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CYSCA Media Panel from left, Dr. Rosemarie J. Conforti, Siranoush Galstyan, Armine Khloyan, Anahit Khachatryan, Shushanik Ohanyan, Nina Ganjalyan, and Lusine Grigoryan

CYSCA Panel Explores Media Literacy in Armenia at NAASR

By **Aram Arkun**
Mirror-Spectator Staff

BELMONT, Mass. – On October 5, a panel discussion titled “Expanding Inclusion of Media Literacy in Education in Armenia: Challenges and Opportunities” showcased a delegation of Armenian educators and media specialists at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) headquarters. The event was hosted by the Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Association (CYSCA) and NAASR/Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues.

After NAASR Director of Academic Affairs Marc Mamigonian welcomed the audience, and CYSCA Program Director Alisa Stepanian provided general information, each speaker introduced herself briefly. The five specialists from Armenia were accompanied by a facilitator, Anahit Khachatryan, who currently is also project management specialist for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Armenia, and is the initiator of the US trip project. Khachatryan ably and quickly interpreted from Armenian to English for the audience, and the other way around for the panelists who were not fluent in English.

see CYSCA, page 10

Armenia and Germany Celebrate Quarter Century Of Diplomatic Ties

By **Muriel Mirak-Weissbach**
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

BERLIN – What a night for a party! Though not of the same magnitude as the hurricanes that recently ravaged several states and Puerto Rico, the storm winds and rain that swept across northern Germany on October 5 were hefty enough to interrupt all rail transportation into Berlin and to paralyze subway and streetcar traffic in the nation’s capital. As I was one of the many hundreds of people stranded by the storm, I unfortunately could not reach Berlin and, sadly, missed the festivities at the Brandenburg Federal State Agency there to celebrate 25 years of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Armenia and Germany. But the storm did not dampen spirits at the gathering.

By all accounts, it was a wonderful celebration. Ambassador Ashot Smbatyan, who together with Brandenburg’s Minister-President Dr. Dietmar Woidke, hosted the ceremony, welcomed the numerous guests for an evening of celebration, reflection and anticipation of future developments. Music and art framed the event, along with a fine cuisine.

“Twenty-five years ago the Republic of Armenia and the Federal Republic of Germany established diplomatic relations – again,” said Rosa Eisen in her program notes. “Again,” because the two countries had in fact had relations in the brief period between 1918 and 1920, of the Armenian Republic. The first Armenian ambassador to Germany during those two years, she explained, was James Greenfield. Then, in the wake of the October Revolution and the establishment of the Soviet Union, a new era began. In 1992, following independence, Armenia therefore re-established these, among many other, bilateral relations.

A Quarter Century of Shared History

Eisen is a most appropriate person to talk about this history, because, as she recounted, “I am also a former Soviet citizen,” one

see GERMANY, page 5

Prime Minister Karapetyan Visits Iran for Talks

TEHRAN (Combined sources) – Armenian Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan visited Iran on October 9 and 10, during which he discussed strengthening economic ties with Iran.

Karapetyan noted that productive and constructive talks were held with the authorities of Iran that can give new impetus to bilateral economic cooperation and boost the volume of trade turnover. “We

had sincere dialogue and productive talks. We are convinced there is great potential to develop bilateral economic cooperation. Today Iran imports numerous goods from different countries that are produced also in Armenia. We can give new impetus to mutually beneficial relations by putting into operation the free trade zone in Meghri,” he said.

see IRAN, page 3

ARMENIAN MIRROR-SPECTATOR 85TH ANNIVERSARY



Anaide Nahikian: Maximizing Help On Frontlines around the World



CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – We are all too familiar with the sight of brave men and women responding in the aftermaths of tragedies, be they the result of wars, genocides or natural disasters. What is seldom thought about is the exact ways these responders use their resources and how these can be maximized.

One person, in fact, does just that. Meet Anaide Nahikian, leader of the Advanced Training Program on Humanitarian Action (ATHA) at Harvard University, where she and her research and development group try to provide ways to help the helpers, so to speak.

In a recent interview, she detailed the many facets of her work which involves responsive research, humanitarian negotiation, strategizing to protect civilians, and looking into trends and challenges for specific areas- all of which relief workers can use to improve efficacy.

Nahikian leads research missions and global engagement with practitioners across the Middle East, North Africa, Asia, and Europe. As a result, on any given week, she will be in Jordan, Ghana, Korea or Switzerland, conducting field research in “de-escalation zones” to help those aiming to work in hot zones.

By **Alin K. Gregorian**
Mirror-Spectator Staff

see NAHIKIAN, page 12

NEWS IN BRIEF

Italian Firm Sets Up Pizza Factory in Kapan

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – An Italian investor is opening a frozen pizza factory in Kapan, which will have 30 to 100 employees, the governor of Syunik Vahe Hakobyan said at a press conference on Monday, October 9.

Nicola Di Mauro initially wanted to open the factory in Yerevan, but later decided on Kapan, citing the local authorities’ willingness to make smooth the process.

All of the employees will be from Armenia, according to the governor.

“They will start from 200,000 pieces a month and gradually reach half a million a month, with 12 kinds of pizzas,” he said.

Di Mauro arrived Rome and spoke to reporters. “I’ve worked on a new project in Syunik for the past year and a half. The pizzas will be exported to the Eurasian market. The semi-finished pizza will be prepared in an Italian style, however with exclusively local products,” he said.

“We tried to minimize the automation of our production in order to create more jobs. Qualified personnel will work in the factory,” Di Mauro said.

His total investment is \$300,000.

Ambassador Meets With Armenian Community in Aleppo

ALEPPO (Armenpress) – Armenian Ambassador to Syria Arshak Poladyan visited Aleppo on October 4-7.

The ambassador met with Aleppo provincial authorities, the Armenian Foreign Ministry announced.

On October 4, Poladyan visited the Armenian Consulate General during which Consul General Armen Sargsyan presented the main aims of the consulate’s activity. On October 5, Poladyan met with Aleppo Governor Hussein Diab during which the latter introduced the material damages caused to the city during the military operations, as well as the current situation in the spheres of economy, production, urban development, infrastructures and services.

Diab also touched upon the implementation of certain reconstruction projects of the city. The sides discussed the prospects of Armenia’s participation in these projects, as well as boosting bilateral cooperation. Diab praised the role of the Armenian community in the city’s economic, cultural and public life. He praised Armenia’s balanced stance on the Syrian crisis.

On the same day Poladyan met with the Armenian community representatives in the St. Mary Church. He told the audience that from the very start of the Syrian crisis Armenia’s high-ranking leadership made a decision to maintain Armenian diplomatic representations in Syria and support Syrian-Armenians as much as possible.

INSIDE

All Rise, Detroit

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

President of Artsakh Meets with Delegation From AMAA

STEPANAKERT – On September 19, Artsakh Republic President Bako Sahakyan met with the delegation of the Armenian Missionary Association of America led by Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the Association at the Artsakh Republic's Permanent Representation Headquarters in Yerevan, Armenia.

At the meeting a number of issues related to the implementation of various projects in Artsakh were discussed.

For the services provided to the Republic of Artsakh and on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Association, President Sahakyan handed Zaven Khanjian the Medal of Gratitude for the Association, expressing hope that the cooperation between the Armenian Missionary Association of America and Artsakh will maintain its positive dynamics.

AMAA Board of Directors President, Dr. Nazareth Darakjian stated: "That is great news that should make all Armenian Evangelicals proud. Artsakh is the fruit of great sacrifice contributed by Armenians all around the world and we are happy that the AMAA has shared in that sacrifice and deserved this honor today."

AMAA Executive Director/CEO, Zaven Khanjian remarked: "The gracious recognition expressed by the heroic people of Artsakh through a medal of gratitude presented to the Armenian Missionary Association of America on its Centennial by President Bako Sahakyan humbles us and forges our collective resolve to continue our Christ centered decades long service in the Artsakh Republic."

Armenian Premier, Experts from MIT Discuss Gyumri's Development

GYUMRI (Armenpress) – Prime Minister of Armenia Karen Karapetyan received on October 5 Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Hashim Sarkis and expert in urban planning Brent Ryan.

Cooperation prospects for the development of Gyumri were discussed at the meeting.

MIT's experts noted that they arrived in Armenia on a visit at the invitation of Tumo Center for Creative Technologies to get acquainted with the capacities of Gyumri and for developing innovative approaches aimed at fostering the development of the city.

Karapetyan presented his vision for the development of the city, stressing that Gyumri has the potential to become one of the draws for Armenia. He saluted the visit of MIT's experts to Armenia and suggested that the future steps should be discussed together with the specialists of the Development Foundation of Armenia (DFA) and the Center for Strategic Initiatives, underlining that the government is ready for a long-term productive cooperation.

PM Vows Governmental Support for IT Sector

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – During the recent DigiTech Expo 2017, Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan noted that information technology (IT) startups often need assistance and that there is a necessity for establishing business ties, entry to new markets, increasing marketing skills and relevant training implementation.

"Taking to account the above-mentioned, I task the minister of transportation, communication and information technologies, as well as the CEOs of the Center of Strategic Initiatives and Development Foundation of Armenia to jointly design and present to the government within one month an action plan for development of IT export, business skills and capacities," Karapetyan said. He added he thought the country has great potential in the IT sector.



Young activists mark International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women in Yerevan,

Armenia Set to Finally Pass Law Against Domestic Violence

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – After years of foot-dragging and indecision, the Armenian authorities plan to enact soon a special law aimed at combating domestic violence and helping its predominantly female victims.

Violence against women had for decades been a taboo subject in the socially conservative and male-dominated Armenian society. It has been receiving growing publicity in recent years thanks to the activities of women's rights groups backed by international human rights watchdogs.

According to the Yerevan-based Women's Resource Center, more than 50 Armenian women have been beaten to death and killed otherwise by their husbands or other relatives in the last five years. "This trend shows no signs of decline," said a representative of the group, Anahit Simonian. "I think this is a very serious number and this process [of enacting a law] must not drag on further."

Justice Minister Davit Harutiunian expressed serious concern over these figures on October 5. "Violence is not the foundation of a real and strong Armenian family," he told a news conference.

Harutiunian said that the Armenian government intends to tackle the problem with a law drafted by the Justice Ministry last year. Both he and another senior ministry official, Gohar Hakobian, expressed hope that the bill will be debated and passed by the parliament soon.

If passed, the bill will introduce criminal and administrative liability for specific cases defined as domestic violence. It would also obligate the state to protect victims by providing them with special shelters or banning their violent spouses from approaching them and even their children.

Women's rights groups say the Armenian police routinely tell assaulted and injured women to withdraw their crime reports on the grounds that they lack legal levers to prosecute attackers. Hakobian stressed that under the draft law the police will have to launch a criminal investigation even in case of such a withdrawal.

A 43-year-old woman in Yerevan interviewed claimed to have suffered physical, sexual and psychological abuse at the hands of her husband

for 20 years. "I was pregnant when he once kicked me and I fell from my bed," she said, adding that she now suffers from chronic health problems.

The woman, who did not want to be identified for fear of further violence, said she has not divorced him because she cannot support their three children on her own and does not want to upset her parents. "I was probably not very strong," she added. "But the main factor was the honor of my parents."

The Justice Ministry posted the proposed law against domestic violence on its website over two weeks ago to receive feedback from civic groups and ordinary citizens. The latter were encouraged to vote for or against its passage. More than 560 website visitors have backed the bill while 505 others have opposed it since then.

The almost evenly split vote highlights many Armenians' enduring conservative views on the subject that are backed by some nationalist groups and pro-government politicians. They say any government interference in family affairs would run counter to Armenian traditions and undermine the fabric of the society.

This explains why similar legislations previously put forward by another government ministry and women's NGOs did not even reach the parliament floor.

The non-governmental Coalition Against Violence has twice submitted a relevant measure to lawmakers since 2009. Its coordinator, Zaruhi Hovannisian, voiced support for the Justice Ministry bill on Friday. But, she cautioned, it is even more important to change attitudes of vulnerable women.

"A person must not tolerate violence against them," said Hovannisian. "They must not get used to it."

Support from Archbishop

A high-ranking clergyman of the Armenian Apostolic Church has voiced support for government efforts to combat domestic violence even as they were angrily denounced by socially conservative groups on Monday.

The Gyumri-based Archbishop Mikael Ajapahian spoke this week during a heated public discussion in Yerevan on the law drafted by the

Armenian Ministry of Justice.

The ministry invited non-governmental organizations supporting and opposing tougher government action against domestic violence to publicly present their arguments. The meeting descended into chaos as the two sides bitterly argued over the wisdom of the proposed legislation.

Representatives of several mostly obscure groups vehemently objecting to the government initiative stood by their claims that the West and the European Union in particular are forcing Armenia to enact the bill in order to weaken Armenian families. One of them, Hayk Nahapetian, questioned official statistics showing that more than 50 Armenian women have been beaten to death and killed otherwise by their husbands or other relatives in the last five years. The scale of the problem is grossly exaggerated by pro-Western civic groups, he claimed.

Ajapahian disagreed. "Even if there is some foreign intervention or a desire to please some foreign forces ... why should we see a non-existent conspiracy? I personally don't see any conspiracy," he said.

"If I have a normal family, if I am a loving father, a loving husband or a loving son, if I love and am loved, which article of this law on prevention of domestic violence could harm me?" the archbishop went on. "So do not create imaginary monsters, do not fight against imaginary monsters, and be tolerant towards each other."

Ajapahian, whose see is Shirak province, at the same time urged the Ministry of Justice to "take into account and allay" concerns expressed by critics.

Justice Minister Harutiunian, also present at the discussion, was at pains to disprove their claim that the bill paves the way for forcible separations of children from their allegedly violent parents. "You haven't even read the law," he told a woman who continued to claim the opposite.

Unable to convince their opponents, a visibly irritated Harutiunian and some civic activists campaigning domestic violence walked of the meeting hall moments later. The minister made clear that he remains determined to send the bill, strongly backed by women's rights groups, to the Armenian parliament for approval.



ARMENIA

Prime Minister Karapetyan Visits Iran for Talks

IRAN, from page 1

Karapetyan highlighted the cooperation and involvement in various projects by members of the Armenian community of Iran in Armenia.

Karapetyan and Iran's President Hassan Rouhani met on October 10 in the Iranian Presidential Palace, the press service of the Armenian government noted. Karapetyan thanked the president for the warm reception and conveyed the greetings and wishes of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan.

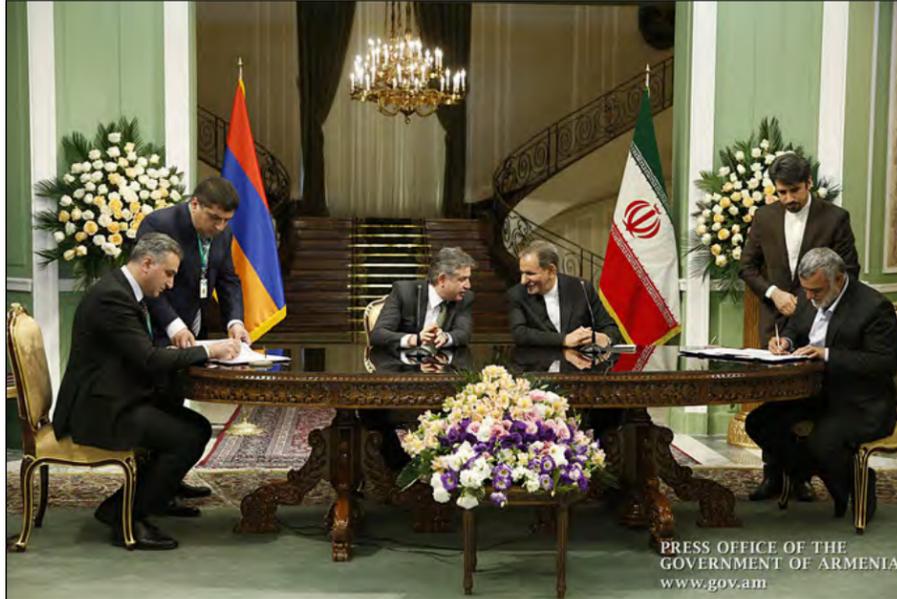
"Armenia attaches great importance to the warm and friendly relations with Iran which have serious historical grounds of centuries and are based on mutual interests. I can state with satisfaction that these relations are at a high level, and that bilateral cooperation continues developing in the atmosphere of mutual understanding," Karapetyan said.

Rouhani expressed confidence that this visit will contribute to further deepening the Armenian-Iranian ties in different spheres. He added that he is ready to assist the initiative of the governments of the two countries, as well as the implementation of joint programs. The two sides highlighted deepening and expanding the cooperation in a number fields, in particular, in energy, agriculture, information technology, tourism, the Syunik and Aras free economic zones, as well as increasing the trade turnover volumes between the two countries.

Karapetyan highlighted the high level of Armenian-Iranian political dialogue. The sides also discussed the Nagorno Karabakh conflict and regional affairs. Karapetyan said Armenia appreciates Iran's balanced stance on the conflict which is an important guarantee of ensuring regional peace and security. Rouhani conveyed his warm greetings to the Armenian President and the Armenian people and highly appreciated the role of the Armenian community in development of different spheres of Iran.

Karapetyan met with Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zangane and Energy Minister Sattar Mahmoodi.

During the meetings, the parties praised the



Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan signs agreements with First Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri.

high level of cooperation in the energy sector.

