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Armenian Patriarchate Files Suit in Turkey for Return of Properties

Sansaryan Buildings Are Sought from Government

ISTANBUL (*Hürriyet Daily News*) – The Armenian Patriarchate has filed a landmark suit in Ankara on March 14 for the return of the historical Sansaryan School in the eastern province of Erzurum that was the site of the 1919 Erzurum Congress, an assembly led by the founder of the modern Republic of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. “Some other foundations belong to [minority] communities, but the Sansaryan Foundation was granted to the patriarchate by philanthropist Migirdiç Sansaryan in the 1800s. The administration and management of the Sansaryan Foundation legally belongs to the patriarchate,” lawyer Ali Elbeyoglu, who represents the Turkish-Armenian Patriarchate in court, told the

Hürriyet Daily News last week.

The patriarchate also demanded the return of other properties in the Central Anatolian province of Sivas formerly owned by the Sansaryan Foundation in the lawsuit it filed March 14.

“We are not going to content ourselves with the mere return of historical buildings. We are also going to demand compensation from the Foundations General Directorate for all



Acting Armenian Patriarch Aram Ateshyan

material losses incurred by the patriarchate since 1936,” Elbeyoglu said.

Upon the government’s request, Turkey’s minority groups in 1936 gave the government declarations detailing their real property. Over the years, however, many of these properties did not remain registered under the minority foundations’ names and some were even sold to third parties.

Turkey’s Foundations General Directorate expropriated the Sansaryan Foundation citing the 1936 Declaration, according to Elbeyoglu.

The Turkish-Armenian patriarchate also filed another suit against the Foundations Directorate General in recent months demanding that the Sansaryan Shopping Center in Istanbul’s Eminönü district be returned to the patriarchate. However, the head of Turkey’s Foundations Directorate General has said it will not be returned despite a ruling by an Istanbul court to impose an interim injunction over the building.

see PROPERTIES, page 4

Armenian Woman Killed in Syria Blast

ALEPPO (*ArmeniaNow*) – An ethnic Armenian woman was killed in a bomb attack here, on Sunday amid continuing clashes between rebel groups and the government army in the restive Middle Eastern country.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia said, citing a report confirmed by the Armenian Consulate in Aleppo, that the bomb blast occurred in the city’s mostly-Christian Sulemaniyeh neighborhood. Araxie Bedrossian, was reportedly

killed in the deadly attack. Five more Syrian Armenians were reportedly injured in a terrorist act in the capital Damascus, according to the French-Armenian magazine, *Nouvelles d’Arménie*.

The strife in Syria that has entered its second year is increasingly becoming a concern for the country’s estimated 80,000-member Armenian community. Earlier this year, Vigen Hayrapetian, a Syrian soldier, was among the victims of a series of deadly explosions in Aleppo.

Atom Egoyan Receives Chlotrudis Hall of Fame Award

Premieres ‘Calendar’ in
HD at Brattle Theatre

By Nancy Kalajian
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – On Sunday, March 18, the Chlotrudis Society for Independent Film honored director Atom Egoyan during its 18th Annual Chlotrudis Awards Ceremony at the historic Brattle Theatre in Harvard Square. Egoyan was honored with a special Chlotrudis Hall of Fame Award for his achievements as a filmmaker and was accompanied by his wife, actress Arsinée Khanjian.

The Chlotrudis Society is a Boston-based non-profit group that teaches people to view film actively, experience the world through independent film and engage in discussion. The group works with film festivals, local art-houses and theatres, production companies, see EGOYAN, page 8



Atom Egoyan accepts the Trudy Award.

Former Employee Sues Cafesjian for Back Pay

By Dan Browning

ST. PAUL, Minn. (*Star Tribune*) – Gerard Cafesjian is best known in Minnesota as an art aficionado and the primary benefactor who helped preserve the historic State Fair carousel that now bears his name in Como Park.

The longtime director of Cafesjian’s family foundation says in a federal lawsuit that Cafesjian was also a tough boss who has become increasingly paranoid, miserly and vindictive as he has aged – and who stiffed the employee out of more than \$5 million in salary.



Gerard Cafesjian

see CAFESJIAN, page 8

NEWS IN BRIEF

Armenian Journalist Slams Anti-Armenian Radio Program

YEREVAN (*Mediamax*) – Mediamax received an open letter from former employee of the Armenian service of the radio station, Anna Karapetyan, “addressed to all those who will receive Steven Korn in Yerevan.” Korn, the president of Radio Liberty/Free Europe (RFE/RL), was in Yerevan for meetings.

In the letter she complains that the radio station “fully repeated the lie of the Azerbaijani state propaganda presenting the Xocali [Khojaly] events as the start to the Karabagh war” in its English-language programs on February 26 and 27.

Karapetyan noted that the Armenian service of RFE/RL did not issue a response. Moreover, the Armenian and Russian services of the radio station refused the offer on interviewing Czech journalist Dana Mazalova, who was an eyewitness of the events in 1992.

Activist Accuses Armenian Parties of Forgetting Javakhk

YEREVAN (*PanARMENIAN.Net*) – Artak Gabrielyan, coordinator of the Samtskhe-Javakhk Council of Armenian non-government organizations (NGOs) said Armenian parties are not helping to settle the problems in Javakhk.

Their existence and activities remain unnoticed in the territory of Samtskhe-Javakhk, he said at a press conference.

When asked whether the council of Armenian NGOs supports any Armenian parties, Gabrielyan said the issue is still undecided.

Armenian, Turkish Filmmakers to Meet in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (*Panorama.am*) – The upcoming Armenia-Turkey Cinema Platform workshop will be held April 11-14, at the Istanbul International Film Festival, the Golden Apricot International Film Festival press service reported.

Films in the short, documentary and feature-length film categories are eligible.

The top film in Istanbul, as well as the one in Yerevan at Golden Apricot, win \$10,000 each, donated by the Eurasia Partnership Foundation.

INSIDE

Avedisian Mission

Story on page 10

INDEX

Arts and Living	12
Armenia	2
Community News.	5
Editorial	18
International	3, 4

Celebrating 80 Years and Beyond

Benefit for the Armenian Mirror-Spectator
Thursday, May 24, 2012



ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Iran Concerned over Tensions in Karabagh

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Iran's position on the Nagorno Karabagh issue remains unchanged, with the country continuing to urge for peaceful settlement of the conflict, the Iranian Embassy in Armenia said in a statement.

Iran's policy on conflict settlement is based on mediation efforts towards establishment of a dialogue between the conflicting parties to achieve sustainable peace and stability in the region, the statement said.

As the only country sharing a border with the conflict zone, Iran expressed concern over the escalation of regional tensions.

Nine Iranians Injured in Yerevan Grenade Attack

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Officials say 10 people – including nine Iranian nationals – were injured in a grenade explosion at a nightclub. The injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

Yerevan police officials say an unknown attacker threw a grenade inside the Alen-Elen nightclub on March 20.

The motive for the attack was not clear.

Three Armenia-bound Tourists Killed in Iranian Coach Crash

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Three people were killed on Tuesday after a coach carrying tourists to Armenia crashed in northern Iran.

Armenian Foreign Ministry spokesman Tigran Balayan cited a report from the Armenian Embassy in Tehran saying that all of the victims were ethnic Armenians with Iranian citizenship.

More than a dozen people were injured in the coach crash reportedly caused by a wheel blast.

Thousands of Iranians come to Armenia every year during Nowruz, the Persian New Year celebrated around the Spring Equinox.

Burberry Takes Jazzve Coffee to Court

YEREVAN (news.am) – Burberry Ltd., the British luxury fashion house, manufacturing clothing, fragrance and fashion accessories, says that Jazzve Ltd. in Armenia is using its distinctive tartan pattern trademark without permission.

The trademark was registered at the Republic of Armenia Ministry of Economic in February 2011.

Burberry wrote to Jazzve in November of last year, urging the company to stop using its trademark.

The British firm has now taken the case to the Yerevan Kentron and Nork-Marash Administrative Court for adjudication.

Burberry was founded in 1856 and according to *Business Weekly* is the 98th most valuable brand in the world. The company has 475 stores in 48 countries.

YSU Student, 21, Alive After Suicide Attempt

YEREVAN (Tert.am) – A female student of Yerevan State University (YSU) attempted to commit suicide by throwing herself off a 12th-floor balcony last Monday, but remained alive due to a break in her fall.

A special rescue team arriving on the scene found the 21-year-old on metallic clothesline, reporter Gagik Shamshyan told Aravot.am. Rescuers pulled her down and handed her over to an ambulance team. She was hospitalized with serious injuries.

The neighbors told the police that the girl, a fourth-year student at the university, had psychological problems.

The Investigative Department of the police has launched an inquest into the circumstances of the incident.

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Makes Major Commitment to ATP

YEREVAN – In recognition of Armenia Tree Project's (ATP) successful record in tree planting, environmental education and sustainable development, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has awarded a \$1.2-million grant to ATP. The funding will help to underwrite a portion of ATP's core programs through 2014.

"One of the primary objectives of our partnership with the Norwegian government is to mitigate the impacts of climate change," explains SEEDS Program Manager Vardan Melikyan, "and we plan to do this through raising awareness about conservation issues, planting trees to promote sustainable development in Armenia, and fostering a sense of personal commitment about the importance of environmental stewardship."

ATP launched an exciting new program in 2011 – Social, Economic, and Environmental Development for Sustainability (SEEDS). It has allowed ATP to build capacity in its reforestation programs while improving results through new methods of program delivery. These include a greater emphasis on community development and investing in social capital in the areas where ATP is planting trees.

"Over the past 17 years, ATP has been quite successful at getting things done on the ground in Armenia, and this was made possible through the support of the diaspora," adds Melikyan. "We believe this grant from Norway demonstrates an investment in our track record and commitment to excellence, and we hope it will inspire others to join in support of our mission."

The Norway funding will provide partial support for some of ATP's core programs including tree planting initiatives in towns and villages throughout Armenia, an expansion of reforestation

programs in northern Armenia, maintenance of recently planted forests, environmental education programs that train teachers and inspire youth and

program, since they are desperately in need of green spaces."

The seedlings for ATP's reforestation programs are grown in the Mirak



Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has awarded a \$1.2-million grant to underwrite a portion of ATP's core programs through 2014; these ATP programs are led by, from left, CTP Manager Arthur Harutyunyan, Forestry Manager Ani Haykuni, Nursery Manager Samvel Ghandilyan, Education Manager Manya Gevorgyan and SEEDS Manager Vardan Melikyan.

community trainings for sustainable forest management.

In 2011, ATP's SEEDS Program planted 186,785 tree seedlings on community lands in Fioletovo, Jrashen, Katnajur, Spitak and Tsakhkaber in the Lori region. The SEEDS team also maintained previously planted sites to improve survival rates by clearing grass around thousands of seedlings that survived their first growing season.

"We have ambitious plans for 2012," notes Forestry Manager Ani Haykuni. "ATP plans to establish new forests in partnership with the communities of Saratovka and Sverdlov, which have already provided nearly 80 hectares of land for tree planting. ATP has been working with local partners to create small community forests. Towns and villages that are located far from forested areas are given special attention in this

Family Nursery in Margahovit Village and in backyard nurseries in the Getik River Valley. These newly planted forests are established with oak, pine, ash, apple and pear seedlings, which are native to the region.

"In addition to planting trees, ATP's SEEDS Program also addresses community development and socio-economic issues in order to mitigate some of the root causes of deforestation and unsustainable land use. This includes providing jobs for hundreds of workers in the Lori region for seasonal tree planting, and partnering with other organizations who can bring their development expertise to communities where we are working," Melikyan said. "These jobs mean people can work in their communities and don't have to emigrate to Russia to earn a living."

Russian Mining Firm Plans to Triple Gold Production in Armenia

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – A Russian company exploiting Armenia's largest gold mines has reported a sharp rise in output last year and pledged to raise production levels further after modernizing its gold smelter in the southern town.

The GeoProMining group purchased the Ararat Gold Recovery Company, now called GPM Gold, from Indian investors in 2007. The company, which has exclusive rights to the massive gold deposits at Sotk, eastern Armenia, stood idle at the time. Large-scale production operations there resumed only in 2010.

In an interview with the Regnum news agency, the GPM Gold chairman, Roman Khudoliy, said GPM Gold nearly doubled gold production to 40,000 ounces last year. He said it plans to smelt 120,000 ounces of gold next year.

Khudoliy added that the Russian group would make \$200 million in additional capital investments in its Armenian subsidiary for that purpose. He said the bulk of them would be channeled in the ongoing capital

reconstruction of the Ararat smelter built in Soviet times. The plant's modernization is due to be completed in 2013.

Government statistics confirm a significant increase in gold production by GPM Gold and several other firms mining gold in smaller deposits elsewhere in Armenia. According to the Customs Service, Armenian gold exports rose, in physical terms, by 62 percent to over 1.6 tons in January-September 2011.

The National Statistical Service (NSS) reported last month that total export revenue from precious metals and gem diamonds was up by as much as 46 percent, at over \$196.4 million, in 2011.

The Armenian gold mining industry, dominated by foreign investors, has greatly benefited from the current record-high prices of gold in the global markets.

Despite rising production volumes and earnings, GPM Gold has had a bumpy ride in Armenia. In November 2010, the Armenian parliament's Audit Chamber urged the government to revoke the company's operating licens-

es for what it called mismanagement and serious legal violations. In particular, it claimed that the Russians' 2008 licensing agreement with the Armenian Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources was signed in violation of the country's mining legislation and regulations.

GPM Gold rejected the accusations and said it will take the parliamentary body to court. But with the Armenian government essentially ignoring the Audit Chamber's recommendations, the scandal seems to have been laid to rest.

GPM Gold has also been at odds with Armenian environment protection groups. They cried foul last year after the company began building a gold ore crusher at Sotk, not far from the ecologically vital Lake Sevan. Armenian law bans any manufacturing activity involving toxic emissions in the vicinity of Sevan.

GPM Gold also owns another Armenian company that mines copper and molybdenum in the southeastern Syunik province. It also has extensive interests in neighboring Georgia's mining sector.



INTERNATIONAL

Salacious Video Defames Journalist Critical of Azerbaijani Government

By Ben Brumfield

BAKU (CNN) — A compromising video has appeared on the Internet of an investigative journalist who has been extensively reporting on government corruption in Azerbaijan.

Khadija Ismayilova, a radio talk show host, is afraid the sexually explicit images could ignite religious rage against her in the conservative country.

The video of her and her boyfriend was recorded via a hidden camera in her bedroom and then posted anonymously on a website imitating the homepage of the New Equality Party, a rival of the ruling New Azerbaijan Party.

Social mores in the Muslim society are not as strict as they are in neighboring Iran, Ismayilova says, but they are “similar to rural Turkey.” Honor killings for behavior outside of accepted morals are a reality in Azerbaijan.

The video surfaced a week after Ismayilova received a threatening letter by mail “containing photos of a personal nature,” according to a news release from Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

“I received a package with pictures suggesting I have a sexual life,” Ismayilova said, “and the note saying: ‘You whore, behave. Or you will be defamed.’”

People in high places could have reason to be angry with Ismayilova for her reporting. She has written articles implying that the daughters of President Ilham Aliyev could have a secret ownership stake in Azerfon, the country’s major mobile telecom company. She has also connected the president’s family to the ownership of a bank and alleged that the relationship was used for shady dealings.

Presidential spokesman Elnur Aslanov declined to comment on Ismayilova’s stories, but he condemned the video a day after it surfaced, blaming it on “subversive forces who try to violate the stability in Azerbaijan.”

Aslanov also said Thursday that authorities “will make all efforts to identify and punish the persons who are behind this dirty action.”

Ismayilova, however, calls the spokesman’s statements “absolutely insincere ... absolutely outrageous.” She believes that the government is punishing her for her stories.

After all, the ruling party has raked her over the coals in print, she said, tying her ethnic background to Armenia.

Tensions run high between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the disputed breakaway region Nagorno-Karabagh, as well as Armenia’s military occupation of adjacent Azerbaijani territory. Creating the impression that Ismayilova is connected to Armenia can easily stoke additional passions against her with the Azerbaijani public.

“They’ve been accusing me of working for the enemies of the country,” she said.

One day before the contentious video of Ismayilova surfaced, an article appeared on a pro-government news website, again bringing up questions about her ethnic background. It also attacked her private life: “Khadija is a permanent resident of Baku’s expensive bars and clubs. She never hid her affection for alcohol and fast living. She often makes fun of the upbringing and values of Azerbaijani women.”

A day after the video appeared, a pro-government newspaper, *Iki Sahil*, wrote, “In her articles very often Khadija would say ‘give me a freedom’ and it

looks like she got enough ‘freedom’ now,” according to Radio Liberty’s translation. The article went on to describe salacious details of the video and pointed out where it could be found on the Internet.

The video has triggered support for Ismayilova from human rights activists but also from an unlikely group. Religious conservatives, who are usually among her critics, have come to her aid.

The elders in the conservative town of Nardaran, while pointing out that they often disagree with Ismayilova, said in a statement that they “strongly deplore this blackmail against Khadija and demand it stop.”

Ismayilova believes that the support from mosque communities and other conservatives “could have saved my life.”

Journalist advocacy groups across the world have also called on the personal attacks to stop. “Azerbaijan must halt smear campaign against reporter,” read a news release from the Committee to Protect Journalists on the day the video appeared. Reporters Without Borders opened its reaction statement with the word “despicable.”

They say this has happened before.

“Journalists in Azerbaijan are frequently subjected to smear or intimidation campaigns as punitive action and are sometimes forced to leave the country,” the journalism group said, citing its own research.

Nina Ognianova, the committee’s program coordinator for Europe and Central Asia, said Azerbaijan is one of the most authoritarian countries she has covered.

“In 2009, it was the leading jailor of journalists in the region, with 11 behind bars,” she said.

She recalled a similar case to Ismayilova’s, one that involved sexual claims being spread about an independent journalist. The journalist was portrayed by pro-government media as being homosexual.

“The labeling put the journalist in peril,” Ognianova said. “He almost died in a stabbing attack, and someone tried to push him under a train.”

The government, however, disputes accusations that it represses journalism.

“Azerbaijan is an open democratic state with free media,” said Aslanov, who is also head of the country’s Political Analysis and Information Department.

The Aliyev family has held on to power for nearly four decades. The current president’s father, Heydar Aliyev, was in office for almost 30 years before he died. The current president ascended to the office in a landslide election that was boycotted by opposition parties and criticized as below standards by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which monitors elections internationally.

The former Soviet republic has recently raised its profile on the international stage. It was elected to the UN Security Council in October and has put in a bid to host the 2020 Summer Olympics.

But Transparency International, which tracks the perception of corrup-

tion in countries around the world, ranks Azerbaijan slightly worse than Pakistan, on a level with Belarus and Nigeria. It used to be lower.

In May, Azerbaijan will host the Eurovision Song Contest, with participants coming from Europe, North Africa and parts of the Middle East. Journalists from about 40 countries are also expected, which will mean increased global press exposure.

