Iowa Recognizes Armenian Genocide

By Alin K. Gregorian
Mirror-Spectator Staff

The Philos Project, and Iowans for Armenia, the Armenian National Committee of America, the Armenian Episcopal Church of St. Sahag, and the Armenian Cultural and Community Center in Des Moines, with the help of Vartan Gregorian, the indefatigable president of the Carnegie Corporation, and Charles Aznavour, announced the creation of a new and unique museum hallway in the world. Vartan Gregorian joked that “Charles Aznavour is 73, but he claims to be 93” so that he can “defy every rule of New York.” But it is not only that. According to the brochure, the Charles Aznavour Interactive Museum “will use multimedia technologies such as computer animation and augmented reality to make sure that those going through the exhibits can hear him tell his story.”

From Aznavour to Yerevan with Love

NEW YORK — Two Diasporan Armenian powerhouses came together on Monday, August 28, at the headquarters of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, to announce the creation of a new and unique museum hallway around the world. Legendary singer Charles Aznavour announced the creation of his eponymous Interactive Museum and Cultural Center in Yerevan, with the help of Vartan Gregorian, the indefatigable president of the Carnegie Corporation.

Gregorian joked that “Charles Aznavour is 73, but he claims to be 93” so that people would treat him better. He also thanked the 60 or so guests assembled, who ‘have defied every rule of New York,” by being present in the city in late August as well as “every Armenian rule” by arriving even before the noon start time of the luncheon, contrary to a reputed predilection for lateness.

The museum will be a center for all things Aznavour – his music, life and ambitions, loves and family. He has recorded his life story so that those going through the exhibits can hear him tell his story. But it is not only that.

According to the brochure, the Charles Aznavour Interactive Museum “will use multimedia technologies such as computer animation and augmented reality to walk you through the realization of a dream and inspire you to be more than you see AZNAVOUR, page 11

Putin Praises Ties with Armenia

MOSCOW (Public Radio of Armenia) – Russian President Vladimir Putin sent a congratulatory message to his Armenian counterpart Serzh Sargsyan on the 20th anniversary of the bilateral Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance, the Kremlin press service said on Tuesday, TASS reports.

“Today, we mark the beginning of a new era in Russian-Armenian relations,” the message reads. “The signature of this important document created conditions for further cooperation, trade, energy, economic, scientific, humanitarian cooperation, as well as the development of international relations based on friendship.” Putin added. He pointed to the long history of Russian-Armenian relations “to avoid the spread of evil and promote the well-being of the two countries’ people.”

The Russian leader commended the development of bilateral ties noting that they had reached the level of allied cooperation in the past 20 years. Moscow and Yerevan have been effectively cooperating “since the integration processes taking place in Eurasia, coordinating their activities to ensure regional security and stability,” the Kremlin press service said.

Armenia Coy About Syria Troop Deployment

YEREVAN (REPEL) – Armenia’s leadership on August 29 declined to confirm or deny a senior Russian military official’s claim that it is prepared to send a demining team to Syria. President Serzh Sargsyan’s press secretary, Vladimir Hakobian, said: “When a decision is made and all issues are clarified, the public will be notified in an appropriate manner.” A spokesperson for the Armenian Defense Ministry similarly said on Monday that the matter requires “further examination.”

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov discussed possible Armenian involvement in demining operations in the historic Syrian city of Palmyra with his Armenian counterpart Edward Nalbandian in Yerevan in April. “I hope that our joint initiative can be implemented,” Lavrov said.

It is not clear whether Sargsyan and Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke about Syria when they met in the Russian city of Sochi on August 23.

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Archeological Excavations in Artsakh’s Dadivank Monastery

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Within the restoration efforts at the small domed church of Dadivank monastery, archeological excavations have kicked off which will last 10 days, the head of Artsakh’s Tigرانакерт expedition, Hamlet Petrosyan, said.

He noted that the monastery has been partially excavated since 2007, but it still remains archeologically important. “The southern wall of the small dome church has been cracked, and it was necessary to check the basis for restoration. Based on research works, underearth has been opened under the southern wall which is stretched along the entire wall. Currently we are excavating it and are not clear what it is,” Petrosyan said, adding that if everything is not clear at this stage, the archaeologists will think about conducting excavations at that site again.

During the July 21, 2007 excavations, the relics of the apostle St. Thaddeus were found under a tomb in one of the church’s monasteries. Another mausoleum was found which contained a man buried sitting on a chair, not something found in Armenian Christian burials.

Dadivank is one of the ancient monasteries of Artsakh.

Mass Shooting Suspect Tracked Down by Armenian Police

YEREVAN (REUTERS) — Police tracked down and arrested on Friday, August 25, a man accused of killing four people and wounding seven others in an Armenian village almost a month ago.

The 50-year-old suspect, Tselman Kalashian, allegedly went on a shooting spree on August 1 as several hundred men gathered in Shamirian, a village about 50 kilometers west of Yerevan, to mark a Yazidi religious feast. Law-enforcement authorities say he fled the scene with the help of his uncle. The suspect was arrested on August 2.

Kalashian, who lived in another village also mostly populated by ethnic Yazidis, remained on the run for more than three weeks. An Armenian police spokesman said he was caught in his home province, Ararat, but gave no details of his arrest.

Another law-enforcement body, the Investigative Committee, formally charged Kalashian with several counts of murder later in the day.

In a statement, the Investigative Committee said the root cause of shooting was $75,000 which Kalashian lent in 2013 to five other Armenian-born men, all of them brothers, who lived and worked in Russia. It said the Khudoyan brothers subsequently paid back only $45,000, leaving the Kalashians to press their relatives and friends in Armenia to help get him back the rest of the sum.

The suspect was arrested by the state police, according to the state police.

Armenian Wrestlers Return Home to a Hero’s Welcome

YEREVAN — Armenian Greco-Roman wrestlers returned home to a hero’s welcome on August 22. At Zvartnots Airport the athletes were greeted by thousands of fans, relatives and officials.

Reigning world and Olympic champ Artur Aleksanyan (98 kg) beat Russia’s Ruslan Yevloev 3-1 to claim gold at the 2017 World Wrestling Championships in Paris. Makim Manukyan claimed gold in the 86-kg category.

The next day, President Serzh Sargsyan received the three-time world and European champion, bronze medalist of the Olympic Games, gold medalist of the Summer Olympics in 2016 Alenyan and world champion Maxim Manukyan, who won gold medals at the Greco-Roman world championship.

The meeting was attended by Armenian national team head coach Levon Hulakalayan and Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs Hrachia Rostomyan.

The president complimented his guests on coming back to the homeland with great achievements.

Sargsyan thanked them for giving people great joy, pride and bolstering the spirits of all Armenians.

He pointed to the fact that any winning athlete sets a good example for the rising generation who are thereby encouraged to be like them and become more industrious and purposeful.

Sargsyan asked Rostomyan and Hulakalayan about the efforts aimed at providing more favorable conditions for developing wrestling in Armenia and expressed readiness to assist them with the timely and proper implementation of the genuine intentions.

The guests thanked the President for keeping in focus the development of sports and his sustained thoughtfulness of the needs of Armenian athletes. They underscored that it inspires them ahead toward new achievements.

Andrew Schofer Named New US Co-Chair of OSCE Minsk Group


“The United States is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Andrew Schofer as the next U.S. CoChair of the OSCE Minsk Group for NagornoKarabakh. Mr. Schofer brings extensive experience in Europe and International Organizations to the position, and most recently served as Charg d’Affaires for the U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Vienna (UNVI). From August 2015 until January 2017, he served as the Deputy Chief of Mission at UNVI.”

According to the State Department, from August 2014 to August 2015, he served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Nicosia, Cyprus from 2011 to 2014, and has also worked overseas at the U.S. Embassies in Kuwait City, Kuwait; Manama, Bahrain and Moscow, Russia.

Schofer’s Washington assignments included postings on the Iraq Desk in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, and as special assistant to the Under Secretary for Political Affairs, where he was primarily responsible for the Middle East and Counterterrorism portfolio.

The statement stressed that “The United States remains firmly committed to the Minsk Group Process and helping the sides reach a lasting and peaceful settlement to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. As expressed in the June 19 and July 6 statements, the United States supports a just settlement that must be based on international law which includes the Helsinki Final Act in particular, the principles of nonuse of force, territorial integrity, and selfdetermination. Andrew Schofer looks forward to helping the sides achieve this goal. We have informed the governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan of Andrew Schofer’s appointment.”

Schofer will assume his new position effective immediately.

Singer Daniel Decker Dedicates New Project to Artsakh

STEPANAKERT — American singer and composer Daniel Decker will visit the NagornoKarabakh Republic to present his new project “My Artsakh.”

Details of the project dedicated to the 25th anniversary of Artsakh’s independence and liberation of Shushi were scheduled to be presented at a press conference on August 30. The project is being implemented under the aegis of the Armenian Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Ministry of Culture.