Both sides agreed that Karapetyan's visit would hasten implementing mutually-beneficial program. The Iranian side is said to be interested in expanding and deepening ties with Armenia.

The participants discussed the expansion of the Gas for Electricity Program, the agenda of the upcoming sitting of the intergovernmental commission, the Meghri hydropower plant program and Armenia-Iran-Turkmenistan trilateral cooperation.

During the visit Karapetyan met with Iranian Majlis (Parliament) Speaker Ali Larijani.

Larijani stressed the need for expanding ties between the parliaments of the two countries. In this regard, the parties underscored developing relations between parliamentary friendship groups, mutual visits, relations between parliamentary committees and noted that the two legislatures' cooperation might contribute to

the further development of Armenian-Iranian relations.

"Iran and Armenia enjoy deeply-rooted ties of friendship, and our goal is to build on the ongoing political and economic cooperation. In the face of today's critical situations, there is a need for more consultation with each other, and I would like to express my satisfaction with the current level of parliamentary cooperation. I am hopeful that your visit will give new impetus to bilateral relations," Larijani said.

Karapetyan said he had had a very substantive meeting with the First Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Eshaq Jahangiri, noting that the Armenian side is firmly determined to implement the agreements reached, in particular, in the economic sphere, which will give new impetus to bilateral relations.

Ali Larijani, in turn, underscored that there is no limit or obstacle to the Armenian-Iranian economic cooperation, and the Iranian parliament is enthusiastic about the expansion of relations.

While introducing the program of the free economic zone to be launched in Syunik, Karapetyan stressed the importance of Iranian companies' active involvement.

"I am convinced that we have vast opportunities to double and even triple our relations in the economic sphere," Karapetyan said.

Coming to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the interlocutors underlined that it should be settled exclusively through peaceful negotiations.

Karapetyan also met with representatives of the Armenian community at the Ararat Sports and Cultural Complex. He first presented the details and results of the talks held during the official visit. Karapetyan underscored that Armenia has great potential for economic cooperation with Iran, and that there are various proposals for its implementation.

"I am convinced that the trilateral cooperation will go a long way towards increasing trade turnover. In general, we have agreed with our Iranian partners to re-launch our bilateral rela-

tions, as well as to continue making joint efforts in a bid to pool our capabilities with a view to achieving good results," the prime minister said. Addressing the representatives of the Iranian-Armenian community, he said, "I suggest you become a strong bridge between Armenia and Iran not only for patriotic motives, but also through profitable business projects. I am convinced that there are opportunities to implement profitable programs in Armenia, and my government will support any such undertaking. I suggest you live in two homes, one here and the other in Armenia."

Karapetyan presented the reforms initiated by the Government of Armenia, stressing that the steps taken in the economic sphere seek to provide equal and favorable conditions for business.

"We have started reforms in all directions, taking into account the results of a comprehensive diagnosis. Our goal was to diagnose what is particularly hindering the development of the economy. In that regard, our programs are aimed at improving the efficiency of governance, the economy, simplifying and improving tax and customs administration," he noted.

Karapetyan answered a number questions concerning the development of Armenian-Iranian economic cooperation, the programs implemented in Armenia, the planned steps and projects in industry, tourism, transport, education, science, culture, as well as the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.



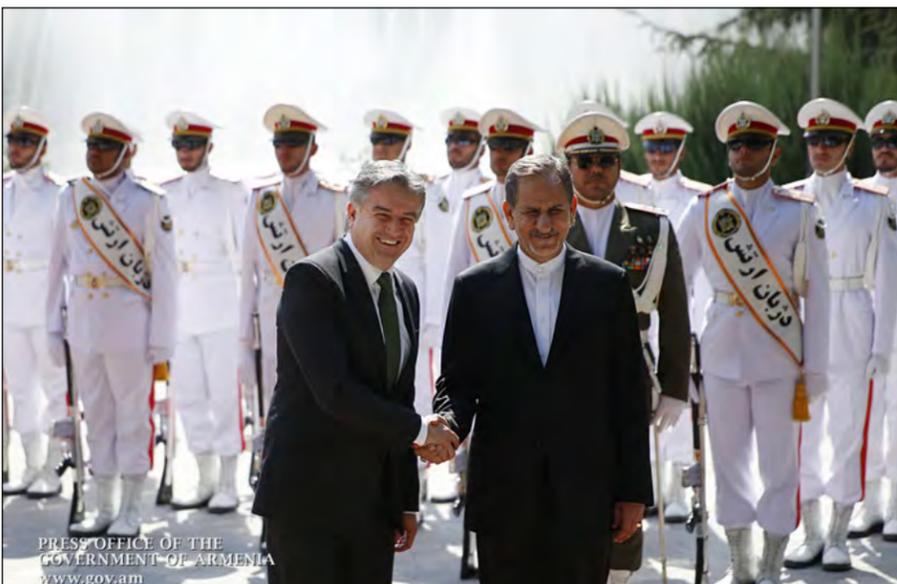
Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan

In conclusion, the Prime Minister toured Ararat Sports and Cultural Complex getting acquainted with its amenities and opportunities.

At the conclusion of his official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Karapetyan visited St. Sarkis Cathedral in Tehran, where he was met by the Primate of the Armenian Diocese of Tehran, Archbishop Sebouh Sarkissian and the representatives of the Armenian community expressed hope the visit would foster stronger ties between the two nations.



Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan arrives in Iran



Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan with First Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri



Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan meets Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.



ARMENIA

International News

Artifacts from Armenia To Be Displayed In Tehran

TEHRAN (Armenpress) – An estimated 103 ancient artifacts from Armenia will be displayed here October 17 to January 17, 2018, *Financial Tribune* reports. The artifacts were brought to Iran on October 3 accompanied by representatives of Armenia's History Museum and were taken to the National Museum in Tehran. The relics date back to the 4th millennium BC to the first century BC. They will be displayed at the museum under the banner of "Iran & Armenia: Memory of a Realm."

The focus of the event is on those artifacts that hint at the civilization of Urartu, the first joint chapter of history between Iran and Armenia.

The event will take place within the frames of a memorandum signed between Armenia and Iran on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the National Museum of Iran.

Armenia to Get \$80M From EU for Regional Development

YEREVAN (Arka) – The government of Armenia will receive an \$80 million assistance from the European Union to finance the development of communities outside the capital, the minister of territorial administration and development David Lokyan told journalists on October 10. According to him, the assistance is expected to come after Armenia and the EU sign the Agreement on Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership on November 20 in Brussels.

"Institutional reforms and the external vector of the Armenian policy will allow to secure a serious flow of funding from the EU, which will be channeled into the economic development of the communities," Lokyan said. He added that \$26 million of that amount will be allocated for the implementation of economic programs in the communities, and \$54 million will be used on the development of small and medium-sized businesses.

He noted that EU's main requirement is to streamline the system of control over the revenues and financial expenses of the communities.

"Starting from January 1, 2018, the revenues of all communities will be controlled tightly to ensure the financial independence of the regions," Lokyan said.

Czech Senator Says His Government Did Not Sell Weapons to Azerbaijan

YEREVAN (Arka) – The visiting chairman of the Czech Senate, Milan Stech, denied on October 4 media reports claiming that his country was selling weapons to Azerbaijan as he spoke during a briefing in the Armenian parliament.

Earlier reports in the Czech and Armenian media claimed that Azerbaijan has been acquiring Czech-made weapons. The deal was revealed by the Azerbaijani military itself, through an uploaded YouTube video that clearly shows modernized versions of old Czechoslovak howitzers and rocket launchers, now produced by the private industrial company, Czechoslovak Group.

"I would like to assure that the Czech government did not sell weapons to Azerbaijan, because the Czech Republic respects the arms embargo that applies to warring countries," said Stech. He added that the Czech authorities do not know how Czech weapons ended up in Azerbaijan. "The Czech government never approved that deal," he added. According to some reports in the Czech media, the path of the arms went through Slovakia, where the Czechoslovak Group also has factories, and then on to Israel before ending up in Azerbaijan.

Stech then said that the Czech Republic intends to intensify economic cooperation with Armenia. According to him, despite the high-level relations between the two countries, this is the first official visit of the head of the Czech Senate to Armenia.

He noted that a delegation of Czech business people has arrived in Armenia to try to establish and develop cooperation.

Erdogan's Attack Backfired, Turkish Writer Says

By Andrew Rettman

BRUSSELS (EUobserver) – Turkey's attempt to silence dissident writer Dogan Akhanli has backfired by giving him a bigger platform, he said in a recent interview.

Akhanli spoke amid Turkey's attempt to extradite him from Spain on terrorism charges.

He is currently stuck in Madrid after Spanish police arrested him while he was on holiday on the basis of a Turkish Interpol request.

He said the "Kafkaesque" process was the latest step in a campaign that began long ago.

Akhanli was born in Turkey, but fled to Germany in 1991 after being persecuted for his views on the Armenian Genocide and on Turkey's repression of its Kurdish minority.

He also spent four months in a Turkish jail in 2010 after visiting the country.

"Turkish power cannot forgive me because I questioned the basic problems of Turkey," he told this website.

The writer said his novels had not made him a celebrity. "I'm not a best-seller," he said.

But he said that "Turkish persecution makes me more known year by year and makes my words bigger. It is actually a very stupid policy."

He said Turkey's latest attempt to deprive him of his freedom had inspired him to write a new book.

"I'm trying to write a report about my political-literary journey into the Turkish past, which is also my own past," he told this website from Spain.

"I will take a very subjective view of my unfinished persecution, but I will also reflect on how to deal with the history of violence in German, Spanish, and Turkish society," he said.

History of violence

Akhanli said the Turkish regime had embraced violence as a means of rule.

He said this lay at the root of its denial of the Armenian Genocide in 1915 and of its handling of Kurdish separatism.

He also said the regime's nationalist ideology created a dangerous environment.

He recalled that Turkish generals "publicly threatened" Hrant Dink, a journalist, in 2007 prior to Dink's murder by a nationalist fanatic.

"Under the Erdogan government, the history of violence is not just a story. It is not passive. It is killing people before our very eyes," he said, referring to Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

He said Erdogan's mass arrests of people accused of sympathising with last year's failed coup, such as Ahmet Sik, another journalist, were part of the same pattern.

Sik is one of 158 journalists in prison, along with 12

MPs, 85 mayors, and more than 50,000 others who were detained on coup-related charges.

"One cannot give up on the people in such a country, where there is enormous arbitrariness and despotism," Akhanli said.

He thanked two artists' groups, the Goethe Institute and PEN International, for helping to pay his living costs in Madrid and his legal fees.

But he said the EU ought to do more to promote democracy in Turkey.

"He [Erdogan] cannot continue to rule Turkey in the long term with only the support of the rural population. EU countries should side with the secular, democratic forces, not with the despot," Akhanli said.

Kafkaesque

Akhanli's lawyer, Gonzalo Boye, told EUobserver it could take "months" before the Spanish government decided whether to extradite his client.

In the meantime, the 60-year old writer has been forced to surrender his passport and must report to authorities every Monday to prove that he is in Madrid.

His wife has been travelling between Germany and Spain since August to keep him company.

Even if Turkey's request comes to nothing, it has highlighted the way rogue Interpol members use the international police agency to intimidate their enemies, Boye said.

It has also highlighted Spain's track record on extraditions, he added.

"There is systematic abuse of Interpol by certain countries, but also Spain could have done more - they could have rejected it [the Interpol notice]," he said.

He said Spain had a history of extraditing people without due consideration of the merits of their case.

The lawyer said Interpol abusers were "jurisdiction shopping" in Europe and that Spain had become "heaven" for their attacks.

"If I were Erdogan and I wanted to grab a Turkish citizen, wherever he may be, I would wait until that person was passing through Spain before I placed my Interpol notice," Boye said.

Interpol reform

Turkey has also asked Interpol, the international police agency, to issue Red Notices on two journalists, Hamza Yalcin and Can Dundar.

Azerbaijan, China, Kazakhstan, Iran, and Russia are likewise said to use its systems to harass political exiles.

Leading NGOs, such as Fair Trials in the UK, the New York-based Human Rights Watch, and Reporters Without Borders in Paris, have urged the police agency to weed out abuse.

The European Parliament in Strasbourg is to debate the problem with EU officials on Wednesday evening.

Interpol did not reply to EUobserver's questions in time for publication.

The Spanish interior ministry declined to comment.

Transparency International Calls on CoE to Take Tough Measures against Corruption

STRASBOURG, France (Armenpress) – Transparency International is calling for tough anti-corruption measures, including sanctions on corrupt members, to restore trust in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in the face of a series of corruption allegations and the resignation of its president, Armenpress reports citing the Transparency International official website.

Transparency announced that it welcomes this week's scheduled vote by PACE to pass a resolution to strengthen its anti-corruption rules. But it called on the organization to move swiftly on current allegations.

"The Council of Europe's mandate is to uphold and strengthen democracy and human rights across its 47 member states. On September 4, investigations by the Organized Crime

and Corruption Reporting Project and its partners revealed that current and former members of PACE allegedly received payments to launder the image of Azerbaijan abroad," the organization said in a statement, reminding that on October 6, the president of PACE, Pedro Agramunt resigned before facing a motion to remove him.

Patricia Moreira, managing director of Transparency International, said the new president of PACE must act fast against wrongdoing, stating that it dragged its feet in the past when this issue first surfaced in 2012.

"Members and former members of the parliamentary assembly who are proven to have received questionable financial benefits from Azerbaijan should be investigated and eventually prosecuted by their national authorities. Politicians have been implicated

in Belgium, Germany, Italy and Slovenia, while reports of reputational laundering touch Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Hungary, Russia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Rather than wait for the independent external body appointed by the Council of Europe to finish its investigation into the wrongdoing, authorities in these countries should launch their own probes into the reports of political corruption, in addition to cooperating fully and effectively with this Council of Europe investigation and other such future investigations," Moreira said.

Transparency International also called upon the Council of Europe to establish a permanent investigative office as an effective mechanism to uncover future reputational laundering and bribery.



INTERNATIONAL

Armenia and Germany Celebrate Quarter Century of Diplomatic Ties

GERMANY, from page 1

who was raised in that culture but has lived in Germany for the past quarter century. As an artist, she has documented that history in photography, and opened an exhibition of her works there in the halls of the governments of Brandenburg and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, which runs until October 15. Among the historic photographs on display are those showing the two foreign ministers who signed the documents for renewed relations in 1992, Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Raffi Hovhannisyán. Other familiar faces caught by her camera were those of Helmut Kohl and the late Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin I, Levon Ter-Petrosian, Joachim Gauck and Serzh Sargsyan, Robert Kocharian, Edward Nalbandian, Norbert Lammert and others. One particularly significant photo shows Kohl with the Catholicos, another captures the historic day when the Bundestag adopted a resolution to recognize the Armenian Genocide, in June 2016. She has documented the histories of the two countries in photographs of historic buildings as well as typical landscapes with ancient churches and mountain ranges.

Armenia's Experience

Following greetings by the head of the State Chancellery, Secretary Thomas Kralinski, Ambassador Smbatyan spoke. He opened his remarks with thanks to all for having accepted the joint invitation issued together with the Brandenburg State representative. Special greetings went to Kralinski, Bundestag Vice-president Bulmahn, State Minister for Europe Michael Roth, representing the German foreign ministry, and all other diplomats, parliamentarians and government representatives.

Recalling the day of Armenia's independence on September 21, 1991, he said that marked the opening of one new chapter in Armenia's history; "we seized the historic opportunity," he said, "and began with the construction of a democratic, free and just society and statehood."

And despite the "economic difficulties and those in almost every branch of civil society life, one thing is clear: all Armenians, regardless of where destiny has sent them, are happy that the homeland now is a free and independent country."

That said, he ventured to discuss the difficulties facing Armenia in its immediate neighborhood. Regarding security, which is a priority for every state, he declared that "the notion that our neighbors Azerbaijan and Turkey might force Armenia to its knees through their 26-year-long blockade is doomed to failure."

Recollecting the official signing of diplomatic relations between then Foreign Ministers Genscher and Hovhannisyán, Smbatyan said, Armenia places "an extraordinary priority" on cooperation with Germany, and listed several

cornerstones: political relations are nurtured through high level visits and contacts in all capacities, including political dialogue between the two parliaments, which contributes to further democratic development. He expressed thanks to Germany for bringing Armenia closer to the EU in the context of the Eastern Partnership (EaP).

Addressing a central problem, the Ambassador raised the issue of Karabakh (Artsakh), "which urgently requires a peaceful solution," one that is acceptable to those living there. Here thanks were due to Germany in its capacity as co-chair of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). If Germany has been a reliable political partner, it has become crucial also in economic relations as the most important trade partner in the EU, and has provided technical as well as financial support for infrastructure

musicians, doctors, lawyers, businessmen, tradesmen and others" who have helped build Germany and also transmitted knowledge of Armenian art and culture here. He mentioned the "Armenian Cultural Days" organized in several cities and especially praised the initiative of the German-Armenian Society for having built a stone-cross (Khachkar) in commemoration of the genocide victims.

