



Estate of Dr. Nubar Berberian Requests \$340,000 to Tekeyan Cultural Association

WATERTOWN – The estate of the late Dr. Nubar Berberian has bequeathed a sum of \$340,000 to the Tekeyan Cultural Association, Inc. (TCA). The Central Board of Directors of the TCA decided to establish the Dr. Nubar Berberian Trust Fund and carry out his wishes as expressed in his will by publishing a volume of Dr. Berberian’s Armenian-language articles and editorials. It will also use the interest annually from the bequest to provide awards to college students of Armenian descent who major in either international law or political science and who are born or live in the United States, France, Egypt or Armenia.

Berberian, a noted journalist and Armenian activist, passed away on November 23, 2016, after a brief illness. He was 94. see BEQUEST, page 20



Jewish and Armenian Artifacts on Display Jointly at Manoogian Museum

By Alice Nigoghosian

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. – The year 2017 marks the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum. In honor of this anniversary, as well as 2016 being the year when initial appointments were made to the Michigan Governor’s Council on Holocaust and Genocide Education to provide guidance in developing an appropriate curriculum to be taught in Michigan schools, the museum embarked on a special exhibit featuring Jewish and Armenian artifacts from the collection of James and Ana Melikian of Scottsdale, Ariz.

More than 200 people from both communities attended a preview of the collection at the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum, hosted by the Museum and Chairman Richard Manoogian of the Armenian Apostolic Society.

Mistress of Ceremonies Elizabeth Brazilian (of Child Safe Michigan) introduced Manoogian, who thanked everyone



Robert Taubman and Doreen Hermelin (Honorary Vice-President of World ORT)

for coming and remembered his parents by stating “how proud they would be of this moment as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Manoogian Museum....” and also recognized “the collaborative efforts of the Jewish and Armenian communities to incorporate the histories of the Genocide and Holocaust in the State of

Michigan’s education curriculum.”

Brazilian introduced Keith Pomeroy, chairman of Pomeroy Financial Services and Pomeroy Investment Company, and also a founding member of MOCAD (Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit), to speak on behalf of the Jewish community. see MUSEUM, page 5

Reclaiming the Good Name of Liman von Sanders

By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

BERLIN – On November 4, retired Gen. Eckhard Lisec delivered a lecture in Darmstadt, Germany entitled, “Marshall Liman von Sanders – An Honorable Soldier?” The question mark reflects the doubt cast on the role of the German First World War commander by authorities of the city Darmstadt, where von Sanders is buried. Until 2015 he had been given a “grave of honor” in the historic cemetery, but then the city decided to remove the designation, on grounds that military achievements alone (he see VON SANDERS, page 4

Sheriff Koutoujian Participates in Armenian Church Clergy Webinar Focused on Opioid Crisis

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian discussed local efforts to address the opioid crisis during a webinar for Armenian Church clergy on Tuesday, October 31. The sheriff spoke from Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Cambridge, where he joined other presenters for the live webinar viewed by participants in several states in the eastern United States.

Koutoujian was invited to participate in the webinar by clergy officials to present on the Middlesex Sheriff’s Office efforts to assist individuals in the justice system with opioid use disorders.

“I want to thank the church and all the organizers for putting together this critical see WEBINAR, page 8



Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian addresses members of the clergy in the Armenian Church.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Armenia to Offer Lemkin Scholarships to Foreign Students

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) – The Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute announced this week that it was offering the 2018 Lemkin Scholarship program for foreign students and PhD candidates.

The Lemkin scholarship is intended to enable foreign students and young scientists, who specialize in genocide studies, especially in the Armenian Genocide, to visit Armenia for a month to conduct research in local scientific institutions and libraries.

The Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute will provide researchers possibility to carry out their research in AGMI, including necessary research materials and consultation.

The deadline for application is on December 15. The winner will be selected by the Scientific Council of the AGMI on December 25.

Saryan Exhibit Opens In Moscow

MOSCOW (Armenpress) – An exhibition of works by Martiros Saryan’s opened on November 16 on the occasion of “Armenian Culture Days in Russia” at Moscow’s Tretyakov Gallery.

The exhibition is held in the sidelines of the Armenian Culture Days in Russia, in which 30 works by Saryan will be exhibited. The opening took place with the participation of the presidents of Armenia and Russia, Serzh Sargsyan and Vladimir Putin. The exhibition will remain on display until January 14, 2018. On the same day, the unveiling of Saryan’s Memorial Plaque was held in Moscow.

Komitas, Tumanyan Comemmorations in UNESCO Calendar

PARIS – The 150th anniversaries of the birth of Komitas and Hovhannes Tumanyan have been included in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) calendar of celebrations for 2018-2019.

The decision was adopted at the 39th session of the UNESCO General Conference. The Executive Board approved the proposal submitted by Armenia with the support of France and Germany. Sghomon Sghomonian, known as Komitas Vardapet, composer, ethnomusicologist, researcher and singer (1869-1935).

The nomination of poet, writer and translator Hovhannes Tumanyan (1869- 1923) was submitted by Armenia with the support of Georgia and the Russian Federation.

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Gorky Landscapes

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

EU Appoints New Special Rep. for South Caucasus

YEREVAN (Panorama.am) – The European Council appointed this week Toivo Klaar as EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia.

Klaar's task will be to contribute to a peaceful settlement of conflicts in the region, namely the crisis in Georgia and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, as well as to encourage regional cooperation. In particular, the Special Representative co-chairs and participates on behalf of the EU in the Geneva International Discussions on the consequences of the 2008 conflict in Georgia.

According to the source, Klaar is currently Head of the Central Asia Division at the European External Action Service (EEAS) and prior to this appointment served as Head of the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia. He is a senior diplomat with extensive experience both in the EEAS and in the Estonian diplomatic service.

Toivo Klaar succeeds Ambassador Herbert Salber (of German nationality), who had held the post since July 8, 2014.

Diabetes Nears Epidemic Proportions in Armenia, Endocrinologist Says

YEREVAN (Panorama.am) – Diabetes and heart disease are not only major public health problems globally but also in Armenia. The country ranked third for the number of deaths attributed annually to them, Chief endocrinologist of Armenian Ministry of Healthcare Edward Toromanyan said at a press conference on November 14.

Toromanyan said data suggesting the number of people with diabetes is around 400 million in the world and likely to increase with the growing incidence of Type 2 Diabetes.

"The same rates are true for Armenia. In 2000, 40,000 people were diagnosed with diabetes, while the number has doubled today with around 83,000 patients registered in the dispensary. According to our estimates, the number will surpass 90,000 with the ongoing annual rate of 7-8,000 diagnosed with diabetes," Toromanyan said.

Diabetes is approaching epidemic proportions considering the rapid rate of spread of the disease, Toromanyan said.

Indian Citizens to Enter Armenia with Facilitated Visa Regime

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The citizens of India will be able to receive entry visa of Armenia at border checkpoints, by electronic visa system or at the diplomatic representations or consular offices of Armenia in foreign countries. The draft decision was included in the agenda of the Cabinet's November 16 meeting. According to the bill, the facilitation of the visa regime with India will foster touristic flows to Armenia. At the same time an agreement has been reached between the leaderships of the two countries to expand cooperation in different spheres, diversify economic relations and to foster tourism.

Four Armenian Freestyle Wrestlers to Take Part in U-23 World Championships

WARSAW, Poland (Panorama.am) – The Armenian national freestyle wrestling team is set to take part in U-23 World Championships to be held from November 21-26 in Poland. As the National Olympic Committee (ANOC) reported, the Armenian team is represented by four athletes - Gevorg Tadevosyan (57kg), Ghazar Hambardzumyan (61kg), Khachatur Papikyan and Hrayr Alikhanyan (74kg).

National team head coach Habetnak Kurghunyan said that the athletes are in good physical condition and that the World Championships will provide a

Zabel Yessayan Legacy Taking Root in Artsakh

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. and STEPANAKERT – Thanks to the Artsakh Human Rights Essay and the Graphic Design t-shirt contests, young people in Artsakh are discovering the legacy of Zabel Yessayan, the Armenian author and human rights activist.

Born in 1878 in Constantinople, Yessayan played an important role in the tumultuous events shaping Armenian history in the first part of the 20th century. The contests are organized by Ruben Melikyan, the Ombudsman for Artsakh, Korioun Khatchadourian from TUMO Stepanakert, and Judith Saryan from Cambridge, Mass.

On November 8, TUMO Stepanakert announced the winner of the graphic design t-shirt contest. The winning entry was designed by Astghik Simonyan of Stepanakert. She created a stylized image of Yessayan's face on the front of the t-shirt. Below it she printed Yessayan's quote, "Literature is not an ornament, a pleasant pastime, a pretty flower. Literature is a weapon to struggle against Injustice." Simonyan designed a geometric pomegranate symbolizing Artsakh to adorn the back of the shirt.

The winners of the human rights essay contest based on the legacy of Yessayan will be announced on December 10, International Human Rights Day.

Yessayan attracted a lot of attention during her lifetime, but she disappeared without a trace in a Soviet prison in the 1940s. Starting 15 years



Astghik Simonyan of Stepanakert with her winning t-shirt design featuring the face and a quotation from Zabel Yessayan

ago, her story resurfaced with the works of Lerna Ekmekcioglu and Melissa Bilal and the documentary, "Finding Zabel Yessayan." Ever since then, Yessayan's books have been translated into English, French, Turkish and Italian. The mayor of Paris announced that a street was recently named after her, a group of women in Turkey created a

play about her life and works, and researchers are combing through her archives in Yerevan to learn more about this brilliant and courageous woman.

The Tufenkian Foundation and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) are co-sponsoring the Human Rights Essay contest based on the legacy of Yessayan.

Russian-Armenian Tycoon-Led Group Pledges Sizable Investment in Armenia

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – The Tashir group of companies owned by Russia-based billionaire Samvel Karapetian together with the Armenian Investors Club and international financial institutions intends to invest about \$1 billion in Armenia's energy sector over the next few years. This announcement was made in Yerevan on Monday, November 13, during the launch of the investment project that was also attended by Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan.

During the event, the speakers gave details of resources and ways of implementing the investment program, as well as how realistic it was, the presidential press service reported.

In attendance were representatives of Tashir Group's international financial partners and other organizations. At the end of the presentation, a document signing ceremony was held between Tashir Company, the Electric Networks of Armenia (ENA) Company that belongs to Tashir Group and their financial partners.

According to the report, Sargsyan also attended the opening of a center for excellence at the State Engineering University of Armenia (SEUA) established with the investments of the internationally renowned French company, Schneider Electric, the Tashir group of companies and the SEUA.

Accompanied by the minister of education and science, the SEUA rector, the president of the Tashir group of companies, top executives from the ENA and Cascade Energy companies, the president of Armenia toured the newly opened Innovation Center to inspect the activities of the High and Medium Voltage Distribution Laboratory, the Training Center for Automated Registration and Control System and the facilities available in the auditoriums.

Sargsyan was briefed on the main results expected from the introduction

of the new system. Dozens of students and young researchers were said to be able to develop their professional skills and get acquainted with modern technologies in the field of energy and automation. The Center will also promote the development of science and technology, as well as knowledge-based industry in Armenia.

Within the framework of the project, the Tashir charitable foundation will provide scholarships to 55 students with excellent academic performance at the Energy and Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Transport

Systems and Design institutes in the academic year of 2016-2017.

After visiting the SEUA President Sargsyan reportedly joined the mayor of Yerevan, the minister of economic development and investments, other government officials and guests to attend the launch of another Tashir Group project – the opening of the Russian Rio network-affiliated trade and entertainment center in the Arabkir administrative district of Yerevan. The nearly \$40 million-worth project is expected to generate 500 new jobs.



WASHINGTON – Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) of Armenia Executive Director Gayane Muradyan is visiting the US to attend the TCA Greater New York gala on November 18. Before going to New York, Muradyan toured Washington, DC, where she met with Vice Ambassador of Armenia Hratchia Tashjian on Tuesday, November 14 at the Armenian Embassy.



INTERNATIONAL

Was Flynn Working for Turkish Government to Kidnap Gulen in US?

By Cristina Maza

WASHINGTON (*Newsweek*) – Turkish officials have vehemently denied allegations that they offered to pay President Donald Trump's former national security adviser Michael Flynn around \$15 million to forcibly extradite a Turkish cleric who has been living in the US for decades. (See related editorial on page 17.)

The *Wall Street Journal* reported on November 10 that special counsel Robert Mueller is investigating an alleged plot in which Flynn would be paid to send Fethullah Gulen, a Turkish preacher who has become an object of obsession for Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, back to Turkey. Gulen has been living in Pennsylvania since 1999, and the Obama administration resisted requests from the Turkish government to extradite him. It's still unclear how the Trump administration will respond to the requests.

Friday's report said Turkey had asked Flynn for help to have Gulen transported on a private jet to the Turkish prison island of Imrali. Unsurprisingly, Turkey characterized the allegations in a statement as "utterly false, ludicrous and groundless." But some experts say that Turkey's government would have scored political points for extraditing Gulen.

"It's not unthinkable that Turkey may have considered extrajudicial means to get hold of the cleric. Gulen's unpopularity crosses political divides back home and the capture would have pre-

sented a huge win domestically that would outweigh any international fallout," Alp Toker, the founder of Turkey Blocks, which monitors technology and politics in Turkey, told *Newsweek*.

Gulen is a 75-year-old Turkish preacher who rose to prominence in the 1970s by advocating the importance of ethics in education. His ideological movement has established private schools in 150 countries, including the United States.

Turkish President Erdogan and Gulen were close allies for decades, and the two leaders both supported Turkish nationalism and strict religiosity. But the relationship soured in 2013 after Gulen criticized the way Erdogan dealt with street protests.

Erdogan then blamed Gulen for a coup attempt that failed to depose him in 2016. Since then, the Turkish government has launched a witch hunt for "Gulenists," jailing journalists, politicians, members of the military and anyone suspected of siding with Gulen.

Around 50,000 people are in prison in Turkey and more than 100,000 civil servants have been fired from their jobs for alleged links to Gulen's network.

Flynn, a retired lieutenant general, worked for Turkey as a lobbyist while simultaneously working on the Trump campaign. He has written op-eds in favor of Gulen's extradition.

Flynn's lawyer described the allegations that his client was working to extradite Gulen as "outrageous." But in an exclusive interview with *France 24*, Gulen said he had been aware of efforts to involve Flynn.

"I learned about the report of that

meeting, that Erdogan's son-in-law met with Flynn and they paid his company a considerable sum of money," Gulen told *France 24*. "Indeed, for a person like Flynn, who served in high positions, who comes from the military and served in respectable positions, for him to accept such money – which might be considered a form of bribery – I don't think it's befitting for a person of his stature."

Gulen has said he would not flee the US if the Trump administration chose to extradite him, but experts say it's unlikely he will be extradited anytime soon.

"Both the legal and political means of the Trump administration to extradite Gulen are extremely limited, especially without substantial proof that he was directly and personally involved in the military coup attempt," Magdalena Kirchner, a fellow at the Istanbul Policy Center, told *Newsweek*. "If Turkey was seeking Flynn's assistance to kidnap or encourage the administration to interfere in judicial process, it would underline that also not everyone in Ankara is convinced that Gulen could be extradited to Turkey under current circumstances."

Flynn was one of the first people investigated by the special counsel for allegedly facilitating collusion between the Trump campaign and the Russian government during the 2016 presidential campaign. Investigators are reportedly gathering information about Flynn's lobbying work, including whether he lied to federal agents about his overseas contacts.

International News

Armenian Officials Offer Condolences to Iran

YEREVAN – Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan sent a message of condolence to his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rohani on the devastating earthquake near the Islamic Republic's border with Iraq that claimed hundreds of victims on November 13.

A magnitude 7.3 earthquake struck at Ezgeleh, in the northwestern Iranian province of Kermanshah, killing around 450 people and injuring thousands of others.

Sargsyan offered his "deepest sympathy to Iran's President and the friendly people of Iran, wishing the victims' families and relatives fortitude and courage, and to the injured a speedy recovery."

Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan also offered his thoughts to First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri. He wrote, "I was deeply grieved to learn of casualties and destruction caused by the devastating earthquake in the state of Kermanshah in the Islamic Republic of Iran. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and myself, I convey deepest condolences to you and the friendly people of Iran, expressing our readiness to engage in rescue efforts."

Similarly, Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, sent a letter to Hassan Rohani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The letter stated in part: "With great sorrow we were informed about the devastating earthquake in Iran, which has caused hundreds of deaths and injuries, leaving thousands of families homeless. Our people, who three decades ago survived this type of catastrophe, deeply share the pain of the friendly people of Iran, wishing that through your leadership and joint efforts of all the people of Iran, the damage caused by the disaster will soon be overcome and a peaceful and secure life be returned to the country."

Israel Investigating Drone Firm Accused of Bombing Armenia

TEL AVIV (Times of Israel) – Police have opened a criminal investigation against an Israeli drone manufacturer that allegedly attempted to bomb the Armenian military on behalf of Azerbaijan during a demonstration of one of unmanned aerial vehicles earlier this year.

"An investigation is ongoing against Aeronautics Defense Systems Ltd. in regards to a deal with a significant customer," police said in a statement Tuesday, November 14.

The Israel Police's Unit of International Crime Investigations, known in Hebrew by its acronym Yahbal, is leading the investigation.

News of the investigation came out on Monday, November 13, as an Israeli court approved a gag order for the case, limiting the information that can be published about it.

For instance, police would not identify the "significant customer."

In a statement, Aeronautics said it would "fully cooperate with any examination on any issue and would work to the best of its capabilities so the investigation will be as swift as possible."

The gag order shows that the company has been under investigation since at least September 4.

