

THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

Volume LXXXVIII, NO. 29, Issue 4524 \$ 2.00

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

German Intellectuals, Artists in Defense of Afrin

By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

BERLIN – As the Turkish military offensive in Afrin has escalated, the caretaker government in Germany has come under growing pressure to intervene to stop the bloodshed. Since Germany has supplied Turkey with military equipment, its role has been subject to harsh criticism. Photographs of the Turkish actions aired on television confirmed suspicions that German tanks were indeed involved in the aggression against the YPG, the Syrian Kurdish militias, who have been battling IS. Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel declared that any decision regarding modernization of Turkey's military – an item which had been discussed at the beginning of the year in bilateral meetings – would be put on ice, and deferred to the new government.

That, however, did little to quell protests. In several cities on January 27, Kurds orga-



Kurdish protestors in Cologne on January 27

nized massive demonstrations; in Cologne, an estimated 20,000 people took to the streets; some were waving flags of the outlawed PKK and banners with PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan's image, and this led the police to end the action. Again, on the fol-

lowing weekend, protest actions took place in several cities, and they are bound to continue and expand unless the conflict ends.

On February 2, a group of about a hundred German intellectuals and artists see PROTESTS, page 5

French President Macron Pledges to Add Armenian Genocide to French Calendar, to Visit Artsakh

PARIS (Public Radio of Armenia)– French President Emmanuel Macron attended the annual gala dinner of the Co-ordination Council of Armenian Organizations of France on January 31, AFP reported.

The dinner was also attended by Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, Lyon Mayor Georges Képénékian, Members of Parliament, ethnic Armenian lawmaker Patrick Devedjian, as well as the representatives of the Armenian and Jewish communities of France. Istanbul-Armenian Turkish Parliament member Garo Paylan (HDP) was a guest of honor at the gala dinner.

During his remarks Macron touched upon a number of issues concerning the Armenian community, including the



From left, Armenian Member of Turkish Parliament Garo Paylan, CCAF co-chair Ara Toranian, French President Emanuel Macron, and CCAF co-chair Mourad Papazian (Photo: HDP Facebook page)

Armenian Genocide and the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

see MACRON, page 4

Speaker George Keverian Public Service Scholarship Created to Empower Next Generation of Young Minds

BOSTON – George Keverian was a man who dedicated his entire life to public service. He was kind, honest, smart, and above all, put others first before himself. He was in tune with his heritage and was proud to be Armenian. The Keverian family, joined by Alfred Lattanzi, wanted to find a way to keep his legacy alive and use his life lessons to inspire the next generation of young leaders. They have created the Honorable Speaker George Keverian Public Service Scholarship to do just that.

Jack Keverian reflected on his brother: "George and I were raised by see SCHOLARSHIP, page 20

Trump Nominates Patrick Hovakimian to Post at Justice Department

WASHINGTON – US President Donald Trump nominated Patrick Hovakimian as a candidate for the position of a member of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission at the Department of Justice, according to the White House website.

The nomination was submitted to the Senate for discussion. If it is approved, Hovakimian will assume the post until September 30, 2020.

Hovakimian serves as an Assistant US Attorney for the Southern District of California. He investigates corruption and white-collar crimes.

Armenian Wrestlers Win Gold in Moldova Int'l Championship

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Freestyle Wrestling Youth Team of Armenia won four gold, two silver and one bronze medals in an International Championship in Moldova, the National Olympic Committee of Armenia said on February 6.

A total of 156 wrestlers from Armenia, Ukraine, Germany, Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Macedonia and Romania were participating in the event.

Razmik Papikyan, Vazgen Tevanyan, Arman Andreasyan and Davit Gevorgyan won gold; Gegham Galstyan, Hovhannes Maghakyan captured silver, and Arman Avagyan won bronze.

Armenian Judges to Be Held Accountable for ECHR Rulings

STRASBOURG, France (Armenpress) – Armenian judges who presided over court cases which were later referred to the European Court of Human Right (ECHR) and lost the case, will be held accountable, Armenia's representative to the ECHR, member of parliament from the ruling Republican party, Gevorg Kostanyan, said during parliamentary debated of the judicial code this week.

"The tenure of any irresponsible entity in the state administration sector is dangerous. I have represented Armenia in the ECHR for more than 10 years and I concluded that as long as we don't increase the responsibility issue of judges, we won't have the justice of our expectations," he said. He added that the bill regulated the issue in detail.

The ECHR verdict on a given case can be the basis for disciplinary actions against the particular Armenian judge who had tried the case.

INSIDE

A Flaming Pit of Food

Page 16

INDEX

Arts and Living	14
Armenia	2,3
Community News.	6
Editorial	18
International	4,5



Ashot Karapetyan

Katya Galstyan

Armenia Flag Officially raised at PyeongChang Winter Olympics

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Armenian flag has been officially raised at the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, the National Olympic Committee announced.

The Armenian delegation arrived in the South Korean city on February 5.

The mayor of the Olympic village greeted the Armenian delegation. Gagik Bolshikyan, the head of the Armenian delegation, and the Olympic Village mayor exchanged souvenirs, which was followed by the flag raising ceremony.

The Armenian athletes were chosen earlier this winter at the session of the Armenian Ski Federation in Tsakhkadzor.

Mikayel Mikayelyan and Katya Galstyan will compete in cross-country and Ashot Karapetyan in Alpine skiing.

Gagik Sargsyan of the Armenia Ski Federation said they were selected according to their rankings.

The Olympics will be held in South Korea February 9-25.



Mikayel Mikayelyan



ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Unique Archive Donated To Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute

YEREVAN (Archives) – Thanks to the efforts of the Armenian Genocide Museum Institute, the archive of an American-Armenian family who survived the Armenian Genocide, has been donated to the museum, the museum staff told Armenpress.

Susan Solakian donated the great history of her big family to the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, which includes memoirs, documents and photos. The goal is to transfer the memories, to the generations the story of Tomas and Estern Mkrtchian, who were deported from their historical homeland up to settling in the United States, is rich with accurate historical information, as well as the most severe manifestations of human loss. The family's archival materials are important source of information about the deportation, massacres of Armenians of Harput (Kharpert), the involvement of German officials and Turks, the brutal murders of Armenian intellectuals, the violence, as well as the situation of immigrants. The materials will be thoroughly studied by the researchers of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute and will be presented to the public.

Vedi Reservoir to Be Completed 6 Months Ahead of Schedule

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The construction of the Vedi reservoir is proceeding normally, with 200 people and 100 units of equipment engaged in the work as of February 6, Arsen Harutyunyan, chairman of the state committee of water system of the ministry of energy infrastructures and natural resources told a press conference.

“The Vedi reservoir is currently our biggest project. The works are proceeding very well, weather conditions enable the construction crew to work during the winter also. Under the project it was planned to construct a 29 million cubic meter volume reservoir, but we can reach up to 31 million without additional spending. This is a preliminary figure, it may grow,” he said. He said that the construction will be completed at least 6 months earlier than expected, in 2020.

Artsakh Can no Longer Be Ignored, French Support Group Leader Says

STEPANAKERT (Armenpress) – The France-Artsakh Friendship Circle has called on France to establish an open, direct and constructive dialogue with the democratically-elected authorities of the Republic of Artsakh. The French friends of Artsakh expressed their confidence that nothing can prevent the establishment of ties between France and Artsakh. In this regard, the France-Artsakh Friendship Circle condemns Azerbaijan's attempts to intervene in France's consular activities as well as to exert pressure on France to restrict the right to free movement of Artsakh citizens.

The Friendship Circle notes that such a practice by Azerbaijan is doomed to failure, and the consistent efforts aimed at strengthening the ties between the peoples of France and Artsakh will continue as an important factor for maintaining peace and stability in the South Caucasus. The Friendship Circle considers that Azerbaijan tries to counter peace and cooperation by its isolation and confrontation policy which only deepens the problems in the region.

“Azerbaijan's attempts to impose its authoritarian standards on democratic France are really outrageous. I consider the restriction of the freedoms of Artsakh citizens unacceptable,” said Chairman of the Friendship Circle Francois Rochebloine.

The Friendship Circle emphasizes that Artsakh has become a viable and responsible democracy, noting that this state can no longer be ignored, and the international community must recognize it.

Dilijan to Host Armenia's Next Generation of Entrepreneurs for Place in International Contest

DILIJAN, Armenia – On February 10, the Dilijan Community Center (DCC) is holding a Live Pitch Event to choose the semifinalists from Armenia for the Diamond Challenge, the first international youth contest aimed at empowering the next generation through entrepreneurship. In August 2017, DCC became Armenia's official representative for the contest, and began coaching youths on how to develop projects.

“The goals of the Diamond Challenge contest are similar to those we have been pursuing in Dilijan for two years already – implementing educational programs on social entrepreneurship and supporting youngsters and their parents in launching their own projects. And now we are trying to engage youth from the whole of Armenia, helping them to come up with ideas and striving to make them happen. Youth with a proactive attitude, entrepreneurial potential and who possess confidence will help Armenia to prosper,” said the DCC's Director Roubina Ter-Martirosyan.

In early January 2018, 20 enthusiastic teams of high school students aged 14-18 from all over Armenia, including one from UWC Dilijan, submitted their proposals and pitch decks to take part in the



The Dilijan Community Center

The 10 best Armenian teams will arrive to Dilijan on 10th February to pitch their ideas before a judging panel of high-profile Armenian and international experts to select Armenia's entrant, who will win a \$1,000 USD grant and the chance to travel to the Youth Entrepreneurship Summit final at the University of

teams and Rafi Baghdjian, CEO of IDEa Foundation, will deliver a motivational speech. Experts from the business world, managers and consultants, as well as representatives of the Peace Corps Armenia are expected among the guests.

The Dilijan Community Center, which was founded with the support of the Scholae Mundi Armenia Foundation, sees its mission as helping to shape a caring community (both indigenous people and newcomers), ready to unite their efforts to change the prevailing reality.

Scholae Mundi Armenia Foundation is one of the three Charity Foundations (Scholae Mundi Armenia, Scholae Mundi Russia and Scholae Mundi UK) that compound the Scholae

Mundi Platform established by social entrepreneurs and philanthropists Ruben Vardanyan and Veronika Zonabend. The mission of Scholae Mundi Armenia Foundation is to diversify the educational scene in Armenia by supporting socially-oriented innovative projects and initiatives in the areas of education, arts and culture, to promote Armenia internationally and to strengthen the positive impact on the communities locally in Armenia and globally. Scholae Mundi Platform promotes, on a non-for profit basis, the most advanced educational practices for the public benefit, while catalysing wider social change, it supports education of students at UWC Dilijan College and other educational establishments by providing funds for capital development and scholarships.

The Diamond Challenge was created in 2012 to empower the next generation through entrepreneurship. Since conception, over 4,000 students from over 35 countries and 25 states have participated in the competition. The Diamond Challenge was created through Horn Entrepreneurship, a cornerstone for entrepreneurial activity based at the University of Delaware. It ignites imaginations and empowers world changers through entrepreneurial education.



Roubina Ter-Martirosyan, Director of Dilijan Community Center

preliminary selection round. Hundreds of judges from around the world whittled the competition down to 10 finalists, using the judging criteria of feasibility, growth potential and wow factor.

Delaware in the United States to compete against semifinalists from 17 other countries for additional prizes.

Leigh Carter, the wife of the US Ambassador to Armenia, will welcome the

EU Plans New Aid Package for Armenian Regions

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – The European Parliament is planning to allocate around 40 million euros (\$50 million) for development projects that will be launched in three regions in northern Armenia this year, according to a senior EU diplomat.

“We are discussing with the Armenian government our action plan for 2018 and will most probably focus on three directions: tourism, agriculture and creative economy,” Piotr Switalski, head of the EU Delegation in Yerevan, said over the weekend.

Speaking during an EU-sponsored cross-country ski festival in Ashotsk, a small town in northwestern Armenia, Switalski said the fresh aid package is aimed at stimulating economic activity and reducing poverty in the Shirak, Lori and Tavush provinces.

Shirak has long been the country's poorest region. It is still reeling from a devastating earthquake in 1988 that killed tens of thousands of people and left many others homeless.

Commenting on aid programs planned for Shirak, Switalski said in particular that the EU will spend more than 500,000 on euros on a pilot project designed to support commercial wool processing in Amasia, an impoverished town 23 kilometers

southwest of Ashotsk. The EU will also be promoting tourism in the area known for harsh winter weather, he

dreams here.”

The EU has been one of Armenia's leading foreign donors ever since the



Piotr Switalski (R), head of the EU Delegation in Armenia, awards a participant of an EU-sponsored cross-country ski festival in Ashotsk, 4 February 2018.

said. The ski festival held there is part of that effort.

“We see a potential here,” Switalski told reporters. “We believe that together with its Armenian and other partners the EU can help to create employment and other opportunities for locals so that they see the realization of their

early 1990s. Switalski said in November that it will provide the country with at least 170 million euros in fresh aid over the next three years. The diplomat spoke shortly after the signing of a Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement between the EU and Armenia.



ARMENIA

President of Swiss National Council Says Armenia Is Attractive for Business

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Prime Minister of Armenia Karen Karapetyan received the delegation led by the President of the National Council of the Swiss Confederation Dominique de Buman on February 6.

Greeting the guest, Karapetyan noted that he greatly highlights the continuous development of inter-parliamentary relations and stressed that Armenia is ready to develop bilateral relations with Switzerland in all the possible spheres.

“As I have already had the chance to say in Davos, I particularly highlight the implementation of measures in the direction of strengthening economic cooperation

the Swiss National Council assessed the development of cooperation in agriculture, including in the area of wine making as promising and informed that one of the major wine making companies of Switzerland with deep wine making traditions has already established partnership with Armenian colleagues. “I am convinced we can set productive relations in the sphere of agriculture, implement exchange of experience, various business projects since there is reliable production and necessary conditions in Armenia,” de Buman said.

He also highlighted cooperation in the sphere of renewable energy, particularly in the



President of the National Council of the Swiss Confederation Dominique de Buman signs the guest book at the museum.



President of the National Council of the Swiss Confederation Dominique de Buman and his delegation visited the Armenian Genocide Museum and Memorial (Tsitsernakabert) in Yerevan.

between Switzerland and Armenia. And in this context I wish to stress the importance of [February 5's] business forum organized in the sidelines of your visit,” Karapetyan noted.

De Buman noted that the Yerevan forum was productive. The sides discussed the prospects of Armenian-Swiss economic partnership and joint projects. The President of

direction of the export of solar energy panels produced in Armenia, as well as development and expansion of partnership in the spheres of pharmaceuticals and tourism. According to him, Armenia can be of great interest for Swiss businessmen thank to its attractiveness. Karen Karapetyan thanked for the projects implemented in Armenia by the Swiss Agency for

Development and Cooperation and hoped they will be continuous.

“We are open for cooperation re are ready to fully support Swiss companies. In 2017 trade turnover between the two countries increased 3.6 folds, therefore, we have to consistently develop the achievements in the bilateral economic relations. We are convinced Armenia can be interesting for the Swiss capital considering the privileged trade regimes of our country with the EAEU, EU, USA and Iran,” Karen Karapetyan underlined.

On the same day, Foreign Minister of Armenia Edward Nalbandian met with the delegation led by de Buman. Congratulating de Buman on assuming the post in November, Nalbandian expressed gratitude for his constant efforts aimed at strengthening Armenian-Swiss relations. Nalbandian assessed as symbolic the fact that the Heads of the parliamentary friendship groups of Armenia and Switzerland, Ara Babloyan and de Buman, have been elected presidents of parliaments.

Thanking Nalbandian for the warm reception, de Buman noted that this was his fifth visit to Armenia and he expressed his plea-

sure to see the progress of the friendly country. He added that the fact that the President of the National Council of Switzerland pays his first official visit to Armenia shows the interest of the Swiss side to deepen and further expand interstate relations.

During the meeting the sides discusses issues of Armenian-Swiss bilateral agenda, including the expansion of trade and economic relations and effective cooperation in international organizations. Nalbandian and de Buman noted with satisfaction that productive partnership has been established between the two parliaments, highlighting the activities of the friendship groups. The interlocutors exchanged ideas over the preparatory works of the Francophonie summit to be held in Yerevan this year. Dominique de Buman wished success in the organization of the summit. The Armenian Foreign Minister presented the latest developments over Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement process to the delegation led by the President of the National Council of the Swiss Confederation, as well as the joint efforts of Armenia and the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chair countries aimed at an exclusively peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Artsakh's Human Rights Defender Appoints Head of Department, Adviser

SHUSHI, Artsakh – The Human Rights Defender/Ombudsman of the Artsakh Republic, Ruben Melikyan, has appointed Artak Beglaryan as the Head of Department of his office. The Defender has also appointed Babken DerGrigorian as an adviser.

Under the new “Law Regarding the Human Rights Defender”, passed by the Artsakh Parliament on December 21, 2017, and enacted on February 1, 2018, The Ombudsman's staff has been restructured into two administrative units – the Department and the Secretariat. The Department will provide key legal and expert support, while the Secretariat will be tasked with carrying out the Ombudsman's day-to-day activities. Along with a number of other content and structural changes, the new law also allows the Human Rights Defender to appoint up to five advisers on a pro bono and voluntary basis.

Beglaryan is a specialist in politics and public administration. Since 2012 he has been working as Assistant, then as Press Secretary to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Artsakh, and in the recent months - as Advisor to the State Minister. He currently studies at the National Defense Research University of the Defense Army of the Republic of Armenia for a PhD Degree. He holds a Master Degree from the

University College London in Politics, Security and Integration. He also studied at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, USA, specializing in Public Policy and Administration, as well as, at the Alexander Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki, Greece, with a specialization in Business Management with the



Babken DerGrigorian

EU Erasmus Mundus student exchange program. He holds an Undergraduate Degree from the Department of Political Science, Yerevan State University. Beglaryan has participated in a number of international conferences and has published academic articles. He has been involved in civic activities for years joining and managing various non-governmental organizations.