Azerbaijan has a reputation at stake and seems to respond to intense, constant international pressure — “but with a lot of resistance,” Ognianova said.

“The country has become more sophisticated in their repression of critical voices,” she said. “The government tactics of sneaky punching in the gut has happened before.”

The website featuring the Ismayilova video was traced back to a web hosting company based in Texas called HostGator. CNN contacted the company to ask about who posted the website with the video. Despite multiple requests, a customer service representative refused to connect CNN with its press office or give out its telephone number. An e-mail to multiple recipients at the company remains unanswered.

Ismayilova says that although she is now in danger, she wants her story told.

“It needs to be made public,” she said. “It needs to be turned to embarrassment for those who are doing it.”

On her Facebook account after receiving the initial photos, she wrote, “I am convinced and determined that I can withstand any blackmail campaign against me.”

At that time, she had sent an official letter to the prosecutor’s office, requesting an investigation. She received no response.

“They never called me,” she said. “They never asked for additional materials. They never asked for the envelope.”

On Friday, two days after the video appeared, the prosecutor’s office called her to question her about her request. Officials agreed to open a criminal case on charges of violation of privacy, but



Khadija Ismayilova

she also had asked for an investigation into her allegation about efforts to hinder her work as a journalist and is still awaiting a response.

The same day, Ismayilova was at a gathering of civic society groups supporting her, and Radio Free Europe streamed it live on its home page. Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty receives funding from the US government to practice critical journalism in countries where it is perceived to be less free.

Also Friday, the explicit Ismayilova video disappeared from view in the US and elsewhere.

“It’s still available in Azerbaijan, but not in the Czech Republic,” said Kenan Aliyev, who runs Radio Liberty’s Azerbaijani service from Prague. “They are targeting Azerbaijan.”

International News

Policeman Who Posed With Dink Killer Promoted

ISTANBUL (*Hurriyet Daily News*) — A police officer that was photographed posing with Hrant Dink murderer Ogün Samast behind a Turkish flag immediately after the assassination has been promoted, the daily *Radikal* reported this week.

Yakup Kurtaran, who was a fourth-class police officer in the Black Sea province of Samsun at the time of the murder, has been appointed as the public security deputy manager in the eastern province of Malatya.

The controversial photo was taken on January 20, 2007, after Samast was detained and taken to the anti-terror office in Samsun.

Kurtaran and other officers were suspended after the photo was revealed; initially, Kurtaran was docked one day’s pay for his role in the photo, but the penalty was later rescinded by a Samsun court.

Authorities launched an investigation into the unidentified people who leaked the photo on charges of “breaching an investigation’s secrecy by featuring photos and videos in the visual and print media.”

Samast was sentenced to over 22 years in prison last year for the January 19, 2007, murder of Dink, a Turkish-Armenian journalist.

Turkish PM Denied German Award

BERLIN (AFP) — Organizers of a German prize for humanity and tolerance Saturday decided against honoring Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan as 25,000 people protested against him receiving the award.

The plan to hand Erdogan the 2012 Steiger Award had been heavily criticized in Germany, where Turkish authorities have been accused of human rights abuses, notably against the minority Kurdish population.

The award organizers said they changed their mind because Erdogan was not traveling to Germany to receive the award at a ceremony Saturday night in the western city of Bochum, German news agency DPA reported.

Erdogan cancelled his trip to Germany after the deaths of 12 Turkish soldiers in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan, his office said Friday.

German police said some 25,000 people, mostly of Turkish origin, demonstrated Saturday in Bochum. Among them were members of minorities such as the Kurds, Alevis and Armenians, who accuse him of persecuting their community.

Erdogan had originally been due to receive the prize “in the name of the Turkish people” on the 50th anniversary of a pact between Germany and Turkey to admit hundreds of thousands of Turkish workers into Germany.

About three million Turks or Germans of Turkish origin live in Germany.

Protesters Counter Racist Rally

ISTANBUL (*news.am*) — In response to the anti-Armenian demonstration held here on February 26, held under the pretense of commemorating the Khojaly killings of Azeris by Armenians, a demonstration against discrimination and racism was held last week.

Close to 1,000 people gathered to protest against the earlier anti-Armenian demonstration, according to the Turkish website, *Demokrathaber*.

The participants held signs condemning racism, xenophobia and discrimination.

Journalist Yasar Guven delivered a speech on behalf of those who gathered.

“We shall not leave the Armenians on their own. We call upon those who bear human values to unite against nationalism, racism and xenophobia,” Guven stated.

Turkey’s main opposition Republican People’s Party (CHP) MP Mahmut Tan criticized Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s statements that spread vengeance and enmity.



INTERNATIONAL

Armenia Invited to Join International Scientific Team

VIENNA – The president of the Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP), Dr. Nat Gopalswamy, on February 13, invited Armenia to join SCOSTEP as an adherent member. This invitation is a direct result of the monumental achievements of the Cosmic Ray Division (CRD) of the Yerevan Physics Institute in the global scientific arena.

In his invitation Gopalswamy noted the valuable contribution of Armenia's scientists and of Prof. Ashot Chilingaryan to understanding the physics of Sun-Earth interac-

tion tools developed by Chilingarian and his scientists.

Stated Gopalswamy, "Armenia has been very active in the Solar Terrestrial Physics research area with lots of young researchers active and making their presence known with excellent publications. Armenian scientists have also been contributing enormously to the physics of the Sun-Earth system by creating observing facilities and data analysis tools, and are recognized internationally. For this reason, I invite Armenia to become an official member of the Scientific Committee on Solar Terrestrial Physics."

Gopalswamy is a noted research scientist at the US National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA). Chilingarian is the director of Armenia's Yerevan Physics Institute, the head of its Cosmic Ray Division (CRD), a noted scientist researching cosmic ray physics and space weather – the effects of solar disturbances on the earth's environment, and a professor of cosmic ray physics at Yerevan State University with several PhD students under his wings.

In mid-February, the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs held its International Space Weather Initiative (ISWI) steering committee meeting in Vienna. As a member of this elite group of scientists from around the



Prof. Ashot Chilingarian with NASA's Dr. Nat Gopalswamy and Dr. Joseph Davilia, co-chairmen of the ISWI

tions. In his letter to Prof. Samvel Harutunyan, chairman of Armenia's State Committee on Science, Gopalswamy cited the enormous Armenian scientific contributions from both the data collected at observatories on Armenia's Mt. Aragats and the data analy-



Prof. Ashot Chilingarian (back row, second from right) with some of the ISWI colleagues at the UN subcommittee meeting in Vienna

world, Chilingarian reported on CRD's Space Environmental Viewing and Analysis Network (SEVAN), which is a network of cosmic ray monitors which are designed and made in Armenia and are being deployed in a number of countries. The ISWI currently has 15 instrument projects either under development or in deployment in 101 countries. These instrument deployments are coordinated by scientists from Armenia, France, Japan, Switzerland and the United States.

The conclusions from the steering committee meetings were reported to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space 49th session held in Vienna,

Austria on February 6 – 12.

On a further note, in February Chilingarian visited a number of National Scientific Laboratories in Germany and Austria, meeting and solidifying relationships with their directors. In his visits to these research institutions, Chilingarian noted the large number of scientists from Armenia who, after the collapse of the Soviet Union and Armenia's difficult economic situation, moved to scientific institutions in Europe.

During discussions, Chilingarian worked to establish collaborative relations between these expatriate Armenian scientists and their colleagues in Armenia.

Iran Sanctions Put Wrinkle in Turkish Trade

By Joe Parkinson

ISTANBUL (*Wall Street Journal*) – When Yasar Kapiyoldas landed hundreds of orders worth tens of thousands of dollars in Iran, he thought his clothing company could offset losses from its slowing Europe and Middle East markets.

Just two months later, with fresh sanctions causing a run on the currency and soaring inflation in Iran, every one of Kapiyoldas' orders has been canceled. Some clients have defaulted on their payments. Thousands of garments made for the conservative Iranian market are now gathering dust in his company's depot.

We thought Iran would be the solution after the revolutions killed our business in Libya,

Tunisia and Egypt," says Kapiyoldas from his smoke-filled office above a clothing store in Istanbul's Osmanbey district, where more than 4,000 textile retailers jostle for space – and market share – in an area of about one square mile. The businesses had also attracted Iran's youthful population, which lapped up more-contemporary designs from established producers in Turkey, a regional textile hub.

"We have thousands of long ladies' overcoats that were ready to ship to Tehran that we can't sell anywhere else," he said. "Now what am I going to do with them?"

The fresh wave of sanctions feeding panic in Iran's economy are hitting businesses in North Atlantic Treaty Organization-member Turkey, upending a boom in bilateral trade that was underpinned by improving diplomatic ties. Turkish exports to Iran, which surged 12-fold in

the past decade to top \$3.5 billion last year, plunged 25 percent in January from December, as sanctions pushed the real value of Iran's currency, the rial, as much as 55 percent lower against the dollar.

All Turkish banks but one have stopped processing payments for Iranian customers, while higher costs have seen the number of Iranians visiting Turkey tumble.

Turkey has refused to adopt tougher unilateral sanctions against Iran from the US and the European Union, instead stressing its commitment to the weaker United Nations measures passed in 2010, and to buying Iranian oil and gas, albeit at a declining rate. But the deteriorating trade business removes a major tie between Ankara and Tehran, which are increasingly splitting along sectarian lines over Middle East conflicts.

"A trade relationship that has grown rapidly in recent years is now being pressured by politics," said Arzu Celalifer, a professor of international relations at USAK, the International Strategic Research Organization, in Ankara. "That trade decline is one component of how Turkey and Iran increasingly have differences on Middle Eastern issues. They're now just trying to preserve the minimal mutual interest."

Last year, the pressure being levied on Iranian traders' rials by sanctions was offset by a sharp decline in the Turkish lira, which fell almost 20 percent against the dollar as investors became nervous about Turkey's overheating economy.

But when new US sanctions targeting Iran's central bank in January sent Iran's currency plunging, the lira began to surge, making the relative cost of some Turkish products almost double in price in the space of a few days, traders say.

The rapid price increase was aggravated by the refusal of Turkish banks – except for state-owned Halkbank – to process trade deals involving Iranian customers for fear of being frozen out of international markets by the new sanctions regime. Iranian businessmen now pay

for orders with cash carried across the border in suitcases

As a result, businesses across Turkey that had expected sales to surge in the run up to the Persian New Year festival this week, are now bracing for a sustained slump and, in some cases, mothballing stock.

Travel agents report that tourist numbers and hotel bookings fell as much as 80 percent from last year, and tourist spending has fallen sharply.

"Sanctions have hammered their currency, so Iranian companies are now terrified because our business is done in dollars," said Ali Ulvi Orhan, head of Osmanbey textile traders association. "Our members are badly affected because the Iranians have basically disappeared. Even if they're here, many can't pay."

Turkey's trade with Iran has been lopsided – Iranian exports of natural gas to Turkey made up more than 70 percent of the \$12.5 billion total last year. But that ratio has declined in recent years as strengthening diplomatic ties and visa-free travel boosted trade in everything from textiles to flat-screen televisions.

Data published Thursday show that trend accelerating, as Turkish imports of crude oil from Iran plunged 40 percent on the month in December, partially offset by an 86 percent rise in purchases from Saudi Arabia.

Traders say pockets of bilateral business continue on a small scale, but at much lower volumes. For some Turkish merchants, the dramatic collapse of a trade relationship that Ankara actively cultivated until late last year has prompted anger and frustration, as politics trump traders' livelihoods.

"This year we were expecting two million Iranians for New Year for the first time ever, but we won't have anywhere near that many," said Esadullah Renjber, owner of Tehran Tour, a tour operator based in Laleli, a district popular with Iranian tourists. "I've worked here for 30 years and I've never seen anything like this and it has all to do with politics."

– Ayla Albayrak contributed to this report.

Armenian Patriarchate Files Suit in Turkey for Return of Properties

PROPERTIES, from page 1

"This runs counter to all international legal [norms] as well as the Treaty of Lausanne. The Patriarchate is still in possession of the title deed," Elbeyoglu said.

The Armenian community currently owns three small foundations. If the patriarchate wins its lawsuit, it will mark the first time that Turkey's Armenian community has regained control of a foundation in Anatolia.

"If the Armenian community had not hesitated for various reasons, they could have filed this suit in 1936, as they are legally in the right. There is a case dated to 1936, and its files indicate that the patriarchate officially owns Sansaryan. Our research shows that the best-preserved archival documents are located at the Land Registry Cadastre," Elbeyoglu said.

Elbeyoglu also dismissed suggestions indicat-

ing a link between the lawsuit and the Foundations Law that recently came into effect. The Turkish government enacted a measure that went into effect on August 27, 2011, to return properties seized from minority foundations through the 1936 Declaration.

The Foundations Directorate General still classifies Sansaryan as a property left without a manager and whose ownership consequently passed onto the Foundation Directorate General, but for that definition to hold up in court, it would require there to be no citizens of Armenian descent in Turkey, according to Elbeyoglu.

The Sansaryan Foundation was established by Sansaryan, a Russian-Armenian philanthropist. The police used the Sansaryan Shopping Center during the period torture was widespread.

Community News

Physician Assistant Wins \$168 Million In Harassment Suit

By Carol J. Williams

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (*Los Angeles Times*)—Ani Chopourian lost track of how many complaints she filed during the two years she worked as a physician assistant at Sacramento's Mercy General Hospital.

There were at least 18, she recalled, many having to do with the bullying surgeon who once stabbed her with a needle and broke the ribs of an anesthetized heart patient in a fit of rage. Another surgeon, she said, would greet her each morning with "I'm horny" and slap her bottom. Yet another called her "stupid chick" in the operating room and made disparaging remarks about her Armenian heritage, asking if she had joined al Qaeda.

Managers from Mercy General, a unit of Catholic Healthcare West, told a Sacramento trial court that it was Chopourian who was guilty of professional misconduct, which was why they fired her and tried to deny her unemployment benefits.

But in a stunning rebuke of the hospital's side of the story, a jury Wednesday awarded Chopourian \$168 million in damages, believed



Ani Chopourian

to be the largest judgment for a single victim of workplace harassment in US history.

"They were just shocked by the whole workplace environment," said Lawrence Bohm, Chopourian's attorney during the three-week trial in which witness after witness depicted a culture of vulgarity and arrogance they said humiliated female employees and put patients at risk.

Chopourian, 45, worked at four other hospitals in New England and California before joining the cardiovascular surgical team at Mercy General in August 2006. Two years later, she was fired days after filing the last of her complaints about patient care and the doctors' demeaning behavior.

Preening cardiac surgeons and locker-room humor weren't unique to the Sacramento hospital's operating rooms or those at another Catholic Healthcare West facility where she occasionally worked, Chopourian said in an interview.

"But the environment at Mercy General, the sexually-inappropriate conduct and the patient care issues being ignored, the bullying and intimidation and retaliation — I have never seen an environment so hostile and pervasive," said the Los Angeles native, who earned her physician assistant credentials at the Yale School of Medicine in 1999.

The jurors in US District Judge Kimberly J. Mueller's courtroom heard hospital administrators defend their management practices and attest to unwavering commitment to quality patient care.

But the litany of abuses detailed by current and former employees apparently swayed the jury to accept Chopourian's allegations that administrators put up with gross misbehavior in the cardiac unit to stroke the surgeons' outside egos.

"Cardiac surgery brings in the most money for any hospital facility, which is why they are see CHOPOURIAN, page 6



Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ)

Menendez and Kirk Introduce Genocide Resolution

WASHINGTON — On Monday, March 19, Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Mark Kirk (R-IL) officially introduced a new Armenian Genocide Resolution (S.Res. 399) in the United States Senate, reported the Armenian Assembly of America.

Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Michael Bennet (D-CO), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Carl Levin (D-MI), Joseph Lieberman (I-CT), Jack Reed (D-RI) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) joined as original cosponsors. In addition, Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY), chair of the Democratic Policy Committee, has also agreed to cosponsor the bill.

"It is time for the United States to join the 19 nations including Belgium, Canada, France, Italy and the European Union that have formally recognized the actions carried out by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923 as genocide," Menendez said. "The Armenian Genocide is a historical fact and was one of the incidents upon which the Genocide Convention was predicated. Only by accurately acknowledging the crimes of the past can we ever hope to move forward in a legitimate manner and prevent such human rights crimes from happening in the future."

"The Armenian Genocide is well-documented and formally recognized by 11 NATO allies and the European Union. This resolution accurately characterizes the



Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL)

events of 1915-1923 as a genocide, honors the memory of the victims and strengthens America's moral leadership on human rights and the prevention of mass atrocities around the world," said a spokesman for Kirk.

As reported last week, the new Senate resolution is similar to the House version, and adds a key finding from the 1951 US filing before

the International Court of Justice concerning the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Specifically, the document highlighted the fact that "the Roman persecution of the Christians, the Turkish massacre of Armenians, the extermination of millions of Jews and Poles by the Nazis are outstanding examples of the crime of genocide."

"We commend Senator Menendez and Senator Kirk for introducing this important human rights legislation," stated the Assembly's Executive Director Bryan Ardouny. "We also recognize and appreciate the support of those Senators who joined as original cosponsors. We will continue our advocacy efforts to ensure additional cosponsors, and urge its timely adoption."

The first step for the bill is the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where Menendez serves as a subcommittee chairman. The committee is chaired by Sen. John Kerry (D-MA), who has a long record in support of US affirmation of the Armenian Genocide.

Sun's Demirjian Earns National Award For Congressional Reporting

WASHINGTON (*Las Vegas Sun*) — Karoun Demirjian, the *Sun's* Capitol Hill correspondent, was named by her peers, early last month, as the nation's top regional correspondent covering Congress.

The honor, the David Lynch Memorial Regional Reporting Award, is given by the Washington Press Club Foundation to a newspaper reporter whose work provides an understanding of the inner workings of Congress and explains how its actions affect a local community.

Demirjian is the second *Sun* reporter in four years to be honored. Then-*Sun* correspondent Lisa Mascaro won the award in 2008. Mascaro now reports on Congress for the *Los Angeles Times*.

Demirjian, who joined the *Sun* in August 2010, posted 473 stories from Washington during 2011 alone, ranging from breaking-news blog posts to extensive analyses on such topics as the political fight over Yucca Mountain, Harry Reid's challenges and successes as the Senate majority leader, the posturing among politicians and gaming companies over Internet gambling, John Ensign's fall from the Senate and how national politics affect the Silver State.

The judges, appointed by an elected panel of congressional reporters, said Demirjian's reporting decoded the sometimes-impenetrable world of lawmakers with political profiles and "slice-of-Hill life" stories that "draw a straight line from Washington to Nevada" and offer insights readers aren't going to find anywhere else.

"Karoun's coverage of Congress and how its decisions affect Nevada, has distinguished the *Sun*, and we are thrilled that the other Capitol Hill journalists in Washington recognize her as the best there is at what she does," said Brian Greenspun, publisher and editor of the *Sun*. "I can't imagine a newspaper beat



Karoun Demirjian

that is more stressful and competitive than covering the nation's capital, and single-handedly, she's doing it masterfully."

