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AGBU New England District 110th Anniversary Banquet Raises \$1.22 Million, Honors Afeyan and Guleserian

By Aram Arkun

Mirror-Spectator Staff

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – The Armenian General Benevolent Union New England (AGBU-NE) District celebrated its 110th anniversary on Saturday, June 2, with a banquet at the Samberg Conference Center at MIT. The unbelievable view of Boston thanks to the great weather served as the background for a sell-out event with 300 people. It raised \$1.22 million, of which \$1 million was from the Cpl. Paul Marsoubian Amvets Post 41 for AGBU Scholarships. Dr. Noubar Afeyan and Dr. Kristine J. Guleserian were honored with the AGBU

NE District's Global Excellence Awards for 2018 and an important new Boston AGBU internship program was announced.

The attendance of a large number of students and AGBU Young Professionals (YPs) reflected the commitment of the New

was screened, guests were welcomed by Lindsey Hagopian and Houry Youssofian, the AGBU New England 110 Gala Committee co-chairs. Youssofian exclaimed that the evening was really a reunion of family and friends. She spoke about the



AGBU President Berge Setrakian addresses the audience.

New Eastern Diocesan Primate Listening and Learning, Considering Reprioritization

By Aram Arkun

Mirror-Spectator Staff

NEW YORK – Very Rev. Daniel Findikyan's election on May 4 as Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America represents a decided change from the past. The installation of any new Primate for the first time after 28 years, which is



the length of time Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, the longest-serving Primate in the history of the Diocese, was in office, would imply change, but on top of that, Findikyan is the first American-born priest to hold this office, and his election coincided with the mass movements leading to a change of government in Armenia.

Findikyan commented, "I was elected Primate the same week that Nikol Pashinyan claimed his place as prime minister, with all those really remarkable events in Armenia. People could not help but remark that it was a new day, with fresh hopes and expectations. I don't want to be too romantic about that. Time will tell. My way of expressing it is that perhaps the holy spirit of God is at work here."

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England District on innovative programming for both demographic groups, including career advancement through mentoring dinners and acting as an incubator for entrepreneurship. The importance of this event for AGBU was highlighted by the presence not only of AGBU President Berge Setrakian but of almost every member of the Central Board of Directors.

After Boston-area Armenian clergy pronounced their blessing, and a brief video of the history of the AGBU in the Boston area

intense level of her own family's commitment to AGBU and its goals when they emigrated to Boston. Hagopian also spoke about her personal connections to AGBU, which became profound when she chaired the YPs in New York. She introduced Lia Oganessian, who served as the evening's master of ceremonies.

Oganessian is an entrepreneur-in-residence at TED, where she gave the first TED

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Turks Go to the Polls in Germany

By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

BERLIN – By all forecasts, the outcome of the parliamentary and presidential elections in Turkey will be close, so close, some say, that there could be a runoff for the presidency. If Recep Tayyip Erdogan does not receive a clear majority in the first round on June 24, he could face a candidate backed by a coalition of opposition parties. Two weeks later, a runoff would be called on July 8 (from June 30 to July 4 for voters abroad). And in that case, the votes cast by Turkish citizens living outside the country, who make up an estimated 5 percent of the total electorate, could prove decisive.

This helps explain the special focus that

Erdogan and his AKP party colleagues have been placing on wooing voters in Germany.

Of the more than 3 million eligible Turkish voters living abroad, there are 1.4 million in Germany alone. The European countries that follow in rank are home to substantial numbers of voters, but considerably fewer than Germany; France with 341,000, Holland with 260,000 and Belgium with 142,000, according to German press reports. The US and Canada account for about 100,000 each.

Voting began on June 7 at 13 polls set up in the Turkish consulates throughout Germany, as well as Austria and France,

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Tekeyan Sponsor a Teacher Program Disburses Annual Support

YEREVAN – They say that if you have decided to help, and you do help, you bear responsibility for that decision. The Tekeyan Cultural Association of the United States and Canada (TCA)

By Gayane Muradyan

for some 18 years undertook and continues now to undertake the realization of its philanthropic program in support of the five schools in Armenia and Artsakh bearing the name of Vahan Tekeyan.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Mirror Annual Summer Vacation

WATERTOWN – The Armenian Mirror-Spectator will close for its annual summer vacation starting July 2.

The last issue before the vacation will be that of June 30. The first issue back will be that of July 21.

You may submit stories, letters or inquiries electronically in the meantime.

Bako Sahakyan Will Not Seek Reelection

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – President of Artsakh Bako Sahakyan officially announced this week in an interview with the Public TVs of Armenia and Artsakh that he will not seek reelection as president in 2020.

"As you know our people adopted a new Constitution through referendum in 2017, which provides for a transitional stage of 3 years. This period will be also used for harmonizing the legislation with the new Constitution. National presidential elections will be held in 2020 in line with the current Constitution. I want to announce officially that I will not participate in that election. My participation will be as a citizen of the Republic of Artsakh who elects a new president," Sahakyan said.

He added that he will take all the necessary steps to ensure free and transparent presidential and parliamentary elections.

Armenian Official Decries Azeri Attack

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) – The Establishment of an atmosphere conducive to peace talks is key to achieving progress in the Karabakh conflict settlement process, spokesman for the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Tigran Balayan said on June 11.

The comments come in the wake of a ceasefire violation by the Azerbaijani side, which saw an Artsakh Defense Army soldier killed.

Balayan described these actions ahead of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group Co-Chairs' visit to Armenia as "yet another provocation on the part of Baku aimed at aggravating the situation in the region and disrupting the implementation of agreements that would help ease tensions."

He said the incident proves the importance of respecting agreements, respecting ceasefires and implementation of the agreement, on creation of investigation mechanisms.

"We have declared on many occasions that the establishment of an atmosphere conducive to peace talks is key to achieving progress in the Karabakh conflict settlement process. Such actions by the Azerbaijani side pursue a contrary goal," Balayan said.

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Sarkissian, Ambassador Discuss Macron's Visit

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian received French Ambassador to Armenia Jonathan Lacôte on June 12 and the Rector of the French University in Armenia Jean-Marc Lavest.

The President of the Republic and Ambassador Lacôte referred to the state visit of the French President Emmanuel Macron to Armenia planned in October, as well as the preparatory works of the business forum to take place in the sidelines of the La Francophonie summit. The interlocutors also expressed confidence that the key event will foster the relations between Armenia and the member states of the organization.

During the meeting the sides also spoke about the activities and future projects of the French University in Armenia.

Economist Acemoglu Offers Advice

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) – Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Deputy Prime Minister Tigran Avinyan, Head of the Deputy Prime Minister's Office Varag Siseryan, Director of the Center for Strategic Initiatives Alexander Khachatryan and Director of SDG National Innovation Lab Erik Gyulazyan this week held a video-conference with economist, Prof. Daron Acemoglu to discuss possible avenues of cooperation.

Pashinyan presented the government's programs and priorities. Acemoglu stressed that "it's time to undertake and start implementing short-term, mid-term and long-term institutional reforms with a focus on politics, as well as in the fields of justice, improvement of financial systems and investment climate." He noted that these should be concrete actions aimed at achieving results within a certain period of time.

Acemoglu attached importance to the implementation of mechanisms of flexible institutional checks and balances in different branches of power, which would improve transparency.

"As a result of the government's present activity citizens feel their involvement in politics. Many in Armenia are really excited and want to be part of politics," Acemoglu said.

The economist expressed his willingness to support the Armenian government in any format on its path of development, democratization and reforms.

American Film Festival In Yerevan

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) – The American Film Showcase 2018 kicked off in Yerevan on June 4. This year the film festival's theme was "Inspire, Empower, and Encourage," and it featured a number of documentaries to showcase the power of individuals to change the world. The festival ended on June 10.

"Film has an amazing power to open our eyes to the stories of other people," U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Richard Mills, Jr., said. "And through the stories in these documentaries, I think Armenian audiences will be transported to the United States. They will better understand American culture, but I think more importantly, they will see stories that showcase the universal power of individuals, stories that inspire, empower, and encourage us to better ourselves, our communities, and our societies."

One documentary titled "The Music of Strangers," depicted how famed American cellist Yo Yo Ma pulled together musicians from multiple countries and musical styles to form the Silk Road Ensemble, a bold musical experiment. The ensemble's members are using music to explore the ties that bind humanity together.

"These documentaries tell powerful stories – about individuals campaigning for a cleaner environment, school kids working to save lives in their rural communities, efforts to rehabilitate female inmates. They show the good, the bad, and the hopeful about American society," Mills said. "So I think Armenians who join us to watch these films will leave with a well-rounded understanding of American culture and the American psyche."

Aurora Prize Awarded to Rohingya Human Rights Defender Kyaw Hla Aung

YEREVAN – The third annual \$1.1 million Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity was awarded on June 10 to Kyaw Hla Aung, a lawyer and activist recognized for his dedication to fighting for equality, education and human rights for the Rohingya people in Myanmar, in the face of persecution, harassment and oppression. Kyaw Hla Aung was presented the 2018 Aurora Prize, granted by the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative on behalf of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and in gratitude to their saviors, at a ceremony in Armenia.

Kyaw Hla Aung was selected as the 2018 Aurora Prize Laureate among 750 nominations submitted from 115 countries.

Vartan Gregorian, co-founder of the Aurora Prize and a member of the Selection Committee, commended Aung, stating: "As we remember the horrors and violence experienced by Armenians – especially women and children – on the deportation route during the Genocide, it is with a great sense of responsibility that we stand ready to support Kyaw Hla Aung's advocacy work that will hopefully lead one day to the enactment of national and international policies to protect and defend the vulnerable. Kyaw Hla Aung is doing tremendous work, at great risk to himself, and exemplifies the far-reaching impact one person can have to galvanize a movement, and to help individuals transform their lives."



Dr. Vartan Gregorian presented the award to Kyaw Hla Aung.

have become illiterate, and, as a result, are penniless. It has been heartbreaking to see my community suffer from such discrimination. The support of the Aurora Prize serves as important recognition for all of the Muslim victims of human rights violations, as the plight of the Rohingya people continues to become more visible to the international public."

most vulnerable people can create impact beyond measure," said Mary Robinson, Aurora Prize Selection Committee member and Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Celebrating Aurora

Leading international humanitarian figures and Aurora Prize Selection Committee members, including Robinson, Nobel Laureate Shirin Ebadi; former foreign minister of Australia and President Emeritus of the International Crisis Group Gareth Evans; former president of Mexico, Ernesto Zedillo; Director of the Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London, Lord Ara Darzi; former US Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power; and co-founder of Médecins Sans Frontières and former French foreign minister, Bernard Kouchner, were in Armenia for the event.

Kyaw Hla Aung was congratulated by Dr. Tom Catena, who was awarded the 2017 Aurora Prize for his exceptional commitment to providing urgent medical care to the 750,000 people in the war-torn Nuba Mountains of Sudan. He said: "The Aurora Prize has created a true light for our people in Nuba, and has helped rebuild the resilience of our community, ultimately to keep people alive. I am proud to share the Aurora Prize mantle with such a selfless humanitarian as Kyaw Hla Aung. I congratulate him on receiving this award and applaud his incredibly selfless efforts fighting for such a noble cause."

continued on next page



Visiting the Armenian Genocide Museum and Memorial

As the 2018 Aurora Prize Laureate, Kyaw Hla Aung will receive a \$100,000 grant and the opportunity to continue the cycle of giving by donating the accompanying \$1,000,000 award to organizations of his choice. He will donate the award to three international organizations that provide medical aid and assistance to refugees in Myanmar:

- * Médecins Sans Frontières (London)
- * Malaysian Medical Relief – MERCY Malaysia (Malaysia)
- * International Catholic Migration Commission – ICMC (Switzerland, US)

Kyaw Hla Aung has been working for decades, using his legal expertise to appeal for basic human rights for the stateless Rohingya people. His commitment to fight for justice for the hundreds of thousands of Muslim refugees in Myanmar persecuted by the government, and for the children who no longer have access to education, remains stronger than ever. He sacrificed a total of 12 years in prison as a result of his mission, at huge personal cost to his own family.

He said: "There are severe restrictions on my people. They have lost their courage and faith in themselves,

"Kyaw Hla Aung's work personifies the spirit of the Aurora Prize. He demonstrates the exceptional impact an individual can have in fighting injustice that often seems unbeatable, and inspires us to consider how a brave step forward to support the world's



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, right, greets last year's winner, Dr. Tom Catena, with Rouben Vardanyan next to him and Vartan Gregorian in the background.

Tekeyan Sponsor a Teacher Program Disburses Annual Support

TEACHERS, from page 1

Every year our compatriots from the diaspora come to visit these schools in order to deliver to their teachers and other staff the aid collected by the TCA Sponsor a Teacher Program. This year the Tekeyan supporters' visit coincided with the May triple festivity commemorating the victories of the Great Patriotic War (World War II), the liberation of Shushi and the creation of the Artsakh Defense Army, and the centennial of the first Republic of Armenia. They shared in the pan-Armenian joy.

TCA Central Board member Kevork Keushgerian and his wife Sylva visited for the first time the Vahan Tekeyan Berdzor School No. 1 of Artsakh. Their amazement at the natural beauty of Artsakh was only matched by their sadness at the difficult circumstances of the school. However, upon seeing

the happy faces of Principal Anahit Kosakyan and the students, they momentarily forgot the damp walls running from the first to the third floors and the at least fifty-years-old ruined parquet flooring. The students showed them the four classrooms renovated over the last one-and-one-half years and told them about the daily life of the school and its new educational plans. The teachers and staff with words of thanks received the gifts from the visitors and openly related the needs of the school.

Yerevan's Vahan Tekeyan School No. 92 was visited by TCA Central Board president Edmond Y. Azadian from Detroit, and board members Hagop Vartivarian of New Jersey and Kevork Marashlian and his wife Vartiter of Washington D.C. Principal Tsovinar Mardanyan proudly related the students' accomplishments and their successes at vari-



Students at Yerevan's Vahan Tekeyan School celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Sardarapat.



From left, Gayane Mouradyan, Principal Tsovinar Mardanyan, Edmond Azadian, poet Tamara Hovhannisyanyan, Hagop Vartivarian, and Vartiter and Kevork Marashlian at the principal's office of the Yerevan's Vahan Tekeyan School

ous Olympics. However, it still was necessary to renovate the elementary school and completely transform the unsanitary state of the cafeteria.

The visits to the Tekeyan schools of Karbi, with Vartivarian and Vartiter Marashlian, and those of Gyumri and Stepanavan, coincided with their graduation ceremonies. The words of praise and appreciation bestowed upon the teachers by their students was compounded by that of the visitors. Vartivarian declared, "We are grateful to you for your influence and your everlasting dedication. It is you who patiently educate and mold the young generation, preparing them for their entry into a

new life."

Principal Arsen Ohanyan of the Karbi school accompanied the guests and showed them the chairs of the events auditorium, which ten years ago had been donated thanks to the family of Maro Bedrosian, member of the TCA Central Board. At present, the repair of the school roof, built in 1973, is an imperative issue.

The periodic repairs and renovations required by all the schools are matters of urgency. This is true in particular because the ongoing aid through TCA helps to create a flourishing educational environment for the citizens of Armenia of the future.



Kevork Keushkerian handing a gift to Mrs. Nune Hagopian, history teacher at the Vahan Tekeyan School in Berdzor, Artsakh.

Arrested Yerevan Protesters Set Free

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Five residents of a Yerevan neighborhood who clashed with riot police during a hostage crisis in 2016 were released from custody on June 8.

The Sari Tagh neighborhood overlooks a police base in the city's Erebuni district which was seized by radical opposition gunmen demanding the resignation of then-President Serzh Sargsyan and the release of the leader of their Founding Parliament movement, Zhirayr Sefilian. Three police officers were killed before the gunmen laid down their weapons at the end of a two-week standoff with Armenian security forces.