DerGrigorian is an economist and international development consultant, with an area focus on the South Caucasus. He currently serves as the founding executive director of the Artsakh Human Rights Foundation – an organization dedicated to improving the protection of fundamental human rights in Artsakh. DerGrigorian has consulted for a number of international human rights organizations and development agencies, including The HALO Trust, Transparency International, and the United Nations Development Programme. In addition, he has worked as a programs coordinator for the Open Society Foundations in Armenia. DerGrigorian holds two masters degrees from the London School of Economics, in Political & Development Economics and Political Communication, respectively. He also holds an undergraduate degree in political science and public affairs from UCLA.



Artak Beglaryan



INTERNATIONAL

International News

Azeri Opposition Calls For Presidential Election Boycott

BAKU (AP) — Opposition parties in the former Soviet republic of Azerbaijan are calling for a boycott of the upcoming early presidential election.

The office of incumbent president Ilham Aliyev, who has ruled the oil-rich Caspian Sea nation since 2003, announced on Monday, February 5, that the next presidential vote would be held in April, not in October as originally expected.

The only explanation that Aliyev's office has provided for the unexpected decision was the fact that the country would be busy with various high-profile events during the fall.

The National Council of Democratic Forces, the country's main opposition movement, said on Tuesday it would boycott the April 11 vote. In a statement, the movement's chairman Jamil Hasanli called the early vote "an insult to elections."

Armenia, Kazakhstan Prime Ministers Discuss Bilateral Cooperation Agenda

ALMATY, Kazakhstan — Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan who is in Almaty on a working visit met on February 2 with Prime Minister Bakijan Sagintayev of Kazakhstan.

Karen Karapetyan noted that the joint efforts had resulted in 51.2 percent growth in commodity turnover during the first 11 months of 2017 as compared to the same period in 2016. The two heads of government agreed that their countries should continue endeavoring to improve those indicators and expand economic ties.

The Armenian Premier stressed that there are many prospective projects in both countries that could be implemented jointly and on mutually beneficial terms.

The parties touched upon the possibilities of cooperation in information technologies, agriculture and mining. Karen Karapetyan called his counterpart's attention to the opportunities available in the Free Economic Zone of Meghri, emphasizing that as coupled with other privileged trade regimes, it provides a good opportunity to enter other major markets through Armenia.

Netherlands Recalls Its Ambassador from Turkey over Protest Row

AMSTERDAM (Deutsche Welle) — The Netherlands officially withdrew its ambassador from Turkey, the Dutch Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Monday, February 5.

The ministry added that it will not allow a new Turkish ambassador in Amsterdam as long as there is no Dutch ambassador in Ankara.

Despite recent talks between the two countries, Foreign Minister Halbe Zijlstra said "we could not reach an agreement on how to normalize relations."

The Dutch Foreign Ministry has "paused" talks with Turkey on resolving the matter, it said.

Protests erupted in Rotterdam after the Netherlands expelled Turkey's Family Minister Fatma Betul Sayan Kaya before she could address a campaign rally of Dutch-Turkish citizens in favor of the vote which sought to expand the powers of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The Turkish government demanded an apology for the minister's treatment from Prime Minister Mark Rutte and blocked the Dutch ambassador, who was not in Turkey at the time, from returning to Turkey.

The referendum also strained relations between Germany and Turkey after German authorities canceled several rallies where Turkish officials were expected to speak in favor of the constitutional amendments.

The withdrawal of the ambassador is a largely symbolic gesture as the diplomat has been barred from Turkey since March 2017.

Cyprus President Re-Elected, Defeats Same Opponent again

By Menelaos Hadjicostis

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — On February 4, President Nicos Anastasiades vowed to push on with attempts to reunify the ethnically divided island nation and to improve the economic fortunes of its people after he was re-elected by a wide margin.

Anastasiades defeated left-leaning independent challenger Stavros Malas in a runoff election. Anastasiades received 56 percent of the vote, compared to 44 percent for Malas, in the final returns.

Malas telephoned Anastasiades to concede defeat about an hour after polls closed, when half of the ballots had been counted and Malas trailed badly.

Speaking to supporters, Malas said he told Anastasiades to "take care of our Cyprus."

It's the second consecutive time that Anastasiades, 71, a conservative veteran politician, won a head-to-head contest with Malas, 50, for the presidency.

"Tomorrow, a new day, a new era dawns, where people demand cooperation from all of us," Anastasiades told throngs of jubilant supporters at his campaign headquarters.

Malas campaigned as the candidate who would bring change to a tired political system that short-changes ordinary Cypriots, who have seen salaries and benefits slashed in the wake of the

national economy's near-meltdown.

But voters appeared to heed the incumbent's campaign message, which blamed the left-wing economic policies of previous administrations for bringing Cyprus close to bankruptcy.

Malas also struggled to separate himself from the party that supported him, the communist-rooted AKEL. Anastasiades accused AKEL of crushing the economy during the presidency of former leader Demetris Christofias.

"I know that the result has disappointed you, but we must respect it, and above all else for all of us to recognize that this was a worthy battle that neither begins nor ends with an election," Malas told his backers.

Cyprus was split into an internationally recognized Greek Cypriot south and a breakaway Turkish Cypriot north in 1974 when Turkey invaded after a coup by supporters of union with Greece. Only Turkey recognizes a Turkish Cypriot declaration of independence and keeps more than 35,000 troops in the north.

Voters remain skeptical about whether a reunification deal can be reached any time soon. The latest round of talks at a Swiss resort in July collapsed amid finger-pointing about who was responsible for the failure.

To buoy public hopes, Anastasiades said he would reach out to Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci to try and resuscitate their negotiations.

Iran Ambassador Visits Assembly Vice President

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) — The vice president of Armenia's National Assembly Edward Sharmazanov received on February 6 Iran's Ambassador to Armenia Seyed Kazem Sajadi.

Sharmazanov hailed the balanced position of the Iranian authorities on the Karabakh conflict settlement. He noted that any attempts to give a religious coloring to the Karabakh conflict are reprehensible and pointed to Armenian-Iranian relations as a best example of religious dialogue.

The parties referred to the compre-

hensive cooperation between the two countries, particularly the trade-economic ties.

"We are interested in deepening the economic relations with Iran. Both Armenia's membership of the Eurasian Economic Union and the signing of the Armenia-EU agreement open new perspectives for the deepening of economic relations with Iran," Sharmazanov said.

The two sides referred to the effective use of the Meghri Free Economic Zone and the improvement of legislature supporting investments.

French President Macron Pledges to Add Armenian Genocide to French Calendar, to Visit Artsakh

MACRON, from page 1

"The fight for justice and recognition is our fight. We carry out this fight by remembering and designating a genocide commemoration day in the Republic's calendar", Macron said, adding that a decision on this issue will be adopted in the coming months.

As for the relations with Turkey, the French president said he will try to engage Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in a regular dialogue:

"I have told him everything. Our result in this sense is the release of a number of journalists. There are a lot of well-grounded doubts over dialogue with Turkey, but in my opinion the results show that the message of France is not addressed in emptiness," Macron said.

The French President warmly welcomed Garo Paylan, stating that his voice is heard sometimes in an unequal atmosphere, but it is much more important than the loud statements of many others.

Karen Karapetyan, Dmitry Medvedev Hold Private Talks in Almaty

ALMATY, Kazakhstan — On the sidelines of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council meeting, Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan held private talks with his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev in Almaty. The Prime Ministers discussed a number of issues related to the Armenian-Russian economic agenda, touching upon the bilateral commodity turnover, ways of developing economic ties and implementing new investment programs.



MOSCOW (Public Radio of Armenia) — The vice president of the Armenian Football Federation, Ashot Manukyan, will meet with FC Tosno (Russia) goalkeeper David Yurchenko. The possibility of Yurchenko's playing for the Armenian national team will be on the agenda of the meeting in Turkey on February 15. The issue has been raised several times in the past, but the parties have failed to reach agreement.



INTERNATIONAL

UN Outrage at Syrian Suffering: ‘We Can no Longer Stay Silent’

By Martin Chulov

DAMASCUS (*Guardian*) – The scale of suffering across Syria has reached unprecedented levels, with access to aid blocked in three major population centres, growing displacement and more than 13 million people in need across the country, the UN has said.

The organisation called on Tuesday for a one-month ceasefire to ease what it described as an “extreme situation” that “we haven’t seen before” at any point during the war, which is soon to enter its eighth year. The conflict has been marked by a mass exodus of Syrian citizens, sieges, starvation and a death toll that surpassed 500,000 people in 2016.

The UN’s assistant secretary general and humanitarian coordinator in Syria, Panos Moutmtzis, said the organisation had been almost powerless to respond to a “dramatic deterioration in the humanitarian situation” over the past two months in particular, when access to people in opposition areas had been blocked by Syrian government officials.

The siege had been most acute in East Ghouta on the outskirts of Damascus, where 400,000 people – 94% of all those under regime blockade – have not received deliveries of food, water or medicine since late November. Ghouta, an opposition stronghold throughout the conflict, has been heavily bombed by Russian and Syrian jets for the past month, as both allies attempt to press home their recent gains elsewhere.

Up to 88 civilians were killed by airstrikes on Monday and Tuesday alone, local medics and activists said, as a campaign to break resolve in remaining opposition areas continued unabated.

Elsewhere, airstrikes continued to hammer Idlib province in northern Syria, where more than 2 million people, at least half of them displaced from other parts of the country, are hemmed in near the Turkish border. Russian jets are attacking them from above while Iranian-led ground forces squeeze them from the south.

The city of Afrin in northern Idlib was attacked last month by the Turkish military and an Arab proxy force, adding a new layer of complexity to a war in which alliances have shifted and internal dynamics have splintered attempts to provide a united opposition front against the Assad regime. All the while, international powers have increasingly tried to shape the outcome of the war in their own interests, while mounting humanitarian needs across the province have routinely gone unmet.

At least 300,000 people have been displaced in Idlib since mid-December, when the most recent regime push on the area began. Almost half the area’s current population have been displaced from elsewhere in Syria; some were relocated as part of what Syrian officials call locally negotiated ceasefires, but which have nearly always followed long, crippling blockades.

Idlib also contains large numbers of jihadist fighters who control much of the province. Jihadist and conservative Islamist groups have besieged two Shia towns near Aleppo for much of the past three years. Their presence has been used by Syrian and Russian officials to claim that any genuine anti-Assad opposition was fleeting and has long been subsumed by a global jihadist agenda.

“They have stuck to this line for the past five years,” said Manaf Khaled, a businessman from the town of Zabadani, near Damascus, who was relocated to Idlib last September. “When we

came here, it was the first time we saw them. Now they want to tell the world that we are all like them. It is a dangerous trap and people must know this.”

The UN said that in 2017 only 27% of its requests for access to opposition areas were granted by the Syrian government. As the military offensives have continued in Ghouta and Idlib, not a single request has been granted so far this year. Idlib was supposed to be a de-escalation zone, where hostilities were slowed or stopped to pave the way for negotiations.

“There is a misperception that the de-escalation areas have resulted in peace and stability. If anything, these have been serious escalation areas,” said Moutmtzis, who renewed a call for a political response to the crisis. “We feel really outraged. Dramatic developments have been building up and it has reached a point where we can no longer stay silent. These are multiple fires we have to respond to, with a dramatic deterioration in many places.”

Moutmtzis said a perception that the Syrian war was winding down had probably reduced impetus towards a political solution to the crisis, which had remained elusive despite three separate peace processes, in Geneva, Astana and most recently the Russian town of Sochi. The UN-backed Geneva process is largely moribund, having achieved little in more than a dozen meetings. Russia’s attempts to take the lead by holding the Sochi summit also ended in failure, with an ascendant Syrian regime, heavily backed by Iran and Russia, not willing to make concessions while conditions on the battlefield remain in its favour.

Alaa al-Ahmad, 27, from East Ghouta, said: “Even throughout Sochi the regime committed massacres; even as we speak they’re committing massive crimes. We are surprised that another conference is being set for next month. Can’t they see it is being built upon ours and our children’s blood?”

Additional reporting: Nadia al-Faour

An event dedicated to Armenia in the Cosmopolitan Rotary Club of Cairo

CAIRO – On January 29, The Cosmopolitan international rotary Club of Cairo dedicated a special event to Armenia, in which Egyptian and foreign members of the club, Egypt’s public figures and businessmen, representatives of the Armenian community and spiritual leaders were present.

Armen Melkonian, the Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to Egypt, gave a speech about Armenia, foreign policy priorities of the Republic of Armenia, economic development and the investment opportunities, Armenian culture, attraction of the country for the tourists, as well as the role of the Armenian Diaspora.

Ambassador Melkonian also touched upon the joint efforts of Armenia and the international community aimed at a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict and the process of international recognition of the Armenian Genocide. He answered a number of questions from the attendees.

During the evening a movie about Armenia was screened and an Armenian concert took place.

The Cosmopolitan is one of the renowned Rotary clubs operating in Egypt, which combines both Egyptian and foreign figures from various fields.



Armen Melkonian, the Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to Egypt, speaks at the event.

German Intellectuals, Artists in Defense of Afrin

PROTESTS, from page 1

issued an open letter to the Chancellor and to the Foreign Minister, demanding that they and the EU intervene to halt the Turkish assault. Published in major German as well as Kurdish media, the letter read as follows:

“Most honored Madam Merkel, most honored Mr. Gabriel,

We, men and women active in the cultural realm, scientists and artists, call upon you to take a clear stand.

“Since January 20, the Turkish army has been firing on the canton of Afrin. Leopard 2 tanks have also been deployed in this attack. The vanguard of the irregular fighters engaged in these military operations come from jihadist combat units.

“The canton of Afrin is one of three cantons of the North Syrian Democratic Federation, where the attempt is being made, under wartime conditions, to build a democratic society, based on ethnic, religious and political pluralism with uncompromising gender equality.

“We are well aware that this endeavor is not free of contradictions and problems. Nevertheless, we can only support this awakening of civil society that is occurring in the Kurdish areas – it represents the only attempt

at democracy that is taking place in the region. We cannot look the other way and remain silent when other local regimes try to crush this hopeful development – especially if it involves Turkey, our NATO partner, which Germany supplies with military equipment.

“Furthermore, particularly in the canton of Afrin, there are several hundred thousand refugees who have found a safe haven there from the horrors of the Syrian civil war. ‘Combating the causes of refugee flows’ would mean acting in such a manner as to guarantee that these safe havens remain safe. Instead, the people there are again being subjected to the violence of war. Whether it is German or other military technology that is being deployed is irrelevant to the people facing violence and death. But to you, it should not be a matter of indifference.

“We are well aware that German-Turkish relations have reached a low point for some time. At the same time, we know that the German government has relied on and continues to rely on Turkey in its attempt to contain the flow of people fleeing the Arab crisis region to come to Germany. It is quite obvious that Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his government interpret this as carte blanche to rob their political opponents of

their rights, to oppress minorities in the country – and now even to wage open war against the Kurds in Syria. If you embrace the viewpoint that so-called European values, which Germans politicians are so keen on citing, are to hold any credibility, and if you believe that democracy, international law and human rights are more than clichés in highfalutin speeches, then the European Union and Germany must use all means at their disposal to make Turkey end its aggression in Syria immediately.

“Most honored Madam Merkel, most honored Mr. Gabriel, make your influence felt. Act in accordance with the foreign policy responsibility that the EU and Germany have in the current situation.”

The letter is signed by 91 persons, artists, professors, filmmakers, actors, writers and others active in the cultural realm.

Days after the open letter was published, on February 5 Pope Francis received Erdogan at the Vatican for a private audience. No details about the content of their 50-minute discussion were released, but the themes they were scheduled to discuss reportedly included Jerusalem (in light of Trump’s recent stance), the Syrian war and refugee crisis, and the situation of Catholics (and other Christians) in Turkey. It

was the first such visit since diplomatic relations between Turkey and the Holy See were established in 1959.

This Pope does not shy away from controversial issues, and it is known that his speaking out forcefully on the Armenian Genocide was a crucial factor in the decision by the German Bundestag (Parliament) to pass a resolution in 2016 recognizing it. One of the points made by various politicians at the time, in public debate about the matter, was that only by acknowledging the facts of the past could a repetition of genocide be prevented in the future.

Whether or not the Armenian question – and the Afrin massacres – was raised in the tete-a-tete between Erdogan and the Pope will likely not be revealed. But what Pope Francis wanted to communicate was no secret. As official sources reported, the Pope presented his Turkish guest with a gift: a medallion, showing the angel of peace embracing the world against the dragon. “This is the angel of peace,” he said, “who struggles against the demon of war ... a symbol of a world based on peace and justice.”

(Translation from the German is by the author.)

Community News

Knights of Vartan and Armenian Assembly of America Continue Joint Efforts for Affirmation Of Armenian Genocide

DETROIT —Knights of Vartan Grand Commander Dr. Gary Zamanigian and Armenian Assembly of America (Assembly) Executive Director Bryan Ardouny met numerous times over the past year to discuss ongoing efforts regarding Armenian Genocide affirmation and prevention.

The Knights of Vartan and the Assembly have a long history of cooperation, and to this day they are strengthening the partnership between the two organizations. During the last few months, Knights of Vartan Grand Commander Dr. Zamanigian and Armenian Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny have met on three separate occasions - in Yerevan, New York, and Detroit to discuss important topics of shared concern and plans to further help the Homeland.

"The Knights of Vartan will continue to support the Armenian Assembly in our mutual goal to unequivocally affirm the Armenian Genocide," said Zamanigian.

Both the Knights of Vartan and the Assembly have many dedicated members who are descendants of Genocide survivors. Every Armenian family has been affected by the Armenian Genocide, and, fortunately, more people are breaking their silence and sharing their family's stories about the horrors of Ottoman Turkey in 1915 which changed their lives forever.