In late August, the Defense Ministry Defense Export Controls Agency halted Aeronautics' export license for its Orbiter 1K model UAV to a "significant customer," which the company reported to the Israeli stock exchange, as required by law.

Last year, Azerbaijan used another Israeli suicide drone, an Israeli Aerospace Industries Harop-model, in an attack on a bus that killed seven Armenians.

Simonyan Surpasses Clinton in Forbes List of Influential Women

MOSCOW (Armenpress) – Director of Russia Today news agency Margarita Simonyan has surpassed former US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton in the Forbes list of most influential women, Ria Novosti reported.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel leads the list.



The Armenian booth at the ProWine China 2017

Armenian Alcohol Firms Participate in China Expo

BEIJING (Public Radio of Armenia) – Thirteen Armenian wine, brandy and other alcoholic beverage producing companies participate in the ProWine China 2017 expo with the support of the Development Foundation of Armenia and Vine and Wine Foundation of Armenia.

Armenian wine and brandy production are presented in a single pavilion. The sector is one of the government's priorities, therefore the participation of companies with export potential has been co-financed through state support.

ProWine China took place November 14 to 16 and is the largest exhibition of the sector, with 650 companies from 37 countries participating this year, and over 12,000 importers and professionals expected to visit. The representatives of both foundations have made preliminary cognitive work with international buyer organizations and distributors, to achieve demand for Armenian products.

The Asian market is a target for Armenia, where, according to experts of two foundations, Armenian production is competitive due to the combination of

millennial traditions of winemaking and the latest technology. Today, Armenian wine and brandy are exported to over 25 countries worldwide.

The CEO of Development Foundation of Armenia, Armen Avak Avakian has mentioned: "The Asian market is a new yet perspective export direction for the Armenian companies. We have big plans: the government has created favorable conditions for winemaking and brandy, and the interest of investors and international buyers in the field is also evident. As a result, in different regions of Armenia the number of vineyards grows, new factories are established, and this direction of tourism attracts more visitors to our country".

The executive director of Vine and Wine Foundation of Armenia, Zaruhi Muradyan stated: "In the birthplace of wine, in Armenia the vitivinicultural sector is experiencing renaissance and by participating in this expo, as a country introducing the royal drink to the humanity, we once more engage in gaining world market share. Armenian wine and brandy are full of unique taste and have all the preconditions to be competitive in international market".



INTERNATIONAL

Reclaiming Good Name of Liman von Sanders

VON SANDERS, from page 1
was the “Hero of Gallipoli”) did not warrant such a commemoration. Worse, the findings issued by an experts’ committee charged with examining the issue, contained accusations that von Sanders had been implicated in the Armenian Genocide carried out by the Ottoman Empire during the war.

Lisec was the right person to address the matter. He retired recently after a long career in the German military, serving in ministerial and diplomatic capacities in Belgium and, from 2002 to 2005, as brigadier general was assistant chief of staff support of the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps in Istanbul. Sparked by curiosity, he delved into study of the history of the Ottoman Empire, beginning as a hobby in 2002, and, thanks to his newly acquired language capabilities, has been able to consult source material in Turkish as well as other languages. He said he had read more than 1,000 works on the subject since retirement.

Several books of his own are the result of this effort, ranging from a study of a century of cooperation between the German and Turkish air forces (1911-2011), to a volume entitled, *The War of Independence and the Founding of Turkey* (2016). This year, Miles-Verlag in Berlin, a publisher specializing in military studies, released his book, *The Armenian Genocide in the First World War – German Officers Involved?* And in early 2018 his newest work should appear, entitled, *History of the Turkish Army from 209 B.C. to the Present*.

The Germans’ Dilemma

German officers who had been engaged to train the Ottoman army were told by Emperor Wilhelm II to stay out of internal Turkish politics. This created a dilemma, Lisec said: should they blindly obey the emperor or should they obey their conscience? At a time when the anti-Armenian massacres were well underway, most of them obeyed their emperor. Then there were those,



Historian Fred Kautz (l.) and Gen. (ret.) Eckhard Lisec at the grave of Liman von Sanders

like General Friedrich Bronsart von Schellendorf, who did interfere or, rather, participate in Turkish internal politics, de facto supporting the deportations. Lisec showed how the command structure was supposed to function, and underlined the complexity of a situation with mixed troops and officers. In his book, he describes the “complicated situation of responsibilities and duties to obedience which ... led to conflicts between Enver Pasha and Liman von Sanders.” In addition, he showed the differing interests and viewpoints even among the three members of the Young Turk leadership.

Liman von Sanders displayed independence of judgment and action on repeated occasions. As for the military decisions, he vehemently opposed the Caucasus campaign, which in fact turned out to be a disaster.

Lisec provided several examples of instances in which Liman von Sanders followed his conscience and made the right moral decision. “His behavior was to a large extent correct,” he said. In March 1915, he refused to expel Jewish and Armenian translators from his staff, and in the following year intervened more than once to prevent or stop deportations of Greeks from Urla and from coastal regions, for example, and of Jews and Armenians from Edirne, again of Armenians from Smyrna (Izmir). In this latter case, as is known, he went so far as to threaten the Vali with the deployment of weapons to stop the deportations. And his threats were effective. It is estimated that through his forceful actions, von Sanders saved the lives of 7-8,000 Armenians. In Smyrna, thanks to the assistance he lent the governor during a

cholera epidemic, Greek lives were spared.

Citing the work of Christoph Dinkel, Lisec noted the cruel irony of the accusations made by the British, who imprisoned von Sanders in Malta, that he had been co-responsible for the genocide, when in fact he was the only officer who actually saved Greeks and Armenians.

Honor and Role Models

In the lively discussion that accompanied Lisec’s lecture, the issue of honor, especially in relation to the military, was central. One participant raised the example of British Marshall Arthur Harris, famous for the fire-bombing of Dresden in February 1945, which devastated the city and caused mass deaths of civilians. Yet in 1992, a statue was erected in London, at the RAF Church of St. Clement Danes, by something called the Bomber Harris Trust. Opponents then and now consider Harris not a hero but a war criminal.

Then there are the graves of honor, for example, in Berlin, which hosts over 500 such graves, paying tribute to statesmen, artists, poets, scientists as well as military; the Forest of Remembrance in Potsdam is dedicated to the memory of the German armed forces. Finally, there is the case of Darmstadt’s old cemetery, where military men have had their graves stripped of this honor.

Asked for his views on the matter, Lisec said that Germany is a special case, because of the Shoah. Germany started two world wars, he said, and as a result, “We have a broken military history.” In light of this, he asked, “Do we need personal role models?” He answered in the negative, suggesting instead that what are needed are “philosophical” examples.

Although the case seemed to be closed in the Darmstadt cemetery, discussion of the principle, and of the specific case of Liman von Sanders, is sure to continue and spread, thanks to Lisec’s new book and lectures. The recent talk was covered prominently in the *Darmstädter Echo*, by Rüdiger Gilbert.



The Tekeyan Armenagan Youth group visiting the Canadian parliament

Montreal Tekeyan Youth Visit Ottawa



The Tekeyan youth at the library of the Canadian parliament

OTTAWA, Canada – On October 14, a busload of Montreal Tekeyan Cultural Association’s Tekeyan Armenagan Youth and their leaders had a day outing to Ottawa. They had a sightseeing tour, visited the Canadian War Museum and had a guided tour to the Canadian parliament. They also visited the recently unveiled statue of Yousuf Karsh, in front of Laurier Hotel.

The Tekeyan youth get together regularly on Saturdays at the Montreal Tekeyan Center.



The Tekeyan youth in front of the statue of Yousuf Karsh

Community News

Holy Trinity Church Celebrates 56 Years On Brattle Street, Honors Parishioner Of the Year

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Sunday, October 22, was day of celebration, tradition and honoring those who built Holy Trinity's church on Brattle Street, a day of memories, and a day of honoring a devoted member of the Holy Trinity parish, Aram Hintlian.

The commemoration of the 56th anniversary of the consecration of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston began with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy by the Very Rev. Mesrop Parsamyan, the newly-appointed director of Ministries of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) and guest celebrant of the day. At the conclusion of services, the Grade 3 students of Holy Trinity's Sunday School were each gifted a Bible presented to them by both Parsamyan and Fr. Vasken A. Kouzouian, pastor of Holy Trinity. Receiving Bibles were Ian Burton, Rory Burton, John Esserian, Lusine Gyulkhasyan, Mary Gyulumyan, Sophia Hovnanian, Scott Rigolini and Talia Tashjian.

A celebratory banquet followed in Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall. The afternoon's program began with the invocation offered by Kouzouian. Gregory A. Kolligian, Jr., Parish Council vice chairman, served as master of ceremonies, and James M. Kalustian, Diocesan Council chairman, offered the toast. Outgoing Parish Council member, Jack Ekchian, was honored for his six years of service to Holy Trinity Church in remarks given by Daniel K. Dorian Jr., Parish Council chairman.

The highlight of the day was the honoring of Aram Hintlian as the Parishioner of the Year. Berdjouhi Parseghian, a member of the



From left, Ali, Aram, Becky and Tori Hintlian

Diocesan Ararat Center Board of Directors where he currently serves as chairman, paid tribute to his work on a Diocesan level by reading a congratulatory letter from the Board. Parsamyan read a congratulatory letter from Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate.

A touching and warm segment of the program was when Hintlian's daughters, Ali, who surprised her father and flew up from the University of Alabama for this special occasion, and Tori, expressed their love and gratitude to their dad. Dorian shared the many reasons for Hintlian's selection as this year's Parishioner of the Year. Hintlian has served as Parish Council member from 1987 to 1993; Diocesan Delegate for the past 25 years; chaired Holy Trinity's Annual Parish Assembly for the last decade; ran the Country Store booth at Holy Trinity's Christmas Bazaar since 1981; co-chaired Holy Trinity's annual Gregory Hintlian Memorial Golf Tournament since 2005; treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the Holy Trinity Trust Fund; and active Trinity Men's Union member, having served as Chairman from 1995 to 2004. A special tribute was also paid to Hintlian's wife, Becky, who is also a part of the Holy Trinity Church family. But it was Aram Hintlian himself who in his remarks brought all those present

see ANNIVERSARY, page 7



From left, Zaven Khanjian, Edward and Pamela Avedisian, honorees and Dr. Nazareth Darakjian

AMAA Centennial Banquet

A Dazzling and Memorable Celebration

TEANECK, N.J. — The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) was created a hundred years ago to help and protect survivors of the Armenian Genocide who were desperately clinging to life. From those soul-searing and heartbreaking beginnings, the AMAA within a century has mushroomed into an awesome worldwide organization focusing on education, churches, humanitarian relief and camps in 24 countries, a stupendous accomplishment.

By Florence Avakian

On Saturday evening, October 21, close to 400 enthusiastic supporters came together to celebrate this unique feat at a Centennial Banquet at the Marriott Teaneck Glenpointe, entitled "Faithful to our Legacy," and to honor AMAA philanthropists Edward and Pamela Avedisian, and Doreen and (posthumously) Charles Bilezikian.

Guests included Armenia's Ambassador to the US Grigor Hovhannissian, Armenia's Ambassador to the United Nations Zohrab Mnatsakanian and his wife, Irina, Prelacy Vicar General Bishop Anoushavan Tanielian representing the Armenian Prelate Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, and the Very Rev. Vasken Karayan representing the Armenian Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian. By e-mail, Armenian Catholic Bishop Michael Mouradian sent a congratulatory message.

Also attending were AMAA President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian and Dr. Ani Darakjian, Joyce Philibosian Stein and Joe Stein of the Stephen Philibosian Foundation, the Telfeyan Evangelical Foundation with several family members, Dr. Carnegie Calian, Badvelis (ministers) from all over the world including Canada, Europe, Armenia, the Middle East, and Australia, and representatives from the AGBU, AAHPO, Hamazkayin, Tekeyan Cultural Association, and the ARS.

Following an elegant reception, and the singing of the U.S. National Anthem by four young students from the Merdian Armenian Evangelical School of Los Angeles and the Armenian Anthem by students from the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School, Armenian Evangelical World Council President Rev. Berdj Djambazian shared an inspirational invocation. Dedicated Banquet co-chairs Dr. Celeste Telfeyan Helvacian and Dr. Nurhan Helvacian warmly welcomed the spirited crowd, briefly extolling the spectacular achievements of the 100-year-old Association.

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

Master of Ceremonies Dr. Raffy Hovanessian, a long-time activist and benefactor in the Armenian community, presented an eloquent tribute to the history of the AMAA. Quoting the Bible, he recalled that "if seeds are planted in fertile ground, it gives forth lots of fruit, ten-fold," then added, "thirty-fold, a hundred-fold."

"The AMAA for a hundred years has been planting those seeds here and all over the world. I am proud to say that I am the result of these selfless efforts," he stated, expressing his gratitude for the AMAA's superior educational benefits that he and his wife, noted art curator Vicki Shoghag Hovanessian, received during their youth.

In a sad tribute, he remembered the passing that week of one of the most stalwart AMAA members Khoren Nalbandian, and expressed sincere condolences to his wife Seta Nalbandian, an AMAA Board member.

see CENTENNIAL, page 8



Dr. Raffy Hovanessian, Master of Ceremonies

Fresno State Hosts Conference on Ottoman Minorities

By Michael Rettig

FRESNO — The Armenian Studies Program held a two-day international conference on "Armenians, Greeks and Kurds: A People's History of the Ottoman Empire" on the weekend of September 22-23. Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdchian, director of the Armenian Studies Program, and Dr. Ümit Kurt, visiting post-doctoral fellow at Harvard University, organized the conference to highlight Ottoman history from the peripheries, rather than from the position of power. Scholars presented their research on the experiences of Armenians, Greeks, and Kurds from the late 19th century to World War I.

The conference was co-sponsored by the College of Arts and Humanities and the Department of History with support from the Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation, the Leon S. Peters Foundation, and the M. Victoria Karagozian Kazan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Der Mugrdchian provided historical context to the conference in his introduction. According to him, the Tanzimat Reforms in the 19th century disrupted the balance of power between the central Ottoman government and periphery. It gave hope to the oppressed but instilled jealousy in the ruling class. Der Mugrdchian stressed the importance of reexamining the relationship between Ottoman Turks and those they ruled by mastering the languages of the people, in this case, Armenian, Greek and Kurdish.

Nilay Özok-Gündogan echoed this sentiment in her presentation, "Can One Save the Voices of the 'Ordinary' Kurds from the 'Enormous Condescension of Posterity?': Thoughts on Writing the Social History of the Kurds in the Ottoman Empire." According to Özok-Gündogan, when historians write about ordinary people, they often describe them as mobs with little agency. They overemphasize the power the Ottoman government exercised over the provinces because they "take the wording of the text for granted" rather than examine Kurdish and Armenian sources.

Varak Ketsemanian described a similar problem in his study on "The Armenian Revolutionary Movement Between Ideologies and Paradoxes: A Case Study of the Hunchakian Party Program (1890-1896)." According to him, historians too often focus on the leadership of the Armenian Revolutionary movements rather than on ordinary members. Ketsemanian examined the Hunchakian party and the paradoxes between the intellectual ideologies and realities on the ground.

Owen Miller, in his presentation on "The Colonization of the Mountains: Sasun, Zeytun and Dersim at the End of the Ottoman Empire," described the central Ottoman government's attempt to subjugate mountainous strongholds in the eastern provinces. According to Miller, many eastern areas, such as Sasun, Dersim and Zeytun, were historically controlled by local lords and princes with little interference from Constantinople. Miller noted that the government was not able to exercise complete control over many of these regions until 1915, while Dersim was not truly integrated until the 1930s. The government used modern weaponry to brutally conquer these semi-autonomous regions. Miller noted the danger of relying on official sources when studying these events, as the military elite tried to cover up the violence they committed. He stressed the importance of accumulating information from various sources, as "authoritarianism is ultimately the monopolization of legitimate truth."

David Gutman, in "The Sojourners of Harput (Kharpert): At the Intersection of the Local, Imperial, and the Global," discussed the unique situation of Kharpert by examining Armenian migration. Gutman stated that a majority of the

see CONFERENCE, page 6



COMMUNITY NEWS

58th Annual Trinity Christmas Bazaar to Be held December 1 and December 2

By Seta A. Buchter

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston will usher in the holiday season with its 58th Annual Trinity Christmas Bazaar, on Friday, December 1, and Saturday, December 2, in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 145 Brattle St. Bazaar hours are Friday, from noon to 9 p.m., and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Co-Chairing this year's bazaar are Gregory A. Kolligian, Jr. and Karen Hovsepian, who have been tirelessly working with their Committees since the summer to ensure that this year's Bazaar offers something for everyone. "Our parishioners, neighbors and the community always look forward to attending each year to see friends, enjoy delicious food and browse the many booths. This year's Bazaar continues to be the perfect place for people to do their Christmas shopping as

Santa Claus who will be stopping by on Saturday, December 2, from 1 to 2 p.m.

The Trinity Christmas Bazaar would not be complete without the scrumptious Armenian gourmet foods, delicacies and pastries that will be sold at various booths. Delicious Armenian dinners will be served on Friday from noon to 7:30 p.m., and on Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Take-out meals and an a la carte menu will also be available. Once again, we will be offering optional seating for families with children.

Children will be able to enjoy the Bazaar with their own special activities on both Friday evening and Saturday morning in the Peter Adamian Hall. The "Polar Express" Pajama Party will take place on Friday, from 7 to 9 p.m. Children are encouraged to come dressed in their comfiest Christmas pajamas as we watch this Christmas classic. The movie is recommended for children ages 5 and older (a supervising adult must remain on the Church grounds). The movie running time is 92 minutes. On Saturday morning, there will be chil-



From left, Fr. Vasken A. Kouzouian, Karen Hovsepian and Gregory A. Kolligian, Jr.

there will be a wonderful selection of gift items to purchase," the two stated.