Demirjian came to the *Sun* from Jerusalem, where she reported on foreign and military policy in the Middle East and Afghanistan for the Associated Press. Previously, she covered Washington for the *Chicago Tribune* and *Congressional Quarterly*.

More than 750 people attended the invitation-only event, where members of Congress, elected officials and the diplomatic corps mix and mingle with members of the press. Inaugurated by the Women's National Press Club in the early 1940s, the event is among the oldest of the year's media galas.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Hye Pointe Church Hosts Sainly Women's Day

By Robert Serabian

HAVERHILL, Mass. — On Saturday March 10, the Armenian Apostolic Church at Hye Pointe hosted the Sainly Women's Day Program for more than 100 attendees from Armenian churches in Massachusetts and

Rhode Island. The program began with a welcoming reception in the church hall followed by a worship service in the sanctuary of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church.

This year's commemoration was in remembrance of Martha and Mary, Sisters of Lazarus. Clergy from the New England regional parishes participated in the worship service.



Attendees from the different parishes



Clergy from the different parishes participating in the Sainly Women's Ceremony

Paros Foundation Raises \$25,000 for Domestic Violence Victims in Armenia

SEAL BEACH, Calif. — More than 200 supporters of Paros Lighthouse Charitable Foundation USA raised an impressive \$25,000 at a fundraising event on March 11, at Zov's Bistro in Tustin. The event benefited Paros Lighthouse Foundation's vital work assisting victims of domestic violence and other critical outreach services in Armenia. Guests enjoyed appetizers and wines, all underwritten by Zov's Bistro. Guest speaker at the event was attorney Mark Geragos.

The event was a call to action for Armenian communities worldwide to take a stand against domestic abuse. Speaking to the guests, Geragos said that in the past 20 years he has observed an increase in spousal abuse cases in California courts among Armenian families. He stated that violence against women anywhere is unacceptable. He encouraged everyone to donate to Paros Lighthouse Foundation to help women in crisis in Armenia.

Co-founder Seta Ghazarian stated, "We serve pregnant and parenting young women in the secure environment of our 13,000-sq-ft. shelter/women's center in the village of Bdgounk. Our core services focus on keeping both mother and child healthy and safe, while teaching the mothers important skills like child development, parenting and health and nutrition. For

women in immediate danger, we have an emergency hotline number, '20-80,' which can be called from anywhere in Armenia free of charge. Our goal is to help young Armenian women realize their full potential, despite the danger and adversity they face."

In addition to aiding victims of domestic violence, Paros Lighthouse Foundation also offers desperately needed services to the local community including vocational training, psychological counseling and therapy, sewing and cooking classes, women's health services with an on-site OBGYN physician, dental health services with an on-site dentist, feeding the poor and elderly, supporting a local kindergarten, weekly Bible study and donations of essential goods to the needy in Armenia and Artsakh.

Zuhrah and Seta Ghazarian have been engaged in charity work and community outreach for underprivileged and underserved Armenians since 1999. The idea of Paros (meaning lighthouse in Armenian) was established by friends and supporters of the Ghazarian family and grew out of their concern for Armenian women and children as well as the integrity of the Armenian family.

For more information about Paros, visit www.parosfoundation.org.

Physician Assistant Wins \$168-Million Harassment Suit

CHOPOURIAN, from page 5

willing to turn a blind eye to illegal and inappropriate behavior," Chopourian said. "We had four very strong witnesses who were frightened to speak out but did so because they felt it was important that someone put a stop to this."

Bohm conceded that the record judgment — \$125 million in punitive damages and \$42.7 million for lost wages and mental anguish — could be reduced on appeal or in settlement talks to avoid what would probably be a protracted challenge to the generous award. But he said he was confident the jury's judgment against the hospital chain would survive appellate review.

Mercy General President Denny Powell said the hospital stood by its decision to fire Chopourian and would appeal the verdict.

"We are disappointed by the jury's decision. We are committed to providing a safe working environment, free from sexual harassment and inappropriate behavior," Powell said in a statement issued Thursday, March 1. "Any complaint is thoroughly investigated and prompt action is taken. We do not believe that the facts support this verdict or judgment."

Catholic Healthcare West, which recently changed its name to Dignity Health, operates 40 hospitals and care centers in California, Arizona and Nevada.

Following the worship service, a traditional Lenten meal was served to the many guests in the church hall. Rev. Vart Gyoazian, newly-appointed pastor to Hye Pointe, introduced the guest clergy and invited Very Rev. Ghevont Samoorian, who made a special effort to attend the commemoration, to give the invocation.

Sylvia Tavitian, outgoing Hye Pointe Women's Guild chair, served as mistress of ceremonies. Welcoming remarks were deliv-

ered by newly-appointed chairwoman, Melanee Naroian.

The New England Liaison of the Women's Guild Central Council Nancy Kassabian delivered messages from the Central Council.

Guest speaker, Susan Hriczo, therapeutic massage therapist from Whittier Rehabilitation Hospital of Bradford, delivered an enlightening message on the benefits of massage therapy as well as approaches to pain management.

Giragosian

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Historic Armenia Pilgrimage Presentations Given in Naples and Pinellas Park

NAPLES, Fla. — On March 1, at the Vineyards Country Club, under the sponsorship of the Armenian American Cultural Society of Southwest Florida, 70 members and guests enjoyed the presentation of the Edward and Mary Kazanjian's first pilgrimage in 2009. Several "snowbirds" from Massachusetts were in attendance, namely, Paul and Priscilla DerAnanian (who traveled with the Kazanjians in 2009), Vartkes and Elissa Karaian and Jack and Audrey Pilibosian. Audrey Pilibosian e-mailed the next day her delight in the program and she had already called some friends in St. Petersburg to tell them to attend the presentation being here there a week later. Greg Najarian from Bronx, NY, was thrilled not only with the pictures of Chungush, his grandfather's village, but of the promise to receive a copy of a booklet on Chungush from the Kazanjians when they returned home. Virginia Melidosian, originally from Detroit and whose ancestors came from Kighi, presented Mary Anna Kazanjian with a small gift, which said, "I give gifts to 'roses' that I meet...who touch my life, which you did today with your pictures of Kighi and our family's village of Darvan."

A week later, on March 7, the program was repeated at St. Hagop Armenian Apostolic

Church in Pinellas Park. The priest at St. Hagop is Rev. Hovnan Demerjian, son of Kenneth and Karen Demerjian of Waltham, Mass., who grew up at St. James in Watertown. Fr. Hovnan Demerjian, his wife, Anna, and 35 parishioners enjoyed the presentation and asked many questions during the coffee which followed. St. Hagop Armenian Church was constructed only five years ago and at the base of the palm trees that line the front driveway are plaques which list not only the ancestors' names but the historic Armenian villages of those being memorialized, Palu, Yozgat, Govdun, Dickranagert, Kharpert, etc., which became more meaningful to the attendees as the slides of those villages were presented.

Demerjian said, "I learned so much from your presentation."

Parishioner Chuck Begian approached the Kazanjians to report that his great-grandfather was the priest at the Armenian Church in Govdun, which was shown in the presentation. He was excited that the Kazanjians could provide him the name and e-mail of one of their fellow pilgrims, Harutiune Keossian from California, whose ancestors were from Govdun.

Mary Ann Kazanjian stated, "We gain so much from the feedback we get at these pre-



From left, Fr. Hovnan Demerjian, Mary Ann Kazanjian, Demerjian's wife, Anna, and Ed Kazanjian

sentations and look forward to continuing to share our collective experience with those who are so eager to learn more of their ancestral homelands and villages."

A presentation of the Kazanjian's second pilgrimage in May 2010 has only been given once in November 2010 at the Armenian Library and Museum in Watertown. Arrangements to repeat

this second program are being finalized for September 2012, sponsored by the Women's Guild at the Sahag Mesrob Armenian Church in Providence, RI and the Knights of Vartan at the Memorial Hall Library in Andover, Mass. Visit www.HyeTravelers.com for more information. To contact the Kazanjians regarding a presentation, e-mail HyeTravelers@yahoo.com.



Tekeyan Cultural Association

Annual Gourmet Dinner and Program

2012 Theme

Celebrating 20 years of Tekeyan's cultural and educational mission in Armenia

Celebrating Man of the Year

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Proceeds to benefit Komitas Choir of St. John's Armenian Church,
the Tekeyan Sponsor a Teacher and
Orphan's Higher Education Programs in Armenia

Ervin Staub to Deliver Lecture at Tufts Armenian Genocide Commemoration

MEDFORD, Mass. — Tufts University, the Darakjian-Jafarian Chair in Armenian History, the Department of History and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), supported by the Ethel Jafarian Duffet Fund, will sponsor the annual commemoration of the Armenian Genocide at Tufts on Wednesday, April 11, at 7 p.m. The Tufts event will feature a lecture by Prof. Ervin Staub, titled "Overcoming Evil: Preventing Genocide and Creating Peaceful Societies."

Staub will be introduced by Ina Baghdiantz McCabe, professor of history and Darakjian Jafarian chair of Armenian History at Tufts University.

The commemoration and lecture will take place in Goddard Chapel on Tufts' campus. A reception and book signing will follow in the Coolidge Room in nearby Ballou Hall.

Staub is professor emeritus and founding director of the doctoral program in the psychology of peace and violence at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He received his PhD from Stanford and has taught at Harvard. He has studied the roots of altruism, the origins of genocide, violent conflict, terrorism and their prevention, psychological recovery and reconciliation. His books include the two-volume *Positive Social Behavior and Morality*; *The Roots of Evil: the Origins of Genocide and Other Group Violence*; *The Psychology of Good and Evil: Why Children, Adults and Groups Help and Harm Others* and *Overcoming Evil: Genocide, Violent Conflict and Terrorism* (2011). A forthcoming book is *The Roots of Goodness: The Development of Inclusive Caring, Moral Courage, Altruism Born of Suffering and Active Bystandership*.

Staub is past president of the International Society for Political Psychology and of the Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict and Violence. He has conducted many projects in field settings, from promoting altruism in chil-

dren to seminars/trainings and educational radio projects in Rwanda, Burundi and the Congo to promote psychological recovery and reconciliation, to training active bystanders in schools to prevent harmful behavior by students. He received awards for life-long contributions to peace psychology, for distinguished contributions to political psychology, for distinguished scholarly and practical contributions to social justice and for work on international and intercultural relations.

Overcoming Evil describes the origins or influences leading to genocide, violent conflict and terrorism. It identifies principles and practices of prevention and reconciliation between groups, after violence or as a preventative measure. The book draws on the author's previous work on all these issues, as well as on research in genocide studies, the study of conflict and of terrorism, psychological research on group relations and emphasizes early prevention, when violence-generating conditions are present and a psychological and social evolution toward violence has begun, but there is not yet immediate danger of intense violence. It also describes the work of the author and his associates in real world settings in Africa.

Staub's work aims to promote knowledge, understanding and "active bystandership" by leaders and government officials, members of the media and citizens to prevent violence and create harmonious societies.

More information about the lecture is available by e-mailing hq@naasr.org or by contacting McCabe at ina.mccabe@tufts.edu.



Prof. Ervin Staub

Alfred Demirjian
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tel 617 481 1001 aa@techfusion.com cell 617 797 5222

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Cancer Patient, 10, Makes Tough Decision with Grace

SAN RAMON, Calif. (KTVU) – We all face challenges, but a brave 10-year-old cancer patient from San Ramon recently faced a life-changing decision that she met with a grace and optimism that can only be described as inspirational.

Brianne Bochenek – or Breezy as a lot of people like to call her – is just how one would imagine most fourth graders to be. She loves to swim, run and play soccer. Therefore, when her left knee started to hurt, her parents assumed it was just a sports injury. But it was something much worse.

“The doctors said I had a tumor in my leg and my parents started to cry,” remembered Bochenek. “I didn’t really know what was going on.”

Stan and Debbie Bochenek now had to share the devastating news with their other children, Brianne Bochenek’s two older sisters and two older brothers.

“Brianne was the one who said ‘I have cancer’ and we were sitting right here. And everybody started to cry, especially our 18-year-old boy who was holding Brianne at the time,” said Stan Bochenek.

Doctors diagnosed the tumor as Osteosarcoma, an aggressive and rare form of cancer affecting nearly 1,000 people a year in this country. Of those, only about 400 of the new cases are in children and teens.

“I wasn’t super scared or anything. I kind of just felt bad for like how the other people would be scared like my family,” said

Bochenek.

Chemotherapy started right away. In three months doctors would need to remove the entire tumor. For her, that meant making a life-changing decision.

“One is limp salvage. That’s trying to be able to save the leg. The other is rotation plasty and utilizing her ankle as her knee and the other is full amputation,” said Stan Bochenek.

Rather than trying to save her leg and face years of follow up surgeries and a sedentary lifestyle, she chose to have doctors amputate her left leg.

“I knew I couldn’t live the rest of my life not being able to walk. Because I love to swim and run and play soccer,” she said.

The morning of the surgery came much too early. Nerves were kicking in as fears about the operation and the reality of leaving home for the last time on two legs set in.

“The surgery itself is technically challenging because the tumor has to be removed in its entirety,” said Dr. Raffi S. Avedian at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital.

As the Bocheneks nervously waited for updates from the doctors, they shared a special moment about something Brianne did the night before her surgery.

“She wrote on her foot ‘Goodbye my friend. I’ll miss you.’ And she was smiling about it,” said Stan.

The operation took nearly eight hours but Avedian says they successfully removed the



Brianne Bochenek cancer survivor

tumor and managed to save a critical piece of Bochenek’s bone. That will allow it to grow as she does.

“We brought healthy bone from her tibia – her shin – turned it up backwards and attached it to her femur” said Avedian. “The growth center of that bone is still intact and has a blood supply and it will continue to grow.”

With medication helping to control the pain and her favorite stuffed animals by her side, Brianne Bochenek entered recovery. The Bocheneks said countless prayers and special messages have been pouring in as she works to sit and begin moving her left leg.

They said the overwhelming support has lifted her spirit.

“It’s been really unwavering and it’s grow-

ing and growing and growing,” said Debbie Bochenek. “It’s been incredible. It’s been one of the most touching things, I think, of this whole journey.”

When the Bocheneks arrived back home, Brianne Bochenek was greeted with well wishes from all her classmates at Coyote Creek Elementary. She said she has happy to be back home with her brothers and sisters and relieved to have the surgery behind her.

“I know the cancer’s out and everything,” said Brianne Bochenek. “But I still have pain. A lot of phantom pain, they call it.”

Sarah Reinertsen is a world class athlete who has competed in numerous road races, triathlons and the Hawaii Ironman, all on a prosthetic leg. She traveled from Southern California to meet Bochenek and talk about what it is like to live life as an amputee.

The Bocheneks said it was Reinertsen’s story that inspired her decision to amputate.

Bochenek is doing well, but still has a long road ahead. Right now, as part of her treatment, she is undergoing six more months of chemotherapy. Doctors said she has to wait about three months before she can be fitted with her first prosthetic leg. Something, Bochenek said, she is looking forward to.

Atom Egoyan Receives Chlotrudis Hall of Fame Award

EGOYAN, from page 1

directors and actors to bring creative, quality films to the attention of audiences and film-love

“The award is the Chlotrudis Award, but we call it a Trudy for short,” said Michael Colford, president of the society. The award was named in honor of two cats: Chloe and Gertrudis. “Chloe passed away some years ago, but Gertrudis, who was a kitten when we started, is 18 years old and going strong.”

Colford and Ivy Moylan, clerk, the affable co-hosts from the Chlotrudis Society, did a smashing job in keeping up the momentum of the award program and explained that art-house theatres were the theme for this year’s ceremony. Reminiscent of the Academy Awards, albeit with a fun, local twist, the late Sunday afternoon program lasted more than two hours and included amusing musical numbers, film tributes and short film clips. Of particular note, was the splendid vocals and spirit of Andrew Cincotta who received huge applause for his singing of a piece related to a nominated film.

Interspersed throughout the program was the awarding of Trudy awards given in numerous categories including Best Actress (to Tracy Wright for “Trigger”), Best Actor (Michael Shannon for “Take Shelter”) and Best Movie (“The Artist”). Membership votes determine the winners of each year’s awards.

In acknowledging the talents of honoree Egoyan, the program booklet stated, “Atom Egoyan has been exploring the hows and whys of truth, identity, memory, fidelity and loss, through the medium of film for over three decades. After garnering several Chlotrudis nominations, including a Best Movie and Best Director nod for “The Sweet Hereafter” in 1998, Atom was honored with a special directing award by the society. Often heralded for his unique visual style, his later films, “Where the Truth Lies” and “Chloe,” have received Chlotrudis nods for Best Visual Design and Best Cinematography respectively. Atom’s films tackle difficult subjects, and “Ararat,” one his most epic films, showed up on several Chlotrudis members’ top films of the year lists for 2002.”

In presenting the award and introducing Egoyan as a favorite filmmaker, Colford discussed the filmmaker’s achievements, creative

filmmaking and themes of heritage, family and storytelling experienced in his films. “Ararat” is “both epic and intimate at the same time,” and “Chloe” had “astounding visual style,” he declared. A short clip from “The Sweet Hereafter” was viewed and shortly after an excited Egoyan jumped onto the stage to receive his Trudy award. In accepting his award, a bubbling Egoyan said, “this award feels true...” He also expressed appreciation to the tribute made to Canadian filmmakers and their creative community.

Changes in technology for filmmaking, including financial costs, have evolved over the years, and he said, “You can (now) make a beautiful work for nothing.” He praised the Chlotrudis Society, “You have an incredible job...to discern and select films” among so many films made nowadays. After holding his Trudy award high in the air, he sweetly tapped another Trudy Award placed on the podium to announce, “It’ll be beside Arsinée’s,” back home in Toronto.

In 2002, Khanjian was awarded a special

Chlotrudis award for her “fascinating career” and with this Cambridge appearance, she is the first Chlotrudis honoree to make a return visit. Khanjian has appeared in dozens of film and television appearances, beginning with Egoyan’s first film, “Next of Kin” and notably as Ani in “Ararat.” During the ceremony, Khanjian presented the Cat’s Meow Award to the Independent Film Festival of Boston; it was accepted by Adam Roffman, Nancy Campbell and Brian Tamm. Khanjian said this festival “rose like Athena” and noted the long line that reaches through Seven Hills Park as guests wait to enter the Somerville Theatre.

After the program, admirers, including some Armenians, gathered around to offer congratulations. “You are lucky to live here,” Egoyan shared, and noted that he wants to come back to visit the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) and Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives in Watertown.

A series of Egoyan films were presented over the March 16-18 weekend at the Brattle Theatre. Both Egoyan and actress Khanjian

appeared in person at screenings of “Adoration” for a question-and-answer program after the film on Saturday night, as well as an introduction for “Calendar” in high definition on Sunday evening, after the awards ceremony.

