded or killed. 'Why don't they dig in and protect themselves?' he asked a Turkish officer. 'Don't worry, there's more to take their place,' the officer replied. They were so cruel to their own people. My grandmother went to Cyprus and then to America and my grandfather Manoog went to Lebanon; his eyesight and sight was later saved with eye surgery at Mass General," he said.

events, colleges and even private families. A highlight of many earlier summers was when ACS members from one Rockport family invited members of the Choral Society to congregate and perform there at their Victorian ocean-side home.

When asked about the block on the corner of Mount Auburn and School Streets, Bob of course chimes in, "Where the St. James Cultural Center now stands were two homes: my friend Aram Horhorouny's family had a yellow house, and then there was the Campbell Estate with an iron fence, on the corner of School and Mt. Auburn Streets. Aram's father, Joe, invented a noiseless and flash-less machine gun, and he worked at the navy yard. He was a machinist, had lots of inventions and he received commendations for his work. In the garage below the house, Joe had his workshop where he invented many things. There was the valve for the b29 airplane - oil valves were made out of brass in the beginning and later made with aluminum to make them lighter. Joe paid Aram and I to tab the grooves, then Joe would check each one with a gauge to make sure we went deep enough and that they were perfect since they were going into a plane so he would check each one very carefully."

Korean War Veteran

Sanasarian joined the US Naval Air Reserves starting in 1948. The Korean War started in 1950. Bob describes himself and others in his squadron as "weekend warriors." Sanasarian would report one weekend a month but the squadron as a



The Hood Rubber Plant in 1910

stairs. "Then they opened a stitching shop on Cypress Street – my mom even worked there. Then the shop moved to Kondizian Street and it became Eastern Clothing. Lots of Armenian girls worked there," shares Sanasarian with a glimmer in his eyes.

Working in the printing/offset business kept Bob busy for many decades. Starting off at the *Quincy Ledger* newspaper, he soon joined Harvard Engraving. Three of the four owners included Harry Sarkisian, Vahe Boyajian and Mr. Semerjian. (If a reader knows the name of the fourth, let us know.) The Boston-based Armenian-owned business was on the second floor of High Street and later moved to the 7th floor at 79 Essex St. "My father used to play cards with Mr. Semerjian at the AYF Club. In those days, you needed a little pull to get in, to make a connection to get a start in the photo engraving field," he confides.

Working by day as an engraver at the *Christian Science Monitor*, Sanasarian took on a part-time evening job as a photo engraver at the *Boston Herald*, first with letter press and later offset.

Worcester and Beyond

Now mind you, Sanasarian's knowledge isn't just focused on Watertown; he can easily tell you a thing or two about Worcester or even Albuquerque. "My uncle, Dr. Sempat Paretchianian (Pachanian), delivered Fr. Dajad Davidian and a lot of Armenian babies born in the Worcester area. Sam, Sempat's son, opened the Spud Nut donut shop on Pleasant Street in Worcester. He used dehydrated potato flour to make the donuts. Sam went to Albuquerque, New Mexico where he opened a Spud Nut shop there and produced flour and provided it for his own shop and other donut shops. By the way, Sam was married to Ronaldine Ekserjian from Scotland; her

"Bob is close to us. We're also Vanetsi and he even knows some Vanetsi words. He's more than a friend – he's a kind, peaceful and helpful man," confides Vartan Krikorian of Watertown.

The offspring of two regions in Armenia, Bob Sanasarian was born in Everett, Mass., just before Christmas 1928, to Aram Sanasarian of Van who came to the US in 1912, and Vartouhi Jerian of Adana, who immigrated here in 1920 via Cyprus. Vartouhi initially lived in Lowell but soon moved to Watertown where she was very active in the Armenian community, became chairwoman of the Senior Women's Guild of St. James and baked a lot.

Sanasarian shares, "Everything she cooked was delicious. The senior ladies still use a lot of her recipes to this day."

Indeed, I first met Vartouhi, a sweet and outgoing woman, on a tour bus by the Pyramids when she attended a large anniversary celebration in Egypt in the early 1980s in honor of the founding in Egypt of the AGBU.

In his early years, Sanasarian attended two Protestant churches; one was an Armenian Protestant Church on Arlington Street in Watertown. "I went to St James as soon as they started the Sunday School, and I've been there ever since," says Sanasarian with a chuckle. "I started to sing, as a bass, in the choir decades ago."

In fact, in recognition of his continued heartfelt dedication to the St. James Armenian Church community, he was honored with a Parish Service Award at their 83rd Anniversary and Name Day Banquet in 2014. "He's one of the kindest and most devoted church goers and choir members I've ever known," said parishioner George Tarvezian Jr.

Besides singing for the church choir, Sanasarian sang with the Armenian Choral Society (ACS) for many years. Under the direction of Siranoush Der Manuelian, ACS sang at various

whole was never activated. One memorable time was when he served on the FDR carrier for a week.

In the Torpedo Bomber Squadron (TBM), he usually reported to Weymouth where blimps were kept. In his role as an aerial photographer, he used K20, K25 and F56 (that weighed about 50 pounds) aerial cameras and a Speed Graphic land camera. Bob shares, "I was in one plane, opened the hatch, and took a photo while in mid-air of an individual pilot in one plane in the squadron, then continued to take photos of the other pilots in their planes. So, there could be 12 planes in the squadron and I usually would fly with the commanding officer in the lead plane. We also used the F56, would take the photos, and later develop the film, take prints and match them up to overlap so then you would have a panoramic, topographic picture of the entire landscape."

Residing in Watertown his whole life, the Sanasarian family lived on Arlington Street, subsequently moved "to the Zakarian house" on Quimby Street, then bought the house on Carver Road East. As to his immediate family, Sanasarian's parents, sisters Audrey and Arpie, and one nephew, have passed away but he spends a lot of time with his nieces Roxanne Baker and Joy Morgan and nephew Kevin Baker.

"My family had a big influence on my life, especially my mother, father, Uncles Vahakn Jerian and Sempat Paretchianian. I am proud of my mother. She was a hard worker and provided a good model for me to follow."

While Sanasarian has followed in the steps of his close family members, he has also moved in his own direction continuing to make a solid mark on this community.

(There were extensive names and places to research and/or cross check for spelling in the writing of this piece and the writer apologizes in advance for any unintentional corrections that might be needed.)

Arts & Living

Armenian Soprano Haroutounian Makes Sumptuous Recital Debut in SF

By Joshua Kosman

SAN FRANCISCO (*San Francisco Chronicle*) – Lianna Haroutounian's back-to-back Puccini performances with the San Francisco Opera in recent years – a formidable 2014 company debut as Tosca followed two years later by a delectable appearance in the title role of "Madama Butterfly" – served notice that the Armenian soprano was an important new presence on the operatic scene. Her contributions to both of those productions were marked by a memorable combination of vocal splendor and theatrical finesse.

On Saturday, November 25, Haroutounian returned to San Francisco to make her US recital debut in Herbst Theatre and demonstrated that those successes were no kind of fluke.

In a sumptuous and expressive program, superbly accompanied by pianist Tamara Sanikidze, Haroutounian brought her artistic powers to bear on a range of repertoire, including Italian and French opera, Russian songs and Armenian folk melodies as crafted by the musical priest Komitas. Each segment of the recital



Soprano Lianna Haroutounian

seemed to open up a window on some new corner of her artistry.

It's not as though the triumph of this program could have come as much of a surprise. But the operatic stage and the vocal recital, in spite of their considerable overlap, draw on somewhat different combinations of skills, and success in one arena doesn't necessarily translate to the other.