The Bazaar's traditional favorites will include the ever bountiful "Farmer's Market" with fresh fruits and vegetables; the "Country Store;" the exciting Silent/Sports Silent Auction, where you will be able to bid on an array of fabulous items, Boston's favorite team tickets and sports memorabilia; The Punch is Right Game, which has always been popular with children; Jewelry and Accessories; the Sweet Tooth Booth, with a selection of holiday candies and delicious treats; Poinsettias and beautifully decorated Wreaths; KEZI Jewelry; Candy Emporium; ArmenianVendor.com; Purl Leez Jewels; Raffles and more.

Making his annual visit to the bazaar is

dren's entertainment beginning at 11 a.m.

Admission is free for both "The Polar Express" and the Children's Entertainment.

Raffle tickets are available for purchase for a chance to win one of eight prizes: iPad Mini 4; Bose SoundTouch 10; Bose Sound Link Mini; Amazon Echo, among other gifts.

Tickets can be purchased by calling the Church office, 617.354.0632, or during the two-day Bazaar.

Super Raffle Tickets can win one of seven cash prizes, with first prize: \$2,500. To purchase a ticket, contact the Holy Trinity Church Office.

Parking is allowed around the immediate perimeter of the church complex over the two days of the Bazaar where it says "permit parking only."

Fresno State Hosts Conference On Ottoman Minorities

CONFERENCE, from page 5

estimated 35,000-40,000 Armenians who migrated to America between 1885-1908 were from Kharpert. Though migrating to America was illegal in the Ottoman Empire, Armenians in Kharpert could afford the sophisticated smuggling networks. According to Gutman, this attests to Kharpert's uniqueness, as the Armenians were more politically and economically stable and integrated than in other provinces. Because of this, Armenians bore the brunt of the Genocide as local Turks sought to destroy this successful community.

Ümit Kurt similarly noted the role Armenian prosperity played in social relations in his study on "The Breakdown of a Previously Peaceful Coexistence: The Aintab Armenian Massacres of 1895." According to Kurt, peace between the Armenians and Muslims in Aintab dissolved as wealth concentrated in the hands of Armenians. Muslims, as the dominant class, were unable to keep up with Armenian progress and became resentful. Local



The participants of the Fresno State Armenian Studies Program conference

notables thus took advantage of the Armenian massacres and used the opportunity to confiscate Armenian wealth.

Ugur Z. Peçe's lecture, "From Ballots to Barracks: The Conscription of non-Muslims at a Time of Parliamentary Politics in the Ottoman Empire, 1908-1912," examined debates surrounding Greek conscription in the Ottoman army using parliamentary records and Greek newspapers. Emre Can Daglioglu, in "Intra-Imperial Space and Anti-Armenian Violence in the Ottoman Empire: The Aghtamar Catholicos Khatchadur III and the 1895 Van Massacre," examined how Khatchadour III accrued social capital in the periphery and mobilized it against the Patriarchate in Istanbul. Janet Klein concluded the Conference with her novel study on "Armenian Minorityhood in Ottoman and Russian History and Historiography?," which compared the concept of "minorityhood" in Ottoman and Russian historiography.

A video of the entire conference is available on Facebook @HyeSharzhoom.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Holy Trinity Church Celebrates 56 Years On Brattle Street, Honors Parishioner of the Year

ANNIVERSARY, page 5

down memory lane sharing his growing up years as part of the Holy Trinity family.

Kouzouian read a letter from his father, Fr. Mampre A. Kouzouian, former pastor of Holy Trinity Church, congratulating Aram Hintlian and remembering his parents, Aram and Anne, and their entire family for all they have done.

In his remarks, Fr. Vasken Kouzouian stated: "Today, Aram, Jr., as our 2017 Parishioner of the Year, receives the same Award that was presented to his father, Aram, Sr., 33 years ago, back in 1984. That has never been done before as far as I am aware. That's worthy of celebrating. In their home, Aram and Anne Hintlian instilled an important lesson into their children to connect their lives to the life of their church. Having been raised in this type of family, Aram and his late brother, Greg, and sisters, Cynthia and Nancy, grew up at home here at Holy Trinity and learned what it means to work for one's church, and support one's church and maintain one's church with the same heart and spirit of their parents. And if that wasn't enough, Aram married a woman whose inner beauty is the only thing that can outshine her outer beauty, and she became every bit as ded-

icated as he is. Becky rolls up her sleeves and passes on the traditions she also learned from her in-laws every time the need arises. Together, Aram and Becky took their devotion to their church and instilled it in the home they built together and are raising their daughters in. Aram, you've done so much for our church so, on behalf of all the pastors and parish councils that have benefitted from your family's efforts, we thank you! You are one of the greatest Pillars this parish has ever had the honor of calling a Parishioner."



From left, Fr. Vasken A. Kouzouian, The Very Rev. Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan, Aram Hintlian and Daniel K. Dorian, Jr.

This day of celebration concluded with a Benediction offered by Parsamyan, followed by the Holy Trinity family offering their warm congratulations to this year's Parishioner of the Year.

Panel on 'Environmental Security and Statecraft in Armenia' at Northeastern University

BOSTON — A panel discussion on "Environmental Security and Statecraft in Armenia" will take place on Thursday, December 7, at 7:30 p.m., at Northeastern University, 220 Shillman Hall, 115 Forsyth St., Boston.

The program is organized by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) / Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues and is co-sponsored by the Northeastern Armenian Students Association.

The panel will be moderated by Dr. Anna Ohanyan, Richard B. Finnegan Distinguished Professor of Political Science and International Relations, Stonehill College, and will feature the participation of Alen Amirkhanyan, director, American University of Armenia Acopian Center for the Environment; Ursula Kazarian, Founder and ex-President, Armenian Environmental Network; Jason Sohigian, deputy director, Armenia Tree Project; and Emma McBride, Law Student, Boston College, and Peace Corps volunteer in Armenia 2014-16.

Environmental security has been emerging as a key component of statecraft around the world. Depletion and pollution of fresh water supplies, degradation and disappearance of biodiversity, projected loss of agriculture lands, and the costs imposed on food security and public health, are some of the global concerns that also affect the Armenian state and society.

Around the world, countries differ in terms of their capacity and will to respond to environmental problems and opportunities with innovative institutional and technological solutions. Some are transitioning away from defensive approaches to proactive strategies of "green growth" that are sustainable and economically profitable.

How does Armenia fare in its environmental statecraft? What are the key issues of environmental security of the Armenian state? Does it face a choice between economic development and environmental protection? How is Armenia's environmental security related to its national security? What can be done to strengthen Armenia's environmental statecraft and security?

The program is free and open to the public. There will be a reception and refreshments immediately following the program and question-and-answer session. Parking is available in Renaissance Park Garage and other campus parking facilities. If taking MBTA, venue is near Ruggles station.

For more information about the panel discussion, contact NAASR at hq@naasr.org.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

AMAA Centennial Banquet: A Dazzling and Memorable Celebration

CENTENNIAL, from page 5

He pointed out the unique AMAA accomplishments from the days of the Genocide, to the time of the 1988 earthquake, the independence of Armenia and United Nations membership, the victorious liberation of Artsakh, and the massive Syrian relief efforts in Aleppo and Damascus.

Dr. Hovanesian thoughtfully recounted that the AMAA is “strongly nationalistic but emphasizes education and social services, has a heart but with the Christian spirit in it.” Then paraphrasing Movses Khorenatzi, he said, “Born by mortals, may the AMAA be eternal.”

AMAA President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian recounted a brief history of the AMAA, and the “immense sacrifice” of giants Stephen Philibosian, Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopourian and Rev. Dr. Movses Janbazian and the “precious legacy” that needs to be passed on to future generations.

“The common theme of the organization is children, from the orphan and child care sponsorships to the Milk Fund, to the summer camps, to the after-school day centers, to the Avedisian School in Armenia and all the Armenian Evangelical schools in the Near East and the US.” The work also extends to the youth, young adults, the students of Haigazian University, college scholarships, and the rebuilding of the churches in Armenia, Artsakh, Syria and the entire Armenian Diaspora, he said.

To accomplish these goals, the AMAA has committed itself to a Centennial Fundraising Campaign to raise \$20 million. He stated that

the finish line in California exactly 12 months from now,” he declared with emphasis, after which an AMAA video was presented focusing on the children, schools, and the summer camps in Armenia, Lebanon, Syria and the U.S.

Delighting the audience were mezzo soprano Hasmik Meikhanedjian and pianist and composer Hayk Arsenyan, two New York-based musicians who have performed in many venues. Meikhanedjian with heartfelt emotion sang a number of well-known Armenian songs, accompanied by Arsenyan who also played solos, including a passionate rendition of Khatchaturyan’s Sabre Dance.

BANQUET HIGHLIGHT

Well known California educator and former AMAA President Dr. Joseph Zeronian, and former AMAA Board Vice President Peter Kougasian, assistant district attorney under New York District Attorney Robert Morgenthau, introduced the honorees, Edward and Pamela Avedisian.

Zeronian referred to his mother, who grew up in a German orphanage in Kharpert, as his inspiration. He focused on the crucial importance of education which “followed the tradition of the Bible and those dedicated missionaries.” He pointed out the tremendous accomplishments of the Avedisians who for the past 20 years have “enhanced the education in Armenia, with the building of the best school in the Malatya-Sepastya district, Yerevan’s poorest community, as well as several other projects. “They have followed the principle that it is more blessed to give than to receive,” he stated.



From left, Zaven Khanjian, Doreen Bilezikian and Dr. Nazareth Darakjian

where his speech was recorded, he recalled that on a special family trip to the Mekhitarist Monastery on Venice’s San Lazzaro Island, a non-Armenian tour guide told his son, “You should study a subject until you love it, because only then will it become a model of God’s love. That is the foundation upon which the Avedisian School is built,” Mr. Kougasian emphasized. “And when the Avedisians did this, Armenia already had free public school education, and the highest literacy rate of any country in the world.”

The Avedisians created the School for excellence, Kougasian continued. “This school represents a different mission, a belief that is peculiarly Armenian. It is the belief that true excellence in education can lead the sensitive soul on a path to God.”

The Avedisians, in expressing their appreciation, stated that the AMAA is the “major factor in projecting Armenia into the 21st century, but there still is a tremendous need to expand into many areas.”

Edward Avedisian then introduced honorees Charles (posthumously) and Doreen Bilezikian who renovated the Avedisian School and playground in Shushi. Doreen Bilezikian described the “deplorable conditions” in the Women’s Hospital in Yerevan, another renovation project undertaken by the Bilezikians.

In recognition of the great philanthropy by both the Avedisians and the Bilezikians, special handmade gifts were presented to them. AMAA President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian presented the Avedisians with a Michael Aram-designed gift of Noah’s Ark, and AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian gave Doreen Bilezikian a painting depicting the Bilezikians. The honorees and the AMAA President and

Khanjian delivered the closing remarks, in which he expressed his appreciation to all involved in this celebration. Khanjian, who has served as Chairman of the West Coast’s Armenia Fund, Americans for Artsakh, and the Merdinian Evangelical School Board, also founded and directed the Syrian Armenian Relief Fund (SARF).

The evening came to a conclusion with the Hayr Mer sung by all, and the benediction recited by Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) Executive Director.

AEWC President Rev. Berdj Djambazian voiced the emotions of many when he said, “I saw one thing that has never died, or vanished in the last 100 years, that of compassion, the ability to enter the skin of hurting, suffering people, feel the pain and come up with a remedy. The AMAA started, and continues to this day, implementing this compassion through God.”



From left, Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanian, Ronald Altoon, Ambassador to the U.S. Grigor Hovhannisian

the campaign, which started a year ago, has already reached 35 percent of its goal. With this banquet initiating the momentum which will go around the world, the AMAA hopes to “reach

To the surprise of many, an inspiring example of courage was displayed by Kougasian who came to the podium, but due to a neurological problem, was unable to speak. In a digital text

Sheriff Koutoujian Participates in Armenian Church Clergy Webinar Focused on Opioid Crisis

WEBINAR, from page 1

educational forum,” said Koutoujian. “This crisis is devastating communities and families across the country and we all have a role to play in stemming its tide.”

Koutoujian said that 42 percent of all new individuals admitted to his facility last year required medical detox – more than 2,000 individuals. The vast majority required treatment for opioids or a combination of substances including opioids.

In an effort to help those struggling with opioid use disorders, Koutoujian created the Medication Assisted Treatment and Directed Opioid Recovery (MATADOR) program. The voluntary six-month, post-release program combines use of a long-lasting injectable form of naltrexone with support from a sheriff’s office staff member. This staff member, based on the patient navigator model found in the healthcare industry, serves a critical support role in counseling program participants.

Koutoujian’s efforts through the MATADOR program led the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) has designated the Middlesex Sheriff’s Office as a Center of Innovation. Through the first two years of the program, 97 participants have successfully completed six months, with just seven percent of those having a new conviction.

Armenian Assembly Calls for Public Congressional Hearings on Turkish Interference

WASHINGTON — Amid reports that Department of Justice Special Counsel Robert Mueller will be filing new indictments after probing a potential quid pro quo scheme, whereby then National Security Adviser Michael Flynn would be paid \$15 million to secretly carry out Turkey’s bidding, the Armenian Assembly of America calls for Congressional hearings to fully expose these matters. Flynn was already paid \$530,000 last year for work the Justice Department says benefited the government of Turkey without registering as a foreign agent at the time.

The Assembly has repeatedly highlighted Turkey’s attempts to gain surreptitious influence over US officials and media to the detriment of US national security, and has urged investigations therein. House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Member, Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), in a June 2017 op-ed in The Hill titled “Did Turkey’s payments to Michael Flynn delay our military operations against ISIS?” stated that “questions regarding Turkey, however, reveal most clearly how personal considerations may have overridden our national interests.” In addition, the Assembly has also highlighted Azerbaijan’s attempts to undermine western democratic values and institutions through

the billions it has spent in the “Laundromat scheme” to buy silence. Investigations are now bearing fruit. The Assembly has also urged with some success those Representatives who joined the Turkish and Azeri Caucuses to withdraw.

“The latest news regarding secret payments to Michael Flynn to carry out Turkey’s bidding are just the tip of the iceberg,” stated Assembly Co-Chairs Anthony Barsamian and Van Krikorian. “Illegal Turkish and Azerbaijani money has been flowing into D.C. and we have an obligation to immediately stop these corrupting practices. Beyond thorough investigations and indictments, exposure through public hearings and legislative reform to increase reporting and penalties are necessary to stop officials who can be bought by the Erdogans and Aliyevs of the world from hijacking the American government,” they added. “Members ought not to associate themselves with such corrupt and authoritarian regimes. Given Turkey’s treatment of Christians, dangerously rogue behavior, denial of the Armenian Genocide and support for Azerbaijan’s ISIS-style beheadings and other attacks, it is well past time for Members of Congress to withdraw their membership from the Turkish and Azeri Congressional Caucuses.”



COMMUNITY NEWS

AMAA Holds 98th Annual Meeting in New Jersey and Elects New Board Members for the Class of 2020

PARAMUS, N.J. – The 98th Annual Meeting and related activities of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) took place in New Jersey, October 19-22.

On Thursday, October 20, two lectures were presented on the occasion of the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. The event, which took place at the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus, NJ, was attended by over 50 pastors, AMAA members, Board members, and staff from The United States and abroad.

Rev. Dr. Carnegie Calian, past president of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, lectured on “The Impact of the Reformation on Christianity and the World.” He examined the impact of Martin Luther’s movement and presented the socio-political, psychological and theological factors that played out in the early years of the Reformation. Luther’s main theme was “repent,” which meant to change and move out of one’s comfort zone.

Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, executive director of the Armenian Evangelical World Council and a prolific author, spoke on the “Dawn of the Armenian Evangelical Church and its Impact on the Armenian Nation.” He began his presentation by discussing the various 19th-century factors that ushered in the Armenian Evangelical movement in the first half of the century – the intellectual enlightenment among Armenians, various educational institutions and the support of missionaries. This was followed by the key elements of the movement: Personal relationship with God, the priesthood



Rev. Dr. Carnegie Calian addresses the assembled.

of all believers, the importance of lay men and women, the liberty of individuals and the ultimate authority of the Bible. The last part of his lecture focused on the contribution of the Armenian Evangelical movement in the fields of education, evangelism, and leadership.

The Executive Board of the Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) held its meeting on Thursday evening and Friday morning.

On Friday evening, the AMAA held its regular Board of Directors meeting. Both meetings were held at the AMAA Headquarters in Paramus.

The 98th Annual Meeting of the Association was held on Saturday morning at the Teaneck Marriot at Glenpointe. AMAA President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian presided over the meeting, which was attended by 100 members and guests. Delegates of Armenian Evangelical Churches, Unions, Armenian Evangelical World Council, AMAA Committees and affiliated orga-

nizations shared their reports, their joys and concerns and praised God for another successful year. Before the conclusion of the meeting, Dr. Darakjian announced the results of the election for the AMAA Board Class of 2020: Edward Avedisian (MA), Nazareth Darakjian, MD. (CA), Thomas Momjian, Esq. (PA), Jack Muncherian (CA), Vahe Nalbandian, Ph.D. (CA), Alan Philibosian, Esq. (NJ), Gary Phillips, Esq. (CA), Ann Karagozian Sarafian, Ph.D. (CA) and Eileen Chopourian Stephey, Ed.D. (PA).

The highlight of the weekend was the sold-out Centennial Celebratory Banquet on Saturday evening, where close 400 guests came together to celebrate the Centennial of the AMAA and honor two distinguished couples: Edward and Pamela Avedisian and Doreen and Charles (posthumously) Bilezikian.