“You are looking at a Blue Ray high-definition version,” he shared with the Cambridge audience. Indeed, the ancient churches and colorful characters popped off the screen.

Of their collaboration on “Calendar,” Egoyan said, “It was a wonderful and special event for the two of us...to go back to our ancestral homeland. It was a very personal film.” He spoke of the barren land, the terrible economic crisis including no electricity that they found during filming there in 1992.

Khanjian, co-producer of “Calendar,” spoke of a prize of one million rubles from Moscow that they won about 20 years ago “to shoot a film in any of the Soviet Republics.” It turned out to be worth about \$500, hardly enough, but with an award of \$80,000 from ZDF (a German source) they were able to make “Calendar.”

Former Employee Sues Cafesjian for Back Pay

CAFESJIAN, from page 1

John Joseph Waters Jr., who started working for Cafesjian when he was an executive at West Publishing, also claims that Cafesjian has tried to damage his reputation and avoid paying back wages and benefits by making unfounded allegations that Waters siphoned away Cafesjian’s personal funds.

Neither Waters, 55, of Eden Prairie, nor Cafesjian, 86, responded this week to messages seeking comment. Cafesjian now lives in Naples, Fla.

Waters filed the 47-page lawsuit without the help of an attorney. The suit, filed on Tuesday, March 13, in St. Paul, says that in 1994 he went to work for Cafesjian, who at the time oversaw sales and marketing at West Publishing.

The suit says Cafesjian reaped about \$300 million from his shares in West when Thomson Corp., now Thomson Reuters, bought the company in 1996. Waters said he then went to work for Cafesjian’s “family office” to manage his per-

sonal, business and philanthropic affairs.

Waters said he deeply admired Cafesjian but that he could be a difficult and demanding boss.

“Cafesjian was extremely self-centered, exhibited what appeared to me to be narcissistic characteristics and regularly exhibited delusions of grandeur,” Waters says in the suit. “Cafesjian also suffered intense paranoia and frequent, almost daily, outbursts of anger.”

Waters said he grew tired of the abuse and quit in 2009, but continued doing odd tasks for Cafesjian until mid-2011.

Waters said he represented Cafesjian in business deals in Armenia and elsewhere around the world. He said he served as Cafesjian’s point man on a project to build a museum about the Armenian Genocide. The museum, in Washington, DC, was stalled by litigation in 2008.

Waters said he learned in 2009 that Cafesjian had hired accountants and lawyers to go over the books of his various holdings. He said he learned that Cafesjian had made “outrageous

and unfounded” allegations against him as well as other employees, but continued to rely on his services from until mid-2011.

The suit says that Rick Ostrum, a former FBI supervisor now working as a private investigator for Waypoint Inc., in White Bear Lake, told Waters in July that his firm had been hired to investigate allegations that Waters had diverted cash from Cafesjian’s personal checking account.

In December, Waters said, he was contacted by the FBI and told it had opened an investigation.

Waters alleges that Cafesjian has tried to threaten and harass him by contacting the FBI, by terminating contracts with firms “deemed to be friendly to Waters,” by claiming to have Waters’ phone tapped and by threatening other Cafesjian employees and associates who were planning to attend Waters’ wedding.

Waters also has requested a temporary restraining order barring Cafesjian from destroying documents and other data.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Herand Markarian: Will 'Silence' Be Golden?

By Tom Vartabedian

NEW YORK – Dr. Herand Markarian remains committed to his mission of bringing the story of the Armenian Genocide on stage, especially to the outside world.

With "Mirrors," he took us on a psychological journey through the emotions of three people in the aftermath of the Genocide. The play

was produced Off-Broadway in 1996 and later performed in California, London and North Andover, Mass.

Two years later, on came "The Georgetown Boys," the story of 103 orphans who were brought to Canada and trained as farmers, bringing a new life into the New World. This show made the rounds as well, traveling from New York and New Jersey to Canada, Providence, RI, and again to North Andover.

Now we have a gem called "Silence in a

Circular Rainbow," a play commissioned by the New York State Theater Institute which runs May 4-20 at The Shell Theater (Times Square Arts Building).

It is the story of love, loss and relentless search of a woman for her son following the 1915 Genocide, starring Tony nominee Lorraine Serabian, who has secured an Outer-Critics' Circle Award among other honors.

We have here a story of an Armenian woman whose husband is a doctor, accused of treason and executed in Van on April 24, 1915. Her son, along with 250 Armenian children, are burned inside a building.

A doctor friend helps her survive. She immigrates to the United States where she studies to become an ophthalmologist. Twelve years later, she returns to Van looking for her son and thus begins the odyssey.

Markarian's contributions to the performing arts are vast and prolific. His career as an actor, producer, director and playwright dates back 50 years. He has directed more than 40 plays (a diasporan record) and authored 26 theatrical productions.

He has been recognized with every conceivable award in the medium. Of equal merit to the New Yorker are the 50-plus roles he has performed, including that of Johan Lepsius in Toukhanian's feature film, "Assignment Berlin."

A question-and-answer session with Markarian follows:

Tom Vartabedian: What prompted you to write this?

Herand Markarian: It started with a request I received from The Theater Institute of New York State. I was approached to write a play using The Armenian Genocide as a theme. Their institute targets the children's educational entertainment field and since the topic is not known in American circles, this would be an appropriate way of bringing the genocide to the attention of American audiences.

TV: Were there any strings attached?

HM: Yes, a couple. The play should have a small cast with no more than five performers – the central character being a woman – and should be no longer than 90 minutes. The producer already had Broadway star Lorraine Serabian in mind for the main role.

TV: What was your reaction to these stipulations?

HM: I already had a play about the genocide. "Mirrors" had been performed in the States and England. However, the producer wanted a new play. That was not a problem. I have so many images in mind, so many stories embedded in my psyche, that pulling them out and giving them life is an artistic journey. The play is not only pivoted upon loss but rather the search for loss of the most precious kind – a son.

TV: How long did it take to write this and what were the obstacles if any?

HM: My writing process goes something like this. I think a lot. I get engulfed in the story line. Lots of times, I write fragments of dialogues. Then I sit down and pour it on paper. The first working draft was completed in three weeks. Then comes the logic behind the events, the refinements, the structural and language concerns. Once the draft was completed, I gave

the play to a couple of readers, including my wife. A reading followed with professional actors. They liked it.

TV: How does this compare to "Mirrors" and "The Georgetown Boys?"

HM: Quite favorably, in fact. I look upon it as a trilogy, each with its own dramatic character, structure and content.

TV: To whom might you dedicate this production and how has it hit home?

HM: It is dedicated to all those who had loved ones lost during the genocide and were able to have some closure. Losing a dear one is a humanitarian theme, especially when you look at what's happening in the world today.

TV: How was the cast assembled?

HM: First of all, we're very excited that Lorraine Serabian, a Broadway star and Tony nominee, has agreed to play the lead role of the heroine. The rest of the cast was assembled as any other professional production would.

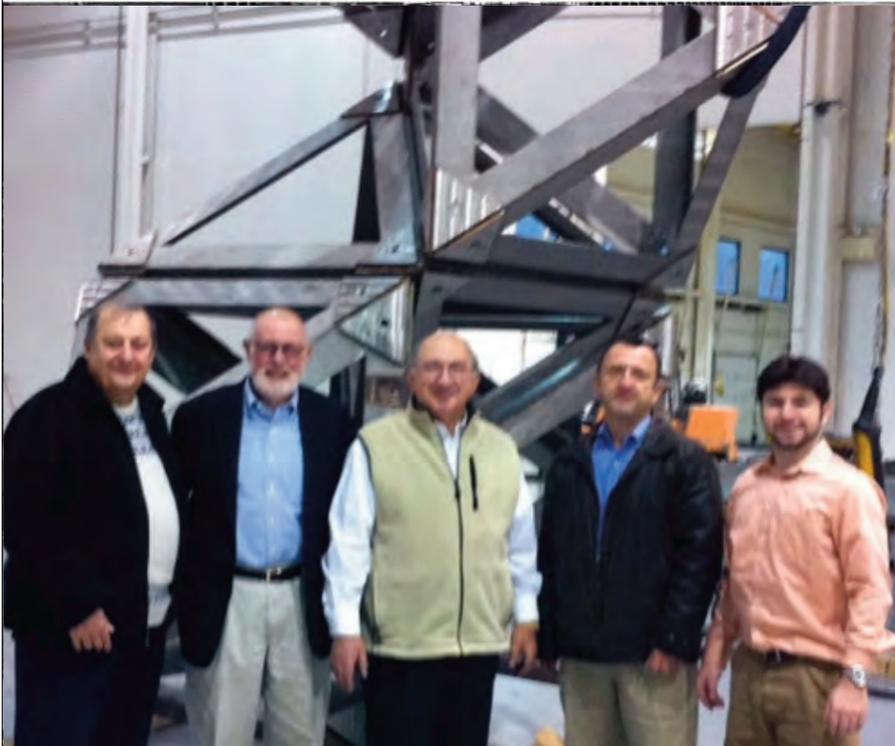
TOM VARTABEDIAN PHOTO



Dr. Herand Markarian, honored by the Armenian Relief Society for his contributions to the Armenian community, is presented with an award by Muriel Parseghian.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Edward Avedisian Offers Hope to Poorest Children of Armenia

By Alin K. Gregorian
Mirror-Spectator Staff

LEXINGTON, Mass. — For Edward Avedisian, education is the key to the future of Armenia and that is why he is helping children there.

Avedisian, who retired eight years ago as a clarinetist with the Boston Pops after 35 years and spent 43 seasons with the Boston Ballet Orchestra, is focusing on the education of the poorest children in Armenia. He founded the



Edward Avedisian

Koren and Shooshanig Avedisian K-12 School in the Malatia-Sebastia portion of Yerevan, a neighborhood so poor that it is commonly known as “Bangladesh.”

Avedisian recalled his decision to delve into the world of music as a boy. “The

credit — or blame — goes to Aram Chobanian who was our next-door neighbor,” he recalled in a recent interview. He was a few years older than Avedisian and a contemporary of his older brother. “Aram played the clarinet. He was like the pace car. My older brother followed him” and then gave it up, only for the younger Avedisian to pick it up.

Avedisian recalled working with many Pops conductors, including the late Arthur Fiedler, John Williams and Keith Lockhart, feeling especially proud to do so on the traditional Armenian Night at Pops every June. He said he felt the most kinship with Fiedler.

“I had a wonderful career,” he recalled, singling out his delight in performing with the late soprano, Dame Joan Sutherland, and the late tenor, Luciano Pavarotti.

In addition to performing, he has taught at Boston University and Endicott College.

After leaving the world of music, Avedisian took his savings and his pension and decided to invest them.

He read up on the market and invested carefully.

“I never went to formal business school, and don’t have an MBA,” he said. The lack of a business degree did not hamper his investment skills. “I did fairly well. I’m not complaining,” he said.

Avedisian turned to Armenia when he started looking for a project as a tribute to his mother. “My mother celebrated her 90th birthday in 1994. It was the occasion for a party. She said, ‘I don’t need a coat or a hat or a bag,’ the usual. But we had to do something. We were having more than 100 people, people she hadn’t seen for 40-50 years.”

Instead of a hat, coat or bag, he and his then-fiancée (and now wife) Pamela decided on supporting a school in Armenia. The money they raised at the party became the seed money for the Koren and Shooshanig Avedisian School, which he is supporting through the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). He recalled that his associates, who were scouting a school for him to support, came back to him and said the only one they could find was in the poorest section of Yerevan, Malatia-Sepastia. “I said that’s exactly what we want,” Avedisian said.

He recalled that his mother had grown up in a German missionary orphanage in Kharpert. She had been found as a young girl and had been living and studying there. As if a miracle, one day her mother, almost beaten to death, came to the door of orphanage and was rescued. (The resident doctor there, incidentally, was the father of the late Genocide documentarian, Dr. J. Michael Hagopian.) He was able to save Avedisian’s



Students in class

grandmother, and thus, his mother was brought up in the Protestant tradition and eventually when she arrived in the US, supported the work of the AMAA.

The pre-school/kindergarten in Yerevan was in a building so decrepit that the city had closed it down. Avedisian, through the AMAA leased the building for 99 years. Work started on the building to make it safer, as well as bigger. The first year that Avedisian started at the school, in 1999, the school had 75 students.

“Things in Armenia take more time,” he said. “Once everything was settled, we knew where we were going to be. There was no ‘cement’ in the cement. Refurbishment was out of the realm of possibility.”

Still, he and his team worked with this unworkable building, adding a grade every year since 1999. “We’ve got all the way to ninth grade now,” he noted, with 300 students.

Now, the Avedisian School is not just functioning; it is one of the top schools in the country. “The Education Ministry [officials] came by to check the school out. They said this is the best-run

school in Armenia and gave us a gold medal.” The award, he said, is given every five years to a deserving school.

In fact, students from the school have won national prizes in French and Russian for several years. “They came back with the first place medal for two years and the French team won first prize this year. The math and science levels are also very, very high.”

“The principal, Melanie Geghamian, is unbelievable,” Avedisian said.

Now the school is growing out of the building and Avedisian is building a new school about a

half-mile away to house students from pre-school to 12th grade. “The school is free for the kids and we accept the poorest of kids. We investigate to make sure that they are deserving.”

The new building is going to be LEED [Leadership in Energy and Environment Development] Certified and built up to every code there. “You’re going to get the safest building in Armenia against earthquakes,” he said, and it will



Students of the K&S Avedisian Grade School on the steps of the American University of Armenia Baghramian Building proclaiming their future and in attendance for the AUA 2004 Graduation exercises

use solar and wind energy systems. In addition, smart choices, such as making many of the classrooms face the southwest and thus warmer, all will save money. In addition, land will be dedicated to farming so that the school can grow its own crops.

Avedisian wants to help reach the goal of \$10 million for the school, which will include not only the construction of the state-of-the-art building, but also an endowment.

The drawings are complete and the groundbreaking will take place in June and the building is expected to be complete by 2014.

With the blessing of Raket Dink, the widow of slain journalist Hrant Dink, the school will have a fully digitized library and research center dedicated to him.

About \$5 million remains of the goal.

Much of the credit for the stellar results of the school, in addition to Geghamian, goes to the teachers, he said. He praised their attitude and their dedication. Often in Armenia, students need to pay teachers to get high marks, whether they have earned them or not. The teachers, he said, are paid so poorly, that they view selling grades as the only way to supplement their incomes. “We pay

them a little more. The teacher needs to get the child up to speed with no [extra] money,” he said.

With the students from such impoverished backgrounds, the school tries to give them more than an education. For example, dental care in Armenia, Avedisian said, is among the worst in the world, with parents not able to spend money on toothbrushes or toothpaste, and frankly often unaware of oral hygiene themselves. Students at the Avedisian school get toothbrushes and are taught how to brush their teeth with salt if they don’t have toothpaste.

Avedisian also is a trustee of the American University of Armenia (AUA), with close ties to its president, Dr. Bruce Boghosian. In fact, he was the lead sponsor of the new Paramaz Avedisian Building on the AUA campus, and was on the search committee for the AUA president position.

Avedisian hopes that once the Avedisian School reaches the 12th grade, the AUA will offer an undergraduate program, as Boghosian hopes, so that children will be able to receive the best possible schooling from pre-school through graduate school, “all without paying a nickel.”

“He is doing a wonderful job,” he said of Boghosian. “Bruce has gone out full blast. This is not the same place it was two years ago.”

In addition to the AUA, Avedisian said that the school in Armenia has “synergy” with other organizations such as the Armenia Tree Project and the Armenian Eyecare Project (AECF). He recalled the story of one little girl at the school who was born cross-eyed. The child’s family is



Rendering of the New AMAA K&S Avedisian Junior and Senior Schools. Grounding breaking and construction begins in June 2012 with the opening slated for September 2014



Avedisian School Principal Melanya Geghamian, third from left, shares with the faculty the Schools’ Gold Medal Award from the Armenian Ministry of Education and the Letter of Commendation for a new method of teaching Russian award from the Russian Government.


New York
METRO

Registration Open for St. Nersess Summer Conferences

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. — Applications for St. Nersess Armenian Seminary's Summer Conferences for young people, are now available. These conferences have attracted thousands of teenagers and college-age students over the past five decades to explore their faith and heritage with friends in a safe and fun environment. Each conference session makes daily worship, Bible Study and Armenian language instruction appealing and fun.

This summer, five conferences are scheduled, including the High School Conference "A" ses-



Sharing meals are just part of the overall St. Nersess Conference experience.

and Deacon Benjamin Rith-Najarian will co-direct the post-high school conference on August 10-17.

Clergy and lay church leaders instruct the participants in the fundamentals of the Armenian Church's faith and traditions, and encourage frank discussions about issues important to young people. This year's topics will include: How to Pray; God's Plan for You and Me; Is Forgiveness Possible for Those who Commit Genocide?; Growing in Faith through the Badarak; Loving as Christ Loved and Dating and Intimacy.

Also, back by popular demand is "The Question Box." Participants will be able to ask any question they have about the church, its teachings and traditions, Christian faith, the Bible and issues of concern to them, no matter how sensitive or controversial. Anonymously dropped into "The Question Box," the questions will be addressed by a panel of clergy.

In addition, sports, day-trips, home-cooked meals and special St. Nersess traditions make for a well-rounded and innovative experience where young people form deep, lasting friendships and discover their place in the Armenian Church.

Also, a Deacons' Training Program will kick off the summer from June 25-July 3. Directed by



Participants make lasting friendships through the St. Nersess Summer Conferences.

sion from July 6-14 directed Rev. Fr. Taviv Boyajian; and the High School Conference "B" session from July 30-August 7 directed by Rev. Fr. Hovnan Demerjian. These high school conferences are for teenagers entering ninth, 10th, 11th or 12th grades in September.

A junior high school program, taking place from July 19-23, will be co-directed by Rev. Fr. Diran Bohajian and Deacon Levon Altiparmakian. The Very Rev. Daniel Findikyan

St. Vartan Camp Alumni Establish New Group

GREENVILLE, N.Y. — The Ararat Center Advisory Committee announces the newly-formed St. Vartan Camp Alumni Group — an organization that will allow camp alumni to connect with each other and to extend support to the camp program throughout the year.

"St. Vartan Camp holds a special place in my heart," said Alumni Group Chair Talene Metjian, whose father, the late Rev. Dr. Paree Metjian, was instrumental in founding the camp in 1979. "As a child, I looked forward to attending every summer, seeing old friends and meeting new friends from other parts of the Eastern Diocese."

In addition to taking part in the program as a camper, Metjian went on to serve as a counselor-in-training (CIT) and later, as a counselor. In her 10 years with St. Vartan Camp, from 1983 to 1993, she said she made many friendships that continued into adulthood.

"We shared many special moments, and I still have great friendships that started at St. Vartan Camp," she said. "This new Alumni Group offers an excellent opportunity for all of us to reconnect."