In honor of the victims and survivors, the Knights and Daughters of Vartan organizes a tribute in New York City to ensure that the Armenian Genocide is never forgotten. Since 1985, they have held annual commemorations in Times Square. Thanks to hard work, thousands of Armenians and non-Armenians gather for this commemoration each year. From day one, the Assembly has participated and played a role in this important event. The Assembly has been the co-sponsor since the inception of the annual commemorations in Times Square supporting Knights and Daughters of Vartan publicly, politically, and financially along with other major National and International Armenian Organizations.

"The Armenian Assembly greatly appreciates the tireless work of the Knights and Daughters of Vartan and for bringing us together in Times Square as we commemorate the Armenian Genocide and renew our commitment to ending genocide and the consequences of its denial," Assembly Executive Director Ardouny stated.

This year the annual commemoration of Armenian Genocide in Time Square will take place on April 22 at 2pm. For more information, please visit www.kofv.org/main/april222018.

The Knights of Vartan Inc. is a fraternal leadership and service organization of Armenian men dedicated to safeguarding and perpetuating the Armenian heritage and cultural traditions. Its membership represents the spectrum of the leadership of the Armenian community. It was founded in 1916 in Philadelphia and is based in the United States with 25 local chapters which support Armenian causes around the world. For more information about the Knights of Vartan, visit <http://kofv.org>.

Established in 1972, the Armenian Assembly of America is the largest Washington-based nationwide organization promoting public understanding and awareness of Armenian issues. The Assembly is a non-partisan, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt membership organization.



High School Summer Conference B, 2017

St. Nersess to Offer Summer Conferences

ARMONK, N.Y. — St. Nersess Armenian Seminary will continue its long history of hosting summer conferences for high school and post-high school students. This year, each conference will be held on the St. Nersess campus in Armonk. Applications are now being accepted for all three sessions:

- Deacons' Training Program: Thursday, June 28 – Saturday, July 7, directed by V. Rev. Daniel Findikyan
- High School Summer Conference: Friday, July 20 – Sunday, July 29, Directed by Rev. Ghevond Ajamian
- Post High School Summer Conference: Friday, August 3 – Sunday, August 12, Directed by Rev. Hratch Sargsyan

This summer, St. Nersess will continue its curriculum for the Summer Conferences which will include topics such as Armenian Church History and Doctrine, Sacraments, Armenian Religious Art, Contemporary Issues, Modern and Classical Armenian, the Life of Christ, The Creed, Saints & Martyrs, and more. Issues and topics of concern to youth and parents today will also be discussed.

Since its inception in 1963, the summer conferences have attracted thousands of teenagers and college-aged students to explore their faith and heritage of the Armenian Church with friends in a fun environment. Clergy and lay church leaders instruct the participants in the fundamentals of the Armenian Church's faith and traditions, and they encourage frank discussion about issues important to young people. In addition, sports and recreation, day-trips, and other activities add to a well-rounded experience where young people make deep, lasting friendships and discover their place in the Armenian Church.

For the Deacons' Training Program, young men gain a deeper understanding of the church's worship services through practical workshops and interactive classes. Students are placed in classes according to experience. In Level I, students are introduced to the duties of an acolyte. In Levels II and III, students are introduced to liturgical practicum. All students take Armenian classes and voice lessons. Upon completion of the program, students return to their home parishes with polished liturgical skills and a stronger faith.

For the 12th year, St. Nersess will welcome students from the Sts. Tarkmanchatz School of Jerusalem's Armenian Patriarchate to the high school session. Thanks to the coordinated efforts between the Very Rev. Norayr Kazarian, principal of the school, and Fr. Mardiros Chevia, dean of St. Nersess, as well as generous benefactors and supporters who financially support their visit, these high school students from Jerusalem are provided a special opportunity to interact with their American counterparts and enhance their spiritual life and knowledge.

Last year, the Deacons' Training Program welcomed students from Armenia. Three boys were recommended by the Very Rev. Fr. Anania Tsaturyan, who has been residing at St. Nersess while taking English language courses at a local college. "As their mentor and teacher at St. Gayane Monastery in Armenia, I am proud that these three dedicated teenagers traveled to St. Nersess to attend the Deacons' Training Program," commented Fr. Anania. This is not the first time students from Armenia have attended a summer conference. The students' travel expenses were covered by generous donors, similarly to the program in place for students from the Sts. Tarkmanchatz School in Jerusalem.

Registration for the St. Nersess Summer Conferences is available online and by mail. A maximum of 25 participants will be accepted to each session. To download a brochure and register, go to www.stnersess.edu.

ANCA-WR to Celebrate Three Armenian Educators

LOS ANGELES —The Armenian National Committee-Western Region Education Committee announced on February 2 that it will be celebrating three distinguished California educators of Armenian descent at the Second Annual Awards Luncheon to be held on Saturday, February 24, at De Luxe Banquet Hall in Burbank.

Last year, the ANCA-WR Education Committee honored Zaruhi "Sara" Chitjian with the Armenian Genocide Education Legacy Award. The Zaruhi "Sara" Chitjian Armenian Genocide Education Award was named in her honor and is presented to outstanding educators of Armenian descent who have gone above and beyond to teach and preserve Armenian history, culture, and voices of victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide, just as she did as an educator throughout her life.

This year, the Zaruhi "Sara" Chitjian Armenian Genocide Education Award will be presented to two educators, Vivian Ekchian, Interim Superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and Taline Arsenian, president of the Glendale Teachers Association.

"We are honored to present two very talented educators, Vivian Ekchian and Taline Arsenian, with the Zaruhi 'Sara' Chitjian Armenian Genocide Education Award. We look forward to celebrating many more Armenian educators with this Award in the years to come," noted Alice Petrossian.

Ekchian is the interim superintendent of the LA Unified School District, the second-largest school district in the nation. She is responsible for leading the overall operations and instructional programs of the District to create condi-



Vivian Ekchian

tions that promote student success. A firm believer in the unparalleled power of education to transform lives, Ekchian has dedicated her 32-year career to L.A. Unified in various positions. In January 2018, the District's Board of Education unanimously voted to appoint Ekchian as interim superintendent. Ekchian has represented LAUSD at Armenian Events, she speaks proudly of her Armenian heritage and has helped with numerous issues surrounding Armenian Genocide instruction and textbook adoptions for LAUSD. She has also supported the work of ANCA with professional development.

Arsenian is the current president of the Glendale Teachers Association. She was very instrumental in making April 24 a "Non-instructional Day" in all of the GUSD schools and was the driving force on the GTA team in negotiating and pressing the importance of signing a joint resolution to permanently designate April 24 as the "Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day." Arsenian has been a strong supporter of the Armenian Genocide Award Luncheon and continues to nominate fellow teachers of the award. She has been an active member of the Glendale Teachers Association since she began

COMMUNITY NEWS

Students See Armenia though AVC

BOSTON – Thanks to the Armenian Volunteer Corp (AVC) collaboration with Northeastern University, Armenia is now a global co-op education destination for college students to gain valuable work experience while learning about Armenia’s history and culture.

AVC welcomed its first Co-op program participant from Northeastern University (NU), Chloe O’Malley, 22, from New Jersey. NU’s Global Co-op Program offers students extraordinary career opportunities internationally, where they work on the front line in diverse cultures gaining hands-on real world experience. This was important to Chloe, who is scheduled to graduate NU this spring with a degree in international affairs and cultural anthropology. For six months, Chloe worked at Bars Media, a documentary film studio in Yerevan, as assistant writer and researcher. As such, she worked on 2017’s most popular TV show, “Janapar.”

More and more university students around the world are looking for a global leadership position as part of their studies or post-graduation. AVC customizes the experience from start to finish for each one.

AVC will customize the experience for those participating. Email questions at info@avc.am and when ready, apply online.

Birthright Armenia’s sister organization AVC offers immersion, non-tourist experiences similar to those offered by Birthright Armenia (BR) to anyone who is not BR-eligible; i.e. to individuals of all backgrounds and ethnicities from across the globe, age 21 and up. Service terms are as short as two weeks and up to one year. To date, AVC has hosted more than 750 volunteers from 49 countries. For more information visit www.armenianvolunteer.org.



Chloe O’Malley with Roffi Petrossian of “Janapar”

ANCA-WR to Celebrate Three Armenian Educators

TEACHERS, from page 6

teaching mathematics in the Glendale Unified School District in 1999. In addition to teaching math at Toll Middle School and Glendale High School, Arsenian has served the GTA as a Teacher Representative, Elections Chairperson, PAC Committee Treasurer, PAC Committee Chairperson, and Bargaining Committee Member. On the GTA Executive Board, she has served as Secretary and Vice-President.

“I have a responsibility to my community to educate all my students about the historical sig-

Angeles Community Colleges, authored the novel, *My Mother’s Voice*, and produced it into a 25-minute documentary. The film is designed to fit into History/Social Science curriculum and has been endorsed by the National Council of Social Studies. Premiering at the Toronto’s Pomegranate Film Festival the film received Honorable Mention for the Dr. Michael J. Hagopian Award. It was an official selection in five film festivals, and now *My Mother’s Voice* is being developed into a play with music by two Glendale Unified drama teachers.

Mouradian has and continues to fight the battle with National textbook companies on the appropriate and truthful representation of the Armenian Genocide in history textbooks sold to schools. “If the Armenian Genocide is not taught in history classes, it will fade away into history as if it never happened. Many of us are working diligently to educate the public about this historic event that became the template for the Holocaust. I especially want to acknowledge Senator Anthony Portantino, Congressman Adam Schiff, and Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian who have extended their political efforts to bring the Armenian Genocide to the



Taline Arsenian

nificance of the Armenian Genocide and the impacts that the systematic denial by the perpetrators has on its survivors, whose descendants are sitting among them in class, including their teacher,” noted Arsenian.

When referring to designating April 24 as the “Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day,” Arsenian stated, “It was truly a goal for all teachers in Glendale to commemorate the 1.5 million losses during the Armenian Genocide by declaring April 24 a special day of commemoration and closing all schools. I had the privilege of leading that movement and with positive support from the Glendale Unified School District Board. It has been my pleasure to support the ongoing teacher training by the Genocide Education team in GUSD. I have been an active participant and supporter of the ANCA-WR Education Committee Armenian Genocide Education Award Luncheon,” said Arsenian.

In addition, the ANCA-WR Education Committee will be presenting this year’s Armenian Genocide Education Legacy Award to Dr. Kay Mouradian.

Mouradian, professor emerita from the Los



Dr. Kay Mouradian

attention of the California Department of Education and to textbook publishers,” noted Mouradian.

In the coming week, the committee will also announce additional public school educators to be recognized at the luncheon for their outstanding commitment and creativity to teach their students about the history and universal lessons of the Armenian Genocide.

The luncheon will take place at 11 a.m. on Saturday, February 24 at De Luxe Banquet Hall on 237 E Olive Ave, Burbank.



HAMAZKAYIN ARMENIAN EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SOCIETY

WASHINGTON DC

AND

KNIGHTS AND DAUGHTERS OF VARTAN



PRESENT

GOODBYE, ANTOURA

A MEMOIR OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Featuring a presentation by

Houry Panian Boyamian

Principal, St. Stephen’s Armenian Elementary School
of Watertown, Massachusetts
and daughter of author Karnig Panian



Saturday, February 17, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Soorp Khatch Armenian Apostolic Church

Arabian Hall

4906 Flint Drive, Bethesda, Maryland, 20816

Reception to follow

Books available for purchase and signing

Read News in Armenian at:



haydzayn.am



COMMUNITY NEWS

Armenian International Women's Association Announces 2018 Hasmik Mgrdichian Scholarship Applications Now Available

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Affiliate of the Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA) announces that applications are now being accepted for the Hasmik Mgrdichian Scholarships. The Hasmik Mgrdichian Scholarships were established in 2011 to annually award scholarships to university students. Thanks to the continued generosity of Hasmik Mgrdichian each year \$5,000 are awarded to five students.

Applications are now available on line and are open to all California Women residents of Armenian descent who are applying for education in an accredited college or university. Applications are also accepted from students applying for graduate or undergraduate programs. The scholarship awards are based on both financial need and merit.

Nicole Nishanian, president of AIWA-LA stated: "Our scholarship program was created by Hasmik Mgrdichian, one of the founders of the Los Angeles Affiliate. We take great pride in her legacy to recognize and assist in the education of young Armenian women. It is gratifying each year to receive their applications and to learn of their scholastic achievements and goals for the future."

The Scholarship Committee, chaired by Lily Balian and with committee members Hermine Janoyan, Cindy Norian, Diane Cabraloff, Diana Hekimian, Houry Aposhian and Lysa Gregorian, granddaughter of Hasmik Mgrdichian. They are committed to reaching out to all California universities and colleges to inform women students of the opportunity to submit application for scholarship awards. Flyers and notices are being sent to Armenian schools, organizations and churches.

In addition to the Hasmik Mgrdichian

Scholarship Awards from the Los Angeles Affiliate, other scholarships are available through the AIWA International Board in Watertown, Massachusetts. Applications are available in all fields ranging from mathematics and architecture to government, public

administration, psychology, art and design, diplomacy and in the sciences.

Applications for all AIWA scholarships for the 2018-2019 academic year can be downloaded from the AIWA website (www.aiwainternational.org) or through the Los Angeles

Affiliate website: www.aiwaLA.org. Young women are urged to apply for both scholarships.

The deadline for applications this year is April 20, 2018. Winners will be announced in late May or early June.

AIWA Scholarship Applications Now Available for 2018-2019

BOSTON — The Central Board of the Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA) has announced that Scholarship Applications are now being accepted for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Annually AIWA offers a number of scholarships, ranging in value from \$500 to \$5,000, to full-time female students of Armenian descent attending accredited colleges or universities. Students from the United States or abroad entering their junior or senior year in college, as well as graduate students, are eligible to apply for the awards, which are based on both financial need and merit.

In addition, the AIWA-Los Angeles Affiliate is accepting applications for five Hasmik Mgrdichian Scholarships of \$5,000 each. The Mgrdichian Scholarships are available to California residents of Armenian descent.

AIWA's scholarship program was initiated with the Agnes K. Missirian Scholarship, which was established in 1996 in memory of the professor of management at Bentley University who was a strong advocate for women's rights. Grants have been added in memory of Ethel Jafferian Duffett, Lucy Kasparian Aharonian (for a student in the sciences), Mary V.

Toumayan, and Rose A. Hovannesian.

Also available are the Dr. Carolann S. Najarian scholarships in all fields, as well as the Hripsime Parsekian award for a student in the field of International Relations.

New this year is a scholarship of \$5,000 for a student in the field of Diplomacy in the name of one of AIWA's founders, Olga Proudian. This award is under the auspices of the AIWA-New England Affiliate.

In addition, the AIWA annually grants \$5,000 to the American University of Armenia for two Alice Kanlian Mirak Scholarships of \$2,500 each.

During the current academic year, AIWA has awarded over \$25,000 to graduate and undergraduate students from the United States and abroad in fields ranging from mathematics and architecture to government, public administration, psychology, art and design. In addition, \$25,000 in Hasmik Mgrdichian Scholarships has been awarded by the LA affiliate.

The deadline for the submission of all schol-

arship applications this year is April 20.

Applications may be downloaded from the AIWA website (www.aiwainternational.org) or requested by mail (65 Main St., #3A,



Recent AIWA scholarship recipients, (from left) Ani Karamyan, Alexandra Missirian Brown, and Arev Doursounian, are congratulated by AIWA friend Harry Parsekian at a recent event in Boston.

Watertown, MA, 02472). California residents may apply directly to the Los Angeles Affiliate website for applications: www.aiwala.org. Further information is available at scholarships@aiwainternational.org.

OBITUARY

Janet Jeghelian

Noted Radio Host, Therapist, Community Activist

WALPOLE, Mass. — Janet (Tevekelian) Jeghelian of Walpole, formerly of Westwood, died on February 3.

She was the wife of the late Haig Jeghelian and the mother of Armen and Tina Jeghelian and the late Robin Theriault. She leaves her granddaughter Emily; Claire Kushigian and her husband Harry and nieces Armine Kanis and Nairi Koroghlian.

A grandson, Haig Jeghelian, predeceased her.

Janet Tevekelian Jeghelian graduated from Newton High School and from Boston



University's Sargent School for Physical Therapy. She furthered her training at the New York University Bellevue Medical Facility where she treated an impressive list of patients including Roy Campanella, a famous baseball player. She returned to the Boston area and continued her career as a Physical Therapist and in fact was the personal therapist for Joseph Kennedy, the President's

father, at the Kennedy compound in Hyannis.

She and Haig (Gunder) Jeghelian rekindled their friendship and married in 1960. They were a dynamic couple. Gunder was working in creative marketing at Gillette and Janet's new-found passion for politics began in 1972 when she was the first female elected as a Westwood Selectman. They raised three children over the years, the late Robin Theriault, along with Armen and Tina Jeghelian.

Her intelligence, quick wit and drive for current events eventually led to another career as a well-known radio talk show host for WRKO and WBZ. You may recall commonly seeing Janet's picture on billboards and buses throughout Boston during these years. The Ted & Janet show in the 1980's was highly ranked among the Boston AM Morning Talk Radio market.

She was then sought after as a spokesperson for various fundraisers and charitable events. For example, for many years she hosted the Easter Seals telethon on WBZ television. Her broadcasting successes led her back to the political arena. Janet ran as a candidate for the US Senate and for the Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor position.

Before retirement her most recent position was the director of rehabilitation at the Stone Institute.

Jeghelian's community involvement was extensive. She was a trustee of St. Stephen's Armenian Church and a member of their Ladies Guild and Church choir. She also sang in the Yerevan Choral Group, and served as board president for the Armenian Women's Welfare Association as well as a past Trustee for Boston University.

Being very athletic from a young age, she enjoyed participating in the Armenian Youth Federation Armenian Olympics and earned the Boston Siamanto chapter a total of 35 points in the baseball throw and high jump events.