The weekend culminated with a Worship Service held in the sanctuary of the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus.

A special moment of remembrance to honor the memory of those members and friends of the association, who made the transition from this life to Life Eternal during the past year, was led by AMAA Board member Rev. Ara Guekguegian. The Armenian message, with the theme of “The Harvest is Plenty, But the Workers are Few,” was offered by Rev. Joseph Garabedian, pastor of the First Armenian Church of Belmont, Mass. Rev. Dr. Avedis Boynerian, pastor of the Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, offered the English sermon with the theme “Faithful to Our Legacy.”

Tootikian brought the service to its culmination with the installation of the newly-elected AMAA Board members.

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The installation of the newly-elected AMAA board



The annual meeting



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Debi Arach Children's Center Welcomes US Congressional Delegation

BERKELEY, Calif. And GYUMRI, Armenia – On September 21, the Debi Arach Children's Center welcomed U.S. Representatives Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and Jackie Speier (D-CA) on Armenia's Independence Day. The delegation toured the facility while children studied in their classrooms. They then met with young men and women who have recently completed their military service and are now enrolled in the vocational training classes in web design and computer programming at Debi Arach.

"I am very impressed with the quality and dedication of the teachers and staff managing this institution," said Eshoo (D-CA). "Clearly good things are happening here for these vulnerable children in Gyumri."

Roger Strauch, Founder and Chairman of the Paros Foundation received the delegation and hosted the tour of the facility with the Center's director, Aida Khatchatryan. Other guests joining the congressional delegation for the tour included Shirak Governor Arthur Khatchatryan, Armenian Ambassador to the United States Grigor Hovhannissian, Armenia Fund Inc. Chairperson Maria Mehranian, Hayastan All Armenia Fund Executive Director Ara Vardanyan, Congresswoman Jackie Speier Chief of Staff Josh Connolly and Impact Hub Programs and Events Assistant Nune Harutyunyan.

"I am so proud to be here today," said Speier (D-CA). "My friends and constituents have created something very special at Debi Arach, which has deftly maximized the support they receive to achieve amazing results. Their work should be used as a model on how to make the maximum impact in the most cost effective manner for the people of Armenia. With our continued support and oversight, I am certain Debi Arach will continue to benefit these children, as well as the adult school trainees."

Established by the Paros Foundation in 2015, the Debi Arach Children's Center provides more than 150 children with the academic, psychological, social and humanitarian support they need for a brighter future and to break the cycle of poverty. All services are offered free of charge. Children attending the Center are primarily from families living in dilapidated temporary housing or "domiks" left from the 1988 Spitak earthquake. Debi Arach operates as an after-school program for school-aged children six days a week.



U.S. Representatives Anna Eshoo and Jackie Speier speaking with the children at Debi Arach Children's Center during their visit.

Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection Celebrates 76th Anniversary

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. – The Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection of New Britain celebrated its 76th anniversary at the Church on Sunday, November 12. Robbin Haboian Demircan and Ellen Hovanessian served as Anniversary Planning Committee co-chairs.

The theme of the anniversary dinner was "Giving Thanks" with many reminiscences of all those who had worked so hard to establish the church and construct its beautiful building on Stanley Street. Numerous Church committees and organizations contributing to the vitality of the Church were recognized, as were Church veterans.

Attorney Harry Mazadoorian served as master of ceremonies. Comments on the church and its role in Central Connecticut were offered by Rev.

Kapriel Mouradjian, who celebrated his 14th year in New Britain, and Parish Council Chairman Arthur G. Simonian.

Mouradjian introduced the guest celebrant and speaker, the Very Rev. Anania Tsaturyan of the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin in Armenia.

Two longtime parishioners, Henrietta Kallajian and Roxie Maljanian, were honored for their many contributions over the years.

Musical selections were provided by soloist Dian Erikian accompanied by Susan Sagherian. One of the selections, Vartan, was composed by the late Harry Badrigian a longtime Church member.

Gary Hovanessian and John Paul Abrahamian reported on the success of the annual Godparent and all Donors of the Church financial campaign associated with the dinner.



From left, Arthur G. Simonian, Parish Council Chair, Very Rev. Anania Tsaturyan, Rev. Kapriel Mouradjian

Mark Samuelian Elected to Miami Beach City Commission

By Joey Flechas

MIAMI BEACH (*Miami Herald*) – Miami Beach voters chose a political newbie and a familiar face to join the City Commission in Tuesday, November 7 municipal election.

Former commissioner Michael Góngora was voted back into office in the Group 3 race against Adrian Gonzalez, owner of David's Cafe. For the Group 2 seat, private investor Mark Samuelian bested real estate broker Rafael Velasquez, who has been mired in accusations of sexual impropriety by three women, including Kristen Rosen Gonzalez, a sitting commissioner and his former ally.

Góngora, 47, has had a taste for local politics for at least a decade. He served a short stint on the commission in 2006-07 before being elected to a four-year term in 2009. He lost the 2013 mayoral election to Philip Levine, who now is running for governor.

A condo attorney with Becker & Poliakoff, Góngora also ran unsuccessfully for the District 38 seat in the Florida Senate in 2016.

On Tuesday, he celebrated his lopsided victory from the Betsy Hotel on Ocean Drive in South Beach.

"It feels very special to be elected and especially to be elected by such a wide margin," he said.

Gonzalez said he was proud of his "grass-roots campaign" and congratulated all of the winners.

All of the winners will be sworn into office Monday, but for Samuelian, 53, it will be his first time. He lost his bid for commission in 2015, when Commissioner John Elizabeth Alemán garnered 77 more votes than he did in a tight race.

In a statement, Samuelian said it was "very humbling" to be elected to public office.

"This election reaffirmed that we need elected officials that are not beholden to the undue influence of special interests groups," he said. "As an active civic leader, over the years I have tirelessly

promoted the rights and interests of residents over those of special interests and as your city commissioner, I intend to lead that way."

Before this year's campaign, Samuelian served as president of a prominent civic group, Miami Beach United, where he still serves as a board director. He played a role in opposing a light-rail project that eventually stalled at the City Commission amid increasing public opposition.

He has stated that a group of experts and residents should be formed to scrutinize the city's approach to flood mitigation, echoing Mayor-elect Dan Gelber. He wants to prioritize placing permanent backup generators on existing anti-flooding pumps.

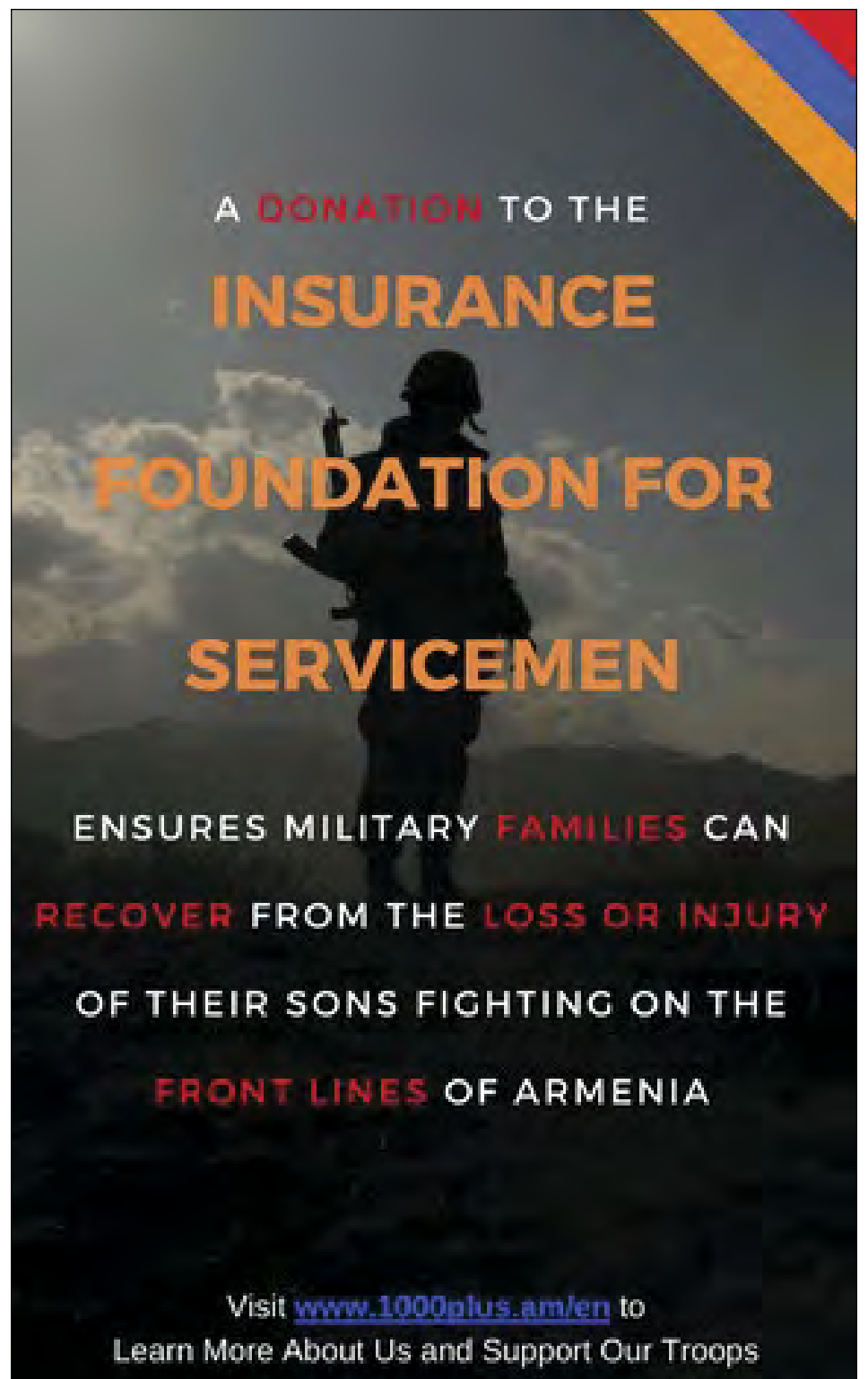
Samuelian and Velasquez were candidates for the seat held by Michael Grieco, who withdrew first from his mayoral candidacy and then his re-election bid after a campaign finance scandal.

The campaign grew contentious toward the end. Velasquez criticized Samuelian for previously being registered as a Republican and donating to a political action committee co-founded by GOP Sen. Ted Cruz. Samuelian, who currently has no party affiliation, responded by saying the donation was in the past and he no longer shares the views of the Republican Party.

But Velasquez entered Election Day fighting accusations of sexual harassment.

Last week, Rosen Gonzalez accused him of exposing himself to her after the two went to dinner in October. Two more women came forward. A local publicist said he groped her at a public event and sent suggestive text messages afterwards. Another woman said he made inappropriate comments while she and Velasquez ran together on a slate of potential Democratic delegates supporting Hillary Clinton.

Following the revelations, his entire campaign staff resigned and the local Democratic party stopped campaigning on his behalf and called for him to drop out of the race. Velasquez denied he had exposed himself or groped the woman. He apologized only for offending the women with his comments, which he called "compliments," and continued to campaign.





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Arts & Living

Ninth AGBU Performing Artists In Concert Raises More than \$50,000

NEW YORK — On November 3, hundreds of guests gathered at the Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall to listen to the ninth Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Performing Artists in Concert. Dedicated to the 85th anniversary of the Union of Composers of Armenia, the concert, the flagship event of the AGBU New York Special Events Committee (NYSEC), raised more than \$50,000 for the AGBU performing arts initiatives worldwide.

This year, along with young musicians, the concert featured tenor Berj Karazian, an Honored Artist of Armenia and a soloist of the Yerevan State Opera Theater, and conductor and pianist Vahan Mardirossian, who served as the artistic director of the concert.

“Carnegie Hall is a dream stage for many musicians,” said Berj Karazian who studied at the AGBU Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian School growing up in Aleppo, Syria, and later received a scholarship from AGBU to master his vocal skills at the Yerevan State Conservatory. “It is important that tonight’s concert features Armenian artists from all over the world who have had AGBU’s support for years.”

AGBU Performing Arts Scholarship recipients from Armenia, France, Lebanon, Switzerland and the United States, including Tamar Eskenian (shvi/flute), Lusiné Harutyunyan (violin), Ani Karapetyan (violin), Albert Newberry (piano), Cara Pogossian (viola), Edvard Pogossian (cello), and Matthew Taylor (dance), formed this year’s ensemble. They are students or graduates of well-known



Lusiné Harutyunyan (violin), Ani Karapetyan (violin), Albert Newberry (piano), Vahan Mardirossian (piano), Tamar Eskenian (shvi/flute), Edvard Pogossian (cello) and Cara Pogossian (viola).

educational institutions, such as Haute Ecole de Musique in Lausanne, the Yerevan State Conservatory, London’s Royal Academy of Music, Mannes School of Music in New York, the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, the Juilliard School and the New York University Tisch School of the Arts.

“For the first time this year, we expanded the scope of the AGBU Performing Artists in Concert introducing an interdisciplinary collaboration with a dancer,” said Hayk Arsenyan, director of the AGBU Performing Arts Department. “By featuring the new generation of talented Armenian artists, the concert creates artistic opportunities for performers and builds enduring bonds for future collaboration.”

The eclectic program comprised favorites of Western classical and Armenian music, including Beethoven, Chopin, Dvorák, Schuman, Tigranyan and Mirzoyan. It also included three premieres: *Waltz* by Aram Satyan, president of the Union of Composers of Armenia, who specially arranged the piece for the chamber ensemble of the evening, Newberry’s *Shalakho* and Alexandr Iradyan’s *Frames*. The latter earned Iradyan the special Carnegie Hall Award in the 2016 AGBU Sayat Nova International Composition Competition. The dazzling evening captivated the audience, drawing a standing ovation.



Salpi and Sossy Kerkonian performing

Tekeyan Glendale-Pasadena Observes Cultural Month

ALTADENA, Calif. — The month of October was declared “Cultural Month” by Catholicos Karekin I of the Great House of Cilicia. Also, the Feast of the “Holy Translators” is observed every year on the second Saturday of October by the Armenian Apostolic Church. Thus, October becomes significant in the Armenian calendar and accordingly cultural organizations schedule events to recognize the importance of culture.

Tekeyan Cultural Association’s Glendale-Pasadena Chapter organized a performing arts event that took place on Sunday, October 29, at Tekeyan’s Beshgeturian Center. The event included songs, solos and a duet, a poetic recitation and a rendition of instrumental music, involving a flute and a harp.

The first performing artist, Raffi Kerbabian, studied voice for three years at Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires. He has been involved in many productions of Lark Musical Society, and is the current soloist of the United Armenian Congregational Church choir. He sang two songs by Robert Amirkhanian and Alexi Hekimian.

The second performer of the evening, Arpy Aintablian, attended the Hamazkayin Parsegh Ganatchian College of Music and the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music in Beirut. She has extensive concert experience with Pasadena’s “Peace Through Music” and “Midsummer Night Under the Stars” benefit concerts. Currently, she is the children’s choir director of the United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles.

After her rendition of two songs by Komitas and Mkrtchyan, Kerbabian joined her for a duet, which mesmerized the audience. An encore was then granted to please the more than one hundred attendees of this unique cultural event.

Asdghig Torosian-Dadourian’s role in the program was poetic recitation. She recited in an eloquent and dramatic manner from Kevork Emin and Vahan Tekeyan. Her renditions were highly appreciated by everyone present at the event.

To conclude the program, there was an extraordinary musical selection presented by flutist Salpy Kerkonian and harpist Sossy Kerkonian of “Heavenly Chants.”

Salpy Kerkonian has received both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Southern California. She has appeared both with tenors Luciano Pavarotti and Andrea Bocelli on their respective world tours. Sossy Kerkonian, on the other hand, has received her degree in music from Los Angeles City College.

The mother and daughter duo played popular music from Komitas and Khatchadour Avedissian. Their highlight was Aznavour’s *La Boheme*, which they had also played earlier that month, when Aznavour was given the honor of a Star on Hollywood’s Walk of Fame. Much to the pleasure of all who attended, this October Cultural event was an evening of high quality artistic performance.



Raffi Kerbabian and Arpy Aintablian sing a duet

20th Arpa International Film Festival Celebration Wraps with Touching and Emotional Tributes

HOLLYWOOD — The 20th Arpa International Film Festival and Awards Gala was full of memorable moments this year. An unprecedented number of guests attended the three-day film festival, held at the historic Egyptian Theatre November 3 to 5. The opening night program featuring the French biopic “Dalida” was sold to capacity, as were the centerpiece films “Intent to Destroy” and “Dead on Arrival” on Saturday evening.

The celebratory weekend closed with a spectacular sold-out Awards Gala held at the Loews Hollywood Hotel on Sunday, November 5. Over 400 guests attended the special 20th anniversary evening hosted by filmmaker Eric Nazarian (“The Blue Hour,” “Bolis,” “Three Christs,” “The Sandcastle Girls”). The program included special musical performances by theremin virtuoso Armen Ra and vocalist Mister X.

Awards were presented to the five winning films in the Best Shorts, Best Documentary, Best Screenplay, Best Director and Best Feature categories. Honorees Terry George, Carl Weathers, Alexander Dinelar and Chris Cornell (posthumously) were given touching tributes, along with one-of-a-kind gifts.

Special guests throughout the weekend included Serj Tankian, Angela Sarafyan, Billy Flynn, Barbara Carrera, Ara Keshishian, Ken Davitian, Stephen C. Sepher, Rory Fradella, Nazo Bravo, Lillo Brancato and Scottie Thompson.