Yet Haroutounian wasted little time in demonstrating that the same qualities that had made her appearances at the War Memorial Opera House so memorable – rich-hued vocal tone, expansive breath control, a knack for shaping a melodic phrase into something at once grand and intimate – were in play here as well.

The event was not sponsored by any of the standard local presenters, but rather by what seems to have been an ad hoc committee assembled from among the luminaries of the Bay Area's Armenian community. It was certainly a welcome addition to the musical calendar.

Haroutounian's particular gift, at least on this occasion, was to smuggle the big gestures of the opera house into the confines of the recital hall. In the three lyrical showpieces by Bellini that anchored her opening set, she spun out the composer's extravagantly broad-beamed melodies without a hitch. The results, especially the apostrophe to the moon, *Vaga luna*, were simultaneously buoyant and probing, clothed in an air of serene grace.

see DEBUT, page 17



Anahid Abad

Armenia's Academy Awards Submission Imagines End of War

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) – Armenia's foreign-language film submission to the Academy Awards for this year invites viewers to imagine a world without war, according to its director.

Anahid Abad, the director of "Yeva," said at the Iranian premiere of her debut movie on Thursday, "The world without any war is much more beautiful, even for warmongers."

The film tells the story of a young woman who escapes her influential in-laws with her daughter, Nareh, after her husband's tragic death and takes refuge in a village in the Karabakh region.

Criticizing war, Abad said its consequences are long lasting. "I was not directly in the frontline of any war, but war was a part of my life," said Abad.

Abad has a long track record working in Iranian cinema as an assistant director.

Her film is a joint production between the National Cinema Center of Armenia and the Iranian Farabi Cinema Foundation in Tehran, where the Iranian premiere was held.

The foundation also submitted Iran's foreign-language film entry to the Academy Awards for this year, another anti-war film by a female director, Narges Abyar's "Nafas (Breath)."

Alireza Tabesh, the managing director of the foundation, told the Associated Press that both countries submitting anti-war films by female directors this year was "an invaluable coincidence."

"Launching co-production projects with countries in the region... is one of the main goals of this foundation," Tabesh said, "It offers the opportunity of entering into new markets and enables film producers to share their visions."



In this frame grab from "Yeva" film and provided by Farabi Cinema Foundation on Friday, Nov. 24, actress Narine Grigoryan is seen in the title role as Yeva

Upcoming Candlelit Labyrinth Walk Tops off Year of Original Programs

BOSTON – Lucas Cowan, public art curator of the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy, spoke recently at a HUBweek event and had the following to say about the Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway: "Every day the Park is filled with families, children and adults...Just as the sculptural element changes yearly and is reconfigured...this place grants permission for contemplative thought, meditation and solace..."

So many are visiting, spending time at this "gem on the Greenway" (*Boston Globe* 2015). Some relax on a bench or read, and some enjoy lunch or share a moment with a friend or colleague. Many walk the labyrinth – a daily ritual to quiet the mind – and most marvel at the abstract sculpture, returning each year to view its newest sculptural shape, and all pause to read the inscription on the reflecting pool.

On Sunday, December 17, the annual Candlelit Labyrinth Peace Walk will wrap up a series of programs at the park for the year. All are invited to enjoy the sparkle of the park in the evening from 4:30 to 6 p.m., considered "Boston's Newest Holiday Tradition" (*Metro*, 2015). Many will walk the candlelit labyrinth, some will tie a colorful ribbon with a wish on the Wishing Tree and all will enjoy hot chocolate and delicious cookies, hosted by the Bostonian Hotel. At 5:45 p.m., Ladies First, an a cappella group from Wellesley High School, will perform. Although there is no charge, an RSVP is appreciated by email hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org.

During the year, programs are varied and interesting to build community, to come together on common ground. Several programs are supported by one of the Park's endowed funds; most all depend on generous gifts-in-kind. Some are featured programs during ArtWeek Boston and HubWeek. Most programs are offered in collaboration with leading organizations and institutions among them Age-Friendly Boston, The Bostonian Hotel, The Bostonian Society/Old State House, City of Boston, The Eliot K-8 Innovation School/Boston Public Schools, Faneuil Hall, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Friends of Christopher Columbus Park, Greenway Conservancy, Hollister Staffing, Labyrinth Guild of New England, MEM Tea Imports, Museum of Fine Arts, NorthEndWaterfront.com, Sharon Merrill Associates, US District Court Massachusetts and Webster Bank. Friends of the Heritage Park, open to all, plan and implement many of the programs. The Friends is an initiative of the Armenian Heritage Foundation. Dedicated volunteers also oversee the Park's care and the annual reconfiguration of the Abstract Sculpture.

Each new year begins with the annual reconfiguration of the abstract sculpture. Every year, during a Sunday morning in late March or early April, the sculpture, a split rhomboid dodecahedron, is reconfigured into a new sculptural shape, symbolic of all who were pulled away from their country of origin and came to these shores, establishing themselves in new and different ways. A crane lifts and reconfigures the two halves, made of steel and aluminum, under the direction of A&A Industries, fabricator of the abstract sculpture, their generous gift-in-kind. The park's Charles and Doreen Bilezikian Endowed Fund supports the annual configuration.

During April, the annual April 24 Genocide Commemoration at the Park, planned by the Massachusetts Armenian Genocide Commemoration Committee is a "remembrance that both honors and commemorates lives lost...and to reflect on the lessons it

see LABYRINTH, page 16



ARTS & LIVING

Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra Christmas Holiday Concert on December 10

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — The Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra will usher in the Christmas season with its Christmas Holiday Concert on Sunday, December 10, at 7 p.m., in the Sanctuary of Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle Street,

Cambridge. This year's concert, under the direction of Composer Konstantin Petrossian, Music Director and Conductor, will feature the Vocal Quartet the Bostonians, and open with the Arlington High School Madrigal Singers, directed by Madalyn Kitchen.

The program will consist of a variety of traditional Armenian and Western sacred and holiday music, and will include three special songs: *Yegeghetzin Haygagan* (The Armenian Church) and *Aghotk* (Prayer) (US Premier), which are dedicated to the memory of the Very Rev. Oshagan Minassian, founder and director of the Erevan Choral Society, and to his devoted mother, Diramayr Sirvart Minassian, and *Hor Hor* dedicated to the heroic liberators of Artsakh.

The Bostonians is a repertory company of outstanding vocal and instrumental artists founded in 2003, by renowned singer, teacher and impresario Richard Conrad. Now led by baritone Philip Lima, they are known for sonorous singing and virtuoso playing and have enjoyed praise for their eclectic programs ranging from opera to cabaret, American favorites to Armenian classics. In addition to Philip Lima, the quartet is comprised of Nouné Karapetian (soprano), Roselin Osser (mezzo) and Michael Calmés (tenor). This is the Bostonians second performance at Holy Trinity's Christmas Concert, having per-

formed in 2015.

The Arlington High School Madrigal Singers, founded in 1990, is an auditioned ensemble comprised of students in Grades 9-12. The "Mads" have performed in European Tours that have taken them to Italy, Greece, Hungary, Austria and Switzerland, and this coming February, they will again be touring in Italy and Switzerland. They generally perform in Arlington and the Greater Boston area, including events such as Boston's 9/11 Commemorative Ceremony in 2014 and at Fenway Park in 2016.

Students of Holy Trinity's Armenian School will also participate with recitations intermingled in the program.

The public is invited to attend this free concert, which is a gift to the community.

For further information, contact the Church at email office@htaac.org, or log onto www.htaac.org.



Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra

Atom Egoyan Receives Lifetime Achievement Award At India Film Festival

TORONTO — Acclaimed Canadian Armenian filmmaker Atom Egoyan was bestowed the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 48th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2017 which began on November 20, United News of India reported.