Housed at the Ararat Center in upstate New York, St. Vartan Camp offers children ages 8 to 15 three two-week sessions of religious and cultural instruction, as well as a variety of athletic and social activities. Many of the campers who graduate from the program go on to become CITs — a position for young leaders ages 16 to 17. CITs, in turn, become full-time counselors at age 18 and continue to give back to the camp program through their college years. Some 500 campers, CITs, counselors and volunteers take part in St. Vartan Camp each summer.

The new Alumni Group aims to bring together former campers for fellowship and to brainstorm ways the community can support the future growth of St. Vartan Camp.

To be added to the Alumni Group mailing list, contact Metjian at tmetjian@hotmail.com or visit the St. Vartan Camp Alumni Group on Facebook for more information.

Dadrian Presents Lecture on Significance of Ottoman Trials

By Florence Avakian
 Special to the Mirror-Spectator

TENAFLY, N.J. — Prof. Vahakn Dadrian, renowned historian and scholar of the Armenian Genocide, gave a much-awaited lecture on the significance of the Ottoman trials of the Genocide perpetrators, at the St. Thomas Armenian Church, on Friday, March 9. It also marked the publication of his new book, the first book jointly written by an Armenian and a Turkish scholar, (Prof. Taner Akcam is his collaborator), titled *Judgment at Istanbul: The Armenian Genocide Trials*.

An 11-year effort, the book is the first complete documentation of the trial proceedings in English, and is based on authentic documentation, including personal, eyewitness testimony of high-ranking Ottoman officials, given under oath, which the Ottoman government was forced to release during the trials which revealed the magnitude of the crimes perpetrated against the Armenians.

Tekeyan Cultural Association New York/New Jersey Chairman Hagop Vartivarian welcomed the more than 100 in attendance and discussed the background of Dadrian, which includes numerous books, his fluency in several languages, his many university degrees and the honors he has received, including the coveted gold medal from the president of the Republic of Armenia.

Speaking in Armenian for an hour-and-a-half, virtually without notes, Dadrian, a walking encyclopedia on the Genocide, began his talk by pointing out that the 1894 to 1896 massacres of 200,000 Armenians — mostly men, in Anatolia and Istanbul — took place on Fridays after Muslim prayers and lasted for three days, emphasizing that the Turkish people killed for Allah. "The Turkish people participated with pleasure in the Genocide, whereas during the Nazi extermination, the German people did not take part. "By killing Armenians, Turks would be eligible to go to heaven. Armenians and Turks who had been friends for centuries became enemies in 24 hours."

He explained that Sultan Abdul Hamid killed the Armenians at that time because the Ottoman areas of Greece, Serbia and Bulgaria had already been emancipated from the empire, and therefore only the Armenians remained as an entity. "Greece, Serbia and Bulgaria were the hands and feet

of the Ottoman Empire, but the Armenians were the stomach and the intestines," he related. "So the Armenian areas of Van, Erzerum, Bitlis, Kharpert and Diyarbekir became an existential threat."

When the Armenians asked for reforms, Turkey was afraid they would become part of Armenia. However, the scholar said he blamed the Armenian revolutionary groups for "inadvertently inciting" the Turks.

No Punishment for 1894-96 Massacres Led to 1915 Genocide

"The 1894-1896 massacres of Abdul Hamid, done with impunity, remained unpunished. The West and the rest of the world did not raise a finger because they had vested interests and were not interested in getting involved militarily. Therefore, the Ottomans were encouraged to do even more killing, since the Armenians remained virtually unprotected, helpless and vulnerable," he stated, adding that Armenians were not allowed to have weapons, not even a knife. Armenians were used to submitting to the Turks. The fact that the Armenians had been unprotected for six centuries was their doom, and they were easily sacrificed like sheep. Ethnic cleansing was the major role of the Ottomans."

The 1915 Genocide, which also was perpetrated for economic reasons with the Turks taking the wealth of the Armenians, (resulting in the emergence of a new Turkish middle class), "went far beyond the cruelty of World War I," with most of the savagery planned by two Turkish doctors Nazim and Shakir, and carried out by the Kurds.

"The Ottomans were not sure that the Turkish soldiers would do the savagery, so they released the most monstrous prisoners to do the killing. "These savage acts were unique, and had never happened before," he stated with some emotion. "The Nazis did not do the same. There is a big difference between the Armenian and Jewish genocides."

The Genocide "was not a state crime as the West has said, but a political party crime perpetrated by the Young Turk Party with its Central Committee heads Enver Pasha, Talaat Pasha and Jemal Pasha."

Dadrian revealed that Talaat, "who was softer and milder," ordered the crime, but it was the two doctors who fulfilled the monstrous acts. "Talaat had to submit to the doctors," he noted.

"It was mostly done by the Young Turk

party structure, not so much by the government. The highest government officials had no real authority. And there were secret means of communication between Talaat and the political party organizers. He revealed that the party secretaries made the province governors give orders for the killings and if they didn't obey, the party officials would install their own officials as governors. "When only one party controls the government, it is very dangerous," he stated.

"The most important part of the Armenian Genocide is the savagery that was used against the victims and the fact that the Genocide remains unpunished," Dadrian said, stressing each word.

After World War I, the Allies were divided as to what each would grab.

Dadrian revealed that the French secretly gave Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the Young Turk leader and the first president of the new Republic of Turkey weapons, which prevented Armenia from extending to Van, Bitlis and Erzerum. Ataturk, he said, was not strong enough to take the east because the Russians were there. "Today in Turkey, young intellectuals are becoming aware of their monstrous background. Turkey is most afraid of the reparations question. Many Turks say they will admit to the Armenian Genocide if there are no reparations. However, for Turkey to join the European Union, it is central and primary that they come to terms with the Genocide."

With pride, Dadrian stated that "today, Armenia with Russian help, is very strong militarily. A major part of Armenia's budget is devoted to its army and advanced weapons." However, he questioned that if there ever was an emergency, would Russia be faithful to Armenia. "We should not rely on anyone, especially with the kind of geographical neighbors that Armenia has," he said with emphasis.

Dadrian received a standing ovation lasting several minutes at the conclusion of his fascinating talk.

The event was sponsored by the Zoryan Institute, with the participation of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), Constantinople Armenian Relief Society (CARS), Armenian-American Support and Educational Center, Esayan-Getronagan Alumni, Hamazkayin Cultural Association, Knights & Daughters of Vartan, St. Thomas Armenian Church, Tibrevank Alumni and the Tekeyan Cultural Association.

Arts & Living

100 Years of Grandeur

Opulent Neo-Gothic Hotel Was Once Home to Legendary Photographer Yousuf Karsh

OTTAWA (*Toronto Star*) – Most people check into a hotel for a few days. Legendary photographer Yousuf Karsh and his wife, Estrellita, lived for 18 years in Fairmont's posh Chateau Laurier, soon to celebrate its 100th anniversary.

Slated to open on April 26, 1912, the official launch was postponed until June after owner and Grand Trunk Railway president, Charles Melville Hays, an American, died in the sinking of the Titanic. It was an inauspicious beginning, but folks like Karsh have helped make it one of Canada's best-known hotels.

With the Parliament Buildings close by, Karsh enjoyed access to international celebrities and world leaders, particularly after his reputation skyrocketed with the celebrated 1941 photo of Winston Churchill, reportedly the most reproduced photograph in portrait history.

"Two minutes were all that he would allow me," Karsh wrote in *Faces of Our Time*. "He marched into the room scowling ... I removed the cigar ... the scowl deepened, the head thrust forward belligerently and the hand placed on the hip in an attitude of anger."

Born in Armenia and aspiring to become a physician, Karsh arrived in Canada with his family at 16. His deft eye made him become the only Canadian in the 2000 International Who's Who list of the 100 most notable people of the past century – 51 of whom he had photographed.

Karsh's work was processed in his studio on the Chateau's sixth floor from 1973 to 1992, now a guest room. His photographic equipment was donated to Ottawa's Museum of Science and Technology, and the National Archives preserves more than 300,000 Karsh items, including negatives, prints and manuscripts.

The couple moved to Boston in 2000, and Karsh died there in 2002 at the age of 93.

With its eminent address at Sussex and Wellington, the Karsh Suite appeals to both diplomats and business travelers. A black-and-white private photo gallery (gifted by Estrellita, who also supplied the frames) includes portraits of Yousuf and Estrellita Karsh, Ernest Hemingway, Pablo Picasso, George Bernard Shaw, Grey Owl and Karen Kain.

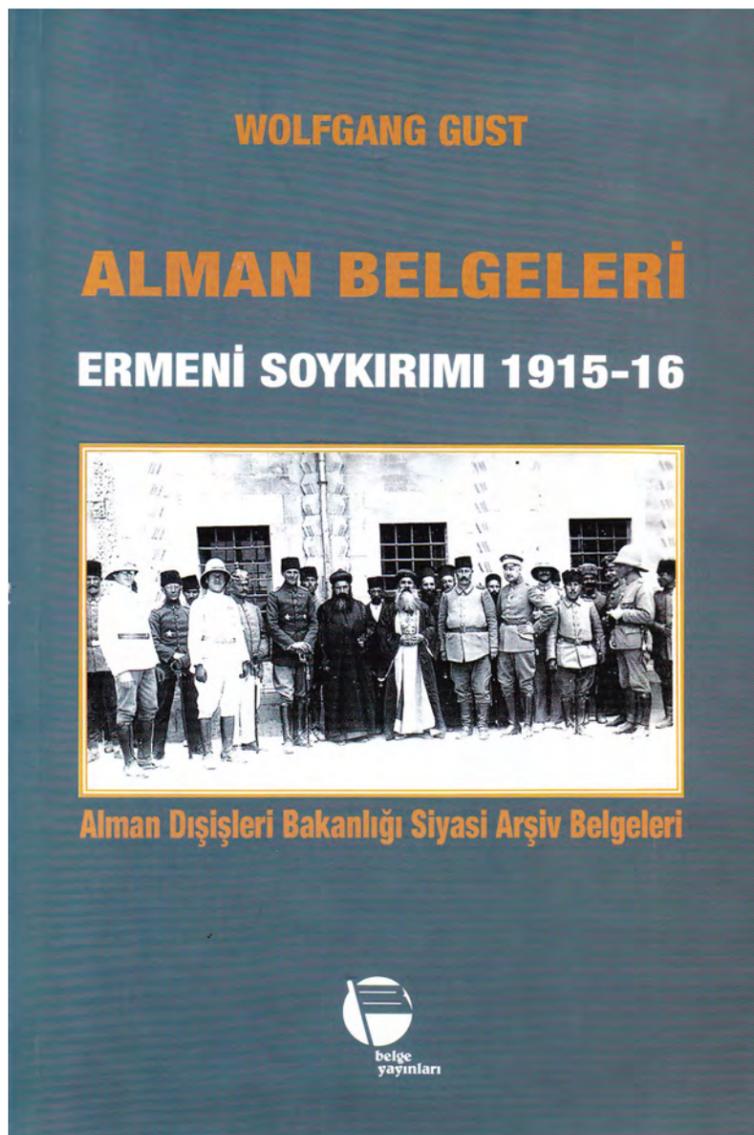
Delicate wood and plaster moldings accent each room and frame the living room fireplace. The kitchen maintains its original leather floor, 10-centimeter tiles of forest green and tan and an antique refrigerator. A modern whirlpool tub dominates the bathroom with a marble-lined shower armed with three tiers of jets.

The Chateau's design combines the French Renaissance style with the neo-Gothic vertical lines of the Parliament Buildings. The builders used granite blocks, white Italian marble, light buff Indiana limestone and a distinctive copper roof.

An art deco swimming pool with \$500,000 in recent upgrades, now part of the Health Club, was the centerpiece of the spa, built with pale pink Tennessee marble walls and dark green marble pillars. With a Greek fountain at one end, visitors relaxed on chaises lounges warmed by overhead brass lamps.

Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier was an early supporter of the hotel, seeing it as an opportunity to add prestige to Canada's capital. However, he threatened not to sign the guest registry for the hotel's opening, unhappy with the nose on his bust, sculpted in France for the occasion. It was repaired to his liking, and remains impressively exhibited in the main foyer.

Plans to celebrate the 100th anniversary include a memorabilia search, now underway, and public open doors events, June 2-3, with costumed guided tours.



Cover of the Turkish translation of German Foreign Office Archives

Ragip Zarakolu, Zoryan Institute Collaborate in Publication of German Foreign Office Archives

TORONTO – Ragip Zarakolu, a publisher in Istanbul and a renowned champion of human rights, has collaborated with the Zoryan Institute to lay one more building block on the foundation of a common body of knowledge for Turks and Armenians. Zarakolu, despite being in jail since October 2011 allegedly in connection with the Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK) trials, has not stopped his efforts to bring out the historical truth about the "events of 1915" and thereafter.

On January 12, Belge Yayinlari, Zarakolu's publishing house, released *Alman Belgeleri Ermeni Soykımı 1915-16: Alman Dizileri Bakanligi Siyasi Arşiv Belgeleri*, the Turkish edition of *The Armenian Genocide 1915-16: Documents from the Political Archives of the German Foreign Office*, compiled and edited by Wolfgang Gust and published originally in Germany. The original book was the product of some 10 years of devoted research, editing and translating overseen by Wolfgang and Sigrid Gust. It is an extensive selection of some 218 telegrams, letters



Ragip Zarakolu

and reports from German consular officials in the Ottoman Empire to the Foreign Office in Berlin describing the unfolding genocide of the Armenians.

In December 1915, as a response to the criticism and outrage of German officials in the field over the inhuman treatment of the Armenians, German Chancellor and Foreign Minister Theobald von Bethmann Hollweg wrote: "The proposed public reprimand of an ally in the course of a war would be an act which is unprecedented in history. Our only aim is to keep Turkey on our side until the end of the war, no matter whether as a result Armenians do perish or not." Imperial Germany was the political and military ally of the Ottoman Empire. The candor in these documents was possible because they were marked "confidential," "very confidential" or "secret" and "very secret," being intended only for in-house use and never for public consumption. During World War I, only German diplomats and military officials could enter areas in which the genocide took place relatively unhindered and were able to send uncensored reports out of the country. Apart from the Americans, who

see ZORYAN, page 13

Harvard Professor James R. Russell's Home Reflects Eclectic Mind, Travels

By Victoria Fydrych

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (*Crimson*) – On an especially rainy Wednesday night, Prof. James R. Russell sits cross-legged on a Persian rug in his apartment building facing the Charles. "I never sit on chairs," Russell says. "It's less formal and I think it's better for you. That's what carpets were designed for: sitting more than walking on."

Russell has lived in this historic apartment, which is approaching 100 years old, since 1993. Born to Jewish parents in Brooklyn, NY, the Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies at Harvard has branched out far beyond that city in his 58 years. Though he has called Cambridge home for the past 19 years, much of Russell's home is decorated with the products of his visits to Armenia, Israel, Turkey, Iran, Russia and India.

"Home is a bit like being in the Near East," he explains, pointing to an Afghan rug he purchased from a refugee during the war against the Soviet Union. His apartment holds a trove of ancient relics and newer acquisitions like these, all collected while he was lecturing throughout the world, each of them with a telling story from Russell's life. "Your work becomes indistinguishable from your life," Russell says, referencing the link between the objects within his apartment and his work outside of his home.

The main sitting room is covered with rugs from the various places he has traveled, and painting supplies are tucked away in the corner, facing a large fireplace. As Russell relates stories of his world travels, he pours Iranian tea – similar to an Earl Grey – from a clay teapot, made by his Israeli cousin while working under a traditional Living Master in Japan, into gold-rimmed Turkish glasses.

Underneath the teapot and glasses lies a century-old metal bread tray from Armenia. "I bought it in an outdoor market and just carried it home," he explains. "Quite a lot is stuff you find in a flea market," he said.

The oldest objects he owns are both from Armenia, as well; one is the tooth of a plow, which he found in a lake there, the other, a bronze sword hook engraved with the swirling symbol for infinity. "I can't swear to it," he says, "but I think it's pretty damn old."

Though much of his home is decorated in relics, Russell attributes equal value to artifacts of more recent making. One of his favorite possessions, he says, is a piston from an automobile company colloquially known as Stanley Steamers. The piston, given to him by a colleague, was manufactured in Watertown, Mass. in 1925. "It's not worth a fortune," he admitted, "but to me it is."

Looking around his apartment, Russell places all of his belongings in the same category: "It's all human artifice and ingenuity."

This ingenuity is displayed even on his walls, adorned with hangings from the Near East as well as various paintings: some that he purchased during his travels, some made by his partner of 32 years, see RUSSELL, page 13



ARTS & LIVING

Denver's Facing History and Ourselves Holds Workshop with Peter Balakian

DENVER, Col. — More than 70 educators and students spent the day learning how to bring the Armenian Genocide curriculum into schools across Colorado. The workshop was a collaboration between Facing History and Ourselves and Armenians of Colorado Inc., (AOC). "This has been in the works for over a year," said Kim Christianian, chair of the Armenian Genocide Commemoration committee for AOC.

"We didn't know what to expect and we were thrilled to see how enthusiastic the teachers were about teaching the subject in their history classes," Christianian said. The workshop was overflowing with participants. "Professor Balakian really fed our teachers well," said regional director of FHAO, Dave Fulton. "We're anxious to have him back." The workshop concluded with the showing of a 10-minute documentary, titled "The Armenian Genocide and the Treaty of Sevres," made by Alik Christianian for the 2011 History Day, where she was awarded first place in the state of Colorado and competed in Washington DC in the middle school category.

The Saturday workshop, titled "Why Studying the Armenian Genocide Matters Today," was part of a series of educational events in Colorado. Balakian started the weekend at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, where he read from his latest book of poems, *Ziggurat*, for the Creative Writing Program Reading Series.

On Sunday, AOC hosted a talk and book signing with Balakian, titled "Literary Memory and Catastrophe: From the Armenian Genocide to 9/11." The event drew a large crowd from both the Denver and Boulder areas.

The weekend lectures are part of the Armenian Genocide Commemoration events organized by the Armenian Genocide Commemoration committee for AOC. April events include the annual resolution designating April 24 as Colorado Day of



From left, Walter Logue, Anahid Katchian-Logue, Shoghig Vayedjian, Kim Christianian, Peter Balakian, Hasmik Nikoghosyan and Simon Maghakyan

Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide. "This will be the 11th year that we have had this resolution in place," said Christianian, who spearheaded the initiative with the help of committee members, Ken Allikian and Simon Maghakyan. "We have seen the effect of these grass root efforts on our congress-

sional delegation and believe that it is only a matter of time that the Armenian Genocide will get its proper recognition at the national level," she said.

Armenians of Colorado will host the annual commemoration program on Sunday, April 22, at 1:30 p.m., at the State Capitol's Armenian

Genocide Memorial Plaque dedicated in 1982 and located in the Armenian Garden at the State Capitol.

Alik Christianian's History Day 2011 documentary can be accessed at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gyhu_Lo_qp4.