Academy Award-winning screenwriter-director Terry George (“The Promise,” “In the Name of the Father,” “Hotel Rwanda,” “The Shore,” “Some Mother’s Son”) received the Armin T. Wegner Humanitarian Award named after the German soldier/medic who was stationed in the Ottoman Empire during the Armenian Genocide and documented the atrocities he witnessed in photographs. The award, was awarded to Terry George in recognition of his extensive body of films that have shed light on the situation in his native Northern Ireland, the Rwandan Genocide, and the Armenian Genocide.

George also received a unique khachkar (stone-cross) sculpted by local artist Hrach Gukasyan. The tradition of etching crosses on stone is unique to the Armenian and Irish nations. A special khachkar with a Celtic cross surrounded by Armenian motifs was commissioned by Arpa, symbolizing the Armenian people’s gratitude to the Irish filmmaker.

Carl Weathers, the beloved actor best known for his portrayal of Apollo Creed in the Rocky series, was the recipient of Arpa’s Lifetime Achievement Award. Weathers has also starred in films such as “Predator,” “Action Jackson,” “Hurricane Smith,” “Happy Gilmore” and “Little Nicky.” Presenting the Lifetime Achievement Award to the legendary actor was award-winning writer/producer Jason Wilborn, best known for his work on “Queen Sugar,” “Brothers and Sisters” and “American Dreams.”

Weathers received a special personalized authentic championship boxing belt designed and gifted by SARTONK, originator of the modern boxing belt. Edward Majian’s SARTONK was founded based on the designs of his grandfather Ardash Sahagian’s boxing belts which serve as the blueprint for all of today’s championship boxing and MMA belts.

This year’s Lifetime Legacy Award was posthumously awarded to music icon Chris Cornell, whose life came to a tragic end early this year. Cornell, best known as the lead vocalist for the rock bands Soundgarden and Audioslave, as well as the founder and frontman of Temple of the Dog, was also a human rights activist committed to the world refugee crisis and the despair of vulnerable children. The Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter’s last solo release was the charity single *The Promise*, written for the motion picture of the same name.

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ARTS & LIVING

‘Ardent Nature: NY Exhibition of Arshile Gorky Landscapes’ Presented in New York

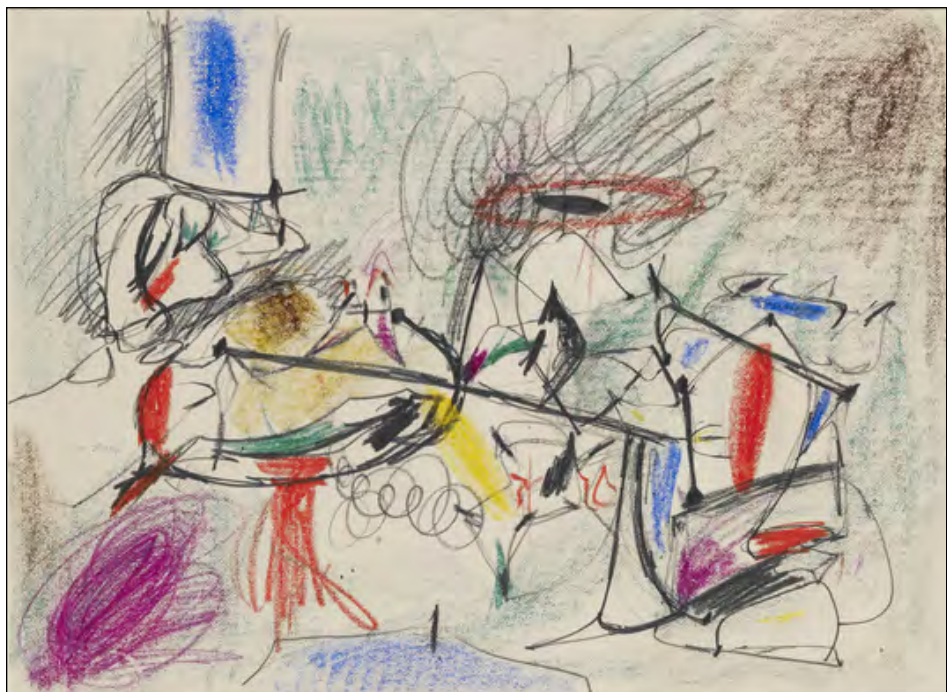
NEW YORK – “Ardent Nature. Arshile Gorky Landscapes, 1943 – 47,” is Hauser & Wirth’s inaugural presentation of works by Arshile Gorky, a seminal figure in the shift to abstraction that transformed twentieth-century American art. By the early 1940s, Gorky had already begun to liberate himself from artistic convention, forging a powerful, if enigmatic, visual language that built upon the freewheeling lyricism of Surrealism and anticipated the concerns of Abstract Expressionism. His breakthrough came in the summer of 1943, during an extended stay at Crooked Run Farm, the Virginia homestead owned by his wife’s parents. Here, the artist became enchanted by the bucolic surroundings, and his response to the fields, blooms, patterns, and colors around him began to manifest in vibrant compositions. The result-

ing works from this period, filled with organic forms and infused with extraordinary expressive freedom, are among the most moving of Gorky’s career.

Curated by Saskia Spender, the artist’s granddaughter and President of the Arshile Gorky Foundation, the exhibition features over fifty landscapes – including paintings and works on paper – from this critical time in the artist’s life and work. “Ardent Nature” is the first New York exhibition exclusively dedicated to the artist’s mature works, and presents Gorky at the very height of his artistic powers.

Gorky’s time at Crooked Run Farm marked a profound reawakening of his connection to nature. During his first summer in the countryside in 1943 (he would return for extended stays in 1944 and the summer of 1946), Gorky spent day after day in the open pastures, producing scores of “plein air” drawings. Infatuated with his surroundings, he discovered the complexities of natural forms. The trees, milkweed, haystacks, and brackish river were rife with activity, and served as points of departure for new works. It was here, among the flora and fauna, that Gorky revisited his early experiments with automatic drawing, courting free associations with nature and its endless metamorphoses.

In these primal responses to nature, Gorky granted as much presence to the relationships between the objects he observed as the



Untitled, 1944–1945, Pencil and crayon on paper, 44.5 x 59.1 cm / 17 1/2 x 23 1/4 in, (© 2017 The Arshile Gorky Foundation / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York, Photo: Christopher Burke Studio)



Pastoral, 1947, Oil on canvas, 111.8 x 144.2 cm / 44 x 56 3/4 in (© 2017 The Arshile Gorky Foundation / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York, Photographer unknown)

objects themselves. Returning to sometimes idealized memories of his early life on the shores of Lake Van, in Ottoman Anatolia, Gorky incorporated fragments from his childhood into the reality of his surroundings. In this conflation of truth, memory, and desire, the observational yields to an essence rendered in vivid, incandescent auras that reverberate within outlined forms, as seen in the magnificent “Waterfall,” (ca. 1943), on loan from the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. His compositions seemingly pulsate between the

interior and the recessive spaces of the work, culminating in a sense that the paintings were created from the center, simultaneously inwards and outwards. Gorky’s highly personal form was crystallized in these works, where his own “otherness” empowered him to forge a unique place in the history of art.

In Gorky’s 1943 work on paper, “Untitled (Virginia Landscape),” biomorphic symbols, swollen and rounded, allude to botanical or human sex organs, and are complemented with wiry lines evocative of vines or stamen. In his later work, such as the masterful “Gray Drawing for Pastoral” (ca.1946 – 1947), these instinctive symbols – still amorphous and suggestive – harden into something of a personal vocabulary comprised of distinct recurring forms.

Gorky often used his works on paper as studies, shifting configurations and colors before further interpreting a composition on canvas. His process of intense contemplation and refinement rarely left anything to chance, yet the resulting works brimmed with a sense of immediacy and spontaneous energy. This characteristic mix of restraint and wild abandon can be seen in his two “Pastoral” paintings from 1947, where Gorky’s gestural planes of color give shape to the negative space and seem to emerge from within the canvas. Alternatively, in the related large-scale drawings, Gorky takes a more reductive approach, by covering his paper with a thin ground of charcoal and carving out the shapes with an eraser until they emerge eerily through the smoky ground, a technique that heightens the ambiguous nature of the vaguely anatomical forms that float across the page.

While made at a professional peak, Gorky’s late works are situated within a period of profound personal tragedy. In the two-year span of 1946 to 1947, the artist suffered a catastrophic studio fire, a painful operation for intestinal cancer, a debilitating automobile accident, and increasing marital troubles. The trauma that colored Gorky’s final years inspired shifts towards a bleaker palette and a more abbreviated line, and his paintings became increasingly enigmatic.

On view from November 2 through December 23 at Hauser & Wirth New York, 32 E. 69th Street, the exhibition is accompanied by a richly illustrated publication, *Ardent Nature. Arshile Gorky Landscapes, 1943 – 47*, from Hauser & Wirth Publishers. The book features newly commissioned contributions by Saskia Spender and Edith Devaney, Senior Curator at the Royal Academy of Arts, London.

Additionally, on November 21, at 7 p.m., a screening of the film “Without Gorky” (2011), directed by Cosima Spender will take place at the Hauser & Wirth Publishers Bookshop at 22nd Street in NY in connection with the exhibition.

For more information, see <https://www.hauserwirth.com/exhibitions/3321/ardent-nature-arshile-gorky-landscapes-1943y47/view/>.

Celebrating 80th Birthday of Yuri Sahakyan

YEREVAN – This year the literary circles of Armenia celebrate the 80th anniversary of famous Armenia poet and translator Yuri Sahakyan.

Yerevan-based Sahakyan was born in 1937 in the village of Chaylu in the Mardakert district of Nagorno Karabakh, today’s Republic of Artsakh. He lost his parents in early childhood. Sahakyan served in Soviet Army from 1957 to 1960. In 1966 Sahakyan graduated from Yerevan State University, department of philology, and in 1967 started working at *Hayreniki Dzayn* (Voice of Fatherland) weekly newspaper. Later, he studied in Moscow and completed the literary courses of the USSR Union of Writers. In 1975, he became the chief editor of the Booklovers organization. From 1976 till 1993, Sahakyan worked at *Sovetakan Grogh* (Soviet Writer), later at Arevik publishing houses as a senior editor of children’s literature department.

He also translates from Russian, mainly for children. Since 1968, he has been a member of Writers’ Union of Armenia.

Sahakyan is the winner of the State award of 1999 for the book *Alphabet Guide*. He is an author of a dozen books of poetry both for children and adults. Many of his poems have been translated and published in Russian, Ukrainian, Serbian, Bulgarian, Polish, Romanian, English, French, Swedish, Lithuanian, Abkhazian, etc.

Sahakyan’s name is also well known to all who love songs. He wrote lyrics for many popular songs such as: *Arpa Sevan* music by Edgar Hovhannisyan; *Ayl Acher* (Other Eyes) music by Eduard Tumanyan; *Sharunakir Jptal* (Keep on Smiling) music by Robert Amirkhanyan; *Khutut-Mutut* (Tickling), *Hovik-hovik* (Little Breeze) music by Tigran Mansuryan, etc.

Below is a new translation of a poem by Yuri Sahakyan, done by Yerevan-based philologist, historian and translator Artsvi Bakhchinyan.

I Am the Friend of Your Friend
To My Bulgarian friend,
Krassin Himmirsky

The Bulgarian friend of mine
Has a friend in Greece.

This friend of Greece
Has a friend in Poland.



Yuri Sahakyan

This friend of Poland
Has a friend in Russia.

This friend of Russia
Has a friend in Persia.

I am standing by the map
And looking with admiration.
And I cannot take my eye
Off the Planet named Earth.

If one day I stretch out my hand
And hold the hand of my friend,
And he stretches out his hand
And hold the hand of his friend,
This whole beautiful world
Will appear in our hands...

And mentally I violate
All the borders, near and far,
I cross the seas, I cross the lands
And travel in villages and towns.
Whomever I see on my way
I greet them warmly as a friend.
“Here’s my hand, my dear friend,
I am the friend of your friend.”



ARTS & LIVING



The cover of the 2018 Project SAVE calendar

Project SAVE 'Our Armenian Journey' 2018 Calendar Goes on Sale

WATERTOWN – Stories of refugees fleeing their homes have dominated headlines recently, with many from cities like Aleppo that are familiar to Armenians. Project SAVE, perceiving the tragic similarities to events of a century ago, seeks to share the narratives of Armenians' journeys from our own archives, illuminated with multiple photos. The selected images illustrate Armenian immigrants' and refugees' struggles and accomplishments as they assimilate and contribute to their adopted societies, while maintaining their identity.

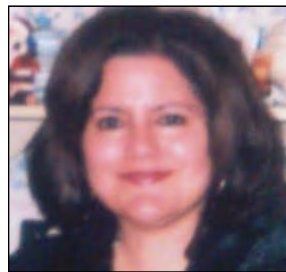
The 2018 calendar, with the theme "Our Armenian Journey," pays tribute to those who face hardships, separations, and reunions during their journey.

Graphic Artist Vartus Varadian has designed the calendar in a way that invites the viewer to investigate what the photographs represent.

Project SAVE's calendar is the organization's major fundraising effort, supporting ongoing work of collecting, documenting, and preserving photographs of all subjects and periods relating to Armenian people.

Calendar Sponsors are acknowledged in each month with their short messages of honor or remembrance of family, friends, and heroes who have contributed to the Armenian Journey.

Calendars make great Christmas gifts for family and friends. They will be mailed out right after Thanksgiving, or can be picked up in our Watertown Square office. To order, visit www.projectsavesave.org.



Recipe Corner

by Christine Vartanian

Armenian Chicken, Rice and Lemon Soup

INGREDIENTS

4 cups fresh or canned chicken broth (turkey broth may be substituted)
4 cups water
2 skinless boneless chicken breasts, cooked and shredded or diced (or any cooked chicken)
1/2 medium onion, minced
2 stalks celery, diced
1 medium carrot, diced
3/4 cup basmati rice or a large handful of crushed vermicelli (or egg noodles)
Juice of 2 lemons and zest from 1 lemon
2 eggs, beaten
Dried crushed mint and chopped parsley
1 teaspoon sea or Kosher salt
Black or white pepper and paprika
Sliced lemons

PREPARATION:

In a large pot, bring the chicken broth and water to a full boil. Season with salt and pepper, add the rice or vermicelli, onion, celery and carrot, and cook over medium heat until rice is tender, about 20-22 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the shredded chicken, stir a few times, and cook for 10 minutes longer until fully combined.

Beat the eggs with the lemon juice in a medium bowl for a few minutes until frothy, stir in 1/2 cup of the soup broth, and then gradually pour the egg mixture into soup; season to taste. Add the lemon zest, if desired, and stir constantly taking care that broth does not curdle. Remove from heat when soup is hot.

Garnish with parsley, dried crushed mint, paprika and sliced lemons. Serve with Armenian madzoon or Greek yogurt, a crusty Italian or French bread or warm pita bread on the side.

Serves 4-6.

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

20th Arpa International Film Festival Celebration Wraps with Touching and Emotional Tributes

ARPA, from page 12

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Cornell Family was unable to attend the gala. There to accept the Lifetime Legacy Award on behalf of the family was actress Angela Sarafyan ("Westworld," "The Promise"), a recipient of the Arpa Rising Star Award in 2014. Sarafyan was visibly moved after a touching tribute reel to Cornell and emphasized his philanthropic and humanitarian efforts. A specially-commissioned portrait of Cornell was gifted by artist Emil Kazaz and presented to Sarafyan.

Oscar-winning screenwriter Alexander Dinelaris, best known for his original screenplay for the 2014 film "Birdman," received Arpa's Career Achievement Award. His body of work includes numerous theatrical pieces and musicals, including "The Bodyguard," featuring the music of Whitney Houston, and the critically-acclaimed "On Your Feet!" Broadway musical about the life and career of Gloria Estefan. Alexander Dinelaris' earlier works include the powerful play "Red Dog Howls" in which he touches upon the Armenian Genocide. The piece was influenced by his Armenian grandmother, who played an important role in his younger years.

The Award was presented to Dinelaris by Michael Peretzian, with whom he collaborated with on the play "Red Dog Howls." Peretzian is known for representing many distinguished screenwriters and directors, including John Madden and Anthony Minghella. Both Peretzian and Dinelaris in their remarks touched upon their Armenian ancestry and the need to be more accepting of Americans who come from different ethnic backgrounds. Dinelaris was also presented with a specially engraved Mont Blanc pen gifted by Bhindi Jewellers, in recognition of his superb writing.

2017 Arpa IFF Winning Films

Best Feature Film - "Dalida" (France, 2016)

The award was presented by two-time Golden Globe nominated actress Barbara Carrera who starred in close to 40 movies, including the James Bond film "Never Say Never Again," "The Island of Dr. Moreau" and "Embryo."

"Dalida" is an intimate portrait based on the real story of a strong, fiercely independent woman whose 30-year dazzling career was punctuated by tragic events, with no less than three of her lovers committing suicide. With over 170 million albums sold, Dalida was the first singer to receive platinum and diamond discs, some of her best hits including Bang Bang, Paroles Paroles and Avec Le Temps. Dalida continued to hold concerts until her last days, but her suicide in 1987 immortalized her iconic image as a diva and renowned singer.

Best Documentary Film - "Intent to Destroy" (USA, 2017): The award was presented to Oscar-nominated and Emmy-winning filmmaker Joe Berlinger by top Eileen Ford model Ronnie Carol known for her role as Juliette Bagradian in the movie "40 Days of Musa Dagh" along with a recurring role on the soap As the World Turns.