During the standoff, several dozen male residents of Sari Tagh protested against police blocking roads leading to their blue-collar neighborhood for security reasons. They also voiced support for the armed oppositionists holed up in the Erebuni police facility.

The protesters clashed with police officers deployed in Sari Tagh in July 2016. Ten of them were subsequently arrested and charged with assaulting law-enforcement officers, a crime punishable by between 5 and 10 years in prison. They went on trial last year, denying any wrongdoing.

A Yerevan court on Thursday agreed to free one of the defendants pending the outcome of the continuing trial. Four other defendants were set free on Friday.

One of them, Harutiun Torosian, attributed their release to the recent change of government in Armenia. He also said that he will continue to plead not guilty to the accusations.

Relatives and lawyers of the five other defendants hope that they too will be set free in the coming days.

Aurora Prize Awarded to Rohingya Human Rights Defender Kyaw Hla Aung

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Guests of the Aurora Prize Ceremony also honored the contributions of the other two 2018 Aurora Prize Humanitarians: Dr. Sunitha Krishnan, women's rights advocate and co-founder of Prajwala, India, and Father Tomás González Castillo, Founder of La 72, a center that supports Central American migrants in Mexico.

The Aurora Prize Co-Founders are Gregorian, Noubar Afeyan and Ruben Vardanyan.

Nominations are now open for the 2019 Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity, a global humanitarian award presented by the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative recognizing those who change and save

lives, often at risk to themselves. The Aurora Prize is granted on behalf of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and in gratitude to their saviors.

The committee is chaired by actor and philanthropist George Clooney and includes Nobel Laureates Oscar Arias, Ebadi and Leymah Gbowee; Robinson; human rights activist Hina Jilani; Evans; Zedillo; Darzi; former US Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power; and co-founder of Médecins Sans Frontières and former French Foreign Minister, Bernard Kouchner.

A description of the Aurora Prize criteria and selection process can be found on the Prize website. Nominations for the 2019 Aurora Prize will close on September 7, 2018.



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan meets guests and takes selfies, with Noubar Afeyan in the background, at left, and Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II at right.



INTERNATIONAL

International News

Polish Delegation Visits Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — A delegation led by the Head of the Polish-Armenian Parliamentary Group of the Parliament of the Poland Tadeusz Wo niak, accompanied by the Head of the Armenian National Assembly's Armenia-Poland Friendship Group Vahan Harutyunyan and member of the Friendship Group Suren Manukyan visited Tsitsernakaberd Memorial Complex on June 11.

The guests laid a wreath and flowers at the eternal fire immortalizing the memory of the innocent victims of the 1915 Armenian Genocide and honored in silence the memory of the Holy Martyrs.

Members of the delegation then visited the Armenian Genocide Museum Institute, got acquainted with the documents proving the Armenian Genocide and observed the exhibits.

Armenia Seeks to Deepen Economic Relations With Iran

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan reaffirmed on Friday, June 8, his government's stated intention to maintain and even deepen Armenia's cordial relations with neighboring Iran.

"We will make utmost efforts to further develop bilateral partnership," Pashinyan told the Iranian ambassador in Yerevan, Seyed Kazem Sajjad. "We are interested in giving new impetus to Armenian-Iranian ties on the basis of mutual interests," he said in remarks publicized by his press office.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani likewise called for closer ties between the two nations when he phoned Pashinyan a week after the latter was elected Armenia's prime minister on May 8. An official Armenian readout of the phone call said the two leaders agreed to "further deepen mutually beneficial partnership in all areas."

A statement by Pashinyan's office said the Armenian premier and Sajjad discussed the implementation of bilateral energy projects, including the ongoing construction of a new power transmission line and long-standing plans to build a hydroelectric plant on the Armenian-Iranian border. It said they also touched upon broader commercial ties, with the Iranian ambassador stressing the importance Iran's provisional free-trade agreement with the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) signed last month.

Pashinyan was quick to hail that deal, saying that it "fully" reflects Armenia's national interests. "We hope that it will stimulate our commercial ties [with Iran,]" he told reporters on May 17.

Armenian manufacturers have long complained that the Islamic Republic's protectionist policies severely limit their access to the Iranian market.

According to official Armenian statistics, Armenian-Iranian trade stood at a modest \$263 million last year. The authorities in Yerevan hope that a free economic zone created near Meghri, an Armenian town on the Iranian border, last December will also boost it significantly.

The Iran-EEU deal was signed just days after the United States decided to re-impose economic sanctions on Tehran after pulling out of a 2015 international agreement on the Iranian nuclear program. Rouhani and Pashinyan reportedly discussed implications of U.S. President Donald Trump's controversial move.

In its comprehensive policy program approved by the Armenian parliament, Pashinyan's government pledged to seek the kind of "special relationship" with Iran which would be "immune to other geopolitical influences as much as possible." The program says Armenia will at the same time seek to bolster its "friendly partnership" with the U.S.

Due to the unresolved Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the resulting closure of Armenia's borders with Azerbaijan and Turkey, Iran has long been one of the landlocked country's two commercial conduits to the outside world. Successive Armenian governments have therefore been keen to maintain a warm rapport with Tehran.

Banquet in Beirut Dedicated to AMAA's 100th Anniversary

BEIRUT — On Thursday, May 31, the Phoenicia Hotel in Beirut was the site of a banquet in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). Organized by the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE), the event brought together more than 220 people, including Armenian Evangelical ministers from the U.S., Australia, Iraq, Syria and Egypt, Haigazian University trustees, AMAA board members, the Bishop Shahe Panossian, Prelate of the Armenian Apostolic Prelacy of Lebanon, a representative of the Armenian Catholic Church, the Ambassador of Armenia in Lebanon, the mayor of Bourj Hammoud, heads of the three Armenian political parties in Lebanon, representatives of a variety of organizations and unions, and many guests.

The program opened with a word of welcome from the Vice-Chair of Haigazian University's trustees, John Sagherian, followed by the opening prayer offered by Rev. Nishan Bakalian.

AMAA President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian in turn offered the association's greetings, recalling the importance of 1918 for the Armenian people, who had barely survived the massacres,

who had declared the independence of the first Armenian republic, while at the same time in the United States, a group of Armenian Evangelicals were founding the AMAA in order to reach out to the decimated and demoralized survivors of the Genocide. The AMAA worked at rebuilding the educational institutions and churches of the Armenian people, and in 1988 established that same effort in the homeland, following the earthquake there. Therefore, as Darakjian put it, the year 2018 is a year to celebrate the centennial of the rebirth of the Armenian people at every level.

The banquet attendees were treated to the lovely voice of Central High School and Haigazian University graduate Alice Ipradjian, who sang, Savior, Thy Dying Love and Doun im hayreni.

Zaven Khanjian, executive director/CEO of the AMAA, expressed how the AMAA was a part of the strengthening and rebuilding of Armenia following its 1991 independence, also extending to Artsakh (Karabakh) and the needs there.

As the crowd enjoyed dinner and conversation around the tables, guitarist Raffi Mandalian and his ensemble performed an eclectic mix of adaptations of Armenian folk tunes along with jazz and popular standards.

The event included the screening of a short documentary film about the AMAA, with testimonies and location footage of the worldwide scope of its work, titled "A Legacy of Faith, Love and Service."

Dr. Hasmig Baran, current Trustee Chair of Haigazian University, joined Khanjian on the stage to present the AMAA award of appreciation to outgoing HU Chair Dr. Ani Darakjian for her eight years of service ending early this year. Darakjian was surprised and touched by this gesture, and wished her successor the best.

Concluding the evening's program, Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian, president of the UAECNE, presented a plaque recognizing the pivotal role the AMAA has played in the Christian testimony of the churches in the Middle East. He offered a benediction and prayer of thanks to God for the blessings bestowed upon the church, after which AMAA and UAECNE heads gathered together to cut the anniversary cake.

These AMAA centennial activities in Lebanon also had the aim to financially help Armenian Evangelical schools in Lebanon, and all funds received were designated for that purpose. In commemoration of the centennial, each banquet attendee received a 112-page bilingual color booklet with detailed information on the rich history and current ministries of the AMAA.

In addition, the UAECNE organized a special worship service for the anniversary on Sunday, June 3, at the First Armenian Evangelical Church in Beirut.



Cutting the Celebratory Centennial Cake - L to R: Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian - Chairman of UAECNE Central Committee and President of Haigazian University, Zaven Khanjian - AMAA Executive Director/CEO, Joyce Philibosian Stein, Dr. Nazareth E Darakjian - President of AMAA, Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian - President of UAECNE, Bishop Shahe Panossian - Prelate of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Lebanon, HE Samvel Mgrtchyan - Armenian Ambassador to Lebanon and Rev. Haroutune George Selimian - President of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria



Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian, President of UAECNE presents a Commemorative Plaque to Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO



Ani Darakjian, M.D., former Chair of the Board of Trustees of Haigazian University decorated by the current Chair Hasmig Baran, Ed.D. on behalf of the AMAA



INTERNATIONAL

Turks Go to the Polls in Germany

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and will continue until June 19. Erdogan is hoping that he and his AKP will profit from what he hopes will be a massive turnout. During a speech in Mugla on June 6, he appealed to voters in Europe to flock to the polls until they burst; “the signal that you send from abroad,” he said, “will, God willing, blend together with the votes of your brethren in Turkey.” And his foreign minister, Mevlüt Cavusoglu, called for an even higher vote than what Turkish voters in Germany had delivered for the referendum last year. At that time, the turnout was 50 percent and 63 percent of those who voted cast a “yes” for Erdogan’s changes.

Campaign Rallies Banned

The problem Erdogan has is that he cannot rally the masses directly. Last year in March Germany issued a ban on any campaign speeches by Turkish politicians, a move followed by Holland and Austria. In response Erdogan accused the Germans of adopting “Nazi methods.” When Chancellor Angela Merkel and SPD politician Martin Schulz indicated that the talks on Turkey’s bid for EU membership were at a dead end, he said they were all “Nazis of fascists.” This did not endear him to the political class in Berlin, nor did it lead to any rethinking of the ban.

And yet, early polls indicate that there is considerable support for Erdogan and the AKP. The reasons suggested by political analysts are complex: as one German TV feature presented it, Turks living in Germany, even those who were born here, tend to consider Turkey still as their homeland. They view Erdogan as the man who succeeded in providing economic growth, fighting poverty, building public infrastructure, roads, bridges, airports, schools and hospitals. Although in reality, the economy has entered a serious crisis and the national currency has taken a nose dive, the picture presented in the state controlled media, which many Turkish-Germans follow, is still the rosy one of years past.

Then there is the psychological, ideological factor, which is

overwhelming. Many Turks in Germany feel they are discriminated against, and this contributes to identity insecurities; as one Ahmet cited by Zdf TV put it, “In Germany, you are always the Turk, and in Turkey I am always the German, Alman.” Despite the fact that the Turkish community has been here for three generations, analysts complain that not enough is being done to fully integrate them. Osman Okkan, a filmmaker and leading representative of the Turkey-Germany Cultural Forum, noted that Germans are not so active in the integration and social processes, and the mosques and Turkish organizations like DITIB have moved into the vacuum.

Since the failed coup attempt in Turkey, attributed to the Gülen movement, Turks in Germany have been put under tremendous political and psychological pressure from the Erdogan regime to stay in line. Okkan told “DeutschlandFunk” radio news on June 7 that people are scared. “I have never experienced such a mood of fear,” he said, “and several reports we have read confirm that many people do not want to expose themselves to the danger of being labeled terrorists or terrorist sympathizers on flimsy pretexts.” He said they even had to conceal their views from their closest neighbors. It has been reported that Turkish-language media in Germany have solicited reports on individuals suspected of links to the Kurdish PKK or to the Gülen movement. Serap Güler, a political figure responsible for integration policy in the federal state of North Rhine Westfalia, said he had never witnessed such fear, both here and in Turkey, fear of speaking openly about politics.

Such political pressure, actually a form of blackmail, exerted on persons who feel they are being discriminated against, can have devastating effects. When the charismatic leader appears on the scene, with appeals to the glories of “Turkishness” or other names for exasperated nationalism, that offers an alternative identity based on a sense of power. As political analyst Gülistan Gürbey commented, Turks see

themselves as second-class citizens, and “see Erdogan as a man who gives them a voice they can identify with. He intuitively reinforces the self-consciousness of these people.”

A study conducted at the Duisburg-Essen University showed that since 2010 more Turks have said they identify with Turkey than with Germany. In 2010, Turkey established a Ministry for the Diaspora, whose message has been summed up as, “We are taking care of you; you are not really wanted here, but back home, you are.”

One Picture Is Worth...

It is in this context that a calculated move by Erdogan should be considered. On May 13 he posed for a photo with two Germans of Turkish background and when the picture hit the press, it caused an uproar. The two Turkish-Germans were Mesut Özil and Ilkay Gündogan, leading members of the German national soccer team, now in Russia to compete for the world championship. As in other countries, fans consider such sports stars as heroes, and when they appeared in print together with Erdogan, the backlash was brutal. Although the players attempted to calm the waters, and Merkel noted that they had probably utterly underestimated the explosive potential of such a photo, the incident has become an issue.

Whatever was going through the minds of the soccer players, it cannot be doubted that Erdogan knew exactly what he was doing.

That said, there is no reason to consider the outcome of the vote a fait accompli for Erdogan. There is a numerically strong and politically sophisticated opposition in the Turkish community in Germany, including prominent intellectuals, writers, filmmakers, not to mention a substantial component of Kurds and an increasing number of Turks from military and political circles who have sought and obtained asylum in Germany. Inside Turkey itself, the establishment has good reason to fear the potential alliance of opposition groups in a possible runoff, and that reality finds its counterpart in Germany as well.

AGBU Europe Marks the Centennial of the First Republic Of Armenia with Musical Weekend in Brussels

BRUSSELS —From June 1 to 3, Brussels was captivated by a multi-genre Musical Weekend organized by the Performing Arts Department of AGBU France/Europe in partnership with the Boghossian Foundation, the City of Brussels and the Armenian community of Belgium.

The program was inspired by the 100th anniversary of the First Republic of Armenia, an historical milestone in the Armenian Nation’s long road to independent statehood. “Since Armenia’s rebirth in 1991, it has showcased to the world the depth and breadth of the musical achievements of its people. This concert series has crystalized those achievements all in one weekend,” remarked Nicolas Tavitian, the director of AGBU Europe, when noting the turnout at all three of the weekend’s events.

Together with AGBU Performing Arts Department of France, AGBU Europe assembled a roster of some of the best musicians of a generation, many whose talents were originally cultivated in Armenia. A new AGBU string ensemble, a classical piano trio and a jazz band played on successive nights, displaying their mastery of their respective genres.

The entire weekend also served as a fundraiser to benefit the afterschool programs of the AGBU Children’s Centers in Yerevan. “After 25 years of providing Armenia’s youth with character-building and self-discovery programs through arts and sports, these centers are long overdue for a major renewal—not only to expand and upgrade interior space but also to enhance teaching proficiencies and enrich curricula,” explained Karen Papazian, back at the AGBU Central Office in New York. As the director of Global Outreach and Development, she pointed out that “Armenia’s youth deserve to thrive in a safe and nurturing environment. And no doubt, some of these children will grow up to follow in the footsteps of rising stars like those who performed this weekend.”

The concert series began Friday evening at the Brussels Town Hall, one of Belgium’s most magnificent Gothic buildings. Opening remarks made by officials and dignitaries spoke to the signifi-

cance of the occasion. Tatul Margaryan, Armenia’s Ambassador to Belgium, stated, “On May 28, one hundred years ago, our nation restored its millennia-old state by declaring the birth of the First Republic of Armenia. Although the First Republic faced numerous challenges and was short lived, it laid the foundation for the establishment and development of state institutions and democratic governance.”

He was followed by Philippe Close, the mayor of Brussels, who referred to the turbulent context in which the Republic of 1918 was founded, citing the fall of the Ottoman empire, the chaos of the Russian revolution and the admission of hundreds of thousands of genocide survivors. The mayor also highlighted the will of the City of Brussels to collaborate with Armenian organizations to host this important cultural event, noting that “culture is the best expression of a people’s vitality and of its presence in the world.”