SAVE Newsletter:

Armenia

Number of Asylum Seekers Increases

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — The number of asylum seekers in Armenia has increased in the first half of 2017, according to the data of the National Statistical Service of Armenia, reports Armenpress. Most asylum seekers were from Syria, Ukraine, Cuba, Iran, Azerbaijan. The number of foreigners from CIS countries who were granted residence status in Armenia has also increased. People have sought asylum in the first half of 2017 compared to the 46 of the previous year. This year 25 people from Syria, 9 from Ukraine, 7 from Cuba, 6 from Iran and 4 from Armenia have sought asylum. Four people have been rejected from the asylum claim. 2055 foreigners were rejected from their asylum claim.

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Turkey Rift: German Politicians Demand Economic Pressure

BERLIN (Deutsche Welle) – The leader of Germany’s Social Democrats (SPD) Martin Schulz, on Sunday accused Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of establishing a politi
cal tyranny and called on the European Union to scrap any further negotia
tions on expanding its customs union with Turkey.

"How long can we really continue to tolerate a president, who has already lost all sense of proportion domestically, now losing his sense of restraint inter
ationaly?" Schulz asked in an inter
view published by a German public broadcaster ARD. "Can we continue to accept that innocent German citizens languish in prison in a country ruled by tyranny?"

According to the German govern
ment, 54 German nationals are being held in a jail in Turkey. 10 of which are for political reasons. "Two of the most highprofile detainees are journalists, German and Austrian residents, and right activist Peter Strudner."

Schulz, the main challenger to
Chancellor Angela Merkel and her Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in
next month’s federal election, warned that Germany would have to seek its own hardline measures against Turkey if Erdogan continues on his path.

One measure would be to halt any talks of expanding Turkey’s customs union with the EU. Ankara has made no secret of its ambition to boost market access for Turkish enterprises in the EU and to secure the cur
rent arrangement, agreed back in 1995, as restrictive.

Hans Seehofer, the leader of the Christian Social Union (CSU), called on the EU to freeze all aid payments to Turkey.

"Payment aimed at preparing Turkey to join the EU must immedi
ately be put on hold," he told Germany’s Funke media group on Monday. The state premier of Bavaria went on to say that barely a week pas
t by in which Ankara doesn’t issue fur
ther threats and provocations.

Turkey is scheduled to make a future commitment of almost 4.5 billion euros ($5.4 billion) for the period from 2014 to 2020. The money is meant to help bring its institutions up to a European standard and ultimately help it become a member of the bloc. The German Foreign Ministry, Sigmar Gabriel joined in the chorus of condem
nation directed at Ankara, but warned that any action too drastic would only
serve to strengthen Erdogan.

During a press conference Sunday in Berlin, Germany’s top diplomat said it would be wrong to completely call off EU accession talks with Turkey as "Erdogan is waiting for just that."

"He (Erdogan) would then be able to say he turned Europe to its fac
ing back on Turkey," Gabriel said.

"He faces so much discord at home that Erdogan wants to be a foreign foe," Gabriel has in recent weeks taken a more hardline approach against Turkey.

"In July, he delivered not just the government’s most strongly-worded statement yet against the Erdogan regime. As part of Ger
many’s Foreign Ministry’s "to policy
wards towards Turkey, Gabriel warned German citizens to exercise extreme caution when traveling to Turkey and advised German firms against investing and doing business in the country.

German Rights Detained in Turkey

Germany’s Foreign Ministry admitted on Saturday that another German nation
al had been in detention in Turkey since April. The case had not been reported in the German until the Bild am Sonntag newspaper broke the story.

Little official information known is about the 55-year-old David B. The 55
year-old, from Schwerin, was reportedly
on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem before being arrested in southeastern Turkey. While the reasons for his arrest have not yet been disclosed, he is thought to be in a Turkish jail with other German family while traveling through Istanbul.

A spokesman for the German Foreign Ministry said that David B had received consular advice from the German embassy in Ankara.

The leader of Germany’s Green party, Cem Ozdemir, told the local newspa
per Schweriner Volkszeitung that the case was the latest example of Erdogan col
lecting "hostages against our country." He added that Erdogan only under
stood a hardline stance and the “ lan
guage of war.”

Victorian Young Labor Adopts Motion Recognizing Armenian Genocide

MELBOURNE, Australia — On August 19,2017, Victorian Young Labor held its Annual Conference at the Victorian Trades Hall in Melbourne, where delegates gathered for lively debate and passed various motions including a motion to recognize the Armenian Genocide, which was adopted without disuc

The motion noted: "Raphael Lemkin invented the word genocide, based on defining the Armenian Genocide, in order to describe the systematic and brutal murder of an ethnic and religious minority... in 2017, a first major Holocaust remembrance ceremony in the Armenian Genocide was aired to audiences around the world titled ‘The Promise’, further raising mass aware
ness of the issue."

"Victorian Young Labor condemns the genocide of over one and a half mil
ions Christian Armenians, Assyrians and Pontian Greeks at the hands of the then Ottoman Empire and all other acts of genocide as the ultimate act of racist, religious and cultural intolerance."

The motion called for the Victorian State and Commonwealth governments to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Victorian Young Labor Conference delegate Arial Zobar, who moved the motion, said: "I’m absolutely delighted that Victorian Young Labor, the largest democratic youth political body in Victoria, unanimously supported the motion and committed to raise aware
ness about the Armenian Genocide."

"Hopefully this motion contributes to the increasing global pressure for the Turkish state to acknowledge its responsibility to the descendants of the victims and to the Armenian community for whom justice has still not yet been served."

"With the South Australian and NSW Parliaments already passing similar motions of support, we look forward to the Victorian and Australian parliaments to follow suit," Zobar added.

The Australian National Committee of Australia - Melbourne (ANC-AU Melbourne) chairperson, Ashed Bymoushakatian congratulated and thanked Victorian Young Labor for their unanimous support and strength in standing up for truth and justice.

"This is part of the tidal wave of growing pressure with countries and organizations around the world having come forward with motions calling for recognition," he said.

"I call on all political parties and their youth wings to adopt the same stance and educate their members about the Armenian Genocide and stand shoulder to shoulder with many of the victims’ families and descendants, many of whom are fortunate to now call Australia home."
Erdogan's Extraterritorial Ambitions: The Case of Dogan Akhanli

AMBITIONS, from page 1

supporters regards them as both cheap ridicule. “Who are you,” he asked Gabriel rhetorically, “to talk to the President of Turkey? You should know your place!” i.e. he should address himself to the prosecutor, and not to his minister. Mr. Erdogan for “trying to teach us a les- son,” adding, “How long have you been in politics? How old are you anyway?”

The Long Arm of Turkish “Justice”

Days later, it became clear that the huffing and puffing was only the prelude to an act of far greater import. On August 19, on the basis of an international arrest warrant issued by a Spanish court, Erdogan himself flew through Spanish airspace, and Turkish police arrested a German-Turkish citizen of Turkish descent during his vacation in Grenada. Dogan Akhanli, a well-known novelist, playwright and human rights activist resid- ing in Cologne and Berlin, was awakened that Saturday, morning by loud banging on the door of his hotel room. Three Spanish policemen in bullet-proof vests and armed with submachine guns, asked him for identification, and, having ascertained he was the same person, Interpol was pursuing with a “Red Notice,” arrested him, and hauled him off to prison. From Grenada, he was transferred to Madrid, and then, based on a case of intervention of his lawyer, Eyas Uyar, and German-Turkish Friendship Society, authorities, released the following day, on condition he be present in Spain for 40 days and report weekly to the authorities. During that ominous number of days, Turkish authorities will have to supply documentation to substantiate their demand that he be extradited to Turkey for trial.

The mood in Berlin was livid. Foreign Minister Gabriel spoke to his Spanish counterpart by phone, urging him to decide promptly about extradition, and his spokesman, Magnus Merkel, said, “This is unacceptable, we cannot allow inter- national organizations like Interpol to be misused for some- thing like this.” It is due to such cases, she said, that Germany had “massively changed its Turkey policy,” adding that “we have to settle this conflict.” Her spokesman Steffen Seibert expressed the suspicion that the Turkish authorities were using Interpol against political critics. He said he was particularly upset because the “Red Notice” had been used against Akhanli: “Here we are dealing with a German citizen!” he said. The SPD’s councilor champion Martin Schlüte denounced the political motivation behind the out- raging arrest: “Anyone who takes away a citizen of Germany with a ‘Red Notice’ is stigmatized as an enemy of Turkey and is persecuted.” This is a new level of escalation. Therefore, I believe that one answer must be to say to Turkey: “We can- not and will not tolerate such political and other deeper economic relations are not as possible as long as Turkey behaves in this manner.” Cem Ozdemir, Green Party spokesman, said, “As a German, it is meaningless for me to talk about this kind of thing.”

What Crime?

Juggling by the character of the security forces deployed against apprehend Akhanli – three armed policemen at his door and two police cars with six to eight policemen waiting out- side – one might assume the suspect was a dangerous felon, especially in the heightened security atmosphere – one might assume the suspect were a dangerous felon, especially in the heightened security atmosphere. But Akhanli had been found, there was no reason to maintain that level of alarm. Or, it may be lifted if it is found that political motivations were prevalent to complete theIRTH. Interpol headquarters in Lyons gave no reasons to the press for their action, and there was no statement issued by the Spanish authorities. The Spanish prosecutor’s office, however, declared it was “glad that Interpol cancelled the Red Notice.”