Five Wishes from Germany

Concluding with personal thanks to the "quiet diplomats" who organized the evening's program, he gave the floor to State Minister for Europe, Michael Roth, who picked up and developed several of his themes, from the German standpoint. If in a marriage, he said, after 25 years one celebrates a silver wedding anniversary, then "reflecting back on 1,000 years of history, we can see there was also a

his wish "for all Armenians to live in peace and security." Germany, he said, supports negotiations for a durable solution to the Artsakh crisis, and such a solution requires the efforts of all social forces, not only of governments. Here he pointed to the massive potential for regional development through cooperation, and, citing the example of Sayat Novat as someone at home in the whole region, he said he "wished a new Sayat Novat might travel the entire region and contribute to the rapprochement of all its peoples and lands."

His second wish was for Armenians to live in a state committed to democracy and the rule of law. Germany is the second largest bilateral donor after the EU (and before the USA), and has participated in cooperative political development; however, he added, there is much room for further joint activity on the basis of the shared principles of justice, democracy, press freedom and human rights. He highlighted the "impressive achievement" by Armenia in the refugee crisis, as it has welcomed 20,000 Syrian refugees.

Thirdly, Roth said he hopes that the partnership between Armenia and the EU will further grow, and fourthly, that cooperation in education will be expanded. Here he noted that the DAAD, which supports Armenian students, has granted them 64 scholarships this year. In addition he noted with pride that more than 30,000 young Armenians are studying the German language in the current academic year.

Roth concluded with a wish for reconciliation between Armenia and Turkey. Here he mentioned a project for dialogue sponsored by the German foreign ministry, known as "Common Remembrance, Future Relations," a project that brings together members of the younger generation from Germany, Israel, France, Turkey and Armenia. Roth has in fact assumed the patronage for this project.

As no Armenian or German festivity could take place without music, the participants were treated to a performance by Koryun Asatryan (saxophone) and Enrique Ugarte (accordion), who played Golden Khassene, traditional Klezmer music, Aram Khachaturian's Sabre Dance and Vittorio Monti's Csárdás. Asatryan, who studied in Yerevan and Cologne, and Ugarte, who comes from the Basque region and has studied in Munich, are both prize-winning musicians with concert experience in Europe and a promising career ahead.

Bilateral relations are not always easy going, especially in our turbulent times. But ties between Armenians and Germans, governments and peoples, politically and culturally, have endured and prospered, developing into a strong partnership and friendship. Whatever tempests might be on the horizon, like the one raging through Berlin that night, the German-Armenian relationship has shown it can weather the storm.



Ambassador Ashot Smbatyan, Bundestag Vice President Edelgard Bulmahn, minister of State Roth from the AA, head of the state chancellery of Brandenburg Thomas Kralinski

development. He called for increasing trade relations also through direct investment. Scientific cooperation is also growing, with support for young scientists by German foundations, for example, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Among the 25 examples of collaboration at the level of higher education, Smbatyan singled out the partnership between the Martin-Luther-Universität in Halle-Wittenberg, which houses the Mesrop Center and Chair for Armenian Studies, and the Yerevan State University. Smbatyan then turned his attention to the Armenian diaspora, which was very well represented at the event, and praised the contribution of the "artists,

German-Armenian wedding!" This was the marriage in 972 in Rome between Otto II of Saxony and Theophanu Sklerina, the niece of the Byzantine Emperor Johannes I. Tzimiskes, who was Armenian. And referring to the photography exhibition, he noted that the "good relations between Armenia and Germany are by no means only the work of politicians and diplomats; above all they are thanks to the many citizens of both lands."

"On the occasion of a jubilee," Roth said, "one is allowed to express a wish. Therefore today we do not want to look into the past but to cast our gaze to the future." There are five wishes that he shared with the guests. First was

Fifth Kurdish lawmaker ousted from Turkish Parliament

ERBIL, Kurdistan Region (Kurdistan 24) - The Turkish Parliament on Tuesday, October 10, in its first legislative session of the new term, stripped Kurdish lawmaker Besime Konca of her membership over a court ruling that sentenced her to two and a half years of imprisonment in a "terror-related" trial.

With the ouster of Konca, the number of pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) lawmakers at the 550-seat Turkish Parliament fell from 59 to 54.

Police have arrested Konca, a representative for the Kurdish Siirt Province, at least three times since last year over alleged propaganda in a speech for a "terrorist" organization, the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in her case.

Konca's sentencing came in mid-July; however, later the same month, a court decided to release her because of an unjust imprisonment she served between 2009 and 2014.

The Parliament previously kicked out

four HDP lawmakers: the party's former co-leader Figen Yuksekdog, Nursel Aydogan of Diyarbakir, Tugba Hezer of Van, and Faysal Sariyildiz of Sirnak provinces.

While both Yuksekdog and Aydogan are serving prison sentences along with eight other lawmakers and their co-leader Selahattin Demirtas, Hezer and Sariyildiz have fled to a European country.

A day before Konca's removal from the Parliament, HDP lawmakers boycotted the legislative body's opening ceremony attended by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and protested the government in front of a prison in the Edirne Province where authorities are holding Demirtas.

HDP labeled the decision against Konca and the three other female lawmakers "misogyny" by Erdogan's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP).

A statement by the party also said its female MPs were "specifically targeted"

by the government, rejecting the legitimacy of Konca's ouster.

Turkey's leadership accuses the HDP, the country's second-largest opposition block, of being a political front for the PKK.

The PKK has been waging a decades-long guerrilla warfare against the state over successive governments' suppression of Kurdish identity, culture, and demands for self-rule.

The ongoing crackdown on the HDP has seen 80 mayors, along with MPs, and thousands of its members arrested since last year.

In May 2016, the Turkish Parliament passed a bill proposed by the AKP to strip lawmakers' immunity.

The main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) and the minority block of the far-right Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) supported the bill that until now has disproportionately targeted the HDP.



Besime Konca

Community News

An Ownership Battle in Fast-Growing MRI Business

By Jaye Greene

DETROIT (*Crain's Detroit*) – The Michigan Radiological Society case against for-profit Oakland MRI and business owner Susan Swider is all about bringing attention to the state of Michigan's lack of enforcement of its corporate practice of medicine laws and shutting down an allegedly improperly incorporated medical business, according to the lawsuit filed last year against the Troy-based imaging center in Oakland County Circuit Court.

Based on a variety of state statutes, the corporate practice of medicine doctrine was conceived to limit ownership of medical facilities to licensed physicians or legitimate nonprofit entities, according legal experts. There are exceptions for nonprofit hospitals and both nonprofit and for-profit nursing homes.

Last December 15, Judge Daniel O'Brien of Oakland County Circuit Court ruled in favor of Oakland MRI. He said the for-profit imaging center is allowed to operate as a limited liability company and offer diagnostic imaging while owned and managed by a non-physician. He also found that Swider is not required to be a licensed physician to own the MRI center.

Now, the case is before the Michigan Court of Appeals. A hearing could be held this fall or early next year, said attorneys for Oakland MRI and the Michigan Radiological Society.

But O'Brien's ruling flies in the face of the opinions of many health care legal and medical experts, many of whom said laws exist to prohibit the practice of lay businesspeople owning for-profit medical facilities.

"If you are a lay, for-profit corporation, you cannot employ physicians to furnish medical services," said Mark Kopson, chair of the health care practice at Plunkett Cooney in Bloomfield Hills. "The public policy behind the prohibition against the corporate practice of medicine is to prevent profit motives of for-profit corporations from affecting how medical care is delivered."

Kopson said the appeals court could either rule that the corporate practice of medicine doctrine does not prohibit lay ownership when licensed physicians provide the actual medical services, which would be "a de facto acknowledgment of changes in the health care industry over the past 40 years," or it could uphold the doctrine.

But the court also could "effectively sidestep the entire issue by affirming the trial court's ruling that the plaintiff lacked standing to challenge the defendant's operations," he said.

In its January 4 appeal, the Michigan Radiological Society, through its attorney Christine Dardarian, said: "The trial court failed to reference the correct statutes and erred in its conclusion, an interpretation that resulted in a clear abuse of discretion."

Even if ultimately unsuccessful on appeal, the Oakland MRI case opens a window on an unevenly applied law and businesspeople who own and manage for-profit medical facilities.

Experts say there could be as many as 500 such medical businesses in Michigan in operation.

The Michigan State Medical Society in 2016 issued a statement demanding Michigan enforce the laws for non-physicians who own medical clinics and employ physicians or advanced practice nurses.

A decision in favor of the radiologists could spur massive regulatory and enforcement

see MRI, page 7



A scene at Innovate Armenia

At Innovate Armenia Scholars, Artists Rethink and Reimagine Identity, Education, Culture

LOS ANGELES (*LA Weekly*) – Saturday was a day to celebrate the Armenian diaspora in all its multicultural splendor – as USC welcomed Innovate Armenia 2017.

The day-long festival, now in its third year, sprawled across Alumni Park into Bovard Auditorium and the Doheny Library, with some 3,000 people in attendance and another 2,000 watching live via Internet feeds.

Scientists, musicians, entrepreneurs, humanitarians and public intellectuals spoke with many accents from three stages and a dozen special-interest booths.

A century after the genocide, the Armenian diaspora – or *spyurk* – is 7 million strong, with another 3 million living in ancestral lands that gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

These are exciting times to be Armenian, and looking backward isn't enough to sustain the community, says festival organizer and USC Institute of Armenian Studies director Salpi Ghazarian. "The 21st century is about reimagining and reinventing so many things – community, identity, society, work, leisure, learning, teaching. Innovate Armenia brings together the best of Armenia with the best of the diaspora," she said.

That includes Hovig Etyemezian, the Lebanese-Armenian UN human rights worker responsible for protecting nearly a million displaced Iraqis returning to Mosul after its liberation from ISIS control.

It includes Brazilian-Armenian photographer Norair Chahinian, who has chronicled – through his breathtaking images of abandoned spaces and resilient human spirit – a Turkish Armenia that stubbornly refuses to disappear.

And it includes *Washington Post* foreign affairs columnist David Ignatius, who personifies the diaspora's hybridity via his Armenian-American father, Anglo-American mother, Swedish-American wife, and Cuban-American son-in-law.

Ignatius, Etyemezian and Chahinian were among the 58 speakers who engaged festival-goers in a non-stop stream of stimulating conversation.

An Atmosphere of Unity

Outside, gyro-style fusion tacos sizzled on open grills, and guests feasted on wraps and salads, feta-topped pita-chip nachos and fried dough peroshkis.

"It's fun," said Inessa Vardian, a film student from Glendale Community see INNOVATION, page 9



A panel at USC with Salpi Ghazarian, left

Luminaries to Attend October 21 AMAA Centennial Banquet

By Florence Avakian

TEANECK, N.J. – Four distinguished individuals will be at the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Centennial Banquet on Saturday, October 21, at Glenpointe Marriott.

Dr. Nazareth Darakjian and his wife Dr. Ani Darakjian, and Joyce Philibosian Stein and her husband Joe Stein have been dedicated to the AMAA for decades. Both families are major benefactors of the AMAA's Centennial Campaign.

Dr. Nazareth Darakjian who has served for the past three years as the President of the AMAA, has been a member of its board for almost two decades. His father and grandfather were ministers of the Armenian Evangelical Church, and he attends the United Armenian Congregational Church with his wife, Dr. Ani Darakjian.

Born in Aleppo, Syria, he and his family moved to Beirut, Lebanon then to Chicago where he finished medical school cum laude at Loyola University Medical School of Medicine. He finally settled in Los Angeles, specializing in diseases and surgery of the eyes, and has offices in Hollywood and Pasadena. He is also on the governing board of the Armenian American Museum in Glendale.

Very active in the Armenian Evangelical community, he has also served as treasurer of the Merdianian Armenian Evangelical School for many years. He relates that there currently are 15 Armenian Evangelical churches in California.

"Our community is built on the church whose mission, he says during a telephone conversation, is "renewing our faith, understanding the teachings of the Bible, and reenergizing fellowship with friends and parishioners. The church is our second family."

The AMAA is the "mission arm of the church. It allows us to get out of the four walls of the church and reach out to people and communities that are thousands of miles away. The AMAA mission is to send humanitarian aid to needy individuals, support Armenian educational institutions all over the world, and to help spread the good news of the Gospel through our churches and fellowships wherever they may be."

The AMAA "has come a long way in its 100-year history in accomplishing its mission," Dr. Darakjian continues. "We are carrying a torch that has come to us from our predecessors, and it is our duty to run with it and pass it on to future generations."

Dr. Ani Darakjian, the daughter of an Armenian Evangelical pastor, also born in Aleppo, similarly moved to Beirut, and then to Chicago where she graduated as a James Scholar with a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois. Armed with her medical degree from Rush Medical College, she moved with her husband to Southern California, and is currently a staff radiologist at the Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Los Angeles. The Darakjians have two sons, Haig and Ara.

Currently the chairperson of Haigazian University's Board of Directors, she speaks with pride about the excellent academic standing of this famed institution located in Beirut. "There are strict admission and retention standards, and it ranks high in academic placings," with 40 to 45 percent of the student body Armenian, and the rest of the students from all faiths and ethnic groups. Haigazian also gives post graduate degrees in education, business and psychology, she adds.

Calling Haigazian "an oasis of peace" in a turbulent Middle East, she points out that it see AMAA, page 12



COMMUNITY NEWS

TCA Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group Presents 'All Rise, Court Is in Session' in Detroit

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. – On October 8, 25 members of the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group came to Laurence Technological University in Southfield from New York to perform Berj Zeytuntsian's "All Rise, Court Is in Session" upon the invitation of the Detroit chapter of TCA. This was the third premiere of the play, after New York, Yerevan and Gyumri.

The play presents the trial of Soghomon Tehlirian in Berlin in 1921. Tehlirian had shot and killed Talat Pasha, one of the chief architects of the Armenian Genocide. The play was directed by Parisian Gerald Papsasian. As he was in Yerevan, by special arrangement Harout Chatmajian in his absence supervised the preparations for the play and the technical work.

Harout Barsoumian once again proved his talents in the role of Soghomon. The role of Talat previously was performed by Karnig Necessian, one of the founders of the acting company, but his untimely death led Harout Takvorian, an experienced and talented actor in his own right, to take over the role.

The "three spirits" – Arpi Cankar, Talin Bahian and Talar Zokian – connected the historical events of the play. Elizabeth Akian as Mrs. Dittmann, Talin Karagolian as Talat's wife, and the members of the court—Harout Chatmajian, Shemavon Atamian, Missak Boghosian and Ared Spenjian—are worthy of mention, as are Hacik Sariminyan as the priest, 93-year-old Van native Ohannes



The TCA Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group of NY in Detroit, with leaders of the Detroit Armenian community



Executive Director Position Manoogian Manor, Livonia, MI

The Manoogian Manor, founded by Alex and Marie Manoogian, a fully licensed non-profit facility providing assisted living and personal care services for seniors, is currently taking resumes for the position of its Executive Director. A 90-bed premier community that has just gone through a major multi-million dollar renovation is known for its outstanding resident care programs. Potential candidates should have extensive experience in the industry, having run similar or larger programs in the past.

- Michigan Assisted Living Administrator's License will be required.
- A passion for working with seniors
- College degree BA/BS, preferably in Business Administration, Hospital Administration, Hospitality, or health-related field.
- Must have a minimum of three years of executive managerial experience in senior living, assisted care, nursing home administration or similar.
- Must possess excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Must demonstrate a warm, outgoing, and compassionate personality.
- Must have demonstrated integrity, maturity and leadership skills.
- Must have knowledge of community agencies and appreciation for social/life history status of the residents.
- Knowledge of the Armenian language and or culture is a plus

Interested candidates should send resume with cover letter to: Manoogian Manor, Attention Gregory Jamian at jamiang@americaremedical.com

Kartalyan as Dr. Nazim Bey, Roy Bahian as Dr. Martin Niepage and Hasan Fehmi, Armenag Kurusyan as Henry Morgenthau and Faye El Huseyin, Ashod Spendjian as Otto Liman von Sanders, and Hagop Vartivarian as Dr. Johannes Lepsius.

Marie Zokian and Helen Minasyan worked behind the scenes as part of the technical crew, with Hrach Zokian in charge of sound, Hayg Gulian for video and lights, and Onelia Spendjian as English subtitles operator. Diana and Hagop Alexanian from the TCA Detroit chapter executive were responsible for props and furniture.

Several members of the clergy were in the audience, including Fr. Aren Jebejian of St. John Armenian Church, as well as representatives of various Armenian political parties.

The previous night, a special dinner was hosted in the latter church in honor of the actors. There, TCA Central Board president Edmond Y. Azadian, TCA Detroit Chapter Chair Diana Alexanian, and Megerdchian Theatrical Group Chairman Harout Chatmajian spoke, and later the visitors visited the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum, where Azadian provided extensive information about the exhibits.

– H. V.

An Ownership Battle in Fast-Growing MRI Business

MRI, from page 6 changes in Michigan and possibly the nation, legal experts said.

State laws and past attorney general opinions appear clearly to prohibit the state from issuing corporate documents for limited liability companies operated by businesspeople for the purposes of providing medical services under the state public health code, several legal experts told Crain's.

But attorney Chris Cataldo disagrees. Cataldo, of Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss P.C. in Southfield, represents Oakland MRI and business owner Swider, a gemologist by training.

Cataldo also said the state of Michigan granted Oakland MRI a certificate of need license for its center 10 years ago. He said owner Swider doesn't practice medicine. She hires and contracts with radiologists who read and diagnose the imaging scans.