Stepan Mirdikian, a former chairman of the Armenian community of Belgium also added words of inspiration. Quoting Ernest Renan, he mentioned, “What constitutes a nation is not so much speaking the same language or belonging to the same ethnic group, it is to have accomplished together great things in the past and to want to accomplish more in the future.”

On opening night, the AGBU String Ensemble[CE1], took to the stage to perform under the direction of young composer Alexandr

Iradyan, who conducted the very first concert of the ensemble which interpreted the powerful and emblematic Symphony for Strings and Timpani, by Mirzoyan along with selected works

forms on the most prestigious jazz stages in Europe. Yessaï was accompanied by Sylvain Fournet-Fayas on double bass and David Paycha on drums.



Piano Trio with Varduhi Yeritsyan and Avanesyan brothers

by Komitas.

The following evening, the diverse audience of Armenians and non-Armenians gathered at the Ceremonial Hall of the Boghossian Foundation Villa Empain for the performance of pianist Varduhi Yeritsyan, known for her vast and diverse repertoire. She performed along with the Brussels based brothers Hrachya Avanesyan (violin) and Sevak Avanesyan (cello). The trio performed the works of Shostakovich and Babajanian as well as a number of encore pieces by Komitas following the wide public acclaim.

Sunday’s performance at the same venue featured the contemporary works of Yessaï Karapetyan Trio, a jazz ensemble led by pianist Yessaï Karapetyan, a gifted musician who per-

Nadia Gortzounian, the president of AGBU France, hailed the event as a “brilliant” weekend. “I was thrilled to see such a high level of attendance at each of our three events and I am profoundly grateful to all the immensely talented musicians for their extraordinary performances. It was also a pleasure to collaborate with the City of Brussels, the Armenian community of Belgium and the Boghossian Foundation that allowed us to host our concerts in the particularly magical setting of the Villa Empain in Brussels.”

She went on to say, “It was a heartwarming and inspiring experience to see just how far the Armenian nation has come since the First Republic, as we contribute to world culture through the arts.”

Community News

Armenian American Pharmacists Association Honors Principals Boyamian and Melkonian

WATERTOWN – On, May 19, the Armenian American Pharmacists Association (AAPA) honored the St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School and Saturday school principals, respectively Houry Boyamian and Mayda Melkonian, at the Oakley Country Club.

Melkonian previously was vice principal at the Armenian Sisters' Academy.

Sossy Yogurtian (RPh.), AAPA president, welcomed all attendees and introduced Harold R. Partamian (RPh.), founder of the AAPA and its first president (1981), as the evening's master of ceremonies. The featured speaker for the evening was Peter J. Koutoujian, sheriff of Middlesex County of Massachusetts. The sheriff made brief remarks and presented each honoree with a plaque recognizing her 30 years of honorary and exemplary service to the local Armenian community.

The honorees' biographies were presented by their former students, Dr. Vatché Demirjian (Pharm.D., RPh.) and Varteni Aroyan, with the latter also the AAPA's 2018 Apelian/Partamian scholarship recipient. Aroyan introduced Boyamian after which Demirjian introduced Melkonian.

In moving speeches the honorees expressed their gratitude and then received gifts from Yogurtian and AAPA Vice President Ripsime Guyumdzhyan. Each principal received a painting specifically painted for them by GP Vahan, and a hand-painted silk scarf by Karine Abgarian, an Armenian artist from Yerevan who hand paints on silk using multicultural designs with an emphasis on Armenian symbolic patterns.

In addition to these gifts, AAPA presented both principals with the Honorary Award from the newly elected Minister of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia, Mkhitar Hayrapetyan.



From left, Mayda Melkonian, Sheriff Peter Peter Koutoujian, and Houry Boyamian

These awards are among the first proclamations signed by Armenia's new administration.

These gifts were presented to the honorees in recognition, gratitude, and deep appreciation of many years of service in education and dedication to the Armenian community in the greater Boston area.

The Armenian American Pharmacists' Association then presented the Harold Partamian and Daniel Apelian scholarship to Aroyan for her future endeavors and goals in the profession of pharmacy.

The AAPA members closed the evening by recognizing Yogurtian. Her vision and drive make the organization more active in the community and be recognized for many charitable works, including:

- supporting orphans in Armenia through AMAA

see HONORS, page 8



Young students at the St. Vartan Cathedral School

Rooting Young Armenian School Students in New York

NEW YORK – “A child is a learning machine. All one has to do is create a learning environment, as well as promote the child's identity and individuality. An environment has to be created so that the child can feel comfortable wanting to learn,” said Hovannes Khosdeghian, principal and teacher of the St. Vartan Cathedral School, and the Brooklyn Armenian School in New York.

His thoughts on this vital subject brought me back to my childhood when my mother, Ashkhen Kapikian Avakian for 50 years – even before my sister and I were born – was the dedicated volunteer principal and teacher in several Armenian schools in New York City. Every Friday evening she used to prepare the Saturday meals for my sister and me, since she would be gone all day Saturday at one of her schools. She would always buy food and drinks for her school children. And for the bi-annual hantesses, my sister and I were recruited to help sew the costumes, play the piano and accompany the singing of the children. It was a ritual that we got used to throughout our young and teenage years, and it left an indelible mark on us.

“The focus must always be the child,” Khosdeghian emphasized. “This child is a learning machine. All you have to do is create the environment, and promote the child's identity and individuality. It is important not to create competition,” he added.

“Each child must be greeted when coming to school. As she or he enters, the teacher should look into the child's eyes, and greet each one warmly. A warm atmosphere of caring and interest must be created,” he stressed.

Describing his unique teaching method, Khosdeghian explained that “a child learns a language either on the street or at home, and comes to school to learn it correctly. In our Armenian schools, the teachers only speak Armenian. We concentrate on a child's ability to recognize Armenian letters, in all five senses. This does not necessarily mean forming words.” Extremely important is for the child, he continued, is “to listen to the new sound system. In our schools, the children speak Armenian with each other from a very young age.”

At the St. Vartan Armenian School, there are 23 students ranging in age from 2 to 13, with many having parents of mixed ethnicity. Every five weeks the principal meets with the six teachers to discuss how the children are approaching the learning process, how to improve the delivery message and content, and how to go forward to best meet each child's individual needs.

see STUDENTS, page 7

Acclaimed Novelist Janigian to Serve As Master of Ceremonies for Debutante Ball

LOS ANGELES – The Ladies Auxiliary of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America announce that Aris Janigian, acclaimed Armenian-American novelist, will serve as the master of ceremonies for the 45th Annual Debutante Ball.

This traditional event will be held in The Ballroom at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, 9500 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills, on Sunday, June 24.

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese, stated, “The year 2018 has been dedicated to our youth. The youth, a central focus of the community, is a large family of the faithful of Christ whose life is defined by God's divine love. May this evening serve as a calling for our youth to devote themselves to the faith of our forefathers, to rekindle in their hearts the love for their ancestral homeland and to lead lives as noble citizens of the blessed country of the United States of America.”



Aris Janigian

Cindy Norian, chair of the Ladies Auxiliary, stated that the Ladies Auxiliary is especially pleased to welcome Janigian. “We are delighted that Aris will be introducing the 22 young women of Armenian descent that we are presenting as Debutantes this year,” stated Norian. “We are also pleased that our guests will have the opportunity to recognize one of the most important Armenian-American writers of his generation.”

Janigian is internationally known for three of his highly acclaimed novels, *Bloodvine*, *Riverbig* and *This Angelic Land*, which use the Armenian experience of exile, memory and assimilation as a lens through which to explore the broader American experience. His 2016 novel, *Waiting for Lipchitz at Chateau Marmont*, about a screen writer who goes from riches to rags, spent 17 weeks on the *Los Angeles Times* best-seller list.

Holding a PhD in psychology, from 1993 to 2005, Janigian was senior professor of humanities at the Southern Institute of Architecture. He has published in genres as diverse as poetry, social psychology, and design criticism. Janigian has written extensively to advance Armenian causes and most noteworthy were a series of letters he exchanged with the *Los Angeles Times* in 2002 and with the *New York Times* in 2004, that proved instrumental in getting both newspapers to quit using the word “alleged” in reference to the Armenian Genocide.

Janigian was a contributing writer to *West*, the *Los Angeles Times Sunday Magazine*, a finalist for the William Saroyan Fiction Prize, and the recipient of the Anahid Literary Award from Columbia University. He was born and raised in Fresno, where he now lives with In Sun, his wife, daughter Maria (graduating from high school in 2019) and daughter Valentine, a Freshman at Stanford University.

The Debutante Ball on June 24, will begin with a cocktail reception at 5 p.m., the presentation of the Debutantes at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and dancing at 7 p.m.

A keepsake booklet is being prepared containing greetings and congratulations to the debutantes, escorts and cross bearers, as well as business ads to make the event a financial success.

For information and/or reservations, contact Michele Chalfant at chalkidismom@gmail.com.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Rooting Young Armenian School Students in New York

STUDENTS, from page 6

And at the Brooklyn Armenian Church School, which meets every Sunday from noon to 5 p.m., whose members are made up of Armenians mostly from the former Soviet Union, the student population numbers 167, ranging in age from 3 to 20, with 11 teachers. In both schools, the parents also are involved with different projects.

This year's school's goals have involved "familiarity with the Armenian alphabet and its historical and cultural context so that the Armenian language and heritage can be fully understood. This goal is achieved through various exercises and multi-dimensional approach which includes reading exercises, articulated pronunciation techniques, and introductory notes on the historical and cultural setting of the invention of the Armenian alphabet," Hovannes Khosdeghian related.

"The school must be put at the center of concerns," Khosdeghian said. "This [focus] is especially important for new immigrant families. If not, that first generation will lose its connection with its roots. By the second and third generations, many have already left the shores of their identity. In America, this is especially vital. Once we start concentrating on economic issues, we lose this vital connection. It becomes a compass without bearing."

How can a conversation be started in the community to address this crucial issue? How can the problem be solved?



Hovannes Khosdeghian with some of his young charges

"We must give direction to our destiny without losing our identity of being Armenian. We must put this issue at the head of our concerns," he stated.

Khosdeghian is a Mekhitarist scholar who has had a deep background in pedagogy, Biblical studies and Systematic Theology, which he studied at the Pontifical Gregorian and St.

Thomas Aquinas Universities in Rome. He served as editor of the Mekhitarist magazine, *Hye Endanik*, and was assistant rector and academic dean of the St. Lazarus Seminary, teaching Classical Armenian and Greek, history of philosophy and religion.

In 1983, Khosdeghian left the order as an Armenian Catholic monk, and came to the US,

to serve as assistant pastor first at the St. Mark Armenian Catholic Church in Wynnewood, Penn., then at St. Ann Armenian Catholic Cathedral in New York City, directing the church choir, and editing the Armenian Catholic Exarchate's periodical, the *Eternal Flame*. Between 1988 and 1992, he taught Classical Armenian language and Canon Law at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, and was a Research Fellow at the Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center at the Armenian Church Diocese (Eastern).

Most recently, at the request of the Mekhitarist Order's Abbot General in Venice, he prepared a study for the academic and financial recovery plan for the rebuilding and relaunching of the Mekhitarist School in Tujunga, Calif.

In the American world, he does contract work for companies dealing with data systems for integrated and consistent financial, manufacturing and regulatory reporting. But it is his dedication to the promotion, and deepening of the community's involvement in language instruction, the enhancement of home-school communication and teaching of the Armenian language and culture which is, and has always been at the head of his concerns and work.

Alice Avanian Awarded CFA Institute Volunteer of The Year

BOSTON – Alice Avanian recently travelled to Hong Kong to be honored by CFA Institute as a Volunteer of the Year. The award is in recognition of Alice's years of service to the CFA Society Boston, the local affiliate for Chartered Financial Analysts and particularly, her leadership in Financial Literacy training.

Educating the public about personal finance and investing has become a passion for Avanian. She started the Financial Literacy initiative as Chair of the Boston Board in 2013. She was inspired by her son, Shaant, a math teacher in an inner-city high school. Whenever he was ahead of his curriculum on Friday afternoons, he would teach such topics as credit cards. She thought, "If he could do it, why weren't we doing it, as finance professionals?"

CFA Society Boston is New England's largest membership organization for investment professionals with over 5,800 members.

Now in its fifth year, the Financial Literacy program has grown to 80 events with over 100 volunteers. CFA Society Boston creates alliances with community organizations and schools, which provide built-in audiences and logistical support. Alliances and events are driven by volunteers, for example at local libraries, or by incoming requests, such as Newton North H.S. and Mattapan Boys & Girls Club. In February, volunteers presented at an event hosted by AIWA at the Watertown Library.

The Volunteer Award also recognizes Alice's other contributions over the years. She served on the Boston Board for 12 years, during which time she was Treasurer, VP of Education, as well as on committees for Personnel, Nominations and Governance.

Also, Avanian has been very active in the CFA Global Research Challenge, where students present a stock recommendation. She mentored the global winning team in 2008, and subsequently has been a grader and judge. This shows Alice's interest in promoting rigorous financial analysis to the next generation.

She also contributes to the financial industry as a Board member of the Boston Economic Club, with a specific focus on diversity. In addition, she leads the finance committee of the National Association of Armenian Studies and Research.

To learn about financial literacy training, contact Alice or the CFA Society Boston gdudley@cfaboston.org.



Alice Avanian



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18th Anniversary

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Armenian American Pharmacists Association Honors Principals Boyamian and Melkonian

HONORS, from page 6

-supporting and providing food and entertainment to the Armenian nursing home in Jamaica Plain

-raising money for scholarships for outstanding and needy students

-contributing to the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR) by participating in walkathons and by raising money for this cause. The AAPA volunteers raised the most amount of money in the Boston area two years in a row and

were selected by the ABMDR as Volunteers of the Year. ABMDR is going to honor AAPA's contributions in the March for Life 2018 Gala, which will take place on September 16 in California.

AAPA thanks everyone who attended the evening and supported the organization, allowing us to make an impact in the community.

Music for the evening was provided by pianist Marine Margaryan as well as DJ Rams.



From left, Taline Abriamian, Tanya Najarian-Iliades, Arpi Aridjian, Ripsime Guyumdzhyan, Sossy Yagurlian (AAPA president), Sarkis Duhanyan, Hasmig Mardiros. Members of the organizing committee missing from this picture: Harold Partamian (RPh.) and Ara Demirjian (RPh., M.S.).

OBITUARY

Anna M. Terzian Kalian

SHAKER HEIGHTS, Ohio — Anna Kalian died on May 10. She was 85. She was married, to Robert V. Kalian for 61 years.

Her death came shortly after she decided not to undergo further medical treatments. She



died at home with family members and under the care of home hospice.

For many years, she was a dedicated patron supporter of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra. She sponsored two major concerts which were very well attended and featured internationally known Armenian artists.

She met her husband, Bob, when she was only one month old. An intermittent relationship existed for almost 24 years. After Bob served in the US Army for five years, he returned home and joined the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America and Anna became his secretary. An intense courtship led to marriage.

In her personal reflections, she felt she had had an intense, exciting and fulfilling life.

She helped her children create homes in four states.

And her husband dedicated his second book to her, writing in part, "I love you for what you are, for what I am and what I have become."

In addition to her husband, she leaves her children Mary Ann Kalian of Shaker Heights, Ohio; Gregory Kalian of Des Moines, Iowa and Peter Kalian of Leesburg, Va. Additionally she has five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Hilda Mamourian

Active in Montreal Tekeyan Chapter

MONTREAL — Hilda Mamourian died on June 6. She was 47.

A celebration of her life was held for her on June 10 at Complexe Funeraire Aeterna et Crematorium, Saint-Laurent, Canada.

Our most sincere sympathies to the family and friends of Hilda Mamourian

She leaves her parents, Lucy and Nubar Mamourian of Montreal and many friends and relatives.