Whatever the thinking behind the move, Akhanli has still not been allowed to leave the country. Reached by tele- phone by this author on August 29, he explained that he had been released from prison, but he was not permitted to travel to Turkey and Spanish authorities, which might take a long time. He said he would stay in Madrid, was in good spirits and said that the German Foreign Ministry was taking good care of the matter.

As announced at the time of the arrest, Turkey would be given forty days to provide the documentation that he should be extradited. It will be up to the Spanish authori- ties to decide whether or not the documentation meets the requirements. The German government had made it clear that it is totally opposed to such action, and has signaled this stance to the Spanish government in several meetings.

Given the precedents in this case – that Akhanli has a his- tory of judicial and political persecution at the hands of Turkish legal authorities, and the ongoing police activities and security measures, in which the German police and security forces are involved, it is possible that Spain would bend under pressure. When asked for his opinion, lawyer Uyar, said, “A trial against Akhanli accord- ing to the rule of law is an exercise in absurdity. The question is how to revise German and EU policy. The key point is that that Spain would bend under pressure. When asked for his opinion, lawyer Uyar, said, “A trial against Akhanli accord- ing to the rule of law is an exercise in absurdity. The question is how to revise German and EU policy. The key point is that...”

Truth Will Tell

It may well be that the clumsy attempt on Erdogan’s part to take justice into his own hands will beomerange, as so many other of his ill-conceived political antics. For sure he had his ups and downs on his face, editors and car- toons have made him laugh the smelling stick of the political cir- culus. The story has dominated TV and press coverage since the arrest, and Erdogan was the number-one time-share talk show, with participation of nationally prominent politicians, including Foreign Minister Gabriel, connected by video. The political establishment in Berlin has united in denouncing the abuse of power demonstrated by Akhanli and the question of how to revise German and EU policy down-cow: “Erdogan must not have any kind of domestic or foreign intelligence agents involved! In short: was the law broken somewhat towards the end? And if so, by whom?”

Spain’s Response

What is going to happen next? On August 25, the Red Notice was formally lifted, but it is not clear why. That deci- sion may be made on technical grounds: since it signifies the request to pursue and arrest the suspected individual, once Akhanli had been found, there was no reason to maintain
Four Students from Sts. Tarkmanchatz Join St. Nersess Summer Conferences

By Florence Avakian

ARMONK, N.Y. – Once again, for the 12th year, outstanding students from the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem’s Sts. Tarkmanchatz School joined their counterparts at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary. This year, the St. Nersess Summer Conferences for youth, afforded four Jerusalem students unique opportunities to interact with their Armenian American peers, strengthen their Christian faith, and experience the special New York environs and flavor.

This project was initiated by Rev. Maddinos Chevian, dean of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, who has been enabled by contributions from donors. This year, the main benefactors of the project were Russell and Susan Kasban (Muskege, WI), with support by George and Lorraine Manoukian (Franklin Lakes, NJ), Vicken and Rosette Arslanian (Englewood, NJ), Joseph and Kristine Casali (Ramsey, NJ), Gregory and Meline Torosian (Saddle River, NJ), Glen and Kristin Daghlian (Ramsey, NJ), and Keith and Karyn Bicetjian (Westhampton, Mass.).

The four exceptional students included 17-year-old Danik Demirjian, Hagop Hagopian, Sevana Hekimian, and 15-year-old Seraphina Karin Bash, all of whom praised their student life at Sts. Tarkmanchatz and its principal, the Very Rev. Norayr Kazazian.

Several comments about Kazazian reflected the love and admiration they felt for him and his leadership of the school which he called “very supportive.” He was praised for advancing the school’s educational programs and its facilities, and for being “close, friendly, kind, caring and principled” with the students. “Tarkmanchatz has been a beautiful flower in our lives,” declared Hekimian.

Born in Jerusalem, Hagop Hagopian comes from a family of genocide survivors. His paternal grandmother escaped from Elashhehebi and his maternal grandparents from Marash. He sees medicine as his future work. He plans to stay in Jerusalem, attend Hebrew University, then go to the Medical School within the Armenian Quarter. They were led by Fr. Mardiros Chevian, 4th Century,” Barsamian stated.

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“IT was an honor meeting with the Armenian Patriarch and Armenians in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, and holding vibrant discussions with the Armenian community in the Holy Land. The Patriarch made a point to welcome us and encourage Armenian Americans to visit the Armenian Quarter and meet with members of this important Armenian community. His Eminence made sure we had the opportunity to pray with our Christian brothers and sisters at Saints James Cathedral and participate in Divine Liturgy at the tomb of Christ, also known to Armenians as the Holy Resurrection Church and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, while having an opportunity to visit the numerous Armenian shops and enjoy Western Armenian culture which continues to exist since the 4th Century,” Barsamian stated.

The participants visited Sts. Tarkmanchatz (Holy Translators) Armenian School within the Armenian Quarter. They were led by Fr. Maddinos Chevian, dean of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary and Fr. Krikor Saboujian, a member of the Eastern Diocese Council and pastor of Holy Translators Church in Framingham, Mass. They met the Gulbenkian Library Director and principal of the Armenian Assembly Co-Chair Anthony Barsamian and Rabbi David Rosen of the American Jewish Committee.

Armenian Assembly Co-Chairs Meet with Religious Leaders in Jerusalem

WASHINGTON – Armenian Assembly of America Co-Chair and Massachusetts Council of Churches President Anthony Barsamian travelled to Jerusalem this month, where he met with religious leaders, including the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, Archbishop Nourhan Manougian.

“It was an honor meeting with the Armenian Patriarch and Armenians in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, and holding vibrant discussions with the Armenian community in the Holy Land. The Patriarch made a point to welcome us and encourage Armenian Americans to visit the Armenian Quarter and meet with members of this important Armenian community. His Eminence made sure we had the opportunity to pray with our Christian brothers and sisters at Saints James Cathedral and participate in Divine Liturgy at the tomb of Christ, also known to Armenians as the Holy Resurrection Church and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, while having an opportunity to visit the numerous Armenian shops and enjoy Western Armenian culture which continues to exist since the 4th Century,” Barsamian stated.

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Zarouhi (Zarie) Irene Keosian
Devoted to Family

ZAROUSHI (ZARIE) IRENE KEOSIAN
Devoted to Family

CHEVY CHASE, Md. — Zarouhi (Zarie) Irene Keosian passed away after a very short illness on Tuesday, May 9, in Chevy Chase, Md. at age 97.

She was born in Providence, RI, on September 25, 1919, to the late Nighobos Kashmanian and Varbohi Yesaian. She was a longtime resident of Watertown, as well as Amityville, NY and Dunedin, Fla. For the past 10 years, she had lived in her apartment in Chevy Chase.

Zarie was the wife of Albert Keosian Turza (Peter Henry); sister of Virginia Keljikian (Paul, deceased); grandmother of Kristin Turza Campbell, M.D. (Chris), Lauren Turza Greer, M.D. and Allison Turza Baigier Ph.D. (Dan); and great-grandmother of Haley and Baby Parker Turza Campbell, Lester Kyle and Olivia Dale Greer, and Henry Albert Baigier. She is survived by her grandnieces, Deborah Quick Zavaleta (Raul) and their children, Raquel, Jordan, Dylan and Tristan Zavaleta, and Pamela Quick Reeder (David) and their children, Jonathan and Erica Reeder, as well as her grandnephews, Joel Mazmanian (Bill) and their children, Jolie and Jordan and cousins, Helen Kirigian (Oserian, deceased) and their sons, Mark Kirigian (Amelie) and their children, Alek, Ben and Theo and David Kirigian (Kristen) and their children, Sebastian, Katica and Ara, and Annette Kirigian Arentz (Peter) and their son, David Arentz.

She was also survived by Thomas Hartmann and his son, Michael. She was preceded in death by her two sisters and their husbands, Margaret Mazmanian (Joseph) and Zarie Keosian (Georgie) and by her niece and her late husband, Doris Mazmanian Quick (William) and her nephews, Edward Mazmanian (Carole Mazmanian Chooljian).

Born and raised in Providence, Dorothy met the “love of her life,” Albert Chakarian, a successful lawyer in Cambridge, and moved, after marrying him, to Boston, in 1939.

During World War II, she worked at the Watertown Arsenal and Raytheon Corporation. When her daughter, Dale, was born, Dorothy devoted her life to being a homemaker, raising her daughter and volunteering at St. James Armenian Church in Watertown, where she was very active in the Women’s Guild, and Mt. Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, where she helped out in the gift shop.

After Albert died in 1963, Dorothy worked in the business office of Widener Library at Harvard University. She was blessed to meet and fall in love again with Karl Hartmann in 1971, and she then moved to Amityville, and Dunedin, Fla., ultimately relocating to Chevy Chase, in 2007, to be close to her daughter, grandchildren and cousins. By that time, her sisters, Virginia and Zarie, had also moved to Chevy Chase, Maryland. After Karl died in 2009, she joined a small knitting group at St. Alban’s Church in Washington, D.C., as Dorothy was an invertebrate knitter all of her life. She was a great Armenian cook and baker. She loved to read and play Scrabble. She adored her family and friends, and they all adored her back. She will be very missed by everyone.