An accomplished director, writer and producer, Egoyan has made a mark in the mainstream and alternate cinema all over the world.

His work is often credited for exploring different themes that carry a rich amount of emotions and effective use of Technology.

Born to Armenian-Egyptian parents, Egoyan started to study Armenian history.

He has directed 15 full-length films thereafter, several television episodes, and a few shorter pieces.



Atom Egoyan

His debut film, "Next of Kin," won a major prize at the International Film Festival Mannheim-Heidelberg.

His commercial breakthrough came with the film "Exotica" (1994) for which he won accolades.

For the film "The Sweet Hereafter," he received two Academy Award nominations for best director and best adaptation.

His film "Ararat" was the first feature film on the Armenian genocide and received critical acclaim and appreciation for taking a bold stand on this sensitive topic.

It won Best Film on Human Rights by The Political Film Society of Hollywood.

Celebrated as one of the best Contemporary filmmakers on the international scene, Egoyan's brilliant depiction of his artistic and flawless scenes and capturing the emotions of the audience is widely appreciated.

This year, at IFFI 2017, three of the best films by Egoyan will be screened, "Exotica," "The Sweet Hereafter" and "Remember."

Sponsor A Teacher
In Armenia and Karabagh
17th Anniversary

Since its inception in 2001, TCA's Sponsor a Teacher program has raised over \$607,000 and reached out to 6,027 teachers and school workers in Armenia & Karabagh.

\$200 \$400 \$600 Other \$ _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip code _____
Tel. _____

Make check payable to: Takayan Cultural Association - Memo: Sponsor a Teacher
Mail your check with this form to:
TCA Sponsor a Teacher
5326 Yalverde, Houston, TX 77056
Your donation is Tax Deductible.

ARTS & LIVING

Upcoming Candlelit Labyrinth Walk Tops off Year of Original Programs

Labyrinth, from page 14

holds for our lives today." Speakers included the Primate of the Armenian Diocese (Eastern) Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, former US Ambassador to Armenia John Evans, Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian and performances by Sayat Nova Dance Company and violinist Sammy Andonian.

Also in April is the annual Walk Against Genocide at the Park, planned by the Massachusetts Coalition to Save Darfur. The walk starts at the New England Holocaust Memorial and proceeds to Armenian Heritage Park. Speakers at both sites focused on the genocides during the 20th and 21st centuries.

On the first Saturday in May, Experience Public Art, an ArtWeek Boston featured program, was held at the park. The two-part program opened with World Labyrinth Day: Walk as One at 1 p.m. followed by the reception to view the abstract sculpture's new configuration. On May 6, several walked the labyrinth under the mist, some under umbrellas, joining people in cities and towns in 35 countries world-wide, all participating in World Labyrinth Day, the international initiative of the Labyrinth Society. The reception to view the 2017 configuration of the sculpture was to follow with WGBH Arts Editor Jared Bowen offering remarks, if it were not for the rain. Tea and Desserts were to have been hosted by Eastern Lamejun and MEM Tea Imports.

ArtWeek Boston is the annual award-winning festival that features unique and creative experiences.

In early June, Let's Party @The Kitchen was held at the Boston Public Market to benefit the Park's year-round care. The evening featured four Chefs preparing a signature dish – Bedros DerVartanian, Eastern Lamejun Bakers; Andrew Janjigian, American's Test Kitchen and *Cook's Illustrated*; Jason Reed, Vicki Lee's and Nathan Kibarian, Bastille Kitchen.

Wines were provided by Tutunjian Estate Vineyards; hand-roasted nuts were courtesy of Fastachi. Wendy Semonian, publisher of the *Improper Bostonian* was the evening's mistress of ceremonies.

During June, July and August and in collaboration with Age-Friendly Boston, the inaugural Tea & Tranquility series was held on the third Wednesday of the month from

5:30-7 p.m. Many working and living in downtown and greater Boston came together to meet and greet, walk the Labyrinth and enjoy Tea & Desserts, hosted by the Bostonian Hotel and MEM Tea Imports. For first-time walkers, an introduction to walking a Labyrinth was offered.

September is the month for the annual. Sunday Afternoon at the Park is a delightful

worldwide and celebrate contributions to the richness of American life and culture. This year, Judge Indira Talwani, US District Court of Massachusetts presided over the naturalization ceremony at Faneuil Hall and, at the invitation of Judge Rya Zobel (retired), offered the welcoming remarks during the reception at the park. Talwani was introduced by Koutoujian. Each new citizen

received a gift from the Bostonian Society/Old State House, the Museum of Fine Arts Boston and Greenway Conservancy.

During October, Celebrating Public Art! two HUBweek featured programs were held at the park. HUBweek, founded by the *Boston Globe*, Harvard, MIT and MGH, "brings together the most creative and inven-

tive minds in art, science and technology." The two-day program opened on October 10 with the fourth annual "Reducing and Managing Stress: Walking the Labyrinth." Kip Hollister, president and founder of Hollister Staffing and Hollister Institute, introduced the benefits of walking a labyrinth, or meditative walking. David Calusdian, president of the Boston-based Sharon Merrill Associates offered the introduction. A networking reception followed at Hollister Staffing, 75 State St. The October 11 program, "Geometry as Public Art: Celebrating the Immigrant Experience," featured Greg Kerkorian, principal, GB Kerkorian Partners Insurance; Lucas Cowan, public art curator, Greenway Conservancy; Don Tellalian, AIA and Morgan Atkins, coordinator of culture and school climate for the Eliot K-8 Innovation School, Boston Public School in the North End with three students who shared experiences through poetry and verse. A reception followed at the park hosted by the Bostonian Hotel and MEM Tea Imports.

Inspired by the visits of school children to the park, a team of educators from Friends of Heritage Park have developed an innovative school-based curriculum – Geometry as Public Art: Telling a Story. The curriculum is designed to spark greater awareness of geometry as art and to celebrate what unites and connects us, while building common ground. Presently, the curriculum is being piloted by the fourth-grade classes at the Eliot School in the North End.

Fundraising continues to fully endow the park's Endowed Fund for Care so that the park is impeccably maintained year-round. Contributions may be made on-line at ArmenianHeritagePark.org or by mail with a check, made payable to the Armenian Heritage Foundation, to Lucy Hoosian, Secretary, Armenian Heritage Foundation, 22 Richards Road, Watertown, MA 02472. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.



A previous candlelit walk at the Armenian Heritage Park (Photo courtesy of northendwaterfront.com)

afternoon on Sunday, September 17 for all ages. WCVB TV5 Cindy Fitzgibbon was emcee, joined by her young son. Greg Krikorian's All-Star Ensemble played as many danced, including the Red Sox's Wally the Green Monster and his little sister, Tessie. Face painting "for kids by kids" was new this year and also a highlight: HP Hood ice cream sandwiches.

In celebration of the immigrant experience on Thursday, September 21, the welcome reception for new citizens following the naturalization ceremony at Faneuil Hall was held at the park. Funded by the Anna and Noubar Afeyan Fund, the annual welcome reception is in keeping with a key theme of the park to acknowledge the history of Boston as a port of entry for immigrants

received a gift from the Bostonian Society/Old State House, the Museum of Fine Arts Boston and Greenway Conservancy.