Ragip Zarakolu, Zoryan Institute Collaborate in Publication of German Foreign Office Archives

ZORYAN, from page 12

remained neutral in the war until April 6, 1917, German diplomats and their informants from the

charitable missions or from among the employees of the Baghdad Railway were the most important non-Armenian eyewitnesses of the Genocide.

It is ironic to read the report of February 24, 1913, from Ambassador in Constantinople (Wangenheim) to the Imperial Chancellor (Bethmann-Hollweg) stating, "Here in Germany, we have become accustomed to viewing the periodically repeated Armenian massacres as being merely a natural reaction to the Armenian businessmen's system of draining others dry. The Armenians were called the Jews of the Orient, and people forgot that in Anatolia there is also a strong tribe of Armenian farmers which has all the good characteristics of a healthy rural population and whose entire wrongdoing consists of doggedly defending its religion, its language and its property against the foreign peoples surrounding it."

This new book is part of the long-term project, "Creating a Common Body of Knowledge." There is a need in Turkey at this time for authoritative information on its suppressed history. The Zoryan Institute seeks to help provide information to fill this need through systematic scholarly research, the publication of incontestable information on the Armenian Genocide in Turkish and other languages and the distribution of it widely in Turkey and other countries. Other documentary and analytical publications commissioned by the Zoryan Institute as part of the "Common Body of Knowledge" include *Hitler and the Armenian Genocide* (Belge Publishers) and *Judgment at Istanbul* (Bilgi University Press).

The translation into Turkish and publication of

the German documents was challenging and took seven years. Dealing with the diplomatic German language and Sütterlin script of the World War I era was particularly difficult, and the text of the forthcoming English language edition was helpful in clarifying many passages.

Zarakolu has been persecuted by the Turkish state for many years for his public positions on freedom of speech, human rights and the rights of Turkey's minorities. Outside Turkey, he has given lectures and participated in conferences, including in April 2010 in São Paulo, Brazil at a conference co-organized by Zoryan and is highly respected by academic and human rights organizations. Among his honors, he received the NOVIB/PEN Free Expression Award in 2003 and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by members of the Swedish Parliament in February 2012. As a result of his persecution and many court indictments, he has been officially adopted by PEN.

Commenting on the philosophy behind the Common Body of Knowledge project, K.M. Greg Sarkissian, president of the Zoryan Institute stated, "History is a stumbling block for peace and stability in the region. True peace can be achieved only if the nations in the region can talk to each other openly about their past. Therefore, we see education through the Common Body of Knowledge as one of the best ways to alleviate the tension between Turks and Armenians, because it provides a basis of shared knowledge that can counter generations of hostility and lead to mutual understanding and dialogue."

For information, contact zoryan@zoryaninstitute.org or visit



FRACTURED HISTORY, RECONSTRUCTING IDENTITY: Degrees of Westernization in Armenian Painting and Other Mediums

April 3 – April 26, 2012

A Group Exhibition Curated by Vicki Hovanesian

Opening Reception

Tuesday, April 3
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Closing Reception and Talk by Peter Balakian

Thursday, April 26
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Talk in Pitkin Education Center,
Room A113

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Fridays, 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Directions: www.bergen.edu/directions



James Russell's Home Reflects Eclectic Mind, Travels

RUSSELL, from page 12

Dennis, and others painted by Russell himself.

Russell had painted for most of his life, but following a severe motorcycle accident while on his sabbatical in Israel, he became more serious about painting. Russell finds inspiration from menorahs, which serve as muse for his many artistic endeavors, including Hebrew calligraphy and Hebrew prayer illuminations. "You can be infinitely creative with a candlestick," Russell says.

He recounts his recent purchase of the candleholders from a large outdoor market in Jerusalem, which sells fresh vegetables, other food and an infinite supply of other products. "There's a Georgian there who sells junk and

every time I go there, I look for menorahs," he says.

Rooted in his Sephardic ancestry, Russell says he would love to live in Jerusalem, as he grew accustomed to the "rhythm of Israeli life" while there on his sabbatical. "I don't go to places because they're beautiful," he said. "I go because of the people."

Each object in Russell's brimming collection exhibits the meeting point between another culture and his own: though each is only an object, every one is a reminder of the characters who make his travels worthwhile and who he has incorporated into his life. "You don't think about these things; you just live among them and play with them."



ARTS & LIVING

A Talk Back with 'Deported/a dream play'

By Nancy Kalajian

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

BOSTON – A Talk Back was held after the Saturday, March 10 performance with the Playwright Joyce Van Dyke, Director Judy Braha, the cast of “Deported/a dream play” and Kate Snodgrass, artistic director of Boston Playwright’s Theatre. Most audience members stayed for the question-and-answer session providing an opportunity for comments on aspects of that evening’s performance. The key players seated on the stage posed questions to the audience: Did the play tell you the truth? Did the play challenge you enough?

Audience members poignantly shared their thoughts and emotions. One man had seen four staged readings of the play and was thrilled to now see it in a full-fledged performance. “It truly was a dream play,” he said. Then Paul Boghosian remarked, “I caught the reality of the play. The emotional resilience of Victoria, her strength of character, the arc of her journey in the US was very truthful to me.”

One woman appreciated all the remarks she had heard and noticed the smooth transitions in changing sets. “The dancers as stagehands brought coherence. Memories aren’t always linear,” she said.

Dora Tevanian said, “Varter represented the possibility of redemption with love...We, as Armenians, are stuck, paralyzed. My Grandmother never talked about the Genocide.” Though she “bristled” at first since the actress playing Varter wasn’t Armenian, Tevanian was soon won over with Jeanine Kane’s unconditionally-loving ways in the face of tragedy and in the consideration of forgiveness, likening her persona to the deceased actress, Greer Garson.

Another woman remarked on the most important underlying thread and question in the play, the effects of the Genocide. She spoke of the first generation, those who survived the Genocide, with the effect being in dysfunctional families and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. Referring to the last act of the play that projects ahead into the future with hopes of Armenians and Turks in harmony, she felt the “Reconciliation” part of the play didn’t hold any appeal or seem realistic. With recent demonstrations in Turkey and threats made to Armenians, she felt reconciliations are inappropriate at this time. Van Dyke responded with, “It’s a dream,” referring to the title of the play and set-

ting of the play’s last act.

One woman compared transformative imagery techniques used in the play with that of African-American author Toni Morrison. Ken Baltin, one of the actors, spoke of the strong effects of different points of views, comparing that to the shards of a broken urn.

When I asked about the changes that may have happened to the actors during the five years of working on

ficult for you to write this as for us to watch it?” to which Van Dyke responded, “Yes!”

In a follow up conversation, Tevanian remarked, “Having been to several Armenian Genocide plays and movies, we can definitely say that Joyce Van Dyke and her play boldly and successfully defines a new genre in playwriting on the Armenian Genocide, a genre reminiscent of the multitude of nostalgic historical narrative books that have been pub-



Dr. Martin and Virginia Deranian pose in front of family photos in the Project SAVE exhibit in the lobby of the Modern Theatre with Ruth Thomasian, Project SAVE founder and executive director.

their characters, Bobbie Steinbach spoke of the challenges in her role, her own personal experiences with being of Jewish descent and how her feelings about forgiveness were explored over the years. Baltin reflected on the mortality of Harry and a sense of healing and said, “It’s an extraordinary experience to be in such a rich play.”

For Bethel Charkoudian, the play was “an extremely emotional experience, not an intellectual experience. I’m shaking. It shook me to the core.” Decades ago, Charkoudian conducted oral history interviews with Genocide survivors; some “Deported/a dream play” cast members listened to some of these interviews at the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) as the play was in development to hear first-hand accounts from the survivors. After the Talk Back, Charkoudian asked Van Dyke, “Was it as dif-

ficult as I’ve lived the past 25 years.”

“To have an expose in the realm of theatre is revolutionary, especially in the introduction of the novel concept of a ‘dream play,’ which allows the drama to waffle between past, present and future in an exhilarating puzzle,” continued Tevanian. “Add to that the journaling of opening up the survivor to verbalizing, emoting and reliving our trauma which had been heretofore unspeakable, and you have a piece which finally tackles what we as Armenians have been frozen by for almost a century. A gold star to Joyce whose courageous leap and tedious effort to present something new, intriguing, unique, and difficult has met with resounding success, attested to by the standing only applause immediately after this Talk Back.”

UC Merced Awards Spendlove Prize to Peter Balakian

MERCED, Calif. (*Merced Sun-Star*) – The University of California at Merced announced on Monday that Peter Balakian, an award-winning author and a leading voice of Armenian Genocide recognition, has been named the

2012 recipient of the Alice and Clifford Spendlove Prize in Social Justice, Diplomacy and Tolerance.

UC Merced will award the prize to Balakian during an evening ceremony April 12. He will give a public speech the next day.

The Spendlove Prize, established through a gift from Sherrie Spendlove in honor of her parents, lifelong Merced residents Alice and Clifford Spendlove, honors one person each year. Previous honorees have included former President Jimmy Carter and Merced native Charles Ogletree, a professor of law and executive director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard University.

Balakian is the author of the memoir *Black Dog of Fate*, winner of the PEN/Albrand Prize for memoir and a *New York Times* Notable Book. A humanities professor at Colgate University in New Jersey, Balakian is the recipient of many awards and prizes and civic citations, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship and the Emily Clark Balch Prize for poetry from the *Virginia Quarterly Review*. He has appeared widely on national television and radio, including “60 Minutes,” “ABC World News Tonight,” “Charlie Rose” and “Fresh Air.”

Foreign editions of his work have appeared in a dozen languages including Arabic, French, Dutch, Hebrew, Greek and Turkish.

The Spendlove Prize Selection Committee is chaired by Mark Aldenderfer, dean of the UC Merced School of Social Sciences, Humanities

and Arts, and includes a representative from the Spendlove family, an undergraduate student, a graduate student, a faculty member and representatives from the UC Merced community.

The Spendlove Prize includes an \$8,000 award.



Peter Balakian

Mansurian Premiere to Highlight Dilijan Concert

LOS ANGELES – The Dilijan Chamber Music Series will perform on Sunday, March 25 at Zipper Concert Hall, located at 200 S. Grand Ave. The program will feature Martinu’s *Madrigals for violin and viola*, Komitas’ *Dances* for solo piano, the world premiere of *Canti Paralleli* by Tigran Mansurian and a masterpiece of the chamber music repertoire, Bartok’s *String Quartet No. 5*.

Performers include: violinists Varty Manouelian and Movses Pogossian; violist Richard O’Neill, cellist Kim Scholes, pianist Vicki Ray and soprano Shoushik Barsoumian.

Critically acclaimed for its innovative programming and artistic quality, the Dilijan Series presents three world premieres this season and features renowned musicians including: violinists Ida Levin, Martin Chalifour and Guillaume Sutre; violists Paul Coletti and O’Neill; cellists Ronald Leonard and Antonio Lysy; clarinetist Michele Zukovsky and baritone Vladimir Chernov, among others.

At the end of the season, in June 2012, the Dilijan Series is embarking on their first week-long festival in Armenia, in cooperation with the Perspectives XXI International Music Festival.

Founded in 2005 by members of the Glendale-based Lark Musical Society, the Dilijan Chamber Music Series is dedicated to promoting Armenian chamber music and culture, as well as showcasing masterpieces of Western classical music.

For more information contact DilijanMusic@gmail.com.



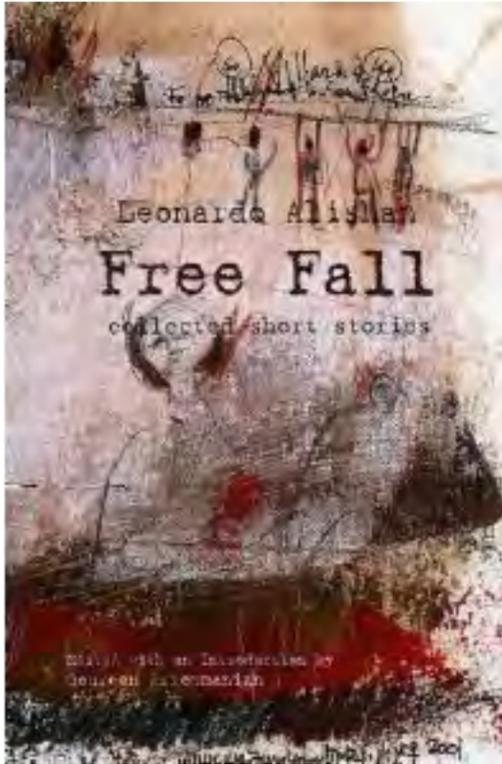
ARTS & LIVING

Poet/Author Leonardo Alishan's Book Translation Published

GLENDALE, Calif. — *Azat Angum* by Gourgen Arzoumanian is the first translation into Armenian of *Free Fall, Collected Short Stories*, by Leonardo P. Alishan.

Fiction and truth are intermingled harmoniously. The first story of the book is an introductory story where the legendary bird, Simorgh, gives magical seeds to the narrator that bring forth the stories he writes. Meanwhile, the last story finds the narrator receiving rejection letters from publishers simply because no one was interested in his strange Armenian-Iranian-American poems.

In between the first and last stories, what comes of those seeds is the fruit of exile and identity crises. "The Curse," a short story, portrays the image of an Iranian poet in exile who loses his language and becomes isolated. On one occasion, when the poet tries to communicate with his wife, she responds, "What are these *jeek jeek* [chirping] noises you're making? Why don't you talk?" For some, the rejected poems are per-



haps the same as the *jeek jeek* noises. However, the poet finds an audience who would understand him — the community of the sparrows.

It is a fact that a new language and culture flourish in the diaspora where duality and, in some cases, triplication, is part of daily life. Being an Iranian-Armenian, Alishan experienced both diasporas and this book is the reflection of that existence, which many people can relate to themselves.

Poet and writer Arzoumanian is author of two Armenian books of poetry: *Apricot Shine* (1980) and *In the Intersections* (1984). Between 1995 and 2000, he was the editor of *Open Letter*, a Glendale-based Armenian Literary journal; he founded and organized the "Literary Corner," a series of literary gatherings sponsored by Glendale Public Library. He is also editor of *Birthmark*, a bilingual anthology of *Armenian-American Poetry* published in 1999.

Arzoumanian's poetry, short stories, book critiques and translations have appeared in numerous Armenian literary magazines.

To order a copy of the book, email azatangum@gmail.com. The cost is \$25.

REVIEW:

New Book Links Genocide With Holocaust

By Tavit Minassian

Hitler's famous comment to his generals as Germany invaded Eastern Europe, "Who remembers the Armenians?" might not be the only link between the Armenian Genocide and the Jewish Holocaust. In his new book, *Hammer of the Gods: Thule Society and the Birth of Nazism* (published by Potomac Books), David Lührssen finds a plausible connection in the strange career of Rudolf von Sebottendorf, a German expatriate in the Ottoman Empire during the ascendance of the Young Turks. According to his research, Sebottendorf was a member of a Masonic lodge in Bursa that served as the front for a secret cadre of the Committee for Union and Progress (CUP), prior to the group's seizure of power in the 1908 coup.

The focus of *Hammer of the Gods* is the Thule Society, a secretive occult group Sebottendorf established after returning to Germany shortly before the outbreak of World War I. The Thule Society's importance in founding the Nazi Party has been briefly noted by historians in the past, but *Hammer of the Gods* is the first attempt to write a history of the book in English, covering its influences, its membership and the role its members played in the Third Reich.

Lührssen speculates that through his association with the CUP cadre, Sebottendorf, who earlier in life had numbered Jews among his mentors, "may have been infected by the more radical strains" of Young Turk ideology. Those officials responsible for conceiving the genocides against the Ottoman Empire's Armenian, Greek and Assyrian subjects preached a doctrine similar to the ideas the Thule Society bequeathed to the Nazi Party, including belief in a superior race, an invocation of that race's mythic pagan past, the creation of a mono-cultural empire and the elimination of minority groups, not by acculturation but extermination.

Sebottendorf would later return to Turkey in the 1930s after running afoul of Germany's new Nazi rulers. He worked for German intelligence in Istanbul before disappearing at the end of World War II.

Hammer of the Gods began as Lührssen's master's thesis at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and was expanded into a full-length book. Lührssen has taught history at several Milwaukee colleges, edits the city's weekly newspaper and is active in the local Armenian community through St. John the Baptist Armenian Church in Greenfield, Wis.

Prof. Dadrian to Speak About *Judgment at Istanbul* in Glendale

GLENDALE, Calif. — Glendale Public Library will host a lecture and book signing, featuring Vahakn N. Dadrian, a renowned expert on the Armenian Genocide, on Tuesday, April 3, at 7 p.m. at the Glendale Central Library Auditorium, 222 East Harvard St. Admission is free and seating is limited.

Judgment at Istanbul: The Armenian Genocide Trials is a prime source of legal evidence and authentic Turkish eyewitness testimony of the intent and the crime of genocide against the Armenians. These documents show that Wartime Cabinet ministers, Young Turk party leaders and a number of others incriminated in these crimes were court-martialed by the Turkish Military Tribunals in the years immediately following World War I. Most were found guilty and received sentences ranging from prison with hard labor to death. In remarkable contrast to Nuremberg, the Turkish Military Tribunals were conducted solely on the basis of existing Ottoman domestic penal codes. This compilation is significantly enhanced by an extensive analysis of the historical background, political nature and legal implications of the criminal prosecution of the 20th century's first state-sponsored crime of genocide against the Armenians.

— Elizabeth Grigorian

The Armenian Women's Welfare Association Presents:

An Evening with Eric Bogosian

Eric Bogosian discusses his work as author and actor as well the research on his new book on Soghomon Tehlirian and Armenian history.

Saturday, March 31, 2012
7:30 pm

Armenian Cultural Foundation
441 Mystic Street
Arlington, MA 02474

Champagne reception to follow.

Limited Seating
\$75.00



ERIC BOGOSIAN is the author of three novels, several films, and numerous award winning works for the theater. As an actor, he has starred onstage as well as on film and television. Bogosian's best known work is "Talk Radio" in which he starred Off Broadway and in the Oliver Stone film of the same name. He is also widely recognized for his work on the television series "Law & Order: Criminal Intent".

R.S.V.P. by March 25th to Karen Diranian (781)643-2832 or kkdiranian@verizon.net

Sponsored by the Armenian Women's Welfare Association, owner and operator of the Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Jamaica Plain, MA and sponsor of the Hanganak NGO Eldery Program in Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabagh.



Five Books that Can Shed Light on the Armenian Genocide

By Alan Whitehorn

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the 1915 state-sponsored mass slaughter of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, Armenians all over the world will be reflecting about the deadly fate of so many ancestors. As Armenians continue to seek understanding for the causes of the Genocide, non-Armenians will also become more aware of it. With far less background on the history and the region, many will inevitably ask their Armenian friends and colleagues: "Which are the most helpful introductory books on the Armenian Genocide?" This is not always an easy question to answer, but as we approach 2015, it becomes an increasingly pressing and germane question. This is not only so for non-Armenians, but even for a younger generation of Diaspora Armenians. Five distinctly different books come to mind as suggestions:

1. Facing History, Crimes Against Humanity and Civilization: The Genocide of the Armenians (Brookline, Mass., 2004, ISBN: 0-9754125-0-7; 198 pages; also available in electronic format at www.facinghistory.org.)