Arrangements were made by the Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home.
Heel)— While many students would be happy about legislation, Smith comprehensively educates its participants at any given time. She said the internship program is important in expanding their network of advocates and creating future leaders for the Armenian-American community.

That’s why we do this particular program — to build the new generation of leaders and our contacts in D.C. through positive work and connection,” Piatt said.

Piatt said the Assembly promotes public awareness of Armenian issues and lobbies in Washington for national recognition of the Armenian Genocide, military parity funding for Armenia, and aid funding for Armenia.

Boole, who is half-Armenian, said the program educated him on Armenian-American relations and allowed him to gain a deeper understanding of Armenian culture.

“As a whole — which I’m interested in — I think that learning about how the political process works and influences those things is important,” Boole said.

During his time in Holding’s office, Boole managed daily communications between the representative and his constituents, attended and wrote memos about legislative hearings, researched legislation in which Holding could be involved, and gave tours of the US Capitol Building.

“Congressman’s interns are exposed to every step of the legislative process,” Smith said. “The program is designed to offer students a firsthand glimpse into working on Capitol Hill and an overview of the legislative process.”

During his internship with the Armenian Assembly office, Boole met with legislators to advocate for legislation regarding Armenian-American relations, kept up-to-date spreadsheets of members of the Congressional Armenian Caucus and researched daily news reports related to the organization’s projects.

Armenian Assembly program director Joseph Piatt said the organization accepts about 20 interns every summer. He said the internship program is important in expanding their network of advocates and creating future leaders for the Armenian-American community.

“Learning more about these issues and how to get recognition and how to fight them was a very interesting process,” Boole said.

Boole said he could feel the tense political climate during his time in D.C.

“Especially with all the controversy of what Trump’s doing, it just brings the stakes higher,” Boole said. “You can tell by the way some people talk on the phone, constituents when they call you, they’re either very happy about what Trump’s doing or they’re very concerned.”

Despite his interest in politics, Boole still plans on majoring in biology with a business minor to pursue healthcare consulting. He said he would encourage his peers to learn more about the political process, no matter what career path they are on.

“You get a different view of what it’s like working in politics — what’s really going on and how this legislation is developed and all the work that goes into actually passing it,” Boole said. “Even if I’m not a political science major, I think it’s just an invaluable learning experience.”

C H A P E L H I L L, North Carolina (Daily Tar Heel) — While many students would be happy with landing just one internship before they graduate, junior biology major Taylor Boole managed to score two summer interning positions on Capitol Hill.

Boole lived in Washington, D.C., for 10 weeks this summer. He spent the first four weeks working as an intern in the office of US Rep. George Holding, RNC, and the following six weeks at the Armenian Assembly of America, the largest non-partisan Armenian-American advocacy organization in the US.

Boole said the experience in Rep. Holding’s office was invaluable.

“Whether you’re in research, whether you’re in marketing, whether you’re running a business as a whole — which I’m interested in — I think that learning about how the political process works and influences those things is important,” Boole said.

During his time in Holding’s office, Boole managed daily communications between the representative and his constituents, attended and wrote memos about legislative hearings, researched legislation in which Holding could be involved, and gave tours of the US Capitol Building.

Katie Smith, the congress member’s office manager, said the office has a couple of interns at any given time. She said the internship program is important in expanding their network of advocates and creating future leaders for the Armenian-American community.

“That’s why we do this particular program — to build the new generation of leaders and our contacts in D.C. through positive work and connection,” Piatt said.

Piatt said the Assembly promotes public awareness of Armenian issues and lobbies in Washington for national recognition of the Armenian Genocide, military parity funding for the conflict with Azerbaijan and other foreign aid funding for Armenia.

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A r m e n i a n A s s e m b l y C o - C h a i r s M e e t W i t h R e l i g i o u s L e a d e r s i n J e r u s a l e m

J E R U S A L E M, from page 5

the Tarkmanchatz Armenian School, Very Rev. Nersiy Kazarian, who reported the number of students at the school has increased from 90 to 180 in recent years.

“This trip to the Holy Land was inspirational and eye-opening. Jerusalem is one of the important centers for us and we should all make an effort to visit the Holy Land and experience the richness of Armenian life, unbroken throughout the centuries,” Barsamian added.

During his discussion with the Israeli Government as relations continue to expand. During his discussion with the Minister of Regional Cooperation of Israel, Tzachi Hanegbi, Nalbandian highlighted the deep historical roots between Armenian and Jewish people, “which create a good basis for the development of inter-state cooperation.” They also discussed holding consultations between the foreign ministers, enhancing their collaboration within international organizations, and increasing inter-parliamentary exchanges, as well as developing mutually beneficial cooperation in culture, science, and education.

“I welcome these encouraging trends in Armenia-Israel relations and extend my appreciation to our friends in the American Jewish community who support this development,” Barsamian said.
Atayan, minister of health of the Artsakh Republic, to contribute toward the costs of purchasing medical equipment for a new oncology treatment facility in Stepanakert.

On Wednesday, August 23, Melikian received the unanimous support of the Governor’s Council as associate justice of the District Court Circuit. I invite everyone to attend the public Governor’s Council hearings held year round in the State House Governor’s Council Chamber on the third floor. Council has no vacation has no staff, have no as many hearings in August as we do in December. (Marilyn M. Petitto Devaney can be reached at her State House office at 617/722-6015.)

Bruce S. Melikian
Approved for Governor's Council
By Marilyn M. Petitto Devaney

BOSTON — Recently Gov. Charlie Baker nominated Bruce Melikian to a judgeship in the District Court circuit. In accordance with the Governor’s Council procedures, the council held a public hearing two weeks ago in the State House Council Chambers.

The Governor’s Council holds its official hearings in the State House for every nominee presented by the Governor – judges, clerk magistrates, members of the Parole Board, Industrial Accident Board, (for injured workers) Appellate Tax Board (for opportunity to citizen to challenge local real estate tax assessments), and pardons, vote on justice of the peace and notaries. Every week, in the Council Chamber, the Council also votes on the State warrant – all the expenditures incurred in that week.

At Governor’s Council hearings, the nominee is invited to bring witnesses speaking in support. The agenda also allows people to speak in opposition of the nominee.

I met for nearly four hours with Melikian. I am a lifelong resident of Watertown. I had dear friends in my life who were survivors of the Armenian Genocide. Melikian and I had similar interests and history concerning the Armenian Genocide. His grandfather lost all his family in the Armenian Genocide.

Bruce is highly qualified. Today in the State House, when I voted for his appointment I stated, “I will be voting in favor of the appointment of Bruce Melikian to the District court. I am pleased for the Governor’s nomination of Bruce Melikian. The first attribute I look for is his honesty and he has it. Attorney Melikian has thirty-three years legal experience as a practicing lawyer – in court on a continuing basis. He has all the attributes I look for in a judge – highly qualified, with experience, integrity, temperament, and experience, empathy and respect for people. In meeting him for nearly four hours – yes four hours, I clearly know the whole person who I am supporting. I thank Attorney Melikian for all his time with me all his time to give me the opportunity to learn the personal and public person who will be sitting as a judge.”

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Students from Sts. Tarkmanchatz Join St. Nersess Summer Conferences

STUDENTS, from page 5
Seena Karin Bush, whose father is German-American, hopes to be a psychologist, or work at the United Nations. “I want to make a difference in the world and help mankind advance in peace.” Her mother’s family is from Marash, Caesarea, survived the Genocide and came to Jerusalem through a long trek through Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Palestine. In summer 2015, she traveled to Armenia “to see my homeland. It was extremely overwhelming. Artsakh was just beautiful and breathtaking, but anger brewed inside of me when I went because my people are getting killed over what is rightfully ours.”

Rekindling Faith
“Before coming to the St. Nersess program, my faith was not so strong,” confessed Bush. “Here I have been going to my room, talking to God and feeling comfortable.” For her, “it has been so refreshing, being more exposed to the outside world from the “very traditional atmosphere” in Jerusalem. Though she still has questions, she has become “more strong” in her faith.

For Demirjian, it has been an experience of “thinking out of the box, being more open. Everyone is so energetic, so enthusiastic, so “thinking out of the box, being more open.” For Demirjian, it has been an experience of “thinking out of the box, being more open. Everyone is so energetic, so enthusiastic, so “thinking out of the box, being more open.”

Serena Karin Bush, whose father is German-American, hopes to be a psychologist, or work at the United Nations. “I want to make a difference in the world and help mankind advance in peace.” Her mother’s family is from Marash, Caesarea, survived the Genocide and came to Jerusalem through a long trek through Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Palestine. In summer 2015, she traveled to Armenia “to see my homeland. It was extremely overwhelming. Artsakh was just beautiful and breathtaking, but anger brewed inside of me when I went because my people are getting killed over what is rightfully ours.”