Funeral services will be at Saint Stephen's Armenian Church, 38 Elton Avenue, Watertown on Saturday, February 10 at 10 a.m. Interment will follow at Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge.

Donations

Sirop and Maro Bedrosian donated \$250 to the Tekeyan Cultural Association in memory of late members Papken Megerian and Antoine Bazarbashian.

Anahid Megerian has donated \$50 to the Tekeyan Cultural Association in memory of Antoine Bazarbashian.

Giragosian

F U N E R A L H O M E

James "Jack" Giragosian, CPC

Mark J. Giragosian

Funeral Counselors

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

www.giragosianfuneralhome.com

Telephone (617) 924-7400

Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home, Inc.

Continuous Service By The Bedrosian Family Since 1945

558 MOUNT AUBURN STREET
WATERTOWN, MA 02472

MARION BEDROSIAN
PAUL BEDROSIAN
LARRY BEDROSIAN

Nardolillo Funeral Home

Est. 1906

John K. Najarian, Jr.

Rhode Island's Only Licensed Armenian Funeral Director

1278 Park Ave. Cranston, RI 02910 (401) 942-1220
1111 Boston Neck Rd. Narragansett, RI 02882 (401) 789-6300

www.nardolillo.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

USC Takes the Displaced Persons' Story Global

LOS ANGELES – The University of Southern California (USC) Institute of Armenian Studies announces the start of a major initiative – the Diaspora Documentation Project.

“The Los Angeles Displaced Persons Community (the DPs) are an important segment of not just Diaspora history, but also World War II history, Soviet history, Armenian history, and of course Los Angeles history. We are pleased to be starting the Diaspora Documentation effort by focusing on this special community,” said Salpi Ghazarian, director of the Institute of Armenian Studies.

The DP project will be inclusive, bringing together the various efforts of filmmakers, family members and others who, over the years, have made efforts to document the experience of Armenians displaced by World War II. “The USC Institute of Armenian Studies is committed to integrating these memories and documents into the larger collection of American and Armenian history. With solid research and thorough documentation, the DP experience will no longer be just personal stories, but will become part of the discourse on the World War, on immigration, on diaspora, on the growth and transformation of California, and finally the history of Armenians in Los Angeles and the legacy of a community,” said Ghazarian.

World War II was the catalyst for immense human migration that included the Armenian communities of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, among whom were prisoners of war, those relocated as slave labor under German occupation, and those who moved with the retreating Germany Army to escape Stalin's rule.

By 1952, most of the 4,000 Armenians who ended up in Germany were allowed to land in

the United States of America, as a result of the Displaced Persons Act, enacted by Congress in 1948, that enabled their immigration.

The massive relocation program was organized by the American National Committee to Aid Homeless Armenians (ANCHA), led by George Mardikian and Suren Saroyan.

“The story of the Armenian DPs is a story of a tight-knit Diaspora community; and that story needs to be documented in great detail, so that it is preserved for retelling. We are grateful to the donors who shared this conviction and support this documentation project. It is essential to document the memories, through their own testimonies, as well as documents, photos and

other personal material that have global significance,” said Ghazarian. “We know that several individuals have attempted to gather the documents of this experience. The Institute will use the resources of USC to make all of these interviews and stories part of a larger, more encompassing collection, available to everyone, digitally, online.”

The Institute is working with several members of the DP community to make sure the story is told in its entirety.

Gegham Mughnetsyan, an Institute Research Associate who has been working on family archives donated to the Institute, pointed out that “there are archives in family storage spaces

and people's garages; these are essential for history, without them the stories of those days are slowly being lost. There is an urgency to act and preserve the stories and the artifacts associated with those stories. What the collection of artifacts along with oral histories will do is allow for the creation of a larger narrative, a complete story of this segment of diaspora history as a unique phenomenon.”

Those wishing to share their stories and documents with the Institute, and through the Institute's online platform, with scholars, researchers and filmmakers everywhere, are urged to contact the Institute at armenian@usc.edu or call 213.821.3943.

Lannett Enters into Consulting Agreement With Former CEO, Arthur Bedrosian

PHILADELPHIA – Lannett Company, Inc. this week announced that it has entered into a consulting agreement with Arthur P. Bedrosian, the company's former chief executive officer.

Under the agreement, Bedrosian will work with the company on several important projects primarily involving existing and new partnering efforts to expand and diversify opportunities, including but not limited to spearheading the effort to transition and strengthen the company's existing contractual relationships with its key partners.

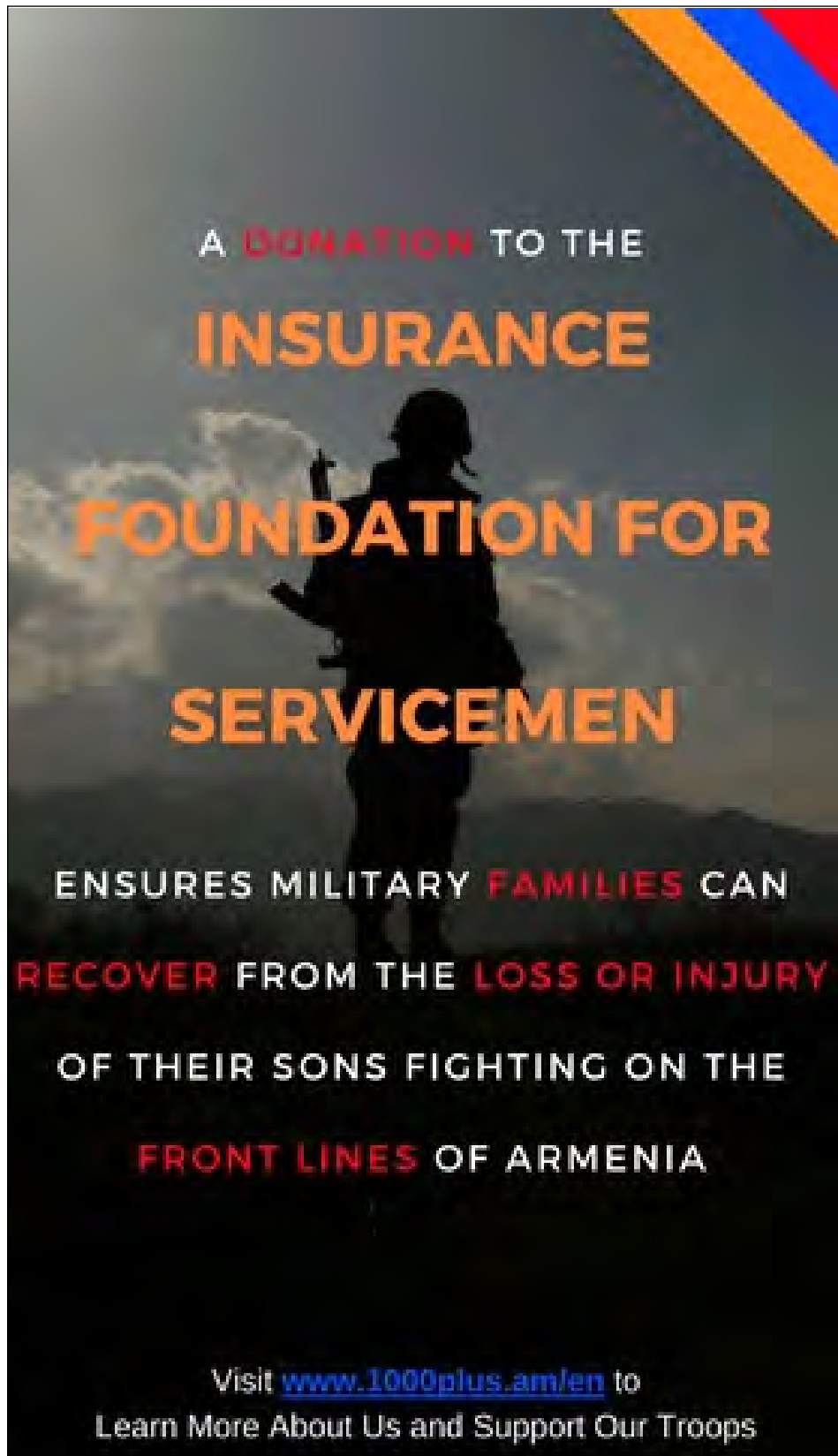
“We are pleased to be able to benefit from Arthur's more than 40 years in the generic drug industry and the deep connections he has developed with our strategic partners and the financial community,” said Tim Crew, Lannett's recently appointed chief executive officer. “I

look forward to working closely with him to not only transition but strengthen these relationships.”

Lannett Company, founded in 1942, develops, manufactures, packages, markets and distributes generic pharmaceutical products for a wide range of medical indications. For more information, visit the company's website at www.lannett.com.

This news release contains certain statements of a forward-looking nature relating to future events or future business performance. Any such statements, including, but not limited to, successfully transitioning and strengthening relationships with key partners, whether expressed or implied, are subject to risks and uncertainties which can cause actual results to differ materially from those currently anticipat-

ed due to a number of factors which include, but are not limited to, the difficulty in predicting the timing or outcome of FDA or other regulatory approvals or actions, the ability to successfully commercialize products upon approval, including acquired products, and Lannett's estimated or anticipated future financial results, future inventory levels, future competition or pricing, future levels of operating expenses, product development efforts or performance, and other risk factors discussed in the company's Form 10-K and other documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission from time to time. These forward-looking statements represent the company's judgment as of the date of this news release. The company disclaims any intent or obligation to update these forward-looking statements.



Victoria Bedrossian Wilson Appointed LA Superior Court Judge by Gov. Brown

LOS ANGELES – California Governor Jerry Brown appointed Victoria Bedrossian Wilson, 48, of Los Angeles, to a judgeship in the Los Angeles Superior Court, according to his December 22, 2017 announcement.

Wilson has been a supervising deputy attorney general at the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General since 2001, where she has served as a deputy attorney general from 1994 to 2001.

She has handled several significant cases. Wilson received the Attorney General's Award for Excellence in 2007 from then-Attorney General Jerry Brown. She has taught appellate brief writing to new attorneys at the Attorney General's Office and lectured at peace officer training courses for the California Peace Officers' Association.

She earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Southern California School of Law (USC) and a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) with honors: Phi Beta Kappa; Magna Cum Laude; Dean's Honor List.

She graduated from Alex Pilibos Armenian High School in Hollywood. She is the daughter of Armine Bedrossian and the late Kourken Bedrossian and is married to Malcolm Wilson.



COMMUNITY NEWS

ABN to Host Networking Event on March 13

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — The Armenian Business Network (ABN) will host its Winter Business Networking event on Tuesday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Commander Hotel. The program will present Stephen Demirjian, senior performance expert from the Achieve Institute, who will be conducting a special complimentary workshop for ABN members and share some of the institute's methods and processes for taking personal and work performance to the next level to achieve extraordinary results. The workshop will be followed by networking at Nubar.

The Achieve Institute is a highly successful global consulting company focused on helping executives from Verizon, Humana and other Fortune 100 companies achieve high performance, excel and compete. Mr. Demirjian is one of the leading experts on this subject, we are fortunate to have him with us and present to our members. Space is limited. Registration will start at 6:30 pm - registration, with speaker in the George Washington Ballroom 7-8 p.m. and networking at Nubar restaurant, 8-10 p.m.

Valet parking is available for \$10 with ticket validation at Nubar.

The event is open to all Armenians and their guests, who do not have to be Armenian.

Admission to the event is free but those attending can make reservations at armenianbusinessnetwork@gmail.com.



Dr. Jonathan Varjabedian
H. Şükrü Ilıcak

My Dear Son Garabed I Read Your Letter I Cried, I Laughed

Kojaian Family Letters from Efker/Kayseri to America (1912-1919)

When Garabed and his father, Haroutiun Kojaian, left their beloved village of Efker/Kayseri to immigrate to America in 1912 and 1913, they had no idea that it would be the last time that they would see their family, or their village.

By the end of 1915, they were left with nothing but their memories, and a stack of letters that had been written to them from their loved ones in Efker between 1912 and 1915.

For the first time, 86 of these letters have been compiled, painstakingly translated, and presented here, both in their original Armeno-Turkish, and with an English translation.

Two additional letters, from 1919, allow the reader to understand what befell the family during the Genocide.

428 pages

The book may be purchased from the publisher at: historpress@gmail.com, and through the Facebook Page for Histor Press.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Armenian Assembly Welcomes More Caucus Members

WASHINGTON — As Congress returned to Washington, DC this month, the Armenian Assembly of America held more than 30 meetings with Congressional offices and Members, thanking friends, discussing key issues, and adding more members to the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues.

The Assembly in a statement welcomed Representatives Ken Buck (R-CO), Joe Kennedy III (D-MA), and Grace Meng (D-NY) as the latest members to join the Armenian Caucus. Last month, Representatives Ruben Gallego (D-AZ), and Anthony Brown (D-MD) also joined the

which includes the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs in Bayside (Queens). Just this month, Community Board 11 in her district voted unanimously to change the name of the street behind Holy Martyrs to “Armenia Way” to honor the Armenians in Bayside. In addition to co-sponsoring H.Res.220, the Congresswoman supported other Armenian Genocide legislation, including H.Res.154 in the 114th Congress and H.Res.227 in the 113th Congress. She also co-sponsored H.R.4347, “Turkey Christian Churches Accountability Act,” in the 113th Congress.



Armenian Assembly Western Region Director Mihran Toumajan, Rep. Ken Buck (R-CO), Assembly Grassroots & Development Associate Mariam Khaloyan, and Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny

Caucus as a result of the Assembly’s efforts to expand the Caucus, thus bringing the total to 117 members.

“I’m proud to be joining the Congressional Armenian Caucus. I look forward to learning more about issues that impact the American-Armenian relationship and about ways to deepen ties between our two nations,” Buck told the Assembly.

Buck serves on the House Committee on Rules and House Judiciary Committee, as well as the Judiciary Subcommittees on Immigration and Border Security and Crime,

Kennedy is a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and represents Massachusetts’ 4th Congressional District, near Boston. In 2015, he signed the Royce-Engel Letter, which urged the US and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to “publicly condemn specific acts of aggression along the line of contact” initiated by Azerbaijan, against Artsakh. The letter called for “a few common-sense steps for the U.S. and the Minsk Group to take to deter further violence. Specifically, the call for all parties to withdraw snipers, and the proposal to deploy

OSCE monitors and equip them with gun-fire locator systems, provides tools to increase transparency and accountability for each and every cross-boundary violation.”

Gallego represents Arizona’s Seventh Congressional District, which includes portions of Phoenix. His district is located near St. Apkar Armenian Apostolic Church in Scottsdale, where Assembly Western Region Director Mihran Toumajan participated in its “Armenia Fest” this

past November. Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny will present a Town Hall Briefing at St. Apkar Church on February 18.

“I’m proud to join the Armenian Caucus and share in the richness that the Armenian Community brings to the United States. I look forward to upholding and advocating for the Caucus’ commitment to the preservation of human and civil rights in Armenia, the United States, and around the world,” Gallego said to the Assembly.

Brown is part of the House Committee on Ethics, House Committee on Natural Resources, and House Armed Services Committee. He represents Maryland’s Fourth Congressional District, which is comprised of portions of Prince George’s County and Anne Arundel County in the capital’s suburbs.



Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA) speaking with Armenian Assembly Western Region Director Mihran Toumajan, Assembly Grassroots & Development Associate Mariam Khaloyan, and Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny

Assembly Board Member Annie Totah and Ardouny have spoken with Brown on numerous occasions on US-Armenia and U.S.-Artsakh relations, and the importance of joining the Armenian Caucus.

“The Armenian Assembly looks forward to working with these new Members and with the leadership of the Armenian Caucus as we con-

1995 as an informal, bipartisan group of legislators dedicated to maintaining and strengthening the U.S.-Armenia relationship. The coordinated efforts of this diverse coalition of Congressional friends of Armenia and the Armenian American community help to raise greater awareness of Armenian American issues on Capitol Hill and unique



Armenian Assembly Western Region Director Mihran Toumajan, Assembly Grassroots & Development Associate Mariam Khaloyan, Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA) who co-sponsored H.Res.220, and Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny



Armenian Assembly Western Region Director Mihran Toumajan, Assembly Grassroots & Development Associate Mariam Khaloyan, Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV), and Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny

Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations. Last Congress, he also co-sponsored H.Res.220 and H.Res.154, affirming the Armenian Genocide.

“I am proud to join the Congressional Armenian Caucus. New York is home to many Armenian Americans and I am honored to represent a strong and vibrant Armenian American community in my district in Queens. I look forward to serving on the Caucus,” Meng told the Assembly.

Having previously served on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Meng now serves on the House Appropriations Committee and its Subcommittees on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs as well as Commerce, Justice, and Science. She represents the Sixth Congressional District of New York,



Armenian Assembly Western Region Director Mihran Toumajan and Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)

tinue to strengthen US-Armenia relations and confront Azerbaijan’s ongoing and deadly cease-fire violations,” stated Ardouny. “In 2018, we will also continue to expand our network of State Chairs across the country and are also planning a National Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C. later this year,” he added.

The Armenian Caucus was established in

and lasting bonds between the American and Armenian people.

The Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues is currently co-chaired by Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA), Rep. David Trott (R-MI), and Rep. David Valadao (R-CA) with Vice Co-Chairs Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL).



COMMUNITY NEWS

Tavitian Scholars Arrive for Six-Month-Long Program at Fletcher

MEDFORD, Mass. — The Fletcher School's Tavitian Scholars Program at Tufts University is back for its 19th year. Fifteen scholars arrived on campus in January to take part in the six-month-long program, which offers training in public policy and administration for mid-career Armenian government officials.

Conducted in collaboration with the Tavitian Foundation, the program is divided into two terms, each consisting of two five-week periods, during which students take a series of 11 courses and engage in extracurricular and travel opportunities.

The program has an impressive array of alumni who work in mid-to-senior level positions in the office of Armenia's president, the parliament, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Economy, and other government institutions.