Facing History, based in Brookline, Mass., is the pre-eminent educational organization preparing high school instructors on how to teach about difficult topics such as the Holocaust, genocide, racism and intolerance and how to foster human rights and democracy.

The book's title reminds us of the birth in May 1915 of the international legal concept of "crimes against humanity." The important new term was used to describe the Young Turk deportations and massacres of Armenians. This book is used extensively in both Facing History teacher workshops and by high school classes on genocide in Canada and the United States. The book explores the psychological and historical factors that gave rise to genocide and its devastating consequences. The book is quite effective and well tested in the classroom. It is broken up into 47 smaller manageable sections, with good use of pictures, maps, posters, background information boxes and, at the end of each chapter, thoughtful discussion questions.

The topic of genocide is an extremely difficult emotional and intellectual journey to travel in a single volume, hence, the attraction of breaking down the complex subject matter into more

manageable steps. While intended for a senior high school audience, this is a well-crafted and balanced volume that would be an excellent introduction for any adult. I continue to use the book with high school classes. Particularly useful for teachers, an electronic version can also be downloaded from the Facing History website: www.facinghistory.org.

2. Peter Balakian, The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response (New York, Harper Collins, 2003, ISBN: 0-06-019840-0; 475 pages).

Peter Balakian is a well-known Armenian-American poet, academic and political history author. Known primarily for three books on the Armenian Genocide *Black Dog of Fate* (1997), *The Burning Tigris* (2003) and *Armenian Golgotha* (2009), the latter by his great-uncle Grigoris Balakian, Peter Balakian is a high-profile public figure who speaks eloquently on the Genocide.

Reflecting his literary training, the writing in *The Burning Tigris* is poignant and profoundly moving. Many American readers have been influenced by this volume. Balakian divides the book into four major sections, commencing with the 1890s Hamidian Massacres and subsequent American humanitarian relief efforts. The next section describes the Young Turks violent revolutionary seizure of power and the impact of World War I which hastened the draconian sense of urgency, growing state secrecy and centralized coercive planning for genocide. The heroic efforts of international witnesses such as American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, other diplomatic staff and missionaries are described in the next section. The final portion notes the seemingly doomed efforts of Woodrow Wilson for a more just post-war world and the precedent-setting, but largely ineffective Ottoman Courts-Martial in Constantinople. The epilogue deals with the problem of continued Turkish government genocide denial and American complicity in this. The book is accompanied by a substantial collection of heart-wrenching black-and-white photographs.

While other more detailed scholarly works by Vahakn Dadrian, Richard Hovannisian and Taner Akçam are available on the Armenian Genocide, *The Burning Tigris* offers a very readable narrative and can serve as an effective introductory volume for non-Armenian readers. It is readily available at many bookstores.

3. Taner Akçam, A Shameful Act: The Armenian Genocide and the Question of Turkish Responsibility (New York, Metropolitan Books, 2006; ISBN: 13:978-09050-7932-6; 483 pages)

Akçam is the leading Turkish scholar writing on the Armenian Genocide. He is a remarkably brave academic who has pioneered in the use of extensive Ottoman and German archival sources and offered innovative themes. As a professor of history, he currently occupies the Kaloosdian/Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark University. Most recently, he has co-authored with Dadrian the pioneering volume, *Judgment at Istanbul: The Armenian Genocide Trials*.

The title *A Shameful Act* is taken from a critical comment by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk about the treatment of the Armenians during WWI. Akçam's book commences with the challenges facing the crumbling Ottoman Empire and the bleak and bloody fate of its non-Muslim population as the multinational Empire is radically transformed into a nationalist Turkish Republic. The Empire's loss of its Balkan lands was a traumatic shock that unleashed a wave of desperate and angry Muslim refugees. Under the conditions of war, the Armenian question took on an urgent and dramatic turn.

Akçam's focus is on the centralized decision-making of the revolutionary Young Turk ruling elite and their draconian decision to commit genocide. The documentary evidence offered is impressive, with a great amount from Turkish primary sources. It is meticulous scholarship updated from a book Akçam originally published in Turkish in Ankara in 1999. Despite the enormous number of footnotes, this English translation is well-written and is an important volume on the Armenian Genocide. The Turkish language version has already had a major impact in Turkey.

Given the focus on the Turkish political-military decision-making elite and its genocidal decisions, there is at times less descriptive account about the enormous suffering of the Armenians. That was not the primary purpose of this volume. The goal was to document Turkish malevolent intent, planning and responsibility. This volume achieves that educational goal resoundingly.

That said, it does raise a question that often arises in books on genocide. To understand why such terrible events occur, we must look at the causes. Hence we need to analyze the perceptions, motives, plans and deeds of the people who commit genocide. However, above all we need to understand what the victims experienced and the enormous impact of genocide, both in the past and ongoing. To understand the cause of genocide we must study the perpetrators, but to really comprehend what genocide involves, we must first and foremost listen to the voices and words of the victims. As brave and pioneering as Akçam is as a scholar, his volume seems more suited as a second, more advanced book to read, not as an introductory account of the Armenian Genocide. That said, this is probably the best book for a Turkish audience to read.

4. Robert Melson, Revolution and Genocide: On the Origins of the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust (Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1992; ISBN: 0-226-51990-2; 363 pages)

Melson, a survivor of the Holocaust, is an illustrious, pioneering genocide scholar. He was a distinguished professor of political science and co-director of Jewish Studies Program at Purdue University.

His book was an early major contribution to the literature on the Armenian Genocide and is still highly cited in academic circles. It is an impressive comparative volume, which looks in depth at both the Holocaust of World War II and the Armenian Genocide of World War I. This is a remarkable volume with extensive documentation, a powerful analytical framework, and a wonderfully effective writing style, that is no doubt enhanced by his personal experiences as a child having fled genocide.

The book is divided into three major historical sections. The first explores the background and conditions in the pre-revolutionary ancient

regime of the Ottoman Empire and Imperial Germany. The second section documents the violent revolutionary goals and ideology of the Young Turk and Nazi parties. The concluding section compares the similarities and differences between the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust and explores the ruthlessly ambitious and violent nature of revolutionary genocidal regimes. Chapter eight is often reprinted justifiably in edited genocide collections. It is one of the best comparative summaries in existence of the two genocides.

While the book is analytically comparative, the format proceeds with one chapter on the desperate plight of Armenians, followed by one on the deadly fate of so many Jews. Due to the strong analytical framework employed, the reader is successfully pulled along in the twinning of the case studies. The Holocaust is the most known genocide and the comparison, both of similarities and differences, with the Armenian Genocide is quite instructive, even for an advanced reader.

This is a book that I have often used as one of the core texts in my university classes on genocide. Melson's book was praised by my students. If I were to strongly recommend only one book for Armenians to read on the 1915 genocide, this would probably be the volume I would select. Part of the reason for this is that I have found that too often Armenians lack a sufficient theoretical understanding of the common features and dynamics of genocide in general. And too frequently they also display a woeful lack of sufficient knowledge of other genocides. This is the book that can address such gaps and deficiencies. It is also a powerfully effective volume for non-Armenians to learn about the terrible sequence of events of 1915.

5. Peter Balakian, Black Dog of Fate: A Memoir (New York, Broadway, 1997, ISBN: 0-7679-0254-8; 292 pages), (New York, Basic Books, 2009, ISBN: 978-0-465-91019-6; 357 pages)

Balakian's *Black Dog of Fate* is an earlier and quite different volume than his political history *The Burning Tigris*. Instead, *Black Dog of Fate* is more a personal odyssey in which he discovers insights into his family history. It begins with Balakian growing up seemingly as a typical sports-devoted American teenager, but gradually layers of the extended family history are peeled back to reveal the horrific suffering of the Armenian people and the need of the survivors to bear witness. The family autobiography increasingly travels back in time to his family's roots in the Ottoman Empire and the terrible turmoil of 1915. This personal memoir probes beneath the surface of a peaceful ordinary life in New Jersey suburbia to reveal the almost hidden, but powerful memories of genocide.

Vast numbers like one and a half million are exceedingly difficult to comprehend and can be numbing for the outsider. But personal family accounts can be profoundly moving and extremely effective in communicating to the reader the emotional magnitude of the losses involved in genocide. *Black Dog of Fate* had a major impact on many non-Armenians and young Diaspora Armenians. It received a glowing *New York Times* recommendation and was reprinted in an expanded anniversary edition just over a decade later. It remains a classic introductory paperback on the 1915 Genocide. For a young teenage reader, it is an ideal book. For others, it can be a nostalgic and quite moving account about an adolescent coming of age and acquiring adult insight into one of the major genocides of the 20th century. It is a memoir about a land of immigrants, with so many heart-wrenching stories of what their ancestors have endured.

These five books can provide a helpful introduction to this profoundly painful, but crucial topic. If on April 24, each Armenian family gave a copy of one of these books to a colleague, friend, public or school library, more people would have a chance to begin to understand how 1915 has defined so much of the Armenian nation.

(Alan Whitehorn is author of a number of books on the Armenian Genocide, including *Just Poems: Reflections on the Armenian Genocide*.)

Lenten Recipes:

Rice Pilaf with Eggplant (Sumpoogov Prinzi Yeghintz)

INGREDIENTS:

1 eggplant, about 1 pound, unpeeled
1/4 cup olive oil
1/2 cup coarsely chopped onion
2 cloves garlic, mashed
1 teaspoon minced, fresh oregano (or basil)
1 cup crushed canned tomatoes
1/2 cup long grain rice
3/4 cup boiling water
Salt to taste
1/2 teaspoon red pepper, or to taste
Freshly-ground black pepper

DIRECTIONS:

1. Trim off eggplant ends. Cut eggplant into 3/4-inch chunks. Set aside.
2. Heat olive oil in a wide saucepan, add onion and sauté until wilted, about 5 minutes. Add garlic and remaining ingredients. Stir, then add eggplant and stir again.
3. Bring to the boil, lower heat to simmer 10 minutes, taste to adjust seasonings, then cook additional 10 minutes, or until rice is done.
4. Remove from heat and let rest 5 to 10 minutes. Stir gently, and then serve.

Yields: 4 servings

Note: One 14-ounce can Italian plum tomatoes will yield 1 cup crushed tomatoes and 3/4 cup tomato juice, which can substitute for the water. Any leftovers can be served at room temperature.

(All the recipes run during Lent in the *Mirror-Spectator* are from *Classic Armenian Recipes: Cooking Without Meat*, by Alice Antasian-Mariam Jebejian.)



ARTS & LIVING

Vahagn Dadrian to Speak at Ararat-Eskijian Museum On Role of Der Zor Gov. Zeki Bey

MISSION HILLS, Calif. — Prof. Vahagn Dadrian will present a lecture in honor of Luther and Anne Eskijian, on Sunday, April 1, at 4 p.m. at the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, in the Sheen (Geovkalyjian) Memorial Chapel, 15105 Mission Hills Road. The lecture is sponsored by the Ararat-Eskijian Museum and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR). There will be a musical program by Ani String Quartet and a reception and book signing to follow in the Ararat-Eskijian Museum.

Salih Zeki, known as Zeki Bey, was born in the city of Samsun on the Black Sea in 1879. By the early 1900s he had entered the Ottoman Civil Service and began to rise through the ranks: *kaymakam* (county executive) of Tirebolu (1906), Vakfikebir (1909), Ünye (1910), Bafra (1911), Alasehir (1912), Incesu (1914) and Develi (1915). Serving in this last post, near Kayseri/Gesaria, at the outset of the Armenian Genocide, he earned a reputation for extreme cruelty and continued to receive promotions for his work.

In the summer of 1916, Zeki was appointed *mutasarrif* (deputy governor) of Deir Zor and given the task that his predecessor, Ali Suat Bey, had refused: the liquidation of the vast number of Armenian refugees in the region. Zeki unleashed his genocidal fury against those deportee convoys that had arrived there as destitute survivors of the then-raging empire-wide deportations and massacres of the Armenian people. As such, Zeki is one of the principal perpetrators of this “second phase” of the Armenian Genocide.

Dadrian is currently the director of research at the Zoryan Institute and a pioneer in the fields of genocide theory and comparative genocide. Dadrian is the author of several books, including *The History of the Armenian Genocide: Ethnic Conflict from the Balkans to Anatolia to the Caucasus*, *Warrant for Genocide* and the recently-published *Judgment at Istanbul: The Armenian Genocide Trials* (co-authored with Taner Akçam), as well as more than 70 articles in numerous languages around the world. He is the recipient of many honors and awards, including the Khorenatsi Medal, Armenia's highest cultural award. He was inducted into the ranks of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia in 1998.

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Lydia Peelle Is Winner of 2012 Anahid Literary Prize

NEW YORK — Lydia Peelle is the 2012 winner of the Anahid Literary Prize given by Columbia University's Armenian Center for her book of short stories, *Reasons for and Advantages of Breathing*, which was a *New York Times* Editor's Choice book and a finalist for the Orion Book Award. The book received an honorable mention for the Pen/Hemingway Award.

Peelle was the recipient of a Whiting Award in 2010, recognized by the National Book Foundation as a “5 under 35” honoree in 2009, and has received numerous fellowships, including the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown.

She received an MFA from the University of Virginia and now lives in Nashville, Tenn.

Peelle is the daughter of Kenneth and Rosemarie Peelle of North Andover, Mass., and the granddaughter of Alice and the late John Bogdasarian of Binghamton, NY. Her great-grandparents, Manoog and Aznif

Bogdasarian and Boghos and Haiganoosh Taneian, all came to the United States from the Ottoman Empire in the years before the Genocide of 1915.

The Anahid Prize was founded by an anonymous donor. The prize is now given by the Armenian Center at Columbia University and comes with an award of \$5,000.

The purpose of the Anahid Literary Prize is to recognize emerging Armenian-American writers for their achievement and their potential. There have been more than a dozen winners in poetry, fiction, playwriting and screenwriting since that time, including Leslie Ayvasian, Peter Balakian, Eric Bogosian, Diana Der Hovanesian, Atom Egoyan, Nancy Kricorian, Patricia Sarafian Ward and Arthur Nercessian.

The selection was approved by Columbia Board of Directors on February 9, after receiving the recommendation of the Prize



Lydia Peelle

Committee composed of Peter Balakian, Nancy Kricorian, Peter Sourian and Linda Hamalian.

CALENDAR

MASSACHUSETTS

MARCH 31 — AGBU New England District Presents: Performing Artists in Concert, 8 p.m. Under the artistic direction of mezzo-soprano Solange Merdinian and conductor Aram Demirjian, the inaugural program will feature young Armenian artists who are recipients of scholarships from AGBU in the performing arts. They will perform the works of both Armenian and non-Armenian classical composers. Details to follow.

MAY 24 — Celebrating 80 and Beyond, Benefit for the Armenian Mirror-Spectator. Royal Sonesta Hotel. Details to follow.

MICHIGAN

APRIL 14 — Tekeyan Cultural Association and ADL present Annual Gourmet Dinner Dance and Program, celebrating 20 years of Tekeyan's cultural and educational mission in Armenia. Honoring Man of the Year Mihran Hovhannesian. Entertainment by violinist Harry Hovkimian and his ensemble. 7 p.m. Open bar, mezza and gourmet dinner, \$75/person. For tickets, call: Ara Belian (248) 200-8030, Diana Alexanian (248) 334-3636 or Pam Coultis (248) 646-7847. At St. John's Armenian Church Cultural Hall, 22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. To benefit Komitas Choir of St. John's Armenian Church, Tekeyan Sponsor a Teacher Program and the Orphans' Higher Education Fund in Armenia.

NEW JERSEY

MARCH 31 — CARS presents Armenian singer Sibil from Istanbul at 7 p.m. Special guest performance by Shushi Armenian Dance Ensemble. Bergen County Academics, 200 Hackensack Ave., Hackensack. For information, call Hilda (516) 496-0248, Margit (914) 686-0840, Adi (973) 761-1544, Arpi (973) 907-2898, Lusin (718) 776-9513 or Linda (201) 560-0172. Tickets, depending on seats: \$50, \$35 and \$25.

MAY 19, 2012 — HMADS Gala Dinner Dance. Details to follow, June 25. HMADS 30th Commencement Exercise at 8 p.m., Kalustyan Hall.

OCTOBER 28 — Save the date. The Armenian American Support and Educational Center, Hye Doon, celebrates its 35th anniversary. Felician College, Lodi. With the participation of Akh'tamar Dance Ensemble and other talented guest performances. Details to follow.

NEW YORK

APRIL 22 — “Turkey is Guilty of Genocide, Denying the Undeniable is a Crime,” Armenian Genocide Commemoration at Times Square. 2 p.m., 43rd and Broadway, New York City. Sponsored by Knights and Daughters of Vartan, Inc. Co-sponsored by AGBU, Armenian Assembly of America, Armenian National Committee of America, ADL-Ramgavars, Armenian Council of America with the participation of: Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), Prelacy of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), Armenian Missionary



On March 31, singer Sibil will perform, along with the Shushi Armenian Dance Ensemble, at 200 Hackensack Ave., Hackensack, NJ, presented by CARS. For information, call Hilda (516) 496-0248, Margit (914) 686-0840, Adi (973) 761-1544, Arpi (973) 907-2898, Lusin (718) 776-9513 or Linda (201) 560-0172. Tickets, depending on seats: \$50, \$35 and \$25.

Association of America, Armenian Catholic Eparchy for US and Canada, ACYOA, AYF, Armenian youth organizations, Armenian university and college clubs. For free bus transportation to and from Times Square, call: Diocese (212) 686-0710; Prelacy (212) 689-7810, NJ; Sona (551) 427-8763; Holy Martyrs, John, (718) 631-2247; St. Sarkis, Eddy, (917) 885-9729; St. Vartanantz, NJ, Kostan, (201) 741-9789; Paramus, Andy (201) 368-2791; Holy Cross, NJ, Very Rev. Vazken Karayan (201) 865-2790, Queens Armenian Center, Sako, (516) 805-5816 and Brooklyn, Tigran, (374) 291-7765 or visit www.knightsofvartan.org, click April 24, <http://april24nyc.com>, www.armenianradionj.com or www.theforgotten.org.

APRIL 28 — Rebirth Concert: dedicated to the 20th anniversary of both the Armenian National Military and Armenia's membership to the United Nations. Organized by the Tekeyan Cultural Association of NY/NJ. With the participation of renowned artists from Armenia and the Philharmonic Symphonic Orchestra of Rhode Island, to take place at 8 p.m.; the Merkin Concert Hall of Kaufman center, 129 West 67th St., New York City. Save the date. Details to follow.