But Dardarian said CON applications do not make ownership a part of their criteria for granting requests for covered services. "It determines whether there is a market need, do they have proper equipment and the location for the service," said Dardarian.

"This is a nationwide problem. The CON Commission and the state bureau of corporations are aware of the problem," she said. "There are cracks in the system in granting CON permits and corporations. They need to be fixed."

Dardarian said the state allowed Oakland



Richard Chesbrough, M.D., a retired radiologist who is a consultant in the case against Oakland MRI and Christine Dardarian, attorney for Michigan Radiological Society.

MRI to be organized under the wrong state statute. She said medical facilities are required to be incorporated and organized as professional corporations.

Richard Chesbrough, M.D., a retired radiologist who is a consultant in the case against Oakland MRI, said lay business ownership of imaging centers sometimes leads to cases of Medicare and Medicaid fraud.

"There has been an explosion of insurance fraud – resulting in some of the highest auto insurance rates in the country," Chesbrough said. "Because the illegal centers are owned by the very attorneys, chiropractors and business associates that make their money via fraudulent claims."



OBITUARY

Mamas Michael Kehyaian

Korean War Veteran, Promoter of Armenian Culture

NEW YORK – Mamas Michael Kehyaian (Kane), the son of Armenian immigrants who survived the 1915 Armenian Genocide, died on September 8, 2017. He was 86.

The family, Serop Kehyaian and Esther Shahinian, Serop's mother Serpouhe, and Esther's mother Mariam, came to the United States together from Gesaria (Kayseri), Turkey, in the 1920s. They settled in East New York, Brooklyn. Serop, an entrepreneur, opened his own tailor shop. Soon, the family grew, with Michael being the firstborn; his sisters, Susie, Mary and Tracy added to the family's joy.

Michael often spoke of the "most hamov bread" his grandmother Mariam would bake every week. After a love-filled childhood, in 1951, he enlisted in the US Army. As a Private First Class, he fought in the Korean War on the front lines at Punchbowl Valley, where Heartbreak Ridge took place.

Upon his discharge, he became an apprentice in a photo offset shop. Eventually, he started his own business. Soon his expertise was requested by the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) on 34th Street in Manhattan. Michael printed all the religious education books, Armenian School Language books (*Ara and Maral*), church bulletins, Armenian Badarak books with Armenian-to-English translations and much more. Most of it was pro-bono. He was a staunch Armenian even though in the city of Gesaria, where his father and mother Serop and Esther were raised, the Armenian language was discouraged. Michael was very proud to be an Armenian and displayed this pride with such conviction.

Michael's dedication to his Armenian identity turned his interests toward collecting everything Armenian, including a painting of Gomidas Vartabed, a tapestry of Vartan Mamigonian, and a tapestry of Mesrob Mashtots, which he donated to the Anthropology/Armenian Museum at Queens College. He collected a series of watercolor prints going back to 1840 depicting the lifestyles of Armenians. He re-printed at least 30 titles of Armenian history books and so much more that cannot be mentioned here. His collections are rare and endless.

In 1973, Michael met Lucy Yezdanian at an Armenian social and married her in 1975. They had three children; Kristin, was born in 1976, Michelle in 1979 and Alex in 1981. They settled in Jackson Heights on 84th Street, where the three children were raised and attended Holy Martyrs Day School and Sunday School. Lucy, their mother, died in 2002 of cancer. Michael loved his children and taught them things by asking questions like "What's the name of the river are we going over now, kids?" He made his children aware of life and history. He was a curmudgeon loved by all that knew him.

He also left a strong impression on all who encountered him. Christopher H. Zakian, director of communications at the Armenian Diocese, said, "Mike Kane's personality – full of life and humor; tough and street-wise, but always eager to lend a helping hand – was truly unforgettable. To know him was to recognize the fighter in him – a pugnacious spirit he carried with him from Brooklyn, to the Korea War, and back home again." At the same time, he continued, "All of us regarded Michael as a wonderful uncle, who would give advice, take us out to lunch, and ride to the rescue when an urgent deadline had to be met. For Michael, no task was ever too great, no request was ever impossible to achieve."

His dedication to Armenian culture and willingness to volunteer for the Armenian Diocese led to many unexpected results. Zakian said, "Michael awakened many sensitive souls to the wonders of Armenian culture and history, and as much as any other person helped establish the Diocese as a thriving center of cultural activity: a place of learning, beauty and art." Furthermore, Zakian added, "His shop and his home were virtual museums of Armenian maps, posters, and books that he would find in his wanderings, and reproduce for a new generation. Alongside these were works of literature, poetry, and art from budding talents in the Armenian world, which Mike lovingly brought to publication."

Elise Antreassian Bayizian, coordinator of Christian education at the very same diocese, declared at his funeral: "Although Michael



Michael Kehyaian, with his wife Lucy and two of his children, Kristen and Alex, on April 5, 1998 at the 95th anniversary banquet of St. Gregory the Illuminator Church at St. Vartan Cathedral in New York City (Photo credit: Zarmine Boghosian).

looked tough and could talk tough – I remember him jockeying around on top of his printing press – with his righthand man Mateen at his side – with rolled up blue jeans, a white shirt and a cigarette dangling from his mouth – Michael was a man of extraordinary taste and elegance. It was so hard to put together this man with the blackened ink-stained fingers, with a missing pinky tip from a press mishap, sitting in his old car for a time, with the muffler belching smoke and loud noises – with the man of impeccable taste. Truly, I was so often awed by his sense of quality in in people, in books, in art and even in food."

His willing to go the last mile for his friends was legendary. Bayizian said, "Syraun

[Palvetzian, a volunteer who later became Director of the Diocese] told me the story of when she was hospitalized in her early years as a Canadian newcomer in New York and it was New Year's Eve and no visitors were allowed. Her sister had stayed with her overnight and all of a sudden at midnight Michael appeared in a white lab coat and when they asked how he managed to get into the ward, he shrugged nonchalantly and said he just took the coat off a hook, put it on and made his way through the hospital as if he were a doctor."

His wake took place at Holy Martyrs Armenian Church on September 14 and his funeral services the next morning. He was buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery in Flushing, NY.



Michael Kehyaian receives the Man of the Year Award from Fr. Mardiros Chevian on April 5, 1998 at the 95th anniversary banquet of St. Gregory the Illuminator Church at St. Vartan Cathedral in New York City, with master of ceremonies Zarmine Boghosian at the right (Photo credit: Zarmine Boghosian).

Very Rev. Thomas Garabedian

Led St. Mark Armenian Catholic Church

PHILADELPHIA – The Armenian Catholic Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg and St. Mark Armenian Catholic Church of Wynnewood, Penn. announced that the Very Rev. Thomas Garabedian, pastor of St. Mark since 2015, passed away on Sunday, October 1, 2017. He was 38.

Garabedian was born in Lebanon on July 26, 1973, and is survived by his parents, and siblings.

The Most Rev. Mikael Mouradian will offer on Sunday, October 15, a Mass at 10:30 a.m.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

At Innovate Armenia Scholars, Artists Rethink and Reimagine Identity, Education, Culture

INNOVATION, from page 6

College, nibbling on Nutella-topped pita bread. “I enjoy the atmosphere and the unity, and the fact that the school is very supportive of the event.” Recently returned from a three-month trip to Armenia, Vardian had come with her sister, Agnessa, a USC political science major and festival volunteer.

The sisters ran into a lot of people they knew as Alumni Park churned with activity.

From the music stage, a line-up of eight bands entertained the crowd in styles ranging from pop and jazz to edgy remix that breathed new life into traditional Armenian rhythms and melodies.

Over at the Armenia Wine booth, festival goers sipped ancient vintages dating back to 4,200 BCE – made from regional grapes like the iconic Areni, Haghtanak, Kangun and Rkatiteli. The free tastings were paired with boutique chocolates from Glendale confectioner Bitter & Sweet.

At the chess area, U.S. women’s team member Tatev Abrahamyan played 10 opponents simultaneously, her lavender-magenta-steaked locks defying conventional wisdom about what a chess grandmaster looks like. She and international master Andranik Matikozyan played about 100 games during the festival.

Chess remains extremely popular in Armenia – it’s a formal part of the school curriculum – as demonstrated by young Vartan, 6, who delivered the coup-de-grace to festival volunteer Andrew Nazarians, an electrical engineering student from Glendale Community College.

“I was playing with Tatev and Andranik, and Vartan came in and finished me off,” said Nazarians, with a laugh.

Re-Learning and Re-Imaging

Nearby, at the Teach for Armenia booth, Pasadena native Khachig Choukhajian spoke of his



Students at the Innovate Armenia 2017 festival at USC

experiences teaching world history last year in a northern Armenian village of 500 people. The UCLA grad is one of 70 teachers currently serving with the international nonprofit that brings progressive methods to rural Armenian schools.

“A lot of the local teachers are products of Soviet education,” Choukhajian explained. “It’s a lot of rote memorization and copying what is written on the board.”

Not all Armenian education is so backwards. Festival exhibitor booths showcased mavericks like the Real School, which brings after-school computer coding classes to youngsters across urban and rural Armenia; and the United World College, a network of 17 international boarding schools that opened its Dilijan campus four

years ago, instilling a love of Armenia in the 200 elite students who now study there and may someday be global leaders.

Technology was another prominent theme at this year’s festival.

At a “makerspace” booth, a 3-D printer whirred away, sculpting a miniature Temple of Garni, the famous 1st century pre-Christian ruin outside Yerevan. Armenian-American students from USC’s Viterbi School of Engineering and Glendale Community College demonstrated various robotic-armed rovers they’d built. Nearby, a black, tent-sized solar balloon fluttered in the breeze, part of the USC Viterbi astronautics program’s exhibition space.

On the Bovard stage, a panel of Caltech students described how a humble robotics program at Glendale Community College had opened the door to the nation’s premiere tech institute, where all are now PhD candidates.

A little later, Sphero CEO Paul Berberian described how smartphone-controlled toy robots created by his Boulder, Colorado-based company are making millions of schoolchildren fall in love with math and science.

Cultural Re-Awakening

Other Bovard conversations were darker, but no less uplifting.

Istanbul native Ari Sekeryan, a doctoral candidate in oriental studies at Oxford University, spoke movingly of his own cultural awakening against the backdrop of official Turkish suppression of Armenian identity.

“When I was born in 1989, no one in my family was able to speak Armenian. I cannot forget the very first day of Armenian public elemen-

tary school,” he said. “The teacher approached me and asked, in Armenian, ‘What’s your name?’ And I started crying.”

Historians Lerna Ekmekcioglu and Melissa Bilal shared their web-based project documenting the contributions of 12 pioneering Armenian feminists, including the towering author-activist Zabel Yessayan. The Turkish-educated scholars, now both faculty at MIT, see this work as crucial to providing strong intellectual role-models for today’s Armenian women and girls.

Media innovator Arman Jilavian spoke eloquently of a collective yearning in the diaspora for full ownership of Armenian history, language and culture.

“We lost the sense, the status, the self-understanding of owners,” he said. “We are renters.”

In addition to managing several media brands in Russia, Jilavian is CEO of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative, a \$1 million international humanitarian prize awarded annually at a ceremony in Yerevan.

A humanitarian prize based in Armenia sends a powerful message to the world, Jilavian said. “It reshapes and refines our collective identity... It says: ‘We have a global vision. We are not only takers, we are givers.’”

Beyond Victimhood

A hundred years after the genocide, today’s generation of global Armenians are looking to the future, and asking questions about what they can do to make the world better.

“Only when you are able to help others – this is the moment you stop being a victim or survivor, and you start becoming a winner, a person who holds his own life,” Jilavian said.

David Ignatius, in conversation via videoconference with his younger brother Adi Ignatius, editor-in-chief of the *Harvard Business Review*, echoed Jilavian’s message.

“I think the idea of remembering and honoring the suffering of our ancestors is crucial,” said the columnist, who is also a best-selling author of spy fiction. “But it’s really only when you take action to help others ... that you fully move beyond this tragedy of the past.”

The core of the Armenian identity, he suggested, should not be “that we suffer, but that we learned how to help others who suffer.”

As the festival was winding down, Arthur Kokozyan of La Crescenta was catching up with Karine Zakarian, an allergist from Glendale.

Asked for his assessment of the program, Kokozyan, who is president of the American Armenian Rose Float association, had this to say: “Every year, it’s better and better. I love how the community comes together to see what Armenians in the diaspora are accomplishing, and how we’re working together to get stronger.”

Historian Kaligian to Talk at NAASR On Pivotal Battle of Bash Abaran

BELMONT, Mass. – Historian Dr. Dikran Kaligian will present a lecture entitled “The Battle of Bash Abaran: Winning Independence for the First Republic of Armenia,” on Thursday, October 19, at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) Center, 395 Concord Ave. The program is co-sponsored by NAASR and the Armenia Tree Project.

In the spring of 1918, the Armenian people faced a desperate situation. The Russian Revolution meant that the Russian armies that had liberated much of Western Armenia had gone home and Turkish armies were now attacking Eastern Armenia. Russian Armenian troops and former fedays were joined by streams of civilian volunteers in three battles on the three roads to Yerevan.

At Bash Abaran, Gen. Drastamat Kanayan (Dro) fought Turkish forces more than twice the size of those he led. Despite the odds, Dro and his forces not only stopped the advance on Yerevan, but also drove the attackers back beyond Hamamlu (Spitak). The breakneck changes in diplomatic, political, and military fortunes during these key days will be outlined as they led to the establishment of the first independent Armenian state in nearly six centuries.

As the 100th anniversary of the battle approaches, the Armenia Tree Project has begun to beautify and improve the Abaran site, planting trees and shrubs and developing walking paths. This project will culminate in May 2018 with a ceremonial tree planting at the park.

Kaligian is the managing editor of the *Armenian Review*. He received his PhD in history from Boston College. His book, *Armenian Organization and Ideology under Ottoman Rule, 1908-1914*, was published by Transaction Publishing. His articles have been published in the *Journal of Genocide Research*, *Genocide Studies International*, the *Armenian Review* and in the books *Through a Lens Darkly: Films of Genocide* and in *Genocide in the Ottoman Empire: Armenians, Assyrians, and Greeks*.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

CYSCA Panel Explores Media Literacy in Armenia at NAASR

CYSCA, from page 1

Panelist Siranush Galstyan is a smart room coordinator for the Children of Armenia Fund (COAF). The COAF smart rooms in Armenian villages are independent places providing children access to technology and training free of charge. Later in the program, it was explained that some include English classes, robotics, media training and community advancement programs. There are six smart rooms in Lori province, two in Tavush province, and similar rooms hosted in schools in other provinces called creative rooms.

Armine Khloyan is a sociology teacher and the head of a robotics lab at a high school adjacent to the Yerevan State Polytechnic Institute. While this combination might seem unusual, she explained that both disciplines help students put theoretical knowledge to practice. She said, "With social studies we try to instill critical thinking, and with robotics, creative thinking."

Shushanik (Shushan) Ohanyan is the project manager for the Goris Press Club non-governmental organization. As part of her duties, she runs the Syunik Infohouse. There are Infohouses in eight cities in Armenia which give general information on media literacy and the tools for young people to be better media consumers. She also is a trainer herself in media literacy.

Nina Ganjalyan, like Galstyan, is a smart room coordinator for COAF, and also gives classes in media literacy. She works in Koti, a border community in Tavush Province near Azerbaijan. Lusine Grigoryan is a media literacy specialist for the Media Initiatives Center (mediainitiatives.am), a non-governmental organization promoting media literacy in Armenia.

Joining the visiting Armenians was Associate Prof. Dr. Rosemarie J. Conforti of Southern Connecticut State University (New Haven), who has visited Armenia to study media literacy programs there.

Grigoryan gave a PowerPoint presentation to provide basic information about her and her colleagues' work. She pointed out that about one million Armenians are on Facebook. There are about 20 radio and 30 television stations in Armenia, and television remains the most influential form of media. She also said that the Armenian press according to Freedom House (<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2017/armenia>) and other surveys, is categorized as not free, unlike the internet in Armenia.

Her center, founded in 1995, used to be called Internews Media Support NGO until 2013. She said it works to protect the rights of journalists, improve their professional skills,



CYSCA media panel visits the Armenian Mirror-Spectator and the Tekeyan Cultural Association offices in Watertown on October 5: from left, Lusine Grigoryan, Nina Ganjalyan, Siranush Galstyan, Alisa Stepanian of CYSCA, Aram Arkun of the *Mirror-Spectator* and Tekeyan, Jack Medzorian of CYSCA, Armine Khloyan, Shushanik Ohanyan and Anahit Khachatryan

has published a handbook for teachers on media literacy, which includes lesson plans, theoretical articles, links, resources and even a game (on a DVD). The handbook is approved as extracurricular material for public schools, but no money is allocated for training to use it. Nonetheless, some 400 teachers, museum specialists and informal teachers have been trained on its use. The Center attempts to get the Armenian state to understand the importance of media literacy, and require the training of teachers. At present, a memorandum of understanding has been signed with the Ministry of Education. Grigoryan said that the state is "happy that we are doing this. We hope we will be able to do more things in the future."

The Media Initiatives Center website media.am, Grigoryan said, is the only critical and analytical media site in Armenia. The media literacy game it showcases is quite popular, and has been translated into Ukrainian, Romanian and Belorussian for other people to use. A second game, called the "Adventures of Literatus," hopefully will be completed by the end of this year. The Center runs annual "I am the media" student contests. The center is funded, Grigoryan said, largely by USAID, though it also has other donors.