During October, Celebrating Public Art! two HUBweek featured programs were held at the park. HUBweek, founded by the *Boston Globe*, Harvard, MIT and MGH, "brings together the most creative and inven-



Recipe Corner

by Christine Vartanian Datian

Bulgur, Beef, and Vegetable Burgers

INGREDIENTS

1 cup fine grain bulgur
1 pound lean ground beef or lamb
1 medium red or white onion, minced
1 medium egg, beaten
2 large cloves garlic, minced
2 cups water or low sodium chicken or vegetable broth
2 tablespoons tomato paste or tomato puree
2 tablespoons walnuts, finely chopped (optional)
1/2 cup parsley, finely chopped
Sea or Kosher salt, black pepper, paprika, dried sweet basil, or Aleppo pepper to taste
Finely chopped green onions, mint, green and red bell pepper, parsley, tomatoes and cucumbers as garnish
Fresh spinach, Romaine lettuce or chopped greens
Olive oil, unsalted butter or canola oil
Yogurt, sour cream, lemon wedges

PREPARATION:

In a medium pot, bring the water or broth to a full boil, add the bulgur, stir, cover, lower heat, and simmer for 15-20 minutes until bulgur and liquid have been absorbed. Remove pan from heat and let cool 10 minutes.

In a large bowl, combine the bulgur with the ground meat, minced onions, egg, garlic, tomato paste, walnuts, parsley, salt, pepper and choice of spices, and knead a few minutes until smooth. Add a few drops of water if mixture is too dry. Form mixture into small patties (round or oval shape) and fry in oil or butter until golden brown on both sides.

Place patties on a tray or platter and generously sprinkle with chopped green onions, mint, bell pepper, parsley, tomatoes and cucumbers. Serve immediately with spinach, Romaine lettuce, Armenian bread, pita bread or cracker bread, and assorted cheeses, olives, roasted vegetables, and condiments.

Serve with yogurt, sour cream and lemon wedges on the side, if desired.
Serves 4-6.

*Christine's recipes have been published in the *Fresno Bee* newspaper, *Sunset* magazine, *Cooking Light* magazine, and at <http://www.thearmeniankitchen.com/>



**TEKEYAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
OF GREATER NEW YORK**

proudly presents the NY/NJ premiere of



**A FUNNY, WITTY,
DELIGHTFUL NEW SHOW
IN ARMENIAN**

OOREMIN
Vahé Berberian
DINNER & COMEDY SHOW

**SATURDAY
MARCH 3
2018 @ 7PM**

**CLINTON INN HOTEL
145 DEAN DR, TENAFLY, NJ 07670**

**FOR RESERVATIONS PLEASE CONTACT
HELEN MISK 347-368-6993 BY FEBRUARY 24**

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TCA
AND MAIL TO: HELEN MISK
166-25 POWELLS COVE BLVD.
APARTMENT #11C
BEECHURST, NY 11357**

**\$85 PP
THREE COURSE DINNER
CASH BAR**

**YOUR CHECK
IS YOUR RESERVATION**



ARTS & LIVING

CALENDAR

MASSACHUSETTS

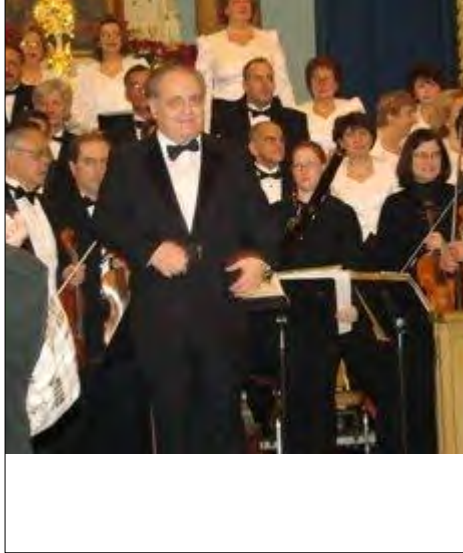
DECEMBER 1 and 2 — Trinity Christmas Bazaar, Friday, 12-9 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Featuring delicious Armenian dinners, a la carte menu and take-out meals; booths and vendors – perfect for doing your Christmas shopping; Armenian gourmet foods, delicacies and pastries; raffles, and more. Activities for Children, Peter Adamian Hall: Friday, 7-9 p.m., All Aboard “The Polar Express” Pajama Party, recommended for children ages 5 and older; Saturday, 11 a.m., Children’s Entertainment. Visit with Santa, Saturday, 1-2 pm, and have your photo taken too. Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall. For further information, contact the church office at 617.354.0632, or log onto <http://www.htaac.org/calendar/event/449/>

DECEMBER 7 — Panel: “Environmental Security and Statecraft in Armenia,” at Northeastern University, Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Co-sponsored by the NAASR/Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues and Northeastern University Armenian Club. At 220 Shillman Hall, Northeastern University, 115 Forsyth Street, Boston. Contact NAASR at hq@naasr.org for more information.

DECEMBER 10 — Christmas Holiday Concert, Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra, 7 p.m., Sunday, Church Sanctuary, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. This year’s concert, under the direction of Composer Konstantin Petrossian, music director and conductor, will open with the Arlington High School Madrigal Singers and feature the vocal quartet the Bostonians. The program will consist of traditional Armenian and Western sacred and holiday music. The public is invited to attend this complimentary concert which is a gift to the community. For further information, call the Church office, 617.354.0632.

DECEMBER 14 — NAASR Christmas Open House, with 7:30 lecture by Marian Mesrobian MacCurdy, “Operation Nemesis, Justice, and Inter-Generational Trauma: How Resistance Promotes Resilience,” Thursday, 6-10 p.m. at the NAASR Center, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont. All items in the bookstore will be 35 percent or more off. Contact NAASR at hq@naasr.org for more information.

DECEMBER 17 — Candlelit Labyrinth Peace Walk, Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston,



The Christmas Holiday Concert by the Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra, will take place at 7 p.m., on Sunday, December 10, at the Church Sanctuary, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge, Mass. This year’s concert, under the direction of Konstantin Petrossian, will open with the Arlington High School Madrigal Singers and feature the vocal quartet the Bostonians. The program will offer traditional Armenian and Western sacred and holiday music. The public is invited to attend this free concert. For further information, call the Church office, 617.354.0632.

4:30 – 6 pm. Quiet holiday reflection and celebration. Tie a ribbon with your wish on the Wishing Tree. Hot Chocolate & Cookies, hosted by The Bostonian Hotel Boston All are invited. RSVP appreciated, please email hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org

DECEMBER 17 — St. James 86th Anniversary Name Day Celebration. Sunday. Abp. Khajag Barsamian, Primate, Presiding. Honoring Michael G. Yapchaian, Parishioner of the Year, and Nishan & Margrit Atinikian, Diocesan St. Vartan Award Recipients. 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy. Name Day Banquet to follow. Keljik Hall. St. James’ Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center. \$45 per person. \$10 for children 12 and under. Advanced Reservations Required – purchase tickets online at www.stjameswatertown.org. 465 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown 617.923.8860 info@sthagop.com

MICHIGAN

DECEMBER 2 — Nor Keghi Kef Time III Pagharch Dinner and Dance Fundraiser for Nor Keghi School in Armenia, 6.30 p.m. St. John Armenian Church Hall, Southfield. Continuous music by an assembly of Detroit’s All-Star Armenian Musicians will again entertain attendees to the third “Pagharch” feast that residents of the historic Armenian district dined on for centuries at the start of the winter season in mountainous Keghi district. The government of Armenia on Feb. 1962 renamed the region of Ashdarag to Nor Keghi to honor the history of Keghizees of historic Western Armenia. Funds raised will help in development of the school’s multi-purpose auditorium.

RHODE ISLAND

SEPTEMBER 13, 2017-MARCH 14, 2018 — Armenian Film Festival “The Nation’s Past & Present” Sponsored by Cultural Committee of the Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church, in Hanoian Hall, 70 Jefferson Street, Providence. Wednesday, October 11, , at 7 pm, “Garni, Geghard” Wednesday, November 15, 2017, at 7 pm, “Armenia” (Yerevan, Echmiadzin, Khor Virap, Zvartnots, Sevan, Dilijan, Lori) Wednesday, January, 24, at 7 pm “Country of Armenian Kings - 2” (Ani, Kars, Edesia, Musaler) Wednesday, February, 21, at 7 pm, “Country of Armenian Kings - 3” (Cilicia, Kharbert, Adana, Zeytoun) Wednesday, March, 14, 2018, at 7 pm. All presented in English, donation of \$10.