5K Run in Honor of Fallen Athlete Brandon Grant

BELMONT, Mass. (*Belmont Citizen-Herald*) — Dr. Alan DerKazarian's connection with baseball in Belmont began out of necessity — his son Alan's team needed a coach way back in 1978. His odyssey through the annals of Belmont baseball continued until his passing in 2015.

DerKazarian's coaching style is remembered fondly by former players. One of them, Brian Keegan, now an NBA executive, attributes his passion for the game to his Little League coach.

"He always made his entire team feel like everyone was important — everyone mattered," Keegan said.

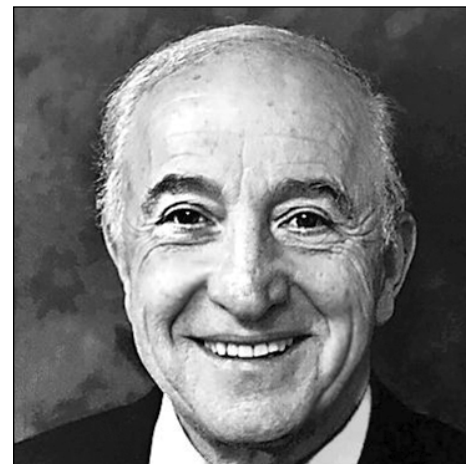
DerKazarian became President of Belmont Little League. He maintained an active role as the consolidation of the town's Little League, Instructional League and Babe Ruth League became the Belmont Youth Baseball Association (BYBA). Even after his sons aged out of eligibility, DerKazarian stayed on the BYBA Board offering advice and priceless historical perspective to ensure that it succeeded in its mission of serving youth in Belmont. In this capacity, he was able to watch some impressive baseball talent develop.

One of the talented players he watched with pleasure was Brendan Grant who rose through the town's baseball divisions to become a star at Belmont High School. When Grant was fatally injured in an outfield collision during a Senior Babe Ruth game in June 2001, DerKazarian knew that he had to be part of the effort to memorialize such a talented player and promising young man.

DerKazarian became a trustee of the fledgling Brendan Grant Foundation and helped steer the outpouring of grief and shock into the effort that produced the gem of a varsity baseball diamond now known as Brendan Grant Memorial Field. But his efforts did not stop there. DerKazarian also contributed his wisdom to the foundation's chief fundraising tool — Brendan's Home Run, held every Father's Day since 2002. It was his suggestion that cash awards be offered to the top male and female finishers in order to ensure that a steady stream of championship caliber athletes would come to Belmont each June. Then DerKazarian stepped up and contributed his financial support to

endow the newly-created prize structure, supporting in the most meaningful way possible the foundation's effort to maximize the yield to youth of the Home Run proceeds. Each year the top three male and female finishers join the DerKazarian Circle of Champions.

The next running of "Brendan's Home Run" 5K Race & Walk will take place on Sunday, June 17, at the Belmont High School track. Last year's event was another record setting race with a new course record set in the women's division. This has become one of the



Dr. Alan DerKazarian

New England region little jewels among prestigious 5K running events, with genuine running talent participating each year.

Since his passing in the fall of 2015, the DerKazarian Family Foundation has chosen to increase its generosity to the Foundation, this year becoming the event's principal sponsor.

Registration for 2018's Brendan's Home Run is now open.

Pre-registration entry is \$28 until June 14; onsite entry is \$30.

The first 300 people to sign-up will receive a complimentary commemorative T-shirt.

Online entry and mail-in forms are available online.

For information: <http://www.brendan-grant.org>.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Armenian Bar Association Welcomes Next Generation of Leadership

By Armen K. Hovannisian, Esq.

YEREVAN/SHUSHI – During its pilgrimage to Armenia and Artsakh from May 23-June 2, the Armenian Bar Association dredged deeper than ever before into the homeland's hallowed fields of professional love and labor, which peaked at the 29th annual meeting among the green-swept hills and dales of Shushi.

Emerging from a rich array of partnership initiatives which took shape in local universities, judicial chambers and courtrooms, civic auditoriums, government offices, and public welfare centers, a new executive leadership team of the Armenian Bar has been installed for the year 2018-2019.

Chairman Gerard V. Kassabian of Beverly Hills, Calif., with the winds and gales of Dikranagerd at his back and in his horizon, is a top-rated lawyer who owns and operates a law firm bearing his name, specializing in trusts and estates, real estate and family law.

"In Shushi, Artsakh, I was handed the torch that my esteemed predecessors entrusted upon me to illuminate the proverbial path, the mission of our Armenian Bar Association. We are determined to fearlessly and fiercely defend and uphold the rights of our compatriots wherever they may be," Kassabian said.

Vice-Chairperson Kathy L. Ossian of Detroit, with the determined terrain of Efkere, Kghi and Palou at her base, is the founder and CEO of

Ossian Law, P.C., a firm focused exclusively on Information Technology Law.

"Holding our annual meeting in the Republic of Artsakh and our first newly-constituted Board meeting in Yerevan on the historic 100th anniversary of the first Republic of Armenia has renewed my commitment to help make the Armenian Bar Association even stronger, more relevant and open to all lawyers of Armenian descent as we pursue our important mission," Ossian said.

Vice-Chairperson Lucy Varpetian of Los Angeles, with indigenous first breaths and final farewells in Afyon-Karahisar, Aintab and Sepastia, is a senior assistant city attorney in the Glendale City Attorney's Office, with extensive experience in city governance including advising the municipality's City Council and its Civil Service Commission.

"In 1989, the Armenian Bar Association answered the call when the soon-to-be new Republic of Armenia embarked on its road to independence and sought assistance with building infrastructure," Varpetian said.

Treasurer Saro K. Kerkonian of Los Angeles, with deep roots and fallen family trees in Aintab, Marash and Sassoun, is a workers' compensation law specialist certified by the State Bar of California and works as a senior trial attorney as house-counsel for Farmers Insurance Company.

"As the Armenian Bar Association celebrates next year the 30th anniversary of its founding by Raffi Hovannisian, it is a distinct honor and privilege to be part of an organization whose mem-

bers represent every segment of the Armenian community, united in purpose, independent, with an unwavering commitment in service to the Armenian people, Armenia, Artsakh and the Armenian Cause," Kerkonian said.

Secretary Liz Al-Dajani of Evanston, Ill., with the resilient DNA of Sis, is a principal of Kerkonian Dajani, LLC, where she leverages her prior career as an appellate law clerk and her interest in cross-border transactions, now specializing in state and federal appellate advocacy as well as Middle East business transactions.

"I saw in the bright and cheery eyes of the children of Armenia the eyes of my own three young sons in Chicago. During our magical trip to Armenia and Artsakh, they all became one gleaming symbol of the now happy face of our homeland. Next time, their eyes will meet face-to-face and the divisions between Diaspora and Hayastan will melt away into our unity of nation, faith and future," Al-Dajani noted.

Beyond the Executive Committee, the Armenian Bar's Board of Governors is composed of: Sara Bedirian (Glendale, CA), Harry H. Dikranian (Montreal, Canada), Christine Engustian (East Providence, RI), Garo G. Ghazarian (Encino, CA), Armen K. Hovannisian (Los Angeles, CA), Karnig Kerkonian (Evanston, IL), Mesrop Khoudagoulian (Glendale, CA), Vanna Kitsinian (Encino, CA), Gary T. Moomjian (Jericho, NY), Tina Odjaghian (Woodland Hills, CA), Scott A. Ohnegian (Morristown, NJ), Raffi Sarrafian (Chicago, IL), and student member Sarkis Yeretsian (Los Angeles, CA).

Holy Martyrs Church Celebrates 60 Years

BAYSIDE, N.Y. – In September 1958, the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs in Bayside was consecrated as a house of worship. More than 60 years ago, the Armenian community of Long Island established its roots in Bayside, a quiet suburb of Manhattan.

Founded by the survivors and descendants of the Armenian Genocide, the forefathers and mothers of the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs turned to Bayside as a place to settle without fear of persecution or discrimination. Over the past 60 years, the neighborhood has remained warm and welcoming to the Armenian community. In commemoration of the church's 60th anniversary, a Special Prayer Service was held on Friday, May 18, with the participation of local clergymen, community lay leaders and servicemen. Organized by parish priest, Fr. Abraham Malkhasyan, and the 60th Anniversary Committee, the evening presented an opportunity to thank those who have supported the Holy Martyrs community for the past six decades. It was an evening to celebrate Unity in Diversity.

Local clergymen, Fr. Nareg Terterian (St. Sarkis Armenian Church), Rev. John K. Lardas (The Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church), Msgr. Martin T. Geraghty (St. Robert Bellarmine Roman Catholic Church), and Rabbi Menashe Bovit (Bellerose Jewish Center) participated in the readings during the service. Following the prayer service, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and City Council Member Barry Grodenchik presented Fr. Malkhasyan with special proclamations in honor of the church's milestone anniversary.

Representing the 2.5 million people of Queens, Katz enthusiastically stated, "As we celebrate all of the diversity in Queens, we also celebrate the Armenian community. They have been masters at celebrating their parents' traditions, the language, the religion, and the clothing." Recalling seeing the graduation of the children from the local Armenian School, Katz paid tribute to the Armenian community. "Those kids are going to make sure their kids know the language, know the dancing, know the culture and know the religion. And that is an amazing tribute to the Armenian community." She then presented Fr. Malkhasyan with a proclamation declaring May 18, "Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs Day" in Queens.

Grodenchik then spoke about his involvement in the process of getting the City Council to approve the co-naming of the street behind the church as "Armenia Way." With resounding applause, Grodenchik was hopeful that the unveiling of the new sign would take place in the fall. "Sixty years ago the people of this congregation made a choice to be here at this crossroads, right along the Long Island Expressway in Bayside Hills and it has been a fantastic decision. It is a great honor to represent this community. We have so many houses of worship here in western Queens. This is a community of faith. It is a community where people care for one another, where they hold each other dear," said Grodenchik.

"As survivors, to start building churches and community centers that will serve the needs of our community 60 years ago was a dream that this community has made into a reality," said Terterian of the St. Sarkis Armenian parish in Douglaston, New York, during the fellowship that followed the prayer service. "Not long after that, St. Sarkis was established. But in the 1980s, there was a devastating fire, and I am told that this church, the sanctuary of Holy Martyrs, was the second home for my community. The Armenian Church, my friends, is one and that unity is very important. Despite all the challenges, we are committed to maintain that unity and to strengthen our communities. When the church is strong, our communities will be stronger."

Other attendees who spoke words of gratitude to the Armenian community were Joseph Marziliano, Community Board 11 District Manager and Captain John Hall, Bayside-based 111th Precinct Commanding Officer. Servicemen from the community were also represented.



Tekeyan Cultural Association, Inc.

Dr. Nubar Berberian Annual Awards

Dr. Nubar Berberian, intellectual, journalist, activist and editor of many ADL daily newspapers for more than 50 years passed away at the age of 94 in November 23, 2016. In his Will, Dr. Berberian directed his Trust Fund managers to appropriate awards every year to college students of Armenian descent worldwide who major in either International Law or Political Science.

ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Eligible recipients are college students of Armenian descent who major in either International Law or Political Science.
- 2) Applicant must be enrolled in a full-time graduate program in a fully accredited college or university in the world.
- 3) Applicant must provide all of the information requested on the application form.
- 4) Applicant must submit a copy of his or her most recent college transcript.
- 5) Applicant is to include a small head and shoulders self-portrait.
- 6) Application could be received by requesting from Tcadirector@Aol.com.
- 7) Applicants should submit applications electronically (via email) to: Tcadirector@Aol.com. The Paper submissions will be accepted by the deadline at:

Tekeyan Cultural Association, Inc.
Dr. Nubar Berberian Trust Fund
755 Mt. Auburn Street
Watertown, MA 02472
USA

but electronic application is preferred.

- 8) The deadline of receiving the applications is **August 30, 2018**.
- 9) The administrators and managers of the fund will vote the qualified winners in **October, 2018** based on the merits of each applicant.
- 10) The winner or winners will receive their awards in **November, 2018**. Applicants who were not selected will be notified in writing and invited to apply next year again, if they are eligible.
- 11) Winning applicants are not eligible to apply again.
- 12) This announcement is published in Armenian, English, French and Spanish.

Watertown, MA, April 23, 2018



COMMUNITY NEWS

Middlesex Sheriff's Office Graduates 18 from Special Citizens Academy



Sheriff Peter Koutoujian and the 18 graduates

CHELMSFORD, Mass. — The Middlesex Sheriff's Office recently concluded its inaugural Special Citizens Academy with a graduation ceremony and lunch for 18 participants who completed the four-week program.

Designed for adults with developmental disabilities who have an interest in public safety, the Special Citizens Academy provided participants with the opportunity to learn more about the Middlesex Sheriff's Office (MSO) and its functions. Graduates of the Academy included both independent participants and groups from local agencies such as the Valley Collaborative, Northeast ARC, Eastern Middlesex ARC, and Triangle, Inc.

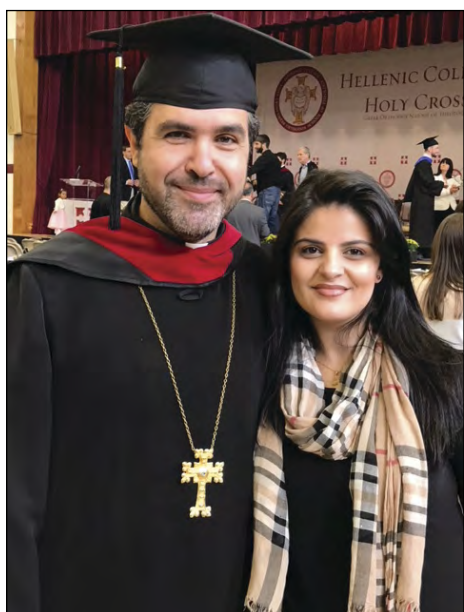
"I want to thank all our participants — as well as their families and caretakers — who made our first academy program such a memorable success," said Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian. "This program is an extension of efforts to connect with all residents of Middlesex County, and we look forward to hosting future sessions."

Participants attended classes on issues such as Internet Safety and Awareness; Fire Safety and First Aid; and Scam Prevention. They also received demonstrations from the MSO's K-9 Unit, SWAT Team, and Mobile Operations Unit.

The Middlesex Sheriff's Office has already received interest from individuals to attend the next Special Citizen's Academy.

Rev. Khachatur Kesablyan Earns Master's in Theological Studies

CHELMSFORD, Mass. — Parishioners and friends of Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church, Chelmsford congratulate their pastor, Rev. Khachatur Kesablyan, on his recent graduation from the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology with a master's degree in theological studies. Kesablyan, who has served the Sts. Vartanantz parish since 2008, attended the Gevorkian Theological Seminary in Holy Echmiadzin, graduating with a Master's of Divinity degree prior to his transfer to the Eastern Diocese. He noted, "I am so very grateful to our former Primate, Khajag Srpazan



Rev. Khachatur Kesablyan and his wife, Anna Kesablyan

[Barsamian], my loving family, parishioners, and friends who encouraged me to earn this Master's Degree, which will surely help enrich my ministry."

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COMMUNITY NEWS

New Diocesan Primate Considering Reprioritization

PRIMATE, from page 1

Young Michael Findikyan

Findikyan is simultaneously Armenian and American — and even German. He was born Michael Findikyan in Fort Worth, Texas, where his family had no Armenian connections whatsoever. His mother is German, and through her he learned German. On the other hand, his father is from Istanbul, and his grandfather was the director of the Gomidas Choir there and a real leader of the Armenian community there.

Findikyan said that his grandfather was part of the Armenian National Assembly which elected Patriarch Shnorhik Kalustyan, and was on the organizing committee for the visit of Catholicos of All Armenians Vasken I to Istanbul.