Fletcher's Director of Executive Education Robert Loynd said he is excited to see the new scholars acclimate to the school. "We are thrilled to welcome this incredibly talented group of Armenian scholars and professionals," he said. "The Fletcher School is privileged to further prepare these leaders to continue making a lasting and positive impact on Armenia's domestic and foreign affairs."

Below is more information about each.

• Asanet Aloyan:

I hold a master's degree in Business Administration from the American University of Armenia. Currently I am chief tax inspector in the Methodology of taxes and mandatory payments division of the State Revenue Committee (SRC). I am also lecturer at training center of the SRC. I'm giving trainings for staff of SRC and also for taxpayers about all the clarifications and amendments in tax legislation. Before working in the public sector I was working in private sector having different positions mostly in financial organization starting from administrative manager, financial analyzer, economic analyst, team leader, chief financial specialist to chief accountant and director.

• Naira Avchyan

I hold an MBA degree from the American University of Armenia (Affiliate of the University of California) as well as a Bachelor's degree in Radio engineering from the State Engineering University of Armenia (SEUA). Currently, I work as a securities market regulation expert at the Securities market regulation division of the Central Bank of Armenia. I have an expertise in regulatory and legislative policy and procedures for the financial sector, consumer finances, public finances, corporate finances, private pension system, financial markets and instruments, collective investment schemes, financial analysis, and risk management. I am a member of several working groups in the Eurasian Economic Commission. I have played a key role in designing and implementing the pension reform in Armenia. Currently, I am in the process of getting my PhD in finance.

• Mariam Ayvazyan

I am an adviser to the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly where I am responsible for producing legislative drafts and writing opinions on legal drafts. Previously, I worked as a adviser to the Minister of Justice and as a legal expert at the Center for Research and Analysis at the National Assembly. I hold a BA, MA from the Faculty of Law at Yerevan State University.

Currently I am a PhD student at Yerevan State University. I am also a graduate of the George Marshall European Center for Security Studies.

• Gagik Barseghyan

I hold a PhD in Economics in the Scientific Research Institute of Agricultural Economy at the Ministry of Agriculture (Yerevan, Armenia) in 2000. I have graduated from the Armenian Agricultural Academy receiving the degree Economist on Finance and Accounting and the School of Public Administration of the Republic of Armenia receiving the degree of Civil Officer. During post graduate study in the Scientific Research Institute of Agricultural Economy I was the deputy head of the council of youth scientists. Currently I am the Coordinating head of the Budget Office at the National Assembly of Armenia. Previously, I worked as an expert at the Standing Committee on Financial credit and Budgetary Affairs of the National Assembly (2002-2016, an assistant adviser to the Prime Minister (2000-2002) and Deputy Head of Minister's Staff of Agriculture (1999-2000).

• Ara Edoyan

I hold a diploma specialist's degree (equivalent to master's) in Philology and accomplished post-graduate courses in American Literature in the Yerevan State University. I worked at the Ministry of Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports as a counselor to minister, participated in art man-

agement international courses in the United Kingdom for a month. Now I work at the Ministry of Education and Science of Armenia for about 15 years, 10 of which as deputy chief of staff. I have worked as an acting vice-rector at a university where I was responsible for education-industry links, organizing internships. At my present job I am coordinating the annual work-planning of the ministry departments, the assessment process, and the correspondence involved in drafting laws and regulations and other daily tasks.

• Gayane Hayrapetyan

I have been working at the Ministry of Culture, Youth Affairs and Tourism of the Republic of Artsakh since 2012, first as assistant to the minister, then as chief specialist at the Division of Youth Affairs. I am currently holding the position of the Head of the Secretariat. Throughout these years I have coordinated a number of international cultural



Tavitian Scholars meet with Dean James Stavridis, Joyce Barsam (Fletcher Board of Advisors / Tavitian Foundation Trustee) and Bob Loynd, Director of Executive Education at Fletcher.

and youth projects from music festivals to youth forums and non-formal education projects. As part of dealing with human resources management in my present work I took part in Civil Service Traineeships in Warsaw in October.

I hold a Bachelor's Degree in English Philology from Artsakh State University and a Master's Degree in Management from Mesrop Mashtots University.

• Areg Hovsepyan

I hold a master's degree in Oriental Studies from Yerevan State University. Currently I am a Leading Specialist in the Information and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Artsakh. I responsible for monitoring Turkish and Azerbaijani media, making translations and analyses of regional developments, logistical support to journalists, press accreditation, organizing official and other meetings of journalists in the framework of their visit, interpreting etc. I took certificated courses in the Diplomatic School of Armenia where I studied public diplomacy, negotiation and communications skills, political analysis and diplomatic correspondence, working with the media and financial reporting as well. I am lecturer in the Mesrop Mashtots University on the subjects of Ethnopolitical history of the South Caucasus region and History of the Republic of Turkey.

• Gohar Kartashyan

I hold a master's degree in Economics from the International School of Economics (Tbilisi, Georgia). Currently I am a macroeconomist in the Monetary policy department at the Central Bank of Armenia (CBA) with a focus on macroeconomic forecasting and analysis. Here I mostly deal with developing and communicating views on the global macroeconomic environment supported by quantitative and qualitative analysis. At the Yerevan State University I studied economics and management, was a member of the "Student Scientific Society" of the Faculty and had been working for the Ministry of Finance in Armenia. I am also passionate about issues related to energy and environmental management in Armenia.

I worked in the Resident Coordination unit of the United Nations in Armenia. I have completed several programs in Macroeconomic diagnostics, macroeconomic forecasting and received a professional certification from Tilburg University.

• Narek Melkumyan

I hold master's degree in International relations and diplomacy from Yerevan State University. I have graduated also the Diplomatic Academy of Armenia and Yerevan School of Political Studies. I've participated also in many both international and local conferences, seminars and trainings and was actively involved in different educational and social projects. Currently am working in the Municipality of Yerevan as an Assistant to the Deputy Mayor. I'm responsible for coordinating and implementing different projects related to health care, trade and services, external design

Administration from the Public Administration Academy of Armenia. Currently I am the Youth Programme Assistant Coordinator of the UNAIDS-supported project and Office Manager of "AIDS Infoshare" project implemented by the National Center for AIDS Prevention of the Ministry of Healthcare. My career (also volunteering period) has been focused on the prevention of HIV infection, particularly with youth, adolescents and labor migrants. I develop information and educational materials for different population groups, conduct seminars, webinars on HIV/AIDS issues. I have completed a course in project management at the American University of Armenia.

• Lilit Petrosyan

I am a Public Law Expert at the Center for Legislation Development & Legal Research at the Ministry of Justice. I have previously worked as an assistant to the Chief Deputy Minister of Justice and as a judge assistant in the Court of Cassation.

I am pursuing a PhD in Administrative Procedure Law at Yerevan State University. I also teach civil and administrative procedure in the faculty of Law. I have represented Armenia in Courtroom 600 at the Nuremberg Moot Court (dissecting both procedural and substantive issues of international criminal law) and in the Jessup International Law Moot Court. I have also published articles on a wide range of legal topics including women's rights, detention, vandalism, and administrative claims. Currently I am the head of Career Center of Law faculty and provide the bond between the employers and students, organizes seminars and conferences to improve student's skills.

• Artur Sayadyan

I hold a master's degree in Economics from Yerevan State University and later Master of Laws (LL.M Program) from the American University of Armenia. Currently I am a chief customs officer in the Internal Audit department of the State Revenue Committee of Armenia. I attended several summer schools in Germany while being a student, and worked at ACBA-Credit Agrikole Bank of Armenia for 2 years parallel my Master's classes of economics.

Prior to my current position at State Revenue Committee I owed my own business importing modern greenhouse equipment from Israel and construction of greenhouses all over Armenia. Currently we have a family business which is a cozy hotel in the center of Yerevan.

• Pavel Tadevosyan

I hold a master's degree in Civil Procedure Law and a Master degree in European Law from Yerevan State University in Armenia. Currently, I am the Adviser to the Head of Staff of the Ministry of Justice of Armenia. I'm delivering educational lectures in the Law Faculty of YSU on Civil Procedure for both Bachelor and Master's courses. I have published more than 10 articles in different international and domestic law journals and a monograph.

I am also a member of the chamber of the advocates of RA. Moreover, I'm making specialized trainings for the future members of the Chamber. Before moving to the Ministry, I used to work in one of the leading banks of Armenia as a head of Juridical Analyzes and Legal Acts Drafting Department and also was the representative of our Bank in the Central Bank during customer interests defending procedures.

• Viktor Yengibaryan

I have studied sociology at Yerevan State University and Transnationalization at Ruhr Universitaet Bochum. Currently I work as an advisor to a Member of Parliament of Armenia. I am the chairman of Yerevan council of Bright Armenia Party (liberal) and also coordinate International contacts of the party. Returning from Germany in 2004, I worked at UNDP Armenia office as data entry specialist in a humanitarian demining project. In 2005 I established the European Movement in Armenia NGO, later the organization became a full member of International European Movement, which is the biggest pro and pan European NGO. I worked as a European Integration expert. Later I joined the GIZ (German International cooperation agency) as a portfolio manager.

A large, stylized graphic of the number '85' with the word 'Years' written in a cursive script across the middle of the '5'.*REFLECTING • CONNECTING • INSPIRING*

The Armenian Mirror-Spectator

Thank you for your support. We had a great 85th anniversary symposium and gala, and, as long as you continue to support us, we will work to further improve the *Mirror* both in its print and digital version.

We want to let our readers know that we have been working hard over the past year to bring you more news and services.

Feel free to visit us in our Watertown Baikar Building headquarters, or call, write or email us with your comments and suggestions.

- We increased the print edition of the paper from 16 to 20 pages weekly.
- We improved the paper quality used in printing the paper.
- We have begun to increase our coverage of events in various parts of the world through special correspondents.
- We redesigned our website (www.mirrorspectator.com), which now offers more functionalities: you can see videos, comment, and contact us directly. You can directly input *free* calendar notices for your events. You will also shortly be able to pay with credit cards for your subscriptions or make gifts online.
- We are now sending out emails twice a week with links to new articles and videos from our website. Please send us (info@mirrorspectator.com or through our website) the email addresses of your friends so that they too can enjoy this *free* service.

The Armenian Mirror-Spectator hopes your New Year will be a great one—and that along the way we can continue to keep you informed about developments in the Armenian world. Keep your friends and family in the loop by buying them a print subscription, and send us their emails to get weekly notices.

www.mirrorspectator.com

Arts & Living

Popular Comedic Play 'Where Is Your Groom?' Part II to Be Performed in Washington, DC

WASHINGTON — For many Armenian parents, it's a dream come true when their child finds an Armenian spouse. But as soon as the wedding planning commences, that's when the problems - and the comedy - begin.

The sequel to the original hit play, "Where Is Your Groom? (Pesad Oor Eh)" Part II will perform for the Washington D.C. Armenian community on Saturday, March 10, in an event hosted by the Knights and Daughters of Vartan to benefit schoolteachers in Yerevan, Armenia.

The story picks up as the parents of newly engaged couple Lara and Ari come together to celebrate the anticipated union. But before the soorj is even served, the initial pleasantries quickly diminish as debates launch over what church the service will take place, who will be the best man and if Adiss or Manuel will sing at the reception. To make matters even more frustrating for Lara, her fiancé goes missing, past suitors show up and a matchmaker is hired to help her brother find a wife.

The Knights and Daughters of Vartan believe the modern, humorous story will resonate with audiences through laughter, while also giving them a chance to examine the more serious issues of cultural preservation in the Diaspora.

"I feel it's important to organize events which enrich our cultural heritage," said Araxie Vann, matron of the Daughters of Vartan. "Bringing this theater group to the Washington, DC Armenian community will help young diasporans relate the subject matter to their own lives, while at the same time looking at the situation from the outside and finding humor in it," said Vann.

The play has struck a chord not only with audiences during its run, most recently at New York City's Miller Theatre and the Mosesian Center for the Arts in Watertown, but also for the 20-person cast and crew. Hailing from all backgrounds in the New York metro area, the young professionals in the production have also deeply connected with the play and its characters.

Playing the role of the family matriarch Siroun, Nairi Hartounian said she was reminded of the strong women she was surrounded by while growing up, who served as an inspiration when she assumed the character of the overbearing, yet compassionate mother and wife.

"We've had three, sometimes four generations in the audience and they've all been able to identify with what they see on stage," said Hartounian, a graduate student at New York University studying public relations and corporate communications. "This is a universal story and we all find pieces within ourselves through all of the layered characters."

The Washington, DC performance will serve as a fundraiser to provide assistance to the teachers and workers of the Knights and Daughters of Vartan School in Armenia's capital city. A special committee has been formed under the chairmanship of former Matron Doris George.

"Proceeds will be disbursed to the schoolteachers in order to encourage them to stay and teach in Armenia because these children are the future of the country and they are in need of education," said Vann. "The purpose of this school is to provide students with the knowledge and skills to allow them to step into the real world and face the future challenges in Armenia."

"Our group is committed to entertaining and stimulating dialogue within our Armenian community, but also to serve as a positive representative of our culture," said writer and director Taleen Babayan. "We are proud to perform in the greater Washington DC area for the Knights
see GROOM, page 15



Joe Berlinger shooting a scene for "The Promise" from "Intent to Destroy"

'Intent to Destroy'

Communities Across US Mobilize to Bring Documentary to Theaters for One-Night-Only Screenings

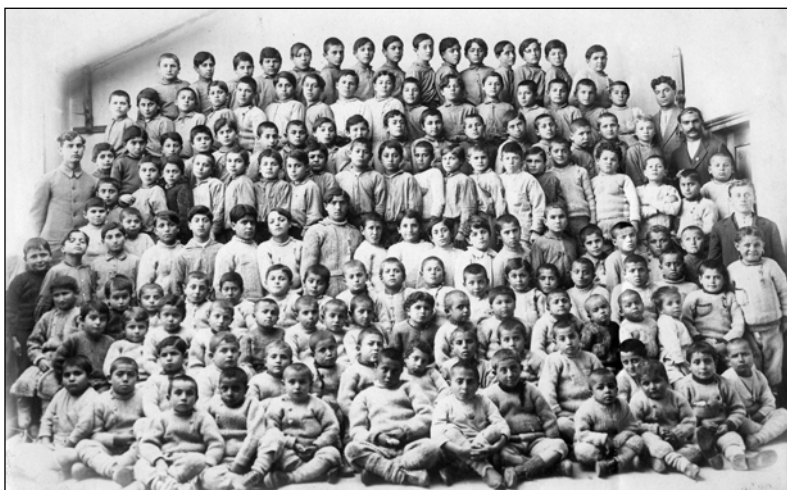
LOS ANGELES — Joe Berlinger's documentary "Intent to Destroy," a film-within-a film that centers on the Armenian Genocide was a critical favorite at last year's Tribeca and Hot Docs film festivals. The film also won best documentary at the Arpa International Film Festival held last November. "Intent to Destroy" was shown theatrically with limited screenings in New York, Los Angeles, Boston and San Francisco. Gathr Films is expanding the release with one-night-only event screenings through its crowd-sourced theatrical distribution platform Theatrical On Demand.



Produced by Survival Pictures ("The Promise"), RadicalMedia, and Third Eye Motion Picture Company in association with Bloom Project, Berlinger's 13th feature-length documentary embeds history with the story of director Terry George's exploration of the Genocide through his film "The Promise." That includes the subsequent campaign launched by genocide deniers.

The film shines a light on the Armenian Genocide — whose witnesses and descendants are still fighting to be officially acknowledged as such by the international community including the United States: how it was carried out during World War I as the reign of the Ottoman Empire drew to a close, and how it laid the groundwork for the genocides that followed. Berlinger interviews historians, scholars, and high-profile filmmakers in his exploration of the tangled web of responsibility that has driven a

see SCREENINGS, Page 15



Armenian orphans in Merzifon, a still from "Intent to Destroy"

Socially Relevant Film Festival to Take Place March 16-22

NEW YORK — The Socially Relevant Film Festival 2018 (SRFF 2018) brings in its Fifth Season with international and local films, industry workshops and panels, and other events dedicated to social issues and the filmmakers that highlight them. SRFF 2018 will be held March 16 to 22, at Cinema Village and neighboring venues.

The Official Selection to be screened in the heart of Greenwich Village covers a diverse mix of five narrative features, 15 documentaries, 38 shorts, and more. There will also be a script-writing contest with readings from finalist scripts. The films represent over 22 countries. Visit www.ratedsrff.com for full slate and film details.

Opening night will take place Friday, March 16, 7 p.m. with the narrative feature film "Lou Andreas-Salomé: The Audacity to be Free" (Germany). A stunning period piece on the 19th-century female novelist, poet, and essayist, the film follows Salomé as she shuns traditions in pursuit of intellectual perfection.

Among the other selected narrative feature films (full list on website) are "Darcy" (USA), "Find Your Voice" (Australia, New Zealand) and "Hot Country, Cold Winter" (Armenia, The Netherlands, Germany)

Themes for selected short film groupings include: Ageing Gracefully, Dreamers Having a Nightmare, Sustainable Communities, Where is Home? And Whose Disability??

Monday, March 19 features a keynote evening event celebrating women, in partnership with Apne Aap - an organization that rescues women and girls in India from sex-trafficking - including a series of films from India and elsewhere that promote empowering women and young girls. A panel discussion follows, led by Ruchira Gupta.

The script writing competition features readings with actors, in the presence of the scriptwriters, from the seven finalist scripts. Other workshops and panels on offer include industry forums, an engaged theatre workshop, a live music performance to silent films, and more coming soon.

Presented with Gear VR provided by Samsung, the festival presents cutting-edge VR/360° experiences that push the boundaries of immersive storytelling. Among the six selected pieces is The Great - a VR Great White Shark Experience, which shows firsthand the grace and beauty of this misunderstood and endangered creature.