Calendar items are free. Entries should not be longer than 5 lines. Listings should include contact information. Items will be edited to fit the space, if need be. A photo may be sent with the listing. Items should be sent no later than Mondays at noon.

Armenian American Museum Honors Calif. State Sen. Portantino at Reception

GLENDALE — The Armenian American Museum and Cultural Center honored California State Senator Anthony J. Portantino (D-La Cañada Flintridge) at a special community reception with donors and supporters on Thursday, November 16.

Earlier this year, Portantino successfully spearheaded an effort leading to the State

marked for the Armenian American Museum, bringing the State’s total funding commitment to \$4 million.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to represent the 25th Senate District which is home to a large and vibrant Armenian American community,” stated Portantino. “The Armenian American Museum is a historic project that will proudly celebrate the Armenian culture and history. It deserves our support and I am very pleased that our State’s investment will help make the project a reality.”

Armenian American Museum Governing Board Co-Chairs Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian and Rev. Berdj Jambazian addressed the audience and delivered passionate remarks on the importance of the project for the future of the community. Co-Chairs Archbishop Hovnan Derderian and Bishop Mikael Mouradian discussed the vision for the Armenian American Museum in a video mes-

sage and highlighted how it will serve as a bridge between the Armenian American community and the many diverse communities of Southern California.

City and Museum officials have been working collaboratively to prepare for the upcoming ground lease agreement consideration by the Glendale City Council. Museum Executive Committee Chairman Berdj Karapetian, Committee Member Zaven Kazazian, and Architect Aram Alajajian presented the latest project developments with donors and supporters at the reception.

SWA, an urban design and architectural firm, was hired by the City to develop plans for the open space that will connect the Downtown Central Library, Adult Recreation Center, and proposed Museum site. SWA plans to present its recommendations to City officials and the public at the upcoming City Council meeting on December 5.

City of Glendale and Armenian American Museum officials anticipate the signing of the ground lease agreement and ceremonial groundbreaking ceremony to take place in 2018.



State Sen. Anthony J. Portantino

Legislature investing an additional \$3 million in the historic cultural and educational center developing in the City of Glendale. Governor Jerry Brown signed the 2017-2018 state budget in June with \$3 million ear-

Soprano Haroutounian Makes Recital Debut in SF

DEBUT, from page 14

There was a similar expressive urgency in her final set of arias by Cilea, Mascagni and Gounod, only now ramped up to a new level of theatrical intensity and rhythmic vigor. *Io son l’umile ancella* from Cilea’s “Adriana Lecouvreur” boasted a welcome luster, matched by the glittering brilliance of the *Jewel Aria* from Gounod’s “Faust.”

The Armenian melodies, collected and reframed by Komitas in spare but eloquent arrangements, brought out Haroutounian’s most plain-spoken and vivid singing. And in

a series of songs by Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff – dedicated, in a moving gesture, to the memory of the late baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky, who died on November 22 – Haroutounian found a splendid balance between subtlety and ardor.

Sanikidze made a gallant partner throughout, and also took a moment in the spotlight for a ravishing account of a Chopin *Nocturne*. The recital ended with a string of four encores, including *Ebben ... ne andrò lontana* from Catalani’s “La Wally,” and, of all things, George Gershwin’s *Summertime*, delivered with wit and warmth.

Mirror Spectator



Established 1932
An ADL Publication

EDITOR

Alin K. Gregorian

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR

Marc Mgrditchian

SENIOR EDITORIAL COLUMNIST:

Edmond Y. Azadian

CONTRIBUTORS:

Florence Avakian, Dr. Haroutiun Arzoumanian, Taleen Babayan, Diana Der Hovanessian, Philip Ketchian, Kevork Keushkerian, Harut Sassounian, Hagop Vartivarian, Naomi Zeytoonian

CORRESPONDENTS:

Armenia - Hagop Avedikian
Boston - Nancy Kalajian
New York/New Jersey - Marylynda Bozian-Cruickshank
Berlin - Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

Contributing Photographers:

Jacob Demirdjian and Jirair Hovsepien

The Armenian Mirror-Spectator is published weekly, except two weeks in July and the first week of the year, by:

Baikar Association, Inc.

755 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472-1509

Telephone: 617-924-4420

FAX: 617-924-2887

www.mirrorspectator.com

E-Mail: editor@mirrorspectator.com

For advertising: mirrorads@aol.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| U.S.A. | \$80 a year |
| Canada | \$125 a year |
| Other Countries | \$190 a year |

© 2014 The Armenian Mirror-Spectator
Periodical Class Postage Paid at Boston, MA
and additional mailing offices.

ISSN 0004-234X

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Armenian Mirror-Spectator, 755 Mount Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472

Other than the editorial, views and opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the policies of the publisher.

Copying for other than personal use or internal reference is prohibited without express permission of the copyright owner. Address requests for reprints or back issues to:

Baikar Association, Inc.

755 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472-1509

COMMENTARY

Soviet Armenia Redux

By Edmond Y. Azadian

There is a euphoria generated by the prospect of celebrating the centennial of the First Republic in 2018. However, this November 29 reminds us of another centennial arriving in 2020, that of the creation of the Soviet Armenian Republic, under the most controversial turn of historic events.

While Turkish Kemalist forces under Kazim Karabekir were at Armenia's border, threatening to overrun the country, the government in power, controlled by the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF), decided to sign the Treaty of Alexandropol, placing the country under Turkish tutelage. In the meantime, the same government was negotiating with the Communists over a power-sharing deal, where Gen. Dro (Drastamad Kanayan) and Hampartsoum Derderian would represent the ARF on the Revolutionary Committee.

At a distance of 98 years, it is a challenge to understand what was in the minds of those leaders when they engaged in a double deal. Since the incoming government was not a party to the Alexandropol Treaty, the latter was rendered invalid. Thus, Armenia was safe from the prospect of Turkish domination. As soon as the Soviets took over, they declared the treaty defunct and saved the last remnant of historic Armenian territory, which they also expanded to its current dimensions.

In this way, Soviet Armenia became part of our history and in terms of longevity, it far exceeds the First Republic.

Soviet Armenia was a hybrid state; it was a republic by itself but was part of a larger federated unit, the Soviet Union.

While thinking about and preparing for the celebration of the First Republic's centennial, many people have forgotten the 70 years

during World War II in defense of the Soviet Homeland, by sacrificing another 300,000 lives from their male population.

In addition to those sacrifices, Armenians had to endure Stalin's terror, losing the cream of the crop of the Armenian intelligentsia.

With all the evils associated with the Soviet system, Armenia enjoyed a number of advantages that it had missed throughout history.

As part of a monumental global economy, Armenia was able to develop its industrial base, not only on the consumer level but also in cybernetics and space technology. The development of science and technology reached unprecedented levels.

The Soviet education system proved to be on the highest level at the time. Victor Hampartzumyan, the Alikhanyan brothers and Grigor Gurzakyen explored the universe and the stars and placed Armenia's name at the cutting edge of physics and astronomy.

A very serious scholarship took deep root in Armenia; Ajarian, Mananian, Chahukyan, Gharibian and Malkhasyants developed world-class scholarship and historiography. Aram Khachaturian's Sabre Dance was performed throughout the world. Works by Sarian, Minas Avetisyan and Kochar were on display in museums around the world. The literary creative impulse propelled writers like Mahari, Hrant Matevossian, Silva Kapoutikian, Shiraz and Bakunts to the pan-soviet summit and beyond.