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The Armenian Mirror-Spectator

Celebrating 85 Years

CONNECTING
REFLECTING
INSPIRING

Thursday
Nov 2
2017
EVENING SYMPOSIUM

Friday
Nov 3
2017
GALA BENEFIT
COMMUNITY NEWS

AZNAVOUR, from page 1

thought you could be. By taking you through
the experience of one man and his music, the
museum will show you what is possible if you
allow love and your dreams to guide you.”

Kristina Sarkisyan, CEO of the Aznavour
Foundation in Armenia, recalled how she and
her family had been helped by Amour’s char-
table efforts in Armenia in the wake of the
earthquake.

“We didn’t have electricity or hot water” and
the two hours of electricity every day were
because of him, she recalled.

One slide projected showed his achievements
in his ancestors’ land. The statistics are amaz-
ing: 96,000 families helped from distribution
of food or clothing, 96,600 meals, 1,180 tons of
medicine, 1,200 prostheses, 1.3 million people
with electricity, 300 houses, one retirement
home and 30 kilometers of drinking water and
irrigation pipelines, among many others.

In gratitude for all his contributions, the gov-
ernment gifted him a large building at the top
of the Cascade, in the heart of Yerevan.

It is this very building that Aznavour is now
giving back to the country, as the Charles
Aznavour Interactive Museum
and Cultural Center.

Aznavour was accompanied by
his son, Nicholas. He spoke with
passion about his hopes for the
museum.

“I want the youth to have the
possibility of dreaming. The dias-
pora and Armenia must unite
their efforts to make Armenian
culture vibrant,” he said. There
are so many outstanding
Armenian musicians around the
world, he said, including Georges
Garvarentz and Michel Legrand,
to name but two. It is time, he
said, for Armenia to showcase
these talents, “and not just chews.”

[Vita] arts play a great role in
the history of Armenia,” Gregorian agreed.

Aznavour concurred, caution-
ing that “many great cultures have
disappeared. It can happen
to Armenia.”

Gregorian recalled his
early life as a student in the
US and how Amour mat-
ted to him back then, too.

“Whenever I felt depressed
in college, I would listen to
Edith Piaf and Charles
Amour. When you sang,”
he said, turning to
Amour, “I felt, ‘my God,
I’m liberated. I felt ‘Life is
yours and they are with
you.’”

He rattled off Amour’s
statistics. He has written
more than 800 songs and
recorded more than 1,200,
in eight languages. He has
sold more than 180 million
records. And as Gregorian
said, while apologizing to
the two archbishops in the
room, he is a “French pop
deity.” In addition, he is
Armenia’s permanent
ambassador to Switzerland
as well as its representative
to the United Nations in
Geneva.

Gregorian stressed that
Armenians need to focus on
building Armenia. “We have
built the rest of the world,
but not Armenia.” And
these communities either
die or the buildings and
lands are confiscated. He
rattled off examples of communities in Istanbul,
Jerusalem, New Julfa, Georgia, Ethiopia, Egypt,
Syria, communities where once Armenians
were numerous and prosperous, but which are
now a shadow of their former selves.

Rachel Onanian Nadjarian, who is helping
with the project, explained that the museum is
not yet open but that it is in the process of gath-
ering the material. Already, she explained,
Aznavour has recorded the story of his life so
that visitors can listen to his lifestory in his
voice as they tour the museum.

In addition, the museum offers space for
French language, cinematography and editing
classes as well as a recording studio.

She added that the museum is “beautiful,”
adding that like “everything that surrounds
Charles, it is nothing less than filled with hap-
piness.”

Aznavour was in the US for the unveiling of
his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on
August 24.

He added, “I am very proud to be Armenian
and to be French too,” and noted, “a man who
forgets his roots is not a man.”

Present for the luncheon were a host of rep-
resentatives from the French and Dutch con-
sulates as well as Armenian-American and
French guests.

For information about the museum, visit
www.aznavourfoundation.org.
Ahead of the Centennial
Let Us Mindfully Celebrate the Centennial of Armenian Statehood
In 2018

By Dr. Arshavir Gundjian

I have no doubt that the appeal expressed in the title of this article will not come as a surprise to any of the readers who follow the daily discussions concerning Armenian life in the press, be it in the Diaspora or in Armenia.

This article is the logical follow-up of my previous article which appeared in the July 9 issue of Baikar, entitled “Let Us Celebrate the 1918-2018 Centennial of the Reestablishment of Armenian Statehood Without Falling Prey to the Temptation of Divisiveness.”

Soon after the authorities in Armenia announced recently that next year, in May 2018, the “Centennial of the May 19, 1918 days” will be celebrated, articles and proposals exhibiting a clear spirit of divisiveness started to appear in the Armenian press in the Diaspora and Armenia. Evidently the organizers of this event, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF or “Tashnag”) press. Inevitably and quite understandably, responding articles appeared in organs of the Armenian community, be it in the Diaspora or in Armenia, a part of the partisan Ramgavars press.

The articles that appear, particularly in the Diaspora Tashnag press, clearly indicate a return to the self-centered Tashnag spirit evinced for over 70 years following May 28, 1918. During those long years, the ARF exhibited extreme bigotry, nationalism, and divisiveness. This was followed by the publication of literature of the relevant period, it systematically claimed exclusive credit for the creation of the first Republic of Armenia. Quite naturally, the self-centered ARF in the Diaspora and Republic and the tricolor flag of Armenia as symbols of intense and sustained destructive strife directed against every period of the events, especially the victorious battle of Sardarabad, which was heralded by the ringing bells of Holy Echmiadzin. With a heroic effort, they miraculously succeeded in stopping and deterring the Turkish aggressor. It is known as the Heroic Battle of Sardarabad. This turning point, the event that led to the declaration of Armenian independence, is commemorated by the Pan-Armenian Heroic Victorious Battle of Sardarabad.

The days that followed Sardarabad were still literally nightmarish for those who lived in a small country that had been saved from the grip of Turkey. Armenia had neither the means nor an army or any infrastructure which would allow it to move forward and become independent. Under such circumstances, all those who were responsible for the destiny of Armenia, including Tashnaghs, Henghats, and other partners and all those who were in the ADL, such as Hovhannivans, and Ramgavars quite desperately wanted to remain within the Transcaucasian Seim. No one wished to detach Armenia from the Seim.

However, on May 26, Georgians declared independence and the Seim was dissolved. Azerbaijan followed by declaring independence on May 27. Armenians had been left alone, subjected to the pressures imposed by Turkey. Even though no alternative was left, there were still different views within every member of the ARF. Among the latter, Avedis Aharonian was against while Simon Vratzian was in favor of declaring independence; the latter’s argument was that “there is no alternative left for Armenia.”

After lengthy hesitations, from May 28-30,finally Armenia was able to declare its independence. At this point, it was not considered an opportunity for joy and cause for celebration. Simon Vratzian’s recorded expressions of thoughts on this event are highly significant. Vratzian had been in favor of declaring independence, the latter’s argument was that “there is no alternative left for Armenia.”

Nevertheless, May 28 was accepted as the date of Armenia’s independence. Armenia became legally an independent nation. Consequently, May 28 is an important date in the history of Armenia that deserves to be commemorated. However, it is clearly evident that May 28 was not earned by any particular group or party. Simon Vratzian’s statement that independence was imposed by Turkey has to be kept in mind.

At that time, all Armenians, everywhere, and not only Tashnaghs, stood up to support the newly independent first Armenian republic, in spite of their very limited resources. Unquestionably, during the years up to 1920, the ARF, including the latter, Avedis Aharanian was against while Simon Vratzian was in favor of declaring independence; the latter’s argument was that “there is no alternative left for Armenia.”

On the eve of the centennial that will be marked in May 2018, the ARF must realize that it is imperative for it to renounce such bigotry, which has led in the past to very serious and extremely destructive crises within the Armenian community. Instead, the centennial must be allowed to become an opportunity for pan-Armenian celebration of the reestablishment of Armenian statehood, following six centuries of stateless existence.

The indispensable starting point of the currently uninterrupted hundred years of Armenian statehood has been the heroic and victorious battle of Sardarabad, which was won by the united participation of the entire Armenian population. The victorious battle of Sardarabad was followed by the first, second and now the third Republics, without any interruption. During all three periods, significant achievements were realized, and to this date they continue to be realized. However, it is equally true that those same periods were marked, including the current one, by negative and destructive forces which with the duration of the corresponding periods are also responsible and accountable.

I will therefore repeat, we ought to “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.” nothing more or less.

In order to clarify further my thoughts, I shall enumerate in the rest of this article a number of facts all based on undeniable historic documentation, in the form of short statements. Each and every one of those statements can easily be the subject of one or more properly documented articles. I am presenting them here in a highly summarized form in order to make them available as a basis for the continuing controversy on this issue.