As a child, Findikyan was old enough to hear stories of Istanbul Armenian life from his grandfather, who relocated to Brazil with his wife and a daughter and her family in 1960, but frequently visited the US. He also heard much from his father, who came to the US as a college student.

When his family moved to the metropolitan New York area, young Michael came into contact with an organized large Armenian community, and when he was 8 or so, his father forced him to go to Camp Nubar. Today Findikyan says that this “perhaps was the birthplace of my Armenian identity.” He met prominent Armenian clergymen, including Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, and still looks forward to visiting the camp as an adult.

However, Michael’s father changed jobs while Michael was in high school so that in 1975, the family had to move to Binghamton, a little town in upstate New York. There is a small Armenian community there of some 30 or 40 families, mostly from Hadjin originally. Findikyan said, “They knew we were coming before we got there...this family with three kids...and they just dragged us in.”

Moving to Binghamton

The American-born Fr. Kevork Arakelian, only ordained a few years before and the first graduate of St. Nersess Seminary to become a priest, “just scooped us up with enthusiasm,” Findikyan continued, “and I had no choice but to be involved.”

And Michael’s mother was, as Findikyan describes, “scooped up too in Binghamton.” She became involved in the Armenian Church. Michael’s German background and American upbringing, he says now, “allow me to recognize what is so precious about Armenian identity.”

One day, Arakelian showed up with a pile of books and asked him to prepare to replace the church organist, who had moved to Florida. Michael was sent to St. Nersess for deacons’ training and summer conferences. He said, “Once in that environment, everything started to change.”

At the age of 14, Arakelian planted the seed in Michael of becoming a priest, and eventually, after studying chemistry and music in college, Michael gave up the idea of becoming a physician to go into the priesthood. After earning various advanced academic degrees and becoming a vartabed, Findikyan served as a visiting parish priest, taught at St. Nersess Seminary himself, where he was dean from 2000 to 2012, and was the director of the Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center of the Eastern Diocese from 2012 until his recent election as Primate.

He also has taught at a number of universities.

Historic Perspective on Armenian Church

Findikyan confessed that in his first few months in office, he must spend much time listening and learning, for there are many aspects of the Diocesan operations with which he was not involved in the past. He will be meeting with staff at the Diocesan Center, the Diocesan Council, clergy, Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA), allied groups, and various parishes, after which, he said, he can begin to formu-

late more concrete ideas about how to change, improve and grow.

In a broad way, Findikyan said, he already does have a sense about what type of change is necessary. He said, “One thing is very clear to me...for a long, long time, for many good historical reasons, the Armenian Church was placed in a position of being all things to all Armenians, all things to all people. The Armenian Church was the only structure or entity of the Armenian people that had a global reach. Quite naturally, especially during horrific circumstances like the Genocide, and in other circumstances as well, the Armenians looked to the church for everything, not just for spiritual sustenance but for

in a family of Armenians to live his Christian life within the Armenian Church...then we should not be surprised that our churches are empty.” It is necessary to provide “education in the sense of lifting up our people, recognizing who we are, and what is the message of the church that is distinctive to it.”

Uniquely Armenian Christianity

There is also much to be optimistic about in the present situation. Findikyan said, “I believe that the Christian way of life that is uniquely Armenian, for which our ancestors have given their blood, is a very good path My goal always has been as a priest, a vartabed, and now, as a Primate, to inspire

Eastern Diocese running Armenian schools, he responded that “the question will be, does this fall within the unique prerogative and privilege of the Church, or are there others who can do it better than we can?” Running schools, he said, is not an easy task and the financial costs are great, while there are other bodies like the Armenian General Benevolent Union that are already doing this very well, or the American University of Armenia with its language immersion programs. Consequently, he said, “we have to have the courage to think critically and very objectively to make sure that...we find the best means to do it.”

Giving concrete examples, Findikyan said, “My heart bleeds for the fact that my nieces



Fr. Daniel Findikyan, left, at his May 8 enthronement as Primate, with his predecessor Archbishop Khajag Barsamian

education and culture...and now of course we live in a different world.”

He pointed out that there is the government of the Republic of Armenia and all sorts of Armenian organizations with a global reach now, and concluded, “It is time for the Armenian Church to be a church, to focus its mission on that which has been uniquely given to the Church to achieve, which is the Gospel, cultivating God’s people, God’s children, building up the Body of Christ...these are the kinds of imperatives uniquely entrusted to the Church and to no one else.” If the Armenian Church does not do this, he said, these things won’t get done, and, he said, “We will betray what we are at its most sacred center, or, they will be done by other people...and that is not acceptable. I am the Primate of the Diocese. I have gone over the books. We don’t have the resources, neither human nor financial nor spatial, to do everything to which the Armenian people aspire. There are others who can do that work, nation-building and so forth, who are much better equipped, both financially and otherwise, to undertake those kinds of missions.”

This approach, if followed to its logical conclusion, will lead to many changes. He said, “This has very tangible consequences, which in time we will have to consider. We will have to trim the way we do things...We are not going to do some of the things this Diocese has traditionally done.” This will be a reprioritization.

Findikyan said that the present situation perhaps is one reason why a lot of people do not have much time for the church. In the aftermath of the Genocide, the children of survivors did not have much time to reflect on the distinct theological orientation of our church. He said, “If we are unable to articulate clearly why it is fruitful for someone of Armenian extraction or someone who is now

our people with what is in their blood: it is world class, second to none.” This tradition must be studied and articulated, or rather translated into the categories of the 21st century, he said.

The first step is to “excavate” it, as it is all in Classical Armenian. The St. Nersess Seminary and the Zohrab Center can play a part in this, and education must be fostered, he said, at all levels, age groups and demographics.

He said he often quotes Prof. Gabriella Winkler, a world-renowned historian of liturgies or worship traditions of the Eastern Churches, and in particular of the Armenian Church, who said to him that “you Armenians don’t know what you are sitting on.” This stung to the core, Findikyan said, because as Armenians, “We don’t really have a clue. We are operating on the outermost skin, one cell thick, of what it means to be Armenian, with our lahmajun, our flag and our genocide and our alphabet, and about six other things, yet we stand up as proud Armenians. If it weren’t so tragic, it would be laughable.”

He said that he was not convinced that the old model of education, with Saturday and Sunday schools, inherited from 75 years ago, is effective, while an artificial distinction has been created between Armenian Christian and cultural heritage. “We face grave problems with the Christian formation of our kids and the creation of a generation that can speak or read Armenian,” he declared. “This all has to be reviewed very carefully and very soberly and courageously, because to disrupt what we have been doing for decades is risky business.”

One option, he thought, might be to raise money to send the youth to Armenia, Lebanon or Jerusalem, but this was a conversation for the broader community to hold. When asked about the possibility of the

and nephew don’t speak Armenian. It bleeds redder blood when I see nice Armenian kids addicted to drugs, and committing suicide and becoming Mormons ... and, to be very honest, that is where my heart goes. With every fiber of energy that I have left, I will teach Armenian and encourage it, but for me there are even more horrific tragedies around us.”

These include issues like opioid addiction, suicide and gender confusion, which are issues no other Armenian organization will deal with, whereas, he said, “We are better equipped to deal with those kinds of issues here in this diocese than to figure out the great, complex problem of transmitting language and culture to fourth-generation American Armenians, and we really need to be thinking broadly about that...We have a time-honored path which works, endorsed time and again with the blood of the martyrs. I am eager to share that with people.”

When the perennial question of how to get the youth to participate more in the life of the church was discussed, Findikyan declared that “the stagnancy that we may experience may have to do with a broad and diffuse sense of the mission of the church. We will articulate that message courageously, see its links with the history of our church and the Christian culture of our people. This is really exciting.” He said that he would work to have all elements of our community centrally involved in the life of the church. The ACYOA, for example, should not “be a holding bin for college students” but be actively engaged in the ministry of the church, while women must be more visibly involved with the mission of the church according to the Armenian tradition. He exclaimed, “I can tell you that I will be casting a wide net to empower men, women, children and youth to become a part of the very invigorating mission of our church



COMMUNITY NEWS

New Possibilities for an Ancient People: When Scholarship, Art, History, Faith and Community Intersect

PHILADELPHIA — The Armenian Inter-Communal Committee of Philadelphia, a consortium of lay and religious representatives of the five Armenian churches and one Armenian day school in the greater Philadelphia area, has for more than 40 years been committed to keeping open a dialogue among local Armenians with each other and with their heritage, as well as being a powerful unified Armenian presence in the broader metropolitan area. Each year it organizes commemorations of three historic events: Vartanants in February, the Armenian

through artwork is a unique phenomenon of a history being illuminated in manuscripts, some as very small texts which provide an intimate experience for the one person holding them.

Piñon explained the term sharagan as an illuminated hymn and made the case for the absence of Vartanants-related artwork until the 12th century, when Nerses Shnorhali picked up the story.

“These illuminations echo the praise-worthy words of the sharagans,” she said.

She had the audience viewing details in new ways: gold outlines of figures of soldiers were an adorning of their martyrdom, the gold trim essentially extending the lives of these martyrs. Armenians are always depicted as superior in combat. The soldier becomes the saint, the victim the victorious, the slaughtered the saved.

Piñon said she was delighted to be among an audience of contemporary Armenians bringing life again to what she has been studying in a scholastic bubble.

April 24 found organizers in Memorial Hall of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church in Wynnewood, riveted by Dr. Haik Demoyan’s presentation “Aurora’s Road: The Mission of the Armenian Genocide Survivor.” Director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in Yerevan and chief editor of the International Journal of Armenian Genocide Studies, Demoyan until very recently was in the US

as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Harvard’s Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, where he was engaged in researching the identity transformation processes in the South Caucasus.

He discussed that the Armenian legacy in America spans 400 years of heritage, from Martin the Armenian’s arrival in Jamestown, Va. in 1618. Coincidentally, Demoyan remarked, 2018 also commemorates the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the first Armenian



Philadelphia Armenian Inter-Communal Committee with guest speaker Erin Piñon



Dr. Haik Demoyan

Genocide in April, and Tarkmanchats [Translators’ Day] in October.

The challenge to be relevant and bring fresh perspective keeps the committee on the lookout for individuals and groups who have something novel to contribute to this ongoing cultural conversation.

So far in 2018, two refreshingly different and thought-provoking events have taken place.

February 8 brought to the sanctuary of Armenian Martyrs’ Congregational Church in

tion unfolding in Armenia: “As an intellectual, I can’t take sides, but I can’t remain neutral either.” ... “It’s about joining an energy – not about hatred or unseating someone.” ... “I am full of hope for the future.” ... “The new generation are the decision-makers. We have to respect young people’s right to think differently.” ... “History shows us we don’t like leaders, so we will be led by multiple leaders.”

Keeping with tradition, each Inter-Communal event included students from the Armenian Sisters Academy bringing their full and endearing participation to the program with their songs and recitations. Their presence is always a gift from the future, for they represent the hope that there will be yet another generation filling their shoes. Indeed, many of them have parents who a generation ago stood in their same places singing and reciting.

The remaining event of the 2018 season is planned for October 7 at St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church in Philadelphia and will feature Dr. Helen C. Evans, Byzantine Art Curator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, who will speak about the upcoming unprecedented exhibition “Armenia!” Scheduled to open on the 27th anniversary of the Republic of Armenia’s independence, September 21, this large-scale exhibition dedicated solely to Armenian history and culture in the medieval period will cover the 4th to 17th century and will portray the significance of Armenian art to the world during the Middle Ages. It will remain on exhibit until January 13, 2019 and will feature some 140 Armenian works of art from around the globe, including artwork on loan from Yerevan’s Madenataran (the Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts) and

the History Museum of Armenia, the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, the Jerusalem Patriarchate, the Holy See of Cilicia in Antelias, the Mekhitarist Monastery in Venice, the Calouste Gulbenkian Museum in Portugal, the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum in Detroit, the Armenian Museum of America in Watertown, and the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church in New York. Dr. Evans, who wrote her doctoral dissertation on the Armenian manuscripts of Cilicia, has taught courses on Armenian art at Columbia University and currently serves as president of The International Center for Medieval Art. She has wanted to curate such an exhibition since coming to the Met over 30 years ago.

It is with excitement that the Philadelphia Armenian community – including the other two



Art Historian Erin Piñon

participating parishes of Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of North Philadelphia and St. Mark’s Armenian Catholic Church of Wynnewood – looks forward to this Fall event. And it is with profound gratitude and inspiration that we appreciate the scholars who have graced our venues this year, sharing their life’s work and bringing us to new awareness of and connection with our source – our heritage – our legacy.

–Dr. Arsine Oshagan



Armenian Sisters Academy students

Havertown the illustrated talk “Visualizing Vardan(ants): Avarayr Illuminated, 14th-17th centuries” presented by art historian and Princeton University Department of Art and Archaeology doctoral student Erin Piñon.

With passion and expertise, she shared her own insatiable wonder/love regarding the artistic interpretations through the ages of this battle and her readiness to journey literally to wherever research beckoned. How Armenians of the past have commemorated the event

Republic and the 2800th anniversary of the founding of the city of Yerevan. He then proceeded to bring to life the journey of Genocide-survivor Arshalouys Mardiganian’s story in poignant detail, as an illustration of the work his Institute is doing: “We translate ... we must save what we can save.” ... “We Armenians have to care about our heritage because it’s part of our history.”

Dr. Demoyan concluded with spontaneous comments on the current sociopolitical situa-

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Armenian Assembly Welcomes More Members to Armenian Caucus after Numerous Meetings

WASHINGTON – Working through the month of April, the Armenian Assembly of America (Assembly) held 50 meetings with congressional offices discussing key issues of concern, including reaffirmation of the Armenian Genocide, US assistance to Armenia and Artsakh, as well as Christian and other minority communities at risk in the Middle East.

As a result of these efforts, the Assembly will welcome Representatives Charlie Crist (D-FL), Steve King (R-IA), Eric Swalwell (D-CA), and Steve Knight (R-CA) as the newest Members to join the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, bringing the total to 122 Members.

“I’m proud to join the Armenian Caucus, working in a bipartisan manner to strengthen the US-Armenian relationship - a vital strategic partnership,” stated Crist.

Crist represents the 13th congressional district of Florida, on the Gulf Coast from Clearwater down to St. Petersburg. After meeting with the Assembly, he co-signed this year’s letter to President Donald Trump to formally recognize the Armenian Genocide. Last year, the representative co-signed a letter to then-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson urging him to arrest, prosecute, and jail members of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s security

detail who attacked peaceful protesters outside the Turkish Ambassador’s residence in Washington, D.C.

Swalwell told the Assembly: “I’m happy to join the bipartisan Congressional Armenian Caucus because I believe in strengthening the diplomatic, cultural, economic and military ties between our nations. You don’t need to be of any particular political party, or of Armenian descent, to know that many of our interests intersect and we should work together to ensure peace and prosperity throughout the Middle



Armenian Assembly Grassroots and Development Associate Mariam Khaloyan and Rep. Charlie Crist (D-FL)



Rep. Steve Knight (R-CA) with constituents and leaders of St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church of Santa Clarita, California, and representatives of the Armenian Assembly of America’s Western Region Office and Southern California Regional Council

East, West Asia, and around the world.”

Swalwell represents the 15th congressional district of California, which includes parts of the East Bay in Northern California, and is a co-sponsor of H.Res. 220, affirming the Armenian Genocide.

King agreed to join the Armenian Caucus after meeting with the Assembly and Ecumenical Director and Diocesan Legate of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) Archbishop Vicken Aykazian. During the meeting they discussed the plight of Christians and other minorities in the Middle East. King also co-sponsored H.Res. 220 and signed the letter urging President Trump to reaffirm the Armenian Genocide.

“I’m proud to join my colleagues on the Congressional Armenian Caucus,” said Knight. “America and Armenia share much in common, especially our mutual commitment to freedom of religion and individual liberties. It’s also important to never forget atrocities like the Armenian Genocide so that we may always remain vigilant in ensuring they never happen again. Southern California has a large contingent of Armenian Americans, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on the caucus to address these important issues.”