The festival will close on the evening of March 22 with a glistening Awards Ceremony and screening of the winning films at Cinema Village, and party for the filmmakers at Doud Supperclub featuring appearances from NYC local filmmakers and industry veterans.

Festival Founder and Artistic Director Nora Armani says, "SRFF 2018 is very happy with our fifth year's selection. We have been able to incorporate many more films, and have been able to hone in on specific social issues in more depth. This year's festival goes back to basics: the filmmakers, the films, and the issues, with a number of interesting partners and sponsors accompanying us."

Sponsorship and partnership opportunities are still available. Partner organizations and schools receive substantial discounts. Contact ratedsrff@gmail.com if interested.

The Socially Relevant Film Festival New York is a non-profit film festival founded by actress Nora Armani. Its mission is to shine the spotlight on filmmakers who tell compelling, socially relevant, human interest stories, across a broad range of social issues. The festival was created as a response to the proliferation of violence and violent forms of storytelling in media and entertainment.

For further information, please contact Armen Spendjian at A.L.spendjian@gmail.com



ARTS & LIVING

Communities Across US Mobilize to Bring 'Intent to Destroy' to Theaters

SCREENINGS, from page 14
century of denial by the Turkish government and its strategic allies.

Berlinger has won two Emmys and has been nominated in the feature documentary category for an Academy Award. His work includes "Brother's Keeper," the "Paradise Lost" trilogy, and "Metallica: Some Kind of Monster."

Theatrical On Demand® allows individuals the opportunity to organize and promote screenings of Intent to Destroy in movie theaters across the country. With

months to promote the film in their city and get enough people to reserve tickets before the screening expires.

On every screening page, there will be an update that shows the number of current reservations, the number of additional reservations needed to tip the screening, as well as how much time remains before that screening request expires. When enough people reserve tickets to a screening before time expires, the screening takes place. If the minimum number of reservations is not met, the screening does not take place and nobody is charged.

Anyone can Captain a movie screening, whether an individual, an organization or social club. Non-profits can also add a feature that allows ticket purchasers to make an optional donation to their organization.

"Intent to Destroy" is an experience, and the full meaning

and value of this film can only be experienced in a high-quality cinema with a big screen, great sound, and large audience. This film is dedicated to the estimated 1.5 million victims of the Armenian Genocide, and to all victims of mass slaughter around the world. May their suffering never be forgotten.

To set up a screening visit: <http://gathr.us/films/intent-to-destroy/new-screening-request/t/itdgo> or by emailing Haig Boyadjian at haigboyadjian@yahoo.com



Joe Berlinger shooting a scene for "The Promise" from "Intent to Destroy"

Theatrical On Demand®, you can bring this film to your local movie theater. You just pick the date, time, and theater where you want to host your screening. Gathr Films will set everything up at no cost. All those interested in hosting screenings have to do is promote the film and get people to reserve tickets.

Theatrical On Demand® screenings can only happen if a minimum number of people reserve tickets before a screening expires. Movie Captains, who organize these screenings, have anywhere from five weeks to four

Zakarian on Travel and Food

NEW YORK
(Pursuist.com) —
Ambiance. Great
Food. Buzz. It

By Stacy Steponate Greenberg

takes all of those and more to turn a restaurant into a destination, and right now no one is doing it better than Geoffrey Zakarian, the master of modern cooking.

Zakarian graduated from the Culinary Institute of America and quickly moved through various kitchens, ultimately landing as the executive chef at the prestigious 21 Club in New York City. From there he took over the

kitchen at "44"

at The

Royalton

Hotel, and

started the

trend of chic

restaurants

with good food

in hotels. He

went on to

open his own

restaurants,

publish cook-

books, create a

line of kitchen

products, and

now can be

seen on a num-

ber of hit

shows on the

Food

Network,

including

"Chopped"



Geoffrey Zakarian

and "Iron Chef." His latest endeavor is the restaurant Point Royal at The Diplomat Beach Resort in Hollywood, Fla., which includes an impressive raw bar, along with Counter Point, anchored in the hotel lobby, offering coffee, juices, snacks and light bites all day long. The Overhead Compartment was fortunate to share a meal and pick up a few pointers from the highly talented chef restaurateur, Geoffrey Zakarian.

OC: You have written two cookbooks and have a new line of kitchen products call Pro for Home. What is the single most important lesson a person should learn to become a better cook?

GZ: Well you have to work at it. Practice. Make mistakes and then rinse and repeat. It's a trade but a trade imbued with passion and the most basic instinct known to mankind. To feed and provide. It's truly a unique and wonderfully enriching profession. Treat it as such. Make it everyday and taste it every day.

OC: You appear on a number of Food Network shows, host Food Talk on Sirius XM, have successful restaurants all over the country and you have a family. What is the secret to

staying balanced?

GZ: Truly, it's a myth. Balance that is. I am never in balance.

We love, adjust, shift, change, fail, learn. Every single day. It's never static.

OC: You're described as the master of Modern cooking, what does that description mean to you?

GZ: Let's drop the master. But it means being in the moment, taking risks yet cooking from your soul every day. Changing when you don't feel it and admitting you made mistakes. Somehow good food usually follows, so call it whatever you want.

OC: What's your favorite meal to cook?

GZ: Anything for my family and children. But I am a sucker for a big breakfast spread.

OC: Least favorite food to cook?

GZ: Haggis

OC: You have restaurants in Manhattan, South Florida, Greenwich and Beverly Hills. Aside from your own, what's your favorite restaurant in:

GZ: Manhattan: BondST Miami: Le Petite Maison Beverly Hills: Beverly Hills Coffee Chop Greenwich: National Italian (Coming soon)

OC: As the father of three kids, what is the best advice you could give when cooking for children?

GZ: Always prep together. Let them see what it takes. The best conversations take place way before eating.

OC: You have traveled all over the world opening restaurants and cooking, what's the most exciting place work has taken you?

GZ: Doha. Dubai. Paris. London. California. Florida. Australia. I am blessed truly.

OC: How would you spend a day there if you had one free?

GZ: In Paris. Check in to the Bristol. Head over to Angeline for a chocolate. Stroll the Palais Royal. A quick lunch at Le Grand Vefour. And wander the first and second and finish with a delightful bite at Frenchy followed by a nightcap at the bar at the Bristol. Bon appetit!

OC: You were the winner in the fourth season of "The Next Iron Chef." What was your favorite part of that experience?

GZ: To be a part of that prestigious small group. The honor is overwhelming.

OC: First thing you do when arriving at a hotel in your room?

GZ: Go to the gym.

OC: Complete the following sentence: I never leave home without...

GZ: Lots of cash. You never know!

Geoffrey Zakarian, please use care upon departure as items may have shifted in The Overhead Compartment during our journey. Thanks for choosing us for your travel tips!

'Where Is Your Groom?' Part II to Be Performed in DC

GROOM, from page 14


and Daughters of Vartan and support the education of our youngsters in our homeland."

"Where Is Your Groom (Pesad Oor Eh)?" Part II will take place on Saturday, March 10, at

6:30 p.m. at the Richard J. Ernst Cultural Center in Annandale, Va. For tickets by credit card, visit paypal.me/DaughtersofVartanUS or call a member of the Knights or Daughters in Washington, DC.



Students at the Knights of Vartan Yerevan School

 **TEKEYAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW YORK**

proudly presents the NY/NJ premiere of

A FUNNY, WITTY, DELIGHTFUL NEW SHOW IN ARMENIAN

-DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND- ADDITIONAL SHOW ON SUNDAY, MARCH 4 @ 5PM

CLINTON INN HOTEL
145 DEAN DR, TENAFLY, NJ 07670

FOR RESERVATIONS PLEASE CONTACT
MARIE ZOKIAN 201-745-8850
BY FEBRUARY 24

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TCA
AND MAIL TO: **MARIE ZOKIAN**
580 PROSPECT AVENUE
RIDGEFIELD, NJ 07657

\$85 PP
THREE COURSE DINNER
CASH BAR

YOUR CHECK IS YOUR RESERVATION



ARTS & LIVING

Flaming Pit Restaurant in Watertown Offers Armenian and Caucasian Specialties

By Aram Arkun

Mirror-Spectator Staff

WATERTOWN — The Flaming Pit (in Armenian, *Varvogh Tonir*) is a new wood fire grill and pizza restaurant and caterer launched last fall by Tigran Yesayan in Watertown at 222 Arsenal St. It offers Armenian and Caucasian specialties like *Ajarakan khachapuri* (a delicious combination of eggs and cheese in dough that is boat-shaped and cooked on the grill), various types of kebabs and barbecued meats, and vegetables grilled Armenian style and mixed into a salad. Even among the pizzas, one version called Ardora includes *pastirma* (*basturma*). Alongside the Armenian items, the Flaming Pit offers American favorites like hamburgers, French fries, chicken wings and chicken fingers, as well as Italian items like calzones, strombolis, cannolis and zeppolis.

Yesayan left his native Armenia when he was 19, in 2002, and later his parents joined him. In Armenia, Yesayan studied at the University of Physical Culture for two years before emigrating, and was a weightlifter. He wanted to explore the United States and worked in a fast-food restaurant for a few months in the Washington, DC area. He traveled a lot and then in September 2003 moved to Boston in order to go to school. He graduated Mass Bay Community College with an associate's degree,



The outside of the Flaming Pit restaurant on Arsenal Street in Watertown, Mass. (Photo credit: Aram Arkun)

ten months before moving to Boston. In Boston he worked for Charley's Saloon downtown on Newbury Street, Bertucci's, and briefly at a pizza place on Mount Auburn Street which no longer exists. In 2005 he became involved in the construction business while going to school. All that time he said, "I always had the idea to open a restaurant."

Yesayan also knew he wanted to open his restaurant in Watertown. Aside living in Watertown himself and not wanting to drive a distance to the restaurant, Yesayan said, "I think the number one reason is because of the Armenian community, then, the growing American population here, and third, all the buildings coming up. I could already see what was happening, especially to Arsenal Street, with the Arsenal project, the apartment buildings here, and the growing Armenian community." He feels that within the last ten years a lot of Armenians have moved there from Armenia and even California. Even Yesayan's landlord is Armenian.

Until recently, Yesayan said, there were not too many formal Armenian restaurants in the area, and the oldest one, Karoun, unfortunately recently closed. He said, "When I was going out, I wanted to go to an Armenian restaurant, but there was no choice." Now, a new wave of Armenian restaurants have opened or are about to open in the Watertown area, with the Flaming Pit in the vanguard. Yesayan pointed out that his restaurant is a bit different than the others, and uses an Aztec wood-burning grill, but in any case, he said, "the more Armenian restaurants the better."

The Flaming Pit was founded as a family business. Yesayan said, "My parents are here, even

though I don't want them to work too hard, but it is the beginning so they are helping a lot. My friend Alex [Alexander Yeghiayan] is running the place as general manager and I help as much as I can, because I have the other business."

The restaurant opened on October 24, 2017 and had to overcome various difficulties, including a chimney fire on November 30 that led to a six-day closing, and issues with the software used for sales. Yesayan said, "I am happy. The most important thing is that we were able to overcome those problems."

The restaurant has two dining areas, and a bar. Yesayan is in the process of obtaining a liquor license, and then plans more renovations, to turn one part of the restaurant more formal, with pictures on the walls, music and televisions. He already has built the tables from scratch for the restaurant and plans to build the chairs too. There will be swinging doors. He plans first to provide stereo music but later live music at least one or two days a week. He said, "It is nice and clean right now but we want to make it fancy, so people will come to enjoy the atmosphere as well as the food."

Yesayan revealed a few secrets. He is working on a true fire pit, or Armenian tonir, and secondly, planning to add kofte, or blended meatballs Echmiadzin-style, made with very fresh meat. This will be added to the menu. In addition, the restaurant will have specials every day to see which dishes people will want on a regular basis to add to the menu. For example, sbas yogurt soup at present is featured as the soup of the day. His plan is to become known for a limited number of unique menu items instead of having a vast menu selection.

A number of Armenian associations are planning to have parties and gatherings in the restaurant. So far, Yesayan has not advertised, but has benefited from favorable articles in the *Boston Globe* (praising the *khachapuri*) and the *Boston Eater* as well as Facebook and Yelp reviews. Once the renovations to the second section of the restaurant are finished and the liquor license obtained, a grand opening will be advertised, hopefully sometime in March.

The Flaming Pit is open Monday to Thursday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Sunday 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. (see flamingpit.net).



Yesayan, the founder of the Flaming Pit (Photo credit: Aram Arkun)

and then to Northeastern University. In both schools he studied accounting, so he ended up in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in finance and accounting.

Yesayan accrued some experience in American restaurants while pursuing his education and acclimating to life in the United States. He worked in an American restaurant owned by an Armenian in Maryland for eight or

Watertown area, with the Flaming Pit in the vanguard. Yesayan pointed out that his restaurant is a bit different than the others, and uses an Aztec wood-burning grill, but in any case, he said, "the more Armenian restaurants the better."

The Flaming Pit was founded as a family business. Yesayan said, "My parents are here, even



Take-out counter of the Flaming Pit, with Tigran Yesayan's mother (Photo credit: Aram Arkun)]

Recipe Corner

by Christine Vartanian Datian

Hearty Cabbage and Chicken Soup

INGREDIENTS

1 medium size head cabbage, cut into pieces or shredded
1 large onion, diced
3-4 cloves garlic, minced
3 stalks of celery (and tops), diced
2 medium carrots, diced
2 medium potatoes, peeled and diced
1 medium green or red bell pepper, seeded and diced
1 large cooked skinless, boneless chicken breast, diced or shredded or 1½ lb. thick lamb chops or trimmed boneless lamb shoulder, cut into 1 1/2-inch cubes
1 cup crushed or Italian-style stewed tomatoes
2 tablespoons tomato paste
1 tablespoon white vinegar
1 bay leaf
1/2 teaspoon each crushed basil, thyme and oregano
Sea or Kosher salt, black pepper, paprika, and dried mint
1/2 cup medium bulgur
8 cups water or chicken, beef or vegetable broth (or a combination of water and broth)
1/2 bunch flat-leaf parsley, chopped
Juice of one lemon
Lemon wedges as garnish
Crushed red pepper flakes, Aleppo pepper as garnish
Olive oil

PREPARATION:

Boil, broil, or bake the chicken breast until done. Cool and cut into bite-sized pieces, and put aside. If using lamb, brown lamb chops or shoulder in a little butter or olive oil, drain, and put side.

In a large soup pot, sauté the onions and garlic in olive oil until onions are translucent. Add the cabbage, celery, carrots, potatoes, bell pepper, and remaining ingredients (except the parsley), and 8 cups of water or broth, and stir to combine.

Add the tomatoes, tomato paste, vinegar, spices, bulgur, and lemon juice, and bring to a full boil. Add the chicken or lamb to the soup, stir, cover, and cook for one hour on medium low or until the vegetables and potatoes are tender; skim away any froth on top of the soup.

Add the chopped parsley and cook for 10 minutes longer. Remove bay leaf and serve with lemon wedges and crushed red pepper flakes or Aleppo pepper on the side.

Serves 6-8.

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



ARTS & LIVING

CALENDAR

CONNECTICUT

FEBRUARY 10 — Hye Hearts Dance. Second big annual event. Back By Popular Demand! 8pm - ??? LIVE MUSIC featuring Harry Bedrossian (oud, vocals), Mal Barsamian (clarinet), Bruce Gigarjian (guitar), Charlie Dermenjian (dumbeg). Continuous dancing with DJ Chris Habibian. Hosted by the Tri-Church Cultural Committee. Holiday Inn, 1 Bright Meadow Blvd., Enfield, CT (just off Interstate 91). Hotel \$89 room rate. 860-741-2211, mention "Hye Hearts" Adults \$45 advance, \$50 at the door. Students & Adults 80+ \$30 advance, \$35 at the door. Children 12 & under free. Mezzeh included. Cash Bar. Reservations for up to tables of 10. To purchase tickets: <https://hyeheartsdance2018.eventbrite.com> or mail checks (made payable to TCCC) to: Gary Hovhanessian, 81 Cope Farms Rd., Farmington, CT 06032. RSVP & Questions/Info: David Jermakian 413-727-2586, davidjermakian@gmail.com and Gary 860-690-5959 or gary-hov@aol.com. Tri-Church Cultural Committee includes members of the Armenian Church of Holy Resurrection, New Britain, CT and St. George Armenian Church, Hartford, CT and St. Mark's Armenian Church, Springfield, MA.

MASSACHUSETTS

FEBRUARY 10 — Saturday, 12 noon to 3 p.m., panel discussion on the "State of Turkey's Academia and Academics for Peace." MIT Room 3-270. Speakers, academics themselves who had to endure the consequences of government repression in various ways, will address the current threats to academic freedom and freedom of speech in Turkey from a historical perspective. Students, scholars, journalists, activists, politicians and all concerned individuals to join us in this conversation to collectively think about ways to defend academic freedom and strengthen solidarity with academics in Turkey. Speakers: Nazan Bedirhanoglu, Binghamton University; Ates Akyurtlu, Retired Professor, Hampton University; Zeynep Gönen, Framingham State University; Moderator: Kaan Agartan, Framingham State University. The event is free and open to public. Refreshments will be served. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-state-of-turkeys-academia-and-academics-for-peace-tickets-42521599248https://www.facebook.com/events/287448558450467/>

FEBRUARY 10, 2018 — Poon Paregentan Dinner Dance - Family Kef Night, Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church, 180 Old Westford Rd., Chelmsford. Featuring Jason Naroian Ensemble: Jason Naroian – Vocals and Dumbeg, Joe Kouyoumjian – Oud, Ara Jeknavorian – Clarinet, and Dave Anisbigian – Guitar, and. Children Activities - 5 pm and Dinner/Dancing at 6 p.m. Paid in advance tickets must be received by February 6: Adults \$25, Students (6-12 years old) \$10, and 5 & under, free. At the door: Adults \$35 and Students \$15. For reservations, contact Maria Kazanjian (617) 240-3686 or Ria.tk@verizon.net. Tables of 8 can be reserved in advance with full payment Checks made payable to: Sts Vartanantz Armenian Church.