The period of May 28, 1918 to November 29, 1920, particularly the events that took place during the last ten days of the month of May 1918, which coincided with the final phase of the First World War were a particularly difficult and disturbing time for Armenia. Day after day and even hour after hour, unpredictable and often contradictory developments were taking place. These were followed by the establishment of a government in a position of leadership of the Armenians were neither ready nor able to take action or make decisions based upon consistent and economic policies. As they were surrounded by enemies, and subjected to the latter’s intense military and political pressure. The simple reality of that until the very end of November 1918, One which took place on November 11, 1918, Turkey had the upper hand in imposing its will on the political decisions taken by the three Transcaucasian Seim countries, and most particularly by Armenia. It is, therefore, evident that on and around the 28th of May 1918, it was none other than Turkey which was dictating its foreign policy, including the condition of the situation for it to declare its independence. During those nightmarish days of May 1918, the Turkish regular army was advancing on the Caucasian front towards Yerevan aiming at the complete occupation of Armenia. It was at that fateful moment of life and death that Armenians as a whole stood up and created a turning point in Armenian history. Indeed, intellectuals, villagers, clergyman, partisans and non-partisans, Armenians from all walks of life responded to the call for mobilization and nationalism that was heralded by the ringing bells of Holy Echmiadzin. With a heroic effort, they miraculously succeeded in stopping and deterring the Turkish aggressor. It is known as the Heroic Battle of Sardarabad. This turning point, the event that led to the declaration of Armenian independence, is commemorated by the Pan-Armenian Heroic Victorious Battle of Sardarabad.

In recognition for his services and exceptional contributions to the Armenian people, Arshavir Gundjian was recognized as an unquestionable pan-Armenian hero who was able to keep the Armenian cause alive to this day in Armenia. This is another subject that is currently prone to cause controversy and discord.

Before concluding, let us refer back to that one other issue that is being raised by the ARF in the context of the marking of the centennial. On the scale of historical time periods, one hundred years is still a relatively short period of time for it to try to press for one or another personality to be recognized as an unquestionable pan-Armenian hero who would be associated with the celebration of Armenia’s independence in Armenia. This is another subject that is currently prone to cause controversy and discord.

Indeed, if the ARF proposes that statues of Aram Manoukian or Dnne receive such honor, one could easily propose the alternative of General Aranstrak Otsian as a candidate who enjoys universal admiration among Armenians. In this latter case, however, we would expect a strong Tashnag objection and resistance.

If it is really necessary to erect a statue on the occasion of the Centennial, let it then be the statue of Tigran the Great as a symbol of an undisputed power of aarmenian statehood...!

To conclude, I return to the heading of this article in expressing the following thought: “Let Us Mindfully Celebrate the Centennial of Armenian Statehood.”

It is essential to avoid at all cost any effort and initiative that leads to bigotry and divisiveness.

The author, Dr. Arshavir Gundjian, is an internationally known scientist and university professor, in parallel with his professional activities has played a leadership role in the Armenian community.

After obtaining his PhD in the field of electrical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania in 1965, he moved to Canada where he was well known for a duration of half a century, in parallel with his research activities, resulting publications, several patents and teaching, the well-known electrical engineer and scholar, Arshavir Gundjian has played an unusually active and singularly productive leadership role within the Armenian community, participating in and contributing not only to Canadian Armenian community life but also to the Armenian Diaspora in general and towards the establishment and maintenance of solid and healthy relations with Armenia.

Dr. Arshavir Gundjian is one of the founders as well as the first chairman of the Diocesan Council of the Armenian Church of Canada. He is the founder of the first Canadian-Armenian school, the Montreal AGBU Alex Manoukian School, which he has served, on a volunteer basis, in the positions of principal and vice chairman. He was one of the closest collaborators of the well-known benefactor, the late Alex Manoukian. He was elected a member of the board of directors of AGBU in 2002 and was served as AGBU vice president for eight years.

More particularly, Dr. Gundjian is recognized as being one of the most active members of the Armenian Democratic Liberal (ADL) or Ramgavars Party. He was elected member of the ADL Central Board for twenty consecutive years. He was elected member of the board of the ADL Central Board for ten years, especially during the critical events of the independence of Armenia in 1991. He is currently serving as the chairman of the ADL Supreme Council.

He is also a founding member and vice chairman of the Central Board of the AGBU Hye Gezgah of Canada. He is one of the founders of the Hye Gezgah newspaper of Armenia, and the Mkia weekly of Montreal. In recognition for his services and exceptional contributions, he has been named Honorary Chairman of the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Canada. He is also a member of the AGBU Central Board of Directors.
Forbidden Journeys' Film Event to Celebrate Legacy Of J. Michael Hagopian

LOS ANGELES – In 1967, a group of Armenian-Americans organized by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) were among the first to travel to Historic Armenia to find traces of their roots the Turks had left behind. On Sunday, October 1, portions of J. Michael Hagopian’s documentary film that landmark journey will be screened along with Ani Hovannisian-Kevorkian’s short documentary on the vanishing traces of Historic Armenia, shot nearly 50 years after Hagopian’s footprint.

The October 1 program, “Forbidden Journeys,” will present segments of Hagopian’s 1967 film Historic Armenia and of Hovannisian-Kevorkian’s current documentary on the disappearing vestiges of Historic Armenia, followed by a panel that includes Marc A. Maniguan, director of academic affairs at NAASR, Dr. Carla Castopulos of the Armenian Film Foundation, Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian, Professor Emeritus of Modern Armenian and Near Eastern History at UCLA, and Hovannisian-Kevorkian. UCLA Professors S. Peter Cowe and Sebouh Amirian will make opening and closing remarks.

“Forbidden Journeys” will be the first program in the J. Michael Hagopian Film Discovery Series, jointly presented by the Armenian Film Foundation (APF) and NAASR. It will focus on the pioneering legacy of J. Michael Hagopian – his impact as an advocate for Armenian Studies and as a filmmaker.

The 1967 trip was the first of NAASR’s “Armenian Heritage Tours.” The Armenian Americans who set out on this journey were the earliest such group to travel to historic Western Armenia. For some, it was a trip back to the places of their birth. Among the travelers was Hagopian, NAASR’s first West Coast director and co-founder of the Armenian Film Foundation. Himself a native of Kharpert and a survivor of the Armenian Genocide, Hagopian shot film on this path-breaking trip, uncovering and documenting the vanishing traces of Documentary Historic Armenia.

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Fast forward to 2013, when Hovannisian-Kevorkian was traveling through Western Armenia and discovered a lone Scottish explorer. Hagopian shot film on this path-breaking trip, uncovering and documenting the vanishing traces of Documentary Historic Armenia.

The concert will take place on Friday, October 13 at 5 p.m. at First Armenian Church in Belmont on Saturday, September 16, at 5 p.m. and at Cary Hall at DiMenna Center, 450 West 37th St., New York. Tickets may be purchased at PegasusTheOrchestra.eventbrite.com

Armenia Fund USA Partners with Pegasus: The Orchestra for Debut Concert

PARMAUS, NJ – Pegasus: The Orchestra will partner with Armenia Fund USA in presenting its debut concert, which combines an exhilarating one-hour music experience with unique artwork placed throughout the venue followed by a champagne reception. The featured artwork includes Michael Aram’s Pegasus Sculpture and various paintings by Hakob Hakobyan. The proceeds from the concert will benefit the Artsakh Housing Project, an initiative that builds new homes for large families living in difficult social conditions in Artsakh.

“This is a very exciting collaboration for Armenia Fund USA, being able to use music to bring awareness to one of our important projects. Since the launch of Artsakh Housing Project, 16 families have been provided with brand new homes, and currently 16 more homes are under construction. For centuries, the Armenian culture survived through music. Music is the key to the soul, and hopefully this concert will touch everyone’s soul,” said Lisa Stepanian, Armenia Fund USA executive director.

“We are thrilled to collaborate with Armenia Fund USA on our opening concert. It’s an honor to contribute through our music towards such a meaningful cause benefiting the Artsakh Housing Project. As Cultural Program Advisor of Armenia Fund, I have been fortunate to implement a number of cultural and community initiatives and could not be more pleased for this wonderful partnership,” added Karen Hakobyan, Pegasus: The Orchestra founder and artistic director.

The concert features the principal string players of Pegasus: The Orchestra along with Karen Hakobyan at the piano with a program that takes the listener from the traditional to the innovative, displaying their dexterity and enthusiasm.

The program begins with the world premiere of Hakobyan’s spiritually uplifting, complex piano sextet Cras Es Noster (Tomorrow, Be with Us). Followed by two special arrangements of five songs by Komitas Varjapet and the Scherzo of Debussy’s String Quartet Op. 10. The concert ends with Mendelssohn’s thrilling Piano Sextet in D major, Op. 110.

From Mendelssohn’s 1824 piece to Hakobyan’s new composition written this year, the music of the ages fits together with the contemporary artwork creating an enhanced concert experience and memorable social gathering.

Members of the group include Eiko Kano on viola, Stani Dimitrova on violin, Angela Pickett on viola, Edgar Pogossian on cello and Pavel Kaspik on double bass.

The concert will take place on Friday, October 13 at 8 p.m. at Cary Hall at DiMenna Center, 450 West 37th St., New York. Tickets can be purchased at PegasusTheOrchestra.eventbrite.com

Pegasus: The Orchestra is a nonprofit professional orchestra in residence at Mana Contemporary with a mission to empower rising musicians with artistic freedom and promote innovative repertoire in an environment of creative thought and expression.