Armenia became a center of attraction for many Armenians around the world and many repatriated voluntarily to the revived homeland led by writers and artists like Kochar, Ara Sargyan, Sarian, Avedik Issahakian, Vahan Totovents, Zabel Yesayan and others.

In addition to repatriation, one evil aspect of Soviet system became a blessing in disguise: Soviet citizens were not allowed to leave their country. That ban contributed to the enhancement of Armenia's ethnic profile.

After centuries of turbulent history, Armenian found peace and stability, where life was predictable. There was full employment, free education and healthcare, free vacation packages and retirement benefits.

Today, in our independent republic, the questions in every family's mind are where the next meal will be coming from and what the future will hold for their children.

Today, when Armenia is a free and independent republic, Armenians are confused as to how to use that freedom. After wasting the economic base of the Soviet era, that freedom has led to depopulation.

While Soviet Armenia was prospering, the world Armenian community was deprived of sharing the culture developed in the homeland because it was shielded by an Iron Curtain. It was destined that the Armenian Democratic

Liberal (ADL) party should take the leadership role in piercing that Iron Curtain to bring Armenia's living culture to the diaspora, at the expense of being called "communist agents," "fellow travelers" or "Soviet sympathizers."

The only purpose that the ADL had for reaching out to Armenia was to bring out the music, literature, dance and culture to the diaspora and to develop a spiritual unity for the world Armenian population. Similarly, the ADL reached out to the center of the Armenian faith to keep the spiritual unity between the Diaspora and Armenia.

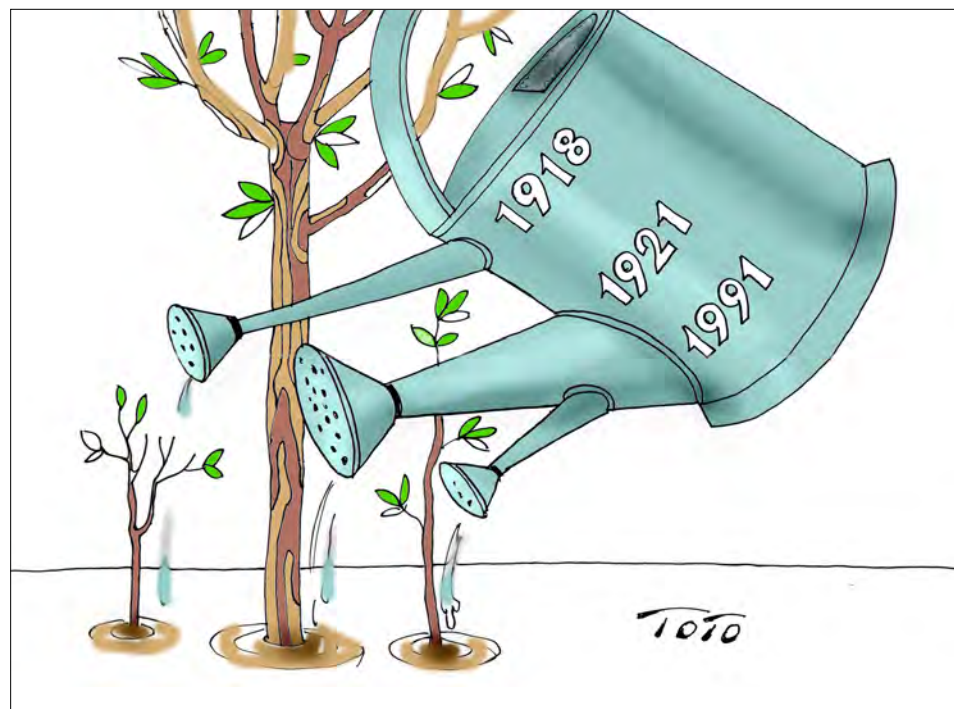
Many ADL leaders, editors and rank and file members suffered the consequences of their patriotic stands; they were subjected to verbal abuse, physical injury and even death. But the endeavor paid off eventually. When Armenia attained independence, the two segments of our people were not alienated from one another.

Lo and behold, an ironic development came to prove that the people who labeled the ADL a Soviet tool turned out to be on the KGB payroll themselves. Indeed, the Soviet KGB General Oleg Kalugin published lists of names of Soviet agents in the west. And the two most ardent ARF leaders from the Middle East were on that list.

The past is present; whatever the Third Republic inherited from Soviet Armenia, it has been building on that legacy.

Today, when the Soviet empire is gone, we can call a spade a spade, without any fear of being labeled as an agent. Thus, the patriotic ADL policy has been vindicated.

Soviet Armenia is part of our history and its legacy has to be evaluated objectively and its patriotic leaders should enjoy the historic respect they deserve.



of Soviet Armenia, which cannot be taken out of our history.

Now that the winds of the Cold War have subsided and the existence of the Soviet Empire relegated to the ash heap of history, it is incumbent upon us to make a sober evaluation of the Second Republic which laid the foundations of Armenian culture, science and technology, raising the level of its achievements to that of the highest international standards.

Incidentally, the industrial and the technological base which was created during that period was wasted during the first few years of the Third Republic, ruled by an amateurish leadership.

Our ethnic pride would not allow us to admit that the three consecutive republics came into existence but through our heroic political struggles. However, reality is different. World events and regional political developments helped Armenians to seize the opportunity and create a sovereign or semi-sovereign homeland.

That historic fact does not obliterate or devalue the heroic liberation and self-defense movements that Armenians have conducted from Zeitun to Shabin Karahissar, from Van to Sardarabad, from Cilicia to Karakilissa.

Based on a false gospel, the Soviet system turned out to be hell for its citizens. It was a historic experiment conducted at the expense of millions of lives; an experiment which Armenians also shared in. The West fought furiously to contain the ideological power of the Communist Utopia from engulfing the globe. That experiment, especially its promise to bring equality to all, turned out to be a hoax and thus it eventually collapsed under its own weight.

It was not enough that Armenians had lost two thirds of their population in their historic homeland; they had to pay their dues



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Erdogan Keeps Alienating Everyone, Including Distinguished Foreign Scholars

Turkish President Erdogan is a 'blessing' to all those who are opposed to Turkish autocratic rule and massive violations of human rights. Not a day passes without the Turkish government behaving brutally against scholars, human rights activists, non-governmental organizations, journalists, and political opponents. Erdogan has done more harm to Turkey's image around the world than anyone else since the Ottoman Turks' implementation of the 1915 Armenian Genocide.

The latest manifestation of Turkish intolerance of free speech and academic freedom was displayed when the University of Michigan's Workshop for Armenian Turkish Scholarship decided to hold a conference at the European Academy in Berlin, Germany, on September 15-18, 2017. The conference was co-organized by the University of Michigan, USC Dornsife Institute of Armenian Studies, and Lepsiushaus Potsdam, under the auspices of Dr. Martina Münch, Minister for Science, Research and Culture of the State of Brandenburg in Germany.

Prominent multinational scholars, including Turkish academics, were invited to participate in this important conference. However, the Turkish Council of Higher Education prevented the travel of distinguished professors from Turkey to attend the conference on "Past in the Present: European Approaches to the Armenian Genocide."

Prof. Beth Baron, president of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), sent a highly critical letter to President Erdogan and Prime Minister Yildirim in September on behalf of its 3,000 members worldwide, describing Turkish efforts against the conference as "an assault on the academic freedom of scholars in Turkey and a disturbing new instance of a broader trend of stifling scholarship on topics

deemed taboo by your government.... The events surrounding the WATS conference in Berlin represent another depressing instance of your government's failure to respect basic human rights' protections under Turkish law despite Turkey's clear international obligations."