FEBRUARY 13 — Tuesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Watertown Free Public Library. Budgeting and credit scores 101. Come learn about creating a budget worksheet, how to improve and maintain your credit score. Hosted by Armenian International Women's Association New England and CFA Society Boston. Free and open to the public. Registration recommended at aiwanewengland@gmail.com.

MARCH 4 — Women's History Month Celebration: Dr.



The Hye Hearts Dance will take place on February 10 in Connecticut, hosted by the Tri-Church Cultural Committee, at the Holiday Inn, 1 Bright Meadow Blvd, in Enfield. The dance will feature musicians Harry Bedrossian, pictured above, Mal Barsamian, Bruce Gigarian and Charlie Dermenjian and DJ Chris Habibian. To purchase tickets: <https://hyeheartsdance2018.eventbrite.com>

Hasmik Khalapyan, of the American University of Armenia, will discuss "Women's Activism During the Western Armenian Renaissance, 1860-1914," presented by the Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA) and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), 2:30 p.m. at NAASR, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont. Open to the public free of charge. Info: 617-926-0171 or info@aiwainternational.org

MARCH 8-11 —The Global Cinema Film Festival of Boston (GCFF) announces its 2018 Official Selections. The 3rd annual global event will be held at the Studio Cinema, 376 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA. Festival kicks off on March 8, at 6 p.m. with Red Carpet Event and film screenings until 10 p.m. Film screenings will continue from Friday, March 9, through Sunday, March 11, 2018 from 12 to 11 p.m. For more info visit @ www.worldwidecinemaframes.com. globalcinemafilmfestival@gmail.com

MARCH 11, 2018 — "Jazz and Art for YerazArt" on Sunday, 5 p.m., at Anoush'ella Saj Kitchen, 35 W Newton St., Boston. More information will follow.

MARCH 13 — Armenian Business Networking (ABN) Winter Business Networking event, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., the Sheraton Commander in Cambridge. Stephen Demirjian guest speaker from The Achieve Institute shares methods on creating greater personal and work life success. This event is free of charge. RSVP: armenian-businessnetwork@gmail.com

MARCH 18 — Book Presentation by Adrienne G. Alexanian, Forced into Genocide, Memoirs of an Armenian Soldier in the Ottoman Turkish Army, Sunday, 12:30 p.m., Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston,

145 Brattle St., Cambridge. This book is a riveting memoir of Yervant Edward Alexanian, an eye-witness to the massacre and dislocation of his family and countrymen in Ottoman Turkey during WW I, while he served as a conscript in the Turkish Army. Reception and Book Signing to follow Presentation. All are welcome! Log onto <http://www.htaac.org/calendar/event/527/> for further information.

APRIL 11 — A recap on the status of the documentary project "Neighbors in Memory," accompanied by a panel of community members shedding light on the state of Armenian-Turkish relations as they live and witness it. Wednesday, 7 p.m., Capitol Theatre, 204 Mass. Ave., Arlington. Screenings, discussions and refreshments. For more information: gonca59@gmail.com

MAY 5 — Saturday, Kentucky Derby Watch Party, Fun and festivities to support Armenia Tree Project, At the elegant/historic Gore Place in Waltham. Details to follow

MAY 5 — Save the date! Annual Meeting, Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA). Details to follow. Contact: info@aiwainternational.org or 617-926-0171.

MAY 11 — Welcome His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, to Celebrate with Rev. Father Mampre A. Kouzouian on the 60th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood. Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge. Hrashapar Service in the Sanctuary followed by a Celebration in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall. Details forthcoming.

APRIL 14 — Saturday, St. James Great Gatsby Gala! A Roarin' 20s Celebration! Live Jazz & Armenian Music, Passed Hors D'oeuvres, Mezza and Dessert Stations and more. St. James Armenian Church – 465 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown, 8 p.m., Tickets \$100. Purchase online at www.stjameswatertown.org or contact info@stthagop.com.

WASHINGTON, DC

FEBRUARY 17 — Saturday, 7:30 p.m., presentation of the book Goodbye, Antoura: A Memoir of the Armenian Genocide by Houry Panian Boyamian, principal, St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School, Watertown, MA, organized by Hamazkayin of Washington DC and Knights and Daughters of Vartan. Soorp Khach Armenian Church Arabian Hall, 4906 Flint drive, Bethesda, Md. Free Admission, Reception to follow.

FEBRUARY 18 — Sunday, 1 p.m., presentation of the play "Vartanantz" written and directed by Naira Tashjian, St. Mary Armenian Church hall, 4125 Fessenden Street, NW, Washington, DC, organized by Knights and Daughters of Vartan. Free Admission and Reception.

MARCH 10 — Saturday, 6:30 p.m. Benefit theatrical presentation for the teachers of Knights of Vartan School in Armenia. Taleen Babayan's "Where Is Your Groom? II" At Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus, Ernst Community Cultural center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Tickets \$30. By credit card go to [paypal.me/DaughtersofVartanUS](https://www.paypal.me/DaughtersofVartanUS) or call Takuhi at (301) 219-4041.

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 no later than Mondays at noon.

‘The Christians’ to Feature Christine Mirzayan

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (*Broadway World*) — PlayMakers Repertory Company presents "The Christians" by 2017 Tony-nominated playwright, Lucas Hnath. The production, is directed by Triad Stage founder Preston Lane, runs through March 10, in rotating repertory with the Molière classic "Tartuffe" (adapted by David Ball).

"The Christians" takes its audience into the world of Pastor Paul, the charismatic leader of a thriving megachurch. He preaches a sermon with the power to shake the foundations of

both the church, and his own life. In this award-winning drama, Hnath takes a critical, but compassionate look at the topic of faith and following today, and how who we follow shapes what we believe.

Each performance will be backed by a live choir.

"As a Christian artist, myself, I want to be asking questions that help a society behave differently, in a way that we can be kind and understanding of each other," says Lane. "Faith for me isn't a rigid set of beliefs, so I was drawn to

this play because Hnath presents five absolutely faithful people with five different, valid, and equally compelling positions."

"I was excited to bring back the rotating repertory this season, and have audiences explore two very different viewpoints on faith and following, both flash points for our country right now," said PlayMakers Producing Artistic Director, Vivienne Benesch.

"The Christians" features Joey Collins as Pastor (Broadway's "The Glass Menagerie" and "Suddenly Last Summer" at Berkeley Rep) and

Nemuna Cessay as Pastor's Wife, ("Great Expectations" at Oregon Shakespeare Festival and "The Unfortunates" at Joe's Pub at The Public) in their PlayMakers debuts. Both will double in central roles in Molière's "Tartuffe."

"The Christians" also features PlayMakers company members Alex Givens as Associate Pastor ("Sense and Sensibility,"), Jeffrey Blair Cornell as Elder ("Count," "My Fair Lady"), and Christine Mirzayan as Congregant ("The Cake," "The Crucible").

"The Christians" is recommended for audiences 14 and older.

For information and to purchase tickets, visit www.playmakersrep.org.



COMMENTARY

Mirror Spectator



Established 1932
An ADL Publication

EDITOR
Alin K. Gregorian

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR
Marc Mgrditchian

SENIOR EDITORIAL COLUMNIST:
Edmond Y. Azadian

CONTRIBUTORS:

Florence Avakian, Dr. Haroutiun Arzoumanian, Philippe Raffi Kalfayan, Diana Der Hovanesian, Philip Ketchian, Kevork Keushkerian, Harut Sassounian, Hagop Vartivarian, Naomi Zeytoonian

CORRESPONDENTS:

Armenia - Hagop Avedikian
Boston - Nancy Kalajian
New York/New Jersey - Taleen Babayan
Berlin - Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

Contributing Photographers:
Jirair Hovsepian

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

Baikar Association, Inc.

755 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472-1509
Telephone: 617-924-4420

FAX: 617-924-2887

www.mirrorspectator.com

E-Mail: editor@mirrorspectator.com

For advertising: mirrorads@aol.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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

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

ISSN 0004-234X

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

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

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

Baikar Association, Inc.

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

COMMENTARY

Erdogan's Ottoman Ambitions Are for Real

By Edmond Y. Azadian

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey has extended his particular brand of “olive branch” to Syria. Since the days of Noah, the olive branch has been synonymous with peace, or a peace initiative.

But that branch, in Mr. Erdogan's hands, has brought mayhem to the people in the region.

In the first place, Turkey's incursion into Syria is a violation of international law. It has not been sanctioned by the United Nations Security Council or any other international authority. And furthermore, the excuse used for invading the territory of a sovereign nation is a fake one. As the Turkish war machine mows down hundreds of civilians, homes and antiquities in Afrin, the excuse is that Ankara is out to destroy Kurdish “terrorist” structures to secure its border with Syria.

The Kurds waged historic battles in the region to destroy the entrenched Islamic State, with the arms and political support of the US. For a long time, the US and Turkey exchanged diatribes and they were heading toward a confrontation because the two sides were supporting opposing parties in the battlefield.

The Kurds rightfully expected that after so many sacrifices, they had earned the blessing of the US to secure their autonomous enclave in Afrin and Manbij. The US first assured its “trusted” ally, Turkey, that it would disarm the Kurds so that the same arms used by the Kurds to fight IS would not be used against Turkey's armed forces in the battlefield, nor would they be smuggled into Turkey.

That kind of a deal was successfully achieved by the French after World War I, when they disarmed the Armenian Legionnaires following the Battle of Arara in 1918 and subsequently the Armenian resettlement in Cilicia became a toothless presence and easy prey for the Kemalist forces. But in this age and in the morass in Syria, disarmament is a daunting task.

That is why the US left the Kurds to the tender mercies of the Turks, who are waging a war of ethnic cleansing and land grab.

Before invading Afrin, Turkey must have cleared its intentions with the US and Russia, both of which have powerful forces in the area yet act as neutral bystanders with full view of the carnage perpetuated by Turkey.

For all intents and purposes, Turkey will be there for the long haul. Because, if left unattended, the Kurds will eventually carve their autonomous enclave on Turkey's border, one way or another. They are goal-driven and determined people.

Turkey has its uninvited forces also in Iraq. Baghdad has toned down its protests about the Turkish presence on its territory because there was a confluence of interests in preventing Iraqi Kurdistan from declaring its independence.

When Erdogan began complaining about the Sykes-Picot Treaty of 1916, which determined the zones of influence for France and Britain following the defeat of the Ottoman Empire, he laid claim to oil-rich Kirkuk, which was “unjustly” assigned to Iraq. The pundits took him as a modern-day Don Quixote, but Erdogan was dead serious because his Ottoman ambitions are real.

Similarly, when the Muslim Brotherhood took over the government in Egypt and elected Muhammed Morsi as president, Erdogan acted as if Turkey's colonial relations with Egypt were back. Today's strained relations with the administration of President Abdel Fattah Sisi are born out of Erdogan's frustration that the honeymoon came to an abrupt halt.

Turkey today has military bases in Qatar and Djibouti on the Red Sea and is acting as a colonial superpower in the region.

The US and Europe destroyed the former Yugoslavia for their own political purposes and gifted the illegitimate birth of Kosovo to Turkey, whose influence has been growing in the Balkans, as the NATO forces keep the rump state of Serbia at bay.

Bulgaria had long had historic relations with Armenia. General Antranig had fought with Bulgarians for their independence from Ottoman rule and was awarded the title of general there. Also, their national poet, Beyo Yavrov, lamented the Armenian Genocide. But today, the Bulgarian parliament cannot pass a Genocide resolution because the Turkish faction in their parliament is manipulated by Erdogan.

Evil people are never dumb; they are endowed with a hefty dose of intelligence to cause massive death and destruction for humankind. Erdogan felt his way between two opposing powers – the US and Russia – and he moved forward. He has grown out

of the fanatical masses of Turkey but he also knows how to play his cards on the world stage. He knows how to galvanize Turkey's popular masses as he smoothly navigates international waters.

Turkey has set anchor in Northern Cyprus since 1974 and the Erdogan government is there for perpetuity while diplomats spin their wheels trying to find a resolution. And the international community, rather than blaming the occupying power, reproaches the Greek side for its so-called “intransigence.”

There is a French saying, “L'appetit vient en mangeant” which means appetite comes with eating. This phrase perfectly describes Erdogan's situation. After occupying 38 percent of Cyprus, after snatching pieces of territory from Iraq and Syria, today he has set his sights on Greek islands bordering Turkey.

The issue came up during Erdogan's visit last December to Athens. The bankrupt Greek government had found no other dignity to invite but a bully. After a hiatus of 65 years, Erdogan was the first Turkish president to visit Greece, on December 7-8. During his visit, he insulted his hosts to no end. He blamed the Greek government for trampling on Turkish minorities religious rights and requested Turkish military officers who had sought asylum in Greece after last year's military coup. And to top it all, he called for the revision of the Lausanne Treaty of 1923 to which the Greek President Prokopis Pavlopoulos responded, “The Treaty of Lausanne defines the territory and sovereignty of Greece and the European Union and this treaty for us is non-negotiable.”

Political leaders even in Turkey are stunned to see Erdogan seeking the revision of that treaty, which thus far was considered sacrosanct, because it had saved Turkey from dismemberment.

The Lausanne Treaty replaces the Treaty of Sevres of August 10, 1920, when the Allies turned on the defeated Ottoman



Empire. It took away almost all territories occupied by Ottoman Turkey, leaving a truncated territory around Constantinople for the Turks. The Straits of Dardanelles were demilitarized and placed under an international commission. It established an independent Armenia and an autonomous Kurdistan and gave protection to the Assyrian minority. Historic Greek city of Smyrna was returned to Greece and Venizelos government was commissioned to hold a plebiscite to find the will of its citizens in five-years' time.

Mustafa Kemal, like Hitler but even before Hitler, used the humiliation of the country in the war and whipped up people into a war of liberation. In the meantime, stripping the Sultan's government of all powers, leaving his Milli movement as a negotiating party with the Europeans. He sent Ismet Inonu to Lausanne to renegotiate the Sevres Treaty. Europeans were easy to give in and both Armenians and Kurds (who started negotiating overlapping territorial claims) lost their bids for sovereignty. Some vague promises of religious rights were given to the surviving Armenian community. Ataturk was also able to take over Kars and Ardahan from the Russians, who were no longer allied with the West.

Erdogan wishes to renegotiate the treaty on his own terms, meaning snatch the Greek islands on the Turkish littoral. Of course, he has no intention of reverting back to the Sevres Treaty. The Turkish president's revisionism was also reflected in the domestic policy. He blamed Kemal Kiliçdaroglu's Republican People's Party for ceding those islands to Greece.

Turkey and Greece are NATO partners, a partnership which has not helped resolve the Cyprus problem. They have had many military confrontations and always powers that be at the NATO headquarters view Greece as the poor relation.

Erdogan is watching world politics and, seeing how the trend is tilting toward impunity, he is calculating his next steps. Since Turkey's intransigence has thus far paid off in Cyprus, Iraq and Syria, therefore there are good chances of occupying those islands with or without negotiating the terms of the Lausanne Treaty. Therefore, the tolerant political world has to watch Erdogan's next step and blame Greece for not turning the islands over to Turkey.



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Mikoyan's Surprising Comments To Nixon In 1959 About Armenian Rights in Turkey

Recently I came across a document from the US archives that describes the fascinating conversation between Anastas Mikoyan, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, and Vice President Richard Nixon on July 25, 1959 during the latter's visit to Moscow. The two had met earlier during Mikoyan's historic visit to the United States.

The discussion between the two rival leaders at the height of the Cold War was polite, but animated. Nixon praised Mikoyan "who had left in the United States many friends who admire him for his stamina and agility in expressing his views." Nixon also stated that "Mikoyan's visit to the US had broken the ice not only officially but also privately, regarding the respective points of view of the two countries." The archival document noted that Mikoyan "returned the Vice President's compliments in kind and added that the Vice President is a great debater who never leaves anyone in his debt."

The conversation quickly turned political when Mikoyan complained about the inappropriateness of a recent congressional resolution on captive nations – states subjugated to Communist rule, including Armenia. Mikoyan felt that the res-

olution was intended to undermine Nixon's visit to the Soviet Union. Nixon gave the excuse that the US Congress is an independent body and not even the President can control its decisions! Vice President Nixon went on to explain: "there are in our population elements, whether Mr. Mikoyan believes they are wrong or not, who feel that governments in their former homelands should be changed. Our Congress often passes resolutions representing the views of those elements, who include such nationalities as Polish, Hungarian, etc. The resolution, and particularly the proclamation of the President, had made a point that it was only an expression of the opinion of American people and the American Government and that they are not attempting to engage in so-called subversive activities."

Surprisingly, Mikoyan, one of the highest ranking Soviet officials, then brought up his Armenian heritage by telling Nixon that "he was an Armenian, and that although he is not active in the Government of Armenia proper, he knows some 30 Supreme Soviet Deputies of that Republic and all of them have been wondering who gave the American Government the authority to act in their behalf and why the American Government is not doing something for the liberation of really oppressed peoples, such as the Armenian minority in Turkey."

Mikoyan's statement was surprising because he was speaking with Vice President Nixon as a Soviet leader, not as an Armenian. Furthermore, Mikoyan was not known as an Armenian nationalist. In fact, he had been blamed for the deaths of many Armenians during the infamous purges under Communist rule. Mikoyan also had not supported the reunion of Karabakh (Artsakh) with Soviet Armenia. These are some of the reasons Armenians were unhappy with the recent decision of the Yerevan City Council to erect Mikoyan's monument in Yerevan.