Pulling back the curtain on mass murder censorship in Hollywood due to U.S. government pressure to appease a strategic ally, "Intent to Destroy" embeds with a historic feature film production as a springboard to explore the violent history of the Armenian Genocide and legacy of Turkish suppression and denial over the past century.

Joe Berlinger's thirteenth feature documentary film captures the cinematic and political challenges of producing a historically meaningful, big budget feature film in an environment rife with political suppression and threats of retaliation. By intertwining these three separate threads the modern-day production of "The Promise," the history of the Genocide and the century of international repression.

"Intent to Destroy" will be released theatri-

cally on November 10 at the following locations: (Laemmle's Playhouse in Pasadena; Pacific Theaters 18 in Glendale at the Americana at Brand; Village East Cinema in New York City.

Best Short Film - "Mariam's Day Off" (Armenia, 2016)

The Award was presented by actor Yancey Arias from the NBC series Kingpin and the FX series Thief. Arshak Amirbekyan's film, shot in Armenia, is about a young prostitute who meets an artist in a park, gets invited to a modeling session and finds herself in a rather new and exciting world of artists; but when night falls, she has to return to her regular life in the park. The Award was accepted by actor/director Ashot Adamyan who stars in the film.

Best Screenplay - "The Liberation of

Skopje," (Macedonia/Croatia/Finland, 2016), Writers: Dusan Jovanovic, Rade Serbedzija, Danilo Serbedzija

"The Liberation of Skopje," captures the horrors and suffering of the Second World War, portrayed in bittersweet terms through the eyes of 11-year-old Zoran whose father has joined the partisans to fight the German occupiers and whose mother becomes involved with a German officer.

Best Direction - "H.O.M.E" (USA, 2016) Director: Daniel Maldonado. "H.O.M.E." is a film about urban communication, alienation and the human condition. Part lyrical tone poem dedicated to New York City, its comprised two stories involving intimate and meaningful encounters through the lens of a "disconnected" city in constant motion.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Students of Armenian Descent

Having Completed One Year of College by June 2018
Applications and other information may be obtained from:

**Armenian Students' Association
Scholarship Committee**

**333 Atlantic Avenue • Warwick, RI 02888
Tel. 401-461-6144 • Fax 401-461-6112**

email: headasa@aol.com

Deadline for returning completed applications: March 15, 2018



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ARTS & LIVING

Jewish and Armenian Artifacts on Display Jointly at Manoogian Museum

MUSEUM, from page 1

Pomeroy thanked Manoogian “for hosting this special event celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Museum, and for featuring both Jewish and Armenian artifacts and for including the Jewish community in this celebration.” He also expressed his appreciation to James Melikian for preserving such artifacts.

The Very Rev. Aren Jebejian of St. John Armenian Church, said Brazilian, provided a “warm welcome to our cultural home – or to the ‘Holy Land’ using the words of the late Dyana Kezelian, Lower School Principal of the Manoogian School. With the Church, the Cultural Hall, the AGBU Alex and Marie

tural complex, “there is an important resource center for Genocide and Holocaust Studies – it is the Edward and Helen Mardigian Library – built and maintained by the Mardigian family.”

Azadian concluded by stating that “As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Manoogian Museum with an outstanding exhibition featuring Jewish and Armenian artifacts, we also bring together two peoples who have experienced the same historic trauma. Jews and Armenians, as survivors, have come together, working and struggling for a world without genocides.”

Sylvie Merian, a librarian at the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York (also Editorial



The Very Reverend Father Aren Jebejian of St. John Armenian Church and Congressional Rep. Brenda Lawrence

Manoogian School, the Veterans Building, the Mardigian Library, and the Manoogian Museum all in one complex, it truly is an Armenian ‘Holy Land.’”

Brazilian introduced Edmond Azadian, a member of the Governor’s Council (also senior adviser to the Manoogian Museum; executive editor of *A Legacy of Armenian Treasures* and formerly executive assistant to Alex Manoogian). Azadian acknowledged those who were instrumental in the adoption of “Michigan House Bill 4493 - which was adopted by the Michigan legislature and signed into law on June 14, 2016 by Governor Rick Snyder. The bill requiring teaching of the Armenian Genocide, the Jewish Holocaust, and other genocides in Michigan high schools, was spearheaded by State Rep. Klint Kesto.”

He added, “A 15-member council from the Jewish and Armenian communities was appointed by the Governor to research and implement a unified curriculum for educators in the state of Michigan. The Council is headed by Chairperson Lori Talsky who is present today with her husband Alan Zekelman. Corrine Khederian serves as vice chair of the Council.”

Azadian also mentioned that within the cul-

Coordinator of *A Legacy of Armenian Treasures*) was then introduced by Brazilian. Merian read from a “modern colophon – written in the spirit and style of a medieval Armenian colophon....” that she had written especially for this special exhibition catalog: “For the 25th Anniversary of the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum, the museum was renewed and refreshed, and a special exhibition was prepared, through many trials and tribulations. New signs were made, and labels, and a website, and so much more. . . . and from distant Arizona beautiful objects were borrowed for the exhibition and brought to the city of Southfield. . . . During the many months it took to update the museum and prepare the exhibition, many wars took place . . . countless people died . . . all because of greed and ignorance. . . . We also suffered through horrendous natural disasters, such as three dreadful hurricanes innocently named Harvey, Irma, and Maria....Also, oh readers and listeners and visitors, please remember in your heavenward prayers the noble Alex and Marie Manoogian, both of blessed memory, who founded this splendid museum....”

The final speaker was James Melikian, whose



Richard Manoogian and Robert Taubman (Chair, President, and CEO of Taubman Centers, Inc.)

family has been long-time friends of Brazilian. Melikian “recalled my visit to the Manoogian Museum several years ago, when I met Richard Manoogian – who is an inspiration in the world of collecting.” Melikian expressed his “appreciation to Richard Manoogian and to all involved in making this exhibition happen, especially

Shlomo Moussaieff. And, yes, I continue to collect – whenever there is extra money – thanks to my wife’s financial management, I immediately look for a new artifact to acquire.”

Melikian also collects other sports memorabilia - which includes Mike Tyson’s mink boxing gloves. One of Melikian’s most recent acquisi-



Speakers on stage (Left to Right): Richard Manoogian, Keith Pomeroy, the Very Rev. Aren Jebejian of St. John Armenian Church, Edmond Azadian, Sylvie Merian, James Melikian

Elizabeth Brazilian and Museum Director Lucy Ardash.”

Melikian mentioned that he and his wife, Ana, “have collected over 4,000 artifacts from the world’s major religions – including Armenian, Jewish, Hindu, Islamic, Buddhist, Zoroastrian – to promote understanding and peace. On display is the First Armenian New Testament printed in Amsterdam, 1668; and a Silver Mounted Torah Case, probably Jerusalem, 1923, from the collection of the late

tions includes medals of Austrian-Jewish Pentathlon Champion Gerda Gottlieb. She won five consecutive Gold Medals in Vienna as winner of the 1933-37 National Pentathlon. These are on display in this exhibit. And, someday, the Melikians hope to create a museum.

The James and Ana Melikian Collection is on view at the Manoogian Museum through January 15, 2018 by appointment. For more information, view website: www.manoogianmuseum.org



Richard Manoogian and Keith Pomeroy



Robert Taubman and James Melikian



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 Bozagian & his band and Artur’s Armenian Dance Troupe. To RSVP or for more information, call 949-933-4069, email leslie@eyecare-project.com or visit eyecareproject.com/25th-anniversary-gala/

MASSACHUSETTS

NOVEMBER 17 and 18 — Saints Vartanantz Armenian Church, Annual Food Festival and Fair, 180 Old Westford Rd., Chelmsford. Phone 978-256-7234. Armenian Food and Pastries, and Vendors, Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Live Armenian Music and Dancing, Friday - 4:30 - 7 p.m. Tours of the church sanctuary and complex - Friday, 11 a.m. and Saturday, 4 p.m. Tavloo Tournament - Saturday, 2 p.m.

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 .

NOVEMBER 28 — “Stopping Violence Against Women: From the Local to the Global,” a panel on violence against women in New England, nationwide, and in the Republic of Armenia. Sponsored by the Armenian International Women’s Association and the Watertown Free Public Library. Featuring Wendy Murphy, Attorney and Adjunct professor at New England Law Boston, Tsovinar Harutyunyan, United National Population Fund (UNFPA) Armenia Program Analyst, Craig Norberg-Bohm, consultant and formerly of the Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence. Moderated by Judy Norsigian, past executive director and co-founder of Our Bodies Ourselves and AIWA Board member. 7 p.m., Watertown Free Public Library, 123 Main St., Watertown, Free and open to the public.

DECEMBER 1 and 2 — Trinity Christmas Bazaar, Friday, 12-9 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Featuring delicious Armenian dinners, a la carte menu and take-out meals; booths and vendors – perfect for doing your Christmas shopping; Armenian



Armenian International Women’s Association and Watertown Free Public Library present a panel on November 28 on “Stopping Violence Against Women: From the Local to the Global,” 7 p.m., Watertown Free Public Library, 123 Main St., Watertown. Program will feature Wendy Murphy, Tsovinar Harutyunyan, Craig Norberg-Bohm and will be moderated by Judy Norsigian. Free and open to the public.

gourmet foods, delicacies and pastries; raffles, and more. Activities for Children, Peter Adamian Hall: Friday, 7-9 p.m., All Aboard “The Polar Express” Pajama Party, recommended for children ages 5 and older; Saturday, 11 a.m., Children’s Entertainment. Visit with Santa, Saturday, 1-2 pm, and have your photo taken too. Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall. For further information, contact the church office at 617.354.0632, or log onto <http://www.htaac.org/calendar/event/449/>

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

DECEMBER 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

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

MICHIGAN

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

NEW JERSEY

NOVEMBER 18 — Gala banquet celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Tekeyan Cultural Association of Greater New York. At the Terrace at Biagios. 299 Paramus Road, Paramus. Featuring Elie Berberian and his band from Montreal. Call 201-446-8006.

RHODE ISLAND

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

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

Vordan Karmir Rocks Waco, Texas

By Mihran Aroian

WACO, Texas — In Waco, where fewer than 10 Armenians live, there was a performance on November 1 by a rock band from Armenia called Vordan Karmir. Built in a year that all Armenians know, 1915, the Waco Hippodrome Theatre hosted Vordan Karmir to perform their special blend of Armenian rock.

Waco is known for Baylor University, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, and the Dr. Pepper Museum. Why would more than 150 people from Waco come hear a band from

Armenia and why would a rock band from Armenia perform in Waco?

The story begins two years ago, when Vordan Karmir came to Austin to participate in one of the biggest live music festivals in the world called South by Southwest, or SXSW. The Austin-Armenian community got to know the band members during their stay in Austin and when I and my family traveled to Yerevan, we had the pleasure of hearing them perform in Armenia.

We have kept in touch and when they came to perform at the Innovate Armenia conference at the University of Southern California, I contacted Chris Ermoian, who is the executive pro-

ducer of the Texas Music Café – a show that is broadcast on over 100 PBS stations. Vordan Karmir will be featured on an episode entitled “On Texas Soil” in early 2018. Living in Waco for most of his adult life, Chris is connecting with his Armenian heritage and willing to promote Armenian musicians. In 1977, the three Ermoian brothers launched The Texas Music Café to promote aspiring musicians. Chris immediately took the opportunity to help promote Vordan Karmir increase their exposure here in the US, and arranged a show where they would be taped for the Texas Music Café.

The broadcast of Vordan Karmir’s PBS debut will take place in early January with a potential

audience of 20 million. The band’s name literally translates to “red worm,” which was once used as a crimson dye. A popular music group in Armenia, the band was formed in 2009 by a group of young men in Vanadzor. Members Vahan Poghosyan, Davit Grigoryan, Davit Galstyan and Payqar Chakhoyan produce innovative music, addressing issues that range from corruption to social indifference.

To help them with performance venues, contact me at mihran@aroian.com.

To learn more about Texas Music Café, visit their website www.texasmusiccafe.com and to learn more about Vordan Karmir, visit their website at <http://vordankarmir.com/>

COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

The Tangled Web of Flynn

By Edmond Y. Azadian

When President Donald Trump appointed Michael Flynn as his national security advisor, the following warning appeared in this column: "The president-elect would do a good service to his country to take a hard look at his choice before his final appointment. Otherwise, he would be planting a time bomb in his office." (*Mirror-Spectator*, November 23, 2016)

The time bomb went off, earlier than anticipated, and Flynn was fired and now is in legal hot water. He might even drag with him the resident of the White House.

The warning was recorded in this column not out of anti-Turkish hysteria, but because the checkered past of the man was already a matter of public record, with revelations that he had attended a meeting with the representatives of the Turkish government, where Fethullah Gulen's fate was discussed. As well, there was the fact that Flynn was on the Turkish government's payroll without registering with the US government as a foreign agent. His boundless recklessness even led him to publish an oped piece in *The Hill* ("Our ally Turkey is in crisis and needs our support," November 8, 2016), calling on the US government to come to the aid of Turkey, while characterizing Gulen as a terrorist.

US Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigations will reveal more about his recklessness and personal agenda to the detriment of US foreign policy, such as delaying the takeover of Raqqa from ISIS. Shortly before the transition of power from President Barack Obama to Trump, the former's national security adviser, Susan Rice, informed Flynn of the Pentagon plan to retake Raqqa, the nerve center of ISIS. Flynn opposed it, though no reason was recorded at the time, because the government of Turkey opposed the move.

Governments have invisible tentacles to carry out illicit actions, which are conducted under the cover of secrecy, until they hit a raw nerve.

Take the case of Oliver North, who blatantly bypassed Congress in the Iran-Contra affair, buying and distributing weapons in violation of

Turkey. Also, Mueller's investigation focuses on Flynn's role in Russian meddling in the US election process. That investigation is circling closer and closer to the White House.

Next, Reza Zarrab, a Turkish-Iranian gold trader was arrested on March 16, 2016, for perpetrating a scheme to get around UN sanctions on Iran, which may lead to fines totaling \$6 billion. But what is more serious is "a lot of Turkish laundry is likely to be aired" as Steven A. Cook reports in his blog post.

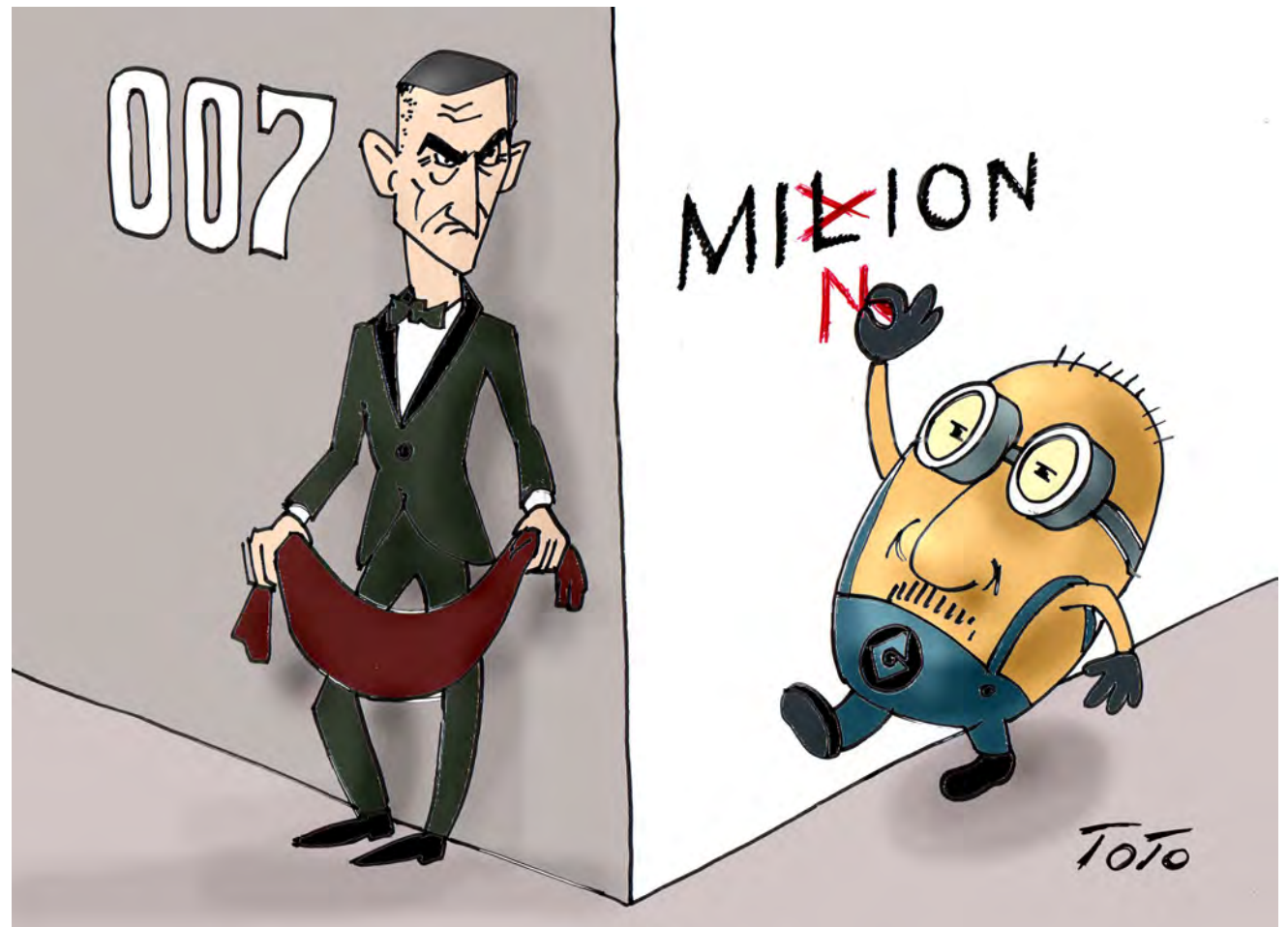
Mr. Zarrab has been very close to Recep Tayyip Erdogan and intercepted conversations between the two implicated then Prime Minister Erdogan.