Knight represents the 25th congressional district of California, which covers a sizable part of northern Los Angeles County, and includes the Santa Clarita Valley, Simi Valley, the Antelope Valley, and the northern section of the San Fernando Valley. He co-signed the bipartisan Royce-Engel letter, which proposes common sense measures to curtail ongoing Azerbaijani military-initiated attacks against citizens of

Artsakh and Armenia, and calls upon the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group to “publicly condemn specific acts of aggression along the line of contact.”

“The Assembly is pleased that Rep. Knight has joined the Congressional Armenian Caucus, and looks forward to continue working closely with the Congressman and his staff. I would like to take this opportunity to express the Assembly’s gratitude to Ms. Vanessa Wilk for her extraordinary efforts in encouraging Rep. Knight to join the caucus,” stated Assembly Western Region Director Mihran Toumajan.

The Assembly’s Western Region office has been in contact with Rep. Knight’s Santa Clarita district staff since August 2017, when they held a productive meeting with him, along with the Assembly Southern California Regional Council (SCRC) and the leadership of St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church of Santa Clarita. The Assembly-led delegation expressed its gratitude to Rep. Knight for his support of Armenian issues in Congress, and also acknowledged his efforts assisting Armenian American constituents during his tenure in the California State Assembly (2008-2012) and California State Senate (2012-2014).

“The Armenian Assembly looks forward to working with these new Members and with the leadership of the Armenian Caucus as we continue to strengthen US-Armenia relations, and continue to promote genocide awareness and education, including the remarkable efforts of John Elder and James O. Arroll of the YMCA in helping the survivors of the Armenian Genocide,” said Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny.

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Rep. Steve King (R-IA), Ecumenical Director and Diocesan Legate of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) Archbishop Vicken Aykazian and Assembly Public Affairs Associate Danielle Saroyan

Arts & Living

BOOKS

Michael Boyajian's New Book Takes On Armenia's Relationship with Roman Empire

NEW YORK — On June 7, Michael Boyajian conducted a Skype book talk before the Armenian Virtual College, AGBU on his new book, *Roman Armenia: A Study In Survival*. The discussion was organized by Marina Khachaturyan, Education Program Coordinator at Armenian Virtual College, AGBU and student Aram Agajanian.

Boyajian detailed the 500-year relationship between Rome and Armenia focusing on the confrontation between Tigranes The Great and Pompey The Great and the subsequent accord between them that laid the groundwork for Armenian geopolitics that would last through Armenia's Roman period, ensuring that Armenians would be one of the few ancient people to survive into modern times.

Boyajian stated that this policy was to confront invaders but not to the point of extinction



Michael Boyajian

and lasted into modern times. Thus Armenia survived conflicts with Parthians, Persians, Russians and Turks as well as the Romans.

This policy refutes the Turkish notion that the Armenians were threatening Turkish rule, forcing the genocide upon themselves. The Armenians would never risk annihilation under a policy that lasted two millennia.

One student challenged Boyajian's premise but the author pointed out that the US has maintained a similar foreign policy for 75 years that has kept Russia and America at peace and the world free from nuclear destruction. He then asked the class if any Armenian had risked extinction in an uprising against Russian occupiers in the last century. The answer was no. And as in Roman times, when Armenia balanced between Parthia in the East and Rome in the West, today the nation does the same with Russia and the US with the new Armenian president first visiting Putin and in the near future Trump.

The book is the first of its kind in the US although the topic is well covered in Armenia.

Boyajian is a retired attorney and former human rights judge. He and his wife live in the Hudson Valley where they enjoy their Cicero inspired library and garden with their three cats.

He has a history degree from Stony Brook University and a law degree from Brooklyn Law School. He and his wife, Jeri Wagner, travel the world studying ancient history. He has written *Efficacious Roman Suicide*, *Green Enchantments*, *Bee Boro*, *Into the Bright Light of the Sun*, *A Hudson Valley Writer's Guide*, *New York's A Go Go*, *A Hudson Valley High* and is a co-author of *The People's Victory*.



Women's 14" Heel-less Platforms - Leather with Lace Overlay. \$7,999

Business Insider Focuses on Man behind Lady Gaga's Shoes



Gary Kazanchyan

LOS ANGELES (Pan ARMENIAN.Net) — *Business Insider* has prepared a short video about Gary Kazanchyan, an Armenian-American celebrity shoemaker who creates extravagant and unique footwear for stars and icons like Lady Gaga, Kiss, Johnny Depp, Oprah Winfrey, Britney Spears, Fergie and others.

Andre No.1, a brand established by Kazanchyan in Los Angeles, specializes in custom-made shoes and has a huge celebrity clientele.

"When something is store bought, it's kind of big all over to fit a lot of people," says Kazanchyan.

"But when something is tailored to you, then it feels like a glove, a sock kind of fitted exactly to you."

First, they use a 3D scanner to create a profile of your feet, they make an exact foot mold, pick a heel and leather.

"If we are doing some female tour artist, what they want is the brightest of metallic, shiny colors," says Angeles Noir Ramos, a senior designer.

They can reconstruct a designer shoe to fit your foot and repair worn shoes. They even recreated Alexander McQueen's iconic Armadillo boot.



Lobster Claw. \$6,500

Tigran Arakelyan Recognized with Two Awards and A New Music Director Position

SEATTLE, Wash. — Armenian-American conductor Tigran Arakelyan has been appointed music director of the Northwest Mahler Festival. In addition, he received a bronze medal at the Global Music Awards and is a finalist for the American Prize in Orchestral Programming.

Founded in 1995, the Northwest Mahler Festival is a summer festival for professionals, students and community musicians performing large-scale works. On July 21, the Festival Orchestra will perform Mahler's 5th Symphony, in Seattle.

Arakelyan recently received a bronze medal at the Global Music Awards for his work on the podcast "Off The Podium Music." The podcast has close to 70 episodes featuring artists of high caliber. In addition to his podcast, the other programs in the series featured David Harrington of the Kronos Quartet, Grammy Award-winning bassist Christian McBride and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer George Walker.

He was also named a finalist for the American Prize in Orchestral Programming with the Bainbridge Island Youth



Conductor Tigran Arakelyan

Orchestras. The American Prize — Vytautas Marijosius Memorial Award in Orchestral Programming — recognizes and rewards the best achievement in the unique field of orchestral programming, where the selection of repertoire by knowledgeable, creative and courageous music directors builds orchestras and audiences, educates young people and adults, and enriches the community.

Arakelyan is music director of the Bainbridge Island Youth Orchestra, Federal Way Youth Symphony and Port Townsend Community Orchestra. For more information about him, visit www.TigranArakelyan.com



ARTS & LIVING

(JIRAIR HOVSEPIAN PHOTO)



Soloist Haig Hovsepian with the Boston Pops

A Pop of Music at Symphony Hall

BOSTON – The 67th annual Armenian Night at the Pops featured violinist Haig Hovsepian, a sophomore at the Cleveland Institute of Music, performing along with the Boston Pops at Symphony Hall on Saturday, June 9.

Hovsepian, of Belmont, played the first movement of the Sibelius *Violin Concerto in D Minor*. He received an enthusiastic reception from the orchestra and the audience and at the conclusion of his performance, received a standing ovation.

In the post-concert reception at the New England Conservatory (NEC), he got to play an Armenian piece, *Groong*, by Komitas, accompanied by his mother, Ani Hovsepian on piano.

The program also featured *Hayr Mer* (The

Lord's Prayer) arranged by Makar Yekmalian and Rouben Gregorian and *Sardapat* by Hovhannissyan-Asatryan.

Hovsepian started studying the violin at age 4 and has had several teachers, including Jason Horowitz, Kyoko Horowitz, Sam Ou, Daniel Getz, Lynn Chang and Angelo Xiang Yu. He was the recipient of the Alice and Violent Ohanasion/Friends of Armenian Culture Society scholarship at NEC.

He has won several concerto competitions, including the NEC, the Concord Orchestra, Brockton Symphony, Waltham Philharmonic and Belmont High School Orchestra. He also won the Boston Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition, as a condition of which, by coinci-

dence, he performed at an earlier time on Saturday, June 9, at Symphony Hall.

The Armenian Night at the Pops is sponsored

every year by the Friends of Armenian Culture Society.

(JIRAIR HOVSEPIAN PHOTO)



Soloist Haig Hovsepian shakes hands with Boston Pops Conductor Keith Lockhart

(JIRAIR HOVSEPIAN PHOTO)



Soloist Haig Hovsepian with his former teacher, Lynn Chang, who taught him at the New England Conservatory

(JIRAIR HOVSEPIAN PHOTO)



Haig Hovsepian is flanked by Karina Demurchyan, left, and Ara Arakelian.

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AIWA New England and Women’s Entrepreneurship Are Focus at Taste Of Spring Reception

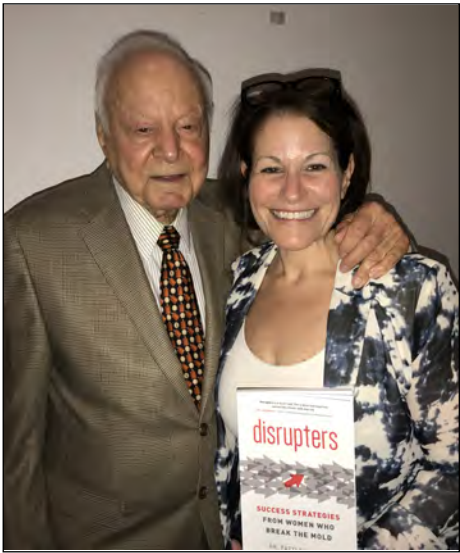
BELMONT, Mass. – On the evening of May 22, the Armenian International Women’s Association (AIWA) New England hosted “Taste of Spring,” a fundraising and networking event held at the Loading Dock restaurant. The event featured Patti Fletcher, a business consultant and coach who gave a brief presentation about her book, *Disrupters: Success Strategies from Women Who Break the Mold*, and about how she draws inspiration from her Armenian roots and her family’s history during the Genocide. Her message to the gathering was, “We are our grandparents’ wildest dreams!”

The event featured hors d’oeuvres and cocktails, as well as a wine raffle, with wines donated by Karas Vineyards, the Loading Dock and several AIWA members. Funds were raised to support AIWA New England and the Women’s Entrepreneurship Program at the American University of Armenia Extension School. This high-powered training program educates and supports women in Armenia who want to become successful entrepreneurs, and AUA is expanding it to include a leadership training course. More than 250 women have graduated from the program since 2002.

In addition to fundraising, a key achievement for the evening was to introduce newcomers to the organization and expand AIWA’s network.

AIWA’s mission is to promote and enrich the social, economic and personal advancement of Armenian women worldwide. Events and membership are open to everyone, male and female, who shares these goals.

DAVID MEDZORIAN PHOTO



Philanthropist and AIWA Life Member Jack Medzorian, left, with author, business consultant and coach Patti Fletcher, at Taste of Spring

DAVID MEDZORIAN PHOTO



Armine Manukyan (left), principal of St. James Erebuni School, talks with Judy Norsigian of the Board of Our Bodies Ourselves, at Taste of Spring May 22.



Zela Astarjian (left), president of AIWA New England Chapter, with guests at Taste of Spring May 22

Recipe Corner

by Christine Vartanian Datian



Walnut Orange Cookies

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups walnuts, very finely chopped
- 1 cup sifted flour
- 1/2 cup soft unsalted butter (1 stick)
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons fresh orange juice (and zest of one orange)
- 1/4 teaspoon sea salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

FOR GARNISH:

- Confectioners’ sugar
- Unsweetened cocoa powder
- Crushed walnuts (or any nut of choice)

PREPARATION

- Pre-heat oven to 375 degrees.
- In a blender or processor, grind walnuts until very fine.
- In a medium bowl, cream butter, sugar, and vanilla until fluffy. Add walnuts to this mixture and all remaining ingredients except the confectioners’ sugar (garnish), and mix thoroughly.
- Cover and chill dough for one hour. Form dough into 1” balls, place on an ungreased cookie sheet, and bake for 12-15 minutes or until set but not brown. Remove from oven and cool on a cookie rack.
- Roll cookies in confectioners’ sugar, cocoa powder or crushed nuts while still warm. For best results, re-roll again before serving.
- Makes about 2 dozen cookies.

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

*Pecans, almonds or hazelnuts may be substituted for the walnuts for this recipe.





ARTS & LIVING

C A L E N D A R

FLORIDA

JANUARY 20-27, 2019 — Armenian Heritage Cruise XXII 2019. Western Caribbean Cruise aboard the Royal Caribbean's Allure of the Sea. Traveling to Nassau, Cozumel, Roatan, Costa Maya. Cabin Rates, starting from \$949/person based on double occupancy, including port charges and ACAA registration fee. Government rates of \$137.45 are additional. Armenian entrainment, Armenian cultural presentations, Armenian Festival Day, Tavlou and Belote Tournaments and much more. Call Travel Group International at 1-561-447-08750 or 1-866-447-0750 ext. 108, contact person Janie.

MASSACHUSETTS

JUNE 16 — Book presentation by Adrienne Alexanian (editor) of her father's memoir *Forced into Genocide: Memoirs of an Armenian Soldier in the Ottoman Turkish Army*. Worcester Library — Saxe Room — 2 - 3:30 pm. 3 Salem Square — Worcester MA — (508) 799-1655 ext. 3. Book signing will follow the presentation — proceeds will be donated to charity.

JUNE 18 — The Gregory Hintlian Memorial Golf Tournament, sponsored by Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston at the Marlborough Country Club, Marlborough; 9:30 a.m., registration; 11 a.m., "Shot Gun." Join us for a day of golf - player's fee: \$175 (includes hospitality, lunch, dinner, green & cart fees, prizes and gifts) — or just dinner and a social evening (\$50 per person). Limited to 128 players. Tournament and tee sponsorships available. RSVP deadline, June 11. To register or for further information, log onto www.htaac.org/calendar/event/562/ call the Holy Trinity Church Office, 617.354.0632, or email office@htaac.org.

JUNE 20 — Tea & Tranquility, Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston, Wednesday, 5-6:30 p.m. Meet & Greet! Enjoy Tea & Desserts hosted by MEM Tea Imports and The Bostonian Hotel. Walk the Labyrinth. For first-time walkers introduction to walking a labyrinth at 5:30 p.m. RSVP appreciated. hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org

JUNE 28 — Under a Strawberry Moon, Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston, Thursday, 8:30- 9:30 p.m. Meet & Greet! Moonlit Labyrinth Walk. Enjoy chocolate-dipped strawberries, hosted by Vicki Lee's and Ice Teas, hosted by MEM Tea Imports. RSVP appreciated. hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org

JULY 7 — Armenian Church of Cape Cod presents Kef Time - Dinner & Dancing Saturday 6 to 11.30 p.m. at The Cape Club, 125 Falmouth Woods Road, North Falmouth. Chicken Kebab & Losh Kebab dinner. Leon Janikian band with special appearance by Harry Minassian & a DJ. \$60 per person, children 7-14 \$10. For tickets/tables contact Andrea Barber (617)201-9808

JULY 18 — Tea & Tranquility, Armenian Heritage Park



On Saturday, June 16, the Cultural Committee of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church in Providence will present a tribute concert honoring Canadian-Armenian bass-baritone Garo Nishanian (pictured above) for his 40-year career. Invited performers will include Janette Khalarian, singer, Mari Panosian, on piano, David Griego, on flute and the Nazeli Dance Group. The program will take place at 7 p.m. at the Egavian Cultural Center, 70 Jefferson St., Providence, RI. There will be a reception after the program. Admission is \$20 per person.

on The Greenway, Boston. Wednesday, 5- 6:30 p.m. Meet & Greet! Enjoy Tea & Desserts hosted by MEM Tea Imports and The Bostonian Hotel. Walk the Labyrinth. For first-time walkers introduction to walking a labyrinth at 5:30 p.m. RSVP appreciated. hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org

AUGUST 15 — Tea & Tranquility, Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston, Wednesday, 5-6:30 p.m. Meet & Greet! Enjoy Tea & Desserts hosted by MEM

Tea Imports and The Bostonian Hotel. Walk the Labyrinth. For first-time walkers introduction to walking a labyrinth at 5:30 p.m. RSVP appreciated. hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org

AUGUST 23 — Under an August Moon, Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston, Thursday, 7:30 - 9:30 pm. Meet & Greet! Berklee All-Star Jazz Trio! Enjoy signature tastings, hosted by anoush'ella say kitchen; creative mocktails, hosted by The Bostonian Hotel; luscious ice teas hosted by MEM Tea Imports. RSVP appreciated. hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org

SEPTEMBER 16 — Sunday Afternoon at the Park for Families. Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, 2-4 p.m. Cindy Fitzgibbon, WCVB TV5, Emcee; Boston Hye Guys-Ron Sahatjian, clarinet; Joe Kouyoumjian, oud; Art Chingris, percussion; ADD At 2:30pm "Match the Pair": Game for all ages! Face Painting: For Kids by Kids, Hoodies. RSVP appreciated. hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org

NOVEMBER 14 — Najarian Lecture on Human Rights at Historic Faneuil Hall, Boston Wednesday. Doors open at 6:45pm, Program at 7:30pm. Reception follows at The Bostonian Hotel. An endowed public program of Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway. Details forthcoming.