A further indication of Mikoyan's anti-nationalist views is his statement of December 1919, during the short existence of the first independent Republic of Armenia (1918-1920):

"Armenian chauvinists relying on the allies of imperialism push forward a criminal idea – the creation of a 'Great Armenia' on the borders of Historic Armenia. The absence of Armenians and the presence of an absolute Muslim population there does not concern them...our [Communist] party cannot support the idea of either a 'Great' or 'Small' Turkish Armenia." The reality is that the Soviet Union did not defend the rights of the Armenians in Turkey.

However, Mikoyan rightly pointed out that the United States is against "the liberation of oppressed peoples" when "the peoples in question are oppressed by its friends and allies," such as Turkey, and many others.

Mikoyan also questioned whether the Soviet leaders should pay attention to the positive gestures of the White House or the more hostile reactions of the State Department. Mikoyan "wondered whether the Soviet Union should believe the pronouncements by the President or the Vice President or whether it should regard this statement by the State Department as a direct expression of American policy." Mikoyan explained that "the President had instructed the Department of State to work out measures for the development of foreign trade [with the Soviet Union]. In view of the actions taken by the State Department it appears that the President wants one thing and the Department of State another."

Mikoyan's meeting concluded on a conciliatory note with Vice President Nixon promising that "upon his return to the United States he would work on the problem of trade, but that one must realize that difficulties cannot be resolved by a stroke of pen."

The above conversation shows that Mikoyan was in fact as "wily" as described by Western officials. He had survived for several decades at the highest echelons of the Soviet Union, ending up as Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the nominal Head of State, from 1964 until his forced retirement in 1965.

Will Trump Tell the Truth About The Armenian Genocide?

By Robert M. Morgenthau

As Hitler launched his invasion of Poland in 1939, he instructed his commanders "to send to death mercilessly and without compassion, men, women and children of Polish derivation and language." He assured his staff the world would raise little objection: "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"

That was a reference to the systematic destruction of the Armenian population by the Ottoman Turks beginning in 1915. World powers had offered little resistance to the slaughter as it occurred. Later, Turkey's insistent denials made it the "forgotten genocide."

Turkey, ostensibly an American ally, still refuses to confront its history. The US government also has failed to give the annihilation of the Armenians its due. American administrations have bowed to Turkish pressure and failed to affirm consistently a simple fact: The slaughter of the Armenians was not a mere misfortune of history but a systematic genocide.

Such reticence wasn't necessarily surprising, given diplomats' cautious and equivocating nature. But President Trump, in recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, seems to be signaling a new age. In 1995, Congress enacted legislation directing the State Department to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and move the US Embassy there. Candidates Bill Clinton and George W. Bush promised to move the embassy, and Barack Obama said in 2008 that "Jerusalem will be the capital of Israel." Once elected president, all three reneged on their pledges. Now, at last, America's Jerusalem policy is consistent with its principles and with historical fact.

That makes me optimistic that America may similarly acknowledge the historical truth of the Armenian genocide. The facts are compelling. For millennia, Armenians lived in the shadow of Mount Ararat, in what is now eastern Turkey. For much of its history, this Christian minority lived in peace with its Muslim neighbors. But as the Ottoman Empire began to disintegrate in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Armenians became targets of oppression. As World War I loomed, the Turks saw the opportunity to settle their "Armenian question."

First they arrested and executed community leaders and intellectuals. Then they drove the remaining civilians out of their homes in long "death marches" to the Syrian desert. As many as 1.5 million Armenians were

murdered.

For me, this chronicle is not confined to history books. My paternal grandfather, Henry Morgenthau, was President Wilson's ambassador to the Ottoman Empire as the horror began to unfold. He quickly understood that this was slaughter on a scale the modern world had never seen. He protested to Turkish leaders, who replied that the Armenians were not American citizens and thus none of the ambassador's concern. Besides, they said, Ambassador Morgenthau was Jewish, and the Armenians were Christian.

The Turks even threatened to pressure Washington to recall him. My grandfather's reply was eloquent: "I could think of no greater honor than to be recalled because I, a Jew, have done everything in my power to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of Christians."

The Turks refused to relent, and my grandfather turned to his own government. He sent Washington a diplomatic cable reading: "A campaign of race extermination is in progress." The State Department, then preoccupied with World War I, responded with indifference. Ultimately my grandfather decided to appeal to the world's conscience through a series of speeches.

Eventually a massive aid campaign helped resettle the scattered survivors. But the genocide had exacted an unfathomable toll on the Armenian people—and on my grandfather's spirits. He returned to the US determined to spend his days helping the survivors, sometimes appearing at Ellis Island as "Uncle Henry" to sponsor refugees who had no one to meet them. And he did something else. He taught his children and his grandchildren the history he had witnessed. The lesson he drew was clear: When principle succumbs to expediency, the inevitable result is tragedy.

Every April, the president issues a proclamation recognizing the atrocity that was inflicted on the Armenian people. But bowing to Turkish pressure, that proclamation has never contained the word "genocide." That must change.

I do not underestimate the concerns of those who say the wrath of Turkey may work against US interests—as I do not dismiss those who say moving the embassy to Jerusalem may complicate peace negotiations. But a just and lasting world order cannot be built on falsehoods and equivocations. Let President Trump demonstrate that commitment once more by declaring the truth of the Armenian genocide. This would send clear message to the thugs in power around the world: Your criminal acts will not go unnoticed.

(This column originally appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*.)

Wars Can Be at Their Most Dangerous When They're Coming to an End

By Robert Fisk

IT'S EASY to think the war is over. Until mortars from Ghouta swish over Damascus and explode in the old Christian area of Bab el-Touma with its grocery shops and restaurants. Six dead. Or when an army officer comes and says quite casually to you: "Remember Captain Walid? He was martyred four days ago." I've always felt uneasy about the word "martyred" – about any soldier, or civilian, anywhere.

But that's the way the man referred to Captain Walid Jabbour Khalil. He was a combat correspondent with the Syrian army. He carried a notebook, not a rifle, and he had a dangerous job.

I knew him, though not well. Last year, he was covering the war on the mountains of Qalamun high above Lebanon, a short, cheerful, moustachioed man who, I thought, was happier as an official military reporter than an infantryman. He had been recording how the bodies of Jabhat al-Nusra fighters lay on the edge of an escarpment just captured by the army and its Hezbollah allies.

Russian and German official combat reporters and photographers had a short life expectancy in the Second World War – their Allied opposite numbers somewhat longer – and they took their chances in battles, cruel and fair, on the side of the aggressors or the liberators. Walid Jabbour, like his colleagues, was making a record of the Syrian army's war, as ruthless a struggle as any in the recent history of the Middle East. He was shot dead by a sniper – probably a Jabhat al-Nusra man – in the battle of Harasta in eastern Damascus. He was wearing a flak jacket. The bullet, very carefully aimed according to his colleagues, hit him just beneath the lower left side of the protective armor.

By one of those awful ironies that war regularly throws up, Jabbour and his fellow cameramen were two weeks ago making a documentary about their own work. So his death, as he scrambled through a doorway, was recorded by one of his own photographer friends. He was a Christian – how we need to note these small matters now, in a war that has plastered colored sectarian stickers over the landscape of every Syrian map. He was 38 and married, with a young son. His commanding officer, a Damascus general, attended the funeral – he is a Muslim and it was the first Christian church service he had ever attended. He gave a speech by the coffin, he said, amazed by the music and the extraordinary vestments of the priests.

The power of the internet has invaded every war now and it's not just Jabbour whose death shocks each family. Soldiers of the Syrian government receive more public notice than the civilians of either side – the casualty figures for the Syrian war, anywhere from 240,000 to 450,000 dead, have now reached fantastically unreliable proportions. For all we know, they may even be closer to half a million, although that is unlikely.

But every Syrian knows – and has watched over and over again – the appalling, moving images of the death of 19-year-old Fadi Zidan, a cadet in the "National Defence" militia. He had joined up in 2015 and just four days later was seized by Isis fighters in Palmyra. And there his terrible fate was recorded forever – largely unseen in the West, of course, but regarded inside

see WAR, page 20



Speaker George Keverian Public Service Scholarship Created to Empower Next Generation of Young Minds

SCHOLARSHIP, from page 1

a mother and father that had escaped the Armenian Genocide and immigrated to our great country. They struggled to make ends meet during the Great Depression. George and I were touched by their sacrifices. I am sure that the struggles faced by our family is the force that motivated George to provide service to others. This is so well revealed by this simple but powerful quote from his valedictorian speech given to the graduating Class of 1948 at Everett High School: 'Service should not be rendered as a favor conferred, or as a debt, but as a simple natural devotion to our fellow man.'

George Keverian was blessed to have a sharp wit that could sometimes bust the high and mighty. However, he was a humble man. He was sometimes asked: "Who is smarter, you or your brother?" George would answer: "I am street smart while my brother is book smart."

The mission of the scholarship is "To preserve the memory of Speaker George Keverian by supporting the work of individuals who strive to create positive change by helping individuals reach their potential, communities achieve their goals, and society advance the principles of democracy."

It is the late speaker's family's hope that the next generation of Armenian-Americans will continue forward by giving back to the community in a positive way and empower the organizations they participate in to do good in our society and within the Armenian community.

Speaker Keverian's grandniece, Niari Keverian, said, "My uncle was an incredible man. He always put others before himself. He would take the time to speak with anyone and help you if you wanted to be helped. He believed in education and he would say, 'it doesn't matter what school you go to; it's what you make of it.' That is why this scholarship is so fitting as a way to keep his legacy alive. Our hope is that his story and his life's work will inspire the next generation of students to continue to do great work themselves. By creating this scholarship, we hope to find students that represent who he was as a human being and hope that they pay it forward for generations to come. That is how we hope to keep my uncle's legacy alive."

The scholarship is offered for the first time this

year through the administration of the Armenian Student's Association (ASA). The scholarship provides support for those who have provided a public service or who aspire to provide a public service and/or advance the principles of democracy. The amount of the scholarship is \$5,000, and the deadline for applicants this year is March 15. The recipient will be selected in early April and will be awarded at the Armenian Genocide Commemoration event at the State House that Speaker George Keverian initiated taking place the morning of Friday, April 20, in the House Chambers.

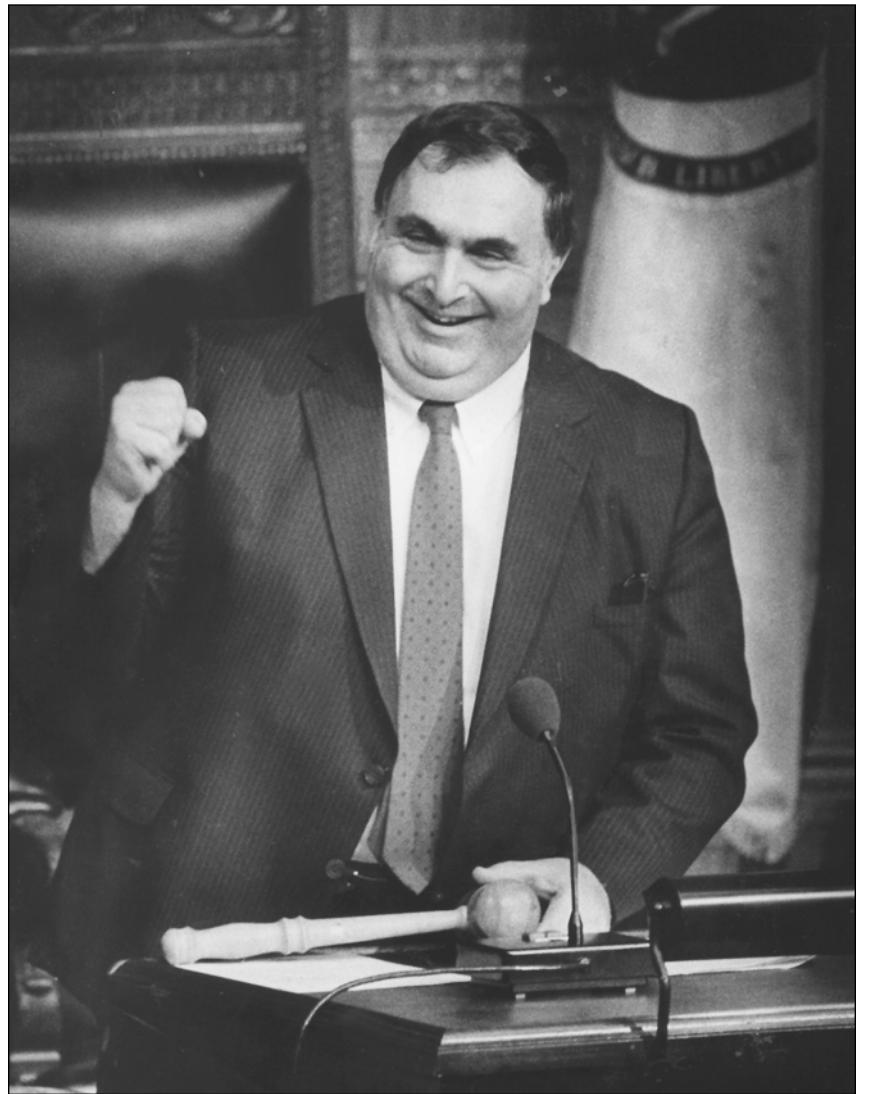
Brian Assadourian, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Armenian Students Association, declared: "We are thrilled to have been asked by the Keverian family to help find a deserving student for the Honorable Speaker George Keverian Public Service Scholarship. I would encourage all who have in some way been touched by the inspirational life that he led, to help spread the word so that we may bestow this honor at the upcoming Armenian Genocide Commemoration event in Boston."

To be eligible for the George Keverian Public Service Scholarship Legacy Scholarship through ASA you must meet the following criteria: 1. Be of Armenian descent; 2. Be a high school graduate who is enrolled full-time at an accredited undergraduate college/university, has completed at least one semester in an accredited undergraduate college/university, or an undergraduate who is enrolled full-time at an accredited postgraduate college/university in the US by April 2018; 3. Must be a US citizen or must possess appropriate visa status in order to study in the US; 4. Have the ability to showcase the characteristics and traits of Speaker George Keverian; 5. Be in need of financial aid.

This scholarship will be given to an Armenian-American student who can reflect in his/her ASA application how he/she has given back to others.

Applicants may apply to the scholarship by visiting <http://www.asainc.org/national/scholarships.shtml>. All requirements of a completed application are due by March 15. Late applications will not be considered.

For more information on this scholarship, email Niari Keverian at niari@keverian.com.



"SERVICE SHOULD NOT BE RENDERED AS A FAVOR CONFERRED, OR AS A DEBT, BUT AS A SIMPLE NATURAL DEVOTION TO OUR FELLOW MAN."

—GEORGE KEVERIAN

BENEFIT THEATRICAL PRESENTATION FOR THE TEACHERS OF
KNIGHTS & DAUGHTERS OF VARTAN SCHOOL IN YEREVAN, ARMENIA

A PLAY BY TALEEN BABAYAN

WHERE IS YOUR GROOM? II

Փեսայի Որի է

SHE THOUGHT ALL HER PROBLEMS WOULD END
ONCE SHE FOUND HER "PESA"...

Saturday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Northern Virginia Community College - Annandale Campus
Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center, CE Building
8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA 22003

Tickets: \$30 (children 7 & under free)
Tickets available by credit card at paypal.me/DaughtersofVartanUS
Or by calling/texting Takuhi - (301) 219-4041

Wars Can Be at Their Most Dangerous When They're Coming to an End

WAR, from page 19

Syria with all the reverence (or hatred, depending on your point of view) humans bestow upon a religious painting.

Because he was an Alawite – or a "Nusairi," as he is called by his persecutors in the film – Isis decided that he was a heretic as well as a tank driver (impossible, since he was only four days in uniform) and a chilling, white-shrouded figure standing behind the young man sentences him to be killed "as you do to our people." Zidan appears dressed in the orange jumpsuit of Guantanamo and Isis infamy, his feet shackled in chains, the man in white announcing that he will be driven over by a captured Syrian tank.

The next images show Zidan standing perhaps 20 yards in front of a roaring tank which charges forward on full throttle. He turns desperately away to the right, and half-jumps in his chains to avoid his death but the left-hand side tank track catches up with him. Syrians have seen the unedited footage. Readers should be spared. All that is left in the last frames of the film is a crushed, orange-coloured mass of rags on the road behind the tank, a group of Isis members screaming "Allahu Akbar!" The Serbs did the same to the Muslims of the Drina Valley. Thus, too, did Uzbek General Dostum punish his enemies in northern Afghanistan.

But how should one contemplate such barbarity? And go on accepting, in the kind of nonchalant, easy way we do in the West, as Syrian civilians are blown apart and gassed and starved? I was in a black-stone village north west of Hama last week – destroyed, of course – when a Syrian army major casually said, "My cousin was martyred here three years ago."

Slowly, more figures emerge. In the tiny village of Arabiyah in the same countryside, around 350 of its menfolk had died in uniform – either of the Syrian army or the "National Defence" groups. The enormity of the figure is only obvious when you realise that the entire village population of men, women and children is scarcely 8,000.

What is the real cost of this war in the ranks of Bashar al-Assad's army? I think it passed 70,000 dead some months ago. Eighty thousand, perhaps. What rewards do their families expect from such a sacrifice? There will be debts to be paid.

I have to say, however, that after a 2,000-mile tour over much of Syria, I have – for the first time in recent months – seen neither a single Hezbollah member or Iranian revolutionary guard. And since Western leaders believe Syria is swamped with Iranians, this is interesting.

I travel where I wish – apart, of course, from the small areas still held by Isis – and I'm quick to spot a Hezbollah fighter (usually because they come from Lebanon, where I live, and I know some of them). But there are plenty of Russians patrolling the desert highways, even running convoys up the main supply route from Homs to Aleppo.

Yet I cannot forget the flurry of mortars that crashed into Bab Touma a few days ago. And, after passing through literally more than 100 military checkpoints, I find Syrian soldiers a bit too over-confident right now, too ready to believe it's almost come to an end. Wars can be most dangerous when they are close to the end.

(This column by Robert Fisk originally appeared in the *Independent* on February 2.)