The center had a Mobile Media Museum whose first exhibition was devoted to the earthquake of 1988. An excerpt from its video on this was screened for the audience. It examines how the media covered and affected events. It was one of the first times international media came to the Soviet Union. A second exhibition

CYSCA.

CYSCA organized visits in the Boston area with the Massachusetts Media Literacy Consortium, WGBH public radio station, public schools, Emerson College, University of Massachusetts Boston, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab. They met



Alisa Stepanian at NAASR

with Massachusetts State Rep. David M. Rogers of Cambridge, who is promoting a bill for media education, and had an "Armenian day," visiting the two Armenian-American newspapers of Watertown. They met with Steve Kurkjian of the *Boston Globe*, and learned about the history of Armenian Heritage Park from Donald Tellalian.

When asked by Stepanian to comment on their meetings, Ganjalyan highlighted the meeting at Swampscott High School, and said, "There we witnessed high school students who are already we can say experts in media literacy." They were trained in this from an early age, so, Ganjalyan concluded, "Now I know that once I go back to Armenia the first thing I am going to do is to adapt my training for younger students." In addition, she saw how useful it will be to organize media training for parents.

Ohanyan added that "the relations between teachers and students are very enviable." Khloyan agreed. Both felt that Armenia lacked access to the equipment and resources available to teachers in the US, such as computers and projectors, so various adaptations must be made to approaches. Khloyan said that while in the US current news is analyzed, there is a lag

time in Armenia.

Galstyan said after meeting with Rep. Rogers, "I really appreciated the involvement of political figures in media literacy." She thought that national level policy on media literacy was lacking, and when she returned to Armenia, she said, she would attempt to make media literacy issues heard on the governmental level.

Grigoryan spoke about the similarities she witnessed. The American organization Media Literacy Now was working with little resources and volunteers. Schools in the US, she said, appear more independent from the government than in Armenia.

Stepanian asked Conforti about her impressions and recommendations about Armenia. Conforti exclaimed, "I am so impressed by the work that these women do."

Among the similarities she saw during her visit to Yerevan are the need for resources, time, and questioning. She said, "One of my mentors while I was in school said that to ask is to break the spell." Young people must learn, she said, to ask who made a picture or website, and who profits.

Among the differences between the two societies are the emphasis on print culture in Armenia versus visual media in the US. She said, "I was very impressed that while in Yerevan, the students are far more interested in political and activist work than our students are. Here they are more interested in getting in



Dr. Rosemarie Conforti at NAASR

a glamor industry through the media." In the US, she said, we focus more on race, class and gender, while in Armenia, on telling the truth.

She said that the US has different states with different ideas of what should be on the curriculum for media literacy, but Armenia, much smaller, "maybe has a better shot at forming a more coherent curriculum."

Stepanian closed the formal portion of the presentation by thanking NAASR and the families with whom the visitors were staying, namely, Berge and Arpine Ayzazian, Gary and Natalia Markosyan, Roxanne Etmekjian and Nerses Joubanian, and Robert and Helen Kalantari. The audience then had an opportunity to ask the panelists questions.

Among the points brought up were that the youth in Armenia use online resources more than older people, who are greatly influenced by television. Television news is more restricted than the variety of online resources available. Russian media is more influential than Western in Armenia since the Russian language is more widely known.

When asked whether the Armenian government really wants media literacy to spread, Grigoryan replied that there were many reforms in Armenia and the education system was being reformed. She said that relations with the Ministry of Education were quite good so far, as it understood that media literacy is a "must-have" in education in the 21st century.

The guests received American media coverage themselves during their trip. Gayla Cawley in the *Lynn Item* wrote about their visit to Swampscott High School ("Swampscott helps Armenian educators expand their curriculum," October 5, <https://www.itemlive.com/2017/10/05/swampscott-helps-armenian-educators-expand-curriculum/>), hosted by media literacy teacher Thomas Reid.



Lusine Grigoryan giving her PowerPoint presentation at NAASR

provide technical support, and offer projects to build their capacity. She said that after working with professionals for some 20 years, they realized that more had to be done, and said, "We need consumers who understand what is good and bad and demand what they want from the journalists."

The Media Initiatives Center, Grigoryan said,

is being prepared on how media covers corruption. Other possible topics include the Karabakh war.

The group came to the Washington, DC on September 27, and later Boston from September 29 to October 7. Their trip was funded by the Open World Leadership Center of the US Library of Congress, and implemented by



COMMUNITY NEWS

85
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Writer, Founder and Director of Alternative Radio

Amberin ZamanColumnist for Diken and Al Monitor
Former Turkey Correspondent for *The Economist***Friday
November 3
2017****Reception, Meet the Awardees**
6:30 P.M.**Dinner and Program**
7:30 P.M.*Mistress of Ceremonies**Entertainment***Anaide Nahikian**Leader, Advanced Training Program
on Humanitarian Action at Harvard
Humanitarian Initiative**Black Sea Salsa**



COMMUNITY NEWS

Anaïde Nahikian: Maximizing Help on Frontlines around the World

NAHIKIAN, from page 1

Her mission, she said, is to help aid organizations, such as Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), the World Food Program or the International Committee of the Red Cross “strengthen and protect civilian populations.”

In essence, her job is to treat humanitarian aid as a profession that can be enhanced and improved through proper documenting, strategizing and negotiating.

ATHA is part of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI), which according to the university website, is a university-wide academic and research center that brings an interdisciplinary approach to promoting understanding of humanitarian crisis as a unique contributor to global health problems and to developing evidence-based approaches to humanitarian assistance.

In addition, the university is home to the Humanitarian Academy at Harvard (HAH) dedicated to educating and training current and future generations of humanitarian leaders.

According to HHI’s website, its “aim is to relieve human suffering in war and disaster by conducting interdisciplinary, practice-based research and education that can be used by scholars, policymakers, NGOs, and others to foster interdisciplinary collaboration in order to: improve the effectiveness of humanitarian strategies for relief, protection, and prevention; instill human rights principles and practices in these strategies; and educate and train the next generation of humanitarian leaders.”

However, these are not the only hats that Nahikian wears. An associate instructor at the Harvard School of Public Health and the Kennedy School of Government, she is also an adjunct lecturer at Brandeis University’s Heller School for Social Science and Management and the executive producer of the Humanitarian Assistance Podcast.

Anaïde heads the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Collaborative Platform, where she initiates and

manages projects and relationships between the ICRC and academic, policy, non-profit, and private organizations in the Boston area around key themes and priorities of the ICRC, in partnership with swissnex Boston.

“It is a further link between policy and think tanks. We synergize with Harvard for the Red Cross work,” she explained, which involves “reuniting families” in war zones.

Her frequent travels to areas adjacent to war zones, where organizations can come together and discuss operations in relative peace and safety, create “regional conversations.” For example, she said Amman, Jordan, is one of the safe hubs for all humanitarian actions in the Middle East. Another such regional hub is Abuja, Nigeria, the center of activities to help the Lake Chad Basin populations in Niger, Chad, Nigeria and Cameroon, which are all suffering from terrorism, cholera, dire poverty, and extreme hunger.

“I was always interested in academia and existential society,” she said, “looking at the world from a structural perspective.”

Now, she said, she is able to participate in the “practical component and help [aid providers] get clarity.”

“We apply lessons from one area to another,” she said.

“It is inspiring,” she added. “The aid organizations are very entrepreneurial. Both Harvard and the ICRC value start-up mentalities.”

She noted that she herself does not harbor an ambition to do field work; what she does is to create “more unity, more engagement” for those field operations.

In addition, her organization helps aid organizations advocate for themselves by providing them with adequate documentation. She gives the example of the Kunduz Trauma Centre operated by Médecins Sans Frontières and leveled after an airstrike by US forces in October 2015. About a dozen MSF workers were killed, along with some 20 Afghan

workers and patients.

When asked about safety, not only in general but especially as a woman, she said, “there are a lot of women in my field. There is a careful security protocol.”

Nahikian attended Brandeis University, where she studied sociology, philosophy and anthropology. She then earned her master’s degree in sociology from the London School of Economics, specializing in human rights.

Nahikian was born in Lebanon, the daughter of a Lebanese-Armenian father and a French mother and thus she speaks French as a native.

Nahikian said that her work is directly affected by her Armenian heritage. “Our world is much bigger than the world around you. There is a legacy around you, with family education,” she said. “Global issues and interests are a part of me.”

She is a descendent of survivors of the Armenian Genocide and therefore much more attuned to the catastrophes she witnesses, including, for example, the famine in Ethiopia, which, given her background, hits closer to home.

Nahikian is making time in her busy schedule for the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*; she will be the mistress of ceremonies during the November 3 gala benefit celebrating the newspaper’s 85th anniversary, at the Boston Newton Marriott. One reason, she said, is that the “journalist’s perspective” is vital to shed light on such difficult situations, much like those that happened in the last century or this one. “It is very exciting for us to have such an accomplished young woman involved in our celebrations. Anaïde’s important work is truly inspiring and deserves to be exposed,” said 85th Anniversary Gala Chair Nicole Babikian Hajjar.

For more information about the 85th anniversary two-day celebration, visit www.mirror-spectator.com

For more information about the ATHA program, visit <http://hhi.harvard.edu/>

Luminaries to Attend October 21 AMAA Centennial Banquet

AMAA, from page 6

survived several Lebanese civil wars. Many of the current Armenian students are refugees from the six-year Syrian war, and most are on scholarship.

Haigazian does special fundraising for its students, with the AMAA launching a \$20-million campaign, with a portion allotted for the school, she reveals. “Haigazian and the AMAA are a family. They overlap. The best way for individuals to advance and be successful is through education,” she stressed.

Deeply involved with Haigazian University, Joyce Philipbosian Stein speaks with great pride about its founder Dr. Armenag Haigazian, a

trustee of the John and Sirouhie Conte Foundation, and Life Trustee of the Armenian Assembly of America, among others.

Inspired by Stephen Mehagian, whose father-in-law was Armenag Haigazian, Philipbosian, became “the driving force of the growth and expansion of Haigazian.” Together with Stephen Mehagian they co-founded Haigazian University in 1955. It was at a fund-raising dinner at that time at which Stephen Philipbosian donated the \$50,000 endowment fund to this project.

“The goal was to provide education for minority students with the hope that these students would stay in the Middle East. It has served its purpose of serving not only all Armenians, but also other minority students.” She reported that Armenia’s Ambassador to the U.S. Grigor Hovhannissian credits Haigazian for his rise to his post as ambassador.

“A good percentage of Armenians in Lebanon and Syria are graduates of Haigazian,” she says, adding that the U.S. State Department provided funds for a thousand students from the villages in Lebanon to be attend college, many of whom enrolled at Haigazian. Joyce Stein herself graduated with a BA in education from the University of Pennsylvania, as well as an honorary LLD from Haigazian.

“My heart is there,” she said, who in addition is the chairperson of the Stephen Philipbosian Foundation which was created in 1970 to perform educational, cultural and humanitarian work among Armenians. She is also the National Chair of the AMAA Orphan and Child Care Committee, “a group of energetic women” from all Armenian denominations, including the Armenian Catholic, Diocesan, Prelacy churches, as well as ANCA and AGBU. There isn’t another committee in America that has this mosaic of members,” she states with passion.

This committee started in 1989 after the Armenian earthquake for the purpose of educating, mentoring and camping in Armenia and Artsakh. During an annual event in Los Angeles, \$250,000 was raised and another six-figure amount in Boston.

Joyce Stein is involved with a myriad of charitable organizations. She has chaired the Philadelphia Children’s Hospital Auxiliary, three Philadelphia Orchestra Galas benefitting the Children’s Hospital, the Philadelphia Academy of Music Museum, and has been a

member, and daughter Stephanie and Joyce’s sister Louise as active members of the Philipbosian Foundation. The Steins have also been blessed with sons-in-law Michael and David, and six grandchildren.

“The AMAA has had a great impact in all these projects,” comments Joyce Philipbosian Stein who was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor for her outstanding contributions to this country. “Joe and I will continue our AMAA work because of its exceptional integrity and transparency,” she states.

Joe Stein, Joyce Philipbosian’s husband was born of parents of German descent. After graduation from college, his father was invited to be a student professor at AUB, the American University of Beirut, from 1921 to 1924. During that time, he became acquainted with Armenians by delivering food to Armenians living in caves in Syria, following the Genocide and their deportation from Turkey.

was invited by the elder Philipbosian to join his oriental rug business in Philadelphia. In 1979, the Joe and Joyce Stein moved to California where he was involved in several business ventures.

Governor George Deukmejian appointed Joe Stein to the California State Board of Education where he served from 1985 to 1990, two years as President. He takes pride in being a co-founder of “Armenians by Choice”, and pays tribute to his wife for her “influence on me and our daughters for her great service to the AMAA Orphan and Child Care Committee, and for her selfless devotion in serving more than three decades, faithfully carrying on the legacy of her father.”

Stein currently serves on the AMAA Board, and the Foreign Properties Committee. He and Joyce have traveled to Armenia more than 20 times, and frequently to Beirut on behalf of Haigazian University.



Joyce Philipbosian Stein and Joe Stein

Yale University educated leader and theologian who had returned to Cilicia and became president of the Apostolic Institute in Konya. Deported by the Turkish forces, he fell ill and died on the way to prison in Kharpert, she reveals, adding that the New York Times reported his death on May 26, 1921.

Joyce Stein’s parents were both born in Hadjin. Her father Stephen (Yeprem) Philipbosian, was passionately interested in education for his people, especially in the Middle East, from elementary schools to university lev-



Dr. Nazareth Darakjian and Dr. Ani Darakjian

member, and daughter Stephanie and Joyce’s sister Louise as active members of the Philipbosian Foundation. The Steins have also been blessed with sons-in-law Michael and David, and six grandchildren.

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Arts & Living

Kevork Msrlian Presents New Book on *Armenians Of Irbid and Northern Jordan* at TCA Beshgeturian Center

By Kevork Keushkerian

ALTADENA, Calif. — Kevork Msrlian presented his book, *The Armenians of Irbid and Northern Jordan*, through an Armenian-language PowerPoint lecture at the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) Beshgeturian Center on Sunday, October 1. The event was organized by the TCA Glendale-Pasadena Chapter.

Msrlian first explained why he had researched and documented this historical journey of Armenians, which commenced right after the Armenian Genocide. The author acknowledged and thanked Haigazian University, and in particular the director of its Armenian Diaspora Research Center, Dr. Antranig Dakessian, for encouraging him to further elaborate the research paper he delivered at Haigazian University in May of last year, and publish it in the form of a book.

Msrlian was born in Irbid, Jordan. He received his primary and secondary education at public schools in Irbid. He travelled to Armenia and studied engineering at the National Polytechnic University of Armenia in Yerevan. During his studies in Armenia, he developed a good command of the Armenian language.

For two consecutive years, 1983 and 1984, he was elected chairman of the Union of Jordanian-Armenian Students in Yerevan. In 2015, Msrlian was elected coordinator of the Jordanian Affiliation of the Pan-Armenian Association of Architects and Engineers. Msrlian has worked in Jordan, Iraq, Yemen and the Sudan with Jordanian and international engineering companies as a contract expert in water and environmental projects.

As Msrlian's book documents, Armenians came to Irbid in 1915, when they were deported from their homeland of Eastern Turkey. Some of these immigrants returned to their homes when the government of France took over the administration of Syria, Lebanon and Cilicia. At that time, the population of Irbid was 1,065.

The number of Armenian inhabitants grew in Irbid in the aftermath of the Palestine-Israeli war in 1948. While living in Irbid, Armenians were engaged in handicrafts like carpentry, masonry, shoemaking and photography. Eventually, many of these Armenians managed to become successful business owners, farmers, and public servants. Irbid now has a population of 1,770,000.

Msrlian's book is written in two languages: English and Arabic. It is composed of nearly 200 pages, which includes eyewitness see MSRLIAN, page 14



Kevork Msrlian, left, with Kevork Keushkerian



Hayk Balasanyan and Emilia Poghosyan show off their dance moves at their Winter Park studio.

Ballroom Dancing Power Couple

ORLANDO, Fla. (*Orlando Signature*) — Couples who dance together stay together" is the philosophy of the sprightly pair whose love of dance and each other is breathing new life into the Orlando dance scene. Through an energetic and disarming approach to ballroom dancing, these two dynamos are shaping their Fred Astaire Dance Studio into one that respects tradition yet embraces change, one that provides a haven from the everyday woes of

work and carpool and mortgage payments.

Armenian transplants to the United States Hayk Balasanyan and Emilia Poghosyan began dancing before they turned double digits. Poghosyan always wanted to be a dancer, recalling watching shows full of fancifully dressed women in ball gowns twirling through the Viennese Waltz from her mother's workplace as a child. The dream of being a princess grabbed hold of her as quickly as the flicks of the sequined skirts, and she begged her parents for dance lessons. When begging didn't work, she started crying ... and cried for a year until they finally acquiesced; she hasn't stopped dancing since.

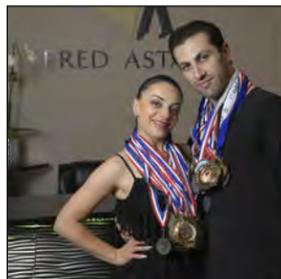
Balasanyan's parents, on the other hand, forced him into dancing to keep him off the streets. His mom knew that dancing would bring beauty into his life, but he resisted mightily at first, remembering how he just wanted to play soccer. But it wasn't long until he preferred ballroom shoes to cleats and was well on his way to meeting the woman who would become his partner in dance and in life.