Finally, the political strain that is pushing Turkey and the US apart exacerbates the above two cases. Governments have a way of circumventing transgressions if and when they enjoy cordial relations. But in this case, Erdogan's diatribes against the US, political conflict with the White House over the Kurdish issue in Syria, where Kurds enjoy US support in their drive to carve out an autonomous enclave on Syrian soil at the Turkish border, have distanced the two countries.

To top that all, Erdogan has just completed a deal to buy \$2 billion worth of military hardware from Russia, which NATO partners claim are not compatible with the alliance's standards.

In an opinion piece, Stephen Kinzer comments: "Turkey has been a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, making it a military ally of the United States for 65 years. Officially it still is. The reality is different. Turkey has written itself out of the western alliance. Rather than accept decisions made in Washington and NATO headquarters in Brussels, it now behaves like a Middle Eastern Country pursuing its own interests. Turkey has become the first NATO dropout."

The US being the sole surviving superpower can control the situation and restrain Turkey in its erratic policy. But what is happening on the other side of the equation is that Turkey is veering towards Russia. Mr. Erdogan is on his way to Sochi to engage in serious negotiations with President Putin. The way Turkey has violated UN sanctions in the Iran case is undermining US and NATO policy to contain Russia. Gas and energy deals are on their negotiating table. Russia has already



the law, only to receive a slap on the wrist and to become an icon and ideologue of the far right, even entertaining dreams of entering the presidential race.

Mr. Flynn's fortunes turned sour because his client, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan went too far in alienating the US government and shaking the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) alliance.

These days, Turkey's name is constantly in the headlines with negative stories, though none are related to Armenian issues.

Azerbaijan similarly has gained notoriety in equal parts thanks to the revelations of the Panama Papers and the subsequent assassination of Maltese investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia.

The Aliyev clan's \$600 millions in investments in Israeli banks and the confession of a German Christian Democrat Karin Strenz that she had been on the Azeri government's payroll to promote that government's interests in Germany and in the European Parliament have done plenty to paint an accurate portrait of that government internationally.

The fallout between the US and Turkey has manifested itself on three levels.

First is Michael Flynn's \$15-million sellout of US policy regarding

agreed to build more than one atomic power plant in Turkey. The two parties have agreed to raise the level of mutual trade to \$100 billion annually. Having Erdogan at his side, Putin will have to scoff at the US sanctions against Russia.

But there is a political price to pay for all these deals. It has been reported that the Karabakh issue will be on the agenda. Russians have a history of selling out Armenia to Turkey since the days of Mustafa Kemal and Lenin. Moscow is eager to have Azerbaijan join the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU); Turkey's leverage can bring that to bear.

In that case, Karabakh will become the casualty. Without suffering any political pain, Moscow can force Armenia to cede its strategic positions, to placate Baku and Ankara.

In today's interconnected reality, global conflicts may end up influencing the remotest corners of the world, which might appear to be immune to that ongoing conflict.

When Turkey's interests dovetail with those of Russia, Baku has no other choice but to oblige and Armenia will lose.

Flynn's web of lies and deceit, ultimately will not only hurt the US government's interests, but further constrain the rights of Armenia.

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COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Ronn Torossian Hired to do PR For Turkey; Is He Really an Armenian?

The website Medium.com posted two articles by Louise Neu revealing that Ronn Torossian had signed a contract to represent Turkey as its PR agent. Torossian is President of the 5W Public Relations firm based in New York City.

Justice Department records indicate that Torossian signed the agreement on May 25, 2017. His firm will get paid an additional \$60,000 for the period of May 16-November 16, 2017, which is automatically renewable for another six months. This payment is in addition to the amount specified in the contract signed on August 10, 2016.

It is noteworthy that Torossian signed the agreement with Turkey nine days after President Erdogan watched his bodyguards beat up a group of demonstrators in front of Turkish Ambassador’s residence in Washington, DC. Three days after the protesters were beaten and injured, Torossian published an article in *The Algemeiner*, titled: “Deport Radical Islamist Preacher [Gulen] and Maintain American Interests.”

Interestingly, Louise Neu revealed that Torossian had written another article in Newsmax on Feb. 17, 2017, criticizing the media coverage of Michael Flynn’s resignation. Ironically, Torossian had written an earlier article in Newsmax on May 20, 2015, critical of PR Firm Levick Communications’ work for the Embassy of Qatar, in which he stated: “There are those who feel it is OK to spin for dictators and terrorists. Yet, this writer [Torossian] agrees with the owner of the world’s largest PR firm, Richard Edelman, who said, ‘PR is not like the law – Not everyone deserves

representation.” Contradicting himself, Torossian engaged in the hypocritical action of defending the interests of Erdogan, the dictator of Turkey.

In addition, Torossian wrote on January 27, 2017, in *The Observer*, published by President Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner, criticizing PR firms that “whitewash repressive regimes....” He concluded: “dictators and terrorists don’t deserve any PR help.”

I called Torossian’s office twice. Each time a staff member assured me that he would return my call. I never heard from him. Louise Neu had a similar experience when she tried to reach Torossian. When she tweeted him about his connections to Turkey and Trump associates, Torossian tweeted back: “I shot JFK. My ex-wife is Russian.... I even ate caviar this week.” Torossian is not only impolite in not responding to phone messages, but he is reported to have a bad temper against his employees and others. The *New York Times* described him as “brash and aggressively outspoken.” He is also reported to have business dealings with shady Jewish and Russian oligarchs, according to Louise Neu. Even though Torossian has an Armenian last name, I was not able to confirm if one or both of his parents are Armenians, or neither one.

Ronn Torossian is also “a partner, Chief Marketing Officer and advisory Board member of JetSmarter,” according to his LinkedIn profile. JetSmarter is a controversial company described as “uber for planes.” The CEO of JetSmarter is Sergey Petrossov, the son of Vatchagan Petrossov, who definitely has an Armenian name.

The main reason I was interested in Ronn Torossian’s employment as a PR agent for Turkey is that there was a similar situation with Barry Zorthian who worked from October 1980 to February 1984 for the lobbying firm of Gray and Co., hired by Turkey. Zorthian was a former executive for Voice of America and Time, Inc. In 1968-69 he was the chief US spokesman in Saigon, Vietnam.

After I had become aware that Zorthian was simultaneously an executive at a lobbying firm for Turkey and Board Member of the Armenian Assembly of America, I called him to ask if his dual roles did not create a conflict personally or for his firm. As a sign of respect for a fellow Armenian, I cautioned him that if he answered my questions, it could lead to his dismissal from his job. Zorthian, 63, replied that he did

not care if he lost his \$65,000-a-year job as senior vice president of Gray and Co. He went ahead and honestly answered all my questions. Zorthian explained that he worked in the public relations office and not on the Turkey account which was handled by the firm’s lobbying department.

As soon as my article was published on the front page of the *California Courier* on January 19, 1984, the Turkish newspaper *Tercuman* reported my interview with Zorthian which caused a great embarrassment to the Turkish Foreign Ministry, finding out that an Armenian-American was a top executive for the lobbying firm that was getting paid \$300,000-a-year by Turkey.

On February 21, 1984, the lobbying firm’s vice chairman, Alejandro Orfila, told Zorthian that the Turkish Ambassador Sukru Elekdag was extremely irate reading the newspaper report. Orfila quoted Ambassador Elekdag stating: “I hired you guys to help me with my political problems, and instead you’re creating problems for me... You must do something drastic that I can report back to my government or else I’ll be forced to cancel the contract.”

The PR firm’s chairman, Robert K. Gray, cut his vacation short in Acapulco, Mexico, and immediately returned to Washington. Zorthian was fired after rejecting Mr. Gray’s request to resign.

Even though I was not pleased to see Mr. Zorthian lose his job, as a young reporter who had started working as a journalist six months earlier, it was very satisfying that my obscure article made headlines in Turkey and came to the attention of the Turkish Foreign Ministry and Ambassador Elekdag. Furthermore, the *Washington Post* wrote a lengthy article on April 13, 1984, quoting from my article and mentioning my newspaper as the source of this international controversy.

I urged Zorthian to file a lawsuit accusing Gray and Co., of employment discrimination due to his national origin. Zorthian did file charges with the Washington, D.C. Office of Human Rights, claiming he was illegally fired because of his Armenian background.

Unfortunately, I do not know the outcome of Zorthian’s lawsuit. Both he and his wife have passed away since then.

If Mr. Torossian is truly an Armenian, how could he do PR for Turkey? More importantly, how could Turkey hire him given Mr. Zorthian’s experience?

‘You Will Burn in Hell’



By Ismail Akbulut

“You will burn in hell! Since you’ve committed treason, you’re no longer worthy to carry out God’s mission!” That’s a curse recently hurled at me by one of my own relatives, a Muslim Turk, in reaction to my latest op-ed: “Why I Am Grateful to Erdogan, the Dictator of Turkey” [*Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, November 4] My sin was to violate two of the most “sacred” narratives of Turkish mythology.

In the Islamic tradition, Muslims believe that there is life after death. Either one is cast into hell as a punishment for sins, or is granted access to pass through the gates of paradise. Obviously, no Muslim wants as his or her fate to spend eternity in hell. Why, then, would my own family member curse me with this fate instead of send me loving blessings? Here I will respond to some of the reactions to my previous article, and elaborate on why some believe I have committed blasphemy.

Many Muslims tend to believe that God was on their side during certain historical periods, because of their personal piety and work towards protecting Islam in general. Frankly, today most supporters of the Turkish president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, believe that the Turkish-led Ottoman Empire was part of God’s divine mission, and they still grieve its defeat in 1922.

As some of my Turkish readers reminded me, in the official Turkish narrative held by many as sacred and inviolable, the Armenians were guilty for the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, the land protected and favored by no other than God himself. The multiethnic and religiously diverse Ottoman Empire, known for its relative tolerance vis-à-vis its minorities, entered WWI as an ally of the Central Powers. In this construction of history, Armenians, considered as the “trustworthy citizens” of the Ottoman Empire, collectively committed treason by rebelling and collaborating with the enemies, including the Russians and French, against the “holy” Ottoman Empire.

In this version, the “vulnerable” Ottoman Empire was “forced” to proactively relocate all Armenians, in order to protect them from Turks’ revenge and to protect Turks from Armenians as well. During the “required” relocation, many Armenians died due to inclement weather, or were killed by Kurdish rebels (not Turks). Therefore, as this narrative puts it, what happened was indeed unfortunate, but really just a part of the collective suffering of those nations involved at that time, and in this light, must not be considered a genocide.

As much as this “sacrosanct” myth attempts to address why at least hundreds of thousands of Armenians died (up to a million and a half), and so many were brutally deported, it ignores, disregards, and denies the massacres of Armenian intellectuals, men, women, and children in the heartland of the Ottoman Empire committed by Ottomans using state power and means. The official Turkish version, which silences history, lacks credibility as it has a lot of holes that can only be filled with cement, through categorically denying and destroying evidence of those crimes. Thus, I regard this version as an apologetic excuse for the crimes the Ottomans committed; a rewriting of history in which Turkish glory conveniently remain untainted.

Thus, my first heretical sin was to committed treason by collaborating with an Armenian newspaper, a newspaper that had been established by “traitors” who were
see HOLINESS, page 20

LETTERS

Thanks for Bringing Attention to Story of Anoush Mathevosian

To the Editor:

Thank you, Aram Arkun, for exposing a great injustice in your article, “The Armenian Genocide Museum Shame,” and for placing it on the front page above the fold line – a place of importance for a “must read” piece.

I have long been troubled by the indifference and total absence of honor in the settlement of the Anoush Mathevosian Genocide Museum case. But before I speak to that, I want to be transparent.

I am founder and president of Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives, Inc., a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization that solicits donations to continue its important work. Anoush Mathevosian is not one of our financial supporters, nor have I ever met her. I am a social historian whose studies include Armenian Genocide related events. I am also a dues-paying member of the Armenian Assembly of America.

Armenian Americans have long desired an Armenian Genocide Museum in the traditional sense of a building with exhibits and programs. It was through the initiative and dedication of Anoush Mathevosian that an Armenian Genocide Museum be built in Washington, D.C. For months, Anoush travelled from New York to Washington in search of a suitable site, and in 2000, she was successful in finding the bank building two blocks from the White House.

Because of her strong belief in this project and her unquestionable trust in an Armenian organization – the Armenian Assembly, she was the first to donate millions to this endeavor. It was never a consideration of hers that her donation would be used for any other purpose but that of building a genocide museum – and we are not talking about a genocide museum web site. However, over the years, due to the manipulation and greed of the Cafesjian Family Foundation and others, and the incompetence of the Armenian Assembly, the Armenian Genocide Museum has not been built, nor have Anoush’s millions been returned to her. Where is the justice?

Over the past 50 years, Anoush has generously donated her wealth to countless Armenian causes both in America and Armenia. She is an unassuming person, seeking neither fame nor recognition. Neither does she have a following to stand up for her and demand justice for the confiscation of her misused funds. Sadly, numerous queries to the Assembly have gotten the “We’ll get back to you” response.

Recently, I was researching post Armenian Genocide years, and came upon words that sounded like a direct reference to the Anoush Mathevosian Genocide Museum case. The following words were written by Maj. Gen. James G. Harbord in his Report of the American Military Mission to Armenia (US Government Printing Office, 1920; available on the web), p. 18:

“...Unjust as it may be, the sentiment regarding him [the Armenian] is expressed by the saying current in the Near East: The Armenian is never legally in the wrong; never morally in the right.”

History, it seems, is repeating itself–this time with Anoush Mathevosian. Where is the honor and respect due her? What a swindle! Amot, Armenian Assembly of America.

Ruth Thomasian
Watertown



COMMENTARY

Is Domestic Violence an Integral Part of Our Family Traditions and National Identity?

By Nora Armani

Much has been written and said in the past few weeks, both in Armenia and in the Diaspora, about domestic violence and the urgent need to adopt a law criminalizing such behavior.

The United Nations defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or any suffering caused to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”

Intimate-partner violence refers to behavior by a partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behavior; 42 percent of women who experience intimate-partner violence report an injury as a consequence. Violence against women, whether domestic or social, can have fatal outcomes such as homicide or suicide.

No sooner had the motion to adopt a law against domestic violence landed on the Armenian Parliament agenda than voices fiercely opposing its adoption rose high in the press, in the media, and through social channels accompanied by active attempts to block it from becoming a law.

It would seem only logical to punish the perpetrator of any form of violence, specifically when exercised against the most vulnerable members of society, namely women and children, and particularly when such violence occurs under the family roof.

It may be a no-brainer that domestic violence should be punishable by law, just like other forms of violence such as assault and murder are, or should be, in societies where a fair and just judicial system operates. Sadly, the Armenian judicial system in its current form does little to help or protect women who are victims of domestic abuse. There is no respect for the law in Armenia and many criminals roam unpunished, especially those with ties to the powers that be with access to the

right social and political echelons. Some Armenian citizens are above the law. The refusal to adopt the law against Domestic Violence puts all male perpetrators above the law as well.

Why is it that more often than not, an abusive husband does not get fair punishment under Armenian law, and why is it that this broken judicial system sends him home to resume the same type of destructive and dangerous behavior? The answer is simple. Armenian society is based on the principle of the three M's: Misogyny, Masculinity, and Machoism. In order for us to understand this primarily male violent behavior, we need to address the norms that govern the males in our societies. It is very important to contextualize and understand that Armenian society is based on Misogyny, Masculinity, and Machoism. Cases can be cited of violence against women even outside the family. One recent incident comes to mind where a certain former governor of a certain region of Armenia physically abused a woman entrepreneur in broad daylight at the Marriott Hotel. What of that? How can such behaviors be accepted and go unpunished even under the criminal code?

It may be important to note that some women advocate these masculine principles and operate by them, willingly engaging in violent social and sexual behavior; the psychological implications of which might be worth studying. Some may even use violence as a turn-on and therefore it may be explained why they oppose such a law from taking effect.

These principles of masculinity dictate the behavior of the police, the judicial authorities, and even certain traditional male and female segments of society that consider domestic violence a “private matter” to be resolved within the confines of the home. This very misogynistic society does not hesitate to blame the victim for provocative behavior, often justifying the perpetrator's actions as having been called for. Finally, the so-called “noble” macho interference into the close-knit family fabric only to try to reconcile the victim with her perpetrator, does nothing but create a

vicious cycle for both partners.

Global estimates published by the World Health Organization (WHO) indicate that about 1 in 3 (35 percent) of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. As many as 38 percent of murders of women are committed by a male intimate partner.

These statistics reflect the global situation, and Armenia does not fall far behind. In fact, it competes very tightly and even wins in this domain, since close to 1 in 10 Armenian women report to have been physically ill-treated by their husbands, according to the findings of the Yerevan-based representatives of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA).

The outcome of a survey released in 2010 by the UNFPA found domestic violence to account “for the greatest share of physical and psychological” violence suffered by women in Armenia. Of the women surveyed, 9 percent admitted to experiencing physical violence, 25 percent to psychological intimidation, 61 percent to controlling behavior, and 3.3 percent sexual violence, all at the hands of their domestic partners.

Another survey on domestic violence in Armenia released by Proactive Society in 2011 found that 59.6 percent of its respondents had been subjected to domestic violence in their lifetime. This percentage surpasses the world figures, putting Armenia at the forefront of this social ill. The situation has not improved since.