Radical Turkish politician Dogu Perincek announced that the conference would "serve imperialism and the interests of Kurdistan" and called the Turkish participants 'traitors.' Other right wing nationalists and pro-government media in Turkey also denounced the conference.

MESA's President sent copies of her critical letter to: President of the Turkish Parliament; Justice Minister of Turkey; President of the Turkish Higher Education Council; Chair and Vice Chair of the European Parliament Subcommittee on Human Rights; High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy; Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations; Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights; Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament; United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to education; Turkey's Ambassador to the United States; and United States Ambassador to Turkey.

Not surprisingly, several weeks later, neither President Erdogan nor the Prime Minister had responded to the MESA letter!

In addition, a statement was issued by the WATS Organizing Committee on Sept. 18, 2017, describing Ankara's refusal to allow Turkish scholars to attend the Berlin conference "an attack on free speech and academic freedom, indeed, to extend such intellectual repression beyond the borders of Turkey. We share the concern of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) of North America that such actions seriously and scandalously damage scholarship and the free exchange of knowledge."

WATS stated that the conference came "under sustained attack by Turkish ultra-nationalist political circles in Turkey and Germany. Long-time deniers of the Armenian Genocide in the international arena declared that the conference will 'serve imperialism and the interests of Kurdistan' and framed the Kurdish issue as forming 'the second Israel,' clearly an anti-Semitic slur."

WATS also declared that "Turkey has been hurt by the current atmosphere of intimidation and threats as evidenced in the treatment of the scholars who wished to attend the

WATS conference in Berlin.... We... call on the Turkish government to restore the academic freedoms that have been and are being violated in Turkey. We demand as well that the Turkish state desist from interfering in intellectual exchange and expression outside of Turkey.... Such interference infringes on the democratic order in Turkey and in hosting countries. The events surrounding the WATS conference in Berlin demonstrate one more instance of the Turkish state's refusal to respect basic human rights' protections both under Turkish law and Turkey's clear international obligations."

Finally, Dr. Fatma Muge Gocek, professor at the University of Michigan (originally from Turkey) and co-organizer of the Berlin conference, wrote a commentary in the Washington-based Ahvalnews.com Turkish website on Nov. 10, 2017, titled: "Harassment of Turkish academics in the West should be stopped."

Professor Gocek wrote: "I have been constantly harassed by the Turkish state because of my work. This harassment has taken the form of online slander campaigns, anonymous threats traced back to Turkey, and people at my talks planted by the Turkish state who try to challenge and demean me. I have encountered this harassment both in the United States and in Europe, despite the fact I have only given lectures at universities. Once, the FBI had to be called in to investigate a personal threat I received. This situation, which was already bad and completely antithetical to the freedom of expression and opinion, has become worse this year."

Professor Gocek further stated that the Turkish protesters who came to the Berlin conference "not only heckled and filmed participants, but also tried to break into our meeting. Finally, Turkish newspapers reported our activities as a bizarre conspiracy to attempt to control Turkey and create a second Israel there."

Professor Gocek concluded her critical commentary by calling on Western countries to take action against Turkey: "What is most disturbing for me is not only the persistence of Turkish state violence in Turkey, but its extension outside the country, as I have experienced in Europe and the United States. It is time for the West to take an effective stand against this escalating harassment on its own soil. I believe that such harassment differs from terrorist violence only by degree as both intend to challenge, undermine and destabilize Western norms and values. Only by taking an effective stand against foreign state harassment would the West be able to contain the lack of accountability for violence that exists within such authoritarian countries like Turkey."

Boston Globe Editorial Singles Out Koutoujian For Work with Young Offenders

The Boston Globe ran the following editorial in its November 22 edition about Peter Koutoujian, the sheriff of Middlesex County, about the work he is pioneering in one jail in Billerica, Mass.

Early next year, one of the most important criminal justice reform experiments in the country will spread to a stately brick jailhouse in Billerica.

The Middlesex Jail and House of Correction will become one of the first in the nation to create a dedicated, service-rich cell block for young men.

Inmates, ages 18 to 24, will gather in peace circles to talk through conflict. They'll learn how to budget for rent and transportation. And they'll get the chance to hold their children during visiting hours.

Jurisdictions in Massachusetts and across the country would be wise to track the unit's progress, and join in a crucial re-imagining of our criminal justice system.

Get Arguable with Jeff Jacoby in your inbox:

The idea is that 19- and 20-year-olds are fundamentally different than 35- and 40-year-olds – less mature, yes, but also more malleable, and better positioned to change.

If you're looking to challenge Massachusetts' reputation as a bastion of liberalism, this jail is a good place to start.

It's an idea borne out by decades of neuroscience research, which shows the brain is still developing into the mid-20s. And Middlesex Sheriff Peter Koutoujian, who is launching the unit, understands that research intuitively.

He calls himself a "recovering young adult," who was adrift as a young man and didn't get serious until his mid-20s. Of course, Koutoujian didn't descend into criminality when he was casting about. And he's not arguing that young men who rob or steal should escape punishment. But he makes a compelling argument for treating them differently behind bars.

Koutoujian says it only makes sense to keep impressionable young offenders away from the older inmates they mix with now. "They're learning all the wrong things in here," he said, in a recent jailhouse interview. And tailored services, he says, can make a real difference. A separate unit he established for military veterans is showing strong early results and garnering national attention.

For this new project, Koutoujian is leaning heavily on the Vera Institute of Justice, a New York-based organization that helped create the nation's first comprehensive unit for young adults at a tough prison in Cheshire, Conn., known as "The Rock."

The Cheshire unit hasn't had a single fight between prisoners or attack on a guard since it launched early this year, and just a fraction of the disciplinary issues that normally arise among young adults in prison.

Alex Frank, a senior program associate at Vera who has worked on both the Connecticut and Middlesex projects, says any serious effort to reduce mass incarceration in this country "requires a focus on young adults."

Eighteen- to 24-year-olds account for 10 percent of the American population but 21 percent of prison admissions, she notes. And their recidivism rates are much higher than for other age groups. Whatever we're doing now is clearly failing.

There are plenty of new approaches to consider. In San Francisco, the district attorney and probation chief started a Young Adult Court for 18- to 24-year-olds a couple of years ago. And Massachusetts lawmakers may add 18-year-olds to the state's juvenile justice system, which is more rehabilitative than the adult system.

For now, though, the most expedient approach may be creating the sort of separate cell block Koutoujian is preparing to launch in Middlesex in February.

Staff are still working out the details. But the unit will house about 50 to 100 prisoners on a bi-level cell block wrapped around a central meeting area with white, yellow, and blue linoleum floors.

And UTEC, an impressive, Lowell-based organization already working to rehabilitate some of the toughest young men in the region, will play a central role. Gregg Croteau, the executive director of the nonprofit, says his group will aim to smooth the transition to the outside – offering job training in jail, for instance, followed by work at a UTEC-run cafe after release.

In the end, it's that transition that will matter most. Success will be measured in lives turned around and communities made safer. It will take time to see if the Middlesex young-adult unit can do all that. But Koutoujian gets credit for trying something smarter and bolder than what we've got now.

The Armenian Case and European Judiciary: Beyond Statements

By Philippe Raffi Kalfayan

SINCE the beginning of the 21st century, the judicial remedy for Armenian claims has become familiar and reparation studies and researches proliferate. The pan-Armenian political terminology consecrated it. Various initiatives contributed to this process: the New York Life and Axa Insurance settlements in 2004 and 2005. The most recent attempt, with a good amount of publicity, is the Catholicosate of Antelias' claim for the restitution of Holy See properties of Sis (Kozan), in Turkey, first before the Constitutional Court of Turkey and afterwards before the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). The application has been successively declared inadmissible by both courts on the same grounds: the non-fulfilment of the rule imposing the exhaustion of domestic judicial remedies.