Although the two destined lovebirds had competed against each other in Armenia as children — Balasanyan jokes about how his wife was taller than he was back then — they didn't get acquainted until years later after both had moved to the States. Poghosyan emigrated in 2008 after accepting an invitation to work as an instructor at a Fred Astaire Dance Studio in New York City, where she impressed the owners so much that they wanted more Armenians to follow in her footsteps. In 2010, Balasanyan did just that.

The pair partnered up on the dance floor first, winning the famed Rising Star competition the first year they danced together before becoming US national champions multiple times and one of the 12 best couples in America. Next came love, then marriage, and it's the hope for a baby carriage that brought them to Winter Park to start a family and open their own Fred Astaire Dance Studio.

At the corner of Temple Trail and Howell Branch Road sits the recently remodeled studio decked out in modern touches and shimmering chandeliers. As elegant and full of life as its owners, this space ushers in a fresh take on dance, creating a place where both singles and couples can come to explore their creative sides, to reconnect with each other, even to fall in love again.

"Dancing can change lives," says Poghosyan, as she glances affectionately at her see DANCERS, page 15



Emilia Poghosyan and Hak Balasanyan

Kariné Poghosyan To Perform 'Transformations' at Carnegie Hall

NEW YORK — Described as "extraordinary" and "larger than life," the award-winning Armenian-American pianist Kariné Poghosyan has been praised for her "ability to get to the heart of the works she performs." Poghosyan will perform a solo piano recital titled "Transformations" on Thursday, October 19, at 7:30 p.m. at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall.

The program was inspired by musical and personal "transformations," including her own transformation from a music student in Armenia to a mature artist playing at Carnegie Hall. The program will feature transcriptions for solo piano by Beethoven, Liszt, Khachaturian and Stravinsky, and will open with Liszt's virtuosic transcription of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5*.

The second half of the program features Brahms's powerhouse *Variations on a Theme of Paganini*. The program will conclude with imaginative transcriptions of ballet music, including Matthew Cameron's arrangement of the Adagio from Aram Khachaturian's "Spartacus" and Guido Agosti's arrangement of Stravinsky's "Firebird." The recital is presented by the Institute of International Social Development Inc. and the

United Nations Women's Guild. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to girls' education and empowerment programs around the world, provided by the Institute of International Social Development, Inc. and the United Nations Women's Guild.



Kariné Poghosyan

In Poghosyan's words: "Transformations was inspired by a big shift in my own personal journey, during which I came to realize an enormous power locked within me. I feel that a lot of young women go through this transformative experience and arrive at a triumphant moment of self-actualization. All four of the works in the program are examples of transformation: they are compositions for piano that were originally something else — a symphony for a full orchestra, a violin showpiece, and two glorious much-loved ballets.

"Beethoven's beloved C-minor *Symphony No. 5* becomes a pianistic tour de force in Liszt's transcription. Brahms takes Paganini's beautiful Violin Caprice No. 24 and transforms it into a contrapuntal and multilayered piece for solo piano. The talented American pianist Matthew Cameron expands the iconic love theme from Khachaturian's ballet 'Spartacus' into a lush Lisztian bravura piece. And lastly, the Italian pianist Guido Agosti highlights the rich colors of Stravinsky's Russian ballet 'Firebird' in a vivacious arrangement for solo piano.

"Ultimately, these four works also showcase a deeper inner thematic transformation. The Beethoven symphony, with the famous opening theme of fate knocking on the door, is a powerful journey from a dark C minor mood to a triumphant and life-affirming C major conclusion. In the Paganini, a simple tune grows into a grand virtuoso masterpiece. The Adagio from Khachaturian's ballet 'Spartacus' opens with a pure, innocent love duet and expands into a passionate and fervent climax — that incredible moment when a light infatuation deepens into a true loving commitment. And lastly, in Stravinsky's 'Firebird,' the transformation takes place when the heroic prince kills the monstrous villain and breaks the latter's spell to free his beloved princess. With this program, I hope to remind the audience that transformations take on many, diverse and universal forms."

An Iranian Piano Prodigy, A Big Dream, An Arduous Visa Process

By Shirin Jaafari and Siavash Saadlou

BOSTON (PRI) – When the Iranian pianist and composer, Amir Darabi, was accepted to Berklee College of Music this past summer, everything seemed to be going his way. He had already established himself as a piano prodigy in his home country, released a full-length debut album and performed in numerous prominent venues, including

viding the piano accompaniment in countless live gigs. When he tried out jazz for the first time, he was hooked right away.

He trained his ear as best as he could and then took classes with Hamzeh Yeganeh, an acclaimed jazz musician in Iran. At age 18, and on his friend's advice, Darabi decided to apply to Berklee College of Music. He says he wanted to come to the United States mainly because he craved competition, feeling Iran was no longer a big enough stage for him.

For his audition, Darabi had to go to Chengdu, China, where people barely spoke any

days before his visa interview at the US Consulate in Yerevan, Armenia, the Trump administration revealed plans for a revised travel ban that was to be implemented on March 16, 2017 – a day after Darabi's interview appointment. A lot of people had been denied visas, which worried Darabi. After the interview, he was told he would have to go home and wait for the final decision. So, from afar, Darabi kept abreast of every news development regarding the travel ban.

The 35-day wait was nerve-racking for Darabi and his family. However, an outpouring of support from the people at Berklee College of Music made the young artist feel more optimistic about his situation. Still, he knew his destiny somewhat hinged on the visa decision.

Darabi's visa was eventually approved – it was a huge relief.

“Getting the visa felt like an accomplishment to me,” says Darabi. For him, coming to the US wasn't so much the goal, but rather, attending one of the world's most prestigious music schools.

“When I got on the plane to come to the US, I was remembering all the anxiety I had gone through during this past year,” says Darabi.

“Coming from the Middle East means you have to go the extra mile to make it to the US, but for me, the harder the task, the more I enjoy the final outcome.”

Darabi says the dizzying pace of life was the first thing he noticed in the US, especially when he traveled to New York City to visit a fellow musician. The “pinch me” moment for him, however, was when he bumped into the renowned American bass player, Victor Wooten, at Berklee. “Wooten was someone I used to watch on YouTube all the time, so when he walked past me, I was dumbfounded for five minutes,” says Darabi.

With the new travel ban set to be enforced as of October 18 – and the possibility of it remaining in effect indefinitely – Darabi's parents won't be able to visit him and attend his commencement ceremonies. It's hard to remain upbeat in these trying times, but Darabi says he wants to focus solely on music. He believes music can be a panacea for the world's problems, including prejudice.

“When I see someone playing music, I forget about their ethnicity, color, race, religion, et cetera,” says Darabi. “I think music is the most universal language that there's ever been.”



Amir Darabi, 19, is shown at Berklee College of Music in Boston.

Tehran's Roudaki Hall. He didn't then know how difficult it would be to get to Boston, to fulfill his dreams.

Darabi started playing the piano at the age of 3 – he still has a foggy memory of pressing the black-and-white keys for the very first time. His mother, a piano teacher herself, taught him for several years. Darabi then became a protégé of the Armenian Gagik Babayan, who instructed him in classical music for a decade. Darabi familiarized himself with other music genres, as well, by pro-

English. He was traveling on his own and felt nervous prior to the audition, but the anticipation was exciting, too. The audition went well and, a week later while on the phone with a friend, he noticed a new email from Berklee College of Music about his admission and scholarship status.

“When I saw the scholarship letter, I was in shock,” says Darabi. “I never thought I'd receive a scholarship from Berklee, especially a full tuition waiver scholarship.”

Darabi's joy didn't last long, though. Just

Kevork Msrlan Presents New Book on *Armenians of Irbid And Northern Jordan* at TCA Beshgeturian Center

MSRLIAN, from page 13

accounts, testimonials, certificates and many pictures of Genocide survivors. During the fifties and the sixties, many attempts were made to establish an Armenian day school, but to no avail. Unfortunately, until now, there are no Armenian churches in Irbid. For weddings and other religious rites, a priest is invited from the Diocese of the Armenian Church in Amman, who utilizes the Greek Orthodox Church for the ceremony.

The author presented a portion of this book, *Armenians of Irbid*, as a research paper at Haigazian University in Beirut, in May last year.

The book, written in Arabic and English, was published in Amman, Jordan, in 2017. It will be presented by the author in Amman later this year at a program sponsored by the Ministry of Culture at the National Library of Jordan. An Armenian translation may follow.

A question-and-answer session followed the presentation, which in turn was followed by a reception.



Robert Fisk

Journalist, Middle East Correspondent for *The Independent* Seven-Time Recipient of British Press Awards' Reporter of the Year



David Barsamian

Writer, Founder and Director of Alternative Radio



Philip Terzian

Literary Editor of *The Weekly Standard*



The Armenian Mirror-Spectator

SYMPOSIUM ON ARMENIAN ISSUES IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS

Journalism and “Fake News”: Armenian Genocide and Karabagh

Aram Arkun, Moderator

Journalism is changing at a rapid pace, including how the news is produced, distributed and consumed.

Join *The Armenian Mirror-Spectator* along with a panel of internationally acclaimed journalists to discuss the issues facing journalism today and their impact on the Armenian case.



Amberin Zaman

Turkish Journalist, Minority Rights Activist

Thursday

November 2, 2017

Wellesley College, Alumnae Hall Ballroom
106 Central St, Wellesley, MA
Doors Open at 6:00 P.M. • Program: 7:00 P.M.
Reception to Follow • Free Admission



ARTS & LIVING

Golden Thread Productions Announces Biennial Short Play Program

SAN FRANCISCO — Golden Thread Productions, the first American theatre company devoted to the Middle East, is presenting its biennial signature program: ReOrient 2017 Festival of Short Plays featuring plays and artists from Armenia, Iraq, Iran, Japan, Lebanon, Palestine, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the U.S. all on one stage.

Think you know the Middle East? Think again. An Arab-American couple must choose a name for their unborn child. A troupe of actors rehearse a political play under the watchful eye of the government. A leftie Iranian-American and a Trump supporter find themselves together at a Thanksgiving dinner. These are just some of the stories of ReOrient 2017 performed November 17-December 10 at Potrero Stage (formerly Thick House, 1695 18th Street, San Francisco) Thursdays-Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. (No performance on Thanksgiving Thursday, November 23). Opening night is Monday, November 20, at 8 p.m.

"Nowhere else in the US, and certainly not anywhere in the Middle East, will you be able to find such a diverse collection of plays from and about the Middle East on one stage," founding artistic director Torange Yeghiazarian explains. "As Washington promotes fear and an isolationist superior stance, programs like ReOrient that present nuanced narratives and accessible



Torange Yeghiazarian, founding artistic director of Golden Thread Productions

human stories, are essential in shifting the conversation to our shared vulnerabilities."

This year's festival presents seven eclectic world premiere short plays as one evening of theatre. The ReOrient 2017 playwrights, who were selected by a panel of theatre luminaries from 79 submissions from 14 countries, include three local playwrights: Palestinian-American playwright Betty Shamieh, E.H. Benedict, whose "Orhan" was part of ReOrient 2012, and Torange Yeghiazarian. Also returning to

ReOrient is Palestinian-Irish playwright Hannah Khalil, whose "Bitterenders" was a favorite from ReOrient 2015. New to the festival are emerging Turkish-American playwright Melis Aker and Arab-Armenian-American Sevan K. Greene, whose full-length "Stuff" was presented as part of the New Threads staged reading series in 2016. Rounding out the lineup is Japanese-American poet Junichi P. Semitsu, whose beautiful poem "Shelter" will be adapted to a soundscape by Yeghiazarian and sound designer James Ard.

ReOrient, now produced every two years, is Golden Thread's signature program and is a hugely ambitious undertaking for this intrepid theatre company with this year's festival is employing 33 artists. The ReOrient 2017 directors include Golden Thread veterans Erin Gilley, Evren Odcikin and Sara Razavi, alongside Bay Area favorite Tunisian-American director Susannah Martin.

This year's ReOrient Festival marks the first collaboration between Golden Thread and the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas (LMDA). The partnership brings together two organizations that value challenging cultural preconceptions through provocative programming and dialogue. For ReOrient 2017, LMDA will provide a team of professional dramaturgs who bring their expertise in new play development, research, and content cre-

ation for Golden Thread's artists and audiences. LMDA's Regional Vice President of Metro Bay Area Nakissa Etemad serves as lead dramaturg. The team includes Anna Woodruff, who is working on Manar, and publications dramaturgs Emily DeDakis and Vidhu Singh.

The seven-person ensemble, who will inhabit 20 roles through the evening, include many Golden Thread favorites like Atosa Babooff, Mohamed Chakmakchi, Naseem Etemad, Lawrence Radecker, and Bella Warda, alongside newcomers Stephen Kanaski and Jessica Risco. The production team includes Jenna Apollonia (assistant stage manager), James Ard (sound design), Kenan Arun (make-up design), Cassie Barnes (lighting design), Kate Boyd (scenic design), Beckett Finn (technical director), Erin Gilley (projection design), Brooke Jennings (costume design), Karen Runk (stage manager), Benjamin Shiu (assistant stage manager) and Grisel Torres (property design).

Golden Thread supporters include the San Francisco Arts Commission, National Endowment for the Arts, Walter & Elise Haas Fund, The Fleishacker Foundation, University of San Francisco, and The Center for Middle Eastern Studies, UC Berkeley. Golden Thread is a resident company at Potrero Stage, operated by Playground.

For tickets (\$15-\$36) and more information on the festival, visit goldenthread.org.

Florida's Ballroom Dancing Power Couple

DANCERS, from page 13

husband, who adds that "couples sometimes forget to look each other in the eyes, especially after being married a long time." The act of moving together and focusing on the subtle shifts of the other person's body ignites a new kind of intimacy, but the couples often need a loving push to get there. "Dance instructors are also psychologists," says Emilia, flashing a big smile as she tells the story of a client who told her she'd rather spend money on dance classes than therapy sessions.

Being a dance instructor is as much about navigating the nuance in each person as it is about teaching the steps, which Poghosyan says anyone can learn. It's keeping an open mind, having the heart, possessing the willingness to be uncomfortable that leads to success on the dance floor. The couple encourages prospective students to attend events and parties at their studio before even trying a class. "Come drink, eat and make friends," they say, "watch a few dances, try a few steps for fun," emphasizing the importance of the social component of dancing.

In Europe and throughout the rest of the world, ballroom dancing is either Standard or Latin. In the US, though, between 1910 and 1930, influences of jazz music coupled with the development of dancing as a social activity created what came to be known as American Rhythm and American Smooth. After the first few steps, any "Dancing with the Stars" fan worth their salt knows a paso doble from a samba — both rhythm dances — or the smooth styles of foxtrot versus tango. Find these and more on tap at the Fred Astaire Dance Studio, where the newly minted owners don't play style favorites.

Brides and grooms, mothers and sons, fathers and daughters come to the studio to take part in the popular wedding program, where the instructors choreograph a special routine to the chosen reception music. Often, couples enjoy the experience so much that they keep returning long after the wedding bells have rung. Some even participate in national competitions. The spirited twosome love preparing their students to compete; they attended the US Nationals this past September in Orlando for the first time as instructors rather than as competitors.

When they're not cutting a rug, you can find the duo barbecuing at home surrounded by friends, laughing, sharing stories and talking about the future. As Poghosyan expresses excitement about learning to drive, her hubby's eyes get as big as saucers: "This will just mean more shopping!" There's no shortage of smiles and love between this modern-day Fred and Ginger, whose humor, hard work and humility will keep their dance cards full for a very long time.

Sponsor A Teacher
In Armenia and Karabagh
17th Anniversary

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

Yes, I want to sponsor teachers in Armenia and Karabagh to continue helping them to educate the children, our future leaders. I would like to have the teacher's name and address.

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

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

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



ARTS & LIVING

Dean Cain and Montel Williams Challenge Armenian Genocide Denial Across Capitol Hill with 'Architects of Denial'

WASHINGTON – Activists Dean Cain and Montel Williams – executive producers of the powerful anti-genocide documentary “Architects of Denial” – joined the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) on Capitol Hill in late September, calling on US legislators to reject

With powerful footage from the Armenian Genocide and ongoing attacks against Armenia and Artsakh by Azerbaijan, the documentary includes testimonials from Wikileaks’ Julian Assange, historians Dr. Greg Stanton, Dr. Taner Akçam and Dr. Ugur Ungor, Rep. Adam Schiff (D-



Dean Cain and Montel Williams with Congressional Armenian Caucus Co-Chairs Dave Trott (D-CA), Jackie Speier (D-CA) and David Valadao (R-CA) and Rep. Anna Eshoo.

Turkey’s gag-rule and adopt legislation (H.Res.220 and S.Res.136) applying the lessons of the Armenian Genocide to the prevention of future atrocities.

The meetings with over a dozen senior legislators, Republican and Democrat, took place around the September 26th Washington DC premiere of Architects of Denial, held at the US Naval Memorial before a capacity crowd of policy makers, diplomats and DC influencers.