MAY 12 — Shushi hosts a Gala Dinner Dance for an evening of “Celebration,” 20th anniversary of Shushi's liberation, Mother's Day. Anniversary of Shushi Dance Ensemble, Kavookjian Hall, 630 Second Ave., New York City. Details to follow.



COMMENTARY

THE ARMENIAN
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EDITOR

Alin K. Gregorian

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR

Marc Mgrditchian

PRODUCTION

Dilani Yegaratanam

SENIOR EDITORIAL COLUMNIST:
Edmond Azadian

CONTRIBUTORS:

Florence Avakian, Elizabeth Aprahamian, Daphne Abeel, Dr. Haroutiune Arzoumanian, Taleen Babayan, Prof. Vahakn N. Dadrian, Diana Der Hovanesian, Philip Ketchian, Kevork Keushkerian, Sonia Kailian-Placido, Harut Sassounian, Mary Terzian, Hagop Vartivarian, Naomi Zeytoonian

CORRESPONDENTS:

Armenia - Hagop Avedikian
Boston - Nancy Kalajian
Philadelphia - Lisa Manoookian

Contributing Photographers:

Jacob Demirdjian, Harry Koundakjian, Jirair Hovsepian

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For advertising: mirrors@adl.com

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COMMENTARY

'Termites' on a Dangerous Mission

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Termites and carpenter ants are insects that feed on wood. They eat 24 hours a day. Drywood termites can build nests and dig tunnels in buildings. These tunnels bring major damage and cause buildings to fall. The damage in the US is estimated at \$2 billion annually.

This column will not be dedicated to the study of insects nor the damage they can cause. We will try only to use the analogy of the termites with the alien sects, which have been dispatched to Armenia on a similarly destructive mission.

As if the war, the blockade, the economic hardships and the continuing ravages of the earthquake were not enough, Armenia has to be armed to fight the invasion of alien sects, which have "freedom of worship" as their cover to disrupt the social fabric of the country and to inject demoralization within the armed forces.

After 70 years of atheistic rule, which has undermined the foundations of the Armenian Church, Armenia is ill-equipped to counter the onslaught. There is certainly religious fervor developing – churches are being built or renovated and the ranks of clergy have been swelling – but all those developments can hardly remedy the damage of yesterday, while new ones are invading the country with specific missions.

No one believes that the Cold War is over and our homeland is caught in between the warring camps. The new Cold-War weapons are more sophisticated; they are effectively used for regime changes, colorful revolutions, (rude) awakenings and causing havoc in target countries.

George Soros' peaceful "angels" were trained and launched against the Ukraine and Georgia, causing Orange and Rose revolutions, respectively.

Another targeted mission is conducted through the invasion of religious sects, to teach Christianity to the first Christian nation of the world. Those sects are not only armed with lethal literature but also with cash and strategic skills.

The depressed population of the country is an easy target for the leaders of these missionaries.

Armenia is caught between a rock and a hard place; it is party to many European conventions, which dictate freedom of speech and freedom of religion. That is why it has officially registered many religious sects in order to satisfy the European observers. That also provides a cover to those religious sects to commit their destructive activities and cry wolf when caught red-handed.

The issue, of course, is not with established denominations which have demonstrated their allegiance to our Armenian identity. The Armenian Congregational and Catholic churches, other than practicing an alternative rite, have contributed meaningfully to the culture and education of the nation and the diaspora. Even today, Armenia benefits tremendously from their educational and charitable missions,

and yet, some people are tempted to rank these denominations with sects like Jehovah's Witnesses or other fanatical groups.

The alien sects are there to undermine, in the first place, the Armenian Apostolic Church, which already faces many challenges: a shortage of clergy, public apathy to faith and manipulations within the hierarchy of the church itself. These sects are armed with powerful weapons, namely cash and promises of overseas education. They use mind-control tactics, destroying families and the very fabric of society.

But Armenia has committed itself to European standards and is under an obligation to sit back and only observe these groups. God forbid any Jehovah's Witness is insulted or any congregation is disrupted; the alarms begin ringing and Freedom House or the State Department, armed with a report, rates Armenia among the "least free" countries.

In Georgia, however, no religious organization save for the Georgian Church enjoys legal status. Even the Armenian Church has been struggling for a long time to attain that status there, despite its existence on Georgian soil for centuries.

Azerbaijan is no different; any group, outside the Muslim religion, is subject to persecution and even outright massacre, without any alarm bells going off in the West.

The most dangerous aspect in Armenia is the influence of these sects within the ranks of the armed forces. A country which is still in a state of undeclared war needs every able-bodied man within its borders to defend the homeland. Jehovah's Witnesses, however, take cover under the pretext of being conscientious objectors. They refuse to bear arms, never mind that some of their leaders have performed religious services with concealed weapons on their bodies.

To overcome this situation and to satisfy European watchdogs, the Armenian Parliament adopted a law in 2004 to offer alternative services to conscientious objectors. They can enroll in services at old age homes, hospitals and orphanages under the Ministry of Social Services. However, that in itself presents a risk, since these groups can prey on a vulnerable audience to convert them to their faith. Even though the law has been adopted to offer the Jehovah's Witnesses this form of alternate national service, the Ministry of Defense reports that no members of the sect have applied for it. They have all opted instead to be taken to court where desertion is punishable with a four-year prison term. The courts have been lenient, giving instead a two-year sentence, with tolerable detention conditions.

Many people who wish to avoid the draft have joined the ranks of Jehovah's Witnesses because after serving two years, they qualify for scholarships to travel overseas and present themselves as candidates for asylum, as members of a persecuted minority.

The lawless state of some army barracks, sadly, contributes to the decision by some young potential soldiers to take any way out rather than be in the army, the very same army that has prevented an Azeri invasion and earned a win in Karabagh.

Unfortunately, the analogy of termites is very apt and it requires constant vigilance to spare Armenia from another assault.

The Khojali Demonstration

By Murat Belge

Radikal newspaper had the best follow-up and evaluation of the demonstration organized by the racists on the pretense of Khojali. It clearly spelled out that the demonstration was not to express sorrow for those killed but an excuse to express hatred of those they consider to be the "enemy." The writers of *Radikal* clearly articulated that this kind of nationalism made the participants identical to the murderers on the opposite side they were protesting against and that before Khojali there had been Sumgait.

I want to dwell on the presence of someone bearing the title of "The Minister of the Interior" in a demonstration of this kind. I don't recall anything like this in our recent history.

This minister cannot possibly do something like this without the knowledge of the prime minister. Consequently, it cannot be wrong to believe that there must have been a not entirely hidden support by the government for this demonstration. Bekaroglu (a Turkish human rights activist) also attended the meeting, because he also had been moved by the Khojali killings. Seeing the placards and hearing the slogans, he left saying "This is no place for me." But the interior minister gave a speech there. What he said was not different in

kind from the general purport of the slogans that drove Bekaroglu away. Looking at these placards, hearing the yelling did not disturb the minister.

I don't know who conceived or planned the demonstration and financed the notices and the placards. I hope an investigation would reveal the person's identity. It is important to know what is the purpose here, and more importantly, who is being addressed.

Are we trying to say something to the world or are we talking between ourselves, Turk to Turk. Of course, I am not asking this to the holders of "You are bastards" signs. Nothing can be asked of them. But a government that sends its minister of the interior to such a meeting must have some answers.

More than 600 people were killed in Khojali; I heard what it had been like there from an American colleague who was an eyewitness. I know how vile it was. But let me repeat, let me write in numbers, we are calling genocide the killing of more than 600 people (there are other numbers), but 600 is a very small number when we look at 1915.

We keep on trying to argue with people that are involved with questions of genocide that the French have killed the Algerians. Yes, they have. As we have killed the Serbian rebels, as we have killed the Bulgarian rebels, they also have killed and tortured (but they did not make "mounds of heads" of the dead). Generals, like Salan, were mainly responsible for these crimes, and they spent their old age in jail even if for other reasons.

If we now tell the French "you committed genocide" and call all Armenians murderers of Hodjali, it becomes difficult for us to argue against things that are said about us.

The reaction of the world to this demonstration by a crazed crowd is another matter. These people are saying, "We killed, we can kill again." Therefore they are admitting something they reject by saying, "We did not do it! It is all lies!" and treating it as if it is a reasonable thing to do which they can do again at any time. Of course it is futile and meaningless to try to explain it to them. What has happened has happened. But the government that has sent its minister of the interior to this demonstration must have an answer. Is it by joining these kind of demonstrations and adopting these kind of slogans that they expect to join the "Human Family?"

You may apologize for Dersim, of course this is okay because you are not Kemalists. But when the subject is Armenians, you become tongue-tied. You attempt to establish a commission of historians in 2012. As in the joke about the Janissary and the Jew where the Janissary sees a Jew on the street and slaps him. The Jew complains "what did I do wrong again?" The Janissary roars: "You betrayed Jesus." The Jew panics and says, "That was 2,000 years ago." The Janissary responds: "Well, I just heard about it."

A commission is being formed to investigate. However the minister of the interior has already declared that there have been no improprieties. Thereby he has clearly expressed with what methods he wishes to conquer the 21st and 22nd centuries in the name of the Turks.

(Murat Belge is a Turkish writer and a human rights activist. This article appeared in the *Taraf* newspaper on February 28 and was translated by Arutun Maranci.)



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Armenian Patriarchate's Bold Move to Sue the Turkish Government

We must commend acting Patriarch Aram Ateshian and the Armenian patriarchate of Istanbul for making the bold move of suing the Turkish government for the return of historically significant Armenian properties.

Turkish officials normally view such legal actions with hostility and exert great pressure on judges to reject property claims filed by minorities, making it extremely difficult if not impossible to win similar lawsuits. Nevertheless, this is a necessary first step in order to be able to appeal the Turkish court's expected negative ruling to the European Court of Human Rights, where a plaintiff has a much better chance of a fair hearing.

The lawsuit filed by the patriarchate on March 14 seeks the return of Armenian properties belonging to Sanasarian College in Garin (Erzeroum), which were confiscated by the Turkish authorities following the Genocide of 1915. The college's extensive properties, now worth tens of millions of dollars, include nine plots of land in Garin, a garden house and vast farmland in the village of Aghveren, two plots in the village of Gez and a large commercial property (khan) in the center of Constantinople (Istanbul).

Sanasarian College was founded in 1881 by a major endowment from Mgrdich Sanasarian, a wealthy businessman from Georgia, who had settled in St. Petersburg, Russia. The generous benefactor donated additional properties to the college in the late 1800s.

Prior to 1915, Sanasarian College played a prominent role as a modernizing force during the Armenian national awakening. It was a European-style liberal arts school with the specific purpose of preparing teachers and professionals in various fields to assist the rapid development of Western Armenia's economy. During its brief existence, the college produced hundreds of graduates, including many who rose to prominent positions. Armen Garo, the Armenian Republic's first ambassador to the United States in 1918, was an alumnus of Sanasarian College.

Garin was an important base of operations for the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnagtsoutyoum) and its leaders who had taken residence there before 1915. One of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation's (ARF) founders, Rostom, was appointed as superintendent of Garin's school system, which included Sanasarian College.

Some meetings of the momentous ARF Eighth World Congress were held in 1914 at Sanasarian College buildings. The Congress was interrupted by the start of World War I. The Young Turk government had dispatched to Garin a high-level delegation headed by Behaeddin Shakir, one of the masterminds of the Armenian Genocide, to pressure the ARF into collaborating with the Turkish government's wartime efforts. The ARF Congress turned down the request. The college closed down in early 1915 and its entire faculty and many of its students were killed during the Genocide. Shakir was assassinated by Armenian avengers in 1922 in Berlin.

Ironically, a few years later, Garin was converted from a hotbed of Armenian activism to a center of Turkish nationalism with the convening of the historic Erzeroum

Congress by Kemal Ataturk in 1919. Currently, the Sanasarian College complex is a Turkish museum.

Commenting on the lawsuit, Ali Elbeyoglu, the Armenian patriarchate's lawyer, told *Hurriyet* newspaper: "The Sanasarian Foundation was granted to the patriarchate by philanthropist Mgrdich Sanasarian in the 1800's. The administration and management of the Sanasarian Foundation legally belongs to the patriarchate.... We are not going to content ourselves with the mere return of historical buildings. We are also going to demand compensation from the government's General Directorate of Foundations for all material losses incurred by the patriarchate since 1936."

Earlier this year, the Armenian patriarchate filed a separate lawsuit against the Directorate General of Foundations seeking the return of the Sanasarian Shopping Center (khan) in Istanbul. Even though the court imposed a temporary injunction, freezing all transactions involving the building's disposition, the Directorate General of Foundations declared that it will not abide by the court's order. The patriarchate's lawyer Elbeyoglu reacted by declaring: "This runs counter to all international legal [norms] as well as the Treaty of Lausanne. The patriarchate is still in possession of the title deed," *Hurriyet* reported.

In the past, when I criticized the patriarchate for making public statements against Armenian national interests, I was accused of not fully appreciating the special circumstances under which Armenians live in Turkey, and was told to show more sensitivity to the fact that they are basically hostages in the hands of the Turkish government. Since this article commends the patriarchate's bold legal action, I am concerned that my words of praise might make some Armenians in Turkey just as uncomfortable. I am simply trying to be fair and even-handed, offering criticism or praise, as the occasion merits.

Of Turks and Armenians

By Artin H. Arslanian

During my childhood in Lebanon, a recurring dream would wake up my father in the middle of the night.

He dreamt of the day when American missionaries rescued him while he was walking in the Syrian desert as a 6-year-old, holding his younger brother by the hand.

He and his brother were the only family survivors from the deportation and massacre of Armenians by the Ottoman government during World War I. Following a medical examination, the missionaries separated my father from his brother, who had fallen ill. His brother had in vain struggled to stay with him. He was forcibly taken away for medical treatment while yelling, "Brother, don't leave me!" until his voice faded in the distance.

My father, who was placed in an orphanage in Lebanon, never saw his brother again. But his brother's parting cry haunted him the rest of his life. He named me, my brother and sister after his father, brother and mother. This was his way of making his family whole again. His anguish left an indelible mark on me.

I didn't need my father's nightmares to be reminded of the tragic fate of my ancestors during World War I. The Turkish government's denial of the Armenian Genocide dominated the lives of Armenian communities all around the world. A growing hatred of all things Turkish and

the quest to prove the Ottoman government's responsibility for planning and implementing the Genocide preoccupied me, my Armenian friends and, indeed, the Armenian Diasporas, the survivors of the Genocide and their progeny.

To underscore our value and contribution to society at large – and reaffirm our self-esteem – we took pride in the successes of individuals of Armenian heritage the world over. We never tired of reminding non-Armenian friends and acquaintances that the composer Aram Khachaturian, the film director Rouben Mamoulian, the world chess champion Tigran Petrossian, the Soviet Politburo member Anastas Mikoyan, the French torch singer Charles Aznavour, the writer William Saroyan and a slew of famous others were Armenians. Some of us even insisted that a number of famous non-Armenians were indeed Armenians in disguise. This list included World War II German Gen. Heinz Guderian (his family name had the common Armenian "ian" ending) and the American actor Gregory Peck (we claimed his real name was Krikor Ipekian).

"Don't speak Turkish! Remember the 1 million!" proclaimed slogans on the walls of many buildings in Bourdj-Hammoud – the Armenian enclave in the suburb of Beirut where I grew up. We addressed in Armenian the survivors who spoke only Turkish. In the process of teaching them Armenian we learned Turkish from them before we learned Arabic – the language of our host country – in school!

In Armenian elementary and secondary schools we sang revolutionary songs and pledged to die fighting for the liberation of the historic Armenian provinces from Turkey and the Soviet Republic of Armenia from Russian control. The hatred of Turks and all things Turkish dominated our lives. I, along with my

friends, wanted the civilized world to do us justice by helping us liberate Soviet Armenia and forcing the Turkish government to admit to the crimes of the Ottoman government and make reparations.

However, there came a rude awakening for my generation with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the declaration of Armenia's independence in 1991. Few of those in the Armenian diasporas who were preaching a crusade for the liberation of Armenia left their comfortable lives in the Middle East, Europe and the United States to go and live in the Republic of Armenia. Moreover, more than 20 percent of the population of the new republic (most of them educated and skilled citizens) emigrated to Russia and a number of other countries in search of a decent livelihood.

Over time I came to understand that the pursuit of national and individual interests of political leaders is the driving force of international relations. Sure, in recent years several Western governments have officially recognized the Armenian Genocide. However, domestic political considerations or foreign policy objectives (like the goal of keeping Turkey out of the EU) rather than a commitment to rectifying an historical injustice, appear to be the primary reasons for these actions. After all, why had these governments ignored the Armenian Genocide until now?

The desire to safeguard or enhance national strategic interests explains why US presidents – Bush, Clinton and Obama – while promising to recognize the Armenian Genocide during their presidential campaigns have, once in office, successfully fought congressional legislation recognizing the Armenian Genocide. The US government doesn't want to antagonize Turkey, an important strategic ally against potential threats from Russia, Iran and Afghanistan.

The Armenian case is the first of many such tragedies in the 20th century. My father's anguish is not unique. I cannot forget the past – but have learned to refuse to be victimized by it. Focusing all my energies to the task of forcing the Turkish government to reverse its policy of denial is self-defeating and perpetuates my emotional and intellectual self-incarceration. I have shed the culture of victimhood and freed myself from the oppressive weight of our history.

As Hrant Dink, the Armenian-Turkish reporter who was assassinated by a right-wing Turkish nationalist in January 2007 in Istanbul, stated a few months before his death, the issue of the Armenian Genocide is not our problem – it is Turkey's problem. Let the Turks come to terms with their history by freeing it from their self-manufactured myths, reassess their past and transform their state from an ethnically exclusive home for Turks alone into an inclusive one for different ethnic and religious groups who consider themselves the citizens of Turkey. But while Dink was mourned by Armenians all over the world and even by a large number of Turks, his message – as far as the Armenian Diasporas are concerned – has fallen on deaf ears.

Dink's was not a pipe dream. There are harbingers of fundamental changes brewing in Turkey at the popular level. Many Turks are questioning the ethnocentrism of their government and arguing for a genuinely open and democratic society, which is no longer defined by ethnicity and religion. Just this year a conference on the Armenian Genocide was held in Ankara. Public commemorations of the Genocide were held in Istanbul (one organized by the Human Rights Association of Turkey, another a candlelight vigil held by Turkish intellectuals). Moreover, a number of Turkish scholars are arguing against the official policy of denial of the Armenian Genocide and thousands have signed an apology on the Internet for the "great catastrophe" that befell more than a million Armenians during World War I. The use of the term "great catastrophe" rather than "genocide" protects these people from government prosecution – but in poor imitation of the bard, genocide by any other name... is still genocide.

I cannot forget my father's nightmares. From time to time I still hear the cry, "Brother, don't leave me!" But I no longer harbor hatred against anyone.

(Artin H. Arslanian is a professor of history and international relations at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY. This commentary appeared in *Today's Zaman* on July 18, 2010.)

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