Karen Hakobyan

Music of Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine Together

BOSTON – A program showcasing the rich musical heritage of three ancient cultures – Armenian, Ukrainian, and Georgian – will take place at Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Church in Jamaica Plain on Friday, September 15 at 7:30 p.m. and at First Armenian Church in Belmont on Saturday, September 16, at 5 p.m. Talents of the World, an international concert organization, is starting a series of such cultural bridges, hoping to travel the world with these programs. Such performances’ mission is to show off the gems of their own musical heritage, and turn the event into an experience of friendship and artistic excellence.

Talents of the World has performed in every continent and engages world-class singers and instrumentalists, who have performed at some of the most prestigious the ater and concert halls: Metropolitan Opera, La Scala, New York City Opera, Carnegie Hall, Covent Garden, et al. Its founder and president is David Gvinianidze, a renowned baritone and a recipient of the United Nations Medal for promoting arts and culture. Gvinianidze, a renowned baritone and a recipient of the United Nations Medal for promoting arts and culture, is the key to the soul, and hopefully this concert will touch everyone’s soul,” said Lisa Stepanian, Armenia Fund USA executive director.

“For those of us who value the beauty and richness of Armenian, Georgian, and Ukrainian culture, this wonderful partnership,” added Karén Hakobyan, Pegasus: The Orchestra founder and artistic director.

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Karen Hakobyan
The Armenia Mirror-Spectator

Music of Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine Together

CONCERT, from page 13
Armenia, he was invited to study at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, Mass. After receiving his Artist Diploma and master’s degree with honors, he continued his intense performing and teaching careers. He made his New York debut in 1994 and became known for his compelling interpretative style and expansive technique.

Hovayan was a prize winner at the Armenian Mirror-Spectator Mashtots International Composers Competition. He was the guest artist at the Chamber Music Festival in Moscow, Russia, the Days of Georgian and Russian Music in Amsterdam, Holland, the International Chamber Music Festival in Tel Aviv, Georgia, and the Days of Georgian and Russian Music in Yerevan, Armenia. Ms. Babadjanian performed as a soloist with various orchestras throughout Russia, Georgia, and Holland.

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Olga Lisovska, soprano, studied at Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris, France. She was the winner of several vocal competitions. She is a soloist with Commonwealth Lyric Theater. Pianist Galyna Kryvanich, piano. She has a master’s degree in piano performance, pedagogy and Artist of The Chamber Ensemble, Kyiv National University of Culture and Arts, Ukraine; Bachelor Degree and Specialist Diploma in piano performance, Odessa Music Conservatory, Ukraine.

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David Grigorian, baritone, is the recipient of the U.N. Medal for promoting arts and culture in the world, soloist of Batumi Opera. Merib Ebralidze, pianist. Winner of several piano competitions, teacher at The New York conservatory.

Program will include the most beloved melodies, such as Song about Kiev by I. Shamo, Thalies, Or, Siron, Siron, Vengeance, Nightingale’s Romance by A. Ross-Anatoly, Sabre Dance by Khachaturyan, songs and piano works by Babadjanian, Bilash, Boriskisov, et al.

For tickets, please visit www.TalentsOfTheWorld.tix.com. Info: lisovska1@aol.com.

Voskan Yerevantz: First Armenian Bible Printing

LONDON – Thousands of Armenian manuscripts were written prior to the 15th century, when Gutenberg’s invention of the printing press provided a technological breakthrough for the future progress of mankind. Armenians at that time were not free, but they were able to harness the new technology to print books thousands of miles away in Europe. In 1512, Hahok Meghabard ended up in Rome, Amsterdam and Yerevan Radio Stations. He was the guest artist at the reception honoring the President of Armenia Levon Ter-Petrosian and Sen. Edward Kennedy. Vartan Gabrielian, Canadian-Armenian bass-baritone, is a rising young talent based in Philadelphia. Hailing from Toronto, he attends the Curtis Institute of Music under the tutelage of Marlena Kleinman Malas, and Armen Hovayan in pursuit of a bachelor’s degree in vocal performance.

Gabrielian is a 2017 Career Bridges Grant winner and a 2016 Gerda Lissner Lieder/Song Award winner. He was most recently featured as a guest artist in the annual Opera Index Spring Luncheon Gala in New York City. Future engagements include Gabrielian’s return to the Chautauqua Summer Voice Program as a guest artist. In 2018, he will be performing Aparnabile in Opera de Montréal’s production of “Rigoletto.”

Pianist Narine Babadjanian studied at the Thilisi State Conservatory. She performed all over the world and with cellist Yo-Yo Ma. A very active performer since a young age, she was an award recipient in numerous competitions including the Competition of Young Performers in Yerevan, Armenia, the Young Performers Competition in Moscow, Russia, and the Young Performers Competition in Thilisi, Georgia.

Gabrielian has performed in festivals all over the world including the International Music Festival in Moscow, Russia, the Days of Russian Music in Amsterdam, Holland, the International Chamber Music Festival in Tel Aviv, Georgia, and the Days of Georgian and Russian Music in Yerevan, Armenia. Ms. Babadjanian performed as a soloist with various orchestras throughout Russia, Georgia, and Holland.

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ARTS & LIVING

BOSTON — They say good things come in pairs — and the sequel to the hit “Where Is Your Groom? (Pesad Oor Eh)” is no exception.

After a two-year tour with sold-out performances in eight cities across the country, America’s favorite Armenian family returns in this humorous, smart, and culturally relevant play that ties together elements of the Armenian-American experience.

We last saw Lara celebrating with her overjoyed family when she finally found her “pesa,” but as we find out, her elation quickly diminishes as both sets of parents want to plan the wedding their way. Meanwhile Yaya’s online dating site has taken off, but she’ll have to contend with her new competition, Marie the Matchmaker. As if there wasn’t enough drama, Lara’s “odar” ex-boyfriend plants seeds of doubt, fan-favorite Artem continues his quest for a “hars” on the Bosporos, and Lara’s brother Saro keeps trying to “find himself” as he dodges even more “hars lists.”

“Where Is Your Groom? (Pesad Oor Eh) Part II” will perform for the Boston Armenian community on Saturday, November 11 at 7 p.m. at the Mosesian Center for the Arts, (321 Arsenal Street, Watertown) and promises a night of laughs and entertainment while taking a closer look at Armenian-American life in the diaspora.

Says Nora Armani, actress, filmmaker and artistic director of Rated SR Film Festival, New York, “Such insight and talent of keen observation, but most of all the capacity of putting it all into funny words and situations. We need more of these comedies that shed light on the way we live, and hold a mirror to ourselves.”

To see a teaser of the play, visit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78xEZqkg248

Tickets are available at http://www.moseianarts.org/index.php/shows/visiting-productions/where-is-your-groom

Armenian Potato Salad

INGREDIENTS
5 medium white potatoes
1 medium red onion, diced
1/2 medium green bell pepper, thinly sliced
1/2 cup flat leaf parsley, chopped
1/2 cup green onions, chopped
1/4 cup Kalamata black olives, diced (optional)
1/2 teaspoon each fresh chopped (or dried) mint and sweet basil
Sea or Kosher salt, black pepper, paprika, Aleppo pepper
Olive oil, fresh lemon juice

PREPARATION:
Boil and drain the potatoes. When cooled, dice the potatoes and combine with the remaining ingredients. Toss with olive oil and lemon juice, and season to taste. Toss again, cover, and chill.

Sprinkle salad with paprika or Aleppo pepper and garnish with green onions, if desired.

Serves 4-6.

Recipe Corner

by Christine Vartanian

Groom Is in the Heart – Again

LOS ANGELES – The Consulate General of Armenia in Los Angeles on Sunday held a screening of the film “The Promise” at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA) for accredited diplomats in Los Angeles.

As the press service of Armenia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs told Panorama.am, the event brought together large number of diplomats, members of international human rights organizations, intellectuals, lecturers, as well as representatives of the Promise Institute for Human Rights established at the UCLA School of Law.

In her welcoming remarks, Consul Armella Shakaryan pointed out that significant progress has been registered in the international recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide thanks to the joint efforts of Armenia and the Diaspora, with the Armenian-American community contributing greatly to the matter.

Asli Bali, director of the Promise Institute, noted that the institute aims at bringing the vision of the film “The Promise” into life by preparing generations of human rights lawyers committed to justice and accountability.

Welcoming the initiative of the film screening, representatives of the University of California Kate Parker said she is proud of such a wonderful opportunity of screening the film at the university, enabling to see and feel through it what happens when a human being turns away from another one and to realize it is impossible to always neglect the past.
OCTOBER 10 — Trinity Family Festival, 12:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. All are invited to come enjoy Armenian music and children’s activities. Church hall is available for unbudgeted weather conditions. For further information, contact Cynthia Kazanjian, 339.222.9900.