“We were honored to be joined on Capitol Hill by Dean Cain and Montel Williams, two of America’s most eloquent and effective human rights advocates, in challenging US legislators to – at long last – reject Turkey’s gag-rule against honest US remembrance of the Armenian Genocide,” said Aram Hamparian, executive director of the ANCA. “As they made so very clear – in their film and across the Hill – no nation – especially as one as hostile as Turkey – deserves a veto over US human rights policy.”

Cain and Williams reminded legislators that genocide denial leads to its perpetuation, connecting the Armenian Genocide with ongoing official Azerbaijani aggression against Armenia and Artsakh. Among the legislators who took the opportunity to discuss the legacy of the Armenian Genocide and Turkey’s denial on the geopolitical realities of today were, House Assistant Democratic Leader Jim Clyburn (D-SC), House Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Democrat Eliot Engel (D-NY), and Representatives from throughout the US including Reps. Kevin Kramer (R-ND), Dan Donovan (R-NY), Trent Franks (R-AZ), Louis Gohmert (R-TX), Jody Hice (R-GA), Jared Huffman (D-CA), Duncan Hunter (R-CA), Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), Jim Jordan (R-OH), Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), Brad Schneider (D-IL), Claudia Tenney (R-NY), and Juan Vargas (D-CA), among others.

Cain and Williams also discussed efforts to secure passage of the Armenian Genocide legislation with Congressional Armenian Caucus Co-Chairs Jackie Speier (D-CA), Dave Trott (R-MI) and David Valadao (R-CA) and Representative Anna Eshoo (D-CA), several of whom recently returned from a trip to Armenia and Artsakh.

On September 27, Cain talked to Fox News’ Tucker Carlson regarding ongoing efforts to suppress broad-based distribution of “Architects of Denial,” including the since-resolved advertisement controversy at Glendale’s Americana Shopping center.

Earlier, on September 26, Williams was a guest on the CBS program “Great Day Washington,” where he discussed the very real ongoing impact of genocide denial. “The Armenian people have been the subject of persecution now for close to a hundred years and no one wants to recognize it,” stated Williams. “So, this movie is about the Genocide and the Armenian people, but it’s also about the bigger discussion about what’s going on in this world.”

CA), whistleblower Sibel Edmonds, publisher Harut Sassounian, and eye-witness accounts by Aregak Bagirian, Movses Anehyan and Yevpraksi Gevorgyan.

To view the “Architects of Denial” trailer and for more information, visit: architectsofdenial.com



Recipe Corner

by Christine Vartanian

Artichoke Lemon Appetizer

INGREDIENTS

3-4 (6 oz.) jars of marinated artichoke hearts
 1 small red or white onion, finely chopped
 1 bunch green onions, finely chopped
 1 small bunch flat-leaf parsley, minced
 1 roasted red or green bell pepper, seeded and chopped
 3-4 cloves garlic, minced
 2-3 tablespoons olive oil
 Juice of two lemons and 1 teaspoon lemon zest
 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
 1/2 cup plain white or Greek yogurt (to taste)
 1/4 cup pitted Kalamata, green, or black olives, chopped
 Sea or Kosher salt, black pepper, cayenne pepper, paprika, crushed red pepper flakes, and dried oregano to taste
 Dash of hot sauce
 Pita bread, pita chips, Armenian lavosh, toasted or sliced baguette or sliced vegetables
 Lemon wedges

PREPARATION:

Drain and chop artichoke hearts and place in a large bowl. Add the onions, parsley, and all remaining ingredients and mix thoroughly. Check seasonings. Chill for 2-3 hours or overnight for best results.

Serve with pita bread, pita chips, Armenian lavosh, toasted or sliced baguette and sliced vegetables. Serve with lemon wedges on the side and drizzle with olive oil, if desired.

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



TCA MHER MEGERDCHIAN THEATRICAL GROUP

THE *Անկուշխ Զրոյր* UNEXPECTED

by Agatha Christie

GUEST

- SAVE THE DATE -
OCTOBER 28 & 29



ARTS & LIVING

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 18 — Join the Armenian EyeCare Project for its 25th Anniversary Gala at 6:30pm at the Balboa Bay Club in Newport Beach. The organization will honor Founder Dr. Roger Ohanesian for 25 years of dedicated service to Armenia in the field of eye care. The fun-filled evening includes an authentic Armenian dinner, roving entertainers, a silent & live auction, Tom Bozigian & his band and Artur's Armenian Dance Troupe. To RSVP or for more information, call 949-933-4069, email leslie@eyecareproject.com or visit eyecareproject.com/25th-anniversary-gala/

MASSACHUSETTS

OCTOBER 13-14 - St. James 70th Annual Bazaar 11am-8pm Delicious Armenian Food and Pastries. Silent Auction, Attic Treasures, Booths and Vendors. Super Raffle (Apple Products, Electronics, and Children's Prizes), \$100 Raffle and Children's Activities. St. James Armenian Church - 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. Sponsorship opportunities available. For more information contact 617.923.8860 or at www.stjameswatertown.org/bazaar

OCTOBER 14 — Armenian Friends of America, Inc. Present HYE KEF 5 Dance Featuring: ONNIK DINKJIAN. 7 p.m. - Midnight, 123 Old River Road • Andover. AFA room rates until 9/16/17 • Call 978-975-3600 • Cash Bar Only. \$65.00, \$50 for Students 21 and under. Continuous Buffet 7:30 - 9:30 pm. Advance tickets only. John Arzigian - 603-560-3826, Lucy Sirmaian - 978-683-9121, Peter Gulezian - 978-375-1616, Sharké Der Apkarian - 978-808-0598, To Benefit: The Armenian Churches of the Merrimack Valley (St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church of N. Andover, The Armenian Apostolic Church at Hye Pointe, Haverhill, Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church of Chelmsford, Ararat Armenian Congregational Church of Salem, NH) www.ArmenianFriendsOfAmerica.org. John Berberian / Oud, Mal Barsamian / Clarinet, Ara Dinkjian / Keyboard, Ron Tutunjian / Dumbeg

OCTOBER 15 — "Hidden Treasure" Concert: An undiscovered repertoire of classical music of the Caucasus. With Nuné Melik, violin, and Michel-Alexandre Broekaert, piano, Sunday, Armenian Museum of America, 65 Main St., Watertown, Adele and Haig Der Manuelian Galleries, 3rd floor. 2 p.m. Cosponsored by the Composers Union of Armenia and funded by the Dadourian Foundation. Admission is free.

OCTOBER 15 — 4th Annual Trinity Tailgate, New England Patriots vs. New York Jets, sponsored by the Trinity Men's Union of Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 12:15 p.m., Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge. All are invited to a tailgate party to watch the game, 1 p.m. kick-off, on a 12-foot high-definition screen. Lots of food, beverages and snacks. Silent Auction of 2 tickets to the December 31, 2017 Patriots vs Jets Game, 1 p.m. kick-off. For further information, call the Holy Trinity Church Office, 617.354.0632.

OCTOBER 19 — The Battle of Bash Aparan. Lecture by Dr. Dikran Kaligian. Presented by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research and the Armenia Tree Project. At NAASR, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 22 — Annual Banquet Celebrating the 56th Anniversary of Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston and Honoring Aram Hintlian, as Parishioner of the Year, Sunday, 12:15 p.m., Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge. During the Banquet, recognition will also be given to outgoing Parish Council member Jack Ekchian. Dinner donation is \$40; children under 12, \$20. Seating is by advance paid reservation only with a RSVP deadline of October 18. For further information, call the Holy Trinity Church Office, 617.354.0632, or log onto <http://www.htaac.org/calendar/event/464/>

OCTOBER 26 — Annual Fall Dinner and Drawing sponsored by the Friends of Holy Trinity 1000 Club, 6:30 p.m., Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. All are invited, and you don't have to be a member of the 1000 Club to join us for a delicious losh kebab and pilaf dinner; \$9.99 per person; tickets on sale at the door. Regular monthly raffle drawing at 8 p.m., plus five \$25 door prizes. "One-time" numbers will be sold on the night of dinner; special offer: purchase five "one-time" numbers for \$20, save \$5. For further info, contact the Holy Trinity Church office, 617.354.0632, or email office@htaac.org.

NOVEMBER 2 — Thursday: Symposium on Armenian Issues in the International Press. "Journalism and "Fake News": The Armenian Genocide and Karabagh. Journalism is changing at a rapid pace. Join the Armenian Mirror-Spectator along with Robert Fisk from Beirut, Lebanon, David Barsamian, Philip Terzian and Amberin Zaman to discuss the issues facing journalism today and their impact on the Armenian Case. Wellesley College, Alumnae Hall Ballroom, 106 Central Street, Wellesley, MA. Doors open at 6:00 pm, Program starts 7:00 pm. Reception to follow, free admission.

NOVEMBER 3 - 85th Anniversary Benefit Gala of the Armenian Mirror-Spectator, the first English-language Armenian newspaper in the United States. Boston Marriott Hotel, 2345 Commonwealth Ave. Newton, MA. Reception, Meet the Awardees | 6:30 PM; Dinner and Program, 7:30 PM. 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award to Robert Fisk, Journalist, Middle East correspondent for *The Independent* of London based in Beirut, seven time recipient of British Press Awards' Reporter of the Year; 2017 Excellence Awards to David Barsamian, founder and director of Alternative Radio, and Amberin Zaman, columnist for Diken and Al Monitor, former Turkey correspondent for *The Economist*. Mistress of Ceremonies Anaide Nahikian, Leader, Advanced Training Program at Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Entertainment, 12 Musicians of Black Sea Salsa. For Reservations please call Aram Arkun (917) 743-9005 (cell), Email: tcadirector@aol.com.

NOVEMBER 3-4 — 61st annual St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church Bazaar. Friday and Saturday. Come with family and friends for delicious chicken, beef and losh kebab, kuftah and kheyma dinners, pastries and specialty gourmet items. Handmade arts and crafts, White Elephant table and ever popular silent and live auction items. Visit the church's website, www.soorpstepanors.org for menus, pastry and gourmet items. Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, 47 Nichols Ave., Watertown. Admission is free.

NOVEMBER 3 and 4 — Annual Autumnfest Bazaar sponsored by the Armenian Church at Hye Pointe, at our new location 1280 Boston Road, (Rte 125) Bradford MA, Friday 12 - 7 pm and Saturday 12 - 7 pm. Lamb, Losh, Chicken Kebab and Kheyma. Dinners served all day. Pastry table, Armenian cuisine, gift baskets, raffles for cash and prizes. For more info, visit www.hypeointearmenianchurch.org or call (978) 372-9227.

NOVEMBER 10 — Benefit dinner for Armenia Tree Project's 100th anniversary living memorial to General Dro and the Battle of Bash Aparan, Friday, presented by ATP and the Kanayan Family. Armenian American Social Club, Watertown. 7:30 p.m. \$75 per person. Call (617) 926-8733 or info@armeniatree.org to reserve your seat.

NOVEMBER 12 — From Armenia to Boston for the first time. Beloved singer RUBEN SASUNCI, live in concert with the Sayat Nova Dance Company of Boston (SNDC). Sunday, at 4 p.m. at Shaw Auditorium - Watertown High School, 50 Columbia St. Tickets: \$45 and \$35 to be reserved from front to back, in the order calls are received. For tickets and info, please call Mike Demirchian (617) 240-8266 or Vrej Ashjian at (339) 222-3429.

NOVEMBER 18 — The Armenian Women's Welfare Association's 41st Annual Luncheon/Auction will be held at the Oakley Country Club, 410 Belmont Street, Watertown on Saturday, at 11 a.m. Ticket price is \$75. Proceeds to benefit the mission of the AWWA, which include the Armenian Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Jamaica Plain and the Hanganak NGO Clinic in Stepanakert, N-K, Armenia. For more information about this event, please call Stephanie Ciccolo at 617-522-2600.

NOVEMBER 19 — The Westin Waltham Boston Hotel, Project SAVE will celebrate with a Thanks Giving brunch event to honor Founder Ruth Thomasian's vision and 42 years of service and to acknowledge the many volunteers, photo donors and supporters who have contributed to Project SAVE. An event for the community to come together and celebrate as we look ahead to the future. For more information call 617-923-4542 or email: archives@projectsave.org.

DECEMBER 17 — Candlelit Labyrinth Peace Walk, Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston, 4:30 - 6 pm. Quiet holiday reflection and celebration. Tie a ribbon with your wish on the Wishing Tree. Hot Chocolate & Cookies, hosted by The Bostonian Hotel Boston All are invited. RSVP appreciated, please email hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org

MICHIGAN

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

NEW JERSEY

NOVEMBER 18 — Save the date. Gala banquet celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Tekeyan Cultural Association. At the Terrace at Biagios. 299 Paramus Road, Paramus. Featuring Elie Berberian and his band from Montreal.

NEW YORK

OCTOBER 19 — Pianist Kariné Poghosyan will perform on Thursday at 7.30 p.m., at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, 154 West 57th St., New York. The program is part of the Institute of International Social Development and the United Nations Women's Guild. Works by Beethoven, Brahms, Khachaturian and Stravinsky. Tickets \$30, and \$15 for students and seniors. For more information, visit www.carnegiehall.org or call 212-247-7800.

NOVEMBER 16 — Join Armenia Tree Project and Paros Foundation for a fundraiser to support kitchen renovations, beautification and environmental education at the school in Rind, Vayots Dzor. Featuring live performance by singer/songwriter Hooshere and silent auction featuring fine art and luxury gift items. Almayass Restaurant, 24 E 21st Street, New York. 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Donation: \$100 in advance, \$125 at door. For more information, info@armeniatree.org.

NEVADA

NOVEMBER 10-12 — Association of Armenian Church Choirs, 2017 Convention & Assembly, Las Vegas. Saint Geragos Armenian Apostolic Church, Contact: website: www.aaccwd.com • email: events@aaccwd.com. The AACCWD is an organization of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America.

PENNSYLVANIA

OCTOBER 15 — Armenian Intercommunal Committee of Philadelphia celebrating Armenian Cultural Month presents a musical program by Areni Choir at Holy Trinity Armenian Church. Sunday, 2 pm. Admission is free. Light meal will be served. 101 Ashmead Rd, Cheltenham, Holy Trinity Armenian Church, phone: 215 663-1600.

RHODE ISLAND

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

OCTOBER 22 — The Cultural Committee of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church & The Rhode Island Orthodox Clergy Fellowship presents - Spiritual Music Festival, 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary of Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church, 70 Jefferson Street, Providence.

NOVEMBER 4, 5 — Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church, Annual Food Fair & Bazaar. Saturday, 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m., Sunday, noon - 6 p.m. Shish Kebab, Kufta, Kheyma, Choreg, Yalanchi, Losh Kebab, Armenian Pastries, midia, Vosbov Kheyma, etc. Daily Raffle, Silent Auction Kids activities & Balloon Man, and much more. Cash, Check, Visa & Mastercard accepted. Call 401-272-7712 for further info.

COMMENTARY

Erdogan's Multiple Political Challenges

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Events in the Middle East are moving at a dizzying pace, and Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is in the midst of all these movements like a medieval juggler pulling tricks out of his sleeves to the amazement of his audience. All the observers wonder when his tricks will fail, but in the meantime, the master magician is still at center stage, busy churning out tricks.

All along, pundits believed that Erdogan will run out of tricks and fall flat on his face. One reason that the anticipated fall is being delayed is that Middle Eastern politics are fueling his game with new developments every day.

Domestically, he is engaged in a massive purge and witch hunt, eliminating suspected army and police officers, jailing academics and journalists at an alarming rate, accusing them of being the spies of Fetullah Gullen, an Islamic cleric living in exile in the US. Many not under arrest are worried about the prospect and are thus leaving their homeland. Allies and enemies in the West believe that Turkey will come to a grinding halt with the loss of its intellectual capital. But Erdogan is not worried; he knows that he does not need academia, an independent judiciary or press, because they will be asking questions, which the Sultan is in no mood to answer. He is solely depending on the 51 percent of the population who supported his referendum, and who are ready to waive the flags and follow the instructions of the mullahs loyal to

Erdogan does not miss any opportunity to fling caustic remarks at the US administration for providing military support to regional Iraqi Kurdistan and to the Kurds fighting in Syria to establish autonomy on the Turkish border.

Adding insult to injury, the Turkish government has aligned itself with Iran and Iraq to fight the Kurdish referendum for independence, right at the moment when President Trump is considering scrapping the Iran nuclear deal, which will result in new sanctions against Tehran.

Erdogan is also in the global political focus; while tit-for-tat diplomatic sanctions are flying between Washington and Moscow, Turkey is not only thumbing its nose at NATO allies by buying defense systems from Russia, it has joined forces with Russia and Iran to wade into the war in Syria. The Astana meeting between the three parties was an attempt to steer Washington out of the game in Syria.

When Iraqi Kurdistan held its referendum on September 25, Israel was the only country that supported the move openly. Frozen relations between Turkey and Israel had only just begun to thaw, when Erdogan threatened to refreeze them as a response to Israel's stand. However, Israel issued a stern rebuke suggesting that the country is not in the habit of formulating foreign policy under duress from a third party.

At this time, Turkey, Russia and Iran are in the process of implementing the Astana agreement, which calls for creating safe areas for the civilian population.

As always, Turkey is pursuing its own interests, under the guise of implementing the agreement. It has moved its forces near Idlib, first and foremost preventing a move from the



Erdogan. They are Erdogan's power base as he persecutes the intellectual elite and slaughters the Kurds.