Despite these glaring statistics, opponents argue that Armenia does not need laws that make domestic violence a crime since the criminal code has provisions against all forms of violence. However, the criminal code does not specifically prohibit domestic violence, making it difficult to hold perpetrators accountable for intimate partner violence of any degree. Moreover, these laws do not guarantee a fair treatment for victims of domestic violence because of the embedded prejudices of a masculine society.

Relevant provisions include: Murder (Article 104); Murder in a state of strong temporary insanity (Article 105); Causing death by negligence (Article 109); Causing somebody to commit sui-

cide (Article 110); Infliction of willful heavy damage to health (Article 112); Infliction of willful medium-gravity damage to health (Article 113); Infliction of medium-gravity or grave damage to health in the state of temporary insanity (Article 114); Infliction of willful light damage to health (Article 117); Battery (118); Torture (Article 119) and Forced violent sexual acts (Article 140). In addition, the Criminal Code prohibits illegal separation of the child from the parents (Article 167).

Criminal penalties range from 8 to 15 years (or life) in prison for aggravated murder (Article 104), to fines, correctional labor or two months in prison for infliction of light injury (Article 117).

General provisions in the criminal laws pertaining to crimes against the person may be applied only to certain cases of domestic violence, and often only when the outcome involves death.

As a result, Armenia considers that there is nothing wrong with its social structure and that isolated cases do not make up for an endemic even though official statistics show otherwise. This position clearly illustrates the dictates of the three M's mentioned above. These opponents, the denialists as I call them, are in collusion with this criminal trend since they consider such behavior tolerated and normal, even when it implied extreme cases of violence putting the lives of women and children in danger.

One article in the Armenian media argues that Armenia is not Europe nor is it America and therefore there is no need to adopt such a law. Other articles argue that the adoption of such a law would undermine our close-knit family values and national identity.

Often it is not the husband, but the mother in law who is the perpetrator. A serious complication emerges from the fact that the victim is placed in a very vulnerable situation with no social or legal recourse, and is obliged to keep silent out of shame, is unable to access proper care, receive compassion and council or even the unthinkable, get a fair compensation. I have heard of cases where the police have themselves abused and assaulted the victim who has called them to the
see IDENTITY, page 20

NATO Is Headed for a Very Messy Break-up

By Stephen Kinzer

If you're an American citizen, cancel plans for that vacation in Turkey. Don't invite your Turkish friends to the United States, either. Recently Turkey and the United States stopped issuing visas to each other's citizens. This is more than just another travel ban. It is a geopolitical spectacle unique in modern history: two allied countries blocking normal back-and-forth travel. An old relationship has gone deeply sour.

It's hard to imagine that Americans will be forbidden for years to visit Topkapi Palace, or that the Grand Canyon will remain off limits to Turks. Indeed, limited visa processing resumed Monday. But, even if the visa standoff is fully resolved the breach it symbolizes will not quickly heal. Turkey has been member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization — making it a military ally of the United States — for 65 years. Officially it still is. The reality is different. Turkey has written itself out of the Western alliance. Rather than accept decisions made in Washington and at NATO headquarters in Brussels, it now behaves like a Middle Eastern country pursuing its own interests. Turkey has become the first NATO dropout.

It may not be the last.

The causes of this crackup are a witch's brew, with ingredients including Russian weaponry, Kurdish guerrilla fighters, a sanctions-busting gold dealer, two preachers, and a goon squad of presidential bodyguards. The brew is flavored by deep suspicions of the United States that permeate much of Turkish society. A recent survey found that just 13 percent of Turks admire American ideals, while 72 percent fear the effects of American power. This antipathy suggests that Westerners have long misjudged the Turks.

After secularists led by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk seized power during the 1920s, they decreed that Turks must turn away from their Muslim and Middle Eastern heritage to become more European. Several generations were force-fed this creed. Then

the Turkish political system opened up enough to allow the masses to express their true views. Many voters and political leaders turned out to be pious nationalists who do not want to live in an American-dominated world. This challenges two delusions about the Turks: first, that most of them are Westernized secularists at heart, and second, that as loyal “NATO allies,” they happily join Middle East wars and other made-in-Washington security projects.

Roots of the current crisis in US-Turkey relations go back at least to 2003, when Turkey denied the US Army permission to cross Turkish soil on its way to invade Iraq. A few months later, American soldiers in northern Iraq arrested eleven Turkish security officers and, in images that are now seared into Turkey's collective memory, hooded them while they were detained. Civil war in Syria has sharpened this strategic dissonance. The United States armed Kurdish factions that Turkey considers enemies. Turkey returned the favor by allowing Al Qaeda and other militant groups to ship weapons and fighters across Turkish territory into Syria.

Anti-Turkish emotions in Washington flared in May, when an evidently amused President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan was filmed watching his bodyguards pummel protesters outside the Turkish embassy. Erdoğan is demanding that the US extradite a Turkish cleric who is living in Pennsylvania, and whom he blames for organizing a coup attempt last year. He has offered to free an imprisoned American preacher in exchange. Last month he raised the ante by arresting a Turkish employee of the US embassy.

Erdoğan is also worried about the looming trial in New York of a Turkish-Iranian gold dealer with whom he is said to have had corrupt dealings. He has also announced plans to buy a missile defense system from Russia — unthinkable for a NATO ally. He has even countenanced talk of pushing American planes out of the sprawling military base at Incirlik, near the Mediterranean, from which they carry out missions supporting wars throughout the region.

Turkey's defection is the latest and most vivid symptom of

NATO's failure to adapt to the 21st century. It was created to confront a single threat: the Soviet Union. That threat gave the alliance a clear mission, held its members together, and justified America's dominant military role in Europe. After the Soviet Union collapsed, the United States could have declared victory, reduced its role in NATO, and turned European security over to Europeans. Instead it did the opposite. NATO remained an instrument of American power. It admitted a host of new members and is opening a sprawling new headquarters in Brussels.

NATO, however, will never again be the powerful and united force it was during the Cold War. Turkey is splitting off because it now sees its own security goals as more important than those of the alliance. Other countries will make the same calculation. They will follow Turkey's example: pretend to be NATO members while going their own way.

Decay from within is not the only problem facing this calcified alliance. Worse is its lack of purpose. The American generals who run it must justify its existence by conceiving new missions. They have come up with two.

Today NATO systematically confronts Russia with troop movements, arms buildups and maneuvers near Russian borders. At the same time, it supports American “out-of-area” wars in places like Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan. Turkey has no interest in joining either of those projects. It feels no obligation to do so. That certifies its effective withdrawal from NATO.

Prickly nationalism and an evolving sense of self-interest helped push Turkey to this point. So did America's insistence on maintaining an old-style NATO after the Cold War ended. One other factor looms in the recent past. Turkey tried for years to enter the European Union. It was repeatedly rebuffed. With that historic choice, Europe slammed its door in Turkey's face. Naturally the Turks began looking for friends and partners elsewhere. Even strategic alliances are not forever.

(Stephen Kinzer is a senior fellow at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University. This column originally appeared in the Boston Globe on November 11.)



Is Domestic Violence an Integral Part of Our Family Traditions and National Identity?

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rescue on account of not being a good wife for having called the police on her husband. All these augmented cases of violence may be reverted if a law exists protecting victims of domestic violence and punishing their perpetrators.

The statistics are clear and the numbers do not lie. If they do, they err on the side of conservatism. There are probably many more cases that remain unreported due to the shame element attached, the lack of widely accessible shelters or the knowledge about their existence. One last important element is that as mothers, victims cannot bear being separated from their children, even if temporarily, while seeking help and protection.

Opponents to the law argue that Armenians have different family values and that Armenian women are highly respected and regarded in society, and that there are laws in Armenia governing gender equality, even though the word gender was fiercely opposed to in a most ignorant way a few years back. Let us, for a second, add that not all families in Armenia are concerned with this horrible scourge. Let us, for a second assume that there are many men in Armenia who actually revere women and have a very high regard for them. Let us.

I have personally witnessed, and have been subject to such woman venerating (gnamedzar) Armenian behavior. There is some hypocrisy masked under this excessive gallantry too that sometimes verges on sexual advances or even harassment.

Many Armenian men are respectful towards women, granted, most are certainly respectful towards other men's wives, not necessarily towards their own. The men who are respectful towards women may either not be the same ones who abuse them, or they may be the same ones who behave one way in public and another way in private. Let these social phenomena of female

respect, hand kissing, and door holding not fool us. Again, the statistics are clear, even if opponents choose the denialists approach of ignoring these numbers, and even if they insist on "isolated cases."

If we are not Europe or America, what, then, are we? Are we an independent country whose sacred family traditions and national identity are based on domestic violence and its impunity?

According to an article published in the Huffington Post, there are 20 countries that have not outlawed domestic violence as of yet. If Armenian opponents to the law against domestic violence claim that we are neither Europe nor America, maybe we can pick and choose one of these countries, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Haiti, Iran, Latvia, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Mali, Niger, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Syria, Uzbekistan, and Yemen.

Even Turkey, where about 40 percent of women have been found to have suffered wife-beating at some stage at their lives, has adopted a law on the prevention of domestic violence, and thanks to body tags applied as punishment to restrain wife-beating, domestic violence is thought to be on a decline.

How many more Zaruhi's have to lose their lives before Armenia adopts a law specifically against domestic violence?

The objectors to this law are so virulent in their rejections that their behavior prompts us to conclude that their family values may indeed involve spousal violence. Otherwise, why oppose a law that protects almost one half of the population from the other? Only a criminal would object to laws governing their criminal behavior or limit it.

Back in 1994, at the first Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA) international conference in London, I presented a paper on domestic violence based on a case study

that I had witnessed closely, in Los Angeles, happening to the younger sister of a close friend from Armenia. While visiting my friend her sister had shown up at my friend's apartment with a bruise and a bleeding nose. My friend's reaction, which was voiced in one word repeated twice, "Again? Again?" as she opened the door and let her sister in, immediately led me to conclude that this was a recurring phenomenon.

Later that evening, my friend opened up to me and said that her sister, 25, had been subjected to this violence by her husband, 35, who was having difficulty integrating into the new society they had immigrated to in Los Angeles. While my friend's sister had immediately enrolled into language classes and was planning on getting a university education and improving her living conditions, her husband was feeling at a loss and unable to adapt. While social science theories may explain why and how women adapt better, and how age differences as little as five years may make a difference when integrating into a new culture, the manifestation of the aggression resulting from the frustration of not being able to integrate, although explained, cannot be excused.

Violence against women has been used as a weapon of war since time immemorial. Only in war, the enemy is clearly from outside and can easily be identified, in the case of domestic violence, the enemy is from within, and often strikes at the most unexpected and vulnerable situations.

Are we a violent society? If yes, then maybe it is true that such a law might be a threat to our traditional values and consequently our national identity. Are domestic violence and hitting a fist on the table the only ways in which the Armenian male is capable of imposing his authority in the home? Are verbal and physical abuse and other harmful acts of manipulation the only tools of communication for the Homo Sapiens Armenus?

It is said that societies cannot advance without

addressing the impact of toxic masculinity and negative cultural norms on women. Armenia needs to unknot this situation at present and come out clean in front of the civilized world. Hopefully, a new generation of Armenians will tilt the balance of violence towards a more equitable norm.

In wartime, and historically, women have been the strongest pillars of our society, but in times of peace, there is a latent form of suffering imposed on them that equals what many undergo only during war.

Along with a more just and efficient judicial system that serves all its citizens equally, Armenia could better educate its police force in matters concerning domestic violence. More importantly, it could increase the number of women in the police force, maybe even establish special female squads to help combat domestic violence. This would create a much-needed atmosphere of trust for the victims of domestic violence to take refuge in, while it would exert necessary intimidation on their perpetrators.

Armenian women's responsibility will have to be engaged as educators, as mothers, as sisters, and as spouses, in order to help raise a new generation of Armenian men who will finally understand that domestic violence is not a given masculine right, that it is not a private matter, and that all its forms are violations of human rights punishable by law.

(Nora Armani is a New York-based actress, filmmaker, and social activist. She has numerous international stage and screen credits to her name, having performed in many languages. Nora holds an M.Sc. in Sociology from the London School of Economics (LSE), the University of London, she is Director of Communications at the Arc/k Project and the Founder and Artistic Director of SR Socially Relevant™ Film Festival New York.)

Estate of Dr. Nubar Berberian Bequests \$340,000 to Tekeyan Cultural Association

BEQUEST, from page 1

He was born in Cairo, Egypt on September 25, 1922 to Kevork and Areknaz Berberian. After receiving an Armenian education in the Nubarian School of Heliopolis, he studied in a French lyceum for the French baccalaureate. He received his law degree in 1944, and registered at the Egyptian Mixed Tribunal.

Driven by an unquenchable thirst for education, he left for France, where he received a doctoral degree in jurisprudence in 1947 from the University of Paris School of Law. Full of Armenian patriotic fervor, he entered Armenian public life, putting aside other career possibilities.

Most probably he was unable to form a family due to his nomadic existence. Instead, the Armenian nation and homeland constituted his family. He also dedicated himself to the care of his elderly mother, until her final advanced years.

His life consisted wholly of labor in the service of the Armenian nation, working as a talented journalist, an articulate and compassionate orator and a principled leader. He played a role in nearly all of the main contemporary organs of the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party (ADL). Thus, in 1947 he accepted the editorship of the newspaper *Abaka* in Paris, after which he edited the following organs: the daily *Arev* in Cairo (1948-1958), the thrice-weekly *Nor Or* of Fresno (1958-1960) and Boston's *Baïkar* daily (1961-82). During the same period, he published short stories and poetry in the *Baïkar* yearbook under the penname Piuragn.

After retiring in 1982, he still wrote prolifically, with his articles published in *Zartonk* of Beirut, *Abaka* of Montreal, *Azg* of Yerevan and *Nor Or* of Los Angeles.

He became a member of the ADL in 1941, and as a young intellectual, he collaborated with the great Armenian leaders of the time, including Mihran Damadian, Vahan Tekeyan, Eugene Papasian and Alexander Sarukhan. Simultaneously, he became a member of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, and enjoyed the confidence and affection of the benefactor and president of this organization, Alex Manooagian.

Berberian became one of the founders of the

TCA of the United States and Canada, and as its lifetime member, served in its executive as secretary until the last day of his life.

His rich legacy includes thousands of editorials on Armenian national, political and international issues, as well as memorable pages of fiction and poetry.

On numerous occasions, he earned accolades from the organizations to which he belonged as well as from pan-Armenian bodies. For example, in 2012 he received the Movses Khorenatsi Medal bestowed by the president of the Republic of Armenia in Boston from Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian. In turn, Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II conferred on him the St. Sahag St. Mesrob medal.

In recognition of his unending service, the Central Board of the TCA has named the archival and research center of the Baïkar building, which is being renovated, in honor of Dr. Nubar Berberian. On the very day that this room was to be inaugurated, Dr. Berberian unexpectedly fell ill and was transported to the hospital, never to return. His archival materials, together with other archival compilations and periodical collections, will be held forever in this center.

TCA President Edmond Y. Azadian described Berberian's loss with the following words: "Armenians lost a dynamic editor of the old school who never seemed to grow old, a fighter who never retreated, a friend of indomitable

humor, and a worthy apostle carrying the weight of history on his shoulders."

Funeral services were held at St. James Armenian Church in Watertown presided over by Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), who delivered an eloquent eulogy, and conveyed a message from Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II.

Berberian was buried in Mount Feake Cemetery of Waltham.

The Central Board of the Tekeyan Cultural Association of the United States and Canada
Boston, November 12, 2017

'You Will Burn in Hell'

HOLINESS, from page 19

responsible for the fall of the "holy" Ottoman Empire. But this is not all. No, my sins did not end there...

In Turkey, those that supported a greater role for religion in the public realm suffered under the Kemalist secularists for decades, until the rise of Erdogan in 2002. Many saw this as a sign from God, and here we come to the second "sacred" narrative, in which God came to redeem the pious in Turkey. He did this through empowering Erdogan, bestowing him with a divine mission to restore the Ottoman Empire from its ashes, like a phoenix. In this mythology, the figure of Erdogan portends the renaissance and Golden Age of Islam. His "holy" leadership deserves unconditional loyalty, as it is championed by God himself. Thus, arguing against him or criticizing him is equal to rebelling against God. Indeed, in this paradigm, a person who defies God deserves nothing more than to be cast into hellfire. I became a sinner the

moment I criticized him and called him a dictator—according to this creed, I have committed a grave form of blasphemy and must burn. Sadly, even one of my own relatives is ready to throw me into the flames.

Well, this is not the end of this article. The wonderful news is that in fact, I also received overwhelmingly positive, encouraging, supporting, and heartening messages.

I received notes from a variety of readers including legislators, academics, journalists, authors, Turkish and Armenian intellectuals, religious leaders, human rights activists, and from friends and family who genuinely thanked me for the courage to articulate what thousands feel these days but don't dare to say out loud.

One private message from a prominent Armenian intellectual who recently fled Turkey, in which he commended me for my article, made me especially happy. Reading through all of the messages, I got the impression that most of the support-

ive voices are of those who suffer today or in the past from oppression by despotic regimes.

As I was raised in a background that preached the denial of the Armenian genocide for a century, I totally get it why some of the readers of Armenian background might look at me with suspicion, mistrust and mixed feelings. However, in my personal life as a practicing Muslim who lived his entire life in the West, I realize that we can only overcome mistrust if we listen to each other and try to understand one another. I am very hopeful that we can foster mutual understanding, caring friendships and a peaceful future if we open our ears, eyes and hearts for one another.

Today, I am more hopeful about the future than I was yesterday.

(Ismail Akbulut is board president of a Colorado-based non-profit, Multicultural Mosaic Foundation (Twitter @IsmailDenver))