OCTOBER 17 — Armenian Church of the Holy Translators annual Armenian Food Festival, to be held at 13 Sheep Meadow St., Framingham, MA. Noon – 5 p.m. Traditional Armenian food menu includes Shish, Lorch, & Chicken Kebabs, dinners, beverages and pastries. Raffles, Attic Treasures, Booths and Vendors. Delicious Armenian Food and Pastries! Silent Auction, live and door prizes. “One-time” numbers will be sold on the door. Music – the TCA MHER Megerdchian Theatrical Group from New York. Adapted and directed by Gerald Papacian from Paris. The play recounts the trial proceedings of Soghomon Tehlirian who averred the extermination of his nation and was awaiting execution in Berlin on March 15, 1921. The play will be in Armenian with English subtitles so all can enjoy. For reservations and other questions, you may contact Edward Berberian at 248-376-0899.

OCTOBER 17, 22 — Annual Banquet of Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, Celebrating the 56th Anniversary of the Consecration of Holy Trinity Armenian Church and 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge. Save the date; details to follow.

OCTOBER 26 — Annual Fall Dinner and Drawing sponsored by the Friends of Holy Trinity 1000 Club, 6:30 p.m., Charles and Nevart Talian Cultural Hall, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. All are invited to meet and mingle with members of two Armenian Churches and enjoy an informative evening to learn more about their wonderful work they are doing at this time. This event is a fundraiser that is aimed to bring funds to a child from either Armenia or America. For further information, contact Cynthia Kazanjian, 339.222.9900.

OCTOBER 30 — Shish Kebab supper at the historic Armenian Church of the Mother of God, 112 Highland Ave., Framingham, MA. Noon to 5 p.m. Traditional Armenian food menu includes Shish, Losh, & Chicken Kebabs, dinners, beverages and pastries. Raffles, attic treasures, booths and vendors. Delicious Armenian food – shish, lorch, & chicken kebabs, dinners, beverages and pastries. Silent auction, live and door prizes. “One-time” numbers will be sold on the door. Music – the TCA MHER Megerdchian Theatrical Group from New York. Adapted and directed by Gerald Papacian from Paris. The play recounts the trial proceedings of Soghomon Tehlirian who averred the extermination of his nation and was awaiting execution in Berlin on March 15, 1921. The play will be in Armenian with English subtitles so all can enjoy. For reservations and other questions, you may contact Edward Berberian at 248-376-0899.

NOVEMBER 2 — Thursday, Symposium with the participation of prominent playwrights, Perch Zeytuntsyan, performed by the Armenian Art Group Theatre, held at the church (38 Franklin Street, Framingham, MA), at 7 p.m. For further information, email hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org.

NOVEMBER 3 — Friday, 85th Anniversary Celebration Banquet of the Armenian Church of North America. For further information, email info@armenianchurch.org.
Syria's war has entered a new phase as President Bashar al-Assad extends his grip in areas being captured from Islamic State, using firepower fed by Russian-backed truces in western Syria. 

By Tom Perry and Suleiman Al-Khalidi

News by Associated Press

Backed by Russia and Iran, the government hopes to steal a march on U.S.-backed militias in the attack on Islamic State's last major stronghold, the Deir al-Zor region that includes the town of al-Sukhna on the Euphrates, where U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces have driven ISIS from Deir al-Zor and are now moving toward the eastern Deir al-Zor districts, in the context of taking part in a revi...
The symbolism was huge, as was the message that followed: the highest level talks in almost 40 years between Turkish and Iranian military commanders, then an announcement by Turkey’s president of a new “alliance.”

After the announcement, Akbarzadeh, at a news conference at a military compound in Tehran, said that the talks had been supported by both the US and Iran, and that it was the end of the “cold war” between the two countries.

“This marks the end of the cold war, this is a step towards the end of the cold war,” Akbarzadeh said.

The US is unlikely to be pleased to see Turkey, with NATO’s second-biggest army, working with a regime it considers its sworn enemy.

But it is being welcomed by an chief of staff since the rev- olution in 1979 is not the only sign of growing ties between Tehran and Ankara, in spite of the symbolism at the summit.

A major energy deal among Turkish, Iranian and Russian firms was announced on 15 August. Tehran and Ankara have also agreed to work together to end the brutal crushing of the 2009 pro-democracy protests in Iran. Tehran was one of the first governments to voice support for Erdogan’s government as a coup attempt was underway last July.

Yet, Erdogan has gone on two public occasions within the past six months attacked Tehran for engaging in what he termed “Persian nationalism” in the region and of resorting to sectarian policies to advance its expansionist ambitions.

Tehran in turn warned Ankara that its patience was not infinite in the face of such accusations.

The referendums in northern Iraq might be what brings Ankara and Tehran urgently together at the moment, but it is also Iraq that could put an end to any alliance between Ankara and Tehran.

Ankara has a long and meaningful relationship with NATO and is not looking for an excuse to end it.
Azerbaijan Forces in Bulgaria

By Harut Sassounian

Last month, I wrote about Bulgarian journalist Dilyana Gerdova's arrest in Bulgaria, where her/She had established a new media outlet to report on the illegal arms trade and terrorist financing to Syria. While the arrest was a blow to the new media outlet, it did not dampen the outpouring of support for her/Her work from around the world. In particular, her/Her coverage of the illegal arms trade to Syria has drawn attention to the role of several countries, including Azerbaijan, in facilitating the flow of arms to terrorist groups in Syria.

In light of Russia-Western world

whereas Armenia is more valued along the
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Let us try to explore mutual representations

Deterioration of Russia's Protective Image

In the last five years, Armenia has experi-

ence major upheavals both in its political

life and in the geopolitics around its borders.

During that time, the country has gone

t through periods of socio-political turmoil,

and to review the stakes at work today in

that, like the presidency of the organization,

the position of Secretary General should also be rotated in such a way that the
next country in line would have the chance to

It was only after the introduction of those

arms sales and strategic partnership of Russia

with the S-300 missiles, Armenia will keep its

major arguments: that it was only business, that

to reassure Armenians by presenting three

factors has damaged Armenia's trust in

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S-300 system by Russia to Armenia, as well as

the listing of Armenia on the list of arms

exporters to Syria, which has increased

the number of shipments to terrorist groups

in the region. However, it is important to

remember that these factors are not

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countries in the region have also been listed

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Delyana insisted that she is determined to

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complex ties between russia and armenia

RUSSIA, from page 19

trying to maneuver within the limit of what is possible to ensure the country’s security and development. In 2013, Armenia had made a pragmatic and strategic choice by refusing to sign the Association agreement with the European Union as part of the Eastern partnership, favoring instead economic integration with Eurasian structures. Today, looking back on those events and in particular on developments in Ukraine, we observe that that choice probably was the best solution to come out positively of the delicate situation Armenia was in at the end of 2013, caught as she was in its conflicts of interests and contradictory claims between Russians and Westerners. The situation seemed all the more absurd that Russia and the EU accused each other of not making things worse, it was brushed aside in the consideration of post-soviet space, which includes South Caucasus, is often underestimated at the expense of its vested economic and security interests. However, the constant search for Russian identity after the fall of the USSR and its yearning to recover the former might of the Czarist Empire and the Soviet Union are just as important in defining Russian geopolitical choices as are its need for a strong economy and security. We should remember that at the beginning of his first presidential mandate, in 2000, Vladimir Putin’s main concern was the recognition of the status of Russia as a great power—that it should be respected and considered as an equal by world powers. This ran counter to the inextricable situation compounded by the hazardous treatment reserved by Russian policy, Armenia’s trust in its traditional strategic ally Iran. But the geopolitical turbulence of South Caucasus, upon its military intervention in Georgia in August 2008. Since then, Russia’s military engagement in Syria also adoption of counter-sanctions against European countries and the United States as well as its military engagement in Syria also participate in that logic of demonstration of power.

After the fall of the USSR and its declaration of independence, Armenia has always sought as much as possible to balance out its political economic and military relations between Russia, the EU, the United States and Iran. But the geopolitical turbulence of South Caucasus and the demands made by Moscow to express “loyalty” did not leave Yerevan much room for maneuver and imposed choices in foreign policy dictated primarily by the country’s security concerns. As a result of this inextricable situation compounded by the hazardous treatment reserved by Russian policy, Armenia’s trust in its traditional strategic ally has gradually deteriorated, creating a major challenge for Russia itself.

This commentary originally appeared in the repairisena.net website.

Iowa Adopts Armenian Genocide Recognition

IOWA, from page 1

6 million Jews, and resulted in the decimation of other targeted racial and religious minorities. The document recounts the cycle of subsequent genocides of the 20th and 21st centuries, specifically mentioning the 2016 Congressional condemnation of the Islamic State genocide against Middle East Christians, Yazidis and other minorities. It concludes with the assertion that by “recognizing and consistently remembering the Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust and all cases of past and ongoing genocide, we help protect historic memory, ensure that similar atrocities do not occur again and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution and tyranny.” Armenia welcomes Iowa state recognition of the Armenian Genocide Armenia’s Foreign Ministry released a statement welcoming the move. “We welcome Iowa’s recognition of the Armenian Genocide by Proclamation of the Governor of state of Iowa, United States,” the message posted on the country’s MFA official Twitter account.

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Blessing of the Madagh at 4 pm, followed by the Raffle Drawing

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