He believes that once he has the backing of that fanatical constituency, he can deal with foreign threats and international and domestic challenges.

Thus, Turkey last week detained Metin Topuz, a US consulate worker on charges of having links to Fetullah Gulen's organization. An American pastor, Andrew Brunson, has been in a Turkish jail for more than a year, following the massive arrests that took place after the botched coup attempt in July. He has been arrested on trumped up charges and remains a hostage to be exchanged with Fullen if and when the US authorities extradite him. As a reprisal, the US cancelled the non-immigrant visa regime, to which Turkey reciprocated. And the tension continues rising.

These arrests have been reckless politically, as they taunt a longtime ally, and yet they are deliberate, as Turkey wants to thumb its nose at the US. In addition, Turkey, the NATO pivot, has struck a deal for military hardware with Russia, giving rise to louder voices to abandon the Incirlik base in Turkey. The German fleet did just that, leaving for Jordan, following the restriction of access imposed on them in Incirlik.

Kurds. "When we don't go to Syria, Syria comes to us," says President Erdogan. "We will never allow a terror corridor that begins in Afrin and goes to the Mediterranean," continued Erdogan, referring to the stretch of Turkey's southern border that is controlled on the Syrian side by Kurdish fighters and Tahrir al-Sham.

Reuters comments that Turkey has been one of the biggest supporters of rebels fighting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad during the six-and-a-half-year war, but its focus has moved from ousting him to securing its own border against jihadist and Kurdish groups.

Turkey is waging a three-pronged war against the Kurds; slaughtering PKK militants within its borders, opposing the formation of a Kurdish enclave in Syria and joining forces with Baghdad and Tehran to undermine the independence move in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Erdogan has global ambitions, which can only be achieved through long-lasting and permanent relations with other nations, while he has been resorting to ephemeral deals keeping moving targets on the horizon.

It will take some time for his tricks will fail and his fall will be spectacular as his rise.

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EDITOR
Alin K. Gregorian

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR
Marc Mgrditchian

SENIOR EDITORIAL COLUMNIST:
Edmond Y. Azadian

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

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

Contributing Photographers:
Jacob Demirdjian and Jirair Hovsepian

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

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FAX: 617-924-2887

www.mirrorspectator.com

E-Mail: editor@mirrorspectator.com

For advertising: mirrorads@aol.com

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



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Absurd Propagandist for Azerbaijan Blames California Armenians

Not a week passes without another propagandist for Azerbaijan writing anti-Armenian disinformation against either Armenia or the Diaspora.

The latest such article was written by Andrew Korybko, an unknown individual described as an “American Moscow-based political analyst.” We don’t know what education or background qualifies him as an “analyst” on the Armenian Diaspora to make false accusations on the basis of the little he seems to know. One gets the impression that Korybko’s article is not simply the result of his ignorance, but a deliberate effort arranged by entities that are not difficult to guess.

Korybko’s article, published by the Center for Research on Globalization, Canada, is titled: “The US-Based Armenian Lobby is on a Mission to Provoke Azerbaijan and Russia.” Even from the title, it is obvious that the author is trying to incite a conflict between Russia and Armenians, whereas in reality, there is no such conflict. A note at the end of the article indicates that the article was “originally written for the ‘Moscow-Baku.ru’ online information portal,” which provides a clear evidence of who the author is trying to please.

In his first paragraph, Korybko attacks the Armenians of California for their extreme nationalism and working for the United States against the interests of Armenia. Of course,

none of these statements is true. The author’s aim is to start a baseless controversy. Here is the first paragraph of Korybko’s faulty commentary:

“One of the most influential weapons that Armenia has in its foreign policy toolkit is its US-based diaspora lobby in California, which supports their homeland’s most nationalistic and firebrand policies. Instead of behaving as a responsible and pragmatic instrument of the Armenian government in what could have been a calculated policy to balance between Great Powers, it’s oftentimes the case that the roles are reversed and Yerevan is used as an instrument and tool of the US-based Armenian lobby in working against the country’s national interests in order to promote the US. All states aspire for their people to build robust and influential diaspora communities abroad, but the Armenian one is heavily politicized and regularly exerts negative influence on Yerevan in order to bring it under further American control.”

First of all, California Armenians neither try nor have the power to influence the policies of the Republic of Armenia. Secondly, anyone who has the slightest knowledge of Armenian-Americans knows that they are often quite critical of United States relations with Turkey, position on Nagorno-Karabagh (Artsakh), and Turkey’s undue influence on U.S. government leaders who refuse to use the term ‘Armenian Genocide.’ Therefore, it is completely untrue that California Armenians blindly serve the interests of the United States.

Korybko then blames “the US-based diaspora” for taking a congressional delegation in mid-September, not only to Armenia, but “whisked off on a highly-publicized visit to the occupied regions of Western Azerbaijan.” By describing the Republic of Artsakh as “the occupied regions of Western Azerbaijan,” Korybko makes amply clear whose interests he is serving. Strangely, the author goes on to describe the congressional visit, not only as a pro-American move, but “to Russia’s overall strategic detriment.” Thus, Korybko is accusing Armenian-Americans of undermining Russian interests in Armenia which is totally untrue because they have neither the wish nor the ability to undermine Russia. The author is

simply showing who his second master is, in addition to Azerbaijan.

Korybko then resorts to an extreme exaggeration by fabricating the following untrue scenario about Armenian-Americans: “In fact, they want to do everything that they can to ruin the historic Russian-Armenian friendship in their feverish attempt to tear Yerevan away from Moscow and bring it under Washington’s proxy tutelage.”

To back up his fake claim, the author mentions that complaints by citizens of Armenia last month about a government official’s announcement to provide more support to Russian language programs “closely aligns with the position pushed forth by some elements of the US-based diaspora and their American-linked associates in Armenia.” The fact is that not a single person in the entire diaspora said one critical word about the Russian language. Korybko then resorts to another unwarranted exaggeration by claiming that the Armenian Education Ministry “felt pressured to cave in to their diaspora’s demands and reaffirm that Armenian is the only national language in the country.... Whether he intended or not, [Education Minister Levon] Mkrtchyan fell into the information warfare trap laid out for him by the cunning minds organizing the US-based diaspora’s political activities.” This is yet another pure invention by the author.

Exceeding all logical bounds, Korybko alleges that “the Armenian lobby in the US is very similar to the Gulenists in Turkey, in that they represent a shadowy power network with a concrete geopolitical agenda advanced through manipulative means, and both serve the interests of Washington against their homelands.” Korybko with a completely erroneous conclusion claims that “the US-based Armenian lobby is getting dangerously close to seizing full control over their homeland’s foreign policy.”

There are other falsifications in Korybko’s article too numerous to mention. Whoever commissioned this article must realize that such authors, by their ridiculous falsehoods, are causing more damage to the interests of their paymasters than the Armenian community in California.

Armenia’s European Checkpoint



By Hayk Demoyan

On November 24 of this year, Armenia is going to sign an accord with the European Union during the EU summit in Brussels. Although some may call it a moment of truth, one should foresee that any move towards closer European integration is not an easy one for Armenia. It definitely will be monitored by Moscow, which will apply heavy pressure.

It was such pressure earlier which led President Serzh Sargsyan to decide ad hoc to turn Armenia’s move towards European integration in the opposite direction. This happened on September 3, 2013, when it was declared that Armenia would join the Eurasian Economic Union. Such a decision saddened many in Armenia and in Europe, since the country, at least within the last decade, was declaring that European integration is a dominant paradigm among Armenian foreign policy priorities.

What we see now from the EU is a policy of offering added incentives in order to keep Armenia motivated for closer relations with the EU – no doubt, at the expense of Armenia’s Eurasian preferences. The recent statement of Piotr Switalski, the head of the EU delegation in Armenia, should be understood in this context. He suggested that Armenian officials be prepared for a visa-free agreement between EU countries and Armenia. The West tries to synchronize its offers to official Yerevan, naturally targeting the latter’s heavy dependence on Russia.

Quite recently, Richard Mills, the US ambassador to Armenia, stated that Armenia had great potential for developing renewable energy, adding that “there were prospects for investing 8 billion US dollars as part of cooperation in this field.” While making such an unprecedented statement, the American diplomat also stressed that the US Embassy could not guarantee the implementation of investments if Armenia failed to show its

attractiveness to US investors, and “ensure equal rules to all players.” Official Yerevan reacted to such a proposal with silence.

If one wants to count the Eurasian “blessings” of Armenia since the very moment the country joined this organization, then it becomes obvious that since 2013 Armenia secured and even institutionalized the status of a “geopolitical hostage” country while in the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). This new club of former Soviet republics is in a friendlier and closer partnership with Azerbaijan than with its natural ally, Armenia. This is obvious even from the position of Russia, which is still supplying modern weaponry to Azerbaijan. To the protests from Yerevan, Moscow gives a bizarre excuse: “If we do not sell to them, then they can buy it from other sources.”

Note that last year’s escalation also occurred on Armenia’s border with Azerbaijan, when several Armenian citizens were killed. The new escalation only led to a muted reaction by the secretary of the Collective Defense Agreement Organization (CDAO), while Azerbaijan still continues to receive modern weaponry from Russia and strengthen its military potential. Without a doubt, such supplies played a crucial role in pushing Azerbaijan to its April 2016 escalation. The heavy fighting, despite its local nature, occurred only 100 miles away from the Russian border with Azerbaijan.

The question of who pushed Baku into an adventurist blitzkrieg attempt, and for what reason, can be judged from ongoing developments.

The escalation on the contact zone of Azerbaijan and Artsakh in early April 2016 was unprecedented since the 1994 ceasefire, causing deaths or injuries to hundreds of Armenian servicemen. It raised the security guarantee issue for Armenia once again, and questioned the status reserved for Armenia in CDAO, particularly for Russia. The massacre of the Armenian family in Gyumri by Russian conscript Valery Permyakov in early 2015 and the April war of 2016, together with subsequent mentor-like reactions from Moscow to Armenian protests, made it obvious that the image of Russia heavily lost its value as security guarantor at various levels of Armenian society, which traditionally praised such a status for the northern power.

Yes, historically Russia has a special image in the perception of Armenians, primarily in the strictly-defined identity of protector and guarantor of the security of Armenians. But decomposition of that image occurs not because of external involvement in Armenian society, but due to periodical official statements from Moscow, causing a

natural reaction in Armenia. A new harsh reaction ensued after the suggestion from Moscow to make Russian the second official language in Armenia in order to obtain the necessary driving licenses for Armenian truck drivers crossing the Russian border.

The Ministry of Education of Armenia was forced to follow this instruction, though Russian was not made the second official language, in adopting a document to improve the teaching of Russian in the Armenian schools. The aforementioned does not necessarily mean the existence of anti-Russian sentiments and hatred in Armenia. Not at all. We simply conclude that the level of pro-Russian sentiments and attitudes in the last two years declined unprecedentedly, which for Moscow is a bad sign, but one with which it must deal. Any other arrogant policies could lead toward a constant and firm position of absolute distrust towards Russian policies concerning Armenia with further consequences.

It is clear that instead of making Armenia its natural ally and role model for others to show what could and should be a strategic partnership with Russia, Moscow has decided to weaken and marginalize the Armenian state in order to secure effective control over its Caucasian partner and not to let her go to European embraces.

Today Russia controls almost everything in Armenia, leaving less space to Armenia to be a sole decision maker in major external and internal issues. The critical level of such control brought further marginalization and polarization of the relations between society and the ruling elite in Armenia. Armenia’s membership in CDAO and the Eurasian Economic Union so far did not prove itself as a security guarantee, considering Russia’s military supplies to Azerbaijan and Turkey while both countries continue to block Armenia. Secondly, the new integration did not lead to ending the economic stagnation of the country and a reduction in poverty.

Will the EU try to appear as a security guarantor instead for Armenia sandwiched in-between Turkey and Azerbaijan? Most probably not. At least there are no indications to think otherwise. But the European track for a shattered Armenian statehood is important for crucial counterbalancing. The leaders of Armenia have to show the political will to not be afraid of it.

Although the main text of the Armenia-EU agreement is not public, one of the good signs of real interest towards European integration by the Armenian side would be to accept the principles of the resolution on “Europe Reunited: Promoting Human Rights and Civil Liberties in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in

Europe (OSCE) region in the 21st Century,” adopted in Vilnius in 2009, which appeared as a united European stand condemning totalitarianism. The resolution states that “in the twentieth century European countries experienced two major totalitarian regimes, Nazi and Stalinist, which brought about genocide, violations of human rights and freedoms, war crimes and crimes against humanity,” urges all OSCE member countries to take a “united stand against all totalitarian rule from whatever ideological background,” and condemns “the glorification of the totalitarian regimes, including the holding of public demonstrations glorifying the Nazi or Stalinist past.”

It would be more than appropriate if the Armenian parliament adopts a resolution on the condemnation of Stalinist and totalitarian crimes 80 years after the major Stalinist purges started, which resulted in the persecution and destruction of tens of thousands of Armenians in 1930s and 1940s. Such a resolution could be also a signal of the readiness for an independent move towards Europe, but not one based on the principle of “one step forward, two steps backward.”

After all this, a crucial question remains: who is the guarantor of Armenia’s security? No one except Armenia’s citizens, its army, and motivated compatriots in its diaspora. It is perfectly clear that the main threat from the outside is doubled by internal disturbances and drastic polarization of Armenian society and ruling power. This makes the country more vulnerable. It is high time to take real steps for real results in fighting corruption, limiting foreign dependence and eliminating the consequences of disastrous elections, which shook the very foundation and essence of the Armenian statehood.

The sooner the further and fatal consequences of the existing situation will be understood, the better for the future of Armenia.

(Dr. Hayk Demoyan is a US Fulbright visiting scholar at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies of Harvard University. He is researching identity transformation processes in the South Caucasus. From 2006 to 2017, he held the position of director of the Armenian Genocide

Museum and Institute in Yerevan. Demoyan remains the head of the scientific council of the latter. He is also a chief editor of the International Journal of Armenian Genocide Studies published starting in 2014. The views and opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author.)



Acting Legend John Malkovich Arrives in Armenia

YEREVAN (Panorama/Panarmenian.am) – American actor, producer, director and scriptwriter John Malkovich arrived in Armenia on Monday, October 9, to attend the opening ceremony of the fifth Aram Khachaturian International Festival, which was scheduled to take place on October 11.

The Hollywood star was scheduled to perform at Aram Khachaturian Grand Concert Hall with the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia under the baton of Sergey Smbatyan at the opening of the festival.

Malkovich performed a chapter from Ernesto Sabato's novel *On Heroes and Tombs* jointly performed with the *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra* by Alfred Schnittke, one of the most eminent musical figures of the second half of the 20th century. The pianist is Anastasya Terenkova.

John Malkovich performed the work for the first time in Seoul 2015 and later on in Buenos Aires in 2016, he said.

"I have used an adopted chapter from



John Malkovich meets with President Serzh Sargsyan.



John Malkovich in Armenia

Ernesto Sabato's *On Heroes and Tombs* novel in the text. The part that I have taken is called Report on the Blind," he detailed.

Malkovich said he has already performed eight pieces with classical musicians and has had fantastic experiences, enjoying the collaboration with them.

"The music, on its own, has kind of universal power, especially live music and classical music," the artist said.

Speaking about his choices of literary works and the worldwide interest towards literature, he said: "When I listen to a piece, I have to listen to it many, many times before I can say, ok, with that piece of music I think I will try to pair this text. The text cannot really compete with music, it kind of has to slide between music and complement music. It is a difficult task to pair the text with music. In a piece like this, your aim is to make the two forms of art complete each other."

In response to a question which is the quarantine of eternity for good music, film or a work of art, the actor said: "Those works are eternal that deeply touch human beings."

On Tuesday, he met with President Serzh Sargsyan.

The president said it's a great pleasure to host the talented artist in a country that deeply values the power of art, and whose people have been able to create an incredible cultural heritage and make a unique contribution to the development of global civilization.

"I know the Armenian audience will have the privilege to enjoy your performance which will forever be imprinted on their minds," Sargsyan said, expressing hope that Malkovich will have the chance to know Armenia and its rich legacy better.

Malkovich said he was looking forward to his performance for the Armenian audience.

Also on Tuesday, Malkovich visited the Armenian Genocide memorial in Yerevan to pay tribute to the memory of 1.5 million victims.



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OSCE Representative on Media Freedom Stresses Significance of Reporters' Work in Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Representative on Freedom of the Media Harlem Désir released a statement on his visit to Armenia. During meetings, Désir underscored the need to continue the cooperation between his office and Armenia to promote the freedom of the media.

"Journalists have the right and duty to report freely. This includes reporting on rallies and demonstrations. The police and the judiciary should take all necessary measures to protect journalists and other media actors, and effectively prevent crimes against them," Désir said. "Addressing the safety of journalists requires a systematic approach and strong political will. My office stands ready to assist on this very important issue," he said.

Désir met with Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian, Justice Minister Davit Harutyunyan, Human Rights Defender (Ombudsman) Arman Tatoyan, Head of the Police Headquarters Hovhannes Kocharyan, and members of the executive management of the Public Service Broadcaster Margarita Grigoryan and Mark Grigoryan.

He also raised concerns about the planned amendments to the country's Freedom of Information Law, stressing the need to avoid any risk of limiting citizens' existing right to access to information.