NEW JERSEY

SEPTEMBER 30 — Armenia Fund USA and Ardzagang Armenian TV are proud to present Artash Asatryan and Band, guest singer Grisha Asatryan, from Armenia on Sunday, 4 p.m. Don't miss the performance by the son and grandson of the legendary Armenian singer Aram Asatryan! Proceeds will benefit Fruitful Artsakh Project. Location: Bergen PAC, 30 N Van Brunt St, Englewood, NJ. Tickets: \$50, \$70, \$90. Please call Box Office 201-227-1030 or visit www.bergenPAC.org

RHODE ISLAND

JUNE 16 — The Cultural Committee of Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church Presents A Tribute Concert Honoring Garo Nishanian (Bass — Baritone, Canada), for his 40 years of contribution to the Arts and Culture. Invited Performers: Janette Khalarian, singer, Mari Panosian, piano, David Griego, flute, Nazeli Dance Group Saturday, 7 p.m. Egavian Cultural Center 70 Jefferson Street, Providence, RI. Wine & refreshments will be served. Admission \$20

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.

Dean Cain, Montel Williams Team up for Documentary Addressing Anti-Semitism

LOS ANGELES — Fresh off their acclaimed documentary on the Armenian Genocide, "Architects of Denial," (which was adapted as a television special Denial), Executive Producers David McKenzie (a multi-Emmy Award-winning Producer and Director), Dean Cain and Montel Williams have announced their new feature length project, titled "Hate Among Us," which will shine a spotlight on the rising tide of anti-Semitism worldwide.

In making "Architects of Denial," Cain, Williams and McKenzie realized how critical raising awareness around genocide was, both in the context of mistakes of the past, and also to sound the alarm about the societal forces that can lead to genocide in real time. While at first glance the three may seem unlikely producing partners, their shared commitment to raising awareness whenever hate is on the march has proven an effective creative and advocacy partnership.

"Anti-Semitic incidents were up 86% in the United States in 2017, and that should scare all of us," said Williams. "History tells us that anti-

Semitism is a form of bigotry that can easily escalate from rhetoric to violence. In showing audiences what this rising tide of anti-Semitism really looks like, I hope we can contribute to an equally dramatic decline in this dangerous ideology of hate."

Cain agrees. "We are very concerned about the amount and degree of anti-Semitism that is growing throughout the world — and the continued denial of the Holocaust by so many different sources. We believe it is important to tell this story now, so we can stop the spread of anti-Semitism and the lies that Holocaust deniers are spreading."

"Hate Among Us" is scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2018 and filming has begun in The United States, Canada, Europe and Israel, as well as in other countries around the world. Associated Television International (ATI) will distribute the film for theatrical distribution and all television worldwide.

Jim Romanovich, President of Worldwide Entertainment for ATI's distribution group, said: "We are honored to bring this compelling story

to millions of people around the world so that they can truly get a deeper understanding of how

these horrific situations affect not just the victims of genocide but the changing world itself."



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COMMENTARY

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COMMENTARY

The Velvet Revolution Creeps into Karabakh

By Edmond Y. Azadian

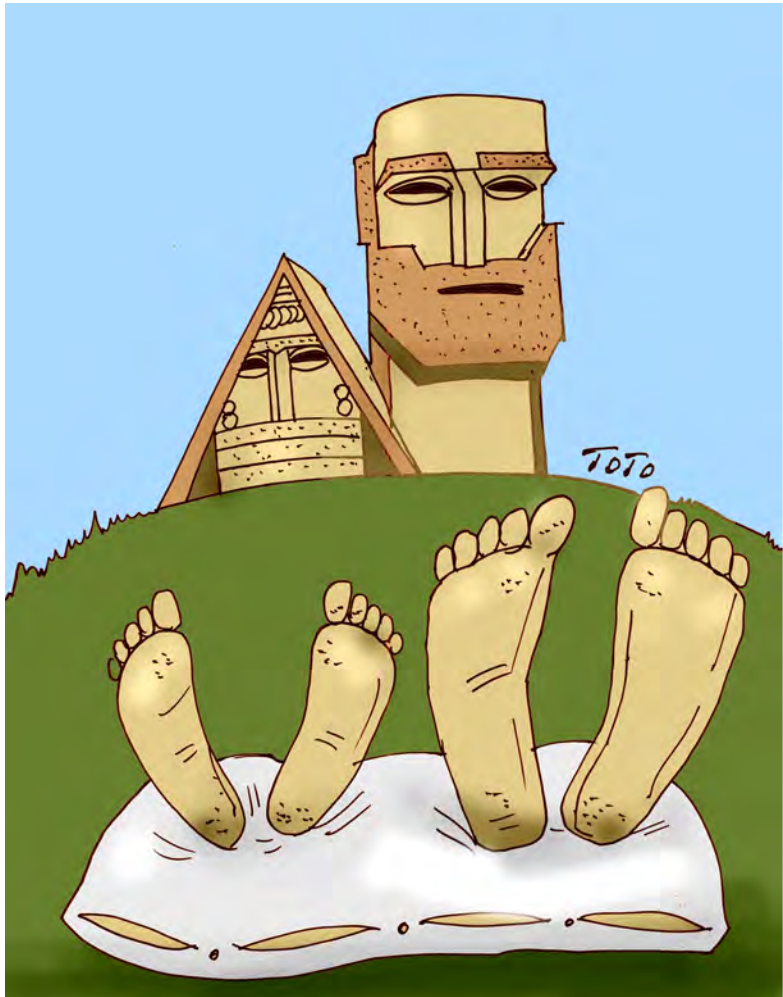
A nightmarish scenario is unfolding in Nagorno Karabakh (Artsakh): while David Babayan, a spokesperson for the president of the republic warns of “concentrations of Azerbaijani Army units where they were not supposed to enter,” former Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosian warns that whatever happened in Armenia must not happen in Artsakh.

What triggered this entire scenario was a scuffle on June 1, in Stepanakert, between some civilians and members of security forces. As a result, 15 people were hospitalized.

The true nature of this fight remains a mystery because a street brawl could not have resulted in political protests, demands for the resignation of the leader of the security forces, and indeed some resignations have taken effect, leading analysts to believe that the incident was not a street fight but rather a plot to destabilize Artsakh, while the enemy is at the gate.

First to resign was Arayik Harutyunyan, the state minister, who announced at his resignation that other high officials will follow suit. And that prediction proved to be true when the next wave of resignations followed through with Chief of Police Kamo Aghajanyan and the head of the National Security Service Arshavir Garamyan.

Harutyunyan, who was replaced by Grigory Martirosyan, attributed his resignation to a “new phase of reforms,” which Artsakh President Bako Sahakyan was planning to implement. The protestors had not asked for Harutyunyan’s resignation; they were demanding the heads of the police division.



Under the tenuous situation created, all eyes were directed towards Armenia’s new Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, whose magic words had proven to be very effective in controlling crowd situations from getting out of hand. And Pashinyan, indeed, called for calm and the demonstrators were dispersed. But his call was enigmatic, if not conditional; he stated that he had been in constant watch of the situation in Artsakh and that President Sahakyan had promised to him to take immediate action in addressing the situation and bringing to justice the parties responsible who had instigated the incident. He concluded in his statement that the ball was in the court of Stepanakert and that if the authorities did not take immediate action, the people were entitled to go back to the protest lines.

Bako Sahakyan seemed to be in control of the situation and he came up with his own announcement, which in part, said, “There are no developments here that could be defined as a political crisis, as some would lead you to believe.”

Some similarities may be detected between Moscow’s position vis-à-vis the Velvet Revolution in Armenia and Yerevan’s position

with regards to the situation in Artsakh. They both assumed a wait-and-see attitude assuming a kind of controlled and dispassionate approach.

There are some differences in the case of Armenia this spring and the events in Artsakh. In Armenia, the Velvet Revolution moved from the bottom up, but in Karabakh, it was from top to bottom.

Recent news informs us that some protestors are back in the streets demanding the president’s resignation. And indeed, in an interview this week, Sahakyan indicated that he will not seek reelection once his term is up. These actions discredit what Artsakh has achieved in terms of good governance. The protestors claim that the republic’s constitution is flawed, that the elections have been conducted under fraudulent conditions and that the leaders do not enjoy legitimacy.

These are accusations that only Azeris would make.

Thus far, Artsakh has gained respectability, if not recognition, through holding model democratic and transparent elections, closer to the standards in the West rather than Armenia. These demonstrators are not concerned about destroying that image and are playing into the hands of the enemy.

During my recent visit to Armenia, I found many people speculating about the future and offering their views of the evolving events in the tiny enclave. Some there believe that because of the deteriorating regional and international situation, pressure on Armenia was forthcoming to cede territory to Azerbaijan, and Serzh Sargsyan did not wish to shoulder that responsibility and opted out.

As much as Armenians pride themselves with their hard-won victory in Karabakh, there is an undercurrent of resentment towards Artsakh. Sometimes people blame the Karabakh conflict for their problems in terms of policy and economy. But one major argument is that mothers in Armenia send their sons to defend Karabakh but people in Karabakh, especially at the leadership level, look for a place in the sun in Armenia. And that view is corroborated by positions held in Armenia’s leadership by Robert Kocharyan, Serzh Sargsyan, Arkadi Ghukasyan, Gen. Seyran Ohanyan and others. No one would publicly articulate that undercurrent, but former President Ter-Petrosian did and even politicized the issue.

Nikol Pashinyan has been Ter-Petrosian’s political disciple all along the struggle to topple the Republican Party stranglehold on the top echelons. Ter-Petrosian had even devised a term for that action: to deconstruct the Kleptocracy (*gazmakantel*).

Today, Pashinyan has put forth the notion that Artsakh must be a party to the negotiations. Actually, it has been a party in the past. Even the cease-fire was signed between Baku and Stepanakert in 1994. But in the process, Artsakh was dropped out of the process.

Now people have been asking whether Pashinyan is promoting or abandoning Karabakh to its own devices.

Whatever the policy or the motives, it is not the time to stray from the course.

The regional situation is indeed deteriorating with the US and Israel further isolating Iran, on the one hand and on the other hand tightening sanctions around Russia, two countries that are strategic allies for Armenia and on which the country’s economy and security depend.

External actions can destroy Armenia, but internal issues and instability may exacerbate that process.

Throughout Armenia’s history, our statehood has been destroyed by foreign enemies to whom internal dissenting forces have contributed. Beginning with Tigran II’s empire, which fell to Rome partly because of the betrayal of his son, and the Kingdom of Ani which fell and Vest Sarkis had something to do with it. The Cilician Kingdom fell to the Mamelukes and the internecine squabbles of the princes contributed to its internal weakness. We blame the loss of our first republic on the Soviet-Turkish collusion, but internal score-settling had also a role in the demise of the republic.

Today, history has offered a golden opportunity to Armenia and Artsakh to survive. With the victory of the Velvet Revolution, Armenians have all the more reason to be circumspect, to look back on the lessons of history and preserve the velvet quality of the revolution, both in Armenia and Artsakh.



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Unfortunate Coincidence: Attacks Bourdain on Eve of Suicide

A friend forwarded to me the copy of a lengthy email that was sent by Ibrahim Kurtulus, a Turkish-American from New York City, to hundreds of CNN employees harshly criticizing Anthony Bourdain, Chris Cuomo and others for acknowledging the Armenian Genocide. The subject of Kurtulus's email is titled: "When CNN's Chris Cuomo and 'Especially' Anthony Bourdain Legitimize RACISM."

By an unfortunate coincidence, the Turkish email was sent on June 5, 2018, barely three days before Bourdain committed suicide. Given the large number of Armenians and non-Armenians who have written in recent days expressing their unfounded suspicion that Azerbaijan or Turkey caused Bourdain's death, I want to make it clear that I do not believe in such conspiracies. Sadly, Bourdain, who suffered from serious depression, committed suicide in his hotel room during a visit to France last week.

In addition, those who propagate such conspiracies are damaging Armenian interests. Anthony Bourdain, who had the popular TV travel and food show "Parts Unknown" on CNN, was blacklisted by Azerbaijan for having gone to Artsakh after visiting Armenia late last year. The show aired on CNN last month to the great delight of Armenians worldwide and dismay of Azeris and Turks. By alleging that Azerbaijan killed Bourdain, Armenians are simply discouraging non-Armenians from visiting Artsakh.

Kurtulus also attacked Chris Cuomo of CNN for interviewing on his show Cong. Adam Schiff (Dem.- CA). Kurtulus described Schiff as "a racist" for championing the recognition of the Armenian Genocide and compared him with David Duke of the KKK. Kurtulus then picked on Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (Dem.-CA) for acknowledging the Armenian Genocide in her 2016 statement. Kurtulus ridiculously claimed that Armenians may have died of "old age" rather than being murdered during the Genocide.

Kurtulus also blasted Amy Goodman, host of the award-winning "Democracy Now," a TV/Radio news program that airs on 900 public broadcast stations in North America, for acknowledging the Armenian Genocide in her show.

Kurtulus not only denied the occurrence of the Armenian Genocide by calling it a 'hoax,' but turned around and blamed Armenians for committing an "extermination campaign against Turks." He also falsely claimed that "a systematic extermination campaign against Armenians would have been not only unlikely, but out of the question."

Kurtulus then criticized Anthony Bourdain for accompanying Serj Tankian on his trip to Armenia and Artsakh. Kurtulus described Tankian as "a member of an Armenian-American heavy metal band (System of a Down), a major insidious purpose of which has been to brainwash worldwide youthful fans into acceptance of an 'Armenian genocide.'" Kurtulus went on to accuse Bourdain of repeating "all of the hateful propaganda in his episode (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3oEJjTbDpo>)."

After comparing Bourdain to white "supremacists" in Charlottesville, Va., Kurtulus asked: "what is the difference?" Regrettably, Kurtulus defamed anyone who has supported the veracity of the Armenian Genocide. It is no one else's fault that the Ottoman Turkish government organized the extermination of the Armenian people. If, as a result, the Turkish nation has had a horrible reputation, it is wrong to blame it on the Armenian victims. Kurtulus's argument is

the equivalent of condemning anyone who speaks about the Jewish Holocaust because that may tarnish the reputation of Germans.

Kurtulus then disparaged all of the scholars who have written on the Armenian Genocide, in addition to Amb. Henry Morgenthau who had written an eyewitness account in his book, "The Murder of a Nation." Instead, Kurtulus praised so-called "scholars" who are genocide denialists funded by the Turkish government.