One columnist reported the comments and interpretations of the plaintiff and of one of his lawyers. I will not comment on their assertions. However, I deem it is important for people on this side of the Atlantic to better understand the features, rules and limits of the European Court. Indeed, most Armenians perceive this rejection as another judicial defeat; some see a kind of fatalism, others a plot or evidence for the existence of corrupt powers, while others question the skills of the legal team. But one must look beyond statements and biased communication, with a view to play down the decision, balance certain unhappy observations, and also recall some features and limits of the ECHR. This will be my modest objective.

The rules of procedure do not depend on the political situation in a country or the degree of respect for



AGBU Holds Annual Film Screening by Armenian Filmmakers at Lincoln Center

NEW YORK — On November 16, the AGBU Performing Arts Department (PAD) held the annual Armenians in Film: 6 Short Films at the Francesca Beale Theater in the Film Society of Lincoln Center, in New York. In its third year, the event featured works by young Armenian filmmakers.

“We are committed to supporting our artists on the highest level,” said Michael Sarian, PAD coordinator, emphasizing the significance of showcasing works of Armenian artists in iconic venues. “This famous venue attracts many film enthusiasts and tourists, providing our artists more exposure,” added Sarian.

The program included six short films: “A Void” by Raffi Wartanian; “Echoes of Survival” by Avo John Kambourian; “Foreign Sounds” by Eric Shahinian; “Levon: A Wondrous Life” by Emily Mkrtychian and Anahid Yahjian; “You Can’t Go Home Again” by Ovsanna Gevorgyan and “Worn” by Garen Barsegian.

Haunted by the issue of Armenian identity, Kambourian featured Armenian American artists — oud player Ara Dinkjian, painter Jackie Kazarian, photojournalist Scout

Tufankjian and others — in his documentary series, showing how Armenian culture has survived through their works.

“I’m excited to bring my film Echoes of Survival to the AGBU Performing Arts Department’s annual film screening series at Lincoln Center,” said Kambourian. “I couldn’t think of a better platform to showcase my work, which deals with the journey of artists in our communities. I’m humbled to be featured among such talented filmmakers as well.”

Guests also enjoyed the special screening of “Children of War.” Composed of four 60-second films, it tells human rights stories without dialogues. All movies are finalists of the human rights challenge presented by Oscar-winning director Terry George and Creative Armenia, an innovative nonprofit production organization.

A panel discussion moderated by Garin Hovannissian, Creative Armenia’s founding director and co-writer and director of the film “1915,” concluded the evening. Actors Ara Wolland and Tamara Sevunts, as well as Scout Tufankjian, along with five filmmakers, joined the discussion and shared



Director Garin Hovannissian moderated the post-screening panel discussion. (Left to right) Garin Hovannissian, Eric Shahinian, Raffi Wartanian, Ara Wolland, Tamara Sevunts, Ovsanna Gevorgyan, Garen Barsegian, Avo John Kambourian and Scout Tufankjian.

their experiences of working on their projects. “These short films put on display the talents of six very different filmmakers,”

said Hovannissian. “They represent a new generation of voices and visions to our culture.”

The Armenian Case and European Judiciary: Beyond Statements

JUDICIARY, from page 19

the rule of law. Presuming that it is a loss of time and hopeless to go before the lower jurisdictions and deciding instead to apply directly to the Constitutional Court of Turkey has been the wrong move by numerous plaintiffs in Turkey those last two years. The massive flow of arrests or dismissals from posts in different circles because of their alleged connections to Fethullah Gülen or to the PKK, all allegedly threaten the national security or the government of the Republic of Turkey. The moves have also created a back log of applications at Strasbourg, panicking the Registry of the Court.

First, it must be recalled that the ECHR is not a supreme court but a subsidiary court to national court systems, whose mandate is limited to the application and interpretation of the European

Convention of Human Rights (“Convention”) signed by the 47 member-countries of the Council of Europe. Individual applications must be grounded on alleged violations of the Convention and of its protocols. The ECHR created a real dynamic between the national courts and itself: pilot (this is the word to keep) European judgments pushed the national systems to make their laws compatible, and, more, leading them to adopt amendments to their domestic laws by necessity of compliance.

However, this virtuous cycle is now over: the parties are now showing some political resistance and asking for a wider margin of interpretation. Some countries have adopted measures to restore their judicial sovereignty in order to not enforce all judgments (Russia, Italy); others think about leaving the Convention (Great Britain in the aftermath of

Brexit). In general, a decision of a foreign or international court cannot be enforced on the territory of a state without the consent of its judicial or political authorities. The ECHR judgments are legally binding but the Committee of Ministers of the CoE, which monitors the enforcement of judgments, cannot take measures of coercive nature. For an example, Turkey refused so far to enforce the judgment in the interstate case Cyprus vs. Turkey (2014).

Second, since the alleged coup in July 2016, the Turkish Grand National Assembly approved on July 21 a State of Emergency as provisioned in its Constitution and informed the Council of Europe (CoE) and the ECHR that measures taken may involve derogation from its obligations under the Convention, as allowed in Article 15. The declaration has since been renewed every three months and approved by

the Committee of Ministers of the CoE.

Third, Turkey has been the best “client” of the ECHR since 1959, and they have developed a working relationship with the court. Turkey contributes 10 percent of the total budget of the ECHR. The economic factor is far from marginal in this relationship. Moreover, of the ECHR’s 672 Registry staff members, 44 are Turkish nationals. The ECHR actually fears a withdrawal of Turkey from its system.

As far as admissibility of cases is concerned, the filter is composed of one judge, when it concerns the rule of procedure, or by a committee of three judges or a Chamber, when it concerns the merits. The procedural admissibility is very formal, and the exhaustion of domestic remedies is the first fundamental criteria. There may be special circumstances dispensing the applicant from the obligation to avail himself or herself of the domestic remedies available. One such factor may be that of national authorities remaining totally passive in the face of serious allegations of misconduct or infliction of harm by state agents, for example where they have failed to undertake investigations or offer assistance. On the contrary, mere doubts on the part of the applicant regarding the effectiveness of a particular remedy will not absolve him or her from the obligation to try it (cf. ECHR Practical Guide on Admissibility Criteria). The alleged political considerations or “deals” don’t intervene at this stage.

In 2016, 36,579 applications were declared inadmissible, among which the single-judge formation accounted for 30,998 cases. As regards Turkey, there has been an enormous flow of individual applications in 2017: 16,851 have been declared inadmissible by a single judge for procedural reasons. Thus, the Sis properties’ case was a mere drop in the ocean.

Beyond the political chaos in Turkey, one must admit that the substantiation of Antelias application, whatever creative and complex the engineering is, arrives at an impasse in Turkey and in Strasbourg. On the one side, the Constitutional Court admits cases related to facts that occurred after 2012 (date of the institution of individual complaints mechanism), and on the other, the legal team’s reasoning implies the interpretation of the Treaty of Lausanne into Turkish law (only a national court can do that), before claiming the alleged violation of right to property in light of the Convention’s First Protocol. If the first stage is not completed, one could hardly imagine the ECHR accepting to review such a case, where it involves an interpretation of Turkish laws. It was tempting to give it a try and force its fate at ECHR to gain time. But this is not a race.

(Philippe Raffi Kalfayan of Paris is a lawyer and an accredited expert on the CoE since 2003.)



Award Winning Armenian Wines for Birthdays, Holidays, Weddings & Corporate Gifts.

FREE shipping on any 6 or more bottles!