Kurtulus ended his email with more insults directed at Bourdain: "If I lived in a less racist society, Anthony Bourdain would be losing his job in a moment. Yet the problem does not only rest with hateful bigots such as Anthony Bourdain; why did [CNN] President Jeff Zucker, who has also been receiving our communications, allow for Bourdain's vicious racism?"

Kurtulus also blamed other CNN employees for not protesting "Anthony Bourdain's irresponsibility, hatefulness and corruption of the facts. ...How could CNN journalists exercise any tolerance over Anthony Bourdain's prejudices, as well as his twisting of the facts?"

Rather than countering the many lies and distortions of Kurtulus, I will simply quote from Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the Turkish Republic, who during an interview published by the *Los Angeles Examiner* on August 1, 1926, confessed: "These leftovers from the former Young Turk Party, who should have been made to account for the lives of millions of our Christian subjects who were ruthlessly driven en masse from their homes and massacred, have been restive under the Republican rule. They have hitherto lived on plunder, robbery and bribery, and become inimical to any idea or suggestion to enlist in useful labor and earn their living by the honest sweat of their brow."

Since I have received a copy of the Kurtulus email along with the complete list of hundreds of email addresses at CNN where he dispatched his email, I will send my article to the same email addresses so CNN journalists will not be deceived by Kurtulus.

LETTERS

Open Letter to Armenian Community on Proposed Diocesan Building Project

(The following open letter to the Armenian community by Avedis Hekimian was sent to the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* for publication.)

I read Hrant Gulian's letter to the Primate "Community Input Needed Before Deciding Fate of Diocesan Complex" in the June 2, 2018 issue of the *Mirror Spectator* with great interest since I too am very concerned about this project. Many in the community who are well versed in real estate have stated that this project is a "bad deal" and high profile knowledgeable people are strongly against it. It's baffling as to why precious land in Manhattan that took survivors of the Armenian Genocide years to purchase and develop would be sold at such a cheap price. What is also disturbing is that this project was veiled in such secrecy. I was told by reliable sources that those involved in masterminding this project insisted that everyone involved sign letters of confidentiality. This begs the question...WHY?...If you have nothing to hide.

It is common practice that those putting together real estate deals such as this one are compensated financially for their efforts. This isn't an accusation as much as it is a question and concern. If the deal goes through, and I hope that it doesn't, the members of both the Diocesan Council and the Board of Trustees will always have clouds hanging over their heads since the community will always be suspicious of their motives in putting their stamps of approval on such a bad deal.

If this sale is for the purpose of mitigating the Diocese's financial problems the community needs to ask how competent are the men and women advising the administration if they allowed this state of affairs to happen in the first place? Why can't the Diocese find a competent executive director who won't throw up his hands after a short time in office?

This is first major test for our new Primate. He must show leadership and listen to the community who is very much against this building project and not to those who want to mitigate their mistakes by arrogantly promoting the sale of our precious Diocese. It's also a test for member of the Diocesan Council/Board of Trustees to push back against those who are bullying them into consent.

Please say no to this outrageous bad deal.

—Avedis V. Hekimian

Wallenberg Foundation Pays Tribute to Righteous Catholics

ROME — Between 1943 and 1945, in Italy, hundreds of Jewish children persecuted by the Nazis found protection in churches, convents and houses belonging to Catholic families. Three of them, speak of their odyssey.

All of a sudden, at age 7, Gianni Polgar became Franco De Renzini. If called by his real name, he knew he should not turn around. Although his parents were alive, he pretended to be an orphan. He took first communion and even got a picture with his pretend godfather. Polgar, a Jewish child, knew by heart the mass in Latin.

Bianca Maria Campagnano was 9 when she struggled how to respond: "Jewish" or "Catholic" if stopped while walking in the street of Rome, disguised as a Christian girl who was just baptized, on her way to visit her parents at an attic.

Between 1943 and 1945, Italy was one of the countries that challenged the Nazi occupation the most: Both spontaneous and audacious, the Italians drew a protective dome that protected the Jews against deportation. "During his trial in Jerusalem, Adolf Eichmann, the architect of the Final Solution, stated that amongst the Nazi-occupied countries, Italy was the most difficult one in terms of implementation of the deportation measures," according to Giovanna Sadun, sister of Annalisa, survivor of a Jewish family from Siena which was protected by a Catholic one.

"Historical documents recognize the high degree of solidarity displayed by the population. We were under the rule of the Salò and there was a tacit agreement between some local officials and the citizens, who rescued and sheltered Jews," says historian Alessandra Staderini, whose parents, when she was 1, saved two Jewish kids, Bianca Maria and Marcelo Campagnano.

The Salò Republic was a fascist invention that Mussolini made up in the north-center area of the country, which was under Nazi control. In the wake of WWII, the anti-Semitic monster had already devoured some 6 million people.

However, there were convents, monasteries, churches, religious schools and Catholic families that sheltered Jewish children, who were handed over by their

as feared concentration camps.

In the Church of San Gioschino, in Prati, Rome, the priest Antonio Dressiono, allowed, after the armistice of September 8, 1943 — which facilitated the German gruesome search efforts all over Italy — to host Jews and other persecuted people and sheltered them in the attic of the church.

They were hidden behind a glass wall and their presence was known by Sister Margherita, who was in charge of cooking lunch and dinner for the refugees.

In the 1960s, the State of Israel created the Committee of Righteous, whose job is to bestow the title of "Righteous among the Nations" upon every gentile who saved the life of a Jewish person.

Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat who risked his own life to save people from the Nazis in Budapest and in 1945 was detained by the Russians never to be seen again, was one of those rescuers.

In his memory, the Argentinian Baruj Tenenbaum, a Jewish Gaucho born in Santa Fe, established in 1997 the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation, an NGO with headquarters in New York and branches in Buenos Aires, Jerusalem and Rome, which deals with educational programs aimed at highlighting the civic courage of those who offered a drop of relief in the Holocaust inferno.

Houses of Life

Since 2014, the foundation has promoted Houses of Life, a program aimed at identifying, paying tribute and spreading around to the whole world who, where, how and when the people persecuted by Nazis were sheltered.

"During the Shoa, there were thousands of people that helped other members of minorities doomed to die by the Nazis and their allies. Many have been duly recognized. Others, were not," noted the creator of the foundation, whose chairman is Eduardo Eurnekian.

"The Houses of Life program is our way to thank all these persons in the European continent (in this case, the overwhelming majority of Houses of Life are religious institutions belonging to the Catholic Church) that risked their

lives to save others," Tenenbaum adds. the war." So far, more than 500 Houses of Life have been identified in Italy, France, Denmark, Hungary, Greece, Poland and Belgium. According to Silvia Costantini, a point of reference of the foundation in Italy, "each House of Life brings more Houses of Life."

One night in 1943, Bice Gilardoni, the wife of Fausto Staderini, a Catholic engineer who owned a printing workshop in Rome, in a dream heard a voice that told her: "You have to save Elvira's children." Elvira was a Jewish friend of hers, married, with two children.

"Suddenly, we were eight," remembers Carla Staderini. The image was embedded in her mind.

"The concentration camps became known later, but I was a child and feared the Germans. I thought they were coming after me," says Bianca Maria. She's 84 and now and then sees the Staderinis, who come and pick her up and bring her to the Vila at Via Nicotera, where the Wallenberg Foundation affixed the House of Life.

"We were hidden there for 9 months. Even the teacher, Ms. Sanzoni, came secretly to teach us so that we wouldn't lose the year," she adds.

In November 1943, when Annalisa Sadun was a newborn, the Jews of Siena were sinking in despair in light of the atrocious presence of the Germans. Monsignor Luigi Rosadini, from the Vigano Church, offered refuge to the Saduns. Soon afterwards, the Saduns found shelter at the house of Dr. Gino Cardini, a pediatrician living in the center of Siena.

On March 6 this year, during the celebration of the Day of the Righteous in Siena, Annalisa participated at the ceremony which proclaimed the residence of the Cardinis and the Vignano church as Houses of life.

Gianni Polgar is a living testimony of a legend which came true. Nowadays, he is 82 years old and he visits schools to tell the story of terror and solidarity he experienced as a Jewish child protected by Catholics.

He still recites passages of the mass in Latin.



AGBU New England District 110th Anniversary Banquet Raises \$1.22 Million, Honors Afeyan and Guleserian

AGBU, from page 1
Talk on virtual reality. A former music industry professional who has toured with Bon Jovi and the Rolling Stones and worked with the Clinton Foundation and Bloomberg Philanthropies on reducing carbon emissions, Oganessian is a founding partner of Protocol Investments and has served as chairwoman of the Ewing's Sarcoma Research Foundation.

Oganessian spoke about the magic of community. She related that her grandfather used to repeat the Armenian saying, "rise up, rise up," but proposed changing it to "raise up, rise up," because by raising up others, you are also carving out your own path. Her great-grandfather documented her family's history, founding orphanages in Greece with the help of the AGBU and the Danish government. His tool to preserve the past was his pen, while Oganessian's is virtual reality.

She enjoined the crowd to continue to document and publish Armenian history. AGBU, she said, preserves our traditions, languages and culture, in order to preserve the Armenian nation.

Another short video about the AGBU was played for the audience and afterwards Ara Balikian, chairman of the AGBU NE District, took the podium with his inimitable energy and humor. He pointed out that almost every Armenian organization in the Boston area had its leaders or representatives in the crowd, showing their encouragement of AGBU.

Balikian gave an overview of the history of



AGBU New England District 110th Anniversary Gala Co-Chairs Houry Youssoufian, at left, and Lindsey Hagopian

the AGBU in the district. Vahan Kurkjian, a friend of Nubar Pasha, came to study law at Boston University, and founded the Boston chapter of AGBU in 1908, only two years after the founding of the organization itself. This means the chapter was not only the first in the United States but the third in the world, following Cairo, Egypt, and Manchester, England. Gradually the Boston chapter grew into the New England District, with thirty AGBU chapters.

Balikian said he found much information in the documents preserved at his headquarters. For example, in 1946-47, the New England District raised \$280,000 for repatriation to Soviet Armenia. There were scouts, a school, and champion soccer teams. In 1959, the Central Board purchased the present AGBU headquarters on Mt. Auburn Street. Almost fifty percent of the chairs of the New England Chapters were women. Balikian introduced many of the past leaders of the district who were present in the hall and received great applause.

He then spoke of some of the programs currently offered for Armenians of all ages, praising the work of the YPs, and announced the launch of the AGBU Boston Internship Program for college students, joining New York City, Paris, London, Yerevan and Buenos Aires, starting in 2019. He declared that about 150-200



Leaders of AmVets Post No. 41 receive plaque from AGBU in recognition of their 1 million dollar scholarship donation. From left, Ara Balikian, Jack Medzorian, George Haroutunian, Berge Setrakian, Robert Kaprielian, Harold Partamian, Frank Nahigian, and George Elanjian. Present at gala and missing from photo is Leon Simonian.

Armenian students from outside of Massachusetts come to study in Boston, and AGBU intends to help these students succeed in various ways.

He ended with a call for the Boston community to continue to help Armenia during this dramatic period of developments.

Oganessian then introduced Afeyan, founder and CEO of Flagship Pioneering. Afeyan provided an expansive overview of his upbringing, career and views on Armenian affairs. As a child growing up in Beirut, Lebanon, demonstrating annually about the Armenian Genocide, he related that he was actively involved in the Armenian community. When he was 13 years old, he and his family had to flee the Lebanese Civil War in 1975 to Montreal. He viewed society from the perspective of an immigrant, which he felt was an advantage.

He came to Boston to pursue a PhD from 1983-87 in MIT and joined the Daron Dance Ensemble in Watertown the next year, which let him rediscover being Armenian. He also joined a basketball team. Both the dance ensemble and the team were part of the AGBU, beginning



Lia Oganessian

a close relationship with the organization. He became involved in the Armenia Fund, and then in 2001, after meeting fellow entrepreneur Ruben Vardanyan of Russia, created Armenia 2020 to help Armenia grow. This, in turn, led to several other foundations.

By the time the Armenian Genocide centennial approached, he said he realized that simply asking for justice weighed Armenians down because it limited the number of ways in which they interact with the world. He and Vardanyan created the 100 Lives Initiative, which worked for remembrance, and in 2016 the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity, which honors people completely unrelated to Armenians who are

taking risks and doing the same things today as the saviors of the Armenians did a century ago. Afeyan noted that this put Armenia on the map of international humanitarianism for the first time.

Several years ago Afeyan was asked to join the AGBU Central Board, intensifying his relationship with the organization. Afeyan said that the AGBU realizes that the old Armenian diaspora is going to dissolve and a new diaspora centrally focused on having a country will take over.

Afeyan urged Armenians to be more original than others, keep their roots firmly planted in the future, not the past, and not drop their stan-

great-uncle, Catholicos Papken Guleserian, for example, came in handy in an unusual situation. She first learned about AGBU as a child through her family.

Guleserian gave examples of some of her famous cases illustrated by slides, taking advantage of the opportunity to educate her audience. She pointed out that congenital heart disease is one of the leading causes of death worldwide in infants, with some operations needing to be conducted within hours of delivery.

Guleserian is director of Heart Failure and Transplantation at Nicklaus Children's Hospital in Miami, and served previously for over a decade as the surgical director of Pediatric Cardiac Transplantation at Children's Medical Center in Dallas, Texas.

Ara Balikian took the podium to speak about the Amvets and their close connection to the AGBU NE District. He called up their members who were in the audience, as well as Setrakian, in order to recognize their generous donation and service over the years. A video about their work was played, and a plaque was presented to them.

Closing remarks at the banquet were given by Setrakian, who congratulated the awardees and exclaimed, "It has been a very emotional 24 hours in Boston." He stated that he grapples with the question of how to attract the new generation to become Armenians by their own choice. He said that the nostalgia for the past or the old country would not work. Instead, Setrakian said, "We need heroes. Kristine and Nourbar tonight are symbols of the new generation. The new generation will come and see how successful Armenians can be, yet they are Armenians by choice."

Setrakian said, "That is where our mission has to be focused. That is why AGBU is com-



From left, Dr. Nourbar Afeyan, Dr. Kristine Guleserian and Ara Balikian

dards when it comes to the Republic of Armenia. He called for all Armenians to be born-again Armenians who choose their identity, with the degree of Armenian blood or biological inheritance not relevant to this identity.

Finally, he called the attention of the audience to the new book by Dr. Hayk Demoyan, visiting head of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute of Yerevan, on the Armenian legacy in America, which shows, Afeyan said, how good we really are in this country. Demoyan came to the podium to say a few words about his work.

After Afeyan, Oganessian introduced Guleserian, the pediatric heart surgeon known as "Dr. G." to her patients. Guleserian is one of only 11 specialists in her field, who has carried out the world's youngest combined heart-liver transplant, the world's smallest and youngest heart transplant in a one-week-old, the world's smallest and youngest pacemaker placement and the world's smallest and youngest total artificial implant. She gives back to the Armenian community with her initiative to help pediatric patients in Armenia.

Guleserian gave a detailed talk about her work, peppered with humor and Red Sox and Armenian references. The name of her great-

mitted to excellence." He added, "I am elitist, but I am not talking about social elitism, but about successful professional elitism."

Historically, Setrakian said, AGBU always believed that unless we take care of Armenia, there is no future in the diaspora. He concluded, "We are not abandoning our programs in the diaspora, because the diaspora is very important, but one way to reinforce Armenian power in the diaspora is to make sure that we have a prosperous, independent, democratic free Armenia." He issued a call to the other organizations represented in the hall to work together, exclaiming "there is nothing that separates us," while the needs are so great.

The banquet was the highlight of a weekend devoted to AGBU activities, including a town hall meeting Friday night at District Hall in the Seaport area of Boston. Setrakian and members of the Central Board responded to questions from over 50 students and AGBU Young Professionals (YPs). Afterwards, over 120 YPs went to a nightclub called The Grand.

During the banquet, a silent auction with Armenian art, exotic getaways and other prizes helped raise money for AGBU. After the banquet, there was a reception at the gastropub Meadhall nearby in Cambridge.